

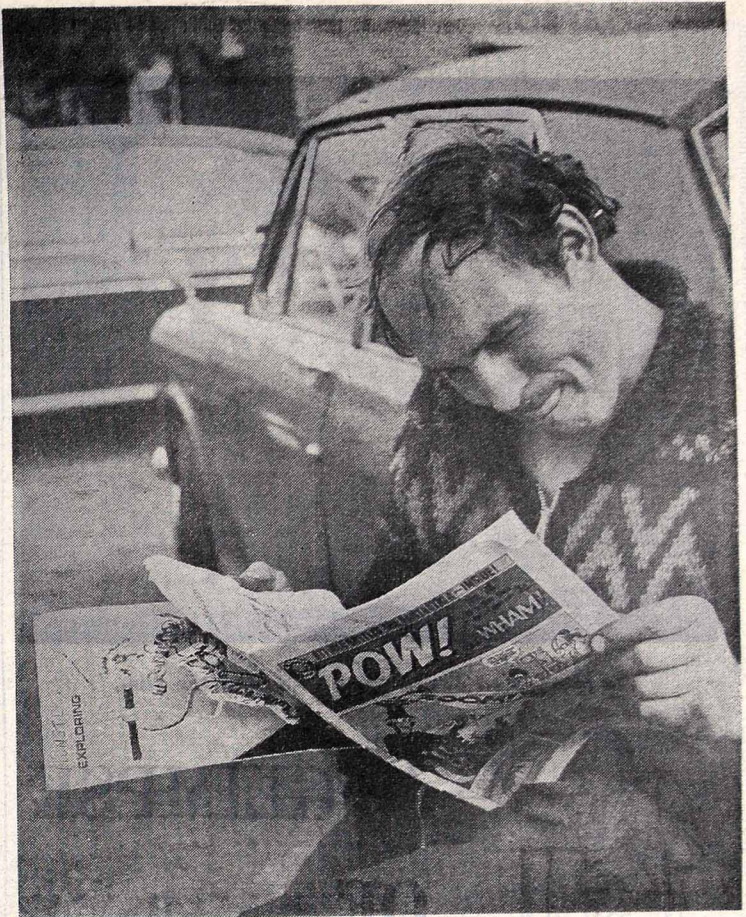
CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 6d.

September, 1968

A Member of the Christian News Group

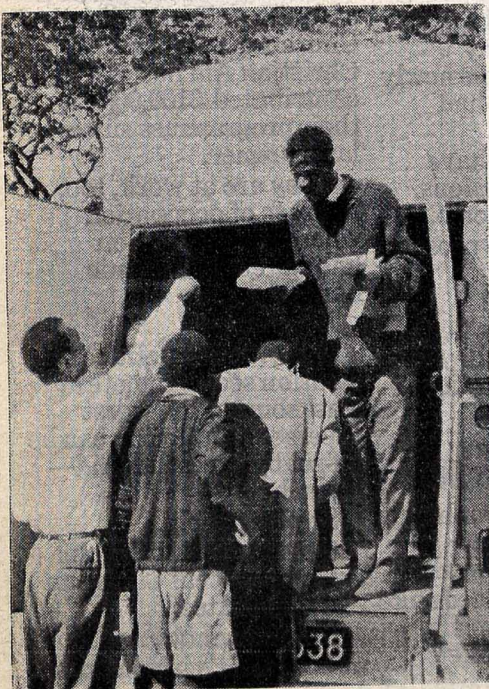
Books don't mean much to Tom. For him a 'book' is a glossy do-it-yourself guide, the wife's magazine or maybe Grandma's black-bound Bible.

Tom would rather have his comics any day. For him reading's a bind — and what's more Tom's kids agree.



TOM'S WASTED R

ARE FOLK IN BRITAIN WASTING THEIR GIFT OF READING, THE GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ?

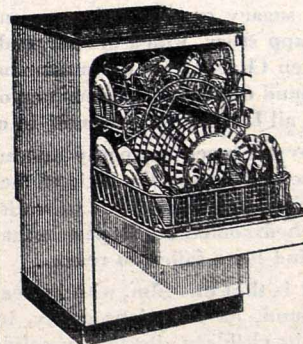


A mobile book shop in Zambia

In other parts of the world millions a year are learning to read and, unlike Tom, are clamouring for books.

Many Christian organisations, such as the 'Feed the Minds' Campaign, help to make sure that these new readers get the best books available on every subject under the sun and aren't fed on trash.

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ADDRESS

SOAPBOX



The family Von Trapp on stage during the film.



A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

SOON THE LAST COACH party will have gone home, the last old age pensioner dabbed at a happily weepy eye, the last cinema taken down the last of the familiar posters and "The Sound of Music", except for the odd reshewing, will be a memory.

But what a memory!

For Twentieth Century Fox it has netted millions of dollars, and tinkling cash registers provide the sound of music that film moguls love to remember.

For thousands of ordinary people, however, it will be remembered because it was worth seeing twice, or even a dozen or twenty times. We even know of those who topped the century, and for whom it wasn't so much a film but more a way of life.

What lies behind the fantastic fascination of this film? Why should a sugary, exaggerated, over sentimentalised account of the Von Trapp story, which almost made some of its critics sick and led even Christopher Plummer, one of its stars, to refer to it as the "sound of mucus", be such an overwhelming success with people of all kinds from colonels to copy-typists?

Well, however much sympathy one may have with the critics, and no-one could deny the logic of their arguments—"The Sound of Music" is sentimental and unrealistic—the fact remains that it has touched something in people that other concoctions of the same kind have failed to reach.

Perhaps it is that this film, with its beautiful scenery, its religious background, its infectious gaiety, its triumph of goodness over evil, its children, its family solidarity, gives people a glimpse of heaven.

This is the world as we should like it to be—simple, beautiful, loving and happy—and this is the world as we know it isn't. But shame on us if we lose our visions and our dreams, and for many people in these worrying, hectic, uncertain times where violence and hate seem so often to reign supreme, "The Sound of Music" has put the dream into shape and provided for a few brief hours the kind of world most people would like to live in—and that's something to be grateful for.

LETTERS

Knowledge will kill the fear

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the article "Who are the Sikhs?" in the July edition of Christian News.

This kind of article can be a great help in breaking down barriers of suspicion between people of different religions. As knowledge of other cultures and societies grows, so will the suspicion and fear of one another disappear. The more we know of each other the more we will be drawn together in friendship and understanding.

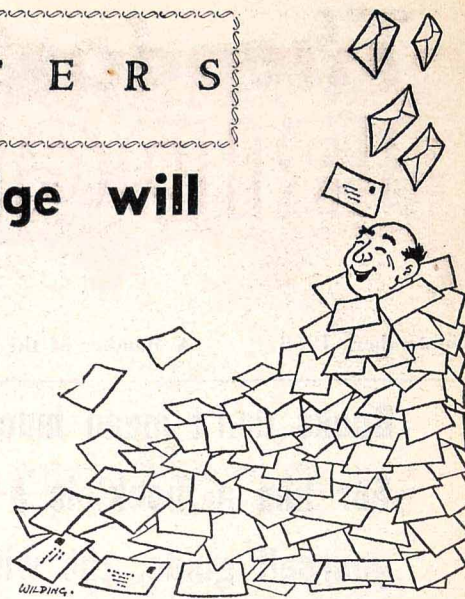
Could we have further articles about the various minority sects we now have in Britain?

Yours faithfully,

Gill Neal (Miss).

34 Kentish Road,
Birmingham, 21.

This is our 'letter of the month', and wins its writer a guinea prize.



NEWS - YAK, TOO!

Dear Sir,

Having read your main feature for July I am really amused. Talk about pots and kettles!

Haven't you realised yet that "Yakkity Yak" is not necessarily confined to conferences—it can just as easily be found in newspapers!

T. Powell.

Warley, Worcs.

CHRISTIAN AID in a land of refugees

There were already a million Arab refugees before the Middle East war in June 1967.

Living in Jordan, Lebanon, Gaza and Syria.

Then as the borders were suddenly changed, many of them became refugees a second time.

And in their flight they were joined by many others for whom this newly occupied territory had always been home.

All these people have virtually no possessions.

No capital. No home.

And virtually no prospect of work.

In February 1968 thousands of others fled from the Jordan valley to escape renewed frontier fighting.

THE UNHAPPY AND THE SUFFERING

Among all these unhappy and suffering people Christian Aid is at work.

Supplying basic needs like cooking stoves, utensils, mattresses and blankets.

Helping to provide better shelter.

Operating clinics and centres to ward off disease and malnutrition.

Re-starting training schemes and welfare work.

Buying drugs.

Saving lives.

AID HAS NO BOUNDARIES

This work is in the hands of the Near East Council of Churches, to whom Christian Aid has contributed £100,000 for their programmes since last summer.

They are at work, too, in areas of occupation where the population has suffered economic hardship.

It's a mess.

But even if a political solution seems remote at least some of the worst excesses of suffering can be off-set by Christian Aid—if you help.

So please help.

Get in touch with your church, or local Christian Aid Committee.

Help somehow. And do it now, while it's in your mind.



Christian Aid, 10 Eaton Gate, London, SW1.

The lost children of wordland

BY DEE DOVER

DYSLEXIA is the name given to a condition which makes it difficult for some children to learn to read and write. Certainly not all children with this problem are dyslexic. There are many reasons why some children don't read as rapidly as others. Educationists and psychologists still cannot agree on the causes, but many children who do have reading difficulties were born after a long and hard labour, and the baby may have suffered trauma at birth.

The dyslexic child is quite often above average intelligence. This makes it more difficult for him to understand why he should find reading so hard when it appears to come naturally to others. More boys than girls are prone to this condition. His problem isn't easy to spot, but he will mix up the simplest words, *to* becomes *or*, *for* becomes *of*.

His reading will be hit and miss, words beginning with the letters 'th' may all be read as *this* whether the text says *the*, *there*, *these* or *those*. A word which he reads correctly on line one he may completely misread or not even recognise on line three. When he writes, his letters may be up-side-down or back-to-front, although this does happen with some normal children in the early stages of writing.



The dyslexic child will go on experiencing these difficulties, and it is only with patient understanding and expert teaching that he can be helped.

My son is a dyslexic. At the age of six, he was a lively robust child, but not showing any signs of reading. By the time he was seven we began to feel concerned, the headmistress was helpful, but not unduly worried. I felt convinced that all was not well and we arranged for a medical check-up. Eyes, ears, everything were completely normal.

INDIVIDUAL

The child was put in a remedial class, where most of the children were fairly backward. This proved of little use and the school authorities agreed to call in the county psychologist. He thought our son was dyslexic and various teaching methods were tried out. Nothing very startling happened, and when my son was ten a special teacher was called in to give indi-

vidual reading and writing tuition.

She coached him for a year with marked improvement. At the age of eleven he is over the hump, he reads very slowly, but he can keep up with normal classwork. His spelling is still highly individual, but most of the teachers accept this. He is allowed to work at his own pace, even if this means finishing work off at home.

The outlook for the dyslexic child is not so grim as it used to be. Now all children with reading problems are given help and not just classed as 'dimwits'. There is a 'Word-Blind' centre in London, but they can only help a few children a year. As knowledge of the problem grows so more help is available. Many eminent people have had similar problems.

Peter Scott, the well known naturalist, had reading difficulties as a child; so too did Charlie Chaplin. It took him ten years to read 'War and Peace.' Susan Hampshire, the talented young actress is word blind, and learns her scripts by ear, not sight.

Above all else children with reading difficulties

should not be punished if they make mistakes, they need every scrap of love and encouragement they can get. Specialist help should only be sought through the Education Authorities. Parents should only help at home with the co-operation of school. These children are confused already without having a variety of teaching methods tried out on them.

GREAT HELP

By all means provide books, especially those specifically written for the backward reader. Comics and picture books are a great help, as the pictures, however lurid, do help to explain the text. If the child wants to know about a hobby or special subject borrow books from the library and help him to find out for himself. If you need help or news of the latest reading aids and books more information can be obtained from:—

The General Secretary,
Invalid Children's Aid
Association,
4, Palace Gate, London,
W.8.

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"THEY WON'T MIX."
"They keep them-
selves to themselves."
"They don't want to
integrate."

These and other
remarks are made
about the coloured
immigrants.

This is not true of
Langley, which bor-
ders on Smethwick
and is part of the
County Borough of
Warley, a designated
area for special
financial aid from
the Government to
deal with the
special problems
arising from a large
coloured population.

Invitations to a re-
cent "Krazy Karnival"
in the vicarage
grounds were pub-
lished in the local
press and by poster
in Urdu, Bengali
and Punjabi. This
and the various con-
tests, attracted people
of many national-
ities—as can be
seen from the com-
petition results!

Two West Indian
children won prizes
in the Fancy Dress
Competition, and
in the Baby Show
first prize went to
an Asian baby. In
the competition for
Mother and Baby,
Mrs. S. Sehdeva and
her daughter, Tina,
were adjudged by
Miss Vera Ashe of
"The Archers" as
the most outstand-
ing.

It was a popular
decision, not only

Mrs. S. Sehdeva, with her husband and
baby, Tina, receives her prize for the
Mother and Baby Competition from the
Mayor of Warley, Alderman T. Halfpenny,
who is an Anglican Lay Reader.

among the panel
who assisted Miss
Ashe, but also with
other mothers who
had entered the
competition with
their babies.

This is a break-
through in com-
munity relations for
which Dick Simp-
son, Vicar of St.
Michael's, Langley,
has worked for
years.

Some years ago,
in the radio pro-
gramme "Down
Your Way" the
vicar spoke of the
happy relations that
existed in the local
community and of
the help being given
by industry and the
welfare services.

The success of
the Karnival is one
indication that the
approach has been
along the right lines
and that the church
is making an im-
pact upon the
total community.

Financially, the
day raised more
than £200 for work
among mentally
handicapped child-
ren, but perhaps
just as important
was the enthusiasm
and co-operation it
produced.

"Next year,
Vicar," said one of
the immigrants
"your grounds won't
be big enough to
hold us all. We'll
help—and we'll
spend."

A report about a 'Krazy Karnival'



All we can ask is a little bit of their time

Sandra Haynes
writes of the need
for people by
people

'IF I ONLY HAD TIME' so goes the line of a recent
hit song

The door was opened by a frail little old lady, two
bright eyes lit up as I asked 'Any shopping to-day Mrs.
L . . . ? 'No dear' was the reply, 'but its lovely of you
to call, to know that someone bothers about me, even
if I don't always want anything.'

This reply is given to me not once but many times
when I call upon the elderly. They need to feel that they
are wanted by SOMEONE. I visited one lonely person
on her 80th birthday.

One much fingered card stood upon her mantle-
piece—her son had sent it to her . . . FIVE YEARS
AGO—and it comes out lovingly year after year. 'From
my son' she informed me, 'he's a good lad,' and Mrs. L.
looked far away, maybe into the past, long ago when her
son was a little boy and needed her, and she, no doubt,
never failed him, but now that she needs him, he has
failed his Mother.

Some elderly folk are luckier, they have good loving
children who visit regularly and take them out. In this
busy life, many people have to do several jobs and find
it hard to pay regular visits even to their own parents,
and instead, especially if they live a distance away send
presents, money, flowers, anything but the one thing the
old folk want, contact, visits, TIME for them.

As I look at my young sons, I pray, perhaps
rather selfishly that they will not neglect their Father
and me as they grow older. I promise myself that I will
try and be tolerant and understanding when they be-
come adult and eventually leave home. In return I shall
ask of them, what so many older folk are asking of
their children to-day, 'just a little of their TIME.'

SANDRA R. HAYNES.

PSORIASIS

- PSORIASIS forms a white lustrous scale on a reddened area of skin. Both the scale and skin are always dry unless broken or brought away by too much scratching or combing. In most cases the reddened skin is of normal temperature and the scale thick and raised on the skin, especially on the scalp, elbows and knees. Where the skin is of a finer texture, as on the body, scaling takes place as thin flakes or a light powder
- PSORIASIS may be hereditary, may occur with puberty, may follow injury, exposure, shock or worry, or may be due to faulty nutrition, and faulty elimination. It may also be persistent and recurring and sufferers often despair of ever having a clear and healthy skin.
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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

No. 48

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WORLD POVERTY

A Public Meeting

in

The Great Hall,
Reading University

Thurs., Sept. 26th,
7.45 p.m.

Admission Free

YES or NO?

THE time is getting near when a decision has to be taken about the proposals for Anglican-Methodist unity; and the decision will be awaited with concern by many who are neither Anglicans nor Methodists. Having myself read every letter on the subject in both the Church Times and the Methodist Recorder since the report was published some months ago I have been saddened by the inability of so many correspondents to be realistic about the situation that confronts the Church of God to-day.

There are still many people who have failed to grasp the simple fact that our concern for unity is not a man made one. It springs from the clear wish of Christ. Our Lord, as we read in St. John's Gospel, prayed to the Father that his followers might be one "that the world may believe that thou has sent me" I have never forgotten the start of a sermon by that great Congregationalist, Dr. Micklem, many years ago in the week of prayer for Christian unity "I cannot" he said "find a text for this sermon because I can find nothing in the Bible about there being different denominations". Yet there are still a surprising number of people who think that it is not wrong that we should be split into different denominations and certain opponents of the scheme will try to suggest that our divisions do not hinder the mission of the Church to the world.

Having written last month about the terrifying issue of mass starvation that threatens mankind I find this endless reluctance of Christians to settle their differences a grave scandal. God is calling us to serve the world, and we cannot witness to his love in a really effective way when we are divided among ourselves. Already many Christians have become impatient and have felt it right for them to try and make their Christian witness outside the Church because of our slowness to set our house in order. And what so many opponents of the scheme fail to realise is that if the proposals are rejected an increasing number of people, young and not so young, are going to flout the authority of the Church. The present proposals for Anglican-Methodist unity are likely to be our last chance of coming together by constitutional means; if clergy and ministers are going to continue arguing about such niceties as to whether they want to be regarded as priests or presbyters they must expect to find that the congregations have deserted them. In many cases we seem to get called just "Rev." today by most people. More and more thoughtful people are getting frankly bored with all this talk about our Churches uniting. Today people are interested in the world for which Christ died and are trying as a result to express their faith among the people whom they encounter in their daily life.

Of course the implementation of the scheme is not going to be easy. And of course we must expect some anomalies. The writers of the report recognise this when they say "If it be said that the scheme proposed is not free from anomalies, we reply that the present division of our Churches from each other, frustrating their work and running counter to the will of God, is an anomaly so great that all other anomalies taken together are insignificant beside it."

It was encouraging to read the forthright commendation recently of the scheme by the Rev. Donald Rose, Superintendent minister of the Oxford Methodist Circuit. "I welcome this final report" he says "and profoundly hope it will be endorsed by the governing bodies of both churches and put into effect as soon as possible. No other scheme is likely to prove anywhere near as acceptable and I make no apology for commending it".

More than twenty years ago Anglicans and Methodists united in South India and have worked harmoniously in one church ever since. It will be tragic if we in England pay less heed to our Lord's teaching than have our fellow Christians in India. But let the last word come from the Report itself.

After pointing out that rejection of the scheme will dash the hopes for many Anglicans and Methodists that their Church is obedient to the Gospel the writers add "If our Churches are seen to be saying 'no' to union in this country, the cause of union overseas, with which the cause of mission is bound up even more intimately than in Britain, will in many places receive a disastrous setback. If, however, our Churches agree together to go on into reconciliation and union, and come to this decision in the near future, it is no exaggeration to say that a series of unions between Churches will be initiated, in this country and elsewhere, which will ultimately spread round the world."

John Grimwade

DEVELOPMENT

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, SEPTEMBER, 1968—ONE

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SURLEY ROW A FEW MONTHS AGO

After . . .



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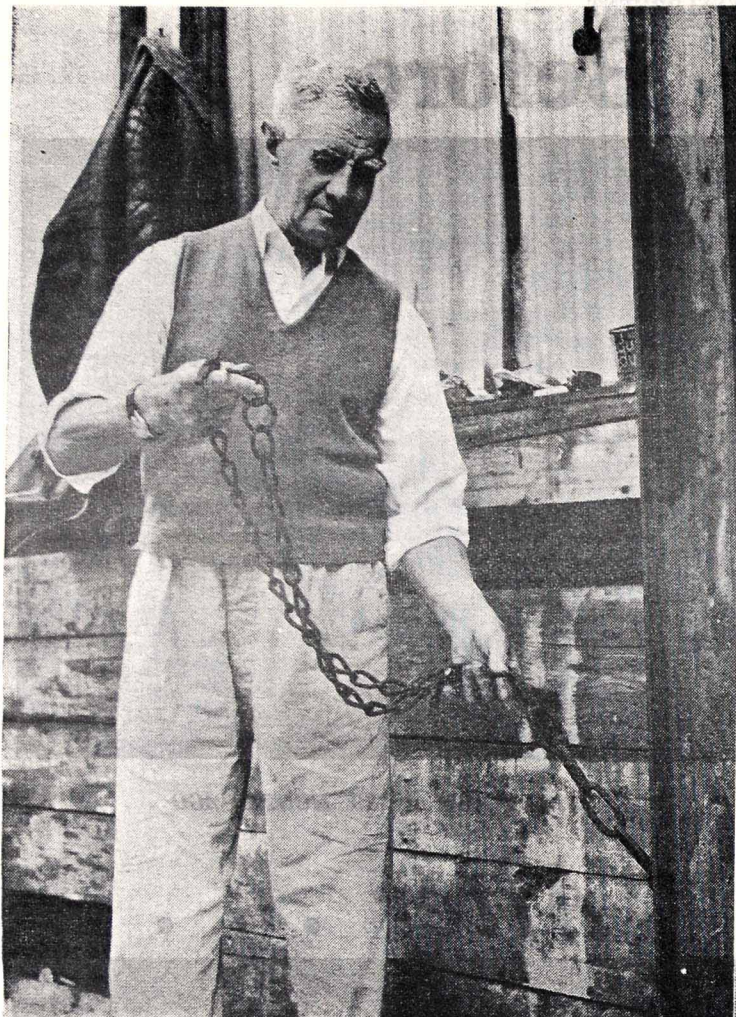
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Walton Adams

Once a dairy, now a garage but the chain that tethered the bull is still there.

From Cows to Cars

The Leach family have been living in Lower Caversham for at least seven generations. For the last 80 years their home has been at 2 Mill Road. The dairy there, which was started in 1888 by George Leach, and which continued until his son, Jack, retired in 1965—is the main reason why the family is so well known in the district. Today—what was formerly the dairy is now used as a garage by George Leach, grandson of George, the dairyman. Where the bull was kept, and the cows were milked—today you find cars being serviced and repaired.

George Leach ran the dairy from 1888 until he died in 1950. He had a dozen cows which were kept on Hill's Meadows and which were brought up to Mill Road twice a day for milking. There was very little traffic—even up to the last war. "When I was a boy" said Jack Leach—"We used to play marbles in Gosbrook Road—and if a horse and cart came along, it went round us."

At the beginning of the century—families were not accustomed to drinking very much milk. "Often a family of four or five would get by on 4½d worth of milk a week," commented Jack. A halfpenny worth—a quarter of a pint—would be bought from Monday to Friday, and a pint a day on Saturday and Sunday. "We'd be doing well if we sold 14 gallons a day, and we made a living from it." There were three boys and two girls in the family. Jack was born in 1896, and he feels sure that when he was a young man in the years after the 1914-18 War—people were able to enjoy themselves without spending much money. A

haircut cost 2d, and a pint of beer 2d. "Of course," said Jack, "when I was a lad we spent a lot of time in church. We used to go to St. John's three times on a Sunday, and we went to Miss Turner's Bible class. It occupied our minds. Today there's so much else to do."

During the great floods of March, 1947, Lower Caversham still had its milk delivered. It was possible to push a float through the water along Briant's Avenue—but in Star Road the water was waist high. There—Jack and his brother Eric had to deliver by boat. The bigger firms were completely immobilised—but the small local firm used its ingenuity to keep going. "People relied on us" said Jack, "and we didn't want to let them down. Of course, in those days I knew everyone in Lower Caversham, but today people move around so much that you keep seeing strangers."

When Jack retired in 1965 the problem was what to do with the premises at 2 Mill Road. His nephew, George, a qualified mechanic, was working for Gorrings. Wanting to start up on his own he was glad to make

arrangements to convert the dairy into a garage. Now, with three assistants, he repairs and services cars there. His partner, Roy Murdoch, has a garage in Tilehurst specialising in the selling of second hand cars. The change from cows to cars is fairly recent, but 2 Mill Road is still in the hands of the Leach family. Long may they remain part of Lower Caversham.



Photo by courtesy of the Reading Chronicle.

Mr. Jack Leach with his float in Briant's Avenue in the floods of March, 1947.

**SUPER VALUE &
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Caring for the sick

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, SEPTEMBER, 1968—THREE

I wonder how many people are as surprised as I was during a recent short stay in hospital, to find just how much and how varied is the voluntary work done in connection with our sick people. I was surprised to find, for instance, that the charming young housewife who came in twice a week to deal with admittance records in our ward, was a voluntary worker.

Most people will know from recent press reports that our hospitals are undergoing a great deal of re-organisation at the moment, reorganisation which is demanding much of both paid and voluntary workers. But did you know that the Reading and District Hospital Management Committee controls fourteen hospitals in what is known as the catchment area? The Chairman of the Committee is David Woodrow from Ewelme, the Group Secretary—in charge of administration—is Frank Naylor of Shepherd's Lane, Caversham, who will be well-known to many, particularly members of the Roman Catholic Church on Caversham Heights. He started his hospital career in Manchester in 1937 and has held many hospital appointments since. A graduate of Manchester University, he has been made Chairman of the Oxford Regional Branch of the Institute of Hospital Administrators. In addition to his main duties, he takes a great interest in staffing problems, is an active member of NALGO and currently President of NALGO's Reading Health Branch.

Many Caversham people too will know Charlie Buck, until recently a local councillor. He is in charge of the Supplies Department of the Group, Miss Powell, also from Caversham, is private secretary to the Group Secretary. Many will know Mr. Parcell of Woodcote Way, Secretary at Battle Hospital. Time and space do not permit details of the many Caversham people who, in a paid or voluntary capacity, help in the very important work of

our local hospitals. There are many, unhonoured and unnamed, without whom our hospitals would be a great deal poorer.

And because of this I feel those who are free to do so in Caversham should ask themselves if there is any way in which they can help. Perhaps, like me, you thought that voluntary hospital work was

St. John's, etc., but voluntary workers are needed in many other fields. There are non-nursing duties in the wards, various secretarial jobs, reception work, helping with refreshment bars, helping to chaperone and guide confused and elderly out-patients. Help is particularly needed in geriatric wards—not a glamorous job perhaps, but such a useful one.

by

WINNIE DARTER

merely for fund-raising, a little mild sick-visiting, or perhaps arranging the flowers. Or maybe you thought only those with skilled nursing training could help; many do, of course, through their respective organisations, such as the Red Cross,

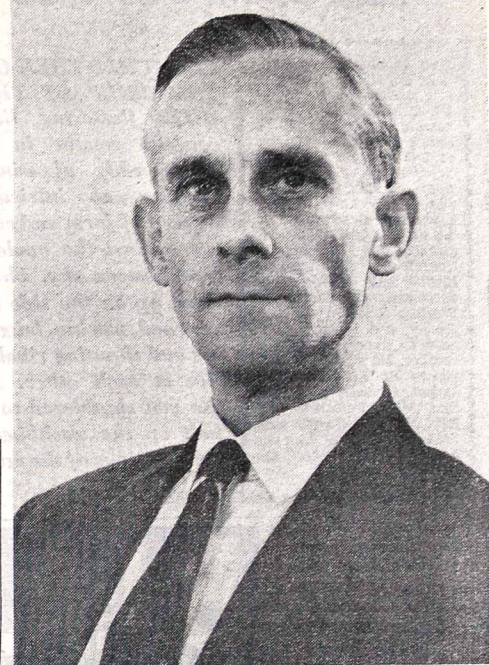
Hospitals in outlying districts have a great deal of difficulty in finding volunteers. Week-end helpers are very much in demand in most hospitals.

All that is asked is a willingness to do what is needed and what one is suited for, and

complete dependability. For those who cannot guarantee regular attendance there are, of course, the Leagues of Friends attached to each subgroup of hospitals. For membership of these enquiries should be addressed to the appropriate hospital secretary.

Mr. A. D. C. Williams, the Voluntary Services Organiser whose office is at the Berkshire Hospital, will be interested to hear of anyone able to volunteer for other work. He is always ready to discuss possibilities or address organisations interested in collective efforts.

I am sure anyone who left hospital, as I did, full of admiration for the work done, will want to consider this seriously. Here is a positive way to help.



Frank Naylor, Group Secretary

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the July meeting of the Guild one new member was welcomed by the President.

Sixty small garments made by members of the Chiltern group were on show. These are to be presented to the Chiltern Nursery Training College.

On the previous afternoon a very successful garden party was held in Mrs. M. Morton's

garden and in thanking her and members for all the work put in Miss E. Baker the chairman reported that a sum of £17 had been raised.

The speaker was Mr. Matthew Turner who gave an illustrated talk on Architecture through the ages. He was thanked by Mrs. M. Morton. To complete an interesting afternoon several members delighted the meeting with personal reminiscences of Reading as far back as nearly seventy years ago.

A reminder was given of the forthcoming Michaelmas Fair to be held in Balmore Hall on September 28th.

The next Guild meeting is on September 19th.

Caversham Heights T.W.G.

More than 100 members celebrated the seventh birthday of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in splendid style recently with a Cheese and Wine party in St. Andrew's Hall. An elegant sufficiency of delicious refreshments, laid among many lovely flower arrangements, had been provided by the Committee, and the Sainsbury Singers gave much joy and pleasure in their beautifully rendered concert version of a little-known opera by Robert Planquette called "Les Cloches de Corneville."

Blagrove W.I.

Members spent a pleasant sunny afternoon wandering round Saville Gardens, Windsor, admiring the many unusual varieties of flowers and roses.

A short business meeting held in the open air restaurant was presided over by Mrs. Scholl. A Bring and Buy stall was held at the August meeting in aid of the Old People's outing and tea party.

Postbag

Dear Editor,

Having walked around some of the roads in the Caversham Park Village area one fine afternoon, I was somewhat perturbed over the many families that are already in residence there. Can you or any one inform me and other members of the congregation as to what is being done (at the moment) in this area towards their spiritual welfare. Is there a Sunday School for the many children? Or even some instruction given? Or have the church council forgotten their responsibilities in providing a means for church people to partake of the Lord's Supper?

It is when one looks round this vast parish of ours with its many estates new and old, one begins to wonder if we have lost our true vocation (or is it just that we are too occupied with other things outside the parish that we have not the time or inclination to be committed to our own fellow Christians a few doors away?).

Phillis Dent in her book "A new approach" to the Church's work with her growing boys and girls ends by saying... "But need Christ be crucified in the hearts and souls of His children in this our generation because of man's lack of imagination?" Let us use this imagination before it is too late and go out and meet these children with Christ as our example and leader.

Yours etc.,

B. Woolgar, 378 Hemdean Road, Caversham.

Dear Sir,

I was rather concerned to read in the review of St. Anne's School in the July issue, reference to the eleven-plus scholarship. The "scholarship" died out long ago and whatever our views on selection at the age of eleven might be, the present method of assessing a child's ability cannot be described as a scholarship. But more alarming was the assumption that because a large proportion of its pupils were going on to Grammar Schools or streams, this was in some way a measure of the school's success.

This idea that because a child has a higher academic ability than another he is in some way better or worthy of praise, dies hard. There are plenty of qualities just as, if not more important, than high intelligence and it will only be when this is recognised and catered for, that inequality of educational opportunity will cease.

I am certain that the staff of St. Anne's School count success as something more than academic success.

Yours faithfully,
Parent.

GIFTED MEMORIES—A CORRECTION

We regret that a mistake occurred in the article last month which described the different gifts at Caversham Methodist Church. The font was in fact given by Mrs. Payne in memory of her husband. We apologise for this mistake.

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West Caversham (St. Andrew's Hall).

8 p.m. Refreshments

Guide news

The 12th Caversham Company spent a long week-end in camp at Chilton Foliat. It was the company's first camp and many new experiences were had. On Sunday the Guides had their own service and later a supper-hike and grand camp fire. An unexpected pleasure was the visit of the Commonwealth Chief Commissioner Mrs. Derek Parker Bowles.

The company celebrated its first birthday with a party. Mrs. P. Gosling, parent of one of the Guides, made a beautifully decorated cake. The company now have their own colours and these were dedicated at Caversham Heights Methodist Church by the Rev. Ewart B. Wright on Sunday, 16th June.

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Zambia Evening

This article—which brings alive our link with Zambia—is written by the Revd. Dr. Charles Elliott who is coming to speak at a Parish Meeting on Zambia at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, September 12th at St. Andrew's Hall. Dr. Elliott, who is in charge of the Economics Department at Lusaka University, is attending an International Conference on "Agricultural Aid to Underdeveloped Countries" at Reading University in September, and we are fortunate to have him as our speaker. He was a contemporary at Lincoln Theological College with the Rev. John Crowe and the Rev. Malcolm Cooper who both recommend him as an absolutely first-rate speaker.

I WATCHED THEM ON road, they flung open THE BROW OF THE the door and piled into HILL, fluttering like the back, a noisy, confetti caught in a smelly, cheerful heap quick eddy of wind, of brown arms and legs, weaving an intricate The lucky ones. The pattern of form and colour ones who had been to our against the opalescent Eastern sky. They for half a day, but lined up on the side of wasn't half a day better the road, waving, laughing than nothing? Sure ing and shouting ribaldries at each other. As their teacher was at this the van shuddered to a moment slumped in his halt on the washboard one comfortable chair, totally exhausted from corrugations of the mud

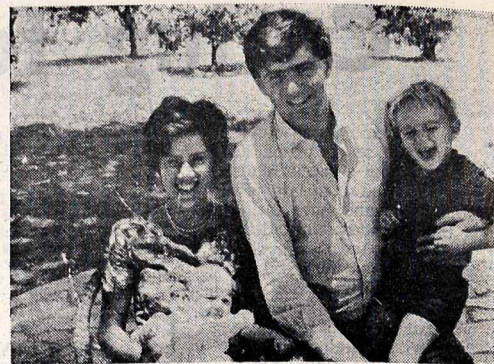
We reached the bottom of the farm road and the children tumbled out to continue the long walk home in the gathering darkness. "Zikomo, bwana..." "Goodnight, go well." "Stay well, bwana." Ahead the lights of the farm winked over the wide valley to the dark and distant ridge of the Chalimbana hills. As soon as I saw Peter's stance against the light of the kitchen window, I swallowed hard at the recognition of trouble. "It's his baby," Hilary said unasked. "He's had diarrhoea for three days and can't even keep water down. Milow has gone to the dairy to phone for the ambulance." We knew what that would mean—a delay of anything up to six hours and then the ambulance might not find us. A look at Peter's face confirmed that time was short. With dehydration, death can come swiftly. "When did your wife stop feeding him Peter?" "A month ago, bwana." "And what did you give him to eat?" "Mealie porridge, bwana." "Mealie porridge at 14 months! Why not milk? Why not eggs? Why not beans? You get them virtually free... Ah, what's the use? Come on, get your wife and baby here, now, now."

This was no time to think of petrol, though heaven knew we were desperately short. Nor was it a time for recrimination, though Peter was our most educated farm hand and ought to have known better. In the village, the old women could have taught his wife the ways of children, but in the towns the

old system has broken down and a young wife and mother has to find out for herself... the hard way.

The hospital smelled like any other hospital, aseptic and cold. Forms and more forms. Name. Number. Address. Mother's name. Date of birth... the rhythmic pulse of bureaucracy beat steadily. The baby was quiet, whimpering occasionally on its mother's breast. "The doctor will come when she can... very busy... another bad accident... The time was marked by the harbingers of fate. A policeman came to get a statement. The ambulance came and went and came and went... The medical orderly went off to get some sleep... The admission clerk dozed uneasily on his ledger... The baby started crying. Peter brought it a cup of water.

The doctor moved with the mechanical precision that comes with training and exhaustion. "Baby will have to be admitted," she said slowly to Peter's wife. Peter translated. A tear trembled in her eye. O God, not a scene, please. She picked the baby up, wrapped it in a kanga and followed the orderly to the ward. "Muli bwanje." "Kodi mulipo. Ndilipo." Peter had found a brother—one of the three medical assistants came from the same tribe. They talked excitedly as the assistant moved through the admission rou-



The Revd. Charles Elliott, his wife Hilary and their two children.

... that should happen here, with us." Hilary was still awake. The cocoa tasted bitter with the memory of that ward. "I know, but at least this one will live." The debate went on... and goes on. "Transform it utterly by the passion of thy Cross, O Lord."

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MEMORIALS — EMBALMING — CREMATIONS

Obituary

Mr. ARTHUR POLLEN

Although not a Caversham resident, Mr. Pollen, who died in July, lived in the district and was well known to Roman Catholics throughout the country as a sculptor. Many churches, convents and monasteries have examples of his work as he specialised in religious subjects, chiefly crucifixes and madonnas.

For some months Mr. Pollen had had trouble with his eyes—a grievous misfortune for any artist. It is perhaps wonderful for him that "ath should have come before he had to make the terrible readjustments to a life without sight. Our sympathy goes out to his wife (herself an artist), his family and the large circle of friends who will all miss him sadly.

Several small examples of Mr. Pollen's work were on show over the Whitsun weekend at the little Festival at Sonning.

CAVERSHAM

RESIDENTS'

ASSOCIATION

By the time this item is read, the public inquiry into building in Hemdean Bottom will be old news, even though its outcome will not be known for several months. The fact that there was to be a public inquiry after all, came as a surprise, but with the property company applying for permission to build on approximately thirty six acres instead of the small area originally agreed on, it is not surprising that the local planning committee refused the application.

What perturbed us and still does, is that up to the time of writing, a week before the inquiry, no public notice of it had been given, except to the people living in the immediate vicinity. In Caversham the public services such as education, transport, drainage and water supplies are already overburdened so any further increase in the population must affect people living in the whole area and they should have been given due notice that there was to be an opportunity to place their objections. Indeed, the further encroachment of urban development on to rural land is a matter that goes beyond Caversham.

Only too often it is assumed that "interested parties" are those whose property is immediately affected. Caversham Residents' Association recognises that people must have houses. We also recognise the importance of environment. We exist because we believe that people have a right to a say in these matters.

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World poverty campaign

By Derek Barnes

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE — DOES THE CHURCH REALLY CARE — THE CHURCH YOU AND ME!

All the big societies, Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund, Oxfam, United Nations Association, Co-ordinating Committee International Understanding, are joining to hold a large public meeting in the Great Hall of Reading University on Thursday 26th September, at 7-45 p.m. Their aim is to try to educate and inform on the whole complex problem of world poverty and British responsibility.

There will be a large party of VIPs giving their support to the meeting. The Mayor, the Bishop of Reading, the Vice-Chancellor of Reading University, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Chairman of the Reading Council of Churches, the President of Reading and District Free Church Council, the Chairman of Berkshire County Council, the MPs for Reading Wokingham and Newbury, the Chairman of Reading Liberal Association and the Principal of Berkshire College of Agriculture have all signed a letter which will be sent to 21 national and local newspapers during September. The Evening Post has agreed to give a whole page to publicise the meeting, and 95 secular organisations have been contacted, all the schools and educational departments in Reading and District have been approached, 10,000 handbills have been printed and donated by a local firm. Bulmershe College are installing closed circuit television.

Reading and Kendrick Schools are providing 50 senior pupils to act as stewards, the Rev. J. Crowe will act as host to the VIPs. Wokingham Council of Churches under Mrs. B. La Bouchardiere will run a book stall. The Rev. Paul Cain and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Johnson are co-ordinating discussion groups in the area.

NOW WHAT CAN WE DO, YOU AND I?

As a Christian it is our duty to make ourselves aware of the world around us and this meeting is to help to fulfil this responsibility.

The Hall and Lecture room will accommodate 800—can you persuade your friends to come?

Discussion groups—will you form one or join one so that you are more informed and tolerant to the problem?

Would you be prepared to distribute handbills or put up posters?

The key book of facts is World Poverty and British Responsibility, 3/6d. SCM Press, obtainable through local book shops or from M. Johnson, 32 Inglewood Court, Liebenrood Road, Reading. Reading 57066.

For information on discussion groups please contact, the Rev. P. Cain, 18 Raggleswood Close, Earley, Reading 62136.

For further details contact Mr. Derek E. Barnes, 23 Northbury Avenue, Ruscombe, Twyford, Twyford 468.

Looking forward to support from Caversham Bridge readers.

Seventy-five years in Caversham

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE STOCKS AND THE WHIPPING POST ONCE STOOD OR WHERE THE LAST PUBLIC HANGING TOOK PLACE? DID YOU KNOW THAT 'THE STAR' WAS ONCE THATCHED?

I had a fascinating evening recently learning all about Caversham and pouring over maps depicting the area nearly a hundred years ago,

when it was no more than a small village. If there is one man who really knows the subject it is Joe Rampton, known to many not only for his knowledge of ancient history but also for his present activities with such organisations as the Caversham Community Association which he helped to found seventeen years ago.

He can really claim to be Caversham bred, even though he was actually born at Dunsden where his grandmother was the local midwife. A fort-

nite later he was brought to his present home at 45 Gosold Brook Road, where he has lived ever since.

Joe met his wife, Muriel, during the first war, when she was working on munitions at Woolwich Arsenal. Pen-friends, their first actual meeting was quite literally under the clock at Charing Cross. They married in 1926 and Muriel came to Caversham where she became as interested in Caversham life and people as her husband. It was with great regret that we reported her death nearly two years ago, for she was a much-loved member of our community.

Joe himself was originally in the building trade, served with the Third Dragoon Guards during the first world war, joined the civil service at the outbreak of the second world war and finally retired from the local Signals Office about ten years ago, bringing to an end his long association with the Civil Service Clerical Association of which he had been branch chairman for many years. He is a keen member of the Old Contemptibles and one of his keenest desires is to see the flourishing of an annual service at the local war memorial. This is something about which people have very different views, but anyone who thinks like Joe will be well advised to contact him now and find out what meetings are being held in this connection.

Incidentally, he would also be delighted to see new members at the Community Association which meets every Monday at the school in School Lane at 7 o'clock. And anyone interested in the history of Caversham would be well advised to go along and hear one of his lectures which he is at present putting on tape. I can't remember a more interesting evening than the one I had with Joe. Mention a name and invariably he knows the person concerned, talk about a building or footpath in Caversham and he will be able to tell you its history.

For good measure, he was for many years officer in charge of the local Church Lads Brigade. He is anxious to have a reunion of some of the old boys and would be pleased to hear from anyone else interested.

Gardening is, of course, another of his hobbies as anyone who knows his house will be aware. Like his wife, he has a keen love of flowers and his garden is a joy to see.

He has promised to try and write something for the 'Bridge' about old Caversham. We will try to keep him up to it as we are sure our readers will find it every bit as entertaining as I did.



Joe Rampton

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RANDOM JOTTINGS by an R.C. Layman

CHRISTIAN NEWS
CONFERENCE

I was lucky enough to attend this on behalf of the "Caversham Bridge" as neither the Editor nor any other member of the Board could manage it. As a rather lightweight member of the Board, I realised I should have everything to learn and not be in a position to contribute very much as the conference was chiefly dealing with newspaper production. Having made my position clear from the outset, I was slightly taken aback on arrival to find I was the only R.C. and, apart from my host and hostess and the secretary of Christian News, the only layman amongst thirteen Anglican clergymen, all of whom were editors of their papers. Having weathered this shock, I found the twenty-four hours highly instructive and enjoyable.

Between the sessions and at meals, conversation was general and covered a wide range. At times I felt a little as though I had been flung overboard in the Portland Race, but after all these men were 'in religion' professionally so this was hardly surprising. I am a cradle Catholic and, like many such, do not seem unduly worried by many of the finer points which I realise could trouble a convert or prove a difficulty for someone of another denomination. What did strike me, however, was the extent to which these men seemed to want to try to rationalise things; to remove, as one of them said, much of the magic. I can see this may be a good idea in putting Christianity across in this country today, but for myself I feel that if you have accepted the idea of an Almighty God, anything is possible, whether a physical manifestation, such as Christ walking on the water, or a

spiritual one as in the forgiveness of sins or in baptism. Perhaps mine is too simple or superficial an approach.

Another point which struck me was how very well informed they all were in matters to do with the Catholic Church. They were fascinated by the different reforms resulting from Vatican II and slightly amused to find that as some of their clergy became more preoccupied with liturgy and ritual, we would appear to be simplifying things. They seemed to feel that the enormous explosion of energy in the Catholic Church generated by Vatican II, though admittedly rough on the older and more reactionary, was certain to prove of great benefit eventually and not merely to the Church itself. A view I should imagine the late Pere Teilhard de Chardin might have held.

FROM MONASTERY TO
MACY'S

No doubt as a result of Vatican II, a correspondent of mine tells me a British monk has been sent to America to sell their local pottery in this store. I doubt whether, when he entered his monastery, this particular monk could have envisaged this.

HOLIDAY TIME

The silly season is with us, and by the time this appears I should be away in south-east Austria showing our son, who was born in Vienna, some of the wonderful Baroque excesses of the churches in Carinthia. It is a part of the world where Eastern and Western Europe meet, and may frontiers join. Because of this, it is always interesting to talk to Austrian friends and get the Central European slant on international affairs.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

THE JULY MEETING of the Church Council provided a number of discussions which showed the concern of the Church to reach out to the world. Little time was spent on domestic business. It was unanimously agreed that full support should be given to the proposals of the Caversham Churches Co-ordinating Committee for a campaign to stimulate local interest in the problem of world poverty. Race relations and the work of the newly formed Reading Council for Community Relations were debated and members also turned their attention to ecumenical relations in Caversham. Finally the Rev. Malcolm Cooper and the Rev. John Stevinson, with two different viewpoints—, opened up the problem of the

Church making contact with newcomers. Anyone who thinks that the Church of England is merely concerned with self preservation would have received a shock if they had been present at this meeting.

READING Y.M.C.A.

The annual report of Reading Young Men's Christian Association makes encouraging reading and shows how after 75 years the influence of the YMCA is still expanding. Many members of the parish are connected with this work. Mr. C. V. Burnside and Mr. R. Hasluck are listed among the vice-presidents. The Treasurer is Mr. P. G. Sizer while the Board includes among its members Mr. R. M. Gamble, Mr. G. W. Canning and Mr. J. W. Houghton, so all districts are providing someone to help with this excellent work.

NEW SISTER SUPERIOR

As a result of the illness of Sister Marjorie Gabrielle it was necessary to appoint a new superior for Springfield St. Luke and on July 24th the Rector instituted Sister Melliar who was previously working with the Community of St. Mary the Virgin in their home at Stamford Hill. The Caversham Bridge extends greetings to her on her arrival in Caversham, and is sure that in the wonderful atmosphere of Springfield St. Luke in Surley Row, she will be most happy.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This will be observed throughout the parish on Sunday September 22nd.

Thirty three years as St. Peter's sidesman

After serving as sidesman for thirty three years Mr. Cyril Allwright has felt the time has come for him to retire. Throughout all this time he has carried out his duties in a quietly efficient way and many members of the congregation will miss receiving a prayer book from his hands in future as they arrive for worship.

Mrs. Holloway. A familiar figure will no longer be seen making her way from Hemdean Hill to St. Peter's for Holy Communion Sunday by Sunday at 8 o'clock as Mrs. Holloway has now left Caversham to live with her married daughter at Maidenhead. She was also very regular in her attendance at the Mothers' Union, and will be missed at future meetings.

Frances Eadon. Her many friends were shocked to hear of the death of Mrs. Eadon in a car crash recently. It was thought that she was killed almost instantaneously. Better known to her Caversham friends as Frances Coggan she re-married last year and was driving down to Berkshire from Chesterfield when she met her death. She became the first parish secretary in 1962 when the office was set up, but had to resign when her husband became too ill for her to carry on. We extend our sympathy to her children Lesley and Peter. May she rest in peace.

ST. PETER'S NEWS

St. Peter's Wives

The group meets on Tuesday September 17th at 8 p.m. in Church House when the headmaster of the Avenue School, Mr. Goodworth, will talk and show slides, his subject being handicapped children. New members are always welcome. For further information ring Mrs. B. Lightowler—74420.

Harvest Services

A special children's service is being compiled for the children who attend the Parish Communion and the Sunday School and it is hoped that many parents will be present at 3 p.m. on Harvest Festival, September 22nd.

Welcome Home

After some thirty years in Kenya, Mr. and Mrs. Denis Shaylor have returned to the Shaylor family home, 17 The Mount. Mr. Shaylor goes to Salisbury Theological College at the end of September to start his training for the priesthood.

Holiday Competition

Prizes are being offered to children under twelve for the best accounts of a holiday visit to any church or cathedral. The account should if possible include a drawing done by the entrant and should state why they found the visit interesting. Those not lucky enough to have been away on holiday may be able to visit some interesting church near Reading which

they can describe. Entries must be at the Rectory by September 10th.

Recorder Players Wanted

It is hoped to have a group of children who will in future accompany some of the hymns at the Parish Communion on their recorders. Those who would like to do this are asked to contact either Mr. R. J. Brind, the organist or Mrs. M. Bowyer at 38 Kidmore Road.

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Mr. H. Briggs on the recent death of his father and to Mrs. M. Kynaston whose mother died after a short illness. May they rest in peace.

ST. MARGARET'S TIDE

Mapledurham observed its patronal festival on July 21st when by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. L. Hobday some sixty people enjoyed tea in their garden in Upper Woodcote Road. They were then joined by many more at Evensong in St. Margaret's. Few people can remember seeing so many people squeezed into the Church. Well over one hundred people were present and some of the extra chairs had to be collected before the congregation could manage to leave at the end of the service.

Some of the evening services were cancelled that night in the Caversham churches. Mr. W. Rowe was at the organ and members of St. Peter's and St. Andrew's choirs augmented the Mapledurham choir while St. Peter's ringers helped with the ringing. The preacher was the Rev. John Stevinson and the sacrament of Baptism was administered during the service. The whole afternoon gave great pleasure and was a visible sign of the way the two parishes are growing together.

HARVEST SUPPER: A Harvest Supper will be held in Trench Green school on Saturday September 21st at 7-30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained from Mrs. Thompson, 205 Upper Woodcote Road. **CHURCH CAR PARK:** At their recent meeting the Church Council accepted a tender for improvements to the car park and it is expected that the work will be put in hand shortly. The Church Council also unanimously decided to stop publication of the magazine at the end of the year and to join up with the Caversham Bridge.

St. John's Hall

Early in July, the District Committee met to consider the recommendations of its sub-committee as to what action should be taken when the Church loses the use of the school hall.

The sub-committee recommended that, in view of the urgent needs of the starving millions, possible re-union with the Methodists, the outstanding and expensive repairs needed for the church building, the rising maintenance costs and the probability of great changes in the

Church at large, which would quite probably lead initially to a further falling off of membership, and the present uneconomic use of the church that rather than erect a new hall, the present church building should be modified, if possible, to serve for both worship and social activities. In their report they then set out detailed proposals as to how this should be done.

This District Committee gave these very careful consideration, and then asked the sub-committee to prepare ways of presenting their scheme to the congregation as a basis for consultation.

St. Andrew's helps Oxfam

On July 25th the Priest in Charge handed a cheque for £400 to Mr. Henry Drapkin of OXFAM. This sum was the major part of the profit on this year's Summer Fair. When expenses have been cleared and all bills paid a further cheque, possibly for £50, will be sent to OXFAM.

Since we set out to raise £300 for a special project in India, to have raised so much in excess of our target was a most worthwhile achievement. Our thanks and congratulations to all who helped to make the Fair such a success.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS' EVENING

The Parent's Evening held on July 11th met with an encouraging response. The number of parents who came was disappointingly small but in spite of that (or perhaps even because of it) it was a stimulating and helpful occasion for all present. For the Sunday School Mrs. Steer explained future hopes and plans and from the parents came several suggestions which will certainly be taken up at a later date. In particular the proposal that another meeting of this kind should be held was well received. The Hall has already been booked for February 4th 1969.

WEDDINGS

In recent years St. Andrew's has probably had fewer weddings than any other church in the parish. On Saturday September 7th there will be three on the same day. Is this a record for us?

THE HOUSE CHURCHES

When the District Committee recommended experimenting with House Churches at the end of Key Fortnight, it decided to review their progress during the summer. Accordingly each House Church was asked to send representatives to a conference one Sunday evening.

The conference began with a brief report on the experience of each House Church so far. From these it was quite clear that the experiment is going very well. Originally there were seven House Churches spread evenly over the whole District. As a result of the united Lent House meetings, one of these was transformed into three ecumenical discussion groups meeting on Caversham Park Village. Two of the other groups have continued as House Churches, but have established very good contacts with members of other denominations.

On average the House Churches have been meeting once a month in each others' houses. The programme has usually included prayer, discussion, coffee and chat. So far the time of prayer has been very brief, and the members of the Conference were in general agreement that this side of their activities should be developed. Their discussions, which usually starts from the study of a passage from the Bible, have ranged over many subjects. It seems that what many members have found of the greatest value has been the possibility of sharing anxieties, problems, questions about their faith, and about life with other people in the intimacy of a small group in someone's home. For many,

it appears that this is the first time in their lives that they have felt the freedom to talk so openly and honestly with others.

There was a measure of agreement that it was better to meet more often than once a month, though this was far from easy, because of other demands on their time. Experience suggests that smaller numbers, say four or five, are better than larger ones, say ten or more.

THE EVANGELISTIC WORKING PARTY

After two years study, this Working Party recently presented their final report to the District Committee. The Committee had asked them for advice as to what evangelism really was, whose responsibility it was and how best it should be done in this District today.

Their excellent report makes it quite clear that they are convinced that evangelism is the responsibility of the whole Church, clergy and laity together, that this should be a continuing action rather than something for occasional "missions" and other efforts, and that in this work such small groups as House Churches have an enormously significant part to play.

In view of this, they have produced, in addition to their report, a study outline which they recommended to the District Committee should be passed on to the House Churches for them to use, in the belief that this will help both the members individually and the House Churches as such to carry out this work with more understanding.

The District Committee received their report with gratitude, and warmly commends the study outline to the House Churches for their use.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

St. John's will keep this on September 22nd. There will be a Children's Gift Service at 3-15 p.m. Gifts from the elderly and harvest gifts to decorate the church will be welcome during the week before.

GOOD WISHES

We send our good wishes to Jim and Connie Swift as they start their new Ministry in Oxford. Jim is to be Ordained Deacon in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford on September 29th, before going to work as a Curate at All Saints, Headington.

AMERICAN AT ST. BARNABAS

On July 7th the Rev. Dunbar Ogden, an associate minister at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charlston West Virginia, U.S.A., preached at St. Barnabas. Mr. Ogden was the man who led the first ever contingent of negro children into the high school in Little Rock nine years ago in the face of armed opposition. A personal friend of the late Martin Luther King, Mr. Ogden delivered a most inspiring sermon on the subject of race relations.

TWO SOCIAL OCCASIONS

Nine couples gathered at the 'Bird in Hand' before continuing to a secluded spot on Peppard Common for a 'Coffee Pot' picnic supper. After wining and dining the men were challenged to a game of rounders and then further refreshment was taken at the local. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Mothers' Union forgathered on a rather wet afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Green for a tea to which ladies from St. Barnabas' Church, Shinfield Road were invited. Despite the rather depressing weather the occasion was a most enjoyable one.

IN CHOIRS AND PLACES WHERE THEY SING

Some church choirs, apart from a single Christmas carol service find little variety in the demands made upon them from week to week. Of recent years the members of the four Anglican choirs in Caversham have found a growing number of special musical events in the calendar each year. After a busy time in June with music for three of the patronal festivals, the choirs of the parish were privileged to pay a second visit to Oxford Cathedral to sing Evensong there on July 27th, and the standard of singing was exceptionally high and brought warm praise from the Dean of Christ Church. The Vaughan Williams Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C were chosen for the service and the anthem was "Above all praise and majesty" by Mendelssohn. It was an additional pleasure to have three members of Caversham Methodist Church taking part on this occasion. Some fifty members of Caversham congregations were present at the Cathedral many of them enjoying a picnic tea before the service in the delightful Cathedral garden. Work will be starting soon on two special Festival Evensongs in the autumn; the first at St. Peter's on Sunday, October 6th for the Parish Dedication Festival, the second at St. Andrew's for the Patronal Festival on Saturday, November 30th.

The choir masters of the parish are always willing to hear of other members of the congregation who would like to join one of the choirs. St. John's is particularly in need of more men and some "broken voices" have left gaps among the ranks of the boys at St. Peter's.

There is a lighter side to the work of the choir as two accounts from choir boys of recent outings make plain.

TO LONDON

On Saturday, June 22nd the junior members of the Caversham choirs went by coach to London for our annual choir outing. First we went to Westminster Abbey. We had hoped to tour the Abbey but Evensong was being sung so we sat in the chancel and joined in the service. We had no time to see the Abbey but had to rush along the Embankment in the rain to catch a boat at Charing Cross Pier. We had a rather wet voyage to Tower Pier and at one time the canvas awning looked quite ready to fall off. However, nobody fell in the river and we arrived safely at the Tower. Here we were allowed to go where we liked. Some of us went to see the Crown Jewels and decided not to try to steal them when we were reminded that the block is still in position on Tower Green. Those of us interested in old guns and armour went to the new armoury and to the White Tower where we also saw the instruments of torture in the crypt of the chapel of St. John. Finally

we went back to the coach where we had our tea and then returned to Caversham. We are grateful to Mr. Brind, Mr. Crowe and Mr. Jackson for taking us on the outing.
Nicholas Coome.

AND ST. ALBAN'S

On Saturday, July 6th, a party of 45 left Reading in a coach driven by Mr. M. Dare, Choirmaster of St. Barnabas. The St. Barnabas choir had joined together with the All Saints' Choir for the occasion.

We arrived at St. Alban's Cathedral in time to look round it briefly before Evensong. The cathedral is of mixed architecture dating from Norman times. The Normans who built the tower built it with Roman bricks from ruined Verulamium. Preceding the choir, the probationers entered and took their seats. A few minutes later the choir entered. The Evensong followed the normal routine, but omitting a sermon, and three psalms were sung. The choir sang the whole Evensong beautifully.

After the service, the Organist demonstrated the organ to the two organists in the party. We had tea on the grass outside the cathedral. We next visited a part of Roman Verulamium. After counting numbers we found that we had three people missing. Two were quickly found, but the third, a young lad, was still missing after a thorough search. Mr. Dare acknowledging this fact, decided to drive to the police station. Luckily, on the way there, a police car flashed its headlights at us, and we found the boy in it. Now complete, we drove home, and arrived at Reading, safe and content after our outing.
John Anderson.

ST. PAUL'S COMMENT

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH has a scheme of sending its ministers back to College for a long week every few years for a RE-FRESHER COURSE. This seems to be a very good idea because not only do we need refreshing from time to time, but it also gives us the opportunity of keeping in touch with new ideas. Yes, indeed, there are a great many ideas floating round in the theological world. The great Bultmann has given us a new way of looking at the New Testament, there are advocates of "Religionless Christianity" and the Americans have a strange "Death of God" theology. There are plenty of ideas to choose from both within the Church and outside. New Philosophies such as the writing of A. J. Ayer have made us question all our old assumptions, and perhaps this is a very good thing. It never does to take religious ideas second hand, they must be used and examined in the actual business of living and discarded if necessary. In some ways this is a most exciting age to live in. Perhaps many of the student troubles in Britain and elsewhere are a sign of this inner uncertainty. Perhaps they indicate a dissatisfaction with things as they are and a search for a better way. At any rate the Refresher Course for ministers may keep us mindful of the ferment around us; as we all know it is almost impossible for the ordinary minister to keep himself up to date.

More thoughts of a Roving Reporter

BY THE TIME THIS IS PUBLISHED, parents will be busy preparing for the new school term. It would seem as good an opportunity as any to thank, once again, our crossing attendants—Mr. Shipway of North Street and our gallant lady at the corner of Gosbrook Road and George Street. Parents have now been circulated that in the event of regular attendants being off duty it will no longer be possible for the police to take over. It would be a nice thought if some of our Caversham residents would suggest to our two attendants that they are willing to take over in an emergency.

This summer seems to be a time of reunions. I hear that the Cotsell family of Valentine Crescent are reunited for the first time in many years, their married daughter being home from America and their son on leave from Africa where he has been teaching. We are always pleased to report any of these reunions, particularly where the people concerned have, perhaps, gone to school

in Caversham — their old friends will always be pleased to hear when they are back. So do let us know.

Incidentally, I hear that Anne House is much better in health and has been living and working in South Wales, where she was staying with her brother and sister-in-law. I am sure all her old friends will be glad to have this news.

For those of you who are keen gardeners, there is a new line in hose attachments in the local hardware shops which are well worth considering. There are fittings for every possible kind of watering job, and they clip together so easily and so firmly that I am sure those of you only too familiar with the hazards of ill-fitting screws, etc., will be glad to give them a try.

And I wonder if Caversham motorists will be extra careful in Church Street during the coming months. The building going on at the moment is already adding to the dangers of that district.

Now is the time to join up for evening classes at the local school — go early because the classes are becoming extremely popular and it isn't always easy to get in.

Who says Caversham isn't hospitable? A party of boy scouts turned up unexpectedly from Germany just recently and, thanks to the good offices of Mr. Jackman, secretary of the Temperance Society, and 'Doc' Bingham, Group Scoutmaster of Henley Road, they found a temporary home in the boat-house at Caversham until they could move on to Tilehurst. Not that this kind of thing is anything new to Mr. and Mrs. Bingham; in the many years in which they have been involved in scouting, they have become accustomed to emergencies like this. But, as Mrs. Bingham says, it is great fun.

No time for details, but I understand my article last month on East Caversham did not meet with unanimous approval. I must apologise to Mr. Turner who seems to have got the impression that I'm biased against his sex. The fact is, I have a page full of addresses of men in the district who are well worth a visit when I can get round to it. But, as I explained, I have to fit in interviews as and when I can find the time; as a shift worker, this is often during the day when the men are at work. My apologies also to Kate Harris; I did not wish to imply that I had interviewed her or that she was actually in charge of the industrial groups, only that her name was frequently mentioned in this connection.

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TALKING POINT

GOD IS HIDDEN

ALMOST EVERY DAY

we are confronted with new ideas and new gadgets. It may be a new way of saving soap or a new clutch on the car. This is the age of the big chain store, of subscriber trunk dialling and of colour television. These are some of the ways in which scientific advance affects us all. Because of this, and often without realising it, we adopt attitudes and presuppositions which are scientific. When we first see some new appliance we say 'That's clever, how does it work?' 'What is the principle behind it?' Furthermore most questions of this kind can be answered. For small articles there are sets of instructions. For large things like television expert advice is available.

able in any town of reasonable size. It is second nature to us to have things explained.

One thing which a scientist cannot accept is mystery. As far as our material and physical lives are concerned this is something for which we ought to be thankful. The discovery of a cure for

by
ROGER PACKER

cancer depends on this. At the moment cancer is a mystery—but the scientists are not going to rest until they have searched and found a solution.

Now let us compare the approach of science with the approach of religion. When-

ever we start to think about God there is one thing which has to be accepted from the beginning. We can never know everything. Knowledge of God is like an iceberg. However much of the truth we can see, the greater part is out of sight. Faith always involves an element of mystery. All the brains in the world could never get God buttoned up, and it is only human pride that imagines they could.

It is not only the being of God which is mysterious. I can think of occasions when, as I believe, God spoke directly to me. A phrase from the scriptures suddenly came alive, a casual remark in a sermon spoke to my condition or the witness of a fellow Christian left its mark upon me. I know that God spoke to me, but I can no more explain it than fly. Such experiences are like ships on the sea. You know that the ships have parted the waves, but you cannot see where they have been when they have gone. Even when God reveals Himself there is a mystery about it. God is there—but at the same time his presence is veiled.

This sense of mystery, of the hiddenness of God is something of which the Bible speaks again and again. Isaiah says 'Thou art a God who hidest Thyself.' Christ thanked his Father because he had 'hidden these things from the wise and prudent and had revealed them to babes.' Even in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, whom we believe to be God Incarnate, God remained hidden. Pontius Pilate put a notice above the cross 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'—but neither Pilate nor the Jews saw what was hidden in the person who hung there.

To admit that there are some things we can never understand is very unscientific. At the same time it is very good religion. Many Christians imagine that science and religion are in conflict, as if one is right and the other wrong. There lies an error. In their respective spheres both are right and it is important that the Church should also affirm this. One is not wrong and the other right. It is merely that they are different. Science explores what is visible and temporal; faith embraces what is invisible and eternal.

MORE ABOUT OUR HISTORY

By Gareth K. Thomas

The parish of Caversham in the Hundred of Binfield is bounded, on the south, by the Thames and by the parishes of Sonning, Peppard, Checkendon and South Stoke, Goring and Mapledurham. It contains 4,878 acres. Caversham literally means Calves-meadow; at one time it was in a marshy area of the Thames Valley.

We first hear of it in Roman times, when there was a large settlement on the north side of the village above flood level. It next crops up in Norman days, it was mentioned in the Domesday Book. "Walter Giffard holds of the King twenty hides in Caversham. Land to twenty-one ploughs. Now in demesne four ploughs and two serfs; and twenty-eight villeins with thirteen borders have thirteen ploughs. There is a mill of 20s. and thirteen acres of meadow. Wood one mile and two furlongs long and one mile wide and after and now it is worth 20s." The church of St. Peter was built at this time; much remained of this Norman structure until 1878 when it was largely rebuilt.

Caversham saw a battle in the Civil War.

On 18th April, 1643, Reading, a large town two miles to the south of us, was captured by the Parliamentarians. In October the King set out from Oxford to recapture Reading. On the 25th with forty-five troops of horse, nine regiments of foot, dragoon and artillery, the Royalists beat back the Parliamentarians as far as Caversham Bridge. Here the Parliamentarians made a stand. The Royalists attacked.

"They fell upon a loose regiment that lay there to keep the bridge and gave them a furious assault both with their ordnance and men, one bullet being taken up by our men which weighed twenty-four pounds at least. This we answered with our muskets; and we made the hill sore hot for them that they were forced to retreat, leaving behind seven bodies of as personable men as ever were seen; besides others which fell in three or four mile compass as they retreated. And it is said that within five miles there five hundred hurt men drest in a barne, besides many prisoners which we tooke and many hurt men within our precincts

to which we went the next morning our surgeons to dresse, and gave orders to have the dead bodies buried by the parishioners where they were slain." Sir Simon Luck wrote this at the time. The hill is probably the one where the Church stands. The King then stayed at Caversham House and retreated to Nettlebed after the battle.

Since those days, Reading has engulfed Caversham. Of its history only the occasional Roman relic is turned up and, of course, we still have the restored Church. It would be interesting to discover what lies under the soil on St. Peter's Hill.

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BAPTISED

ST. ANDREW'S July 21—Clarke Rees.

ST. MARGARET'S July 21—Peter Brooke-Wavell.

MARRIED

ST. PETER'S July 20—Richard Pickles and Sally Boyes.

July 27—Kelvin Portman and Vivid Price.

Henry Webber and Gwalia Owen

ST. JOHN'S June 29—Edward Bibbins and Carol Edwin.

July 20—Ronald Kimber and Doris Baker.

ST. ANDREW'S July 20—William Fuller and Sheila Yates.

FUNERALS

ST. PETER'S July 12—Frances Eadon.

ST. ANDREW'S July 24—Nicholas Webb.

ST. JOHN'S June 25—Rose Hannah Fuller.

July 24—Thomas Young.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. Peter's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.

11-00 a.m. Matins (3rd Sunday Holy Communion).

12-15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).

6-30 p.m. Evensong.

St. John's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.

6-30 p.m. Matins (2nd Sunday).

St. Andrew's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. EUCHARIST.

11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.

6-30 p.m. Evensong.

St Barnabas

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.

6-30 p.m. Evensong.

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion

(2nd Sunday).

9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION

10-00 a.m. Family Service

(2nd Sunday).

6-30 p.m. Evensong.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

8-00 a.m. 9-30 a.m. 11-00 a.m.

and 7-00 p.m. Mass.

Our Lady of Caversham

8-30 a.m. and 10-30 a.m. Mass

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3-00 p.m. Young People.

6-30 p.m. Adults.

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CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

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1-11 and 6-30 The Rev. R. W. Browell (Evening Communion).

8-11 and 6-30. The Rev. L. S. Lewis.

15-11 and 6-30 The Rev. L. S. Lewis. (Morning Communion).

22-11 and 6-30. The Rev. L. S. Lewis.

29-11 2-45 and 6-30 Harvest Festival.



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PAPER ROUND

THE GRAVEYARD of many hopes, or the New Jerusalem? It depends which way you look at it: you will find both views about their area among the people of Dawley New Town.

Designated as a New Town in 1963, there was already an existing population of more than 20,000 people, many of whom dislike and are afraid of the developments that are taking place.

Between them the Churches already had 30 places of worship in the town—a higher number than in any other new town in Britain at its beginning.

In such a situation it is not surprising that there are many difficulties and tensions. People dislike change on the whole, and it is perhaps inevitable that, at this stage of development, the difficulties loom larger than the obvious opportunities.

In such a situation the Churches have a most important role to play.

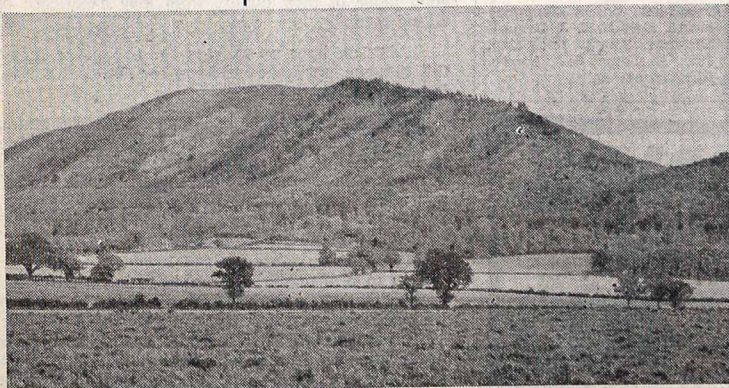
Many local Christians, wanting to seize the opportunities which the New Town offers, are working ever more closely together ecumenically. Not all their brethren share their enthusiasm, for resistance to change is as marked in churches as anywhere else.

Some people would prefer the possibility of sinking on the ship they know, than embarking on one they don't.

BACKED BY 13

The "Wrekin Light", an inter-denominational newspaper edited by the Rev. Dick Jones, an Anglican, and the Rev. Morgan Williams, the Baptist Minister, is sponsored by 13 of the

The Wrekin "like a great, pre-historic beast asleep on the Shropshire plain, broods over the designated new town area."



'The Wrekin Light' Looking to the future in a changing place

local churches representing Methodists, Baptists, Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

It aims to foster the growth of inter-denominational co-operation in the area and to help local Christians to see and understand some of the challenges which Christ is beckoning his Church to accept.

Only about 1,000 new people have come into the area so far, but the build-up of population will be rapid from 1969 onwards. The Rev. Dick Jones told me that he hopes that "The Wrekin Light will, in time, grow to be a link between the old-established congregations and the new ones that will emerge in the new neighbourhoods."

He believes that "the right use of publicity and propaganda is an essential tool in the

Church's missionary task."

"New Towns are frontier territory for Christians" he says, and believes that the Wrekin Light will help to "explore and extend the Christian frontiers in Dawley."

SYMBOL OF HOPE

Looking rather like a great, pre-historic beast asleep on the Shropshire plain, the Wrekin rises 1300 feet and broods over the designated new town area.

From time immemorial, beacons have been lit upon it and lights have shone from its summit. "All friends round the Wrekin" is the Shropshire toast, and it is fitting that the local Church newspaper should take its name from this ageless symbol of hope.

Adrian Blackmore.



Johnny Dankworth and Cleo Laine at the Jazz Concert in Ludlow Parish Church during the Ludlow Festival.

Professional jazz in a Shropshire church

BY MARIA CORNISH

Ludlow parish Church, one of the largest in the country, had its foundations well and truly shaken in the recent Ludlow Summer Festival.

This magnificent old Church, first noted as being "altered" in 1199, resounded to the music provided by John Dankworth, Cleo Laine and the Laurie Holloway Trio, in a concert given by the Ludlow Festival Committee.

A few years ago this event would have been unheard of, but the medieval town of Ludlow moves with the times, and what a setting for jazz this proved to be.

The stage was situated at the head of the nave and right underneath the tower and was ideal acoustically. When Cleo Laine joined the group, her deep honeyed tones seemed to have an added quality when resounding in this unusual and very beautiful setting.

The audience of 300 to 400 was mostly aged between 25 and 50.

No-one who heard Cleo Laine's unaccompanied "A Long Way from Home" and John Dankworth's version of Richard Rodgers "I Didn't Know What Time it Was" on the saxophone, with very little backing could possibly still believe that this concert was at all out of place.

HELP! HELP!! HELP!!!

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HELP!!

PROFIT — why is it such a dirty word?



A MAN buys a piece of steel for 5s.;— he pays another 2s. 6d. to work it in a lathe and sells the finished piece for 12s. 6d.—5s. profit.

You sell your car to a dealer for £250; two days later it's for sale in his showroom for £300 and in a week it's sold—nice pickings.

Some people have the luck; others do the work and all they do is to add the profit, take it and ride around in big cars.

Or is that all? Are they just lucky.

Profit is something of a dirty word, not quite nice to use. To admit to making it is a sign to many of an idle capitalist living off another's effort.

What is profit? How is it made? There are two profits to a deal—or an annual balance sheet

'Profit is to industry as petrol to a car — it is the fuel that makes the wheels go round'

which is only an accumulation of all deals in the year—the gross and the net.

The gross is simply the selling price less cost—in the steel example 5/- and in the car apparently £50; it is less than £50 if the car has been cleaned or had any work on it. That is the gross profit, the obvious profit.

OVERHEADS

But is that the true profit? Overheads are the greatest old old story of industry; they are not just big lunches and pretty secretaries; firms cannot run

without premises, people to send the bills and transport. They also need orders and they must therefore tell customers what they do and where they are.

These overheads cannot be cut out. Net profit is gross profit less overheads; of this the country takes 42½% as corporation tax, the shareholders expect a dividend—they provide the money and take the risk—and the rest is carried forward for future use.

But why? Why a real profit at all? Why should you pay more than the actual cost even allowing

World of Industry

BY
GEORGE PIKE,
THE MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF
A FAMILY
BUSINESS,
SEEN HERE AT
WORK IN HIS
OFFICE.

for overheads and all the rest?

Profit is to industry as petrol to a car; it is the fuel that makes the wheels go round.

As well as providing the real incentive for hard work and finding the best way, it provides the money for new plant and machinery without which a firm will slide further and further back, as other firms who have it will produce the same at less cost.

COMPETITION

Profit brings competition; this means choice, the customer's protection as firms have to be and show themselves to be, as good as any and better than most if they are to keep a customer.

If they fail in that—they fail.



GETTING RID OF AN UNWANTED WIFE

What price my old moo ?

By Eric King

GETTING RID of an unwanted wife is still likely to prove a pretty expensive undertaking, even with the new Divorce Bill. But a couple of hundred years ago it used to be done with financial benefit to the delighted husband.

Even well into the 19th century a belief persisted that a husband could "lawfully" sell his wife provided that the sale took place in public and the woman was delivered to the buyer in a halter.

The price of a second-hand wife rarely exceeded 20s. and was often much less. Which explains the delight of a Suffolk farmer who sold his for five guineas. He was so pleased with the sale—reported in the Ipswich Journal of January 28, 1787—that he gave her a guinea to buy a new gown and had the bells rung at Stowmarket to celebrate the occasion.

He would certainly have had the sympathy of the man who, in announcing the sale of his wife at Carlisle market in 1832, described her qualities with unusual candour.

TORMENTOR

"Gentlemen," he said, "it is her wish as well as mine that we part forever. She has been to me only a bosom serpent. I took her for my comfort, but she became my tormentor, a domestic curse, a night invasion, and a daily devil."

After much else in the same strain he concluded: "she can make butter and scold the maid. She can sing Moore's melodies and plait her frills and caps. She cannot make rum, gin or whiskey, but she is a good judge of their quality from long experience by taking them."

After an hour or so, says the newspaper report, this paragon was knocked down for 20s. and a Newfoundland dog!

Usually the woman had little say in the matter, which must have surprised the Southwark carpenter in 1766, who, having sold his wife, decided he wanted her back. She refused to return saying, "a sale is a sale and not a joke."

LEFT HIM

In spite of masculine dominance in the early 18th century there were some women of spirit, like the lady, who, according to the Gentleman's Magazine of March 1735, was married at 16 and after having 20 children in the space of 21 years, left her husband and retired to a convent in France, where, the newspaper added, she was living happily "in a very religious manner".

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Junior Magazine by Brenda Holloway



NUTS TO YOU!

What is a nut?

WELL, NOT just the things you find in gardens, parks and hedges in the autumn. Ask a carpenter for some nuts, and he'll give you a handful of small blocks of metal with holes in the middle.

Ask the coal merchant for some nuts, and he'll send you a bag of small lumps of coal.

You see someone going to hit his head against a wall. "Hi, mind your nut!" you shout.

Tell someone he's "off his nut" or that he's "nuts", and you mean he's crazy. You find someone difficult to deal with? You say "he's a hard nut to crack."

Collecting nuts?

Junior Magazine suggests you go into parks and down country lanes collecting nuts and seeds lying on the ground. Acorns, chestnuts and the seeds of sycamore and silver birch are good ones to collect. Plant them in a shallow earthenware pan or a large flower-pot in which you have put a thick covering of soil. Keep the pot in the dark for several weeks. Then bring the pot into the light and let it have plenty of air and sunshine. In the early Spring the young trees will begin to grow. They will live for several years if you look after them carefully.

A nut case?

Have you ever met a protest demonstrator? Newspapers lately have had lots of stories and pictures of people marching here, there and everywhere, demonstrating and protesting about this, that and the other.

Junior Magazine has discovered a man in the Old Testament who was protesting more than two thousand years ago. His name was Amos. He owned several flocks of sheep and he also grew small bitter figs, the only fruit the poor people could afford to buy. And some people were mighty poor in those days, and pretty badly treated too. It was this that made Amos a protestor.

Every year he sold his wool and figs at the local fairs. And was he furious at what he saw there? The poor were down-trodden on all sides by the rich. In the law courts rich men bribed people to tell lies against poor men. So the rich always won the day! Dishonest traders fiddled

with the scales and gave less corn than the poor people were paying for. Worst of all, these rich people loved religious services, but were cruel and mean to people who could not defend themselves.

At last Amos couldn't keep quiet any longer. He really let rip in the market places. And how!

He told the rogues just where they got off for not doing God's will and not caring about other people.

How those rich people hated Amos! Others thought he was nuts to bother about the poor. But was he?

Another collection

Start collecting the leaves of the ash, birch, beech, and oak and willow trees. Get two of each if you can, and watch they are in good condition. Dry them and store them away. We'll tell you what to do with them nearer Christmas.



Demonstrating protesting . . .

When will the western go west?

NOTHING lasts for ever, but as far as television is concerned the western is having a jolly good try.

It is quite incredible that since the dawn of the film industry, as other fashions have come and gone, ideas changed, public taste broadened, the western has remained part of our staple diet.

What's its appeal?

Psychiatrists tell us that it's all to do with our need for a fantasy world where the eternal battle between good



A larger-than-life hero who gallops through life brandishing his six-guns at crooked sheriffs and cut-throat Cheyenne.

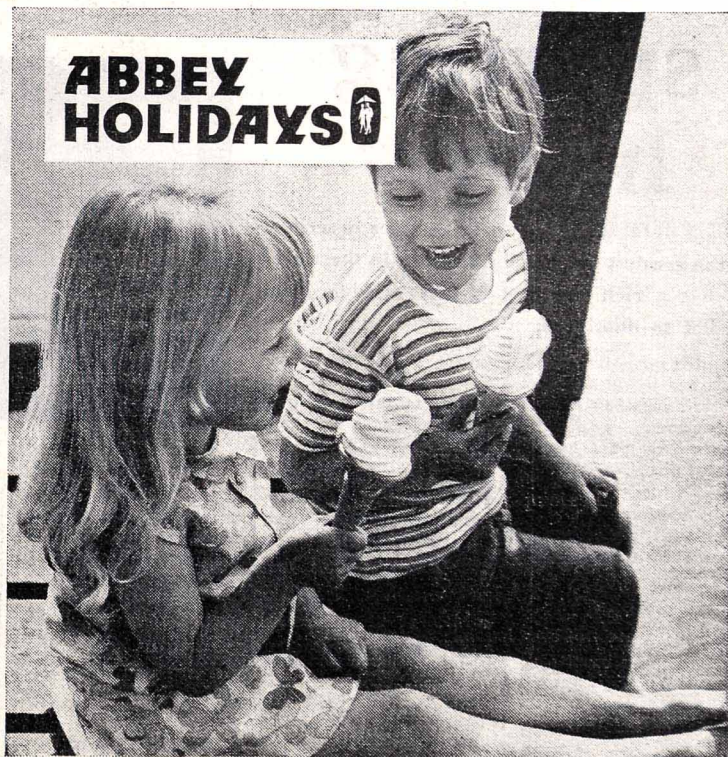
TELEVISION BY HAROLD JEFFRIES

and evil is fought out, where those of us who spend our humdrum lives commuting to an office desk or making our cog-like contribution to the great wheels of industry, can identify with these larger-than-life heroes who gallop through life brandishing their six guns at crooked sheriffs and cut-throat Cheyenne.

Whatever the reasons, the fact is that the programme planners still give a large dollop of viewing time to the western, and presumably will continue to do so until the general public comes to realise that there is a limit to the scripts you can write around fast-riding, hard-hitting goodies and baddies.

The trouble is that we

haven't yet discovered another home for the western type story. From the earliest days of Viking sagas men have enjoyed stories of far-off lands and until we discover a better setting than the wild west we'll just have put up with it—and that could be an argument for putting a man on the moon as soon as possible.

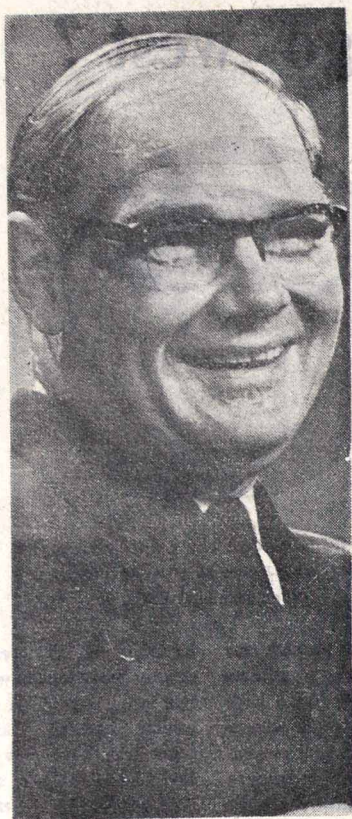


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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



IF ANYONE took the trouble to work out a league table based on the number of television appearances, it's a safe bet that Cliff Michelmores would be very near the top of the list of familiar personalities.

By his own reckoning he has made around 3,000 appearances since "Tonight" began in 1957, most of them as link man on that programme and its successor, "24 Hours," and con-

sidering that the job is about the farthest thing from a rest cure that television has to offer, it's quite an achievement.

Cliff Michelmores was born at Cowes, Isle of Wight, in 1919, and joined the R.A.F. at 15 when he left school. He became a Squadron Leader during the war, and was still in the service when he got his

first job in broadcasting in 1947 as a sports commentator with the British Forces Network of the BBC. He insists that it was his ability as a footballer that got him the job—he had played centre half for the R.A.F. team—but his talent for broadcasting must have shown itself because in 1948 he left the Air Force and joined the British Forces Network as Head of Outside Broadcasts

CLIFF MICHELMORES

and Variety.

In that year he took over the German end of "Family Favourites" and over the air met Jean Metcalfe, his opposite number in London. It could hardly have been a less private meeting, with a few thousand listeners hanging on every word, but romance blossomed and they married in March, 1950. They now

live in Reigate and have two children, Guy and Jenny.

His first television appearances were in children's programmes like "All Your Own" and "Playbox" and he took his turn at producing and writing scripts as well as appearing in front of the cameras. Since the start of "Tonight" he has concentrated on current affairs programmes, but has continued to do occasional sports commentaries and radio broadcasts.

It is as the relaxed, genial link-man of programmes like "24 Hours" that he is now best known, and here his particular abilities are put to good use. He says of himself "I've always had this kind of soft centre," and there is a strong element of warmth and sympathy in his personality which comes across to the viewer.

His grief at Aberfan was real and evident, and it prevented him from blundering unfeelingly into people's private distress in pursuit of a story—a mistake made by many other reporters on that most diffi-

cult assignment.

All television interviewers tread a knife edge between, on the one hand, bullying their subjects and, on the other, merely exchanging polite and trivial chat, and it's a tribute to Cliff Michelmores that the complaints of "in bad taste" or "a waste of time" are seldom aimed at him.

But sensitivity is not enough—a steady nerve is also necessary for programmes which have to cope with events almost as they happen, and the man in the hot seat has to be prepared for anything. When the telephone bleeps, and with millions of eyes on his face, Cliff Michelmores learns that the promised film is not coming through, or the next interview subject is stuck in a traffic jam, few people can envy him his job and few deny that he handles it with the natural ease of a master of the medium.

'The local' - rich in sporting history

THE BRITISH public house — once described as the greatest centre of education in the world — has a rich sporting history ranging from cricket to dominoes.

In days before the cinema, radio and television, a man had to manufacture his own entertainment, and the natural focal point for like minded people was the local pub.

The games played there fall into two categories; those adapted from outside, and those created in the bar itself.

Cricket historians are divided as to the birthplace of the game be it Hambledon or Lascelles Hall, but nothing is more certain than that in each instance the meeting point before and after the game was, just as it invariably is now, the nearest pub.

BARE FISTS

Before it was patronised by the gentry prize fighting in its bare knuckle era flourished in the stableyard, or the cellar. In the North of England, and over the border, a challenge as to "who is the bet-

ter man, no holds barred and bets on the side," is still resolved in the same way after hours down below before a select audience.

Many pub names relate to a sport for which the hostelry was famous in bygone times. The "Bear" the "Bull" and the "Fighting Cocks" tell their own story. Mercifully

illegal, but it is still possible to catch a whisper in the Black Country that "there's a cocking down the road this afternoon."

Ratting was another popular pub sport in the Midlands. The object being for a dog to kill as many rats as possible in a given time.

The sport is now banned but the dog bred for the purpose, the Bull Terrier, is still the most popular breed

all baiting sports are now in the area, which gives rise to conjecture as to how they now discharge their talents in this direction

BY ERNEST ADKINS

DARTS

A stirrup cup for the huntsmen at the "Fox and Hounds" is officially the only surviving link between blood sports and the pub. Not all pastimes emanating from the local have such violent overtones—the now world-wide game of darts, seemingly a far cry from Robin Hood, is the natural successor to that most English of sports, archery.

The forerunner of ten pin bowling, the ancient game of skittles, still survives in all its local forms, and will continue to do so when they have reconverted the bowling rinks back into cinemas.

That most civilised of games, bowls, was well under way in the 13th century. The popularity of the game caused it to develop into a medium for gambling and at different times has been prohibited by law. As late as the middle 19th century it was a forbidden sport because of its connection with pothouses and their associations.

No English inn is complete without its prints depicting the early days of horse racing, all very appropriate, for it was in an alehouse that the

first challenge was made and the first wager laid.

The Jockey Club and the Football League held their initial meetings in of course a public house.

Football teams originating from the local were once frowned upon but now every junior league boasts of its "Red Lion" and "Royal George" etc.

England's pubs have a long sporting history, echoes of which can still be heard in the tap room.

Dominoes darts, cards, skittles, bowls, cribbage, it's all happening still down at the local, along with a great deal of physical exercise of elbow and jaw muscles!

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Darts — seemingly a far cry from Robin Hood! — A picture taken and supplied by Ansell's Brewery.



Necessary break

THE TRADITIONAL tea-break is jealously guarded by British workers not simply because it provides a break from work but because it reflects a traditional home comfort.

This is claimed in a report in The Supervisor, the journal of the Institute of Supervisory Management.

The report says that if going to work were "just a matter of getting there at a certain time, doing a job, leaving at a certain time and receiving 'X' pounds for all this, then the abolition of the tea-break could be accepted, but "most people find it necessary to be a cog or some kind for at least some part of the day."

"The tea-break in such a context is easily understood. It represents a fixed feature of factory life and reflects the traditional home comfort."