



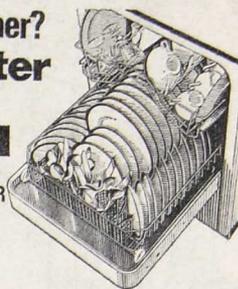
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July 1969

Today's world is just a village

WE MUST
DO AWAY
WITH
OLD
FASHIONED
THINKING
THAT
KEEPS
MEN IN
SEPARATION
AND
RIVALRY



The Concorde—makes the Atlantic seem like a pond

IT TOOK CHRISTOPHER Columbus ten weeks to make the first crossing of the Atlantic. The great transatlantic liners cut this to six days.

In the recent Daily Mail Air Race the winners winged their way across the same stretch of water in under six hours, and when the giant Concorde is fully operational the time will be cut still further.

We live in a shrinking world. The remotest spot on the earth can be reached from the most distant places in a matter of days, and for those who are never likely to travel further than their own coasts the ever-seeing eye of television and the far-ranging reports of newspapers bring details of world events into their homes within hours of their happening.

It is ridiculous for us to consider ourselves first of all as Englishmen or Russians or Chinese or Africans living isolated from one another in our own racial and cultural groups.

We are, above all and first of all, human beings. It is our humanity that we have in common. Something possibly unique in the whole of the vast Universe.

This was the thinking of Colonel Frank Borman and his fellow astronauts as they observed the earth from the

vastness of space. These first men to see our world as travellers from other planets would see it recognised that their belonging was to humanity—and not just to the United States, the land of their birth.

All this means that we must do away with the kind of old fashioned thinking that attempts to keep men in separation and rivalry.

We must accept our common humanity. We must be prepared to learn from each other.

The world is no longer the centre of the Universe, as man once thought, it is a tiny globe on the edge of a minor galaxy. It is a village in which mankind lives. He can learn to get on with his neighbour—whatever his colour or nationality—and value him as a fellow human-being—or he can continue to drift towards the destruction of humanity all together.

The challenge meets each one of us as we deal with other people in our lives. We can face up to it and accept it with all its problems and difficulties, or we can dodge it by carrying on in our old-fashioned, nationalistic ways. The choice is ours.

We have to go one way or the other. The future of our children may well depend on how wisely we choose.



SOAPBOX

Instant brain rot at the will of the Mass Media

'Instant' packets are part of our way of life. Vegetables come to the table after a quick dousing in boiling water. The roast beef of old England and the curries of the mystic East can be bought in tin-foil wrappings—just heat for 'a meal in a moment'.

People to-day want—and are offered—quick, easy results.

'Take our short course and increase your word power.'

'Play the piano in six easy lessons,'—say the adverts.

'Fill in the colour by number—and paint a masterpiece' say the instructions on the lid of a well known type of painting kit.

But whether it's a meal, a tune or a picture the product of the 'instant' package doesn't quite come up to the 'real thing'. There are no short cuts to the distinctive tang of a national dish, the relaxed ease of the good pianist, the subtle texture of good painting. They are the product of painstaking work and long experience.

The fashion for a quick, easy, 'instant' way out seems to have bitten deep into society—and not only in the kitchen.

Quiz-programmes on television, the clever, ready-made answers of politicians and popular newspaper columnists to complicated problems, easily give the impression that an educated man is one who can produce the quick, slick answer.

The man who is prepared to give time and effort and perseverance to reading, talking and reflecting and to facing topics in their true depth and complexity is becoming rather a rare bird.

But when we meet this patient character we know we've met the 'real thing'. He rings true.

Our world of colour supplements, with their kaleidoscope of ill-assorted information, the rash of slight paperbacks, the interminable T.V. interviews, gleaning the views of experts, pop stars and the man in the street, on everything from miniskirts to the fall of De Gaulle—they all push pre-packed, off the peg, 'instant' information and opinion in our direction.

But how often do we really make an effort to examine the many-sided truth about some vital issue.

How far are our opinions our own opinions which we can talk about and defend clearly and with conviction?

The mass-media are in danger of making our minds into confused packages of ill-digested scraps of information and opinion—and in consequence we can talk of little more important or interesting than last year's car, or next year's holiday, the weather, food, clothes, money—the pre-occupations of addled minds.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS, TURNED ANY GOOD 'OFF' KNOBS, LATELY?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

At least one of your readers was amazed at your May front page remark: "Three cheers for the celestial golf balls waiting to be teed off on Fylingdales Moor".

Certainly these things express the Spirit of the Age, for they house part of the Distant Early Warning System of the NATO Alliance, designed to give 30 (thirty) minutes warning of a Soviet Nuclear Attack on the United States. They would give us three and a half minutes warning of an exchange that would lay waste to Europe and America.

Spirit of the age!

Spirit of the Age, indeed!

The Mancunian Way may well "also express man's striving to make visible the order and harmony lying behind the universe," but the Fylingdales golf balls express nothing but a well-

designed failure of man's love.

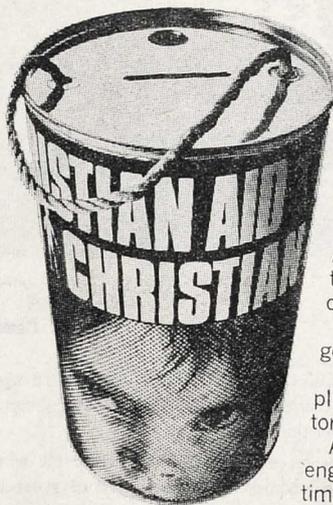
Jack Bowles.

23, Colehill Lane, London, SW6.

Editorial Comment

Mr. Bowles makes a good point but we should like to point out that our three cheers were for the architectural merits.

How much do we take out for ourselves?



We chop all the money we get into four unequal pieces.

The heftiest piece we spend on teaching people new ideas. In Africa, South America, Asia, and India.

Our agriculturists teach farmers how to produce more food. And our family planning experts teach women how to have fewer children.

The second piece is emergency money.

Sending food and medical supplies to Biafra and Nigeria. Doctors and nurses to Vietnam.

And sending clothing, food, and engineering equipment to the victims of flood, earthquake, famine, and drought.

Refugees get piece number three.

Arabs in the Middle East, Ethiopians in the Sudan, Tibetans in India, and Chinese in Indonesia.

They need more than food and medicine. They need to get started again.

We help.

(We've taught Arab refugees how to build houses, how to make furniture, even how to service a radio set.)

Piece number four, the tiniest, is what we take out for ourselves. And it adds up to just over a penny in every shilling.

That covers all our expenses. Paperwork, rent, advertising, and the wages of people who work full-time for us.

But it doesn't cover our flag sellers. They rattle those tins for nothing.

We only hope you'll make sure it's not for nothing they rattle them.

Christian Aid.

P.O. Box No. 1, London S.W.1.
Giro Number 5563151

IT IS ENCOURAGING to know that concern for the needs of fatherless families has promoted some religious bodies and charitable organisations to start housing projects for them, usually purpose-built blocks of flatlets or old houses converted into flats to be let on a non-profit-making basis.

Life is seldom easy for the unsupported mother—the widow, the deserted wife, the unmarried mother, the woman with children who is divorced or separated and having difficulties with maintenance. It has been established that one third of all homeless families are fatherless families.

For the sake of the children, if for nothing else, more thought should be given to the housing needs of women who do not have the support of a husband. The mother's insecurity is bound to be transferred to the child, giving him a double handicap when he is already deprived of his father's support.

Ordinary families know that it is not easy to persuade landlords to accept children, but it is even harder to convince them that the woman without a man is not necessarily a poor risk financially. Women on their own are often without furniture and can rarely afford the high rents charged in the open market for furnished accommodation.

There are unsupported mothers having to live in sordid rooms or basements which are quite unsuitable for children and in residential jobs it is too easy to exploit them when they are understandably reluctant to leave.

Domestic

The availability of a council house for unsupported mothers varies from one area to another. Unmarried mothers are not often eligible and the woman who has had domestic difficulties has sometimes moved from her home town, thus losing her residential qualifications.

From the purely financial point of view, the country benefits when efforts are made to help these families, who are not in a strong position to help

Homes for mothers who have no support

By Rosalind Stuart

themselves, to find homes of their own. We save the money the Ministry of Social Security might spend on subsidising women who are forced to pay excessive rents to private landlords, we avoid the cost of children taken into care and the expense of hospital treatment for those whose mental or physical health suffers because of their housing.

Hostel-type accommodation with supervision exists

for fatherless families in some areas, but enlightened social workers do not recommend supervision except in the case of very young or disturbed mothers. People who find themselves homeless have sometimes been the recipients of a great deal of 'case-work' and official advice.

Healthier

It is healthier that they should be given the chance of becoming as independent as the ordinary, complete family, while know-

ing where to apply for any help their particular circumstances necessitate. Not all unsupported families are problem families until they have been proved so.

Blocks of flatlets or bed-sitting rooms for unsupported mothers are especially needed in the Midlands and the North. Most provisions at present are in or around London. Supporting or indeed establishing a housing trust for the benefit of fatherless children is a project

that could be a very worthy cause for church organisations or charitable groups. It is certainly worth thinking about.

Enthusiasm

Last year The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child set up an Advisory Panel to help voluntary agencies and groups of individuals planning to form

housing associations to provide short-stay or permanent accommodation for unsupported mothers, married or unmarried. "It was very pleasant," they said "to see the enthusiasm and ingenuity of these pioneers."

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CAR SENSE

Where moth and rust don't half corrupt!

I'VE FOUGHT a losing battle with moth and rust for twenty-odd years—except that dry rot and rust is more appropriate to the vehicles I've had.

It started in 1946 with a fifteen-year-old Austin Swallow (an Austin 7 with a coachbuilt body by the forebears of Jaguars). It went on with a couple of ancient Ford vans, a twenty-five-year-old Rover and a thirty-five-year-old Rolls. The present campaign is being fought around an old Land-Rover, and I'm pleased to report from the battle front that there is some hope of the enemy being contained.

VICTORY

Victory, if not exactly in sight, is at least imaginable. I wish other car-owners could say the same.

The other day I saw an 1100 with an E registration standing in a repair shop. One door sill was being cut away and a new one fitted. The metal behind the actual sill was uniformly rusted, paper-thin and holed in places. All this in a car which otherwise looks brand new.

I've seen the same sort of thing on most types of modern mass-produced cars. It's very often door sills. But it's also often wings, floor panels, door pillars, bulkheads. Load-bearing portions of the light steel space-frame which is all the chassis a modern car has. Rust can—and too often does—dangerously weaken this sort of structure in as little as three or four years. Less than ten years, and it's on the scrapheap. What can be done about it?

BACKWARDS

I'm very sorry, but I don't know—that is if the basic design of cars doesn't change. And personally I think this will have to happen some time, because in this respect car design has gone backwards in the last twenty years or so.

Why do I say this? Because since I first owned a motor vehicle I've had dealings with most kinds of decrepitude in a car. But I've never yet had one that couldn't be relied upon to keep its engine and wheels together in one piece for as long as I could afford to keep it in spare parts.

And I shall take a lot of convincing that the average steel-bodied chassisless car coming off the conveyor track this morning will be able to do just that, ten years from now.

Car designers—over to you!

BRIAN FAVELL

Peter goes to the Library

Dad tries to show Peter that parts of the Bible are like paintings—not as factual as a photograph, but much better able to bring out the truth. Peter won't have it. Says it's impossible to know which bits are meant to be fact and which are not. Sorting out some jumble Dad realises that sorting things out in the Bible takes some effort, and isn't an easy job at all—and that Pete acts as if it is. A few days later

Dad. Hello Pete, where are you off to?

Pete. The library Dad — got any books to change.

Dad. No thanks son — not at the moment.

Pete. I only hope they've got that photography book in — I've waited a fortnight for that already.

Dad. What else do you want?

Pete. Oh I don't know. I want to read the life of that bloke Frank Capra — they say he's the greatest press photographer of all time.

Mum comes in and overhears him:

Mum. You're photography crazy you are Peter . . . last year it was motorbikes, goodness knows what it'll be next.

Dad. Never mind it's a good thing to have a hobby . . . what else?

Pete. Well don't laugh, but there's this novel about a film-director called 'Shot in the Dark' that a bloke at school says is very good. I'd like to get that.

Dad. Pete?

Pete. Yes Dad.

Dad. Don't think I'm getting at you — but do you know what the word Bible means?

Pete. Yeah — it means a library doesn't it?

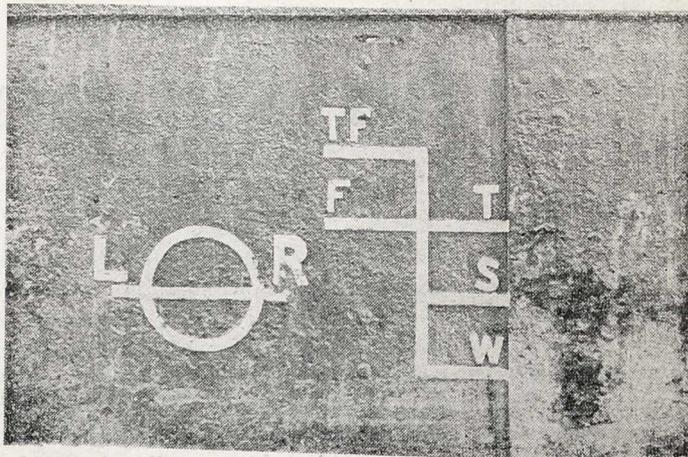
Dad. Well, sort of. Biblia was the Greek word for books. Not all the books in a library are the same kind, even if they're on the same subject. You go for photography — and you want a technical book, a biography and a novel. All of them will tell you something about making pictures — but some will be more factual than others.

Pete. I see what you mean. The Bible is a library of different sorts of books about God?

Dad. That's it. The main subject is always God's dealings with man — but there are lots and lots of ways of approaching it.

Pete. Well that makes sense. I never thought of it like that before . . . blow me, look at the time. I'd better be off or they'll be closed . . .

They gave us their names



Samuel Plimsoll 1824-1898

The seafaring life of a merchant seaman during the 19th century was not altogether an enviable one. Apart from the widespread gambling and drunkenness that existed, mariners were often the victims of corrupt and dishonest shipping owners.

Unserviceable ships were frequently put to sea in an undermanned and overloaded condition. Some unscrupulous owners purposely over-insured their vessels in the hope

that the latter might flounder against hidden rocks. Invariably the subsequent insurance claim would be worth far more than the cargo which the ship carried.

These injustices did not escape the keen eye of a social reformer named Samuel Plimsoll. After entering Parliament he successfully brought into being the Merchant Shipping Act of 1876. Among its recommendations was that a line should be drawn on the side of a ship indicating the maxi-

mum draught permitted when loaded.

This line, which is often referred to as the Plimsoll mark, has since been adopted by merchant shipping the world over.

KEY TO PLIMSOLL LINE

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- T—Tropical Load Line.
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- WNA—Winter Load Line North Atlantic.

C. J. Francis.

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

THE NEWSPAPER OF ANGLICANS
FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
IN CAVERSHAM

No. 58

July, 1969

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FOR BETTER OR WORSE

I OFTEN go home sadly after weddings wondering what the bride and groom have really understood by the vows they have just made. In contrast it is a pleasure and a privilege to take the weddings of those who are communicants and for whom the Christian faith is a reality. And this summer so far as the Anglicans are concerned there are to be an unusually large number of weddings from among those who have grown up in the life of one or other of our congregations.

For better for worse; for richer for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law".

These words may be simple to say but they are not so simple to put into practice. As I understand these words they mean that when we marry, we marry the whole of the other person and not just the bit we have fallen in love with. For when we fall in love it is so easy to turn a blind eye to so many things in the other person. But after two months of marriage we shall have discovered a great deal more about each other; after two years more than in two months, and after twenty years more than in two. And some of the things we discover we will like and admire and some will sorely try us—for we do not just marry the attractive features; we marry the sniffs and snores, the infuriating mannerisms, the habits that try us, the temper, the inadequacies. And they of course marry all those things in us—only rather more so. We marry for better or worse, when times are good as well as when they are bad, and when there is, impossible as it may seem, an ever tighter credit squeeze than at present. We marry each other in sickness and in health, always remembering that there is mental as well as physical sickness, and that mental sickness can be far more demanding than any amount of physical suffering. Yes—this is what we mean when we make that vow, and if we are to achieve a happy marriage we need the help of God.

And marriage is for life—it is "till death us do part" and not until we get tired of each other or find someone else who is more attractive. But we take each other "according to God's holy law". The contract is a Christian one; we are not taking each other on human terms, on our own idea of what marriage is, or upon the ideas that our future mother-in-law may hold. But we are taking each other according to the law of God. And all the way through the Prayer Book marriage service we are constantly reminded of the Christian nature of the act. And this is of course the difference between a civil and a church wedding. Both weddings are equally binding and both are intended to be for life. The difference is that the Church wedding assumes that the bride and groom are entering into marriage on a Christian understanding of what that means.

The Church of England wedding service falls into three parts. The first part is the strictly legal part and should end with the signing of the registers. The couple are then, in law, husband and wife. But they move to the altar rail for the second part, the prayers of blessing. And then the Prayer Book expects the third part to follow; this third part of the service is Holy Communion. At one time there could be no church wedding without the celebration of Holy Communion, and we are reminded of this in the old name for the reception, the Wedding Breakfast, which in the days of stricter rules about fasting communion referred to the breaking of the fast after the wedding Communion. The Prayer Book still expects the service of Holy Communion to follow, and recently this practice has become more common again. What could be a better start to marriage than that bride and groom receive the Holy Sacrament as their first food together as husband and wife?

One of the sad things in the life of any priest or minister is the frequency with which he comes across marriage breakdowns. Marriage is not easy; we need above all to learn to forgive in marriage and to seek forgiveness of our married partner. We do well to remember St. Paul's saying "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath"—don't go to bed till you have made peace with each other. When that is done we have gone a long way towards laying a secure foundation.

And all of us, married or unmarried, would do well to remember in our prayers those to be married shortly, and the work of the Marriage Guidance Council, as its counsellors help both engaged couples and those whose marriages have gone wrong. We might indeed all make our own the collect from the service of Holy Communion at the time of a wedding "Grant to thy servants that loving one another they may continue in thy love until their lives end". Let us do all we can to see that every marriage is as happy throughout life as bride and groom intend it to be the day they make their vows.

John Grimwade

In Loving Memory

The weekly trip to the cemetery is now almost a thing of the past. The bodies of more and more people are being cremated and ashes scattered or stored away in a little casket that requires no weekly offering of flowers.

Most of us are inclined to think that this is a good thing. Those we have loved are far more in our hearts and minds than buried in some plot of land.

Yet don't many of us sometimes wish there was a tangible reminder—not just for ourselves but for the public at large—that here was once a person who was loved, who was part of our lives. Don't we often wish there was something we could do to commemorate their lives.

We can't all found hospitals, build clinics, or even subscribe large sums to charity. But most of us can afford a pound or two, or even a few shillings, to brighten up odd corners of our neighbourhood. There

must be a lot of such—often unkempt spaces. Not necessarily publicly-owned, but places where the public can see them. They would look brighter for a few spring flowers, an odd rose bush, a tree.

One such is the bank at the back of St. Peter's Church, facing on to the Warren. I understand the Rector would like this covered with daffodils; it would look lovely in the spring and would be a tangible reminder of those, like a friend of mine who died recently, who themselves loved flowers.

The Rector of St. Peter's will be only too happy to accept donations in this cause. And there must be many other churches, for instance—who have the odd corner they would like filled up. We should be only too happy to publish details if they care to let us know.

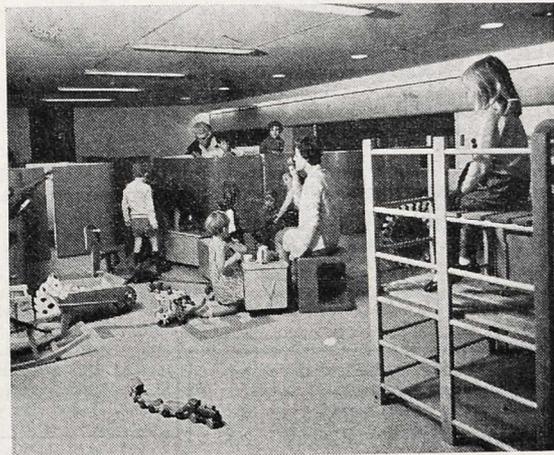
Perhaps even the local council would be interested, concerned as they are with brightening up the district.

A small thing you may say—obviously not worth mounting a full-scale campaign in such a cause. But worth, perhaps a thought.

W.D.



Photo: Sutton and Sons Ltd



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

More events took place, and more interest was shown in Christian Aid Week this year — but the amount of money raised only slightly up on last year.



The Mayor greets the Bishop of Reading on Reading Bridge
Photo: Walton Adams.

EVENTS TO BOOST THE WEEK

Those who organised the house to house collection in Emmer Green arranged a "Salute to Christian Aid Week" on the Tuesday preceding the Week. This took the form of a Wine and Cheese evening with slides of the Reading Area's project, the Farm School at Marengu, Tanzania, and a United Nations film, "The Widening Gap" on the theme of world poverty. Over 50 people were present, and there is no doubt that as a way of educating the collectors and giving a boost to their morale—the evening was a great success.

ECUMENICAL COFFEE BRING AND BUY

An ecumenical group of ladies from the Ardler Road Methodist Church, St John's and St. Anne's organised a Coffee Bring and Buy Sale at Church House, Prospect Street on the morning and evening of Wednesday, May 14th. £15 was raised.

The support from areas other than Lower Caversham was disappointing. "We had hoped that having the Sale at a central position would attract people from all over Caversham", said Mrs. Jo Stevinson. "Next year we hope to arrange a series of Coffee Bring and Buy sales in different neighbourhoods".

OPEN AIR STALL IN GOSBROOK ROAD

Mrs. Yvonne Milne, the St. John's Church Christian Aid Representative, made £12 13s. 0d. from the home-made produce stall she had in the front garden of her house at 267 Gosbrook Road.

With the help of her sister, Miss Madeline Haes, and Mrs. Jill Pearce—Mrs. Milne sold home-made bread, cakes and jam and also a number of things that were sold to people living near her.

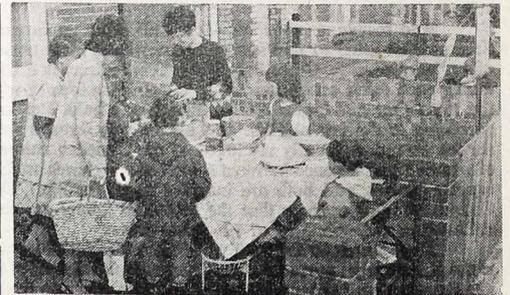
HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

Areas where more trouble was taken to recruit collectors and where the aim was for people to deal only with a reasonable number of houses—improved their results.

Emmer Green had a 50 per cent improvement on last year—raising £135. Much of this splendid result was due to the work put in to organising the collection by the missionary sub-committee of St. Barnabas.

Another area which was better than last year was Caversham Park Village which raised £40. In 1968 the area was covered superficially, but this year the Rev. John Crowe had been able to recruit 24 volunteers to cover the 520 houses.

The other areas of Caversham, which have been efficiently covered as far as the organisation is concerned for the last 3 years, were slightly down on last year. A total of £629 was raised in the house to house collection.



Mrs. Milne's stall for Christian Aid in Gosbrook Road.
Photo: Walton Adams.

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WHIT MONDAY WALK

Some 800 people took part in the Whit Monday walk for Christian Aid, a great many of them completing the twenty-five mile route.

The majority of the walkers were young. The Bishop of Reading who started from Basildon did the greater part of the course and is seen being greeted by the Mayor of Reading at Reading Bridge. Three nuns from the Visitation Convent took part. The Sister Superior, and Sister Mary Aidan walked the first ten miles; Sister Anne completed the course. Sister Mary Aidan

said she had been practising on the pave in Belgium when visiting the mother house in Ghent recently.

Members of different Caversham congregations acted as marshalls for the last part of the walk and ladies at St. Andrew's served many cups of tea to weary walkers who had reached the last check point, St. Andrew's Hall, before the finish at St. Laurence's Hall. Torrential showers in the morning soaked many walkers and considerably more hilly than last year's.

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The Rev. John Stevinson (Priest-in-Charge of St. John's) St. John's House, 9, South View Avenue, Tel. 71814
The Rev. John Crowe, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park, Tel. 75152.

BAPTIST

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BRANCH OF A.P.A.

FOR

READING & DISTRICT

'Association for Prevention of Addiction' is what A.P.A. stands for. It believes that prevention of drug abuse by every means possible is far better than cure. At a meeting in Reading on the 7th May a branch of this Association was formed. Mr. Alan Bestic, the well-known author and journalist, addressed the meeting. A Steering Committee was elected with representatives from the Health and Education Departments, the Probation Service, the Students' Union of the Berkshire College of Education, Mr. A. Harvey of the Y.M.C.A., Mrs. A. Hatch, County Commissioner of the Girl Guides, Miss E. Ash, Child Care Officer in the Children's Department of the Berkshire County Council, and Mrs. J. Mair, J.P. Close liaison will be maintained with relevant departments of the local authorities.

This covers many aspects of the problem of drug abuse. A.P.A. endeavours to help and support the parents and families of addicts with advice, information and encouragement in every way possible; it tries to help the addicts themselves who require treatment or rehabilitation; it campaigns for better facilities for treatment and re-education of the youngsters habituated to drugs. It feels that a major part of its work must be the education of the public in the dangers of drug abuse, and to awaken parents, teachers and the children themselves to the risks involved. The Association endeavours to do this in a responsible and authoritative way, without sensationalism; It is deeply interested in research upon all aspects of addiction; social, medical, psychiatric and educational.

A.P.A.'s organisers have set out to build an organisation which would be an impartial umbrella for all committed people working in

the field. The measure of A.P.A.'s success is that majority of its national Committee members are leading forensic scientists, doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers. The President is Professor Francis Camps, and the Chairman is Dr. Derek Richter, Director of the Neuro-psychiatric Research Unit of the Medical Research Council. Anyone interested in joining the newly formed local branch of this Association should get in touch with Mrs. J. Mair, Hill House, Surley Row, Caversham.

WELL WORTH A VISIT

Within a few miles of Caversham there are many private gardens that are open to the public on certain days of the year. I recently visited two that I found charming. At Borlases, Waltham St. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. John Townsend, who have lived here for about three years, have a medium sized garden which is especially charming in May because of the abundance of flowering and ornamental trees. When I visited it on Whitsunday the azaleas were in full blossom and the heavy rain of the previous day had fortunately done remarkably little damage.

The following day I went to see the Deanery Garden at Sonning, the home of Lt-Col and Mrs. S. D. H. Pollen. This is another

medium sized garden. It was designed by Gertrude Jekyll at the beginning of the century, and she made clever use of the limited space available. The wild part, a feature lacking at Borlases, creates an impression of size. The late season meant that the irises were not in blossom at Whitsun but some deep red climbing roses were there to greet visitors.

Neither of these gardens are open again this year, but we publish a selected list of other gardens near Caversham that can be seen later this summer. Although admittedly I paid these visits on rather showery days it was surprising how few people had come to enjoy these exquisite gardens. J.G.G.

GARDENS TO VISIT ON JULY SUNDAYS

- JULY
- 6th—2—7-00 p.m. Folly Farm, Sulhamsted.
 - 2—7-00 p.m. The Old Vicarage, Bucklebury.
 - 13th—2—7-00 p.m. Hurst Lodge, Hurst.
 - 2—7-00 p.m. Stanton Harcourt Manor.
 - 20th—2—7-00 p.m. Binfield House, Binfield.
 - 2—7-00 p.m. Manor House, Great Milton.
 - 27th—2—7-00 p.m. St. Nicholas, Wallingford.

Postbag

Dear Sir,

There are many Caversham residents who have lived here a great many years and who have long been accustomed to use the word "village" for the central area in the neighbourhood of Church Street and Prospect Street. A village, as I understand it, grows slowly and includes houses of various kinds, a parish church and other buildings that play a role in the life of a community. Now we are told that a new estate is being built called Caversham Park Village. It seems to me a complete misnomer, and also very confusing, to call such an estate which consists almost entirely of houses which are all very similar, a village. Or is this just a sales gimmick?

Yours faithfully,

CAVERSHAM VILLAGER.

More thoughts of a Roving Reporter

I took the opportunity of National Playgroup Week to look in on the St. Barnabas Group. I was relieved to find that the new regulations regarding wash basins and lavatories were being met by portable washstands and 'potties'. Apparently the authorities are prepared to accept such arrangements; it is a relief to know that the co-operation which has always existed between the authorities and the groups themselves is being maintained; it would have been a pity if these groups had been closed.

Incidentally, the St. Barnabas group are looking round for any spare musical instruments such as cymbals (also ear-plugs if

you have them), and they would like to have any large wooden puzzles suitable for very small children. Any offers?

Sorry I didn't get the chance to bid farewell to Mrs. Pearson who has recently given up her sweet-shop in Prospect Street to retire to Woodley. Those of us who use the shop have admired the way she has carried on cheerfully since the death of her husband. Our best wishes to her, and to Mr. and Mrs. Koba and their daughter, who have taken over.

And congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tony Carrington of Harvey's Nurseries, on the birth of a son, Ian, in May.

I met another very active and interesting young housewife recently—Mrs. Barry of 33 Kidmore Road. The mother of a deaf child herself, she is secretary of the local branch of the National Deaf Children's Society. As most people know, Reading is a very progressive area in this respect and many Caversham people are helping, professionally and voluntarily, in this work. A fairly recent arrival in Caversham. Mrs. Barry is anxious to get to know anyone interested.

And her immediate needs? They are planning to have a stall at the Reading Show in the summer and another at the Mayor's Market in the autumn. So she will be glad of any saleable items that anyone can spare.

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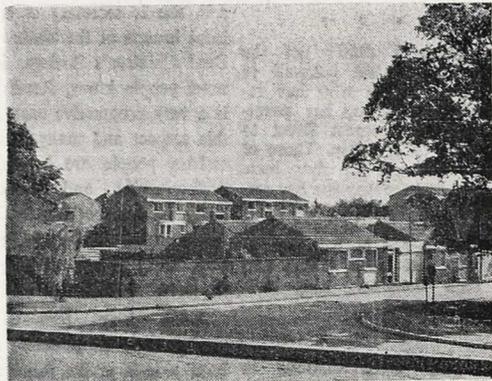
A Community — OR JUST SOMEWHERE TO SLEEP ?

That is the 64 dollar question which will continue to hang over Caversham Park Village long after the last brick has been put in place, the last curtain hung.

Take a walk through the Village, as I did, one day in Spring. It will amaze you how quickly the rawness wears off, how pretty the earlier developed areas now are. Lilac and laburnum already stand straight and tall in pretty little gardens, creepers hide the rather ugly fences and the more attractive brick walls.

A PLEASANT ENOUGH PLACE TO LIVE IN

It is pleasant to walk along the paths with their well-kept grass verges—paths which replace the dangerous through-roads of other estates. It will surprise you how spacious everything looks. What appears a hideous con-



Walton Adams.
Some of the new housing.

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by A Staff Reporter

denser expanse of brick boxes from a distance becomes something very different at close range, thanks to careful planning.

Take a look in the houses. Here are no architectural miracles but—by today's standards—value for money. You will find the usual bits of badly finished woodwork, the ill-fitting door or badly laid plank—you will also find good central heating and ample fitted cupboards. You won't see large gardens but you will find neat little plots for those who don't want to spend all their week-ends digging.

It is fair to say that, of those I spoke to, not one had serious complaints about the houses. In this respect, at least, Davis Estates seem to have lived up to all their claims.

Altogether, you might think, a pleasant enough place to live in, particularly if you have come from an unattractive industrial district.

Then suddenly—if you've any imagination at all—you may be brought up short as I was by finding, in the middle of the depressing newly-developed area, a young couple just moved in from the Midlands. Amid a jumble of bricks and mud they will be busy trying to settle in. Tonight they will take a walk round the older districts and remind themselves just how attractive their avenue will look before long.

PANIC

But what about Monday morning? Mr. Jones has gone off to his new job ten miles distant and his wife is left to tidy up her very new home and await . . .

I can't answer for Mrs. Jones but personally I'd be in a panic by mid-morning. Dying to talk to somebody—but who? There are as yet no neighbours. There are a few shops a quarter of an hour's walk away—there is no bus service through the village—but unlike the old corner shop they are not the kind where one can get talking to neighbours. There is no library, no community centre, no central gardens—not even a launderette where one can strike up a casual acquaintance. Neighbouring districts, Reading and Caversham, are too remote and awkward to reach by public transport and it's a long way to the bus stop.

Normally content with my own company, in such circumstances I would panic. I might even, like one lady I heard of, dash out and beg a passer-by to come in and talk to me.

VILLAGE VOICE

That is, of course, unless I had already received the copy of 'Village Voice' which is dropped through the door of every new arrival.

Davis Estates would do well to subscribe to this excellent publication and to offer copies to prospective purchasers. It would remove thoughts of the possible loneliness which could otherwise be a distinct drawback to moving in to this village.

For it would show that, however the village may look outwardly like a mere dormitory, there are actually any number of community activities taking place. Not only is there a thriving Community Association—and 'Village Voice' itself is a triumph—but there are any number of community activities taking place in private houses. There is a food group, a drama group, a tennis club, an arts committee, to name but a few.

THE SITE OF THE NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL
BEING BUILT BY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL.



Walton Adams

But what a pity there is no outward and visible signs of a centre for these activities. Nobody really expects Davis Estates to provide all the buildings which they airily 'envisage' in their brochure. But they would do themselves a service if they pulled out all the stops to help to provide a community centre. It is obvious from the 'Voice' that numerous efforts are going on among the villagers themselves to raise the money necessary—it is equally obvious that it will be years before they can make anything like the amount required.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED?

To a casual observer it seems that too many people and organisations are trying to ignore this very interesting experiment that is taking place virtually on our doorsteps. Local authorities are not anxious to take up the burden, though at long last a primary school is being constructed—and the street lighting problem has now been resolved. I understand that a Roman Catholic School is to be built, and the Anglican Church has taken the first step by moving a curate and his wife on to the estate. Otherwise there are remarkably few signs that anyone outside is really interested.

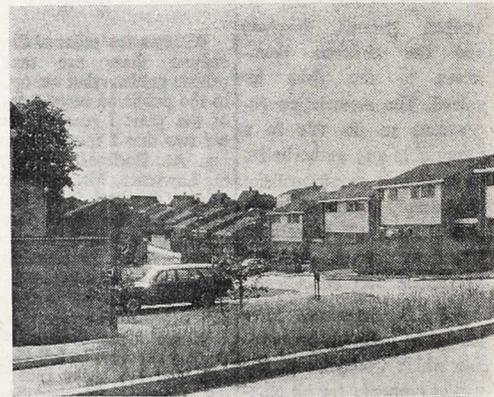
There is room for more shops in the existing bloc—incidentally it seems a pity that the two shopping precincts should be at the furthest ends of the village—there is no clinic or doctor's surgery and no dentist in the village.

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING

In the long run of course it comes back to the residents themselves. Do they want a community or are they prepared to settle for a house. It seems obvious that, as always, some leave it to the rest.

As a dormitory it is pleasant enough, but it has its drawbacks and would be a very lonely place for the non-working housewife at least. As a community it has endless possibilities.

It can never be a village in the old sense of the word—it could be a new and exciting experiment in the business of living.



Walton Adams.
More of the new housing.

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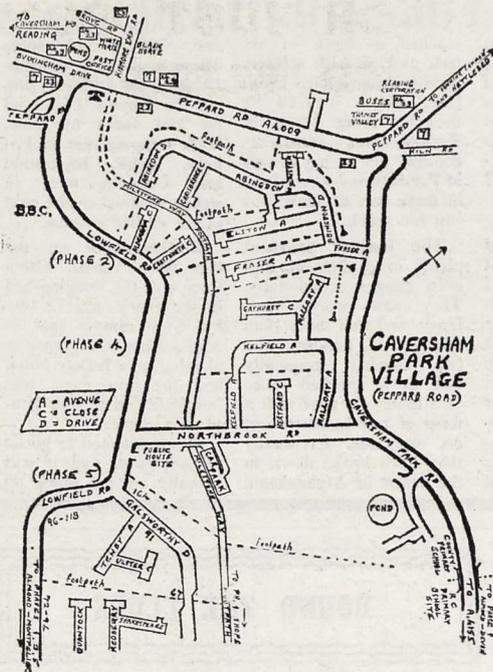
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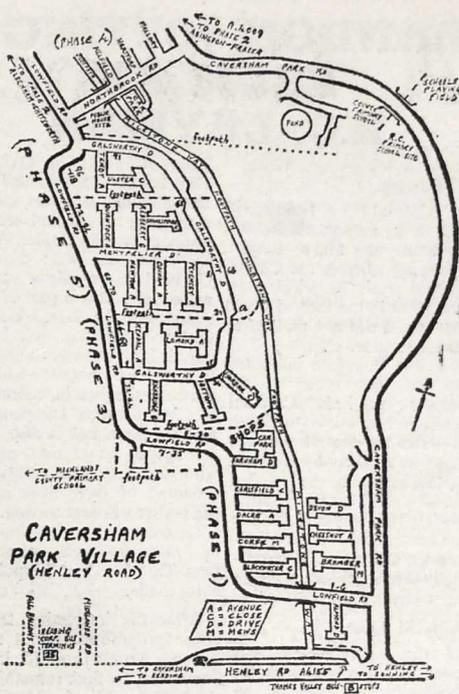
A way forward?

Sometime ago we published an article by Mr. John Sholl member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, who was confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford, but who also remains an active Methodist. Last month Mrs. Margaret Coombs, a member of Trinity Congregational Church was confirmed. The Caversham Bridge is glad to publish an account by her of why she took this step. The problem of intercommunion is a difficult one, and becomes acutely felt in Christian homes where husband and wife owe allegiance to different churches. It is hoped that what Mrs. Coombs has written may stimulate further discussion about this subject.



Caversham Park—over 600 houses occupied

In the last few months building has been going on fast at Caversham Park and many new roads have appeared. For the convenience of many readers who are not familiar with the development we publish this month's maps of the development at each end of the village.



WHY I WAS CONFIRMED

As the inclusion of my name in the list of candidates for Confirmation may cause astonishment to many people who know us as a family to be members of a Congregational Church in Reading, and who will still see me attending there in the future. I feel a word of explanation is necessary, and may possibly help other people who may find themselves in a similar situation.

by
Margaret Coombs

Being the daughter of a Congregational Minister, I was naturally brought up very happily in a Nonconformist background, and, in due course, I became a Church Member in a simple but solemn ceremony—the equivalent of Confirmation in the Church of England. Moving around different parts of the world as a nurse, I frequently requested to take Communion in what was often the only church available—an Anglican one—and later as a mother of several small children, I often felt I would like, and once asked, if I might attend the early service in that church as being more convenient than the conventional 11 a.m. and 6-30 p.m. ones in our Nonconformist churches. Always these re-

quests were refused, as I was not confirmed. My husband, although not confirmed, was always more at home in the atmosphere of the Church of England, so we agreed on coming to Caversham that to find a live Church in which to bring up our children was more important than the denomination. After some difficulty and "shopping around" we settled on Trinity Congregational Church with its Junior Church which, in our opinion, is beyond praise.

As three of our children have belonged to the Scouts and Brownies at St. Peter's, we have frequently, over the past few years, attended the 9-15 a.m. Church Parades, finding them meaningful and helpful, and appreciating again the atmosphere and reverence of Anglican Services, although I still found it very difficult to accept the fact that I could not take Communion. My husband on the other hand, was beginning to feel it was dishonest of him to remain in a Nonconformist church when he was obviously happier in an Anglican one.

It was a gloomy state of affairs. We could not think of moving the children from a church which they attend happily and willingly—a situation many will envy. Yet we had the prospect of spending the rest of our years in separate churches able to take Communion only in the nonconformist church.

After much thought we decided to endeavour to work out a constructive solution and accordingly discussed it with the Rector. We

discovered that it was possible for me to take Communion in St. Peter's, but I must attend confirmation classes and be confirmed—but I could remain a nonconformist and attend Trinity with the children.

I approached confirmation classes with interest and they proved to be interesting discussion groups, and I learnt a good many things about the Church of England that I did not know before. I think that those of us in other denominations criticise too easily the ways of the Church of England which are strange to us, knowing nothing of their meaning and tradition. This I feel might be remedied without having to go so far as to attend confirmation classes. I certainly emerged from these classes with a far greater understanding of the Anglican Church—but nevertheless still very much a nonconformist in my thinking.

Confirmation was an obstacle. I obviously felt that I have done this before, and I would have preferred it not to have been necessary; but I realise now that the Church of England is a vast and complicated structure, and like a Dinosaur cannot move quickly. It must move if it is not to become extinct, and intercommunion must surely be on its way. In the meantime, I feel rather like a mouse making friends with the Dinosaur—since the latter can only move slowly it is surely not out of place for the mouse to make one jump towards it.

W.V.S. Holiday Scheme

The Women's Voluntary Service are planning to provide a week's holiday for children in need, and anyone who can offer hospitality is asked to contact the W.V.S. Reading Organiser at 24 Mount Pleasant, Reading.

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RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM AN R.C. LAYMAN

Church Riches and World Poverty.

A month or two ago I wrote a paragraph in this column on this subject, querying whether the Church should retain its priceless art treasures in the face of world poverty. I did not pretend to know the answer.

I was therefore interested to see that some of the money which Cardinal Heenan has taken to South America for the relief of the poor was raised by the sale at Sotheby's of a jewelled crown from Our Lady's statue. This statue is the one used in processions at Westminster Cathedral. It is normally kept behind glass in the sacristy.

Demoted Saints

I felt particularly sad about St. George and St. Christopher. St. George, the soldier saint; St. George killing the dragon; St. George for Merrie England, seems so very real. As indeed does dear old St. Christopher, crossing the river with the Christ-child in his arms.

Certainly if the Church must have canonisations, then obviously historical accuracy must be 100 per cent. But it is sad to see old friends not quite making the grade.

The Sacred Heart.

At the weekend we went over to tea at the Sacred

Heart Convent in Oxford. Our hostess had warned us that although still very much a nun, we should find her in ordinary civilian clothes. And so indeed she was: a nice Chanel-type cardigan suit, nylons, etc. This is part of an experiment the Sacred Heart Order is carrying out. Not only is it an attempt to break through the barrier which sometimes exists in communication between lay people and religious, but is also an attempt to show that nuns wish to carry the practical economy of their lives into the matter of dress as well. It is far cheaper to dress simply in mass-produced clothes than to have the 'bespoke' habit made.

After the interesting television programme about the American nuns in mufti, it is interesting to find something similar happening here.

Women in Church.

I learn from the "Catholic Herald" that in mid-May further relaxations which have banned women from full participation in the liturgy have now come to light. They may now take part in the collection and act as ushers.

This follows the earlier announcement that women are no longer obliged to wear hats in church and may, in certain circumstances, read the Lesson.

SNOW FOR THE CAMELS

A young man from Caversham Methodist Church was a member of an expedition when fires had to be lit under its two motor-coaches to defreeze the diesel. An expedition to the Antarctic? No, to India.

Mr. Roger Crutchley, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Crutchley, left England in January and all the way through Central and Eastern Europe he and his companions had "blue skies, all day, every day" but in Bulgaria, on a night when they slept in their coaches, the temperature fell to 10 degrees below zero. In Turkey snow began to fall and

reached a depth of six feet, and Turkish soldiers were making igloos. From Iran, Roger wrote "I thought seeing igloos in Turkey was surprising enough, but seeing camels in Persia wandering about in three feet of snow was just too much."

The journey provided plenty of excitement, and even danger occasionally. They saw wolves and foxes, and met more than one lot of bandits. The two coaches frequently had to be pushed—once in a mountain pass with a drop of two hundred feet on one side. Eventually they both broke down in the desert in Afghanistan,

and Roger and some others made their way into Pakistan in a local bus, via the Khyber Pass, and on into India by train. High temperatures in Lahore, Delhi, Katmandu and Calcutta were in strong contrast to the cold of the earlier journey.

Resting-places on the trip were varied. Often there was the sleeping-bag in the coach, once a tiny hut in a remote spot in Afghanistan, the occasional relief of a luxury hotel, and for four days, free hospitality in a Sikh temple in Calcutta.

Roger planned to go on to Australia, and it was actually on the plane on



the first leg of the journey there that he was offered a teaching-post in the English-speaking University of Bangkok, which he accepted.

Since Bangkok, in Thailand, is longitude 100 degrees East, he is exactly half-way round the world from his elder brother, John, who is in Kingston, Jamaica, 77 degrees West.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

On a cat-walk banked with blossoms, with a free glass of wine for every member of the audience, came fashion to Caversham Heights on May 20th. From a minute moppet pirouetting solemnly in a postage-stamp bikini, to an elegant matron gliding gracefully in a fur-trimmed ensemble suitable for a summer wedding, fashions for all ages and sizes were slickly and professionally presented by the Berkshire School of Modelling in the Family Fashion Show organised by Caversham Heights Townswomen.

The Boutique Beverley, James Barrington, Butlers and Alice Baker had all sent exciting items from their stock, and there was much applause from the appreciative audience in a packed St. Andrew's Hall, as fun-clothes, "With-it" clothes, cat suits and nightgowns; two-pieces, three-pieces, capes and men's suits were paraded to a background of soft music, flowers and perfume.

At the end of the show Mrs. P. Haydon, thanked the Guild officers and members for the great amount of work they had put into providing such a successful event which had been greatly enjoyed by all the 170 people present.

The regular monthly meeting of the Guild had been addressed by Mr. A. Black, who spoke on various aspects of his work as Senior Psychologist at Broadmoor Hospital. Mr. Black explained that Broadmoor is a hospital for some 800 anti-social and violent offenders from whom society has to be protected. To this extent only it is a prison, but its purpose and function is intended to be therapeutic.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild.

At the May meeting the Speaker was unable to be present owing to illness and Mrs. M. Starkey a member of the Guild, agreed, at very short notice to give a talk on the history of dolls. This was greatly appreciated and a vote of thanks was given by Mrs. C. Allison.

A lively discussion followed on the Motions to be put forward at the National Council Meeting at the Albert Hall when Mrs. A. Smith the Guild Chairman was to be the delegate.

Suggestions for next years Guild programme were received from members.

The competition, 'A bloom from your garden' was won by Mrs. A. S. Cowlard for a beautiful specimen of Polyanthus.

On May 6th a very successful tour of London, the second to be undertaken, was enjoyed by members and friends including a visit to see the Cutty Sark and Gipsy Moth.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Whether musical or not, no-one could have failed to appreciate the programme of songs sung by Mr. F. Terry to illustrate his talk on "The History of Light Opera". Mr. Terry was accompanied on the piano by a colleague from Reading School, Mr. B. McBeath. The Drama Group and The Caversham Singers provided the entertainment at a most enjoyable social evening.

Rosehill Women's Institute

Our President (Mrs. Green) welcomed all members to the May Meeting, and thanked all those who made the Group Meeting so successful on April 30. Our Institute was host to 180 members, many from other Institutes. The guest speaker was Mr. Bryant Peers, who spoke on "2,000 years of London".

Resolutions were voted for. Our Speaker was Mrs. Blurington (a member) who spoke of her visit to Nepal, and coloured slides were shown.

The competition for "An Unusual Spoon" was won by Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Saunders.

Maplewood W.I.

The President, Mrs. Ridley, presided at the May meeting when a discussion on Annual Meeting Resolutions, by a team from the Institute, took place. There was also a very interesting exhibition of Royal Worcester Porcelain rejects, which had been bought by members who visited the factory. Rejects included beautiful jugs, teapots, dishes, plates and a thimble.

The Limerick Competition was won by Maplewood. Social half-hour, "Getting to know you", was a great success! Coming events include a Mystery Coach Trip, a coffee morning in aid of our funds, at Mrs. Warwick's house, and a visit to Nuneham Park on Midsummer's Eve. A whole day was also spent at Compton.

It is hoped to sell a record number of cakes (and preserves) from the stall at the Hospital Fete on July 12th. Depots for cakes, etc., include one at Mrs. Lewis's house, 13 Buxton Avenue, from now on, until the day of the fete.

Enthusiastic plans are to be made for a sale of plants at an autumn coffee morning, in aid of W.I. funds.

Mapledurham W.I.

For the May meeting members enjoyed a trip to

the Savill Gardens. Mrs. Lacey presided over the business meeting in the coach. The resolutions for the A.G.M. were discussed and voted on. Mrs. Gould of Tokers Green Institute, the link delegate was present.

After the meeting members and friends enjoyed a walk in the gardens followed by tea. In spite of the showery weather a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

Blagrove W.I.

Blagrove members enjoyed a very interesting and amusing talk with illustrations on Care of the Hair by Mr. Henderson of Beecham Products at their monthly meeting: he explained the ways one should take care of the hair and answered many questions members put to him. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Plumridge. Mrs. Griffith the delegate for Albert Hall, discussed the resolutions for the A.G.M. with the members and votes were taken. Mrs. Wright, the president was in the chair, County news letter was read and discussed, and birthday posies were distributed. Mrs. Goodall kindly gave a coffee morning for W.I. funds which took place on May 15th.

Many members attended the group meeting held during the month, Rosehill being hostess; the guest speaker was Mr. Bryant Peers who spoke on "2000 years of London" which was very interesting because members were going on an outing to London with Mr. Peers the following week which had been arranged by Mrs. Price. Mrs. Bartlett gave an account of the party she attended at Mapledurham; Mrs. Shall gave a report on the group meeting which was held on April 30th. The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs. Theobald, Mrs. Hector and Mrs. Shall, the raffle being won by Mrs. Minchen.

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT
PHOTOGRAPHS

ST. JOHN'S**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Earlier this year, some of its members took part in a house to house collection in aid of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. They collected £25 between them. This is slightly less than last year, but they were collecting from a smaller number of streets.

The committee are very grateful to those who helped, especially some teenagers, who gave up part of their holidays to take some of the envelopes round to the houses.

More recently fifty of the Fellowship much enjoyed a mystery coach tour, which took them along the Nine Mile Ride, and out into the Bagshot, Sandhurst area. It was a lovely time of the year for a drive.

READY FOR THE FAYRE

Each Tuesday afternoon a group of women are meeting to sew for the Autumn Fayre, and to enjoy a cup of tea, and a chat. The gardeners ought to follow their example, put their heads together and grow things for sale. Last year in addition to pot plants, fruit and the like, wallflowers sold very well. In fact they were sold almost before they landed on the stall.

Ascension Day

St. John's celebrated this with a glorious Eucharist, and afterwards those who went to the Social in St. John's Hall much enjoyed the barbecue and informal singing round the piano, whether or not they burst into song themselves. It was a very relaxed and happy occasion.

The Marian Group of St. Annes

A meeting was held on Tuesday, May 20th in the school, which was attended by twenty-nine members and friends.

Mr. Leslie North of the "Reading Chronicle" gave a most interesting talk on the history of Caversham and Reading in general. This was followed by questions and a general discussion.

Parish Paragraphs

CONGRATULATIONS. Mrs. F. Dawson gave birth to a daughter a few days before her husband's ordination on Trinity Sunday: Mrs. Scott-Dempster followed soon after with a sister for Robert.

ALL AT BUTLIN'S. All the six clergy of the parish recently attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference at Butlin's in Bognor. Owing however to the illness of his mother-in-law the Rev. John Stevinson had to return to Caversham a few hours after the start of the conference. About two hundred and eighty clergy were present. The assistance of the Chaplain of Queen Anne's School in taking mid-week services made it possible for all the clergy of Caversham to go.

SATURDAY, JULY 5th
at 3 p.m.

Bishop
Trevor Huddleston
Opens

St. Andrew's Fair

at ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Proceeds in aid of
Wellclose Square Fund
Stepney

Doors open 2-45 p.m.

SEPTEMBER SATURDAYS. The annual parish cricket tournament will take place on September 6th, and once again, through the kindness of the Head Mistress, the playing fields of Queen Anne's School have been made available. Mr. L. Moss has undertaken to convene a meeting of representatives from each district, and it is just possible this year that all sides will adopt the same set of rules. The following Saturday the combined choirs of the parish will sing Evensong in the Cathedral, and it is much-hoped that members of the non-Anglican choirs will join them.

ST. PETER'S TO HOT UP?

The District Committee, at their recent meeting, once again tackled the chilly problem of church heating. It was felt that it was worth considering some additional alternative heating to boost the gas central heating in very cold weather. A report is now awaited from a heating consultant.

Ascension Day. Once again this great feast was observed by far more communicants than has been the practice until recently—indeed the congregation was little short of that on an average Sunday, and those who had been confirmed earlier in the week received the Sacrament for the first time at the evening Eucharist.

St. Peter's Day. When did the Bishop of Oxford last come on a Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist in Caversham? It must be many years since this has happened and it will be a great privilege to have him at the Parish Communion on our patronal festival. It is hoped that those who normally worship at other hours on Sunday mornings will be able on this occasion to be present at the Parish Communion at 9-15 a.m. Later in the morning he will speak to the children of the parish and then attend the garden party and preach at Evensong at 5-30 p.m.

ST. PETER'S DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th

4 p.m.
Garden Party at the
Rectory

5-30 p.m.
Festal Evensong

Preacher:
THE BISHOP OF
OXFORD

Youthful worship at Gosbrook Road

On two Sundays close together the Rev. E. B. Wright gave the conduct of worship at Caversham Methodist Church into youthful hands. On Young People's Day the morning service was devised and led by Mr. A. Champion, assisted by members of the morning Bible Class, and the evening service was conducted by Mr. Christopher Fowler, of Reading University. The second occasion was the Sunday School Anniversary, when both morning and evening services were led by the Superintendent, Mr. Raymond Hodgkinson, and there were items by scholars on recorders and a violin solo. In the morning the youngest children sang some old choruses, interspersed with percussion. Mr. Wright preached at both services.

Record for St. Andrew's

Last September we established a record by having three weddings in St. Andrew's on the same day. At the last afternoon Baptist Service another record may well have been broken. For on that occasion the four children who were baptised were all from the same family. Can anyone remember when more than four from one family were baptised together? The next Quarterly Baptism Service will be on Sunday, July 27th at 3-15 p.m.

The Sunday School

There will be another Parents' Evening in the Church Hall on Thursday, July 3rd. On Sunday, July 20th, the Sunday School will round off the year's work by attending the Family Eucharist at 9-15 a.m. As far as possible the children themselves will take part in the service and there will be squashes in the Church Hall afterwards. The Sunday School will re-open on Sunday, September 14th.

The Church Hall

In order to ease the amount of administration for which the District Committee is directly responsible, a small Hall Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Hardy, 151, Kidmore Road. It is hoped to make a number of minor improvements in the near future. Comments and constructive criticisms from anyone who makes regular use of our Hall will be welcomed. Please send them to Mr. Hardy.

St. Margaret's Day

Mapledurham patronal festival falls this year on a Sunday. In addition to the Parish Communion at 9-15 a.m. there will be Festal Evensong at 5-30 p.m., when the congregations of other Caversham churches will join St. Margaret's. Lord Thurlow has kindly consented to allow his garden to be used for the parish tea party, and tea will be served from 4 p.m. The preacher at Evensong will be the Bishop of Dorchester.

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

On Tuesday, July 8th, at 7 p.m. members of the Anglican Convocations and of the Methodist Conference will cast their votes on the Anglican-Methodist unity scheme. The Caversham Bridge hopes that not only Anglican and Methodists but all Christians will pray that God's will may be done in this matter. Whatever the outcome of the voting is, it is bound to have a profound effect on the Christian Church in this country, and will also influence the course of re-union schemes in other lands.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 22nd May, 1969. Mr. B. A. Fowles was re-elected Chairman of the Council and Mr. E. F. Dawe was elected Vice-Chairman. The resignation of two Council members was reported and the Council will at its next meeting on 13th June fill these two vacancies by co-option. Notices concerning the vacancies have been displayed on the Council's Notice Boards.

An unsatisfactory reply has been received from the County Council in connection with the Parish Council's request for urgent consideration and action to the road between Trench Green and the Village. The County Council are making enquiries in an endeavour to obtain outside financial assistance, but the outcome will not be known for some months. Meanwhile the Parish Council are formulating plans which it is hoped will get the County Council to appreciate this Council's anxiety about the road, and thus make the County Council aware of the problems that exist. The Council have expressed their concern at the present very unsatisfactory state of the Upper Woodcote Road from the Reading Borough boundary to Shepherd's Lane, and the Clerk has been asked to write to the County Surveyor requesting him to give urgent consideration to take some remedial action on the road before the further deterioration of the surface causes a serious accident. The Parish Council are to make further representations to the County Council concerning Geoffrey Road. It has already pressed the County Surveyor to take some action against Messrs. Gants who are still responsible for the road, but as this was during the winter months, the Council feel that some more positive action is now required.

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"First sunny weekend we've had for ages. Let's have a bonfire and get rid of all that rubbish. The wind'll blow the smoke away from the house."

To judge from the number of complaints we receive, many people are afflicted with neighbours who think along such lines. It is difficult for us to deal with complaints against individuals although we do sympathise with those who suffer from smokey bonfires, suffocating them if they sit in the garden, smothering the baby in its pram and the washing on the line and necessitating the closing of all windows. We hope that no one who reads the Bridge is guilty of such anti-social action, but before lighting a bonfire ask "Is my bonfire really necessary?" The answer is usually "No". Most garden rubbish can be composted and so can a lot of kitchen waste. What is left requires only the occasional bonfire and whilst this may go like a bomb on a sunny Sunday afternoon, it is not the best way to earn the neighbours' love and gratitude. The Clean Air Act can be invoked against persistent offenders, but in most cases all that is needed is a little consideration and not the heavy hand of the law.

The shopping precinct nears completion. Opinions about its appearance are a matter of taste. Certainly the

retention of the trees, thanks largely to the efforts of the Civic Society, has given a pleasing touch. But our quarrel was never on architectural grounds, but on the siting of the project. We still maintain that the centre of Caversham is well supplied with, for instance, chemists' shops and that the need is on the outskirts. And the Green Shield gift distribution shop can only serve to attract more traffic to an already congested area.

The Thames Conservancy is planning a major extension to its building by Reading Bridge. Whilst it would be difficult to conceive of anything that could detract further from the South Bank, an imaginative building on this site could mark the beginning of an all-round improvement of this stretch of river between the two bridges.

Congratulations to Mr. Colin Sutton, one of our committee members and our treasurer-elect, on being appointed to the Executive Committee of the Civic Society. Mr. Sutton is an architect who is not only concerned with good buildings, but with the whole environment in which they are set.

M.C.

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A case of 'CAST OUT THE BEAM'

By Edna Fitzeustace

It is noticeable that some dog owners grow to resemble their pets, that the physiognomy of those who ride horses becomes equine, and that fishermen in time assume the glassy stare of the silver, darting fish they entice on to their lines: My thoughts began running on these lines recently whilst delivering envelopes for Christian Aid week in Caversham. Is it possible that people's letter boxes are an indication of the character and disposition of the inmates behind? So many and varied are the designs ranging from the ornate, wrought iron appendage to the slim, modern slit of chromium. It was interesting to speculate if the former belonged to a portly middle-aged couple with an inadequate supply of wordly goods, and if the latter encompassed the literature delivered to a couple of newlyweds enjoying their first home.

In some instances flaps remained rigid and uncomplaining despite pressure applied from outside: others snapped at fingers greedily, trapping them along with the envelope, while yet another type with broken fittings lolled askew with lop-sided grin and 'couldn't care less' appearance. Some were decrepit and crumbling at the edges as though there had been no contact with the outside world for years and bearing a smug detachment immune to the sufferings of others.

On the other hand there were those that positively beamed a welcome as they opened their gleaming toothless mouths to take whatever was coming. In other cases large, expensive letter boxes allowed a good view of sunny rooms beyond where children played and music was being enjoyed. There were too, neat precisely situated boxes in well preserved doors where the highly polished surround indicated that no children or pets passed over the threshold. I wondered what they would give towards the starving millions overseas, or did that quick twitching back of the curtain indicate a greater concern with the muddy footmark I had left on the shining tiles?

There were those let into a wooden strip in doors of many coloured glass from the other side of which faceless shapes loomed to dissolve again into anonymity. There were reeded glass doors with boxes situated so low that a breed of hunchback postmen must be on the increase. There were actually a few with no letter boxes at all,

not even the prominent drain pipe used in country areas. One could understand a lack of interest in newspapers but letters—the very life blood of friendship! As a matter of interest on my return home I studied our own letter box. Stiff, too narrow, badly placed and in need of sprucing up!

Guide News

On the 29th April the Caversham Girl Guides Local Association held their A.G.M. at Balmore Hall, Caversham. This year a poetry and painting competition was held for all the Guides and Brownie Guides in the district and H.Q. Shop vouchers were given as prizes.

The Chairman, Treasurer and District Commissioner all gave their reports and then the winning poems were read out. Although the entries for the competition were not as many as was hoped for there was certainly quality if not quantity. The following poem was awarded first prize for the Guide section and was written by Caroline Mercier of the 12th Caversham Company.

MIDNIGHT FEAST AT GUIDE CAMP

All were in their sleeping bags,
Warm and tucked up tight,
The pale cold moon
Climbed the sky
And shed its chilling light.
Each Guides' mind
Was on one thought,
Of fizzy drinks and snacks
And squatting round a candle
flame,
in 'jama-tops and slacks.
The feast was set in Carol's tent,
The midnight bell had struck,
There was whispering
And twittering,
(That Captain slept was luck!)
We passed round mugs and
sausage rolls,
And fruit straight from the tin
And as we were about to eat,
We saw our Captain grin.
She stood and watched, beside
the flap,
And said 'I've had my little nap.'
We squashed up more to make
a gap,
And then we let her in.

The winning poem from the Brownie Guide section was written by Wendy Hurn of the 3rd Caversham Pack.

BROWNIES

There's no need to be shy of
Brownies,
They are so jolly and gay,
There's no people like Brownies
To cheer you up each day,
If you went to a Brownie meeting,
This is what you'd find,
They'd give you a jolly good
greeting
Because they are so kind.
I know a pack of Brownies
They meet each Wednesday night,
They work very hard at Brownies,
And they never quarrel or fight.

We regret a misprint in our last edition which stated that Gerald Smith is to marry Jennie Moore on August 8th. The prospective bridegroom is in fact Gerald South.

We record . . .

BAPTISED

St. Peter's
May 11—Susan Cade
Phillippa Wasylew

St. Andrew's

May 4—Penelope Cossey
William Cossey
Joanne Cossey
Sara Cossey
May 18—Phillippa Gant
David Cleare

St. Barnabas'

Apr. 6—Catherine Mawson
James Curtis
May 4—Sandra Bowley
Richard Brader
Hilary Brader

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham
May 18—Peter Sutton

CONFIRMED at St. Barnabas, May 12th.

St. Peter's

Valerie Birtwhistle, Diana Bowyer, Linda Briggs, Susan Cade, Margaret Coombs, Richard Coombs, Julia Evans, Elizabeth Germain, Gillian Germain, Judith Mann, Rosalind Mitchell, Sarah Verrall, Phillipa Wasylew, Louise Wickes.

St. John's

Janice Godwin, Richard Grimsdale, Adele Harris, Jennifer MacGregor, Winifred Masterman, Susan Scown, Janet Steinburg, Jennie Tombs, Denise Turner.

St. Andrew's

Catherine Bentley, Susan Brind, Helen Davis, Marion Day, Frances Dawe, Naomi Dawe, Julie Dennis, David Gill, Diane Perrin, Geraldine Platt, Jane Price, Linda Rix, Jennifer Sharpe, Ann Wealt.

St. Barnabas'

Sheila Bowley, Gladys Titcombe, Lily Woodley.

St. Margaret's

MARRIED

St. Barnabas'

Mar. 22—John Webb and Nancy Potter
Victor Duckett and Pauline Humphreys
Apr. 12—Christopher Giles and Jacqueline Main

St. Margaret's Mapledurham

May 3—John Blackwell and Joanne Faulkner

BURIED

St. John's

May 2—Kathleen Masters

May 16—Charles Hopkins

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

May 29—Winifred Willis

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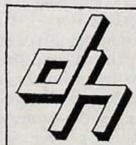
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Crucial Supreme Court of Methodism

John Banks looks at this month's Methodist Conference

THE FIRST Methodist Conference met at the Old Foundry in Moorfields on Monday, June 25, 1744. John Wesley was in the Chair and the Conference lasted five days. It was for those "who desire" nothing but to save souls". They were ten in number; John and Charles Wesley, four other clergymen of the Church of England and four lay preachers. There was much preaching and much prayer and the business was conducted, as it is today in all the courts of Methodism, by means of question and answer. From 1744 there were Conferences almost yearly and the numbers grew as the Methodist Movement spread in influence.



Methodist delegates at a previous conference in Middlesbrough.



The Rev. Dr. Irwyny Morgan hands over Wesley's Field Bible to the Rev. Dr. E. Gordon Rupp on his taking over as President of the Methodist Conference in 1968.

They met, of course, to make such arrangements as were needed for the care of the Methodist Societies. As one wrote "We took sweet counsel together; and walked in the house of God as friends". It was only four years after Wesley's death, and the Act of Pacification, that they were to organise a separate Church.

Today the Conference is the supreme Court of British Methodism. Continental, American and ex-Colonial Methodism have their own Conferences. It is representative and totally democratic. Each of the 35 Synods of Britain meeting in May and September elects by ballot its representatives to Conference. Each Synod is composed of representatives of the Circuits.

The Circuit Quarterly Meetings consist of the Leaders of each of the Churches in the Circuit. So from the grass roots of Methodism an equal number of laymen and ministers meet for a week in July as the Church's supreme court. There are 666 of them. There have been those who (having read Revelations) think the number is significant. The elected ministers, and any others who wish to join them, meet before the 'Representative Session' for a Ministerial Session for matters which concern ministerial fidelity and discipline.

EQUALS

But—all the really important issues, as for example the vote on the Conversations, are taken in the Session in which Minister and Laymen share as equals.

The President of the Conference (a minister) and the Vice-President (a Layman) are elected by a ballot vote for which no nominations are made. It sounds a bit and miss arrangement, but it seems to work as well as the appointment of Bishops. There is no official hierarchy unless you consider the Chairmen of the various districts as much. It is perfectly possible, and often happens, that a quite unknown layman up at Conference from Piddletrentide for the one and only time in his life sways the Conference on a vital issue. Believing we are under the hand of God's Spirit we have to put up with what He does.

The business of the Conference is introduced by the various Departments of the Church and when the decisions have been made they are handed back to the September Synods for implementation.

The arrival of the Conference in a City like Birmingham is the occasion for a tremendous Methodist Jamboree. "When the place begins to hum, some think the blessed Kingdom's come". But Methodism is small enough to be a family Church and its ministers are a band of brothers. Old friends meet and much hospitality is given and received.

A glance at the Handbook shows the range of the Conference programme — Christian communication, the Social Services, the multi-racial Society, Industry, the University, the Church's healing ministry, Youth and many other subjects are on the Agenda.

WORLD PARISH

I shall vote for proceeding to Stage One but I wonder how much of the best of this could spill over into a unified Church? Equal and vigorous lay participation, the democratic principle, the vigour of free debate, the large share taken by women—if these were lost we shall all hope to die before Stage Two.

What of the rest? The family spirit of Methodism; the Ministry "a band of brothers"; the warmth of evangelical concern; the lack of barriers and the sense of World Parish; the down to earthness of everybody—can such things as these be transplanted, or do they only grow in the common soil that first nurtured them? I wish I knew.

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Television

by Diana Dewes

Sport - and they nag

Are you a Saturday afternoon sports widow? David Coleman and his colleagues have a weekly conspiracy with our men-folk. They seduce them from the weekend jobs, domestic and horticultural. Wives will nag, children fret, the sun shine, and still Saturday sports - packed television programmes remain a must.

"Grandstand" and "The World of Sport" show panoramic views of the afternoon's events, football, rugby league, racing, cricket, tennis, swimming, boxing, wrestling, motor racing, athletics — the variety is wide.

Season by season, Mr. Coleman with his fellow commentators monopolise Saturday afternoon viewing. And if the weather conditions are appalling? — then Fight of the Year, or Match of the Week is exhumed to fill the gap.

IN COMFORT

"Football needs the crowds on the terraces", this cry went up recently after the entire home international tournament had been televised throughout the British Isles. Players complained of the lack of crowds, of football grounds turned into television studios. Britain's men-folk were enjoying their sport but some of them in comfort at home. But thanks to television, football more than ever is the people's game.

The television medium has kept football in the limelight like no other sport. Previously disinterested people found themselves caught up by the thrilling series of televised matches that finally won England the World Cup.

Watching "the Big Match" on the screen rather than on the ground must diminish the colour, noise, smell and enthusiastic atmosphere, yet the television cameras have some tricks that for the expert have an advantage over reality. They look over the heads of the crowd to an unimpeded view of the players, they can show details in close-up, they can re-show the action in slow motion immediately after the event.

Televised soccer is fascinating to those others who will never go to a match, never kick a football. They may never fathom the techniques and skill of the game, their enjoyment lies in the traditional fervour that surrounds the big matches — community singing prior to the game, the cheers as the football giants appear, the presentation to royalty, the rattles, banners and mascots of supporters, the throbbing chant from the crowd, the roar of victory!

Lawns will stay long, and weekend chores unfinished, as long as television continues to mirror the highlights of Saturday sport.



You can enjoy your Children's Holiday

says DEE DOVER

IT IS SAID with great regularity these days that parents and children do not understand each other. Could this be because we do not spend enough time together? Soon the long school holiday will be upon us. During those weeks we can try to get to know and perhaps understand our children a little better.

While they are at home cut household chores down to a minimum. Let them give a hand with washing-up, bed making and meals. Encourage them to tidy their own rooms. They have no excuse about homework during the holiday.

Six weeks isn't very long so put all those dust collecting knick-knacks away. Let the laundry take your washing if you can manage it. Shopping can be time consuming, if you have a fridge cut it down to once or twice a week. Write out weekly menu ideas and shop as much in advance as the weather will allow. Let the children help.

What can you do and the children do with all this wonderful free time? Meals needn't be a problem, children love to picnic, even in their own back yard. In warm weather they don't need hot food. Give them simple things such as hunks of cheese and potato crisps, cold sausages and salad, hard boiled eggs with varied fillings. Finish off meals with fresh fruit or nuts and raisins. Make casseroles and other oven dishes which cook slowly by themselves for the evening.

STIMULATION

A bored child soon gets into mischief, it doesn't cost much to stimulate their interest in things around the home. You'll be surprised at the number of things that happen just round the corner. Perhaps you've never been to your local art gallery, the cattle market or a church of another denomination.

Take the children to an auction sale or the local court if they are old enough. Local factories are always pleased to see visitors, get in touch with the Personnel Officer, he will be delighted to help. Stage struck youngsters will find theatre managers equally co-operative.

Should we get a typically English summer you might have to spend one or two afternoons inside. In the past we've had great fun making toffee, fudge, gingerbread men, even a baked Alaska (it worked too). Every Mum must be like a Boy Scout, she must be prepared. Keep one or two things tucked away—for those 'what can I do now' periods.

Your children will welcome small things such as a new painting book, box of crayons, puzzles, jig-saws or models to make. Save scraps of material and wool for dolls clothes. Even boys are demanding to know how to knit since the advent of Action Man. Older children will appreciate a book perhaps dealing with a favourite hobby.

The Salvation Army are always in need of knitted squares for blankets and the NSPCC constantly need baby

clothes. Many young girls will enjoy this purposeful knitting rather than using up an ounce of wool to keep one's fingers occupied.

IRRITATION

What you find the children to do will depend on their ages, but you can save irritation on both sides if the children have lots to do when they can't go out or play with friends.

When school holidays are finally over you can sit down, put your feet up, and be thankful that your children had a jolly good holiday without getting themselves into trouble. Just a little effort and look at the grey hairs you've prevented.



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Football and cricket secretaries keep your telephone number, and call upon you at the last minute in keen anticipation of yet another super performance.

Ladies entrust you with their savings to invest on the winner of the Derby, the selection of which is confidently left to you.

An early arrival at any sporting event generates an excited buzz among spectators who eagerly enquire which side you are playing for.

WALKING STICK

The only way one can attend a cricket match without being called upon to act as 'sub' for both sides or to umpire, is to be seen arriving with the aid of a walking stick.

I was still in my teens when an observant Commanding Officer suggested I referee a football match between two teams of rather coarse soldiery—who in their previous encounter were only prized apart by military policemen.

This masochistic association with football continued for many years eventually reaching a peak when officiating in a semi-final between Shamrock Rovers and St. John the Baptist.

A BRAWL

The game itself was unremarkable—the usual healthy brawl culminating in the Baptists scoring the only goal of the game from the penalty spot in the last minute.

The Rovers' supporters, apparently

less than satisfied with the impartiality of the penalty decision added weight to their argument with a fusillade of beer bottles.

I was persuaded out of retirement to act as referee in a game that promised to be an academic exercise in the newer soccer arts between a team of sports writers and eleven keep fit fanatics. I was soon made to realise how radically attitudes have changed. (In the football I was weaned on, the only conversation before the game was by the wily old campaigners who regarded a pleasant 'nice day ref' as an insurance against impending just decisions for foul deeds).

ADEQUATE

Not so now—'did I think the system of refereeing adequate to meet the present-day demands of the game?'—'should there be an independent time-keeper?'

When the game's in progress your contemporary footballer is similarly articulate. 'Keep it tight at the back'—'play for the overlap' and unbelievably, 'perhaps you would explain that to me later ref'.

I was beginning to feel like an intruder in a strange new world with the game taking care of it itself when the Keep Fit boys launched their first serious attack.

EGG HEAD

The ball broke free to an athletic egg-head who I afterwards discovered was a school teacher. With a flourish he had the ball in the net.

His triumphant dance came to a halt as I blew the whistle and pointed to the spot where he had last touched the ball. 'What's that ref?'

'Offside'.

'—off'.

It was like a homecoming. Some things are forever constant.

MAKING A SONG AND DANCE

'Don't make such a song and dance about it!' Mr. Grown-Up shouts at his screaming son, meaning 'pipe down' or 'don't fuss'.

Fair enough, Mr. Grown-Up! Junior Compass agrees that there are some things that we ought not to make a song and dance about. There are a few things, that it's just plain silly to fuss about. But we also reckon there are some Junior Compass would like to protest about:

That thousands of children all over the world are starving to death every year.

That vandals smash up public telephones and cut people off from calling doctors, the fire brigade, or an ambulance in an emergency.

That thugs rob banks, beat up old men and women, slash up trains, and shoot policemen.

JUNIOR COMPASS TAKES A POOR VIEW OF THOSE THINGS!

MORE ABOUT SONGS AND DANCES

But Junior Compass would like to make some merry songs and dances in favour of the good things in the world:

About doctors and nurses, firemen and policemen, who are always out to help.

About men and women who go overseas to teach people how to grow better crops and produce more food.

About spacemen daring their way to the moon, and about young men and old men sailing alone in their little boats round the world.

About boys and girls who join work camps.

About friends, and mums and dads.

IF JUNIOR COMPASS WORE A HAT, WE'D TAKE OUR HAT OFF TO THOSE PEOPLE!

COME DANCING

Dancing is one of the oldest things on this earth—at least as far as human beings are concerned. Primitive tribes have special dances for births, weddings and funerals. Dressing up can make dancing much more fun. A mask, bells and fluttering handkerchiefs make the dance still more interesting.

Try it out for yourself. It's best done with a group, of course. So get your friends to join in making a dance about some of the people Junior Compass approves of.

HIDDEN POP STARS

Junior Compass likes Pop Music. Find the DJ's and Pop Stars hidden in these sentences:

A rich ardent British awe-inspiring young and odd fellow from Freemantle came to Blackpool. His car rollicked along the street. It cost a lot of cash indeed. 'Chop King Cole's head off,' ordered his smart insane Mum, 'and pass out his crown.'

Give yourself 14 marks if you can find all fourteen of them, and another mark for each one when you can give the Christian name as well.

Answers below

YOUR OWN POP GROUP

Why not start your own pop group? Give it an exciting name. Write your own pop songs. You could make a good pop song about the Good Samaritan in St. Luke 15, verses 30-38; or about one of the people in the story of the Prodigal Son in St. Luke 15, verses 11-32. Use modern words and expressions, and don't think because the stories came from the Bible you've got to use dull, dreary and old fashioned words.

HOW TO MARK THE BEAT

Collect old tins and cans. Put a handful of dried beans or peas in some of the cans and seal. Then rattle to the beat of your song. Other cans beaten with a wooden spoon will make good drums.

ANSWERS TO HIDDEN POP STARS: Cliff Richard; Sandie Shaw; Jimmy Young; Ken Dodd; Alan Freeman; Cilla Black; Ronnie Carroll; Sam Costa; Dave Cash; Simon Dee; Mary Hopkin; Nat King Cole; Dean Martin; Joe South.

COMPASS CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

Go on collecting emblems. There's a free ballpoint pen in exchange for four different emblems.

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THE BATTLE FOR THE MINDS OF MEN

To keep us aware of the book battle field

FIVE YEARS ago the Feed the Minds Campaign began to placard for the first time in this country the fact that books are a modern battlefield. The Campaign turned out to be more than another shot-in-the-arm appeal and, still gathering pace, it has recently eased itself into a new phase.

Mind hunger is well up in the modern charts of chronic and severe human needs. It is common in the two-thirds of the world which is learning to read like the clappers. The cure is reading material. So books are a battlefield. Communists and pornographers are some of those on active service

Project '69 focuses on the Feed the Minds campaign

there. And so are Christians.

Four Christian organisations in the UK added Feed the Minds to their regular work so as to pull the Church and the country round by the nose to look full face at this battlefield.

Three of these — the interdenominational United Society for Christian Literature, the Church of England's Society for Pro-



moting Christian Knowledge, and Christian Literature Committee representing British missionary societies—have gone on to

pool their efforts and resources in a way unheard of before.

Now, as Feed the Minds—Joint Action for Christian Literature Overseas—they have cut out much wastage and overlapping in many overseas projects for publishing and distributing literature and for training writers.

Joint Action's Methodist Chairman, Dr. A. Marcus Ward, describes it as "an instrument which will enable the fullest efficient and informed use of every penny raised for the purpose". Partnership has replaced near-competition.

Except for production of the Bible itself, left in the hands of the British

and Foreign Bible Society, Joint Action is responsible for the whole range of Christian literature. This includes direct Christian teaching and also instruction in health, farming, and all manner of badly needed practical information.

HUNGRY MINDS

Books, periodicals and newspapers; bookshops and bookmobiles; writing, publishing, training; all these feature in the scope of the new-look Feed the Minds, as it goes on without time limit to provide for hungry minds abroad and to keep us aware of the book-battlefield.

Shock treatment to preserve the legendary Robin's bow

THERE WOULD be an outcry in Switzerland if William Tell lost his cross bow—but the archery hero of England, the legendary Robin Hood who, clad in green, is supposed with his outlaws to have defied the King from Sherwood Forest 700 years ago, has lost his longbow.

It is not the first time that the statue of Robin Hood beneath the walls of Nottingham Castle, whose Sheriff in the stories was his chief enemy, has lost his bow, for the youths of the modern Nottingham, have several times before stolen Robin's bow and arrow.

The arrow alone costs £20 to replace and the City's museum authorities have now considered a scheme to protect the hero of Sherwood Forest by electrifying his bow.

The modern thief would then get as bad a shock as would Robin Hood if he found himself bowless by the moat of Nottingham Castle.



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