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September 1969

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LIFE IN THE BORING SEXTIES

THE END of the last century was nicknamed the naughty nineties—and if that decade of comparative decorum and un-permissiveness was naughty, the mind boggles at the sort of adjective that would do justice to the age in which we are now living.

The fact is that we're besotted with sex. We exploit it to advertise anything from pipe tobacco (slinky female let through the iron gate to follow in slavish devotion the man with the pipe) to petrol (beautiful girl in fast car with handsome man symbolise the get-away people).

It oozes from our television sets in endless plays, jokes and extravaganzas.

The X-film has become the staple diet of the cinema.

THE SEX-ACT IS PERFORMED ON THE STAGE. STRIP CLUBS FLOURISH. SEXY MAGAZINES LIE UNBLUSHINGLY ALONGSIDE "WIRELESS WORLD" AND "EXCHANGE AND MART" IN EVEN SUCH ESTABLISHMENT SHOPS AS W. H. SMITH—AND YOU CAN'T EVEN BUY A SEXLESS CLASSICAL NOVEL THAT WOULD HAVE GRACED THE BOOK-SHELVES OF OUR MOST PURITANICAL GRANDPARENTS, WITHOUT FINDING A HALF-DRESSED DOLLY GIRL ON THE COVER.

Now some people think that censorship and a tough legal line is the answer to all this. Mrs. Mary Whitehouse is their champion.

Other would wish the age to have its head—to let things work themselves out by free choice. They are represented by the recent Arts Council Working Party who recommended the end of all censorship.

HOT TO HANDLE

We can't have it that simple—unless we're prepared to ignore half the argument. Issues of freedom and control are always complex—and where sex is concerned doubly so. Coolly we must form our opinions—after considering all the evidence.

But one thing needs to be said—and said loud and clear.

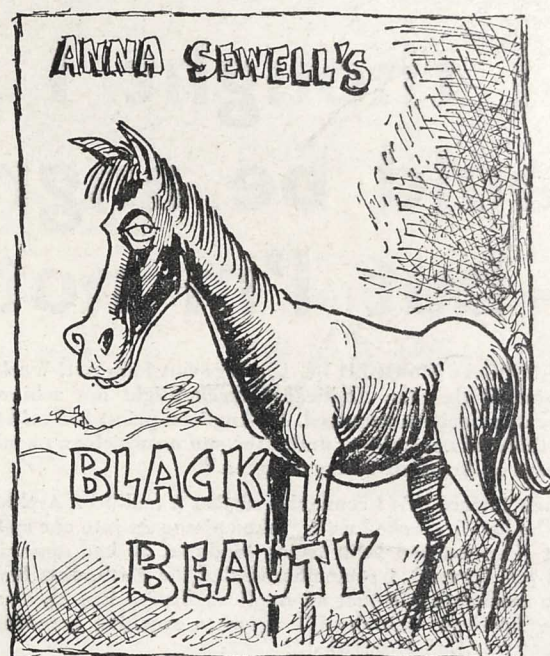
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH A SOCIETY THAT HAS A FIXATION ABOUT THIS ONE ASPECT OF LIFE, AND WE OUGHT TO THINK DEEPLY ABOUT WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES.

UNDervalUED YAWN

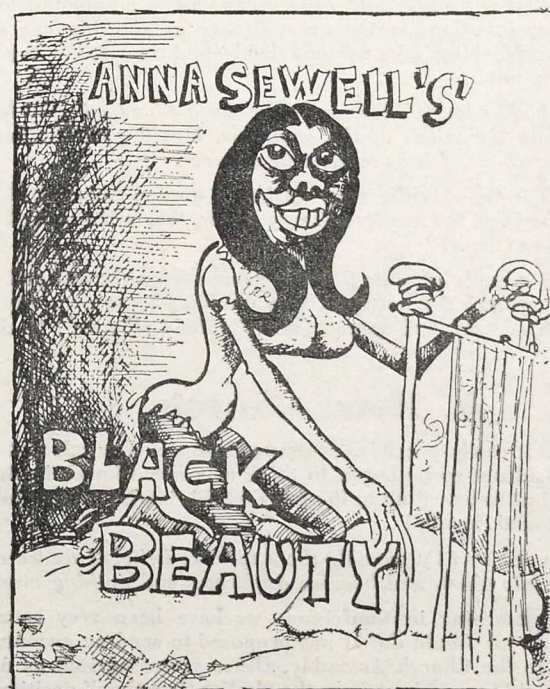
Sex is one of creation's greatest gifts and pleasures, which relies to a certain extent upon mystery and imagination for its attraction, and it is in danger of becoming one great, overworked, undervalued yawn.

IF OUR GRANDPARENTS KNEW THE NAUGHTY NINETIES—WE LIVE IN THE BORING SEXTIES!

A VICTORIAN CLASSIC



YESTERDAY . . .



. . . TODAY

. . . You can't even buy a sexless classical novel that would have graced the book-shelves of our most puritanical grandparents without finding a half-dressed dolly girl on the cover . . .



SOAPBOX

THIS CONTRIBUTION TO SOAPBOX
WAS WRITTEN BY A DELEGATE TO
THE METHODIST CONFERENCE ON THE
DAY AFTER THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
FAILED TO GIVE THE GO AHEAD ON
THE FIRST STAGE OF UNION BETWEEN
THE TWO CHURCHES.

July 9th 1969

I thought I would be angry — but I'm not

I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ANGRY: but I am not. Weeks ago we anticipated that the Anglican Church might not achieve the 75 per cent majority it required. An Anglican priest had said to me "I can't think of any subject under the sun on which you could get 75 per cent of Anglican Clergy to agree."

When I heard this I remembered that it had been Archbishop Fisher who had first asked us to "take episcopacy into our system", and that since we had been trying to do so he had opposed the schemes put forward. I remembered that the Methodists had laid down no condition and that an Anglican Bishop had once said to me "the Anglican Church will agree to anything provided the episcopacy question is satisfied."

Great Danger

I felt that we had bent over backwards to accommodate this episcopacy question, to the great danger of splitting our small Church and dividing friend from friend—so I expected to be angry. But I am not.

As I went home exhausted after the debate I tried to put myself into the minds of the Anglicans. Was it possible that our small Church was felt by some to be a threat?

Was it true, as the same Bishop I quoted before had said, "The morale of the Anglican Clergy is low, they are afraid of what it will cost them?"

Was it really possible that two groups from the left and right (or the top and the bottom), who wouldn't agree over anything else in this world, had agreed (as an 'unholy alliance') to defeat this?

A New Church

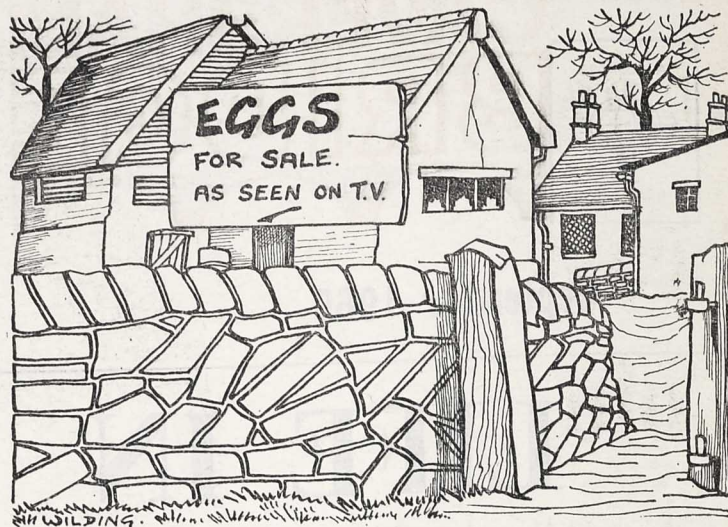
Was it really possible, as some Anglicans asserted, that their Church had not really begun to think of a new Church in Britain and had just wakened up to the fact that this is what the Methodists intended and wanted?

Was it really possible the Anglicans believed we were just going to join them, and become Anglicans, and nothing more?

This morning in Conference we have been very exercised about what we should do! It was proposed to send an encouraging message to the Church Assembly. Other voices advised us not to appear to chide or exhort from the "holier than thou" position of a 2.4 per cent majority. They reminded us that the Archbishop had said at one point in the Convocation proceedings that silence was the best response.

So (apart from this Soapbox) we shall keep silence and wait in love to see what the Anglican Church wants to say to us. We do not believe we shall have long to wait.

Good for a Laugh



What Christian Aid preaches.

In the long run, the solution to world poverty isn't filling stomachs with food.

It's filling heads with ideas.

To this end, we've helped build training schools in Africa, Asia, South America, and India.

Teaching people how to get the most out of themselves.

How to get the most out of their land.

And how to deal with the pests that the fruits of their labours attract.

The family planning programmes we've set up have taught thousands of women how to have smaller families.

With the obvious benefits of fewer mouths to feed.

However, how to make soil more fertile and wives less, aren't everyone's headaches.

Which is why in the Middle East we've financed workshops to teach young Arab refugees carpentry,

metal-work, and building.

That way they can get back on their feet by their own efforts.

In Thailand, we've taught people how to balance a diet.

And in Kenya, how to balance a book.

In Bolivia, we hired a trade union expert to study the labour situation.

It seemed the best way to find answers to the appalling unemployment problem.

Caused by the mass exodus of workers from country to town.

Of course, not all our activity is so long-term.

The Vietnamese, Nigerians and Biafrans have more urgent needs. And the doctors and nurses we've sent them have helped.

Though not as much as we'd like. We simply don't have enough money to help people all we could.

But we're praying you'll do a little something about that for us.

Christian Aid.

P.O. Box No. 1, London, S.W.1.
Giro Number 556 3151.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

COMPASS N. J. SEPTEMBER, 1969—3

A way of giving
that cuts out
self-satisfaction

Here is something new.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is not just another organisation for doing good. It brings something new to the voluntary social service scene. Something badly needed in this age when so many feel people want to be active, straining to help solve some of the world's needs.

Here is a movement which is relaxed and modest. It doesn't try to tackle too much. It doesn't claim too much. It manages serenely to put service hand in hand with contemplation.

It is significant that the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN was begun by a woman and is run by a woman. The organisation started in Asia and in ten years has spread to twenty-nine countries on six continents.

It is simply a movement among women of every nation, regardless of political, racial or religious differences, to work and pray for peace in the world and the alleviation of suffering. The emphasis is on the spirit of giving rather than upon charity.

SMALLEST

Twelve times a year each member prays for a woman in a country other than her own, and, as a practical token of her sincerity, she sets aside the smallest coin of her own

land for those in need wherever they may be.

In this way the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate can give on an equal basis. The poorest woman in an Indian village giving her tiny paisa each month is making the same



"The poorest woman in an Indian village giving her tiny paisa each month is making the same contribution as her wealthy American sister in her New York pent house."

Reproduced by kind permission of U.S.P.G.

contribution as her wealthy American sister in her New York pent house.

Each month, in homes all over the world, the smallest coin is dropped into one of a remarkable variety of collection boxes—hollow bamboo sticks, clay pots, coconut shells, toy houses, sugar bags, plastic cowboy boots, match boxes, clam shells.

In ten years this collection of mites has grown to over half a million dollars and has aided over ninety charitable projects throughout the world.

The Fellowship rarely starts projects but helps those already in progress. Its recipients are as widespread and varied as its members.

SHELTER

In Hong Kong it is providing bread and shelter for elderly TB victims. In Tokyo, a rehabilitation centre for prostitutes. In

America a clinic for adolescent drug addicts in Harlem.

In Thailand it helps to sponsor twenty young students to work among war victims in Vietnam.

In Ceylon it contributes to a home for mentally handicapped children which is run by a Buddhist monk and a Roman Catholic priest.

In Nairobi it is educating two local girls at a teacher training college.

It has proved that compassion and concern for human suffering does not stop at the Iron or Bamboo curtains—in fact it has been known to push back the barriers to help students in East Berlin, in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

When money cannot be sent out of a country, arrangements are made to credit the amount of money raised to the country's account at the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

MOTIVE

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a way of giving which cuts out the desire for gain, recognition or self-satisfaction. The motive is the reward.

Here is a practical exercise in simple Christianity in which the poorest and least intellectually gifted may take part with the wealthiest and most brilliant.

JAPAN TODAY

Hear Gladys Jeffrey speak
on her outstanding recent
VISIT TO JAPAN

Dr. Johnson House, Colmore Circus, Birmingham

Friday, 26th. September

Coffee 7-30

Meeting 8-0

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The British Secretary for the Fellowship of the Least Coin is:—Miss Sheila Kordik, Secretary, Women's Home Church Committee, 86 Tavistock Place, London W.C.1.

CAR SENSE

Has your car got a handle to its name?

QUITE A LOT of you are going to go out to your cars one unexpectedly cold morning in a few weeks' time. You will switch on and press your starter button. There will be a clunk and a few painful grunts from the starter as it heaves the engine round against the drag of sticky oil.

The red light will dim to vanishing point as the battery "sits down" under the unusual load. After that—nothing!

My battery has now reached its second birthday—which means that this might be my experience too. Or, if I'm lucky, it might see me through this winter without trouble and pack up in a year's time. But the odds are that all of us discover our need of a new battery in autumn or early winter. The reason is this.

Throughout the summer a battery has an easy time. Your driving mileage tends to be high, but the distance you go after

dark will only be a small fraction of it. The battery will be kept well charged up, and lack of efficiency in it and its charging circuits will not be apparent.

An engine that is frequently used is easy to turn over and warm weather makes it easier still. So the "kick" that the battery has to deliver to the engine to start it is quite small; it's no strain.

Come colder weather and nights drawing in, and all these factors which give your battery an easy time are reversed. And soon comes that cold morning when the battery that has happily given 50 amps to the starter motor all through the summer is suddenly asked to give 100 amps or more—and it lays down and dies! Without warning . . . or is it?

CHECKED

You can have your battery checked to see if it is likely to stand up to winter conditions.

And if a stubbornly silent engine one morning is a thing you just can't do with, it could be worth having it done.

BRIAN FAVELL.

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They have given us their names

Gabriel

Fahrenheit

'686 —

1736

ANYONE FORECASTING the weather nowadays is encouraged to give the temperature reading in degrees of centigrade rather than fahrenheit. Despite this current trend, however, the latter scale has been in popular use for some 250 years. Its inventor was the celebrated physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit.

Born at Danzig in 1686, Fahrenheit worked in England and Holland manufacturing meteorological instruments. One of his notable innovations was the use of mercury in the construction of thermometers.



Different versions exist as to how he originated his thermometric scale. It would appear that he used melting ice and normal body temperature as his two fixed points.

Later he adjusted the scale and finally established 32 degrees as freezing point and 212 degrees as boiling point.

C. J. FRANCIS.

Thinking about...

You don't kid God

The Pharisee and the Publican (St. Luke's Gospel Chapter

18 verses 9-14.)

They say—

"I'm an up-to-date Christian—not like all those fuddie-duddies living in the past."

"I like tradition—you'll never catch me jumping on a vulgar modern band-wagon."

"I've worshipped at this church for 45 years."

"I'm a member of the envelope offering scheme."

"I don't hold with organised religion."

"I've no time for pious types. I'm a straight forward practical person."

"I put first things first—things like prayer."

"I've just bought myself a colour television."

"I do more than my share for charity."

"I keep out of that sort of company."

"I'm a man of the world."

"I, I, I, — I'm as good as the next."

"I can look myself in the eye."

"I'm ready to meet my maker."

("I THANK MY GOD THAT I'M NOT AS OTHER MEN.")

Do you really kid yourself by bragging? . . . you certainly don't kid God: you only sadden Him as He longs to punch through your barrier of boasting to your real self.

You may not like to see yourself as one with the respectable, hypocritical Pharisee. And perhaps you don't. But are you prepared to see yourself as one with the tax gatherers, with the disreputable and despised of all time—and of now.

That is what is demanded. Will your pride, prestige and self-esteem take that blow?

It is really the punch of God's love into your heart.

heart.

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

THE NEWSPAPER OF ANGLICANS
FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS
IN CAVERSHAM

No. 60 September, 1969

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Unity comes to the Methodist Manse

Anglican-Methodist unity is already an established fact in the life of the Rev. Terence R. Harris, who this

month takes up the oversight of the Methodist churches in Caversham and Sonning Common. It began in Marlborough when he was a probationer, and a Miss Julia Thomas, BA, taught history and some Religious Knowledge at Marlborough Grammar School. Although a member of the Church of England, she taught in the Sunday School of the Methodist Church. At their wedding in 1964 at Gerrards Cross Parish Church, the Address was given by a Methodist minister who also assisted with Holy Communion, by permission of the Bishop.

Commenting on the voting which took place on 8th July, Mr. Harris said in the course of a sermon:

"For many, when the result was announced, they thought 'We've wasted all these years! Think of all the time and effort that has been put into this scheme and it's all to no avail.' Is that true? There have been some friendships, some relationships which have been made during this time which will never be broken by the decision of a Convocation or a Conference.

There are some things that will continue to happen which never happened twenty years ago. I cannot imagine that the decision made is going to part an Anglican wife from her Methodist Minister husband. And to stretch the analogy further—I would add—certain things have been produced during that relationship which are not going to be forgotten—they are going to live and grow!"

The precious thing that had been produced in the Harris union was a baby daughter, Rachel Claire, born 24th June this year.

Before going to Didsbury College Bristol, for ministerial training, Mr. Harris

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, SEPTEMBER, 1969—ONE



A. Clutterbuck.

Far from the madding crowd

In the ordination service in the Book of Common Prayer those to be ordained priests are reminded of the duty of further study, and at one time the clergy of the Church of England were famous for their learning. But times have changed, and in large town parishes all clergy know how impossible it is to set aside proper time for reading. I suspect that the Free Church minister and Roman Catholic priest experience the same difficulty. Yet if we are to preserve a freshness of mind time must be found for study.

In order to overcome this difficulty the Anglican clergy of Caversham have each year a "reading week" when one or other of them disappears to a house in Sussex, not for a holiday but in order to do eight or nine hours solid reading each day.

In Sussex in the village of Coolham near Storrington is a community house called St. Julian's. During the war Florence Allshorn, who had herself for many years been a missionary in Africa, became convinced of the need for some house where missionaries on furlough could spend some time reading and seeking renewal of mind. And so there was founded a new religious community whose members wear no habit but live under a simple rule. They worship in a chapel the floor of which is covered thickly with straw and reminds all who come to it of the stable of Bethlehem. After starting in two smaller houses the Community acquired the present house in 1950 shortly before their founder died. They gave it the name of St. Julian after a legendary Sussex saint famed for his hospitality.

Now to-day men and women of all kinds come to St. Julian's. Some, as was the original intention of Florence Allshorn, are home on furlough from overseas. Some are clergy, doctors, teachers, housewives, business men of different kinds. Quakers and Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Free Churchmen as well as some who would find it hard to accept any distinctive church allegiance are all liable to be found here. Beyond silence at lunch and dinner when guests read a book of their own choice there are no rules. But in five day days I can do more solid reading than I can do in the remaining weeks of the year.

I hope that other people in Caversham may feel they can take advantage of St. Julian's. They will find that in the beautiful house with its library or the grounds with its lovely lake there is time to think, and to think at depth. St. Julian's is neither a retreat house nor a conference house; it has its own unique contribution to make to the Christian Church, and it is good to know that a sister house has been opened in Kenya. At St. Julian's noise which is one of the curses of our age slips into the background. The Psalmist said "Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord." It is in the depth that we can to-day find God.

A view of the house and lake at St. Julian's.



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NEW VENTURE

After having started its life with a comedy, followed by last season's production of 'Antigone' which can only be called a tragedy, Caversham Drama has chosen for its third major production a serious play, **BONAVENTURE** by Charlotte Hastings. The drama takes place in a convent which provides the club with an opportunity to exploit its female talent.

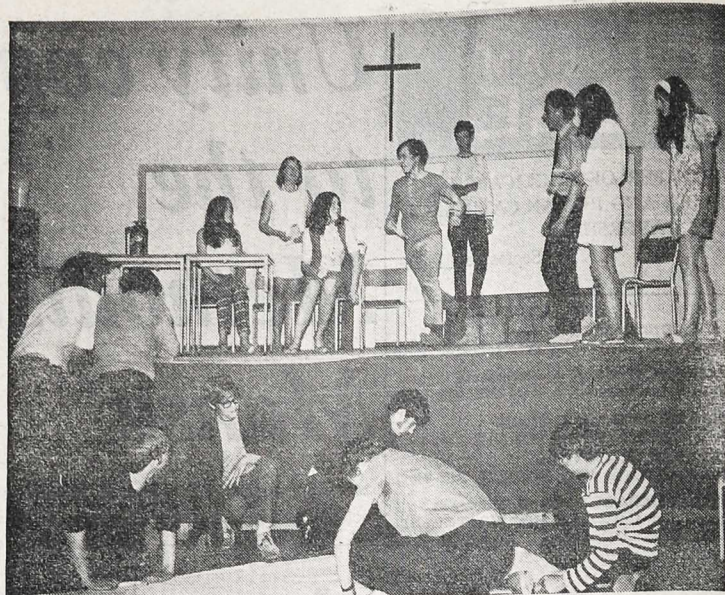
Pictured above is a scene from one of the rehearsals of this moving play—the lead part being played by Heather Mumme. In the foreground the complicated set is being constructed by some of the non-acting members of the club.

Since Caversham Drama began in January 1967 it has progressed greatly; both in the immense increase in membership and in its wide range of talent in all its dramatic fields.

Last Easter the club performed 'Christ in the Concrete City' in St. Peter's Church and St. Anne's Hall which proved to be a great success.

Producer Joan Debenham feels that the club is now ready to try its hand in greater enterprise and next year it will be entering the Berkshire Drama Festival.

Bonaventure will be performed in St. Andrew's Hall from September 24-27 at 7-45 p.m. Tickets are available from any member of the club but in case of difficulty phone Martin Brown, 71848, Robert Harris 73803 or Joan Debenham 73433.



J Tomlin.

END OF TERM

As this copy goes to press we are saying sad farewells to many of our educational staff who have given us such wonderful service.

It is impossible to mention them all, but Emmer Green Primary School will certainly not be the same next term without three of their most important staff. Miss Bone, the headmistress, will be remembered for so many things she has done for the school, not least the lead she took in encouraging all her pupils to learn to swim, and in helping to provide a pool at the school. And Miss Henal-gulph, who is also retiring after 45 years teaching, will be very much missed as a popular head teacher.

Leaving at the same time for another post, is Mr. Cox, who joined the house staff at the same time as Miss Bone and Miss Henal-gulph started teaching there. He was very well liked and takes with him the very best wishes of staff and pupils.

It is sad that Mr. Nash, who has seen so many of the teething troubles of the first attempt to link Caversham schools together, will not be with the first fully comprehensive school in the district. Alas, he too is retiring.

And I have been specially asked to mention Mrs. Crowther, who, across the river at E. P. Collier, has taught so many Caversham children in

the last nine years. She too was a most popular and efficient teacher and will not easily be replaced.

Unfortunately it is not

possible to devote the time and space to describe all that these and others have contributed to Caversham schools. We can only thank them, on behalf of all pupils and

parents in Caversham, and remind them that we shall always be very happy to publish news of their activities, in retirement or new posts.

W.D.

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MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held in Thursday 17th July, 1969. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council presided at the meeting.

Following further representations to the Oxfordshire C.C. concerning the present unsatisfactory and dangerous state of Geoffreyson Road, the Parish Council were informed that as the result of a meeting which took place earlier this month between the County Council and Messrs. Gants, arrangements have been made for the improvements to be carried out, and these should commence not later than 25th July. The Parish Council will immediately report to the County Council if there is no evidence of the work by the end of the month.

The Council expressed its pleasure at the enthusiastic manner in which the residents at Chazey Heath are helping to develop the new play area. To further encourage the use of the fields, the Council approved the purchase of a combination swing and frame for the children's use. The Council are also proposing to erect a wire fence along the boundary adjacent to Rokebey Drive, which it is hoped will stop children running out on to the road from the play area.

The Council received a letter from a resident in Hewett Avenue asking the

Council to press for speed restriction signs to be erected in Hewett Avenue and Blagrove Lane, as many vehicles travel at a much higher speed than conditions allow. It was pointed out by the Council the matter had been discussed on many previous occasions and the County Council have been asked to erect speed limit signs, but the requests have not been favourably received. This time, however, the Parish Council are to make a further approach to the County Council and are to use a different argument which it is hoped might have

an eventual satisfactory outcome. Two new members of the Council were welcomed by the Chairman, they were Mrs. H. R. Allum and Mrs. F. M. Ford.

The Council re-affirmed their previous decision concerning Boundary Lane—the lane which runs between The Warren and Upper Warren Avenue—a request was received from a resident that the land should be closed to motor traffic, but the Council is of the opinion that this particular lane should remain open to persons who wish to make use of it.

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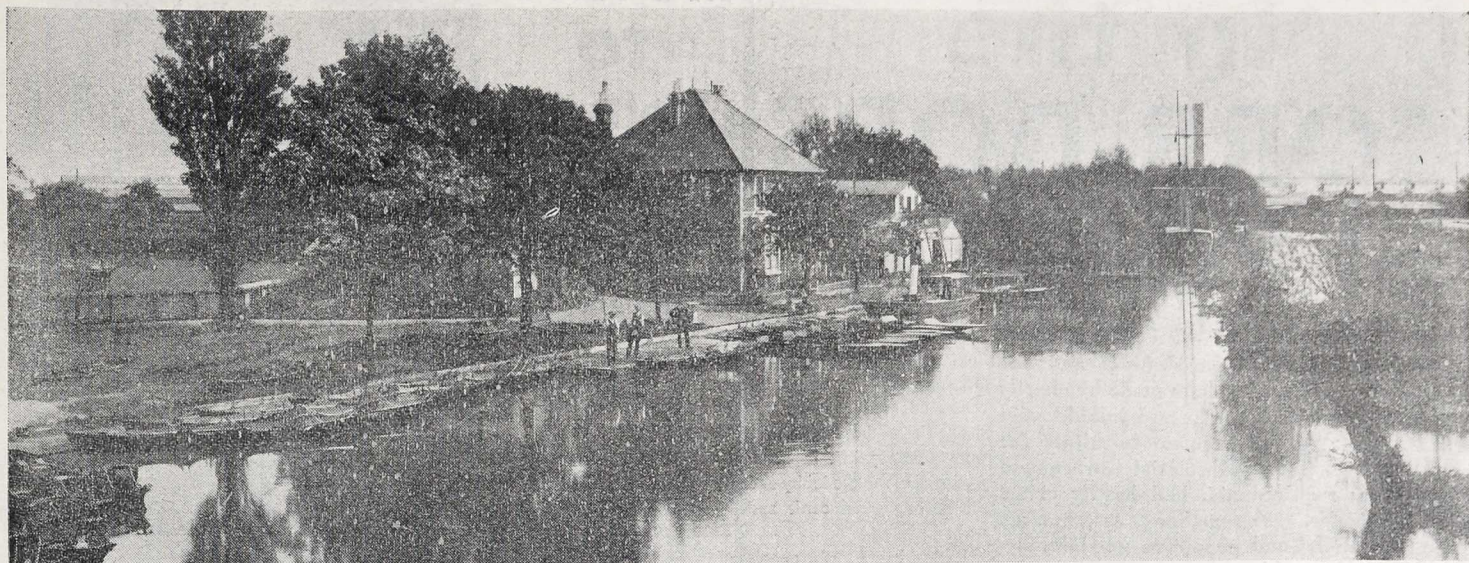


Photo: Walton Adams.

This photograph was taken from Caversham Bridge in the more leisurely days before the first war. The large sailing vessel in the distance was used for training purposes by a local scout troop. Can any former members of that troop help to date this photograph?

School Outing

by ELIZABETH HAWTHORNE

"Opening the classroom door." This was the subject of a recent talk by Mr. John Coe, the Senior Primary Schools Adviser for Oxfordshire. And at Mapledurham's Church school we were fortunate to be able to act on his suggestion in a particularly enjoyable way on July 3rd.

Mr. Loveday, Headmaster of Whitchurch Primary School was kind enough to invite us to visit his school, an invitation we were quick to accept. Plans were made and the parents agreed to provide transport to and from Whitchurch.

Permission to visit Whitchurch Lock, one of the very few to be reached through private grounds was obtained

from the Thames Conservancy Board and the Rector of Whitchurch was asked if we could visit the church for study and to take pattern rubbings. After some preliminary visits by myself to church, mill, lock and toll bridge, a party of 26 children and three adults left Mapledurham at 10 a.m. on July 3rd, following a route which was later to provide material for simple compass and scale work. We were welcomed by Mr. Loveday and his co-operative staff, to whom we are most grateful for the warm reception we received.

FRIENDSHIPS

The children quickly dispersed to various classrooms or to take part in the activities going on out of doors, for here too, the classroom doors are wide open. It was good to see the children's initial shyness quickly disappear and friendships being formed. We learned a good deal by looking, doing and questioning, so that mid-day came all too soon. The Whitchurch canteen supplies our daily meal anyway, so the difference was that we sat down to eat it for once on their premises instead of in our own classroom, but as usual we enjoyed it with good appetites.

By 1-30 p.m. our party had reluctantly to say goodbye to our many kind friends. The second part of the project was about to begin.

A crocodile walk led us down the lane, collecting leaves from the roadside trees on the way. Later this walk and the leaves provided the basis for number work on

points to note, weight limit, information, music and shape of the girders, material of the bridge, toll and so on. Parents' cars were waiting as arranged, so a very happy and satisfactory educational outing was over. Yet not ended.

The next few days in school were very busy indeed. So much experience observation and stimulus resulted in a great surge of follow up work. Mathematics, art, craft, water - experiments, writing, reference to books for further

pairs, or sets of two and an introduction to square inches. On reaching the entrance to the church grounds the children began to look for the objects listed on their quiz papers, the water hydrant sign, letters on the letter box, a giant plant providing practice in estimation and measuring. Observations on the church fabric, the shape of the spire, trees, and materials in the church yard were noted, to play a part later in the recorded work of the visit.

Inside the church we heard a remarkably fine talk by Mrs. Walmsley, the Rector's wife, to whom I am most grateful. Her helpful explanations and stories about the interesting facts of the church were appreciated by the very youngest child and our many questions answered fully. We were glad also to be allowed to take rubbings of some of the fine patterns on memorial stones.

LOCK

The next stage of our walk led past the mill, now a private house, to the lock itself. We were fortunate to arrive as two launches entered from the higher level and we watched with interest the process of lowering the water within the lock to enable them to leave safely. More things to observe were flood marks, speed in m.p.h. and knots, and rules governing the use of the lock.

The final stage came when we walked back past the mill to the car-park over the toll bridge. Here were more

PARENTS

On July 16th we held a Parent's evening and were very pleased to have so many accept the invitation. Part of our follow up work was to make a tape recording of the outing. This included readings, comments, poetry, songs and percussion and gave a fair report of the children's impressions. It also helped to link these experiences to the work on display.

One fault lay in the fact that unavoidably the visit had taken place so late in the term. Perhaps we can profit from this by arranging our next educational outing early enough in the term to allow plenty of time to carry out all we wish afterwards.

It is quite evident from this first attempt of ours that "learning through the environment" is a true educational experience. It is true too that a broad and satisfying view can be obtained simply by "Opening the classroom door."



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In the CORRIDORS of POWER

It was a hot July evening, and we would have much preferred to lounge in our back gardens. But John Crowe said our presence was required in Westminster, so Auntie G., Molly and myself climbed into his car and set off to ferret out our MPs.

Word had got round—not, according to one MP, without foundation—that the Government were under considerable pressure to reduce the already meagre sum spent on aid for overseas development. And the Christian Aid organ-

isers, ever mindful that shillings and sixpences made by charity walks and jumble sales were no substitute for substantial Government aid, had hastily called together as many people as possible.

REMINDERS

Arriving at Westminster, we found more than 300 had turned up, despite the very short notice, among them Jack Hollingham who helped to swell our Reading contingent. A short but excellent briefing session in the Central Hall, a few reminders of facts and figures involved, and we were on our way to line up outside the Palace of Westminster.

Thanks to William Hamling, who had arranged a meeting for us in a committee room, our wait outside was short. From the meeting we were able to drift in small groups down to the lobby and fill in our green cards and wait.

Little knots of people began to form round MPs and the familiar reassurances drifted through the lobby. "Of course I'm completely with you, but . . ." a suspect phrase if ever there was one. Neither was one in any doubt about the gentleman who was heard to say: "I don't approve of you being here and I don't agree with charity."

OVERSEAS AID

But one couldn't help wondering about the MP who was heard to admit that he didn't approve of aid to other countries and he thought all immigrants should be repatriated; it was tempting to remind him that had we thought of overseas aid to Commonwealth countries in the past, we might not have an immigrant problem today. Alas, he wasn't our MP and we had no right to question him.

'NOT AVAILABLE'

One heard the words: "But don't forget it is other people's money you are spending" and wondered about the vast sums spent on far less worthy and useful causes. One wondered—in view of the fact that a three-line whip was out—about those MPs who were 'not available.'

It is always interesting to watch the familiar pattern of lobbying. The Palace is one of the few places where, providing you don't organise a 'sit-in', you are treated by officials with the utmost courtesy. The police on duty at the desk are almost caricatures of themselves as they patiently cope with the ignorant, the anxious and even the downright stupid. Only the sharp call of 'count' ringing through the building stirs them into familiar action as they shoo the public out of the way and clear the entrance for the figures scurrying from various corners of the House.

All this, the old game of spotting familiar TV faces, the witticisms and comments

MOVING TO LONDON

Three years sounds a reasonable time—but life is very busy in Caversham, and time passes swiftly. Colin and Toodie Scott-Dempster have certainly found life hectic. So much has been packed into their three years at the Rectory Flat and then at 25 Ilkley Road—but first curacies are geared to last no longer, and so with regrets on both sides "good byes" must be said, and Colin and Toodie must move on to the next stage in their life.

Together with Robert aged 2 and Clare aged 3 months they are moving to London. Colin is taking up his appointment as Chaplain of the Church of England Training College of St. Mark and St. John Chelsea later this month.

THE NEW JOB

"It used to be for men only," he explained. "But for the last two years it has taken women into its ranks and will continue to do so until the proportions are equal. In 1972 the College is moving to new buildings in Plymouth."

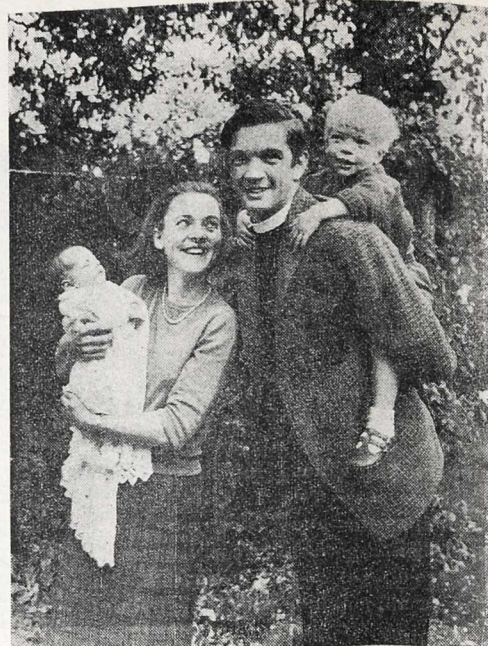
The task ahead will have many opportunities. Colin is very interested in education, and has always been eager to be in contact with those who doubt. In Plymouth he will have the chance to help design the interior of the new chapel and decide how it will be used.

The move is not a means of opting out of the parochial ministry. "It wasn't a planned move. The post was suggested to me, and we felt it was the right decision to make" said Colin.

of the crowd—"Dam. I've left the gunpowder behind" make an evening's lobbying anything but dull. The difference this time was in the composition of the crowd. Clerical collars replaced the familiar red ties and cries of "Look, there's George—haven't seen him since the Aldermaston March" were replaced this time by "Oh look, there's George—we were at theological college together"—in slightly more genteel accents.

We were lucky. Among the eighty MPs who turned out was John Lee, who sympathised and offered practical advice. For good measure he was even able to tell us the latest events about the moon landing which he'd just heard.

Altogether a useful, and quite enjoyable, evening.



Walton Adams.

VISITORS WILL BE WELCOME

Life in London will be very different. "Our house will be alongside the College," said Toodie. "We hope people will come and see us. The address is Chaplain's House, College of St. Mark and John, King's Road, Chelsea, and it will be easy to find us. Just along the road on one corner there is a cemetery, on another the Stamford Bridge Football Ground, on another the Gas works and on another St. Stephen's Hospital—plenty of landmarks to help our visitors!"

There won't be any families living nearby. "We shall miss the atmosphere of family life and worship we found in Caversham" said Colin, and Toodie continued—"We've had wonderful friendship and hospitality in years."

Caversham—so many friends in church circles an outside."

REGRETS ON BOTH SIDES

Colin and Toodie will certainly be missed by those involved in the life of St. Peters, but also by many in other parts of Caversham.

"I'll always remember the support and the stimulation of working with a team of clergy" said Colin. He hopes that he will be able to find a similar level of co-operation in his new post, but with a large staff and over 700 students this will be more difficult.

One of the last Caversham events with which Colin and Toodie were associated was a week of the Parish Holiday at Embley Park—a grand finale to three very happy years.

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Walton Adams.

Miss Janet Dicker was married at St. Andrew's Church on July 26th to Mr. Paul Wilding. Mr. Wilding will be known to many as the son of the former minister of Broad Street Congregational Church. He is a lecturer in sociology at Nottingham University. Janet Dicker took a degree recently at Nottingham and will be studying there next year for a diploma of education.

WEDDINGS

July has seen many weddings in the different churches of Caversham, and we publish on this page a selection of wedding photos.



Walton Adams.

Miss Adrienne Bailey of Gosbrook Road was married to Mr. Paul Henwood at St. Peter's Church on July 26th.



Hymor.

Miss Patricia Lorenc was married on Sunday July 20th to Mr. Paul Morrison in St. Peter's Church. Now a school mistress Pat Lorenc and her parents are well known members of the congregation of St. Peter's. The Morrisons have gone to live at Tilehurst. The reception was held at the best kept village in Oxfordshire. Will Pat be the best kept wife in Berkshire?



W. M. Mills.

Miss Norah Griffin was married on July 26th at St. Peter's Church to Mr. Colin Lancaster of Blackburn. The Lancasters will be living in Highgate where Mr. Lancaster is a lecturer. Miss Norah Griffin is known to many as the creator of the spectacular flying angels which are a regular feature of the Christmas decorations in the parish church. The reception took place at the bride's home in the Mount.

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

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Walton Adams.

The wedding took place on Saturday 2nd August at Caversham Baptist Free Church, between Mr. Tudor Vaughan Jones, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Jones of "Lynmouth", Bridle Road, Whitchurch Hill and Miss Susan Margaret Pilgrim, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Pilgrim of 64, Highmoor Road, Caversham. The service was conducted by the Minister, the Rev. L. S. Lewis.

The bride was given away by her father. She wore a full-length empire line dress made of swiss cotton, and a short veil. Her bouquet was of gold roses.

The bridesmaids were Miss Gillian Pilgrim, sister of the bride and Miss Gillian Exall, niece of the bridegroom, and the best man was Mr. Kenneth Boaleh.

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Something to celebrate

On a very pleasant July evening some of the very many who are responsible for producing and distributing the 'Bridge' got together in the garden of Caversham Rectory to celebrate our first five years.

It was the first chance many of us had to know each other and, as the first arrivals began to circulate, it was amazing how often they greeted each other with: "Well, I'm blown. I never knew you distributed the 'Bridge'."

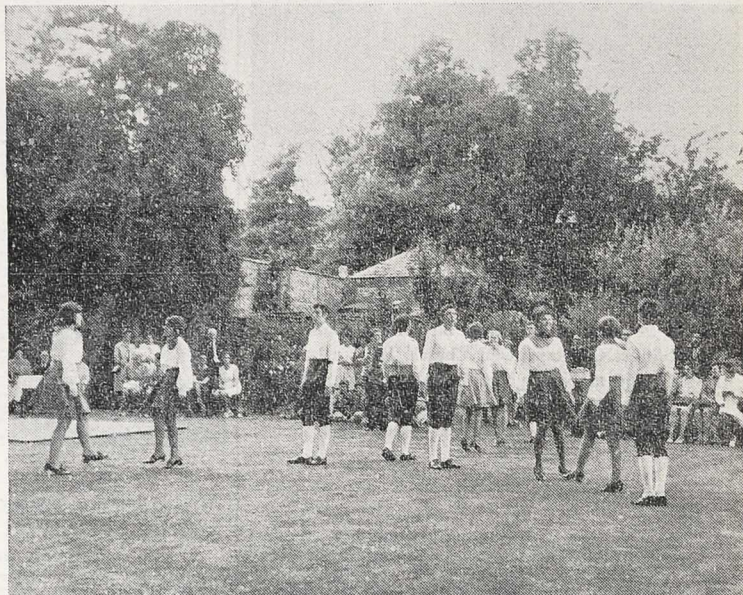
Thanks to the Anchlite folk dancers of Henley we were well entertained. In their gay skirts and scarves they made a most attractive picture as they twirled around on the lawn. And an enjoyable feature of their programme was an opportunity for us all to join in. I regret that their instructor was no match for most of us who had our own unorthodox ideas of how the dances should go. But it was great fun and I thoroughly recommend the team to any organ-

The ladies and youngsters who helped to provide the very ample and tasty refreshments are far too numerous to mention, but it would not be right to omit Mrs. Pilgrim, the wife of our secretary, who organised this side of the activities.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable celebration and we look forward to many more.



Some of the Caversham Bridge distributors who attended the 5th Birthday Party recently.



The Anchlite folk dancers.

Photos: Walton Adams.

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IMPRESSIONS OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC AT A METHODIST COLLEGE

by MAEVE
O'CONNOR

Last year, to celebrate my decade as a qualified teacher I decided that here was a propitious time for me to take a year's supplementary course in music. Upon enquiry I found that there were but four colleges offering this course. One in particular appealed to me, namely Westminster College, Oxford.

TIME TO SETTLE IN

Being affiliated to the University this gave us the facility of attending lectures there. We supplementary students arrived with the First Years a couple of days before term in order to settle in and find our way around.

Westminster College was transferred from London to Oxford in 1959 and occupies a beautiful position on top of Harcourt Hill overlooking the city. The focal point, the heart of the family as it were, is the beautiful chapel around which the other buildings cluster. It was my first time entering a Methodist chapel and I was struck by its stark simplicity. There were two candlesticks on the Communion table, a pulpit, benches and one stained glass window—all in impeccable taste.

WIDE RANGE OF RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

About 75 per cent of the students are Methodists, among these a sprinkling of Ministers' sons and daughters. The other 25 per cent comprise a medley of religions and I soon discovered there were a few Roman Catholics among my fellow students including one man.

Westminster College provides ample opportunity for its students to be God-conscious. There are religious services to start and finish the day, taken by the students themselves in which tutors sometimes participate. At these times the chapel will reverberate with sound—for it is well known that Methodists love to sing—as I do myself! Grace precedes and concludes each meal.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Another spiritual aspect of the College is the weekly Prayer Meeting, students being grouped in numbers of 10 to 12 usually with a tutor present. I attended one of these meetings and was impressed by the obvious sincerity and fervour of those

present. The leader usually read a passage from the Bible relevant to the moment. This was followed by impromptu comments and further food for meditation and prayer from various members.

INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL SERVICE

There were three flourishing spiritual societies attached to the College—the John Wesley Society, the Students' Christian Union and the local Preachers' Association. In conjunction with these there was a very active spirit of service to the community. There was a large rota for visiting lonely, old and sick people in the neighbourhood. Every flag day saw a representation of students. The highlight of work in this field was one week when the energies of all students were put to raising of money for various charities. This was the Rag Week in the Autumn Term employing some very ingenious ways and means with amazing results.

The Chaplain's house was always "open house" to anyone wanting a chat, and was a particularly popular rendezvous after the Sunday service.

I WILL HOLD VERY PLEASANT MEMORIES OF A YEAR FILLED WITH FRIENDLINESS, KINDNESS, AND TRUE CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR.

Round the Anglican Parish

SON ET LUMIERE AT BLENHEIM. A parish outing has been arranged for Thursday September 4th so that members of all four congregations can travel to Blenheim Palace to see the production of *Son et Lumiere*. Coaches will be leaving by 7 p.m. and a stop will be made en route for a picnic supper.

ONE OVER EACH. All players will bowl an over each when the annual inter-district tournament is played on the ground of Queen Anne's School on Saturday September 6th from 2-30 p.m. A committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Leslie Moss has drawn up new rules and each district will play three games during the afternoon. Spectators will be welcome—one more occasion for a picnic tea.

PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Members of St. Paul's were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Harris back to the Church Garden Party on Saturday July 12th. It was a warm afternoon and the garden looked its best. The chairman, Mr. Shearer expressed his appreciation of all Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer and family had done to make the place so beautiful and then introduced Mr. and Mrs. Harris. Mr. Harris, who is now treasurer of St. Andrew's Church, Eastcote, spoke first and then Mrs. Harris formally declared the Garden Party open. In the evening The Bourbon Players presented very ably a short one act play, "The Inheritance" by Victor Lucas. The afternoon yielded a profit of over £90 for Church funds, but even more important than this, it was a great social when people met together.

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ST. JOHN'S TO ST. JOHN'S

A few weeks ago, the St. John's Mothers' Union and some of the Old Age Pensioners Club shared a day's outing. Travelling by coach, they went first to Newland's Corner, a well known picnic place near Guildford with a magnificent view over Surrey and Sussex. Having eaten, they travelled on to St. John the Evangelist, Caterham. There their hosts were Canon and Mrs. Vile, and his branch of the Mother's Union. For some of the party at least it was a meeting of old friends, for Canon Vile used to be priest-in-charge of St. John's some years ago. Curiously enough both churches are eighty years old, and both called St. John's. Although they are in fact dedicated to different St. John's: Caversham's to St. John the Baptist, Caterham's is to the Evangelist. They are, however, very different to look at, not least because the church at Caterham has a church tower.

According to his magazine, they have just completed a Stewardship Renewal Campaign, when not only did a number of people volunteer for a great variety of forms of service, but also the sum of money pledged for each year was increased by £1,000 which should make some people a little envious.

St. John's Hall. As announced last month the present school is to re-open in the New Year as a nursery school and will therefore continue to be available for use by the Church. It will be necessary to refurbish the present hall with new chairs, tables and crockery. Now that the position about the continued use of the school premises is known it should be possible to continue to explore the possibility with the Methodist Church of some partnership in the use of buildings in this area of Caversham, taking into account the needs that are likely to arise through future housing development.

NO ROOM For Everyone

It is seldom that members of the congregation find themselves standing in the churchyard because the church is so crowded but this is what happened on Sunday July 20th at St. Margaret's when the Bishop of Dorchester preached at Evensong. Choir members from St. Peter's and St. Andrew's assisted the choir of St. Margaret's and the church was beautifully decorated. The lessons were read by Mr. J. J. Eyston and Mr. B. A. Martyn-Johns. Before the service about one hundred people attended a garden party in the old Vicarage garden but much to everyone's regret their host Lord Thurlow was in hospital. Tea was served by ladies of the congregation and it was a pleasure to welcome back Mr. and Mrs. Hobday and Mr. and Mrs. Symons.

New Families at St. Peter's

Recent weeks have seen a number of new families moving into the district. Mr. and Mrs. Anstey with their four children have found a warm welcome at 3 St. Peter's Avenue as so many members of the congregation live near to them: they are no strangers to Reading but come here after two years in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Justham with their two boys have moved from Rotherfield Greys to 22 St. Peter's Hill and already feel firmly established in the congregation. And Balmore Drive welcomes two new families each with three children—Mr. and Mrs. Borthwick at No. 60 from Plymouth where Mr. Borthwick has been a sidesman at St. June's and Mr. and Mrs. Philips from Ceylon and more recently Cheshire who have moved into No. 1. To them all a warm welcome is extended.

Harvest Festival. There will be a specially devised children's service at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the Harvest Festival (Sept. 28th) and the Harvest Supper will be held the following evening in Balmore Hall.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

In September there will be several changes among the clergy and ministers of Caversham.

Ewart Wright moves to Bridgwater and Terence Harris arrives as the new Methodist minister. Colin Scott-Dempster leaves to become chaplain of St. Mark and St. John college, Chelsea and Dennis Shaylor will be ordained to serve as a curate of Caversham.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Methodists and Baptists Singing in Cathedral

When the Anglican choirs go to Oxford Cathedral on Saturday September 13th to sing Evensong they will be accompanied by a number of members of the Free Church choirs of Caversham and the first lesson at Evensong will be read by the Rev. Lyn Lewis.

Coaches with members of the different congregations will leave Caversham at 2 p.m. While the choirs have a practice in the cathedral there will be a conducted tour round some of the Oxford colleges for members of the congregation who wish to accompany them. After a picnic tea in the Cathedral garden Evensong will be sung at 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to go by coach should add their name to the lists to be found in the different churches of Caversham. The coaches will be picking up passengers at different points.

St. Andrew's News

The Summer Fair

The most memorable moment of this year's Fair for the Priest in Charge was opening the door of St. Andrew's House when Bishop Trevor Huddleston had rung the bell. There on the doorstep was the Bishop with three West Indian children whom he brought with him from Stepney for an afternoon's outing. To see the Bishop surrounded by these children seemed so typical of everything that is heard and read about him that it seemed worth recording.

Possibly because of the good fortune of having the Bishop at St. Andrew's the Fair was a tremendous success, both financially and as a social occasion. When the final result has been recorded, it will be a few pounds in excess of £450, which was the sum given to Oxfam last year. Once again, thanks and congratulations go to everyone who worked so hard to achieve this result.

It was also a great pleasure to have Father Joe and Mrs. Williamson at the Fair. There have been many requests from all sections of the congregation to have Fr.

Joe at St. Andrew's again so as to hear more about his life and ask him questions. Such an occasion is being planned for a Thursday evening in the autumn.

Miss Gardiner

Many people were pleased to see a photograph of a St. Andrew's figure, Miss G. O. Gardiner, in 'The Times' on July 8th. Miss Gardiner is the Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The Times article described the hospital as 'A Nursing University' and outlined the heavy responsibilities which the Matron of such a hospital has to carry. When off duty Miss Gardiner spends a lot of time with her mother who lives in Harrogate Road.

Harvest Festival—Sept. 28th

In addition to the usual Sunday services there will again be a Children's Gift Service at 3-15 p.m. It is hoped to repeat the successful experiment made last Christmas Eve of having one hymn accompanied by the children themselves, playing their recorders and other instruments. The Harvest Sale will be on Monday September 29th and the Harvest Supper on Saturday October 4th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Chennell who celebrated their ruby wedding on Sunday August 10th.

ST. BARNABAS'

It is always sad at this time of the year to say goodbye to those young people who leave us to start courses at college. Alison Galloway and Margaret Bradley will be greatly missed by the children of the Sunday Club, where they have both given such valuable help during the past years. They both hope to become teachers. David Tigwell, who has been a server for several years, starts at London University in October where he intends to read psychology. St. Barnabas Guide Captain, Janet Aberly, having built up a very happy Company in the past year, moved to Bath in July to take up a new appointment.

They deserve to be thanked very much for the service they have given this Church, and they take with them the best wishes of many people.

Please reserve Friday October 3rd when there will be a Wine and Cheese Party in St. Barnabas Hall. Besides the value and enjoyment these all-too-rare social events bring, it is hoped to raise some money for the renovation of the building.

For those who have young children the next Family Service will be on Sunday, September 21st at 11 a.m.

OXFAM GIFT APPEAL

During the week of September 13th-20th the Oxfam Gift Shop in West Street is hoping to receive a lot of gifts which can be sold from the beginning of October onwards as Christmas gifts.

Those who are interested in giving suitable gifts are invited to bring them along during the Gift week.

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Sept. Sunday Services

ANGLICAN

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9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
11-00 a.m. Matins (Holy Communion 3rd Sunday).
12-15 p.m. Holy Communion 1st Sunday.
6-30 p.m. Evensong

St. John's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.

St. Andrew's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6-30 p.m. Evensong

St. Barnabas

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
6-30 p.m. Evensong

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays).
9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
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8-30 and 10-30 a.m.—Mass.

ROUND THE CLUBS

EMMER GREEN TG

During the past year members of Emmer Green Townswomans Guild have organised competitions, coffee mornings, sales of plants and home-made cakes etc., in an effort to raise the money necessary to pay the fee for a very special speaker. Every-one at the July meeting agreed how worthwhile the efforts had been when Mr. Robert Dougall, the well-known TV announcer and newsreader, spoke to a packed hall of his experiences during the thirty years he has been with the BBC. Mr. Dougall was a most entertaining speaker and after the meeting many members crowded round to get his autograph.

CAVE. AFTERNOON TG

Six visitors were present at the July meeting, when the speaker was Miss Elsie Taylor her subject being "These Foolish Things". Mrs. E. Smith gave a vote of thanks for a very impressive talk.

The informal half hour took the form of the amusing game of "Petticoat Line", the panel consisting of Mesdames D. Eccleston, M. Starkey, E. Fitzeuce and A. Cowland under the chairmanship of Miss E. Barker.

The chairman of the Guild, Mrs. A. Smith, reminded members that a Jumble Sale would be held on October 4th. The Garden Party on July 9th was a great success and a visit to Syon Park was enjoyed by members and friends on June 25th.

New members are wel-

comed and enquiries should be addressed to Mrs. P. Tiffen, Hon. Sec., 37, Peppard Road, Caversham.

BLAGRAVE WI

Although the meeting clashed with the Royal Investiture many members attended the monthly meeting of Blagrove W.I. and enjoyed an interesting and entertaining afternoon, a talk was given by Mr. Didcot from Bamix mixers who also demonstrated its many uses and how simple it was to use, afterwards members enjoyed the many appetizing dishes he had made.

Mrs. Wright the president presided over the meeting and welcomed one new member, birthday posies were also distributed. The county news letter was also read.

Mrs. Moss kindly offered to have a coffee morning the proceeds will be in aid of the Old Peoples party and outing which is to take place in August.

Mrs. Griffith then gave a very descriptive report on the N.F.W.I. annual meeting which was held in the Albert Hall.

A members meeting was arranged for the August meeting and a committee was formed.

Mrs. Moss won the raffle and the flower of the month competition was won by Mrs. Sholl, Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Wright.

MAPLEDURHAM WI

A good attendance of members was at the July meeting to hear Mrs. Bowes give a very interesting talk

on Scandinavia, Finland being especially interesting, as she had lived there for many years.

Arrangements were made for future outings and a rummage sale in aid of WI funds for September.

Mrs. Kathleen Lacey was in the Chair.

JUBILEE CLUB

Once again Mrs. Skinner, a great supporter of the Club, kindly invited the members to hold their July meeting in her lovely garden at Cane End. She provided a wonderful tea and every-one enjoyed a perfect mid-summer afternoon on the shady lawns.

ROSEHILL WI

At the July meeting, the President, Mrs. Green, took the chair and a talk on beauty culture was given by Miss Crerar, from "Elizabeth Arden".

The brooch competition was won by Mrs. Russell. On show were exhibits entered by the Institute in the Craft '69 exhibition in Reading, and which gained for them a total of 122 points.

We record..

Baptized:
St. John's:
July:
13 Gillian Anderton, Darren Scott.

St. Andrew's:
July:
27 Cherry Fowler, Stephen Rumble, Lee Wood.

St. Margaret's:
July:
13 Mark Garrett, Paul Gauntlett.
20 Neil Vincent.

Married:
St. Peter's:
July:
5 John Talmage and Patricia Bosley.
20 Paul Morrison and Patricia Lorenc.
26 Paul Henwood and Adrienne Bailey, Colin Lancaster and Norah Griffin.

St. Andrew's:
July:
26 Paul Wilding and Janet Dicker.

St. Barnabas:
July:
26 Frederick Barnes and Cecily Duffin.

St. Margaret's:
July:
5 Hamish Parker and Diana Bull.
26 Neil Goldsmith and Alice Tinker.

Buried:
St. Andrew's:
July:
11 Noreen Yates.

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Postbag

I am a newcomer from the north and have settled into this delightful area. I am an Anglican and was pleased when a caller introduced the Caversham Bridge.

In the July issue, the opening article on page two criticises our "packaged" way of modern living — in my opinion rightly so, stating "it has bitten deeply into our society—and not only the kitchen". Has it bitten into our religious life?

I welcomed the Bridge as a Christian newspaper; as a newspaper I found it quite good—but Christian? Having read the paper right through I felt there was something missing and suddenly realised I hadn't noticed the name of Jesus in any of the articles. So I read it again hopefully scanning such articles as the leader on Marriage and other articles such as Confirmation, Chris-

tian Aid, Methodism, Parish Reports, etc., but nowhere could I find His Name.

Have we reached the stage when the name of Jesus is no longer "Good News"? Does it have no relevance in this present time of confusion, bewilderment, lawlessness and moral laxity.

On practically every page I found plenty of references on what man can do and exhortations on what he should do, but nothing on what he should believe! The "Instant" article concludes with the consequences of such a life resulting in the impoverished state of our conversation—very true, but I don't think it is helped by having a religion which excludes Jesus Christ from its normal conversation, do you?

Yours, etc.

Wm. T. Abbott.

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Prayers for Pagans by Roger Bush

Roger Bush is an Australian who radio programme "In Between", one mentoring upon the book the Dean of was ordained into the Methodist of the longest running religious pro- St. Paul's the Very Revd. Martin ministry in his early thirties from a grammes in Australia, his name and Sullivan said, "These prayers reflect background of engineering and social voice are familiar to millions. genuine human situations. They are work, and has been specially appointed PRAYERS FOR PAGANS, his first rooted in the life of ordinary people to an experimental ministry in the book, reflects his understanding of who claim no great religious experi- North Sydney area. humanity, and of the loves, hopes ence. They are calls from the heart,

He is particularly well-known as the and fears which are common to people expressed in urgent language and Director-Founder of the Helping Hand the world over. It is the same kind addressed confidently to a God who Mission, which he conducts through of book as the best selling "Prayers understands." the columns of Sydney's Sunday of Life" by Michel Quoist but more Compass will be publishing extracts Mirror. As compere of the weekly down to earth and realistic. In com- from this book in future editions.



'FOR CLYDE'

Well, Lord, she's dead.
Clyde's wife.

And only twenty-five with
but three married years
and babies.

Can you see his loneliness,
Lord?

He wanders about the house
and it's empty.

No, that's not the word.

It's barren.

Where once had flowered
loveliness there's now a
scar.

And the the tearing of the
roots makes his heart
bleeding and raw.

Lord, I haven't the words to
give him.

A handclasp. Yes. That tries
to say all my own heart
contains.

My Compassion. My love,
but no words.

They stick in my throat.
Stuck fast by my own
grief and sorrow.

The vacuum of his future seems to stretch for him in a
chain of empty tomorrows.

Can you tell him, Lord, it won't always be like this?

Can you tell him, Lord, that he's had his gift?

The gift of a pure love in a short life together.

Blooming quickly from bud to flower, and then,
not taken,

but made perfect and stored in all its young loveliness
deep within his very being.

Where nothing can change, or mar.

Can you tell him, Lord, that out of all this pain,

You are there, midst all who watch and wait,

Close by.

To hold, to sustain.

And above all to resurrect the indomitable spirit of man.

Through Thy Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

From Prayers for Pagans by Roger Bush



We built ourselves

this

window

by Colin Freeman

"Young Chronic Sick Unit" was the name given to the new little world I moved into in 1960 when I was no longer healthy enough to live in the normal outside world. The population of this community consisted of about 30 incurably disabled young people, all confined to bed or wheel-chair.

The unit was situated on a lonely road in pretty countryside about a mile outside the small Yorkshire market town of Knaresborough. We certainly appreciated the beauty and tranquillity of our surroundings but the isolation also served to emphasize our severance from the society we had left behind.

"Of course, you have plenty of time to think about these things," commented the hospital chaplain to me one day in 1964 after a brief exchange with him on some topical subject.

NO OPPORTUNITY

"Yes," I replied. "We have the time to think but not the opportunity to discuss."

I explained that we felt far too remote from the world at large and its problems. We were not a part of it. We wished to feel involved but there simply weren't any connecting links.

"A discussion group might provide the solution to your problem," the minister suggested. "You spread the word amongst any interested patients here and meanwhile I will have a chat with some of my flock in Knaresborough. I'm sure that one or two of them would be happy to come up to the hospital."

In this way our first meeting was arranged for one evening in June and our discussion group came into being. That first occasion witnessed six somewhat reticent patients engaged in hesitant conversation with a clergyman, a nurse, an educational welfare officer, an occupational-therapist, a pig-farmer, and the leader of a youth club.

INCONGRUOUS

Such a gathering probing into the rights and wrongs of nuclear disarmament must have presented a rather incongruous scene but to us it meant that the "outside world" had suddenly entered the narrow confines of our Young Chronic Sick Unit.

The discussion was an immediate success and quickly established its permanency. The once-a-month meetings soon became the brightest spot on our calendar and four years later they are now enjoyed with more enthusiasm than ever.

The most obvious consequence has been the increasing participation of the patients in the discussions as our confidence and knowledge expanded. Our subject matter has ranged over an extensive field; from the role of the Church, to abortion law reform. From the war in Vietnam, to the nature of God.

Our awareness and concern for the world about us had developed enormously.

A LINK

Perhaps the richest harvest for us has been the actual physical link that has been forged with the outside world. We feel that the able-bodied members of the discussion group have become our personal friends over the years, and our meetings are now more of a social gathering than a sociological experiment.

But we shall always be grateful to them for helping us to build the window.

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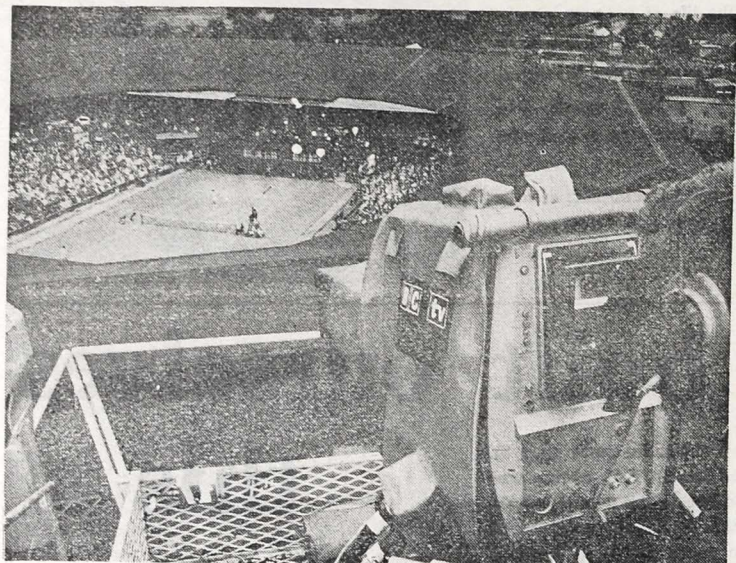
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Television by Diana Dewes

Live—but it's not the 'real thing'

'THE BOX' has a lot to answer for. It has encouraged the change from live involvement into television involvement.

"It's better on the Box," one hears of the race meeting, the tennis championship, the theatre, and the Prince of Wales' Investiture.

To go or not to go?—To be a live spectator at a live occasion—or to stay at home gazing at the familiar little screen?

On the credit side for T.V. is the wide camera coverage with close-up details, an unspoiled front seat view, the informative commentaries.

There is no extra expense, no travelling, no crowds, no adverse weather.

There's the easy chair at home, and unlimited cups of tea!

For the other side—the live occasion—there is the excitement of the expedition, the natural colour, the emotional atmosphere, the physical presence of 'heroes'—be they race-horses, tennis stars, actors, or Royalty. It has the special thrill of reality.

Television shows events as perfectly as possible. In real life we get "warts and all"—delays, and faints, and rain, and being behind a pillar in the theatre.

But it is real life partici-

pation.

Television has changed DOERS into viewers. It is a hobby in itself—a dominating pastime which dampens the enthusiasm for personal interests.

T.V. Devotees kid themselves that, if they watch for long enough, the box will see to it that they they are widely informed and suitably entertained.

Real life hobbies—carpentry, chrysanthos or clarinet—won't be necessary. Eating is fitted in between programmes, and thinking not fitted in at all.

The entire social life of a household may centre around the silly screen, surely partly to blame for the decline of neighbourliness and the 'village' atmosphere, so essential to community in city and country.

CHATTING

Chatting to a neighbour, even knowing one's neighbour, is increasingly uncommon. The local pub or club, with its darts, bowls, cards, dancing, gambling, eating and drinking, has lost some of its pull as a place for entertainment.

Now that a television set for nearly every home has become a commonplace, social life is more domestic than communal in a society which television has helped to change to a stay-at-home community.

FAMILY OLD WIVES' TALES —EVEN AMONG THE EXPERTS

"ABOVE ALL" said the latest bookful of advice for expectant women, "don't listen to old wives' tales."

I didn't. For one thing none seemed to come my way. All the old wives I knew were either sweetly ancient grannies who had lost all interest in the actual process of producing babies or slightly younger and tactfully silent on the subject; for example both my mother and my mother-in-law.

REFUSAL

Their refusal to give any form of good advice, beyond expressing the hope that I was finding time for knitting, was most embarrassing. Obviously my generation, being scientific, emancipated and almost worth equal pay, was supposed to know all the answers.

I wasn't sure that I did. So I collected all the paperback manuals I could find, read them thoroughly, hoped intuition would see me through when two theories conflicted, did the most straightforward of the breathing exercises and practised spelling words like "psychoprophylaxis."

My husband, who is fascinated by the workings of car engines, transferred some of his curiosity as the months passed to our developing baby. Late at night we tended to have earnest physiological discussions which came to no definite conclusions.

MAGAZINES

The knowledge we pooled was derived from medical pamphlets, answers to weird queries in women's magazines and half remembered facts from school biology lessons.

"How does it know when it's time to be born?" asked my husband. I couldn't even hazard a guess about that question. I only hoped the baby had some ideas.

After the fourth false alarm, I arrived somewhat distraught at the doctor's surgery. In my tensed up state I had developed an unreasonable dread of meeting some old wives who might all tell me a few of their tales. But at last in the safety of the surgery I felt that science reigned.

FALSE ALARM

The doctor sat there calmly, while I asked what the resources of modern medicine could do about a reluctant baby. "You know what they say," he murmured. I didn't. "False alarm, fortnight later," he smiled.

Maddeningly "they" were right. Fourteen days later in a happy maternal mood, I forgave the doctor for being old fashioned enough to listen to "them." The best person to consult on this matter, I decided was my sister-in-law.

She had trained at a London teaching hospital, then qualified as a midwife at one of the most advanced maternity units in the country.

YOU KNOW . . .

"Why don't babies arrive on the date they are expected?" I asked. She gazed at her new nephew with all the wisdom that years of nursing experience had given her.

"You know what they say," she replied . . . "lazy boy."

Diana Downing

wonders why

her generation

is supposed to

know all

the answers

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FOCUS



Sport - sort of — by Ernest Adkins

IT IS CONFIDENTLY predicted by devotees of the sport that Dwile Flonking will rapidly replace cricket as our national sport.

If your knowledge of this ancient game is somewhat limited I will try and explain.

Dressed in frock coats and gum boots there are two teams of 12, the one team electing to girt and the other to flonk.

At the off a flonker leaps forward brandishing a two foot rod — his dribbling stick—on top of which is balanced his dioule—a beer soaked rag.

The rival team the girters then proceed to dance round the flonker tempting him to cast his dwile or snerd.

DIRECT HIT

Each flonker is allowed two snerds, collecting points for a direct hit.

Should the flonker fail to score he is called upon to drain a chamber pot of ale before the game continues. Failure on the part of the flonker to perform this most arduous of tasks results in a deduction of points.

This quaint pastime is seen at its best when you have two teams equally inexpert at the art of flonking. The vessel containing the ale is then in constant use, resulting in the game running to extra time.

If at this juncture there is no one on either side with a clear idea of the score the team with the most

How two teams girt and flonk their dwiles

I was privileged to serve with the self styled shinning champion of Tyneside Paratrooper John 'Tanky' Avery.

This ancient sport played on the slag heaps couldn't be more simple. A circle six feet in diameter is marked out and occupied by ten contestants wearing heavy miner's boots.

At a given signal the ten start kicking at anything inside the circle below knee level.

The first one to leave the circle is not only branded a cissy but has to buy a round of drinks for the remaining nine.

Tanky's claim to fame was that he never bought a drink from the time he left school until he joined the army.

An attempt was made to channel Tanky's remarkable talent to proper use on the football field.

He became not so much a sweeper up at the back as a destroyer.

DISREGARD

His total disregard for the ball plus his instinctive ability to immobilise anything moving above ground level, earned him the sort of respect normally reserved for someone known to be radioactive.

Unable always to discern friend or foe a promising career came to an abrupt end with the scything down of his own goalkeeper.

I shall forego the obvious delights of shinning, in order to apply myself to the more arduous art of Dwile Flonking.

members still standing is deemed the winner.

POSSIBILITIES

As a spectator sport the game has distinct possibilities. An Eton and Harrow Dwile Flonking at Lords would I am sure be a great tourist attraction ranking with the trooping of the colours and the Eisteddfod. Another old English sport now outlawed was shinning.

COMPASS U. T. SEPTEMBER, 1969—7



Junior Compass by Brenda Holloway



Figure this out!

Ask a friend to write on a piece of paper any two numbers from 1 to 9. Next ask him to double any one of these, and add 5 to the result. Then he must multiply the result by 5 and add the other figure. Now ask him to tell you the total, and you should be able to tell him the numbers he first thought of. This is done by subtracting 25 from the total, the result being the two original figures.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

How many countries are named in this list?

FRANCE, MEXICO, PERSIA, SWEDEN, AFRICA, TURKEY.

If you said six, you're wrong! Take one letter from each of the six countries and you will have a seventh country.

(Answer below).

Try it out on your family and friends.

EVER THOUGHT OF THIS?

When he was a boy Jesus had to learn about figures and measurements, and angles, and straight lines, and how to work things out. He wasn't born knowing it all.

Our English translation in the New Testament says that Jesus was a carpenter, but the original Greek word used was *tekton*, which means more than a carpenter. It was also used for a worker in stone. The Aramaic word (Aramaic was the language Jesus probably spoke at home) means **carpenter and builder**.

Amongst his tools would be an **adze**, still used by carpenters today, and a **plumbline**. (Look these two words up in a dictionary.) How do we know? Because a first century tombstone has been found and on it are pictures of a carpenter's tools.

MAKE A BILL-HEAD

Ask if you can see the printing at the top of a builder's bill. At the top it has his name and address printed in bold letters, and it usually tells you the kind of work he undertakes, such as "roofs repaired" "bathrooms installed", "plumber". This is called the bill-head. Make a bill-head that Jesus might have used. Head it

JESUS NAZARETH

Carpenter and Builder

Then look up these articles that he may have made, because it sounds as if he knew quite a lot about them.

Ploughs, yokes—Matthew 11, verses 29, 30.

Lampstands—Matthew 5, verses 15, 16.

Houses—Matthew 7, verses 24—27.

Barns—Luke 12, verses 16—21

Add suitable wording to the bill-head.

THEY SOUND THE SAME

Fill in the blanks with words which sound the same but are not always spelt the same.

The carpenter, still holding his largest, looked up as the swooped over the tree and landed on the

Leaning against the of the tree, Gerald watched a go down the river and heard in the distance the of a dog.

Looking up at the branches of the trees, black against the sky, the young man felt he could not to shoot so noble an animal as a

(Answers below).

Answers to puzzles:

The seventh country is NORWAY.

They sound the same: Plane; plain. Bark, barque. Bare, bear.

COMPASS CLUB

Sally Johnston of Reading has sent us this story.

?8414 L5J 5 C5CC5 245I. 5 A5AA5 245I 5BX 5 252Q 245I. ?84 A5AA3 85X 5 615B*34 K51785B I4Y9IX. ?84 C5CC5 85X 5 Y1574 96 244I. 5BX ?84 252Q 5 C5Y*4? 96 Y37514?24J. 9B4 X5Q ?84Q L4B? 91?. L84B ?84Q Y5A4 25Y* ?84Q J53X "L8414J AQ I4Y9IX". "L8414J AQ 244I". 5BX "L8414 514 AQ Y37514?24J". 91? 96 5 89T4 Y5A4 5 A91J4 JA9*3B7 5 Y37514?24 84 J5B7 "73 A4 ?84 A99BT378?".

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COMPASS CLUB

Enrolment Form

Date 19.....

Please make me a member of the Compass Club. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for my secret code and welcome letter.

FULL NAME

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Members of the Preston Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society at Prestatyn Holiday Camp.

SINCE JANUARY of this year there have been three cases, at Enfield, Lincoln and Clifton, of women crippled with Multiple Sclerosis, who died alone and helpless in fires in their own homes.

These deaths have urged on the Multiple Sclerosis Society in its appeal for £500,000 to build residential family units with full facilities for the handicapped and with provision for some to live with their families. The first two of these centres are planned for Bromley in Kent and Manchester.

They are needed because Multiple Sclerosis sufferers form one third of the young chronic sick at present confined to geriatric wards with old and senile patients.

PARALYSIS

Multiple Sclerosis (sometimes known as Disseminated Sclerosis) is a disease of the central nervous system which produces varying degrees of paralysis and eye trouble. It normally attacks people between the ages of 15 and 36. There are about 50,000 sufferers today in the U.K., the majority of whom are between the ages of 40 and 60.

The disease strikes apparently healthy people without warning. Its cause is unknown—it is not infectious or hereditary—and there is as yet no specific cure.

This explains why the Society, founded in 1953 by Richard Cave, M.V.O., K.S.G., Senior Clerk at the House of Lords whose wife suffers from the disease, has made available some £390,000 for medical research, as well as a similar amount for its welfare services.

PARENTS

These services are particularly needed because of the large number of parents of young families affected by Multiple Sclerosis. Often total paralysis follows the onset of the disease, though in other cases there may be only slight attacks interrupting otherwise normal living.

A high proportion of the local welfare care is undertaken by the Society's branches. In 1954 there were 8 of these. Now there are 160 in different areas of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All these branches are run by voluntary effort and carry out a variety of activities to alleviate suffering and to raise the much-needed funds.

To a man struck down early in his career and suddenly forced to lower his standard of living; to a housewife helpless on her own for long periods in the daytime these branches hold out new hope.

NEW ERA

The establishment of the residential and day-care centres will mark a new era of encouragement for 50,000 people and their families.

The Society hopes that its work will point the way for others, and particularly local authorities, will follow suit.

HELP US TO PREVENT FAMILIES BREAKING UP

The Multiple Sclerosis Society is making an appeal for £500,000 for the general aims and objects of the Society *with particular emphasis on providing purpose-built houses near to day-care centres* in order that families who have one of their members with progressively paralysing MS can be kept together. So often the only alternative is a home or hospital geriatric ward. In this way we hope to meet the problem so that the MS sufferer can be cared for during the day, ensuring that the family is not broken up.

MS WEEK — 26th OCTOBER — 1st NOVEMBER

The Society's appeal culminates with "MS Week" which is to take place between October 26th and November 1st, 1969. The Society appeals to all churches to support it in this worthwhile object. Letters have been sent to all church leaders asking for help in any of the following ways:

By making The Multiple Sclerosis Society one of the beneficiaries from your Church's normal donations to Charity.

By organising a special collection among members of your Church during "MS Week"—on Sunday, 26th October, 1969.

By making members of your Church aware of the problems which face people with MS, possibly through a sermon.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FULLEST SUPPORT

Further details of the Society's work, a list of the 160 nationwide voluntary Branches, literature and posters are available from:



THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

4 Tachbrook Street
London SW1

Tel: 01-834 8231