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December 1969

# CHRISTMAS



God sent his own son  
born of a woman



## SOAPBOX



# Peace on earth, goodwill towards men



PEACE on earth, goodwill towards men — that's what we sing about at Christmas.

But take a cool look round the world. There doesn't seem to be much of peace and goodwill in the dealing of nation with nation, of race with race. All seems to be cruelty, suspicion, double dealing and the rule of force.

It isn't surprising that some people think that the warm cosiness of the Christmas story belongs to the realm of fairy tale and not to the world of reality. Peace on earth? What a laugh.

But for every person who reacts to this contradiction with a sad shrug of the shoulders and a wry smile there is someone who is savagely angry. Angry at the apparent hypocrisy of it all; angry at the two-faced Christian Church that sings and talks about peace and yet is hand-in-glove with all the agencies that produce war and suffering.

## DESERTION

One of these angry men is Carl Foreman the film director. Our picture is a still from his film "The Victors." A young American soldier is being shot by his own side for desertion. Before he is killed the chaplain steps forward and gives him absolution. The background music to the whole of the scene is a sentimental Christmas song. When the shots have rung out and the body has slumped on the post a choir bursts out with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" . . . "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled."

This is one man's protest against the hypocrisy of the Church.

And yet we would argue that both Carl Foreman and Christmas song writers over simplify and ignore the realities of the world and human nature. They both assume that the world is a place of simple problems and that man can easily be good.

Christianity at its best is more realistic. It recognizes that man is full of moral weakness. That he is not capable of always making the right choices. That he does not live up to the best that he knows. That our results are always likely to be shoddier than we should like them to be

## IMPERFECT

Carl Foreman assumes that if Christians teach love — then they should love, all the time and without mistakes, and he ignores the fact that Christian love has to be lived out in an imperfect world by imperfect people. It will not survive undamaged.

Better the chaplain present at the execution than no assurance of acceptance and forgiveness. Better the one day truce on Christmas Day in the middle of a bloody war than no truce at all. Better the struggling Christian witness to the love of God in a hostile world, feeble as it may seem to many, than no witness at all.

The peace and goodwill of Christmas is something God gives to us. He comes to us at Bethlehem in patience and forgiveness in the middle of our confused, blundering attempts to do the right thing. We distort that peace and goodwill, because of our imperfect humanity and it is only the woolly-minded sentimentalists who think that things can be otherwise.

## Letter

## The way we use our money

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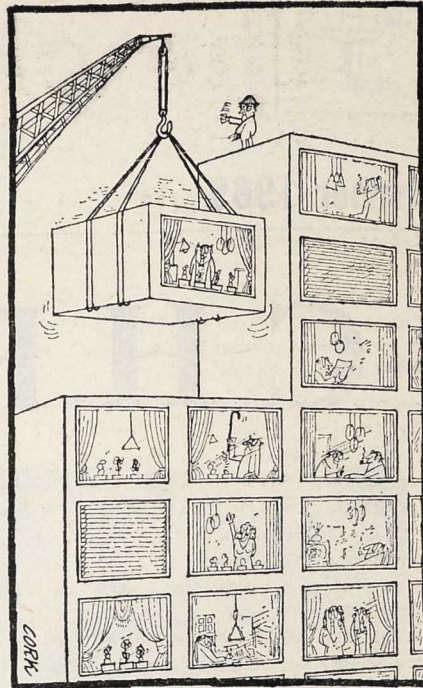
I often wonder if we are doing the right thing by spending so much on church buildings! Do not think for one moment that I do not love beautiful churches, and feel inspired when viewing them, but when I think of the elderly and lonely, I wonder if it would be possible to have less exotic churches, spending some money in building "Alms" houses on ground adjacent.

Here, perhaps, the elderly and lonely, could be housed, near to the church, making attending services possible, also churchgoers could 'pop' in and visit, when attending church.

Some churches do something similar, why not us? Mrs. Iris Hughes, 28 April Croft, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

## Good for a laugh

AC-92



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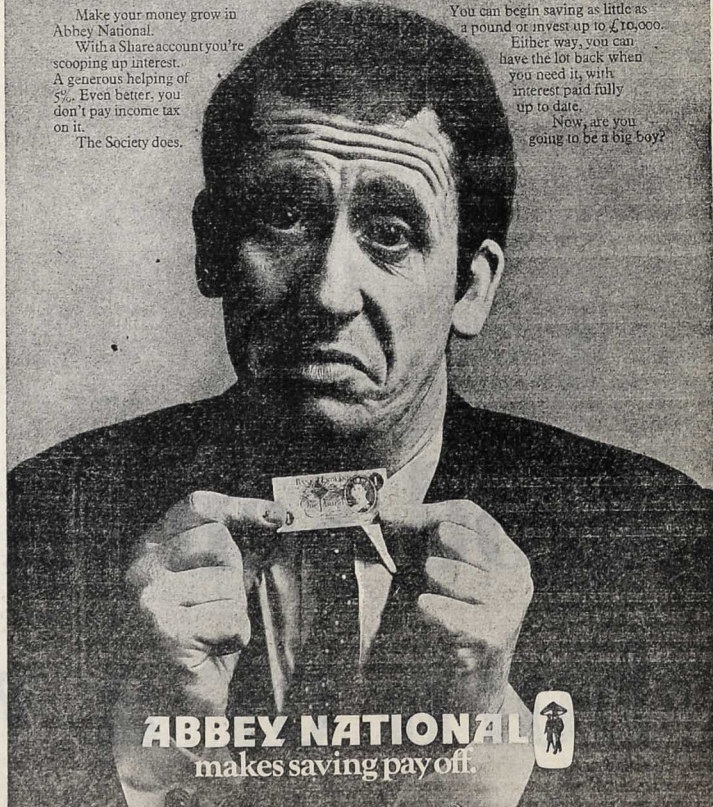
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# Christmas cards— the changing fashion

BY DIANA  
ANDERSON

Brilliant time saving devices are usually discovered by lazy people.

So it was with Sir Henry Cole, an eminent Londoner when he sat face to face with the problem of writing his annual Christmas letters, one hundred and twenty five years ago.

Immersed in the planning of the Victoria and Albert museum, there was no time left for correspondence, so he hit on the plan of greeting his friends with a picture instead. He commissioned Sir John Horsley, R.A. as designer of what became the first Christmas card, in 1843.

The hand coloured card depicted a banqueting group framed in ivy coloured trellis and bearing the legend . . . "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" . . . a popular motto today.

Most of the thousand cards printed went on sale at today's equivalent rate of £3 for half a dozen—little wonder the idea failed to catch on!—and for many years only the wealthy could send cards.

## OVERSEAS

It was not until the second world war that Christmas cards really came into their own. With husbands overseas, children evacuated, and families generally disrupted, never before did Christmas contacts assume such importance. Today, during the Christmas season, 70 million cards a day are sent.

Originally the prerogative of the wealthy, cards gradually came within reach of the man in the street. At this stage, efforts were made to restore it to its former status, so cards became more decorative and expensive, with glitter, silks and satins.

Samples of this lavish period can still be found in many attic trunks and memory boxes. Cards containing handkerchiefs or similar gifts were briefly popular, but fell from favour and were succeeded by more dignified standards. The forerunner of our present series then emerged . . . simple folded cards displaying the customary winter scenes inscribed with a suitable message. Lord Tennyson turned down a £1,000 offer to supply a festive lyric.

In recent years, reaction against the commercialisation of Christmas has brought forth a sharp increase in the volume of religious cards.

It soon became the fashion to have cards specially printed, leaving only the final touch of signature. Even this personal effort became superfluous in time and all that remained was addressing the envelope.

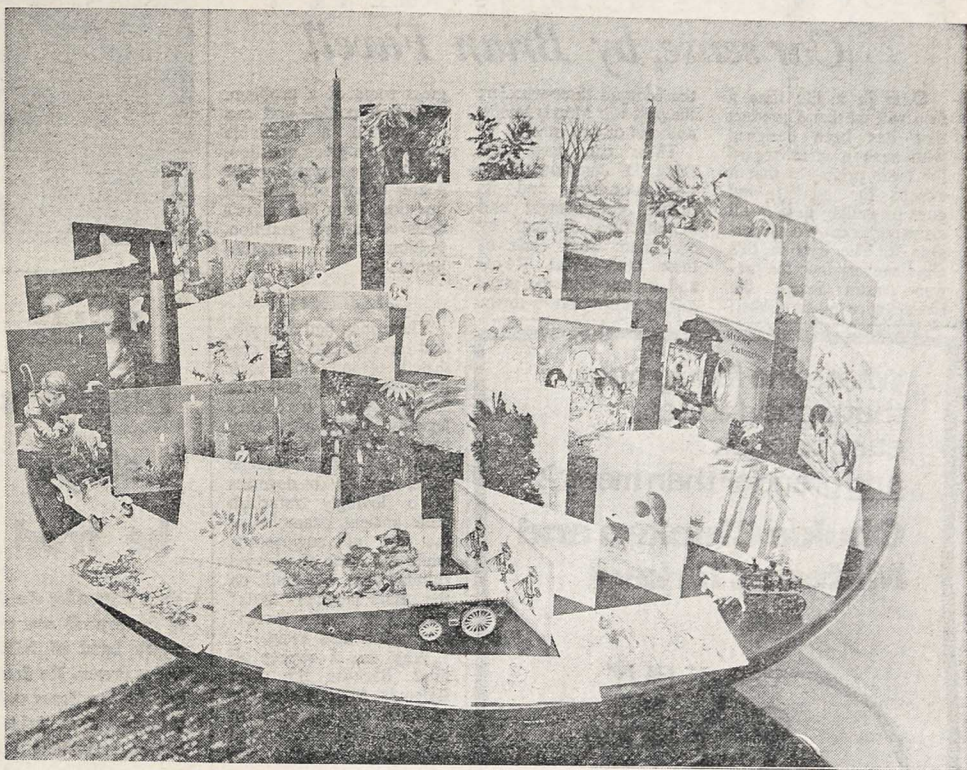
## BIG BUSINESS

Christmas cards were now big business and charitable organisations, to augment their income, entered the field.

At home and abroad the poor, the sick, and the handicapped began to benefit. In a small way at first, for the margin of profit was small. House to house marketing by volunteer workers increased this margin, angering many traders.

Perhaps today television has made us so aware of the necessity for involvement with the underprivileged that nowadays people donate that which would have been spent on cards to charity.

EVEN SO CHRISTMAS CARDS CONTINUE TO RELIEVE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND HENRY COLE GOES DOWN IN HISTORY AS AN UNWITTING BENEFACTOR OF THE HUMAN RACE.



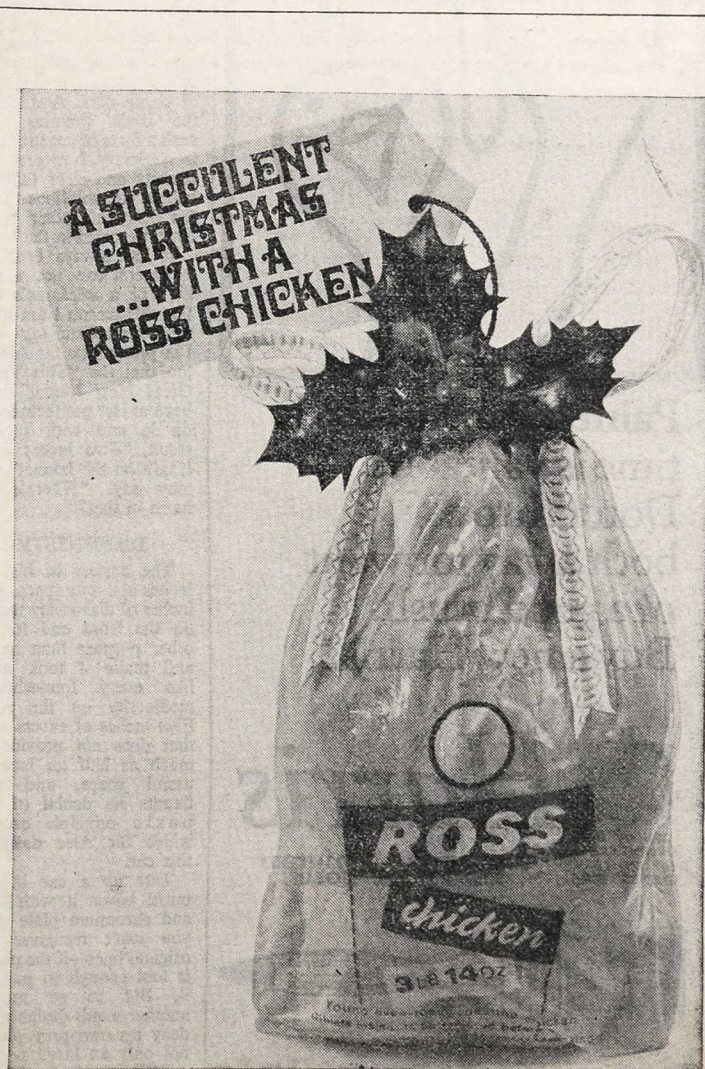
## AN AID CARD THAT REALLY AIDS

A small brown paper Christmas Card is being sold by Christian Aid this year. Produced for fractionally over 1d. it sells for sixpence.

Christian Aid have opted out of the traditional, expensively produced card market, because of decreasing profits (they were never big). The public assume that most of the money from charity cards goes to the cause, but this is most often untrue.

The Director of Christian Aid, The Rev. Alan Brash says "If you want an artistic Christmas card of high quality, there are plenty on the market. But we were concerned to produce a card for people who want to send a Christmas greeting, but in doing so also want the world's poor to benefit materially."

Many enquiries have been received from prominent churchmen. And one commercial firm wants 10,000. Orders go to Christian Aid, Cards, 58 Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwicks.





# HOW DARE THEY DO THIS TO THE LOVELY MINI?

*Car sense, by Brian Favell*

Once in a life time a firm will market a product that has been designed with such a clear regard for basic principles that it sweeps the market—and goes on selling despite all attempts to copy or supersede it. The cars in this class are very few: the pre-war Austin Seven; the Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost;

the Morgan three-wheeler; the post-war Morris Minor, and one or two others.

These cars have one thing in common. Each was conceived, and its design, development and manufacture directed by one man. And each of these men—Ford, Royce and so on—had the great gift of getting down to the

grass roots of a problem. Any fool could—and can—produce a workable answer to a given question, but it takes something like genius to sort out the right question from the mare's nests of custom, tradition, fashion and mumbo-jumbo.

## LEGENDS

These men had that gift, and the cars that they produced, despite all their flaws (and they still had some) have become legends. Long after they have gone out of production they have become cults, each with devotees who lovingly refurbish their ancient examples of the art of engineering, while the mass of wheeled rubbish that was built on the altars labelled "Style" and "This year's model" rots unlamented away.

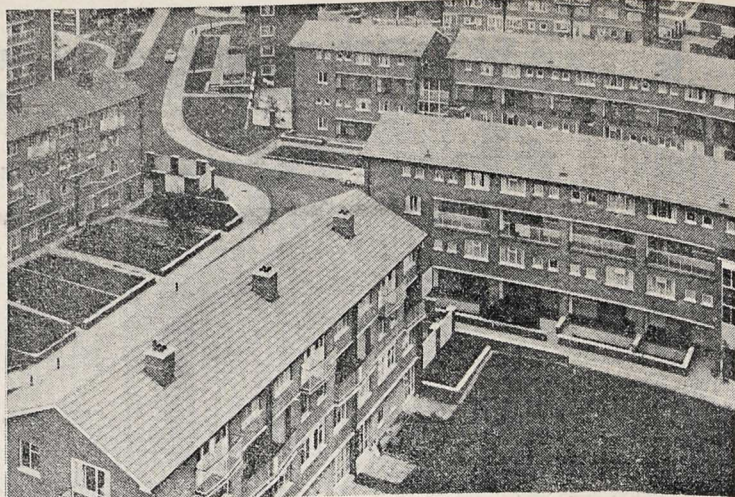
Why am I saying all this? Because Sir Alec Issigonis' Mini is also one of these rare products of an individual artistic and engineering (they're the same thing really) genius. Although I have a prejudice against tin boxes I am well aware of the pressures which bring them into being—at least in the field of cheap cars. And given the basic premise that such a form of construction is necessary I respect the honesty and clear thought behind the solutions to all the designer's other problems, apparent in the Mini.

It has always been an engineer's car, not a stylist's or a salesman's car. For this reason I am more upset than I can say—and I'm pretty sure Sir Alec is too—that the "This Year's Great New Model" boys have at last got their hands on it, and with such a result. "Five inches extra length on the bonnet" you may say. "Where's the harm in that?"

## DISHONESTY

The answer is, it's five inches of empty space. Five inches of dishonesty tacked on the front end for no other purpose than to try and make it look more like every four-wheeled mediocrity on the road. Five inches of excess steel that does not provide so much as half an inch of useful space, and that flaunts its denial of the basic principle around which Sir Alec designed this car.

Tart up a car if you must: cover it with trim and chromium plate until you can't recognise the original lines—if the public is fool enough to pay for it. But to so modify another man's design as to deny his own principles is not only an insult to him—it's a tragedy for the rest of us.



# Riches all around

*By Bernard Evans*

**In his Master's steps he trod**

A short time after the death of St. Francis one of the saint's band of followers had a dream. He dreamed that he saw Jesus walking through the fields of heaven, making footprints as he went, for it had been snowing.

A great crowd of people—men and women, old and young, from many nations—were following Jesus and trying to place their feet in the foot-marks made by Jesus in the snow. The people in the crowd were concentrating very hard on their task. They had their eyes on the ground, looking for the footprints.

They were referring to books which told them the rules for following in the steps of Jesus. They were asking each others' advice and shouting instructions to each other. Yet, despite all their efforts they were making a very poor showing and very few feet in the crowd were fitting in the foot-prints of Jesus.

## CASUAL

At the back of the crowd the dreamer saw the figure of St. Francis. He was not paying much attention to those around him, his bearing seemed almost casual and his eyes, far from being on the ground, were lifted ahead to the figure of Jesus. And as he walked he sang a song telling of the love of Jesus which he had known in his life.

It was the feet of St. Francis which fitted most exactly in the footprints of his Master.

Newly arrived on a housing estate as cheerless and cold as the neighbours we had acquired, I sat worrying about my wife recovering in hospital.

I was unwilling to ask for help from these unfriendly people and arranged for a baby-sitter from some distance away to look after our three-year old son while I went to the hospital. My wife had just had a still-born daughter, and she would need all the help I could give.

The kitchen was in need of my attention as I left that evening, for in four days it, and the rest of the house, had lost much of the neatness my wife had given to it. But there wasn't the time or inclination with so much emotional pressure; all I could do was rush to the hospital before visiting hour ended.

That moment came all too soon, and full of the sadness of the short talk with my wife I came home. At that time I would have given a great deal for a neighbour or friend to listen to me. Unlikely to find them, I thought, in this cold road, with its insular people who had no time for strangers.

As I turned the key, the loud murmur of voices quickened my actions. It was just like that silly young girl to leave the television set on too loud; that was a sure way to disturb my son.

## STOPPED IN WONDER

He had already been disturbed, and so had the house itself, for as I stopped in wonder it seemed that everyone in our road was there. Hesitantly, with uncertain smiles, they stood in the now-spotless kitchen. Here was Mrs. Carswell—how aloof she had appeared—lovingly holding my son, and over there the "woman who never has a word for us," Mrs. Taylor, was smiling and preparing coffee for me.

How they had all learned of my troubles I never knew. It didn't matter. As well as I could I thanked them, all of them, for what they had done. Unasked, they had seen what I had been too blind to see: that if we are to acquire friends we must be ready to be friends ourselves, that to have neighbours we have to give them the chance to be neighbours.

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IN CAVERSHAM

No. 63

December 1969

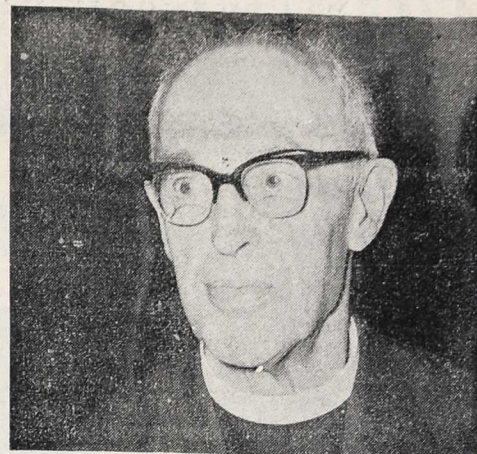
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## CANON NASH

The Caversham Bridge regrets to record the death of Canon Nash, Rector of Caversham 1943-1962. We print on this page impressions of him by three who were his colleagues in Caversham in different capacities, as churchwarden, as choirmaster and organist, as curate.

The funeral was held at Bray Parish Church on Tuesday, November 11th. A large congregation filled the church; as some seventy people from Caversham were present, and also six of Canon Nash's former curates at Caversham. Choirmen from Caversham sang at the service which was conducted by the Rev. S. Doran, Vicar of Bray and himself a former priest-in-charge of St. Andrews. The Bishop of Reading in his address spoke of the faithful ministry of Canon Nash which lasted fifty one years: it was spent mostly in Reading but included also work in Egypt. Earlier in the day Requiem Eucharists were celebrated at Bray and at Caversham Parish Church and on the evening of the funeral a half-muffled peal was rung by the Caversham Band of Ringers.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1969—ONE



### FRIENDSHIP

Perhaps one of the marks of real maturity is the grace to remain youthful in spirit, while growing old and infirm in the body. Canon Nash had that grace, and it was always a joy to see the warmth with which he identified himself with the younger members of the parish. They sensed his sincere concern and affection, and responded to him, in spite of the age barrier. Older people sometimes found him reserved, the symptom of a shyness which he never completely overcame—yet those who were able to meet him halfway found a sincere, wise friend and counsellor.

Scouting, Freemasonry, and the priesthood together formed the framework of his life, built on the foundation of a strong Christian faith; to that Faith he brought far more men, women and children than he can ever have known. Humility, painstaking attention to detail, consideration for others, a gentle sense of humour (yet firmness when necessary)—these are among the qualities we shall remember, as we commend Harold Hewitson Nash to the love and mercy of the Lord whom he served so faithfully to the end. We thank God for his friendship and ministry among us. His reward is in close communion with the Lord he loves and serves.

G.L.W.A.

### MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE

My first impression of Canon Nash on my appointment as organist at Earley was his great musical knowledge and very keen ear. If one played anything in a key other than that written, he knew and would say so. His standard was very high, disliking anything of an inferior sentimentality.

I owe much to his great help and friendship, having taught me a tremendous lot about church music and its rendering. Canon Nash was no mean organist and could in fact take over the organ stool at any time, having quite a wide knowledge of organs and organ builders.

When he appointed me at Caversham I knew he had visions of a really fine organ for our church and was very disappointed that the rebuilding of the instrument commenced in 1947 was never completed.

With the passing of the Canon I feel I have lost a good friend, a very wise counsellor and one who has helped me with my musical life for over 30 years.

R.J.B.

## NOISE

*It is almost impossible to stand on the pavement of a main street in Caversham during business hours and carry on a conversation with anyone. Noise is I believe one of the curses of our industrial society, and the lorries which come through Caversham in ever increasing numbers are causing distress to many people. It is not only the central areas of Church Street and Prospect Street that are noisy. The inhabitants of Gosbrook Road, Peppard Road, Henley Road, St. Peter's Hill and Woodcote Road are all suffering from the growing volume of traffic which often wakes people up in the small hours of the night. Hemdean Road and Rotherfield Way have lost their peace. The Bishop of Chester and the other signatories of a recent letter in the Times spoke for many people when they expressed alarm at the prospect of even larger lorries.*

But the blame for noise must not just be put upon the lorry; the motor-cycle can make a more intense noise, and so can many a car. One difficulty is that although there is legislation it is practically impossible for the police to prosecute because of the difficulty of obtaining reliable evidence. But if radar can be used to detect the speeding vehicle it would surely seem possible to devise some accurate way of measuring the decibels that a noisy vehicle produces.

We all benefit in many ways from the lorry as a carrier of goods, and we must accept the fact that the lorry has come to stay. But we need not accept the inevitability of the noise which it causes. Modern research ought to be able to find ways of reducing the noise.

We must not of course forget that noise is by no means confined to our roads. The river at Reading has in the summer lost much of its charm because of the noise made by many small craft, and the home which takes advantage of modern inventions has become a noisy place—the electric carpet sweeper and all the gadgets in our kitchens add greatly to the constant background of noise. These inventions save the housewife work but they impose a new form of strain.

Surrounded as most of us are by noise through much of the day, and even of the night, it is not surprising that we are anxious to get away from it whenever possible. I recently spent forty-eight hours in a small Cotswold village and the thing that struck me most was the peace and quiet. And noise is not only exhausting—it also stops us thinking.

The Bible has a good deal to say about silence.

Men and women need to be able to find silence because God often speaks to us at such times. And so the noise of modern society stops many people from discovering God and from coming to terms with themselves. And the irony is that this is precisely why some people like noise—because it saves them from themselves.

In this age of noise the witness of the Society of Friends to silence in worship has an added importance. To-day when so many Churches are revising their forms of worship it is hoped that there will be time provided for silence. All of us need times when we can be alert and silent, and the corporate silence of many people gathered together can be very meaningful. Above all the Church should bear witness to the positive value of silence when the world around us gets noisier and noisier.

*John Grimwade*

### BETTER AND HAPPIER

The news of the death of the Reverend Canon H. Hewitson Nash in the Royal Masonic Hospital on the 5th November will have come as a great shock to many people in Caversham, as he had only been ill just over three weeks.

Canon Nash came to Caversham as Rector in 1943, having previously been Vicar of Earley and he remained in Caversham for nineteen years until his retirement in 1962, when he was appointed Chaplain to Jesus Hospital at Bray. In 1955 he was appointed Rural Dean of Reading and in 1957 an Honorary Canon of Christ Church, Oxford.

His kindly disposition was allied to a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of the people of Caversham, to whom he gave such devoted service and he will be remembered with love and affection by very many Caversham people.

He had a keen sense of humour and was always ready with an appropriate story for any occasion and was bright and cheerful right up to the day of his death.

Canon Nash was also well known and well loved in Masonic circles, being Past Master of the Lodge of Union, Past Master of O'd Rectory Lodge and Chaplain of Caversham Lodge.

There is no doubt that Caversham is a better and happier place as a result of his ministry here.

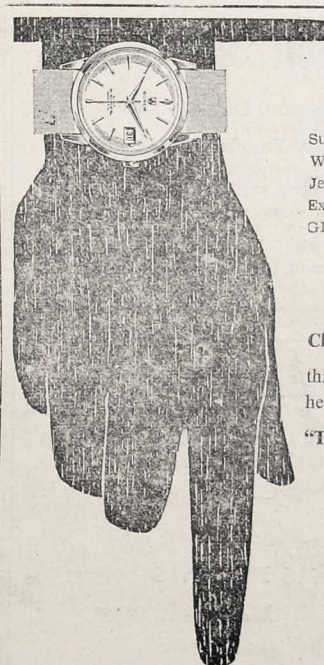
C.V.B.

### IN FOR A PENNY IN FOR A POUND

I am grateful to one lover of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas for telling me of my mistake last month. I wrongly attributed the remark "Nothing venture, nothing win" to Jack Point in the Yeoman of the Guard. In fact these words occur in the finale of Iolanthe.

"Nothing venture, nothing win—  
Blood is thick, but water's thin—  
In for a penny, in for a pound—  
It's love that makes the world go round."

J.G.G.



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## THE ATKINSON FAMILY



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The Rev. Peter Atkinson will be starting his duties as priest-in-charge of St. John's on Sunday November 30th. A north countryman, he was born among the coal fields of Co. Durham and took his degree in history at University College, Durham, where he also found time to row. He worked for six months as an orderly in geriatric hospital. "I regard this", he says "as the beginning of my

education", he is particularly interested in hospital work. Before going to Lincoln Theological College (where three other members of the staff of Caversham parish were trained) he worked for a time as a layman in a Sunderland parish. While a student at Lincoln he went for a week on a visit to the Baptist College at South Norwood, and it was in the local Anglican Church at Norwood that he met his wife.

### CINEMA FAN

Anne Atkinson trained at Battersea Training College and has taught domestic science. The Atkinsons were married in 1966 and have one son, Richard now aged two. Mr. Atkinson has been at St. George's, Beckenham since he was ordained in 1965. Among other things he is a cinema fan which in addition to the enjoyment it brings he finds a valuable source of sermon material.

## ROVING REPORTER

I am sorry to have to report the death of Eric Hester of Banbury Gardens in October. As 'Bridge' readers will know, he and his wife have recently been visiting members of their family in the USA and in Canada, where he was taken ill. After being flown home he was in Battle Hospital for several weeks before his death. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

And St. Anne's lost one of its most faithful members in October with the death of Francis Angers of South View Avenue. In recent years illness prevented him from joining many of his usual activities, but in the last two years he was a very welcome member of one of our local Lent house groups. We extend our sympathy to his wife at this time.

I have been asked to say something about play groups in this column. It has come to the notice of some 'Bridge' readers that a rumour is going round in certain quarters in Caversham and Reading that these are a very lucrative private enterprise.

It will be remembered by most 'Bridge' readers that some time ago we ran a feature article on play groups. At that time it was very obvious to our reporter that most of the organisers of these groups were financially out of pocket, especially when one considered the enormous amount of time they put into the schemes, time in which most of these women could have been earning a good hourly wage. Nothing has come to light since to alter that opinion, but we hope within the next few months to go into the subject more thoroughly and produce facts and figures.

In the meantime, please bear in mind that these groups have absolutely nothing in common with those people — fortunately apparently few in our area—who are cashing in as 'baby-minders'.

I was pleased to have news, via Mr. Cox, of both Miss Bone and Miss Henegulph. Miss Bone is at present nursing her brother-in-law at Winnersh, and Miss Henegulph is enjoying her retirement very much. We look forward to hearing further from them, and do remind our readers how grateful we will be for any news of people like these two who have left the district.

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## Mr. & Mrs. Caleb Smith



W. M. Mills.

Married at St. Barnabas Church early in October was May Burger, a very popular member of the Emmer Green community and, until recently, a member of the BBC staff, first at Caversham and latterly in London. May, whose mother was married to Mr. Pilgrim the day before her own wedding, will be well known as a member of the choir of St. Barnabas and a member of the congregation for many years.

Her husband, Caleb Smith, an agricultural engineer, comes from Woodcote where he has been involved for many years with the village club and the cricket club, at present as Treasurer and captain of the second eleven; he has just relinquished Committee membership of the Community Club after twenty years.

It was a very charming wedding, with Miss Ruth Morton making a most attractive young bridesmaid. May and her husband have settled down at Chalgrove Way and we look forward to having them as members of our local community for many years to come.



# Caversham "signs-in" for world development

## WHAT SORT OF A WORLD DO YOU WANT?

A world in which the rich hold grimly to their rising pay packets and only toss the small change to the poor? A world founded on injustice, inequality and hatred? A world of Dives and Lazarus?

Or a world working towards justice and prosperity for all? Where all people have food and shelter and the opportunity to grow to full humanity?

There was a time in this country when a few people were very rich and most were very poor. It took us a long time to learn that, instead of fighting over a small cake, we can all be better off by co-operating to bake a larger cake.

But the same is true on a world-wide scale. We can't sell our computers or

*Do you believe that more must be done to relieve world poverty?  
Yes? Then you will have the chance to do something about it this month — not by giving more yourself, but by taking part in a national sign-in to show the Government that we want it to live up to its responsibilities in world development.  
No? Then read and ponder the article and the facts set out on this page.*

machine tools or power stations to people whose society is too primitive to have need of them. We can't even sell the simplest agricultural equipment to people who have not the money to buy it and who cannot trade with us on fair terms.

★ **Aid means helping nations to stand on their own feet.**

★ **Aid means support of education and training programmes, and the development of agriculture, technology and communications that are appropriate to each country.**

★ **Aid means supplying the necessary foundations on which a nation can build a stable economy that**

can hold its own in the world.

## TRADE MATTERS TOO

Aid—in both money and people—is essential to world development, but as the sign-in declaration indicates, it is not enough by itself.

One way in which countries can grow in prosperity is through overseas trade. But at present the rules of the trading game are rigged against countries that can only export primary products like food, which are subject to widely fluctuating prices.

Trade agreements can help to stabilize prices and create a fairer situation for primary

producers. Other ways in which they can be enabled to earn a higher and steadier income are, for example, to allow local processing of food products (e.g. instant coffee) and to encourage diversification into manufactured goods.

The rich countries at present can, and do, discourage this sort of development because it competes directly with their own industries. We in this country are already going through a redeployment of people from less profitable to more profitable industries, and this uncomfortable process will have to continue, both for our own prosperity and to make room for the products of developing countries.

## WHY A SIGN-IN?

Overseas aid will not be treated as a priority by any Government unless it is seen to be a matter of importance to a large minority of the electorate. The sign-in will show M.P.s. all over the country that a significant number of their constituents are sufficiently concerned about world development to commit themselves to a declaration about it.

The Sign-In, and the thoughts behind it, can be seen as an important part of the Caversham Mayday Week programme of mass education about world poverty in the months preceding Mayday Week itself.

A declaration now is particularly timely because a General Election is likely next year.

J. Hollingum.

Opportunities to sign-in will be on Sundays in the early part of December in all the churches of Caversham.

We also hope it will be possible for signing-in to take place on Saturdays in super-vised centres.

## The December Declaration Text

We, the undersigned, believe:

that mass hunger, disease and illiteracy are intolerable anywhere in the world;

that the skills and resources to change these unjust conditions now exist;

that to obtain justice among men the international financial and trading system can and must be changed;

that as a first step the poorer countries must receive more aid, and that the terms of international trade must no longer discriminate in favour of the rich.

We ask you, as our representative in Parliament, to support as immediate practical aims:

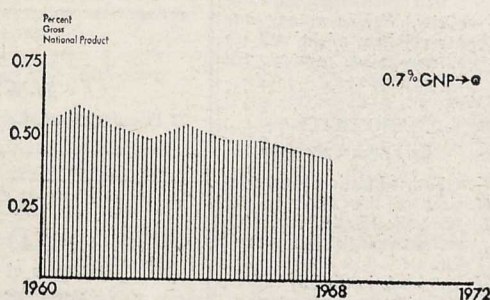
1. The achievement by 1972 of the target of 1% of the wealth (i.e. Gross National Product) of the United Kingdom for overseas aid, with at least three-quarters allocated in the form of effective Government aid;

2. An increase in the amount of United Kingdom aid channelled through international agencies, encouraging other rich nations to follow this lead;

3. The negotiation by our Government of trade agreements favourable to the poorer countries.

We hereby commit ourselves to continuing action for world development.

## OFFICIAL BRITISH AID — and the target for 1972



The 'target' shown here was recommended by the UN Conference on Trade and Development last year and has already been adopted by some countries—but not by Britain. To achieve it, official British aid would have to rise by about £130m.—less than one tenth of the normal annual increase in Britain's national income.

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# SHELTER

This is the story of a walk were extremely hectic Shelter Walk organised by two young recent arrivals to Caversham, who decided to do their share towards helping Britain's homeless.

Linda, it is true, had been involved in the UN Association while at school, but Alan, even at University, had never been previously involved in charity work. So they could hardly be said to have had a great deal of experience behind them when they set out to organise a 'Walk' in aid of Shelter, with the aid of three maps, some notes from their HQ and the addresses of a few useful contacts supplied by Charlie Buck.

Their first decision was to start and end the walk in Caversham and to hold it in early October. Letters were sent to 30 schools and over 200 youth organisations; none of the latter and only three schools replied. Fortunately, John Crowe was at that time going round the schools with his 'Mayday' trailer and promised to advertise the walk at the same time.

The few weeks before the

for Linda and Alan. They wrote to the big shops and concerns asking for help with refreshments and received three favourable replies. They designed posters, surveyed the route in detail, drew maps advertised for funds in the local press, sent out sponsor forms and approached Bruce Tulloh who willingly agreed to start the walk.

## CAME THE DAY

Nearer the day they organised seven check points and three refreshment posts, arranged insurance cover, put up signs along the route, contacted the local police, arranged with the Henley St. John's Ambulance Branch for the necessary first aid facilities and supplied each walker with a map of the entire walk and another of Caversham, notes for walkers concerning first aid and safety, and sponsor forms.

And on 5th October 96 people (a few adults but mostly young people 11-14 years) set out to walk 25 miles in aid of Britain's

## SHELTER exists—

- (a) as a pressure group to remind people of the serious housing problem in the country, and
- (b) to raise money to give to housing associations which are trying to provide accommodation for the homeless.

Shelter itself is not involved in actually purchasing or renovating property.

homeless. They were joined half way by a further 12. Eighty per cent finished the route, and there was only one anxious moment when a girl forgot to sign in at Henley.

For people with no previous experience, Linda and Alan coped remarkably well, using advice given by other walk-organisers and adding new ideas of their own. One which organisers would do well to remember is that all helpers and car patrols had badges and the youngsters were very strictly warned not to accept lifts from anyone without a badge; Linda is particularly proud of the two young girls who couldn't find the finish and, when found, refused to accept a lift in a car not carrying the necessary badge.

There was the usual problem of seeing the youngsters obeyed the rules of the road, but with the help of patrol cars largely

supplied from their colleagues at the BBC, they were able to keep a fairly close watch on their charges throughout the walk. And Veronica Treacher, of the local branch, hopes to be able to hand over £400 to the HQ—a very creditable sum.

Both Linda and Alan agree it is impossible to mention all those individuals who helped; indeed some obviously prefer to remain anonymous. But they would like to extend their special thanks to the members of the Henley Methodist Church, Chiltern Edge Methodist Chapel and St. John's Church, Caversham, who helped to supply refreshments. Mrs. Palmer who ran a mobile refreshment van, not forgetting the people at 'The Rising Sun', Witheridge Hill, who provided crockery, sandwiches, etc. They would also like to thank Mr. Simmet of Caversham and Mr. Pape of Toker's Green who manned check points and acted as marshals—and, above all, the walkers.



Linda Deal, who comes from Harrow, came to work at the BBC, Caversham, as a Spanish monitor, some three years ago, after graduating from Nottingham University.

Alan Eberst, who also comes from Harrow, studied at Manchester University and Carleton University, Ottawa, before coming here a year ago to work as a Report Writer at the BBC.

## RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM AN R.C. LAYMAN

### THE SYNOD

After all the uncertainty and lack of confidence evidenced recently, the R.C. Church appears once more thank goodness to have regained its touch and its senses generally. Up to the Synod I confess I found the R.C. news depressing, but I now feel cautiously optimistic.

Cardinal Heenan's interview on B.B.C. Television with Robin Day was first class, and how splendid he is on the box. It would have to be a wily interviewer indeed who scored any major points off him. I think we should be proud to have someone of his calibre as our star turn in this medium which reaches such a vast audience.

At his Press Conference in Rome towards the end of the Synod, amongst other things Cardinal Heenan said, "It is certain that it is no longer possible for the central authority to hand down decisions affecting the whole Church without full consultation with representatives of all sections of the Church. The growth of education has altered the attitude of both clergy and laity. They still want to belong to the one fold of the one shepherd, but they do not want to be treated like sheep." The cardinal added: "Citizens of the city of God, no less than citizens of modern nations, are prepared to submit to

authority only if it is seen to be reasonable. To reject authority is to invite anarchy, to question authority is not anarchic."

All this sounds common sense to me.

Another interesting fact is the de-Italianisation of the Curia which has taken place over the past few years. This surely is modernisation and a step towards greater catholicity. We, or at any rate our children, might well see a non-Italian occupy the Papal throne.

### "HUMILITY"

by Frank Pakenham

Father Martin d'Arcy's review of this book in the "Catholic Herald" has made me put it high on my book list.

A book just boldly entitled "Humility" sounds a crashing bore, but from what Father d'Arcy says it is the way the subject is treated that makes this compelling reading. "One is engaged in chasing the truth about the exact nature of humility for it is far more elusive than supposed; and during the chase the question is frequently raised whether X or Y, some well-known person, could be called humble or mild or meek. By thus presenting to us for our judgment persons dead or living, we are enabled to distinguish variations within what some would call humility."

### CONTACT

I read that this is an organisation which has been set up recently to try to provide hostel accommodation and support for girls who have no homes to return to after release from prison or Borstal. This is of course a work of vital importance as without such help these girls are likely to drift back into bad company, and never manage to make a success of their lives. It will offer

will only form a proportion of that, I would suppose that with time and adequate support this is a need which could hope to be fully met.

Contact will be a similar organisation to that of the Society of St. Dismas which already does such wonderful work for released male prisoners. I understand that although a Catholic organisation it will accept girls from other denominations or from none.

them a secure base to operate from and someone to whom they can turn for help and advice. As girls form only a small proportion of the prison and Borstal population, and as girls with no home background

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# FOUR ACTIVE YEARS IN CAVERSHAM

Today our mobile society results in many families never settling in places for more than about four years. A natural reaction is not to get involved in local affairs because "we'll soon be moving elsewhere."

## Quickly Involved

Brian and Barbara Lightowler, and their two children Ian and Heather, came to Caversham from Yorkshire in April 1965. They expected to move within two years. So they got involved straight away.

"It was the only possible way" said Brian. "We wanted to make a contribution to the life of the community, and we'd have been very sorry to leave regretting we'd never done anything."

Their stay was extended until the autumn of 1969. In September Brian was appointed Assistant Manager of the Maidenhead branch of the Midland Bank. This led to the decision to buy a house and settle in Maidenhead. There will be regrets on both sides. Brian and Barbara have made a tremendous contribution to the life of Caversham during the last four years, and on their side they'll miss scores of friends and all the groups to which they have belonged and in which they have done so much.

## Friendly Welcome.

"Of course we were helped by the welcome we got" said Barbara. "We'll miss the 'village-type' atmosphere of Blenheim Rd. We were

made welcome within hours of arrival. We've also enjoyed the ecumenical house meetings in Lent which have involved so many people in the immediate neighbourhood."

"The Church gave us a warm welcome" added Brian. "We went to St. Peter's on Easter Day, 1965 and had a visit from the Rector the same afternoon! We were delighted to find relatively full churches in contrast with the north of England. Very soon we were accepted as part of the family of the Church."

## Different Interests.

Barbara has been active in the St. Peter's Wives' Group. She was Chairman for two years. "This helped me meet most of the people I'm friendly with in Caversham" she said. With the membership round 90 this means a lot of people.

For a year Barbara helped with the St. Andrew's Play group. She was also on the House Committee of the St. Benet's Church of England Children's Home for three years.

Brian helped get pledges for the last Parish Stewardship Campaign. For three years he was Treasurer of the Caversham Residents' Association. Whilst not agreeing with their original opposition against the shopping precinct he was happy to work with them.

## Embley Park.

The Lightowlers have also



Walton Adams

been able to do a lot of things together. A high-light of each year in Caversham has been the Parish Holiday. Ian and Heather will also take away many happy memories of Embley Park.

This year's Third Week saw Brian end up as squash and tennis champion. He has organised many of the games competitions for the last three years. "Embley Park differs from an ordinary holiday" said Brian. "You meet people you can keep in touch with during the rest of the year. We've made some long lasting friendships which stemmed from being together at Embley Park."

## St. Andrew's Teen Action.

During last year Brian and Barbara have run St. Andrew's Teen Action. What impressions do they have at the end of the year? "We adults expect too much of young people" said Barbara. "They work very hard at school, and we expect them to fit in far too much in their leisure time. Teen

Action has a balanced approach with project work and recreation. We've been very happy working together at St. Andrew's."

Brian added — "One advantage in doing things in two churches was our chance to go to two harvest suppers!"

The Lightowlers are not moving far away. We shall be able to keep in touch with them, but we shall be sorry to lose their leadership and enthusiasm.

J.Y.C.

# CAVERSHAM PARK

Guy Hansford has written from Glasgow to say that house prices in Glasgow are equal to those in Caversham. He and his family expect to move into their own home around Christmas time.

Meanwhile they are in a council house in East Kilbride New Town. How does life up there compare to life in Caversham Park Village?

"The Development Corporation get a whole row of houses built at once, thoroughly inspect them, then hand over the keys to 20 or 30 tenants in one day. They are quick to deal with faults. They even print a book of local information. It's great having everything right, but it's a sad fact that the best thing for bringing people together is a shared problem. Nobody has any need of their neighbours, so they make no effort to get to know them. Nobody is sufficiently settled in to be ready to offer hospitality to new arrivals.

Even the established Kirk seems to be overfaced by this horde of new arrivals. The only approach we've had was a leaflet from the Baptist church. The small Episcopalian (Anglican) church is ticking over without a Rector just now, but I'm still very pleased with it.

If anyone from Caversham is visiting this area we will be delighted to hear from them. Our new address will be 19 Doune Crescent, Newtown Mearns, Glasgow."

## SERVICES AT 2, BLACKWATER CLOSE.

The House Communion on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10-30 a.m. has attracted 5 mothers who have valued the chance to bring their small children. It is hoped that others will join us.

In December there will be a House Communion on Wednesday, December 10th at 10-30 a.m. On December 24th—instead of a House Communion there will be a short Family Carol Service at 10-30 a.m. All will be welcome, but again emphasis will be on mothers and small children.

*"We wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year"*

*With this greeting we also thank our customers  
old and new, for the support to us in the past  
year, and wish everyone good health and prosperity for 1970.*

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## The Reading Branch of the INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

welcomes newcomers and visitors to its meetings at the British Council Centre, 25 Kings Road, Reading, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Dec. 2—Social Evening.

" 9—Evening of Films on Overseas Countries.

" 16—Auction Sale in aid of club funds.

Jan. 6—English Folk Dance Party (for beginners and experts). M.C.: Miss Kathleen West.

" 13—Evening of Members' Holiday Slides.

" 20—"Ancient Egypt at the Present Day." Illustrated talk by Mr. Philip Payne.

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 9th October, 1969. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed the County Council had hoped to start work on the turning circle in Mapledurham village during the middle of this month, but due to legal formalities which had not been cleared the work was held up. It is hoped the legal problems will be resolved shortly, and that the work will then commence without delay.

Arising from the lengthy Report the Parish Council sent to the Chairman of the County Highways Committee, Oxfordshire, and certain other members of the Committee, the Council have been advised by the Chairman of the Committee that any improvements to the road to Mapledurham village from Trench Green would be considered in the light of money available.

The Council again expressed its concern over the County Planning Committee's approval to allow a Nursery School for at least 24 children in two daily sessions at 31, Chazey Road. The Council were especially concerned that with this number of children at the school a traffic hazard could exist in a road not intended to cope with such a situation.

In view of the enthusiastic work that has been done by local residents in a voluntary capacity at the new Chazey Heath play area, the Council agreed a letter of thanks and appreciation should be sent to all the residents in the Chazey Heath area of the Parish thanking those who have contributed to its success. The Council were informed the play area is being extensively used, and has proved the need of providing a playing field for children in that part of the Parish.



## Bulb planting at St. Barnabas'

There is nothing more natural than the desire to beautify a Holy place. Perhaps the enjoyment which so many of the children displayed at the Family Service on October 9th, bears this out. Between them they brought well over a hundred daffodil bulbs to Church and, after a short act of worship, helped to plant them in the Church grounds opposite the main door. One person, discovered that a cassock is not the most functional garment to wear when planting bulbs.

The children also brought several dozen picture books which have been parcelled up and sent to Mrs. Bugg in Zambia.

A good number of people enjoyed themselves thoroughly on the evening of Friday, 3rd October at a Wine and Cheese Party. Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the District Committee for preparing it all. Over £20 was raised for St. Barnabas Hall renovation and a further £16, from the auction of Harvest Festival produce, to be added to that which we send overseas.

## Blossom for St. Peter's

As a result of the response made recently to the suggestion in the Caversham Bridge that bulbs might be planted in the Churchyard one and a half hundredweight of mixed spring bulbs have been purchased, and the Warren front of the Churchyard should be bright with blossom next April. Many thanks to the various donors.

## ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

**WEDDING DATES.** Engaged couples planning to be married next spring are reminded that no weddings are solemnized in the parish of Caversham in the last fortnight of Lent. This means that the last date for weddings until after Easter will be March 14th.

**HAPPY NEWS FROM ARLEY.** The Caversham Bridge is delighted to report that Mrs. David Clift gave birth to a son, Thomas Justin on October 16th.

## St. Andrew's Day

at  
**ST. ANDREW'S  
TUES., DEC. 2nd**

7-30 p.m.  
**PARISH  
COMMUNION**

Preacher:  
**The Rev. D. Parker**  
(St. Mary's, Castle St.)  
**Holy Communion**  
also at 7 a.m.

## St. Andrew's News

### FAREWELL

Many people at St. Andrew's are sorry to be losing Brian and Barbara Lightowler as leaders of Teen Action. They are moving to Bray early this month and their last evening at Teen Action will be Sunday December 14th. Under their leadership the club has continued to expand—not least in numbers. Membership has now been closed for some months because more people wanted to join than facilities would allow.

### CAVERSHAM DRAMA

Following its production in September, Caversham Drama has been closed. After three successful years, it was felt that the time had come for a breathing space. Among other things, time was needed to review aims and policy. As yet it is too early to say what the outcome of this will be. Caversham Drama hopes to reopen in the New Year, possibly in a different form.

### BAPTISM

The number of requests for infant Baptism has fallen rather dramatically in 1969. This may be only temporary but one immediate consequence has been that afternoon baptism services are no longer needed. Such baptisms as have taken place have been held at the Family Eucharist. With the Series Two Service this has worked well from the point of view of timing and all parents and sponsors have been happy and willing to come to church at 9-15 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

### BOROCOURT

For several years now the Mothers' Union have held a Christmas Party in the Church Hall for a number of patients from Borocourt Hospital. This occasion is always a cheerful one, rewarding for those who run it and much appreciated by the patients. It is kind of the Mothers' Union to organise it. This year the party takes place on December 16th.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Rosemary Blunt, who for several years has taught in the Sunday school at St. Andrew's, on her engagement to Paul Hartley of Gateley, Cheshire. They are both third year students at St. John's College York.

## December 4, 5 & 6

These are the dates on which the MAPLEDURHAM REPERTORY SOCIETY will be staging "Rock-a-bye Sailor", the sequence to "Watch it Sailor" performed last year. The cast is the same and includes Eileen Wake, Kathleen Bubb, Albert Wake, Joan Scott, Michael Gandon, Heather Mumme, Gillian Liddbetter, Richard Govett and Patrick Ross.

Tickets can be obtained from Eileen Wake, 126 Widmore Road, and Yvonne Taylor, 29 Woodcote Way. The performances will be at the usual place: Mapledurham Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road.

## ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES AT ST. JOHN'S

The Rev. Peter Atkinson with his family plan to move into St. John's House on Tuesday, November 25th, and he will start his ministry at St. John's when he celebrates the Family Eucharist on Advent Sunday November 30th. It is very much hoped that all members of the congregation will be present that morning to seek God's blessing on the new chapter now opening on the life of the Church in the district.

\* \* \*

Goodbye to Eric and Pat Dicks and their children. At the end of October, they moved to Dover, where they have taken over a newsagents business. For some time, Eric has been frustrated by the state in his draughtsman's office, we wish them well in this venture of setting up in their own business.

Once again St. John's has to say thank you to a couple who have contributed much to St. John's in a great variety of capacities — they have served as sidesman and woman, in the Men's Fellowship and Wednesday Group, in the District, Stewardship and Church Hall committees, in the Industrial group, and in delivering the Caversham Bridge. But who would care

to rate these things more highly than the value of their friendship.

October also saw the passing of two friends of St. John's. Mrs. Kate Slade died at the fine age of 94. She and her family have had such a long and varied connection with St. John's that there is neither time nor space to write of it adequately in this edition, it will therefore have to wait for our next.

Some people attract attention to themselves, some like public recognition for what they do. There are probably a good many St. John's people, who do not know who Mrs. Alice Holden was, others will have known of her simply as Mrs. Nunn's stepmother, she was however well known and respected in St. John's Mothers' Union. But her most valuable contribution to St. John's was her disciplined spiritual life of private prayer and corporate worship. This is a secret and undervalued discipline, but absolutely essential to the life of any church. It is a congregation's tap root. Unless some members of the congregation provide this, all its activities will be sterile. Forms and the style of spiritual discipline change, but the necessity remains. We are grateful for her important contribution to the life of St. John's. Let others secretly take on this discipline.

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Thomas Barnett is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard. His grave is in the South-West corner and is marked by a small headstone. The surface of the stone is now beginning to break up under the effects of the weather and some words of the brief inscription can hardly be deciphered. In a few years time the lettering may be gone and little will then remain to remind us of a man whom his relatives and friends obviously wished to be remembered for what he was—a Waterloo veteran.

## WHO WAS HE, THIS SOLDIER?

The Parish Register records only his name and the date on which he was buried; his gravestone states when he died and how old he was; his death certificate adds little more except that he had been an artilleryman and a pensioner. All we know is—that he was born in 1785; that at thirty years of age he fought at Waterloo; (he might even have been wounded in that campaign), that he was 86 years old when he died on the 27th of November in the year 1871 and that he was laid to rest a few days later on the 2nd of December.

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## Record total at Gosbrook Road

The Annual Gift Day was held at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road on Saturday 25th October, 1969. The Minister, the Reverend Terence P. Harris welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Les Cooper who were Chairman and Opener for the occasion. Gifts from various Departments of the church's life were received by Mrs. Julia A. Harris. The Hostesses for the day were Mrs. King and Mrs. Cooper (Senior). After the ceremony in the Church the congregation visited the stalls in the schoolroom



Walton Adams

which had been organised by the Ladies, the Men and the Youth Club. Tea followed and approximately one hundred and twenty folk sat down. The day concluded with a Concert, games organised by Mr. John Clark, and dancing organised by Mr.

Peter Stephens. The Treasurer, Mr. C. John Mills announced an all time record, which was fifty pounds up on the previous year: £318. Mrs. Julia Hackman, the organising Secretary, gave a vote of thanks to all concerned.

## Christmas Services in Caversham

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1969—SEVEN

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

#### ST. PETER'S

##### Christmas Eve

4-00 p.m. Children's Gift Service with Blessing of Crib.  
11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

##### Christmas Day

7-00 a.m. 8-00 a.m. and 12-15 p.m. Holy Communion.  
9-15 a.m. Parish Communion.  
11-00 a.m. Mattins.

#### ST. JOHN'S

##### Christmas Eve

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

##### Christmas Day

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9-45 a.m. Family Eucharist.  
11-00 a.m. Family Carol Service.

#### ST. ANDREWS

##### Christmas Eve

6-30 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Blessing of Crib.  
11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

##### Christmas Day

8-00 a.m. and 11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

#### ST. BARNABAS

##### Christmas Eve

6-00 p.m. Nativity Play.  
11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

##### Christmas Day

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

#### ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

##### Christmas Eve

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.  
9-15 a.m. Parish Communion.

#### CONFESSIONS

##### BEFORE CHRISTMAS

#### Church of England

Times when clergy will be available to hear confessions will be given in the church notices on December 14.

#### St. Anne's

See church notice board for times.

#### METHODIST CAVERSHAM

##### Christmas Day

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.

#### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

##### Christmas Eve

11-30 p.m. Christmas Communion.

#### 11-00 a.m. Morning Service.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

#### ST. ANNE'S

##### Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass.

##### Christmas Day

8-00 a.m., 9-30 a.m. and 11-00 a.m. Mass.

#### OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, RICHMOND ROAD

##### Christmas Day

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

##### Christmas Day

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.  
Preacher: The Rev T. Harris.

#### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST

#### FREE CHURCH

##### Christmas Day

10-30 a.m. Family Service.

#### ST. PAUL'S

#### PRESBYTERIAN

#### CHURCH

##### Christmas Day

## SOME DECEMBER SERVICES

### CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, 7th December at 3 p.m. **Christmas Toy Service** arranged by the Sunday School with a Dramatic Presentation written and devised by the Staff. Gifts of toys will be received and sent to the Berkshire Children's Department.

Sunday, 21st December, at 6-30 p.m. **Service of Lessons and Carols** with items by the Choir.

### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, 21st December, at

4-15 p.m. **Christmas Family Worship** when gifts of toys will be brought by the children. There will be Carols sung by the children and the choir and everyone who comes. Please note that there will be no evening Service.

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

Sunday December 21st. Services at 11 a.m. and 6-30 p.m. Preacher: The Rev. L. S. Lewis. Anthems by choir at evening service.

2-45 p.m. Toy Service conducted by Miss Grace Gilbert. Speaker: Mr. L. Brewer of Woodcote.

## The Marian Group of St. Anne's

The monthly meeting was held on the 21st October in St. Anne's School and a lively and informative talk on Fire Prevention was given by Mr. Harvey, the Fire Prevention Officer.

Mr. Harvey stressed the importance of taking every precaution to prevent fire outbreaks in the home. These are often caused by routine household commodities and activities.

The Marian Group are very grateful to Mr. Harvey for replacing Mr. Wilson of E. P. Collier's School, who was unable to attend due to illness.

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## Caversham Heights Methodist news



Walton Adams

Miss Joyce Kinchington, governor of Kendrick Girl's School, trustee and choir member of Caversham Heights Methodist.

Robin Allies, treasurer of Caversham Heights Young people's Squash, has been elected Chairman of the Reading Council of Youth. Robin, 16, has been a member of the Squash for three years. He attends Reading School and sits for his A-levels this year.

Miss Kinchington works for the Ministry of Overseas Development and is a

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## CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON

### TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. H. Allen, of Reading Afternoon Guild, was a guest at the October meeting, when she explained the procedure when nominating members for the new committee.

An entertaining account of "ENSA Adventures" during the '39-'45 war was given by Miss Patricia Worth. Members joined with her in singing some of the popular songs of the day and for many there were nostalgic memories of that never to be forgotten time. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Bussey.

The competition for a poster advertising the Autumn Fair to be held on November 8th was won by Mrs. E. Fitzcuzance, the runner-up being Mrs. M. Starkey.

Over eighty small garments made by members of the Chiltern Group were on display. These were to be

given to the Nursery School and home in Peppard Road, Caversham.

### BLAGRAVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Blagrove W.I. members met at the Memorial Hall Woodcote Road on Tuesday and enjoyed films brought by some of the members of their holidays and places of interest.

Mrs. Wright the president was in the chair, birthday posies were distributed. The secretary gave her report and read the County News Letter, items of interest were noted and arrangements made accordingly.

The Whist Drive held during the month made a profit of £1 10s.

Names were taken for the outing to Windsor Theatre at the end of the month and the Harvest Supper which takes place during the month.

Mrs. Wright kindly offered to have a coffee morning. The sewing classes held at Mrs. Plumridge's are a great

# ROUND THE CLUBS

success and well attended. The members are busy making and sewing for the Christmas Sale.

### MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

At the October meeting Miss Griffin gave a very interesting talk on the "Elizabeth Fry Hostel" for girls from Borstal and broken homes—a gratifying work, as she said about 70 per cent of the girls make good when they leave and go out into the world.

A competition was held for an arrangement of leaves and berries, being judged by Mrs. T. Aldis and Mrs. M. Howarth.

### ROSEHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the October meeting, the President Mrs. Green took the chair and welcomed two new members. An interesting talk was given by Miss Hudson, a B.O.A.C. Stewardess.

The competition "Your best holiday photograph, sketch or painting" was won by Mrs. Gribble, Runners up being Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Roberts.

On October 9 an enjoyable coach outing was held, "A Tour of London" our guide being Mr. Bryant Peers.

### EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

As Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild Birthday Party was held on October 21st it is hardly surprising that the theme of the evening was Trafalgar. The Nelson influence could be seen in several of the entries in the competition for a hat made from a sheet of newspaper, but the winner was Mrs. B. Gray with her entry of a smart modern summer hat. The Birthday cake, with 17 candles, was beautifully decorated in red, white and blue, "dressed over-all", and

surmounted with the model of a fighting ship of the Nelson period. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Peter Twivey and his friends who gave a demonstration of fencing and the evening ended with songs sung by Mr. Rowland Hill.

### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the October meeting of the Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, the Rev. Roger Packer spoke on music or, as he put it, he took "each letter of the alphabet and hung a musical idea on it." From "A is for Arpeggio" through to "Z for Zither" Mr. Packer had his audience completely enthralled by his mastery of, and his obvious love for his subject and even the old church-hall piano seemed to take up a new lease of life when Mr. Packer, illustrating "N for Nocturne" played Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat. Crescendo, Diminuendo, Legato and Staccato were all

expertly illustrated, but when Mr. Packer reached "V for Voice" which, he said, is the best of musical instruments, having wind, reed and resonator, the hilarious rendering of the round "London's Burning" by 130 ladies in good voice made one wonder whether perhaps this particular bit of audience participation could have done with a little rehearsing!

## 'Any Questions' at Women's Fellowship

Two meetings of the Methodist Women's Fellowship were entitled "Any Questions" and "Any Answers". The panel at the first session were Mrs. T. R. Harris, E. C. Brown and J. Hollingum.

Questions included Christian involvement in social issues and in politics, sex instruction for young children, the ordination of women, and aid to the developing countries, at the second meeting members of the Fellowship commented on the answers given by the panel and enjoyed a lively discussion.

### THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM ANGLICAN

#### Rector:

The Rev. John Grimwade  
The Rectory, Church Road, Tel. 71703

#### Assistant Clergy:

The Rev. John Stevenson (Mapledurham), 222 Upper Woodcote Road, Tel. 71605.  
The Rev. Malcolm Cooper (Priest-in-Charge of St. Barnabas), St. Barnabas' House, 33, Grove Road, Tel. 73095.  
The Rev. Roger Packer (Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's), St. Andrew's House Harrogate Road, Tel. 72788.  
The Rev. Peter Atkinson (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.  
The Rev. Frederick Dawson, 25, Ikley Road, Tel. 72070.  
The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17, The Mount, Tel. 76988.

#### BAPTIST

The Rev. Lyn Lewis, 8, Kidmore Road, Tel. 73633.

#### METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 1, St. Anne's Road, Tel. 72223.

#### PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. George Shearer, 41, Highmoor Road, Caversham, Tel. 77490.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley (Parish Priest), The Presbytery, 2, South View Avenue, Tel. 71787.

## Christmas Gifts

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## Showing off in Sunday School

by L. M. ALLIES

We recently at Caversham Heights Methodist had our annual inspection; a day on which we receive as a visitor the current President of the National Sunday School Union. How the old name sticks! I mean of course the Christian Education Council.

Naturally there are other times when we have visitors, a return V.S.O. worker perhaps, or a 'Mother' from our own National Children's Home to tell the children why we have a 'Festival of Queens'. But this visitor is of special importance (hence my term 'inspection'), for he, or she, is an expert, someone fully-geared to Sunday School work, with a background of experience in teaching from which to draw comparisons, as the round of weekly visits proceeds throughout Non-Conformist Sunday Schools in Caversham and surrounding districts.

But Sunday Schools get less formal in these days of the Experimental Approach so worship must be planned with a freshness of spontaneity which rehearsing would kill stone dead.

However, Martin, our second year pianist has rehearsed and confidently

keeps us on the note through our hymn, drowning collection noises with his "party" piece. Our reader Paula, has rehearsed too, and we listen to Alan Dale's crystal clear rendering of 'A sower went forth'. But I must remind her how she threw her voice when she read in Church! Then it is the President's turn; five effective minutes (she knows how time slides by all too quickly in Sunday School) on 'Stickability' with tubes of glue to hand, and a final word on promises, and the need for sticking to them.

Next, escorted by the Superintendent, she finds herself entering the Primary Department. No formality here! They are experientialising on 'Birds'. 'Super' thinks quickly; he introduces Miss Bird as 'The President' and leaves it to her. Naturally, she rises to the bait; the children impressed by such a happy coincidence accept her delightedly. From then on they are a very willing audience.

The split-second timing could have been ruined by those over-zealous Seniors running two minutes late, but with a President as involved as the rest in a deep-probing discussion on 'Uses for Atomic Energy'—(did they really send off an explosion in a plastic pail?), what could one expect?

And so, the visit is over. 'Super' said he was proud of us. Well,—perhaps we did show off, a bit. But then, there is not usually anyone special to watch us. Only God.

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## HELEN FULLMER on a 'Life theme' work for children

"What a wonderful world! . . ." sings Louis Armstrong! Just how aware are we of the wonders of day to day living, and of the deeper significance of those basic things which we take for granted, such as water, fire, wind, the cycle of life—death—new life in the seasons? The more fully we are aware of these things and the more we recognise them as part of the creative activity of God, the more truly we are "Alive in God's World."

Two new series of Courses for use in Sunday Schools and other children's groups under this title have come into circulation in the last year as a result of much heart-searching, thought and discussion by a group of about a dozen clergy and Diocesan Advisers in Children's work from all over the country, meeting regularly over the past four years.

### LIFE THEMES

Anyone looking in these books for conventional-type Sunday School lessons on the Bible and Christian Doctrine (even with a new look!) is doomed to somewhat startled disappointment. As they turn the pages of any of the five books for this coming year for children ranging from 3—13 years they will find, not neat, tidy lessons for 52 weeks of the year, but "life themes", each of which is worked out as a project with activities, stories, drama, etc., at the level of the child's development.

Some of the stories may be Bible stories or stories of saints and leaders, but not necessarily so. Each story is provided, not to be a lesson in itself, but to illustrate, comment upon, or stimulate thought and feeling about some experience which the children have undergone either as a group or individually.

The activities range from investigating a compost heap to building a model of the latest moon module. Painted pictures, collages, friezes, posters, poems and models of all kinds will appear in some churches, resulting from the children's work along these lines.

### LOSTNESS

"What has all this to do with religion?" you may well ask. The originating 'Wadderton Group' (and others) would reply "Everything." The Christian faith is about life—life more abundant, Jesus promised. When we read the New Testament we find Jesus teaching about finding lost things and recalling the joy and relief when this happens. Lostness is an experience even the smallest child has known, and is very clearly an experience of many young people today.

We might well try to offer comfort by pronouncing that Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost", but these are just words without meaning until one has experienced the saving and finding at a human level. It is therefore not surprising to discover that one of the "Life Themes" for infants is losing and finding.

Jesus, in his human life, drew no line of demarcation between the "sacred" and the "secular", but we have been busy doing so ever since! The Bible tells us that God looked upon his creation and found it very good. If this is so,

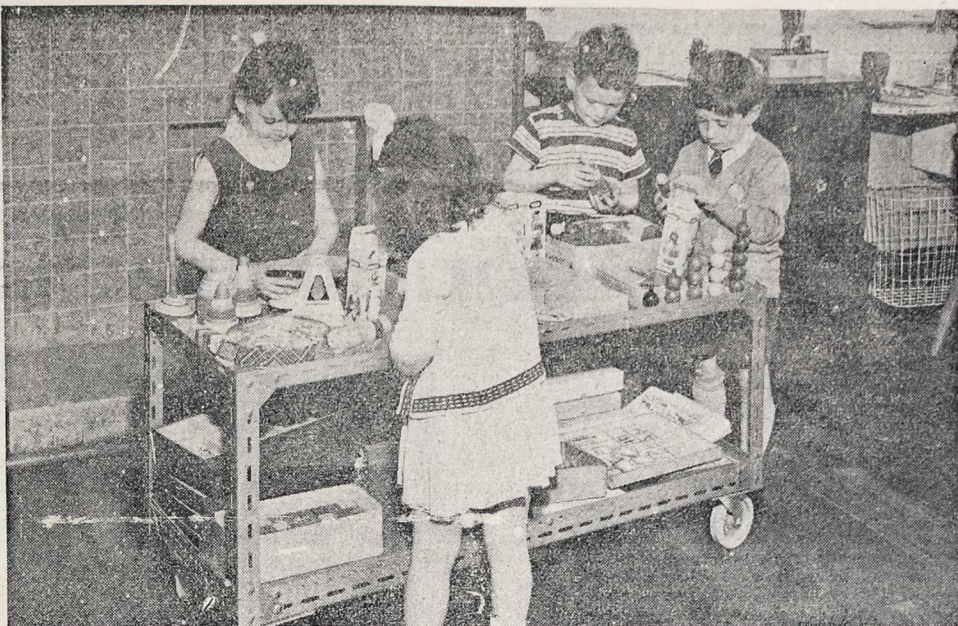
there is NO part of living which is not potentially holy. Everything depends on our attitude to it and the use we make of it. Think of drugs and alcohol in this light!

### SURVIVAL

"Alive in God's World" seeks to help children to form attitudes of respect and love towards the whole of creation as the continuing work of God, and gradually, through exploration of the ways of God in his creation, to discover his own responsibility to God for its right use and conservation, hence in the senior section of the series, the first theme is "Survival".

Each "life theme" is linked with one of the clauses of the Creed, not to teach that clause, but to discover its underlying truth and validity in life.

Only in this way, we believe, will the verbal statements of the Christian Faith, which sum up for us the teaching of the Bible, be seen by our growing children to make sense and be relevant to life.



. . . there is no part of living which is not potentially holy.

# Alive in God's world



Adoration of the Shepherds (detail) — Poussin, National Gallery London.

## How much longer are we going to put up with all this?

The year of Our Lord 1969. And babies are still being born in Middle East stables.

On rubbish tips in South America.

In shanties all over Asia.

Some progress we've made since Christ in His love for man was born into poverty.

Yet the politicians consistently do less about it.

This May, the richest country in history pushed through its lowest foreign aid budget in 20 years. While Britain parts with £1 million less than she did 9 years ago.

The unhappy outcome of this Goodwill to Few Men is that Christian Aid is needed more than ever.

Not just to provide more hygienic birthplaces.

But to pay for such luxuries as well-drills for drought-stricken India. For teachers for Bolivia, Senegal and Ethiopia.

For family planning clinics in Brazil and Ghana.

To fill this need, we ask two things:

Your signature. To a 'Sign-In' organised by all the churches for more government aid in the future.

(Please sign it at your local church.)

But first, your money. For more Christian Aid now.

After all, what use is government aid to a man who starves before it comes?

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# FAMILY

## Father Christmas—should we tell children the truth?

by P. J. Hunt



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**WALTER SMITH**  
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22 Shops and in The Bull Ring



"There really is a Santa Claus isn't there, mummy?" asks six-year-old Susan. "Ann says there isn't, but I saw him at the Store today. Can I sit up and watch for him so that I can prove he's real?"

"Of course he isn't real," scoffs Susan's nine-year-old brother. "It's only Daddy dressed up".

What are we to tell the children when this sort of issue raises its head? Should we tell them the truth about Santa Claus? Or is it better to let them continue to believe in a myth? If we follow the latter course, we know that there is certain to come the moment of disillusionment, be it gradual or sudden, and it may even be that the children will lose their trust in us for a time if they think they have found us out in a lie.

Certainly the majority of children are not seriously hurt by this, but there is always the risk that they may feel they have been deceived. Added to this, there is the danger that they may cast it off as 'only for babies', and with it may go the story of the Birth of Jesus, which will be connected in their minds with Christmas.

When they see several different Father Christmases at the big shops, this will add to their confusion, and we must do our best to see that they find the truth amidst all the trappings.

How did the Father Christmas story start?

### REINDEER TEAM

It seems to have grown from a mixture of the pagan god Wotan or Woden and a saintly bishop of Myra called Nicholas. Legend has it that Woden drove a reindeer team from the lands of the North and brought gifts with him.

Nicholas, however, was a kindly man who was very fond of children and who used to go about leaving gifts, secretly, especially to those who were poor and needy. Sometimes his gifts were of gold, as in the case of three sisters whose once-rich father had become so poor that the children were often sent to bed without supper.

Nicholas heard of the plight, and his kindly nature, prompted him to help them, but he wished to do this without their knowing from whence the help had come. He took a bag of gold and went stealthily to their house one dark night, and threw the gold in at an open window and hastened away. One story tells us that he tossed the

gold through the smoke-hole in the roof and that it fell into one of the sisters' stockings. This may well be the origin of hanging up stockings at Christmas.

Nicholas repeated his deed, but on the third night, the father was waiting in hiding in an effort to discover who their benefactor was. He caught at Nicholas' robe and said, "It is Nicholas, the saint of God! But why do you hide yourself?"

For answer Nicholas asked the father to tell no-one, but to give thanks to God who had sent him.

Pictures of Saint Nicholas, who has become the patron saint of children and of sailors, often show him holding three bags of gold, and this has become his symbol. He is also shown with children beside him.

In course of time, the name 'Saint Nicholas' became abbreviated to 'Santa Claus'; but people felt his deeds were worthy of being copied, and they felt it was right to give gifts secretly and to slip away before the source of the gift was discovered. Like the modern Father Christmas, people knew he had been, not because they saw him, but because they saw the gifts he left behind.

By the 4th Century, Saint Nicholas was being remembered annually on December 6th—which is still remembered as Saint Nicholas' Day in the Book of Common Prayer. Later, when Christians remembered the Birth of Christ on Christmas Day, the custom of present-giving moved from December 6th to December 25th.

### SECRET AGENT

One mother told her children the story of Saint Nicholas and ended by saying that the story was real enough and that we now call 'Santa Claus' or 'Father Christmas' someone who likes to give gifts at Christmas and expects nothing in return. The children thought it would be great fun to be like Father Christmas—rather like being a secret agent—and wanted to take gifts to someone they knew who was very poor. They also readily appreciated that Daddy loved them so much that he enjoyed dressing up as Santa Claus and leaving them gifts secretly in the middle of the night.

From this they soon saw that other people liked to do it too, and that playing at being Santa Claus was a very good way of making people happy at Christmas-tide.



# FOCUS



Roker Park—home of Sunderland F.C.

## FOOTBALL COLOSSEUM—AND GROUNDS COULD BE AS EMPTY

The concept of football as a contemporary 'war game' is gaining ground.

The game has been held responsible for the armed conflict between Honduras and El Salvador and civil strife in Italy.

The football stadium now resembles the Colosseum, whilst the gladiators fight it out their tribal following conduct their own primitive exchange.

Football is however not just a battle substitute: it still reflects the bad and the beautiful in mankind.

### VISIONARY

What the game needs most at this time is a visionary on the international front influential enough to redress the balance.

Unfortunately the game is dominated by the 'hard men' and physically strong teams and inevitably everyone tries to emulate them.

They lead back to attacking football. I would suggest sanity will not come until a major honour, ideally the World Cup, is won by a team brave enough to discard the defensive techniques that are killing the game.

If one can be dispassionate about football it must be admitted that England's victory in the 1966 World Cup and its ultimate effect

upon the game universally has been disastrous.

### NO LIVING

Excluding no more than at most five teams, the British domestic game is becoming populated by players who ten years ago would not have earned a living from football.

When Jimmy McIlroy said recently that he would rather watch Tom Finney playing in a charity game than many of today's performers I know just what he means.

The fact that there are more qualified coaches for footballing acre in this country than anywhere in the world should show itself in a high standard of individual and collective performance—yet we continue to demonstrate that the British footballer is among the toughest and unsporting in the game.

### HUNGARY

So much for the bad, what of the beautiful? Few

soccer teams have given genuine pleasure to fans the world over as the footballing artists of Hungary.

Manifestly the best footballing side in the 1966 World Cup, their lack of success prompted them to try and amend their traditional style and become more English albeit physical in their approach.

Thankfully it didn't work for them and they have reverted to their natural game—the game that gave us the 'Magical Magyars.' This Hungarian side is demonstrating that brilliant attacking football is not incompatible with winning matches.

### A MESSAGE

It's a message I hope seeps through to the Football League and is given a chance of ringing out loud and clear in Mexico 1970.

What's it to be—tribal cult or culture?—a deserted stadium is, after all, very like the Colosseum.

**Sport by Ernest Adkins**



Junior Compass  
by Brenda Holloway



## CHEERS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Christmas comes but once a year;  
And when it comes it brings good cheer.

And it brings a lot of jolly hard work for a lot of people! Here are the jumbled names of some people who have to work extra hard before Christmas. Can you discover who they are?

NESTMOP  
HTFARES

POKESPERESH  
HOTREMS

RATHECES  
KABERS

Junior Compass says 'Thanks a lot' to them all!

### GREAT PAINTING COMPETITION

Open to Compass Club members only. If you want to enter send in your application form.

All children like to see the postman at Christmas. Below is a picture of a postman. Do your best to colour it. You can use paint, crayons or ballpoints. But make it really bright and gay. Then cut out your picture and send it to the Editor. There will be 3 prizes of £1, 10/- and 5/- for the best pictures. The last day for receiving the pictures is MONDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1969.

### WHAT SHALL I GIVE THEM?

KETTLEHOLDERS are useful presents for mothers and aunts. You'll want an ounce of double knitting wool and a pair of thick needles, either size 7 or 6. Cast on 30 stitches and work in plain knitting until the kettleholder is square. Then cast off. Bind it with coloured tape, and make a loop of tape at one corner for hanging it near the cooker.

If you want to be a bit more adventurous, make a DISHCLOTH DOLL. You will want a wooden spoon, a dish mop and a dishcloth. Paint or crayon a jolly face on the back of the spoon, and place the mop behind it for hair. Tie them firmly together and then dress the handle parts in the dishcloth, with a coloured sash at the waist.

### FOR THE MEN IN THE FAMILY

This is just the thing for holding the odd screws and nails and other odds and ends that men and boys always seem to collect. Find or buy a wooden or strong cardboard box. An empty cigar box is ideal. Cover it with stout brown paper, and then paste on the lid and sides gay balloons and other bright scraps cut out of catalogues and magazines.

### CHRISTMAS BOXES

This is about quite another kind of box! Did you know that a Christmas Box is another name for a Christmas present?

The custom of giving Christmas Boxes is supposed to have started a long time ago when boxes were placed in churches to receive gifts of money from the rich people. The boxes, called the Christmas Dole Box, were opened on Christmas Eve, and the money was given to the poor people on the day after Christmas Day. And that is how Boxing Day is supposed to have got its name!

### TWO CHRISTMAS TREES

Two Christmas trees are better than one! So if you've got a garden, why not make a Christmas tree for the birds as well as having your own family Christmas tree in the house?

Collect shallow tins and hang them with string on the boughs of a small tree growing in the garden—or you can put your own party tree out in the garden after Christmas and use that. In the tins put nuts and crusts and crumbs, and in the shallowest tins put drinking water.

### WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

Christ is born! Christ is born!  
Ring the news on Christmas morn;  
Mary's Son! Mary's Son!  
Come and praise him, everyone.

### NOTE TO COMPASS CLUB MEMBERS

Our code message is held over until next month for lack of space.







Des Wilson, Shelter's director.

In a short, stormy, urgent three years SHELTER has become a household word. Shelter has launched a strident, vulgar, honest and effective campaign to tackle a running sore in Britain's thin skin of affluence—the problem of families who have no place they could reasonably call a home.

There are about 18,000 people who officially have no home and who are in temporary accommodation provided by local authority Welfare Departments. Yet this is only a tiny part of the problem—many more while not officially 'homeless' are homeless in the sense of having no decent home.

Shelter, with its stark posters and pamphlets, has introduced a squirming public to this twilight world of crumbling staircases and plaster, of damp and rats, of broken sewers and shared toilets, of shattered marriages, mentally disturbed children and delinquent teenagers. It is a world whose inhabitants are difficult to number.

#### APPALLING

Estimates have been put as high as 3 million—and Shelter will not allow society to forget that 3 million represents 3 million people suffering because of appalling housing conditions. The case studies in various Shelter reports cannot leave society with an easy conscience.

"Mr. and Mrs. L., who have an income of £16 a week from the husband's work as a checker of lorries, pay £3 7s. 8d a week rent for a 12ft. by 15ft. living room, an 11ft. by 6ft. bedroom and kitchenette. The parents sleep with their two eldest children in the bedroom, and the baby has a cot in the living room. There is ever present dampness. The whole area round their tenement building, which they share with about 14 other people, is neglected and filthy. Their flat is so overcrowded there is no room for storage, and Mrs. L. stores her clothes at her sister's flat nearby.

"She also uses the lavatory there, because the conditions of her own, shared with other families, is appalling. The children are bathed from a bowl on the living room table. Their dressing table stands in an alcove outside the bedroom and has to be moved to give access to the flat. Mrs. L. blames the fact that she had a miscarriage sometime ago on

the need to constantly move the furniture. They have no hot water supply.

"Her children are terrified of the wild cats in the area, but the parents regard them as a possible blessing, because they keep down the rats that were there previously. The light has to be permanently on in the living room, because otherwise it is too dark to see, even in ordinary daylight".

A quote from the recent Shelter report "Face The Facts", which posed the question "Who are the homeless?"

Shelter is tireless in its task of informing the British public of the truths about our housing misery. Informed speakers are constantly travelling to meetings all over the country.

#### TO INFORM

In the long term the aim of Shelter is to inform and change both public attitudes and opinions and also the priorities and policies of governments. It is in this direction that the solution to this shameful problem must lie.

In the short term Shelter, under its youthful Director Des Wilson and its ebullient Chairman Father Eamonn Casey, has launched an emergency campaign to raise money to tackle the housing problem, especially in Britain's

## 'HOMELESS HAVE GROUNDS FOR HOPE, THANKS TO SHELTER'

Project 69  
looks at  
a dynamic  
housing  
programme



Shelter helps start young . . .



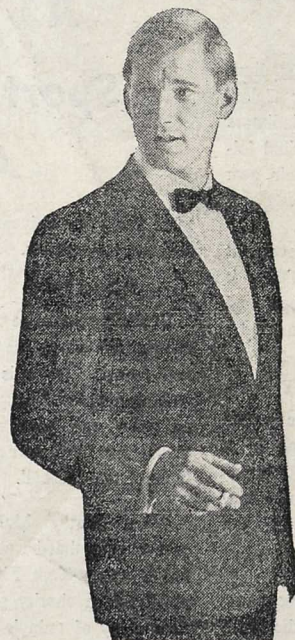
. . . to tackle conditions like this

housing blackspots—London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Birmingham.

Much of this money is found by Shelter's Groups throughout the country—groups of volunteers committed to raising funds and keeping the problem to the fore of their locality. On the fund-raising side, young people from thousands of Britain's colleges, schools, and youth organisations are also playing a valuable role.

The money raised by the movement which at present amounts to over £1½ million, is fed into local housing associations. These associations purchase houses, convert them into flats, and let these flats to families in need at reasonable rents. With the aid of local authority grants and loans, this operation costs £325 for each family, and when its present housing programme is complete Shelter will have rehoused 3,500 families in this way.

The homeless have grounds for hope, now and in the future—thanks to Shelter, the most effective pressure and action group of the 'sixties' possibly of the century.



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# THIS VULGAR CAMPAIGN