



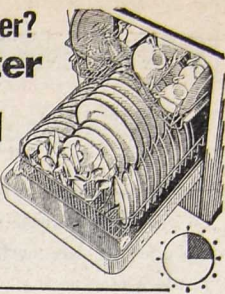
# CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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Chris Brodan calling



## Unfreezing Jesus

I am a Christian. To me Jesus Christ is real. He is not merely a misty but inspiring historical figure—like Robin Hood say—who some might try to imitate in 1972. Jesus steps off the pages of history, takes on a life of his own and comes towards me. He meets me, loves and re-assures me by grasping me, believing in me and so inviting me to be with Him and to serve Him. He makes His impact on me as on His first followers.

All that's my picture language for saying 'Jesus lives'—and what other language can you use.

### EASTER MESSAGE

'Jesus lives' that's the Easter message. So you'd think that Easter, when Christians celebrate Jesus's conquering evil, rising from the dead and rejoining His disciples for forty days would be rather special for me.

But really it puzzles me. In churches the Easter story is read: the empty tomb, angels, men and women running in the dawn, disciples waiting behind locked doors for a Jesus who is suddenly there and then is gone. As a Christian I'm expected by most people to believe that it was that way. Most people see the Christian faith as a mind-bending exercise in believing that weird and wonderful things happened once upon a time . . . rather like a legend. And that tends to freeze Jesus in the past. He becomes a historical curiosity rather than a person for today.

### JESUS LIVES

For me, and for many Christians, the power and reality of the risen Jesus does not depend first and foremost on these stories, but upon the conviction that we are in personal contact with the same Jesus who upset and yet vitalised the lives of his first followers. People may experience that in the fellowship of the Church, in the breaking of bread, in spiritual experience or, perhaps most strikingly, apparently by surprise: like Saint Paul on the Damascus Road. Because of that kind of experience I am convinced that 'Jesus lives'.

The Resurrection stories contain that deep conviction, held by Jesus's first followers and by millions since.

But one thing is certain. No amount of believing in these stories as historical fact will in itself produce a faith which is alive with the Risen Jesus. The historical accounts may lead to Him: they cannot contain Him.

## THAT'S LIFE

A NEW SERIES OF PICTURES THAT HIGHLIGHT THE HUMAN SCENE

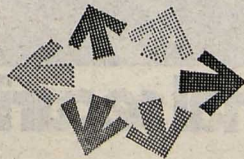


## AGAINST THE ODDS

Marilyn Gillies is a 29-year-old Scottish lass from Dundee who drives a car, goes shopping and sews on buttons without any help. Not very surprising you might think—until you realise that Marilyn has no arms, and abandoned artificial limbs as a teenager when she came to the conclusion that they were more of a hindrance than a help.

### Vegetate

It's hard for able bodied people to understand what



being without arms is like. For most of us it would mean giving up any pretence at normal living. We would sit and vegetate — not only because we should be unable

to do anything for ourselves, but because we should be too embarrassed to appear in public using the only other limbs available to us — our legs and feet.

### Nimble feet

But Marilyn refused to vegetate. She came to terms with her disability and decided she was going to live as normal a life as possible. She has trained her feet

to be as nimble as hands—nimble enough to sew on buttons and type a letter.

She drives a car skilfully and safely with one foot on the steering wheel and the other on a specially designed panel.

### Douglas Bader

She goes shopping wearing a cape with outside pockets inside. She keeps her money

in her shoe and stands on one leg while her other foot picks up goods for selection. A recent television programme in which she appeared with Douglas Bader, the legless ex-fighter pilot, showed her choosing Christmas cards in this way from an ordinary rack in a card shop.

It takes a special kind of courage to be a Marilyn Gillies—but it's the kind of courage that will always win through against the odds.

D/EX 1758/9/3

# PERSONAL POSERS

## Why read 'dangerous' books?

I have always counted myself a Christian with a simple faith which has supported me since Sunday School days. A friend of mine is encouraging me to read some new books about the Bible and the Church which have made him change many of his views. I think it is a mistake to read this sort of book. Do you agree?

S. F. B., Birmingham.

I don't think it is a mistake to read books because there is always a need to learn more about our own faith even though this may be a painful process, but I think it is a mistake to believe every-

thing you read in books. Lots of people think that if something is printed then it must be true. But this is not the case—and the same applies to newspapers as well!

For every book that puts over one point of view there is another that says something quite different. The danger lies in only reading books that put over one point of view without reading others that take the opposite. It is only by reading both that you can make a judgment.

I am sure that your local clergyman would be happy to try and assist you in the reading.

## Should my son join the army?

My son has decided to join the army as a career. This upsets me as I am a pacifist and I've tried to persuade him to think again.

A lot of people tell me that I'm stupid. What do you think?

M. C., Bromsgrove.

Having lived in your household for the best part of twenty years, your son is presumably well aware of the pacifist

viewpoint. It seems that he has rejected that and formed a different conviction—a healthy and not uncommon reaction of children to the attitudes of their parents.

Some boys join the army to play games and see the world. I think you should make it quite brutally clear to your son that a soldier's job is to kill efficiently, even if that is a means to a good end, such as keeping peace. He must make his own decision—but with his eyes open.

## What should our vicar's wife wear?

Our vicar's wife always comes to Church in a pair of jeans. She seems incongruous among the rest of our congregation in their Sunday clothes. Shouldn't she show more respect when she comes to Church?

P. J., Greenford.

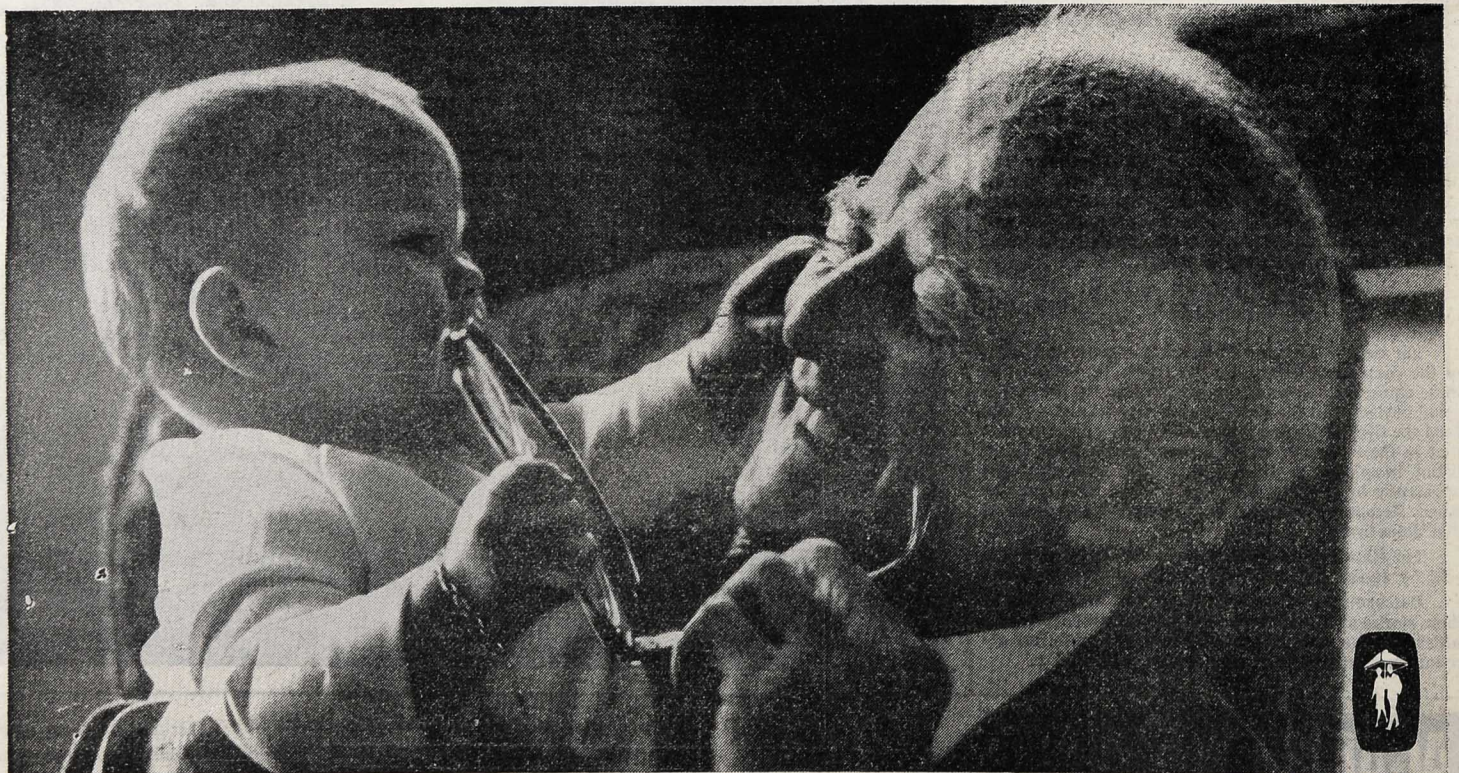
I'm glad you're not asking me whether or not we ought to wear our best clothes to go to church because there are good arguments on both sides in that one. Certainly everyone would agree that the first priority for worship is a right attitude of heart and mind and not the right clothes. If your vicar's wife is giving

genuine offence, however, her attitude to the other worshippers is hardly a right one, and if the local convention is for Sunday best she could do a little better than wearing jeans. I'm not quite sure who the respect you talk about is due to. If the congregation, then I think you're right. If God, then as I said at the beginning, there are good arguments on both sides. Of course you can't rule out the possibility that she's making a protest against a kind of suburban hypocrisy that might be putting the convention of best clothes in the position of priority number one. In which case she's in the mainstream of Christian tradition, and very much following in the Lord's footsteps.



Have you got a problem?  
Readers are invited to

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# KALEIDOSCOPE

## LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE

### Plain Man's guide to how Parliament cuts the cackle

Like lots of things it all began with the Irish. To protest in the last century against Britain not allowing Ireland a Government of its own they kept talking—and talking—and talking; anything as long as Parliament was obstructed. In 1881, for example, they kept a debate going for forty-one hours. As long as their remarks were "in order" the Speaker could do nothing.

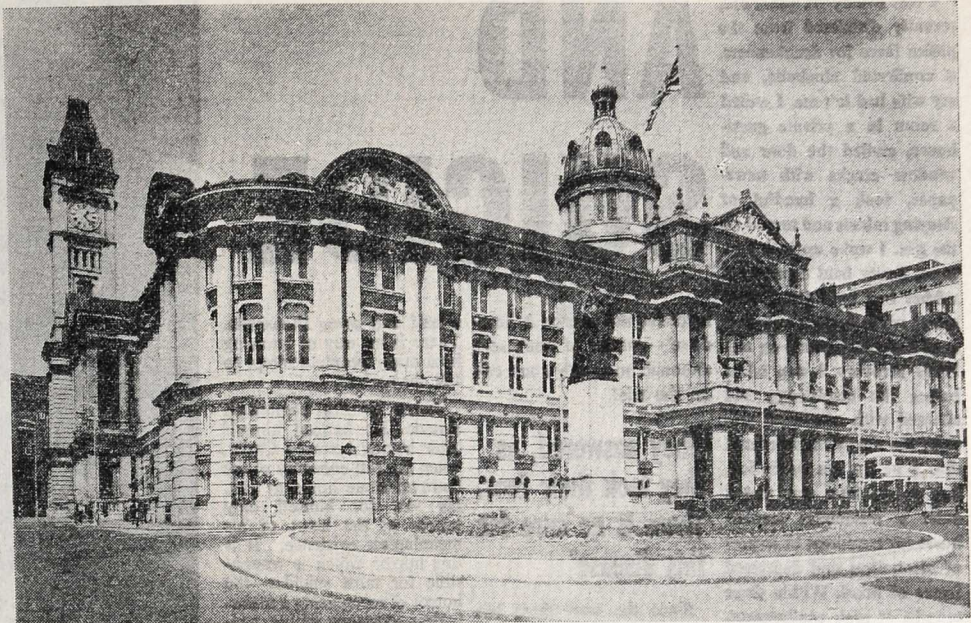
So the rules of debate were changed.

Now if the Speaker thinks someone is talking just to hold things up, he may "close the debate". What happens is this: after a debate has proceeded for some time, an M.P. moves "that the question be put", in other words, that the subject under debate should be voted on. His suggestion is first put to the vote and then, if the majority is in favour, the debate is closed and the main vote is taken.

This is the CLOSURE.

Another method of cutting the cackle is for the Government to fix a time-limit in advance for a particular Bill. This means that a certain part of the Bill must be passed by a certain date and time. Amendments not dealt with by then have to be left undebated.

This method of helping the business along is the GUILLOTINE.



## THE BIG—LITTLE GAME

### Introducing a series on local government

A major question about your life and mine in the foreseeable future is how much is run by the big boys centrally and how much by the little men round the corner. Politics in a world dom-

inated by cities is becoming a game of big versus little.

This is something which must ring a bell with readers of a paper which has "community" written into every edition. When the little men round the corner are in control of things, community has a chance. When the big brothers in Whitehall or other distant corridors of power have the say, local feeling is faced with a struggle.

In the next months the key field for this big-little game in this country will be the reform of local government.

We are moving from the Redcliffe-Maud Commission, which reported in 1969, to the final decisions on practical re-organisation.

These final decisions will be based on the Commission's proposals. There were four main ones:

- (1) **unitary areas** for most of the country, each with a population of from about 250,000 to about 1 million, under a single local government authority;
- (2) **metropolitan areas** with two-tier authorities, where planning, transport and development need to be larger than the other services;
- (3) **local councils**, which can be set up in either of the above when the inhabitants want them; these aim at bridging the big-little gap by giving a forum for local community opinion;
- (4) **provinces**: the unitary and metropolitan areas would be grouped into eight provinces, each with a provincial

be reversed, and local democracy resume its place as a major part of our democratic system."

Words are one thing. Actions that work out are another. Indications are that it may well be impossible to put the Government's high-sounding ideals into practice. Our series will look more closely at the chances.

Next month: *The Central-Local Link-up.*

### PROFILE

#### The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe M.P.

by Watchman



"I know who that is", stated my young son. "That's Mr. Jeremy Thorpe. He's the Leader of the Liberal Party — which always loses."

Out of the mouth of babes!

But what a reputation for a man to carry through his political life: leading the party "which always loses".

It is a reputation, though, which Jeremy Thorpe shrugs off. And the impression that is left is not "This man's a loser" but "This man's got dignity".

Part of this dignity comes from his dapper, old-fashioned "gentleman's gentleman" kit — all pin-striped, tightly rolled and black.

It's also a dignity that is made to measure for an Old Etonian who was, in 1951, President of the Oxford Union before being a barrister.

But perhaps it is also a dignity that comes from some high degree of inner strength. Most people will recall how this showed through at the time of the tragic death of his wife, Caroline, in a road crash. This was in June, 1970: they had married only two years before, when he was 39; their son, Rupert, was born in 1969. In

spite of this personal disaster and a hard time of it for his party in the General Election in the same month, Jeremy Thorpe went on steadily in public life — steadily with dignity.

He must be something of a strong man to hold together, as he did so effectively at the 1971 Liberal Party Conference, the conflicting old and young guards among his fellow-Liberals.

This is all quite impressive. But it is another question whether it is likely to achieve anything for the Liberal cause or for the nation's politics, in which a strong third party is sorely needed.

Steady, gentlemanly dignity is one thing. And it's present in this man. Dynamic, challenging political effectiveness is another. That is not so apparent.



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BRANCHES ALL OVER THE MIDLANDS

# LONELINESS

# AND SUICIDE

I was twenty six years old, recently dismissed from the police force for drunkenness, a confirmed alcoholic, and my wife had left me. I rented a room in a private guest-house, stuffed the door and window cracks with newspaper, took a handful of sleeping tablets and turned on the gas. I woke up in a hospital, firmly held down to a rubber bed by thick leather straps while doctors and staff used a stomach-pump on me. Upon recovery I was taken before the magistrates and charged with attempted suicide; the magistrates ordered that I be put on probation, and a condition was that I enter a residential mental-home for treatment in respect of alcoholism and depressed frame of mind. Within three months of such confinement, my suicidal tendencies were stronger than ever. But I'm one of the lucky ones. I lived. I got through my bad patches in life . . . I eventually learned that one doesn't fight life or run away from it; one learns that life is a Privilege bestowed by the Eternal Mind, and accordingly one learns to use the gift with honour and decency.

Today, would-be-suicides are not charged for the attempt; yet if the attempt

succeeds, the offence is 'felon-de-se'—murder of one's self, although no earthly court can set the trial.

**'They answered, as they took their fees, There is no cure for this disease'**

Since the war, there has been a steady increase in the numbers of both actual and attempted suicide—and this increase is entirely out of proportion to the increase in

a half and seven thousands. There is no way of knowing how many people attempt to kill themselves.

Judas Iscariot committed suicide. He hanged himself after having betrayed Christ, when the full enormity of the betrayal came home to him. He saw for himself only horror at the heart of his meaningless existence. It is this horror which is responsible for most suicides—the horror of recognising a meaningless existence within oneself. Infecting the horror is an area of desolation and isolation from others, a deep and awful loneliness. No matter how large the surrounding crowd, how loud



## Archie Hill investigates CAUSES FOR CONCERN

the population as a whole. Pre-war, the annual suicide-rate averaged 3,000. Today, it averages between six and

the social music, how attractive the neon and glitter, the loneliness is spirit-deep and overwhelming. It doesn't matter if the loneliness is self-imposed following guilt or betrayal; fear of legal or moral consequences; the tormenting loss of a loved one; to escape the pain of personal disease or handicap . . . it is inner loneliness which drives a human being to take his or her own life! Loneliness is mental and spiritual isolation. Physical loneliness has little or nothing to do with it.

**'I've lived in bed-sitters all my life. No roots, no friends . . . I don't know how to make friends. I move and drift . . . I'd like to die, I think'**

Sixteen years old Victoria Campton killed herself here in London just two days before the recent Christmas. She locked herself in the bathroom of a children's-care home and swallowed almost a hundred Codeine and slimming pills. Victoria had been committed to the home many times since she was seven, and on the night she died she told staff "I can't go on".

**'She locked the door and wouldn't come out. She threatened to jump from the window if I opened the door. She felt deeply about being here, and had a lot of moods of depression.'**

Victoria didn't really kill herself. Society killed her. The stresses and strains imposed upon her destroyed her reasoning power. The need to be loved drove her to seek a final solution where love didn't matter. Caught up in unhappy existence, she sought non-existence. She desperately needed to communicate and be communicated with, but somehow the world was deaf.

Victoria is but one of an increasingly large number of people who kill themselves each year. Who kill themselves because of inner isolation and loneliness. But we do not know how many suicidal deaths are concealed under "findings" of 'accidental death', or 'causes unknown', or 'death by natural causes'.

In Edinburgh it is reported that of all attempted suicides, nearly 40% are alcoholics.

Similar findings have been reported in London and Liverpool. But it becomes clear to a serious researcher that the attempts at suicide are not necessarily brought about as a result of alcohol-addiction, rather the other way around. Many unhappy people become addicted to alcohol in an attempt to stave off the act of taking their own lives. This way, they become double-casualties. Unhappily, people in general are still apt to consider suicides and would-be-suicides with contempt and often mock-humour. The attitude of the 'successes' against the 'failures', of full-life people against empty-life people. The poet Donne, in his beautiful poem 'FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS', says—"No man is an island . . . each is part of the main, part of the continent"; and he says—"every man's death diminishes me . . . do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee". This is wonderful, God-inspired insight; but I myself would suggest that every man IS an island, and that each man's task in life is to build bridges of communication from one island to another. Within our generation, because of political and economic and social pressures within our society, more and more people will take their own lives. They will 'opt out' because they find life ugly, lonely, insensitive, cold and hostile. They will opt out because they find heartbreak in the pulse of things like war, hunger, injustice. They will opt out because they feel that God has let them down; they will die because they can find nothing to live for. We are rightly focusing attention on the threat to our lives and planet from pollution. Pollution of air, land and water.

But let us at the same time pay urgent attention to the pollutions of the mind and spirit which causes human beings to destroy themselves with their own hands in contradiction to the laws and love of God. Let us, Society, put strong values back INTO Society in order that people will want to live for it, and not escape from it.

**'I saw this dog in the street, lost it was. All thin and hungry. People kept trying to pat it, talk to it and make friends with it. The local paper wrote about it, and dozens of people phoned in to say they'd give it a home. Yet the same people would pass human being by without a word of encouragement or friendliness . . .'**

And, as individuals, let us not stop up our ears against the cries from the wilderness of others despair.

**The suicide is saying, in effect — "Father, condemn them, for they know full well what they do". And if we ignore the person crying in the wilderness, if we pass him by and will not lend a hand, we endorse his blasphemy.**

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# CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

March, 1972

THE NEWSPAPER OF ANGLICANS, FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CAVERSHAM

Number 90

## THE OTHER FIFTY-ONE WEEKS

ONCE AGAIN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY brought home to Caversham Christians the joy inherent in a united church. We took stock of our common work, we worshipped together, and we also for the first time came together for a social gathering.

Mrs. Besley's report at the annual meeting of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service made all present aware of the wonderful piece of work that is being done. As calls for help continue to grow so more volunteers are needed, and among the ten thousand readers of this paper there must surely be more than a hundred who could undertake to help in some way or other—visiting the elderly, car driving, baby sitting are three jobs for which more helpers are needed. If you can possibly help, even though only occasionally, please contact Mrs. Besley at the address given on this page. Mr. Bessell in his talk at the meeting made it quite plain that he attaches the greatest importance to voluntary work of the Bridge scheme as a necessary supplement to the work of the statutory social services. But more helpers are urgently needed.

### INNOVATIONS

The week this year saw two important innovations. On Sunday, January 23rd, in addition to the pulpit exchanges in the evening to which we have become accustomed, Free Church ministers preached in the morning at the Eucharist in the four Anglican churches of Caversham, and brought with them members of their own congregations to share in the reception of the Blessed Sacrament. Then the following night St. Andrew's Hall was the setting for the remarkably successful social arranged by the Caversham Co-ordinating Committee. Nearly two hundred office bearers from the Anglican, Free and Roman Catholic Churches were present.

The evening proved to be an immensely happy one. Not only was it well organised by a most competent committee under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Evans, but it was a really representative gathering when people did not just stand in little groups talking to those from their own church whom they already knew.

### SOME PROGRESS

But in spite of all this unity seems to many to be slow in coming. We can however take heart from two events that have happened in the past year. English Congregationalists and Presbyterians have now finally agreed to unite in one Church and this will become effective this autumn. Then only a few weeks ago the members of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission published an agreed statement about Eucharistic Doctrine—that is to say what members of our two churches mean by the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This statement has still to be ratified by our respective churches but it should be noted that the members of the Commission who subscribed to it were officially appointed and came from many countries representing a wide variety of theological backgrounds. "Our intention" they say, "was to reach a consensus at the level of faith, so that all of us might be able to say, within the limits of the Statement: this is the Christian faith of the Eucharist".

This does not mean that there is as yet inter-communion between Anglicans and Roman Catholics but in the words of the Commission "We have seen it as our task to find a

## PEGGY and JACK WHITEHEAD

WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MR. AND MRS. JACK WHITEHEAD TO TAUNTON, THE CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH has lost two people who were deeply involved in the life of the church in many ways, and who will be greatly missed.

As members of the Trustees they shared in the responsibility, with the other trustees, for the care of the buildings, with Jack holding the office of Chapel Steward for some years. For four years Jack was also a Society Steward, being Senior Steward in 1964, and carrying out this office with a real sense of responsibility and leadership.

In her capacity of a Class Leader and as Cradle Roll Secretary, Peggy expressed a real concern for people by a pastoral care which sought to bring others into the fellowship of the church through friendship. They have both served the church on numerous committees through the years and as is so often the case with busy people never refused an appeal for help in organising anything.

Their interests ranged over a wide area—the Badminton

Club sprang from Jack's love of sport. They both swam and played tennis and bowls, which was indicative of their enjoyment of life. Their commitment to the Christian way of life led them to express this in activities outside the church in social service of many kinds, of which Peggy's work with the Citizens' Advice Bureau was only one example. They believed firmly in an outward looking church.

So the congregation says farewell to Peggy and Jack, wishing them well in their new sphere. It has been good to see Jack fully recovered from his illness of last year. Caversham Heights owes a debt of gratitude to two folk who came among them, spread a lot of friendliness, took a willing share in the life and work of the church, and left many pleasant memories behind them.

way of advancing together beyond the doctrinal disagreements of the past. It is our hope that this doctrine will no longer constitute an obstacle to the unity we seek".

### DECISION IN MAY

Unity certainly is growing nearer. And for Anglicans and Methodists in England May 3rd will be a decisive date for it is the day appointed for the members of the Anglican General Synod to vote on the proposals for Anglican-Methodist unity. The Methodist Conferences have twice approved the scheme with a majority of 75%. The Anglicans only gave it a 69% majority last time and this was not sufficient. Although our own Diocesan Synod has passed it with a 75% majority there is considerable doubt as to whether the National Synod will do likewise. It has become abundantly clear that no alternative scheme exists which would meet with sufficient approval. Failure to pass the scheme in May will almost certainly result in a widespread disobedience of existing Church discipline and lead to a chaotic situation. The prayers of all Christians, and not just Anglicans and Methodists, are invited that the Holy Spirit will guide us all into that unity which is our Lord's will for His Church.

*John Grimwade*

### CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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VENTURE

# Shopping in Caversham

## THE FABRIC SHOP

As we mentioned recently, there are still a few gaps in our shopping facilities so it really is a pleasure to welcome Bob Gwyther and his wife, who have recently opened a fabric shop in Prospect Street.

Coming to Caversham from South Wales a few years ago Bob, who had spent most of his working life as a sales representative and is a member of the Institute of Marketing,

knows a great deal about the material he serves (all, incidentally, fully washable), his wife has interesting ideas on design and his assistant is able to advise very competently on patterns.

The shop is spacious enough to enable customers to look round in comfort and—believe it or not—a play space at the end where youngsters can be dumped while Mum browses. It is a gay and tempting shop where one can order curtains made to measure, choose from a complete range of McCall's patterns, or

order gay blinds in the new Mary Quant range of designs which can be matched at other shops in wallpaper, bed-linen, etc.

There is a list of local dressmakers available and all the advice you need about fabrics.

Bob and his wife certainly offer a service; we wish them well and hope their shop will be a great success.

### NUMBER FIVE

Nobody who has seen the crowds milling round the yard on Saturdays can fail to realise there is an evergrowing interest in antiques of all

kinds, so it was with interest that we watched Keith Russell and Jack Simpson setting up shop on the corner of North Street.

Though the shop is gay with new paint, the inside still contains the old butcher's marble fittings and I may say the effect is charming. What interested me more, however, was that here was something for everyone. For as little as 5p or as much as £100 one can buy all manner of interesting things, ranging from little earthenware pots at very little cost to more expensive items of glass, china, furniture, maps and so on, many very beautiful.

Mrs. Marshall who lives off Chieveley and is helping to run the shop, stresses that there is something for all purposes and all prices and that she is only too happy to discuss any possible purchase or sale.

Articles are accepted for sale on commission, ranging from 25 per cent for articles up to £25 in value to 10 per cent for those over £100; articles not sold within six months can be reclaimed or reduced in price.

Here one can browse happily, choose from a wide range of clearly priced items, lodge requests for items one wants or offer articles for sale on clearly stated terms—a blessing in these days of slick salesmanship.

Our best wishes to the owners and staff on their new venture.

W.D.

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In the years following, the work of Oxfam has grown tremendously. It is no longer a charity which merely responds to disaster situations, such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones, wars etc.; it is rather an Agency which is actively concerned in development projects, where more than three-quarters of its total overseas spending is on schemes where we can "help people to help themselves".

Requests arrive at Oxford from over 80 countries, and at the moment some 700 projects are being supported. Many of these projects are in fact run by missions of all shades, within the total ecclesiastical spectrum. The extra help which Oxfam is able to provide can mean so much, to those who are doing a magnificent job, but are constantly hampered by a lack of funds. It may mean the provision of a mobile clinic, for preventive medicine particularly amongst children, or the support of agricultural training, aimed at introducing new ideas and methods, or the financial backing needed for moral welfare schemes in some of the large cities in the developing world, or the provision of clean, piped water in places where there is constant

drought, and so on.

In order to honour the £3 million commitment which Oxfam has made to the developing world, Oxfam relies heavily on the dedicated work of tens of thousands of volunteers, through the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. Many of these volunteers find adequate expression of their concern through one of the 350 gift shops in the U.K.

Oxfam have been fortunate in securing the use of property in Prospect Street which they intend to run as an Oxfam gift shop. Oxfam hope that those who can will take to the shop gifts that perhaps they no longer need. Oxfam is always happy to receive paperbacks, records, ornaments, household items, bric-a-brac, glass, china, as well as the more valuable items of jewellery, silver or paintings. Clothing which is clean, and still wearable, is also welcomed. All such donated items are carefully priced by the volunteers, and sold through the shop.

The whole operation hinges on the voluntary helper, who gives a morning or afternoon session regularly each week. Some helpers came because they were lonely, or bored, or wanted to help somebody. Through the friendship of other helpers they have been helped themselves. There are so many jobs to be done within the Oxfam shop, that many helpers are needed. Will you help now? Ring Reading 52299, or write to the Rev. John Wallace, Oxfam Office, 373 Oxford Road, Reading. Through your help in the Caversham Oxfam Shop, Oxfam can offer hope, health and happiness to somebody in need overseas.



Helpers preparing for the opening of Oxfam's shop in Caversham—from left to right, Mrs. Lampard, Mrs. Spring and Mrs. Dubock.

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# A BIT OF RURAL ENGLAND

IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN A DO-IT-YOUR-SELF VILLAGE POND SCHEME? I've spent several days discovering how it is done, and here are the ingredients if you can find them.

Take one smelly old pond, one or two people born and bred in the district and interested in preserving its best features, add one or two enthusiastic people moving into the district and a co-operative local authority, and you can produce the kind of village pond that is now one of the joys of Emmer Green.

Some years ago Tony Orme, known mostly to us as the nice young man who serves in Davies' greengrocers, told me that some local people were trying to do something about rescuing the pond. Frankly I was sceptical until one morning recently when I happened to get off the bus on that corner. Gone was the slime and weeds, and the unpleasant smell; here was a charming bit of English countryside, fresh, clean, neatly fenced in and abounding in wild life busily sunning itself in the winter sunshine.

## The thing snowballed

It is impossible to mention all those who had a hand in this. Beginning with those local residents who approached the Council when it was heard the pond might be filled in, the thing snowballed, as Tony says. He himself bred some of the first birds for the pond and his friend, George Harris, brought along some carp.

Then—a stroke of luck—Mr. and Mrs. Goodall moved into the 400 year old house, a pair of converted cottages, just behind the pond. Reali-

sing that though it was not their property it could be an unusually enjoyable amenity for themselves and others, they joined in with gusto. They cleared the shrubs that blocked their view, they visited Slimbridge and discovered a great deal about wild birds and their habits and they started to add Mallards and other ducks. The local council willingly erected a new fence, a few new shrubs were added and from then on it was up to the birds themselves. For the benefit of those as ignorant as I was, I should say that the birds do a wonderful job of clearing up their own home themselves.

Other people, including Dr. Latto, have added stock and many, including Mr. Hutchings, the local hairdresser, have helped with feeding and so on.

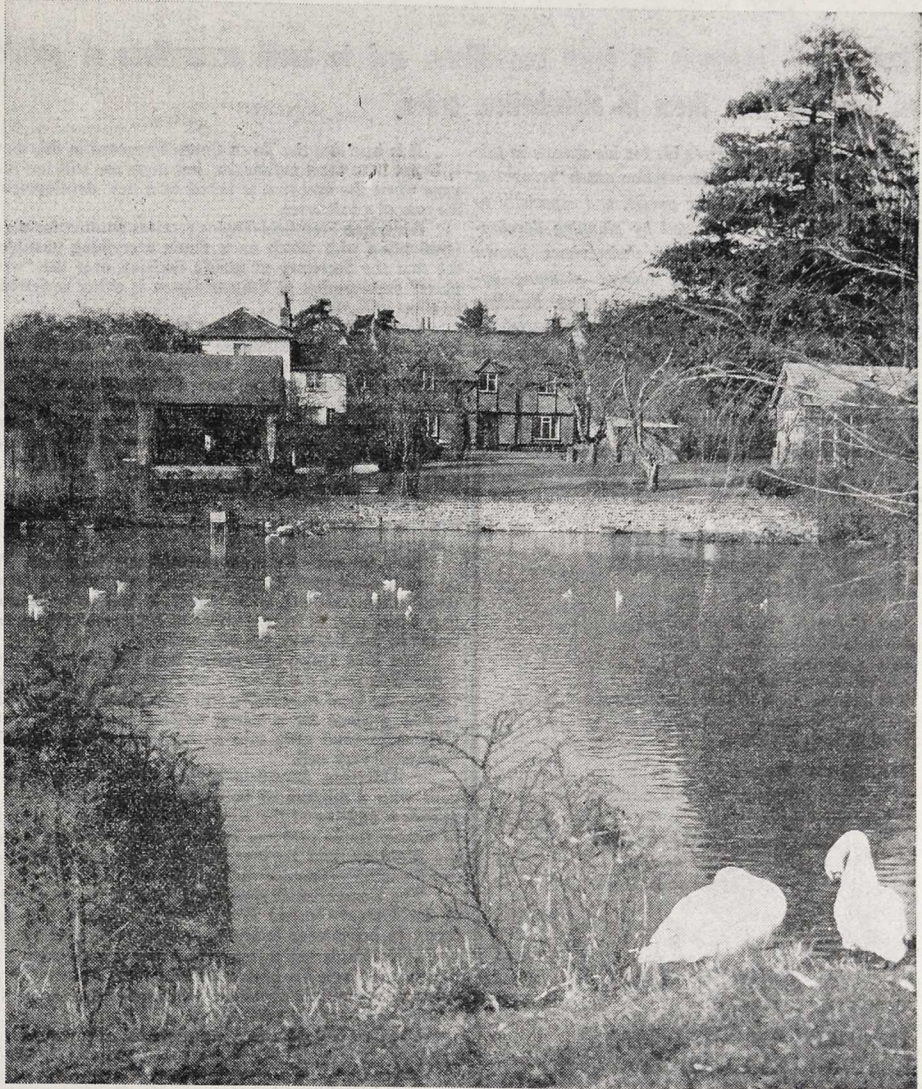
One of the interesting sidelights on the affair is that the idea snowballs. Tony, who now lives at Sonning Common, tried unsuccessfully to do the same thing there; alas, someone removed the ducks, but the idea caught on at Kidmore End and now, he tells me, the pond there

is beginning to look a picture. Like the one at Emmer Green it has a beautiful setting with a lovely old house behind it. There are many people in this district interested in wild life and Tony suggests it should not be difficult to form a society for the conservation of village ponds. Mrs. Goodall says there are many ponds in the county crying out for such treatment and she and her husband will be only too willing to give anyone the benefit of what they have learned themselves.

In the meantime, do go and look some time but please only throw food right into the water; food left on the bank can only attract rats. Another difficulty is that the banks are inclined to break away easily, so please be careful about not tramping too near the edge. And if anyone has any strong shrubs suitable for planting on a rather crumbly bank, they will be warmly received by Mr. and Mrs. Goodall.

So often the columns of this page are full of grumbles about changes in Caversham; here is one we can thoroughly appreciate and we should surely express our thanks to all those who have had a hand in restoring a bit of rural England.

W.D.



Walton Adams.

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# Bouquets and Brickbats

First of all, bouquets to town councillors, and to avoid accusations of political bias, we will take them in alphabetical order.

Councillor Jim Day receives his for his success in getting the Town Council to pass a resolution which "recognises the importance of giving to the public, and especially to those people who may be affected by planning developments, every opportunity to make their views known before such developments finally receive planning approval, and requests the Town Planning and Building Committee to improve their arrangements for publicising and inviting comments upon the planning applications they receive."

It is true that the Town Council's record in this matter is better than most authorities' but there are still too many gaps when the first that is heard of a new development is the roar of a bulldozer.

Alderman Stansfield-Taylor receives another for the determination with which he is doing everything possible to see that the Secretary of State's decision over the "wrong place" supermarket at Emmer Green is either reviewed or its effect mitigated.

Councillor David Stoddart also receives one, for his refreshing call to reappraise long-term plans for major developments in the town. His particular example was the controversial Stage 3 of the Inner Distribution Road. Is this the best way of spending £6m. to solve our traffic problems or are we going to destroy much of the character of historic Reading for something that will be out of date before it is started? Where does public transport fit in? Would a third bridge be a better use of the money?

These questions need asking and answering and the Residents Association congratulates Councillor Stoddart on raising them in open Council.

Now for one of our more customary brickbats. Why on earth must land be taken from both sides of Henley Road when widening takes place? It had to be accepted that either part of front gardens or a pleasant row of trees would be lost, but why, Oh why both?

The Post Office also comes into this category. After a prodding from the Director of Postal and Telecommunications the local Post Office still insists that it is impossible to find a place for a stamp vending machine in central Caversham—and adds that anyhow decimalised machines don't work very well.

Alderman Stansfield-Taylor will probably have to cope with a mixture of bouquets and brickbats when he attends a meeting of the Residents' Association Committee to discuss traffic problems in Caversham. As Chairman of the Highways and Drainage Committee he probably feels that the latter outnumber the former.

The Committee is ready to receive its share of either, at the Annual General Meeting on 6th March, but don't forget to bring your bouquets for the makers of the film about Reading's waterways which we are showing after the main business has been concluded. Mr. D'Arcy Lee will introduce it and talk about the Thames at Caversham. This is something not to be missed.

The time 8.0 p.m. and the place Church House, M.C.

## Mapledurham Parish Council

"The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 13th January, 1972. Mr. W. H. Wheeler, chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council have recently asked the County Council for its comments upon the development plan for the Parish. However, the County Council did not show a great deal of interest in the proposals put forward by the Parish Council, and the Parish Council therefore decided to consider a plan of their own, which will eventually be submitted to the County Council. A committee of the Council has been empowered to work out details that will embrace the Parish as a whole.

The Bye-laws that have recently been agreed by the Parish Council have now been approved by the Home Office, and they will shortly be available for public inspection. The bye-laws relate to the control of the two playing fields in the Parish.

The Council were informed that the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and also The Chiltern Society, have expressed the view that they would be prepared to carry out some clearance of the old wood and trees, and also plant some new trees on the escarpment area between The Warren and Ridge Hall Estate. Although

this land has not yet been handed over to the Parish Council, the Clerk is to press for the legal transactions to be expedited.

Following a request that the County Council should provide the Parish Council with more details regarding the proposed development of two dwellings in Hewett Avenue, this information was reported to the Council, but it was apparent that there were no conditions warranting any further action that the Parish Council could take.

The Parish Council agreed to serve a Precept upon the Henley RDC for a sum of £1,550 for the financial year 1972/3. This will again be the equivalent to a 2p. rate.

An application for the proposed erection of 10 houses with garages on land rear of 196a/198, Upper Woodcote Road and to the rear of 71-87, Woodcote Way was considered. No objection was raised by the Parish Council in respect of the proposed development, who were also informed that a member of the Planning Application Committee had visited many of the properties adjacent to the site to obtain the views of local residents; it appeared that the majority of residents accepted such a development.

A request has been made to Henley RDC to improve the present footpath on the north side of Rokeby Drive.

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## An Evening in Church Street

Soft light filtered through grapevines and frangipane blossoms, the throbbing beat of a Greek orchestra filled the air, exotic food, stuffed vineleaves, savoury meatballs, all sorts of mysterious salads, Cypriot wines were served. Every few minutes men, not women, got up and danced traditional Greek dances. More and more people crowded in, more tables were set up, the dancing space grew smaller, but still they danced. The bride and groom got up and danced a pas-de-deux while their guests hurried to pin bank notes all over the bride's corsage. All the while more people kept arriving. Steak eventually was served, followed later, much later, by trifle and enormous slabs of wedding cake. The festivities lasted far into the night.

Where was this travel agents' paradise? The plastic grapevines and frangipane might have given a clue, though the food and drink were real enough—in Caversham, at the wedding reception of an exiled Cypriot now farming in Berkshire.

W.A.V.

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# The Bridge Social Service Scheme

A good number turned up to the AGM at St. Anne's Hall on 20th January. The meeting was opened by a prayer from Father O'Malley who introduced the chairman, Dr. Boucher. A report from the Treasurer, Mr. Sheen, showed that in spite of his short term of office he was able to produce a healthy bank balance.

Mrs. Besley, the Central Organiser then gave us some details of the work recently carried out. Some requests, she said, meant only one call, whereas one old lady had been taken to hospital to see her husband several nights a week for several months. There had been requests for car services, for helping new mothers with shopping, for sitters-in and other odd jobs, including gardening. She stressed that each new call often meant new volunteers since some jobs tended to be long-term.

Mrs. Besley was at pains to thank area organisers and to welcome Mr. D. E. Thomas, the new area organiser for West Caversham. Unfortunately there was no place on the agenda for a vote of thanks for Mrs. Besley herself, without whom the service could not carry on; it is doubtful if anyone in the hall was unaware of the very big part she has played and continues to play.

She then introduced Mr. Bessell, Director of Social Services in Reading. In his opening remarks he paid personal tribute to the Bridge Scheme which, he said, came to his help when he and his family first arrived here.

He went on to give us some idea of the extent of social service work, professional and voluntary in the area. He praised the work of the statutory bodies and such organ-

isations as the WRVS and the Meals on Wheels organisation, together with the schoolchildren who helped. He stressed the need for workers to go out and look for the needy and pointed out the importance of keeping families together. He mentioned the luncheon clubs, of which there are now eight in the town. One service they did find difficult to cope with, he said, was that of gardening for those unable to cope with their own; this problem his department had so far failed to solve.

### Suggestions for Improvements

Mr. Bessell had one or two suggestions to make. First he said, nobody should do voluntary work if they did not enjoy it; obviously there would be times when one would be called on to do an ungenial task but in general it was best to do the work one enjoyed most. Secondly he suggested the time was coming to think seriously about better training for voluntary workers. There is no essential difference between voluntary and professional workers and local authorities were only too willing to help with training. Above all, we should familiarise ourselves with the various Acts governing social service.

It was a challenging thought and as soon as Mr. Bessell finished speaking the suggestion was put from the floor that the Bridge Scheme should seriously consider this idea; the Chairman said it

would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Meanwhile if anyone wants to go ahead with their own training, we would like to mention that Mr. Bessell himself has just had a book published by Batsford entitled "Interviewing and Counselling"; we are sure our library will obtain a copy for us to borrow if we ask.

The meeting ended with tea and biscuits kindly served by the Guides from St. Anne's.

W.D.

## AN EVENING OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Three cheers for Highdown School, its masters and students! Another group of enterprising enthusiasts — with a real chance to foster a community spirit in Caversham. The school has over 1,000 students with a potential pool of talent and a very good theatre hall. "An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan" proved it. The programme was well planned by the producer David Miller, the Entrance and the March of the Peers from "Iolanthe" and the suite from "The Gondoliers" represented an excellent introduction to the "Trial by Jury". The voice of the Peers was clear and the 30-strong orchestra, assisted by several music teachers, under the direction of Raymond Jones, head of the Highdown Music Department, was lively in frequently and interrupted by applause. What an encouragement to everybody! The chorus of some 15 young ladies and a dozen young gentlemen blended beautifully with the orchestra.

To the students of Highdown School it must have come as a bit of a surprise to see that Desmond Saunders or David Berry, Joy Buckle, David Gwyther and David Miller — and many other masters — were such good sports! Or, for instance, that such talent was displayed by Julian Savory as the defendant. Those few sneers and giggles at the beginning soon turned into a warm and enthusiastic acceptance and approval as the programme got under way.

On March 22, 23 and 24, the Middle and Upper School Drama Club will perform two one-act plays, "Everyman" and "The Right Place". We are looking forward to the occasion!

P.G.



Photo: Walton Adams

St. Andrew's Reading Pipers seen entertaining the Church leaders at the ecumenical social.

## A CHANCE TO MEET SOCIALLY

On Monday evening, January 24th, at the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity an ecumenical gathering of nearly two hundred people was held in the form of a Social Evening at St. Andrew's Hall when Church officials, their wives or husbands and members of the clergy with their wives spent a most enjoyable time getting to know each other.

Guests were soon swept into the party spirit by the pipes and drums of a Highland band and watched Scottish dancing before themselves taking part in the Gay Gordons and then a Progressive Barn Dance.

Over excellent refreshments at a very decorative buffet people had plenty of time to chat before the entertainment began. A short act by a magician was followed

by Folk Singers. The finale was a sing song in which Mr. Buck, arrayed in scarlet hunting jacket must be congratulated for his fine solo rendering on the hunting horn as John Peel. He was ably supported by other members of the audience.

A most rewarding evening for all those who worked so hard with the arrangements and a very worth while step towards Unity.



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# ST. JOHN'S NEWS

## PING PONG IN PEKIN

Having visited the Land of the Jumbies (via the Oxford Playhouse) last year, children from St. John's Sunday School, with some parents, teachers and younger members of the choir, found themselves transported to China on Jan. 8th this year. There they learned that a Chinese laundry—especially when run by Widow Twankey with Mrs. Ping and Mrs. Pong—is far more colourful and entertaining than the local launderette. They survived the subsequent terrors of shattering explosions and a horrifying giant spider and were able to help Aladdin and his attractive Slave of the Lamp to foil the wicked designs of Abanazar in true pantomime style. Some of the children joined widow Twankey and Dog Tray on the stage in a number which gave ample scope for any budding Johnny Morris (and a certain amount of disappointment that the song wouldn't be included in the following day's Sunday School programme).

The pantomime was well up to the usual standard of the Playhouse's Christmas production, with words and music specially written for family entertainment by the theatre's Director of Productions, Frank Hauser. It was brilliantly staged, with striking scenery and lighting effects, and colourful costumes.

Before leaving Oxford, the

party had their "picnic tea" in the Old Library which had been put at their disposal by the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

Judging by the noise level in the coach coming home, "A good time was had by all".

## DISPLAY SCREEN

As a result of the appeal in an earlier edition of the "Caversham Bridge", the Sunday School now has two screens on which to display their work. This means that there can be a permanent display in church while the second screen is used for current work in the Hall. Many thanks to the two donors, to Mr. Cartwright for so willingly collecting the screens and to Mr. Houghton for adapting the larger one and fixing castors so that it can be moved easily in and out of the hall cupboard.

Thanks are also due to those who were responsible for having the West wall in the church painted recently, and for having the window cleaned. The interior of the church is much improved and lighter as a result.

## TREASURER TO WED.

All the congregation of St. John's join in congratulating Mr. Cyril Badger, the District treasurer on his engagement to Miss R. Remnant of Tilehurst. They are intending to be married shortly before Easter and will be living in Mr. Bader's present home in All Hallows Road.

# Round the Anglican Parish

## OVER 1,100 CONFIRMED BY BISHOP

Since he became Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Rev. Eric Knell has been to Caversham on many occasions to take confirmation services. He has confirmed 1,175 candidates from the parish and on March 24th at 8 p.m. the Bishop will celebrate Holy Communion and preach. All those whom he has confirmed are receiving a letter signed personally by the Bishop asking them to be present and renew their confirmation promises before him that night. In the course of years many whom the Bishop has confirmed have moved away from the area but attempts are being made to trace them so that they can receive a copy of the Bishop's letter. A special choir will be formed of those whom the Bishop has confirmed and servers, sidesmen and other helping at the service will all be drawn from those confirmed by the Bishop. Bishop Knell will make a final visit to Caversham before his retirement to take this year's confirmation on Wednesday, May 10th.

## THE ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The dates of the annual parochial and district meetings in March are published on another page. The elections this year will be based on the new roll that has been prepared. Dr. Beale last year announced that he intended to resign as Churchwarden this March. Mr. Frank Beetham is not standing for re-election as district warden at St. Andrew's and there is a vacancy at St. Peter's caused by the death of Mr. S. A. B. Flack. All parishioners are urged to be present at both the meeting of their own district and at the meeting of the whole parish which follows a week later.

## JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting on January 18th in Toc H the Council had a varied agenda. The Rev. Peter Atkinson introduced a report of the Reading Council of Churches regarding the need for clergy and laity to be trained for mission in the world of industry, trade and commerce. Mr. John Tomlin reported on a meeting of parents and Sunday school teachers which had been considering the problems of the religious training of children and the Council gave consideration to providing more opportunities of non-liturgical worship for parents and children who are not accustomed to Eucharistic worship.

Mr. Burnside presented the Parochial Budget. As a result of the stewardship campaign parish finances are in a more healthy condition. It is however expected that there will be a sharp rise in the diocesan apportionment in 1973 as it has remained the same for six years. It was decided that it would be wisest to take £1,000 into reserve as a number of major items of expenditure are likely to occur in the near future and reserve funds are at present almost non-existent.

A resolution was passed asking the Bishop to continue to permit Messrs. Eves, Fowler, Vincent and Woolford to help with the administration of the chalice.

## MOTHERS' UNION

The annual Lady Day Service for the Mothers' Union branches of the parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham will be held this year for the first time at St. Margaret's where the preacher will be the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Rev. Derek Eastman who was one time priest in charge of St. Andrew's. As Lady Day falls this year on a Saturday the service will be held on the eve, Friday, March 24th at 2.45 p.m., and tea will be served in Trench Green Hall.

## SHE SANG THE SERMON

In place of the sermon at the Parish Communion on the Feast of the Epiphany at St. Peter's, Eileen Lowes, a pupil of Barbara Justham, sang the arias and recitatives from Scarlatti's Christmas Oratorio. With her were the Deimos String Quartet together with Peter Twitchen who provided the continuo work on the harpsichord. The whole work added greatly to the quality of the worship and fitted admirably into the dignified Liturgy on such a feast day. The performers joined many of the congregation in the Toc H building after the Eucharist for the customary 12th Night Party.

## CAVERSHAM PARK

House Communions will be held at 10.30 a.m. on March 8th at 14 Eltham Avenue and on March 22nd at 5 Kendal Avenue.

The Family service is held every Sunday morning in the School Hall at 11.15 a.m. and lasts half an hour. This is an ecumenical service, and an open invitation is extended to Christians of all denominations.

## St. Paul's News

The Presbyterian-Congregational Union proposals have been accepted, and this ends a time of uncertainty for St. Paul's Church, as along with other congregations they make up the United Reformed Church, facing the future with confidence and hope. It is the end of a story which began as long ago as 1933, but the influence of this union will be felt far beyond these two denominations. Presbyterianism is a system of church government world wide in its witness and Christians in places like far off Taiwan (Formosa), will watch developments with interest. Now that agreement has been reached, the congregations have got to make the proposals work. Obviously there will have to be a good deal of readjustment—but with tolerance, deep thought and prayer the churches in obedience to the Lord and Head of the Church will pull through.

Christianity in the U.S.A. may be more prosperous and successful than it is in this country—perhaps the Church there reflects the affluence of the people Church people. Do show a willingness to experiment and are finding new patterns of worship and different hours for Assembly. The Congregational Tradition is pretty strong in New England which is not surprising because it stems from the Pilgrim Fathers. In 1620 they set out from Plymouth, England, 67 days later they reached America and made their home in New Plymouth, Mass—a journey that can be done now in a few hours by jet plane! Perhaps there has never been a small group who have shown themselves so willing to endure hardships for the sake of the religion they wished to practise. Certainly their toughness endured when many other adventurers, interested chiefly in gold, slaves or other riches, were wiped out or forced to return home. No wonder they are remembered on Thanksgiving Day each year.

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## A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT



On Sunday, January the 9th the children of St. Andrew's Sunday School presented their Festival of Light to a packed Church.

The children had spent many weeks preparing for the Festival, the theme of which was Light. Florence Nightingale told those present how she used light in her work, and a Miner told of the importance of his 'Lamp'. The Festival included a Nativity Mime. An unusual presentation by the Three Kings and a Shepherd Boy. 'Chaos and Creation' were set to music and movement. The Christmas story was told in a child's own words. Carols were sung by the Sunday School Choir to music played by the children on Recorders and a d Kazoos.

Most of those present thought that the highlight was the Dance of the Stars and Lamps presented by the 'Tiny Tots' of the Sunday School in complete darkness. The Toddlers loved it as their little pin points of light flittered and darted about, reflecting and bouncing off the columns and walls of the Church.

It was a 'Family Affair' presented by the children of the Family of St. Andrew's.

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## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH BOYS BRIGADE

The Women's Work section of the Methodist Missionary Society at the Caversham Heights Church are holding their Annual Meeting on Thursday, 9th March.

This year they are privileged to have as the speaker Miss Ruth Anstey who is the Society's Secretary for India. Miss Anstey has been in India during the last few months, so that what she has to say will be doubly interesting in view of her experiences during that visit.

Instead of the usual tea following the meeting, there will be a Bread and Chees Lunch from 12.45 p.m. The meeting will commence at 2.15 p.m.

## GOSBROOK ROAD YOUNG WIVES

An excellent Hot Lunch was served to about 70 people in the schoolroom at Gosbrook Road on Saturday, January 15th.

The Young Wives worked very hard to organise this function and were very pleased that it was supported so well by church members and their families and friends. The amount raised for church funds was £7 52p and the Young Wives wish to thank all those who helped to raise this amount.

The 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade held a New Year Party on Saturday, January 8th. A good time was had by about 25 boys from the junior and company sections. Games and competitions were held and everyone enjoyed the buffet supper. The Party closed with an epilogue led by the Rev. T. R. Harris.

## WEDDING AT SPRINGFIELD

Springfield St. Luke's is a close-knit little community, so it was a very happy occasion for staff and residents alike, when Joan Mary Lee married Walter Pear on 4th January.

Joan worked in several houses of the Community before coming to Caversham some years ago, and it was here that she met Walter, a widower, who takes care of the gardens at Springfield. The marriage at St. Barnabas Church was followed by a reception, delightfully organised, by Scotts of Caversham, at Springfield itself; fortunately relatives of Joan and Walter were able to be present and it was an occasion much enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Pear are now living at the cottage in the grounds and the Caversham Bridge would like to offer them very sincere wishes for their future happiness.

## HOLY WEEK IN CAVERSHAM

### UNITED WORSHIP

Tuesday, March 28th: 8p.m.

At St. Andrew's. THE CROSS OF CHRIST. A service of music and readings for Holy Week.

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND-PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, March 26th.

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (all churches).  
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist with distribution of palms (all churches)

11-00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter's).  
11-15 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).  
6-30 p.m. Evensong (St. Peter's, St. Andrew's, St. Barnabas).

Monday, March 27th:

Holy Communion:  
7-00 a.m. St. Andrew's.  
8-00 p.m. St. Peter's.

Tuesday, March 28th:

Holy Communion:  
7-00 a.m. St. Peter's and St. Andrew's.

Wednesday, March 29th:

Holy Communion:  
7-00 a.m. St. Peter's.  
9-30 a.m. St. Andrew's.  
10-00 a.m. St. Barnabas'.  
7-30 p.m. St. Andrew's.

Maundy Thursday, March 30th:

Holy Communion:  
6-30 a.m. St. Andrew's.  
9-30 a.m. St. Peter's.  
10-00 a.m. St. John's.

Sung Eucharist with stripping of the altars.  
7-30 p.m. St. Andrew's.  
8-00 p.m. St. John's and St. Barnabas'.  
8-30 p.m. St. Peter's.

Good Friday, March 31st:

9-30 a.m. Litany and Ante-Communion (St. Andrew's).  
10-00 a.m. Morning Service (St. John's).  
10-00 a.m. Childrens Service (St. Peter's).  
11-00 a.m. Childrens Service (St. Andrew's and St. Barnabas).  
11-15 a.m. Childrens Service (St. John's).  
12-3 p.m. THE THREE HOURS DEVOTION (St. Peter's).  
Conducted by the Rector.  
6-00 p.m. Evening Prayer (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND: ST. MARGARET MAPLE-DURHAM

Palm Sunday, March 26th:

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9-15 a.m. Matins.

Good Friday, March 31st:

9-15 a.m. Morning Service.

### CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, March 26th:

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.  
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

### CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH AND CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, March 26th:

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.  
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

DETAILS OF SERVICES ON EASTER DAY WILL APPEAR IN THE APRIL EDITION OF THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE.



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## Madge Turner

We were very sorry to hear of the recent sudden death of Mrs. Margaret Turner, of Rotherfield Way, better known to her friends as Madge.

Mrs. Turner was a very active member of the Co-operative movement and held office in the Guild, the Education Committee and the Co-operative Party. She was a founder member of the Caversham Ladies' Club and a former member of the Executive Committee of the League of Friends of Boro-court Hospital.

There can be few Caversham people who have given so unstintingly of their time as Madge has done and she will be greatly missed in the community.

She leaves a husband, Allen her son, daughter-in-law Maureen and three grandchildren, and to them we offer — a little belatedly — our deep sympathy.

# ROUND THE CLUBS

## CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The Chairman Mrs. C. Mitchell welcomed members and several visitors to the January meeting when it was hoped that Mr. Bryant Peers would be speaking on 'Night and Day in Victorian London'. Unfortunately Mr. Bryant Peers was unable to attend owing to illness but thanks to the determination of the Secretary, Mrs. P. Tiffen, a speaker had been found at very short notice. Mrs. Turnbull from Maidenhead spoke on 'Fashion from the 10th Century'. She illustrated her talk with sketches show-

ing the changes in fashion from the simplicity of the 10th Century through the elaborate Elizabethan period to the present day 'trend'. A vote of thanks was expressed by Mrs. P. Garden.

Members are reminded of the Jumble Sale to be held on March 18th.

## THE JUBILEE CLUB, MAPLEDURHAM

During the last few months activities have included a most successful sale of work for Club funds raising over thirty pounds, a trip by coach to the Pantomime at Oxford and a very happy gathering at the Christmas Party when the children from Mapledurham Church school came in to sing carols. On this last occasion we were delighted to have with us Mr. Cassels, the secretary of the Oxfordshire Association for the Care of Old People.

## EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Two films were shown by Mr. E. A. Masters. The first made by the Swedish Tourist Board covered a British Family's holiday in Lapland which included a reindeer roundup and a game of football with the friendly Laps. The contrast in scenery was remarkable, first the dark forbidding peaks of the arctic and next delicate wild flowers blooming in abundance. The second film gave an account of their journey to Lapland, how they fished and bathed in the icy waters and joined in the life of a remote but friendly community.

Mrs. P. Bannon gave a short summary on a detailed analysis she had made on the results of the Tavistock Report.

A Rummage sale will be held in March.

## BLAGRAVE W.I.

Mrs. Wright presided and presented the birthday posies. It was decided to keep to the old method of electing the new President. The Secretary reported that the institute were unlucky in the ballet for a visit to Denman College, but were on the waiting list. Mr. F. Padley showed slides of Old Reading Buildings. Many of these have now disappeared he said, but it was still possible to find reminders of the past if one used ones eyes. The competition for a favourite Christmas card was won by Mrs. Wilkie, with Miss Reynolds and Mrs. Sholl 2nd and 3rd. Mrs. Batstone won the raffle.

## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

With the sun shining over your shoulder and on to your subject, click! That is the way I remember being told how best to take photographs. But now, it appears, anything goes.

Mr. J. Taylor, A.R.P.S., came last week to give the Guild a talk entitled "Enjoy-

ing Colour Photography", illustrated by 200 glorious slides. Judging by the members' reaction and the fact that the meeting over-ran its normal time, the evening was very enjoyable. Members were treated to a display of pictures taken from every angle and many subjects in a riot of wonderful colours. Even a simple object such as a leaf with raindrops on it assumed a previously unthought of simple beauty.

Many members went home trying to remember the tips Mr. Taylor had given them on composition, reflectors, etc., hoping this year to produce greatly improved holiday 'snaps', in an effort to emulate their speaker.

## MAPLEWOOD W.I.

At the 17th Birthday Party the President, Mrs. Betty Lewis, warmly welcomed members and guests from other institutes. A quiz on Berkshire was won by Mrs. Ridley and Miss Bullingham, a quiz on names of flowers, trees and shrubs was won by Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Calvert. After tea, which was prepared by the Committee, members enjoyed the excellent Birthday cake, made by Mrs. Woodridge and iced by Mrs. Clarke. The film "Focus on Fine China" by Doulton Fine China followed, and the commentary was spoken by Mr. Deryck Guylar. Members were told that the Exhibit from the Grazeley Group to which Maplewood belongs is to be shown at the 1972 Ideal Home Exhibition. An appeal for more members to drive spastic children to swimming classes was made by Mrs. Duckworth.

## ROSEHILL W.I.

Mrs. Russell presided at the January meeting and announced that our entry for the "Green and Pleasant Land" had been chosen to go on display at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition in March this year. Congratulations were expressed to the ad hoc committee but particularly to Mrs. Keeling who did the bulk of the work. A coach trip to Olympia is being arranged for March 1st. Final results of Christmas Fayre were given and a letter of thanks was read from R.N.I.B. for our contribution of £63.50. Mrs. Bradley was congratulated on her article on Emmer Green and its history for inclusion in a book to be compiled by the County Federation. Mrs. Woolridge gave an excellent talk on 'Good grooming'. Competition 4 line verse on the President resulted—1, Mrs. Sansum; 2, Mrs. Ellingham; 3, Mrs. Beasley.

## MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

Mrs. Mortimer was in the Chair for the January meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. A new Member, Mrs Tomlin was welcomed and the members settled down to a very interesting talk by Mrs. Hatt who illustrated her talk with coloured slides taken on her three month holiday in N.Z.

# INDUCTION OF BAPTIST MINISTER

Appropriately New Year's Day saw the induction of the new Baptist Minister, the Revd. Laurence Stevens, M.A., B.D. The Service was conducted by the Revd. R. J. Cribb, who had acted as Moderator during the interregnum, and the Revd. Douglas Hicks, Area Superintendent, performed the Act of Induction. A close friend of Mr. Stevens, the Revd. Lewis Missebrook, M.A. gave a challenging address based on the text 'Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints', or as he paraphrased it, 'Unto the church at Caversham . . . Called to be saints'.

Following the service,

which was attended by over 200 people, tea was served in the Church 'picnic fashion', each person receiving a cake box containing sandwiches, cakes, a mince-pie, sugar, spoon and serviette. The 'mass production' job of assembling and filling the boxes having been undertaken by the Church's Catering Committee during the morning. This method of feeding the masses, by no means novel in that the Institute of Directors pioneered the idea—was considered to be a resounding success and obviated the need to move such a large body of people to the Hall.

Mr. Stevens 'opened for business' on Sunday, 2nd January, 1972, and at the evening Communion Service was, with Mrs. Stevens, given the right hand of fellowship by the Church Secretary, Mr. Norman Ide.

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# Roman Nobleman is Ireland's Patron Saint

by Sam Napier

On March 17, millions of Irishmen at home and abroad, will celebrate the day of their patron saint—Patrick.

He was the son of a Roman official on duty in Britain who preached to their forefathers 1500 years ago.

There is still some confusion about his place of birth. It could have been Dumbarton, shortly after his father had been transferred there. Or was his birthplace the Monmouthshire area?

Even if there is doubt about his being born in either Wales or Scotland, it is known that his father was a high Roman official called Calpurnius.

And forever associated with his ministry is the three leafed shamrock he used to explain the meaning of the Trinity to the pagan Irish chiefs on the hill of Tara.

His first visit to Ireland had been as a lad of 16. Kidnapped from his home by a raiding party about 404 AD, he became the slave of an Irish chieftain on Slemish Mountain in County Antrim.

Patrick spent six years on that mountain tending sheep. It was a hard life, in all weathers. Often he was cold and hungry in a strange land. His problems were complicated by the fact that he spoke only Latin—a foreign tongue.

The only person who showed any sympathy and compassion to him was his master's daughter, the lovely Bronach. And in his loneliness and misery his thoughts turned to escape.

## Studied in France

When he was just 22, the chance came. And Patrick slipped away from the mountainside and boarded a ship for France.

This too was planned, for his mother's uncle was the famous French preacher and teacher — St. Martin of Tours. Patrick joined him and for another twenty years studied in the monasteries of France.

Occasionally he slipped back to Wales to visit his kin who still lived there. And it was on one of these visits that he had the vision of an angel urging him to return to Ireland.

## Twelve helpers

At this bidding he determined to set out for Ireland again. He was now almost 40 years of age and looked for men to accompany him.

Then with twelve helpers, and a commission from Pope Celestine to make Ireland Christian, he set sail.

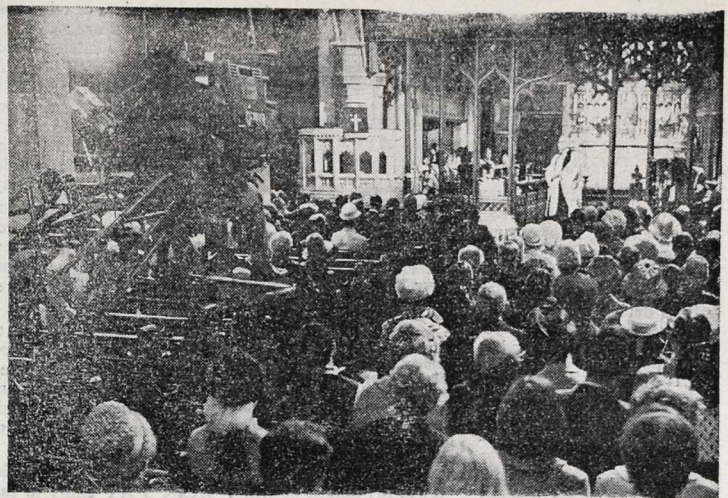
On his arrival he found the Druid controlled Irish worshipping serpents. Wherever he went the people turned him away and were unwilling to listen to his message. Undaunted he continued his preaching of the Gospel.

Then, several years afterwards, he had the meeting with the Irish Chiefs of Tara. Converted to Christianity they led the way for their people too to embrace Patrick's God.



Putting aside the many legends which now surround the Patron Saint, it is clear that Patrick — as a matter of historical record—left behind him a lot of Christian achievement.

He established the see of Armagh and after a difficult and dangerous life died on March 17, when he was about 72 years of age.



## NEW TELEVISION TECHNIQUES NEEDED

Unless religious broadcasters can show that they have new techniques and talents to produce, they can expect, as has happened with BBC-2, less sympathy and room for religious broadcasting when the new ITV-2 channel comes into existence.

This at least is the opinion of Mr. Guthrie Moir, Controller of Education and Religious Programmes for Thames Television, who is also a member of the General Synod of the Church of Eng-

land and a member of the Church Information Advisory Committee.

Writing in the Oxford Diocesan Magazine, Mr. Moir says, "BB-2 could have done more than it has on the religious front. I hope ITV-2, when it comes in the not too distant future, will do considerably better."

He points out, however, that nobody has yet succeeded in satisfactorily defining what constitutes a religious programme on television — but perhaps it was safer all round not to try.

"Just as some viewers, including Mrs. Whitehouse and the Bishop of Coventry, criticise our existing religious output as being too humanistic and not sufficiently hard-line Christian, so there might be a danger of a narrow definition having a restrictive effect.

"I myself hold a modest rather than a 'high' view of television's capacities in the realm of proclamation. I think the Gospel of the Word is often better conveyed on radio where there is no distraction from total concentration on the meaning."

Mr. Moir feels that more could be achieved in religious broadcasting if, occasionally, more money could be made available for special programmes. "An experiment enormously worth trying would be to mount a series of individual witness in which the relatively few Christian leaders who have an acknowledged mastery of the medium, like Bishop Huddleston and Lord Soper, were given carte blanche, and weeks of time for thought and preparation and if necessary, days of pilot programmes and rehearsal, against a background chosen by themselves in collaboration with their producers, to proclaim the gospel as trenchantly and arrestingly as they know how."

His big hope is that the Churches' Television Centre at Bushey, in close association with the Roman Catholic centre at Pinner, will be quick to try out new forms of religious programming before the advent of ITV-2.

He goes on "The important thing for ITV-2 is that it

should be seen to have its own individual philosophy which would go further than merely complementing ITV-1.

Fortunately every casual viewer can be an expert on the programmes he likes and on what may offend or corrupt. It is good that he—and Mrs. Whitehouse for that matter—should be so.

"Where I take issue with the latter lady and several members of the General Synod who speak regularly on Broadcasting is that in order to make a meaningful contribution to the future of broadcasting, it is necessary not only to watch programmes but to comprehend the system and the psychology of its professional teams".

### VARICOSE ULCERS and ECZEMA

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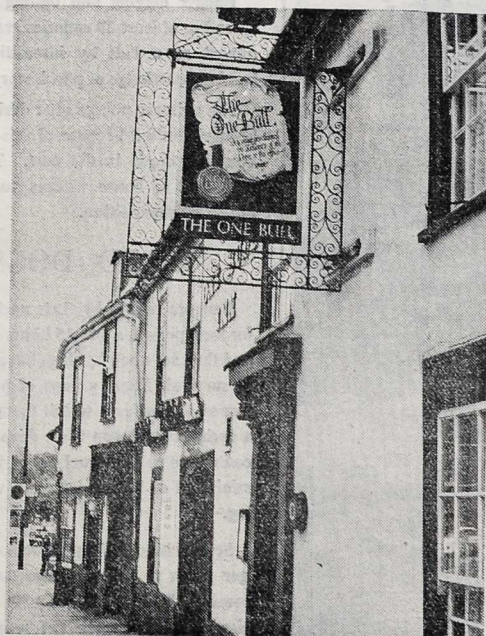
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205 Great Clowes Street.



Any inn whose sign is 'The Bull' is in fact connected with ecclesiastical land. The "bull" was the seal of a monastery and signs such as 'The One Bull' (to be seen at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk) show that originally the hostelry stood on monastic land and housed pilgrims on their journey to an abbey or similar church nearby.

E. HARPER.

# GOOD HEALTH

## WHAT HOPE FOR THE MIGRAINE VICTIM? by Jean Fielding

APPROXIMATELY 9 per cent of people suffer from the miseries of recurrent migraine attacks, which ruin their family, business and social lives. This disease often strikes during puberty or the early twenties and more women than men are affected.

"The sufferer is usually a perfectionist who works too hard and does too much", writes Dr. W. C. Alvarez, an American specialist.

Besides striving too keenly for success, the victim is generally highly sensitive, easily aroused and with rigid attitudes. Migraine is common among literary, artistic and academic communities.

Migraine does not attack a person while he is engaged on a special project such as a business meeting or making a public speech, but immedi-

tely afterwards, when he is due for a rest.

Factors which may "trigger-off" an attack include fatigue, hunger, nervous tension, glare, flickering lights, noise or smells.

Over 75 per cent of migraine patients have allergy diseases such as eczema or hay fever in the family. Often in these cases a certain food or drink may precipitate an attack.

Most people notice warning symptoms, ranging from euphoria to a dull headache, excessive hunger, eye troubles, yawning or muscular weakness. Aspirin or codeine are helpful at this stage.

When the typical incapacitating blinding headache, often accompanied by nausea and vomiting appears, the patient should retire to a quiet darkened room to rest with his head propped up high. The headache is due to dilation of the brain arteries

so ergotamines or other vaso-constricting drugs are ordered to relieve the intense suffering.

The patient may see flashing lights (scintillating scotoma) before his eyes, and will feel prostrated and depressed. An attack can last from an hour to several days.

Miss Pamela Hansford Johnson who suffered from migraine for 35 years, says: "Migraine is the worst form of torture that, greatly extended, does not kill".

More hope exists for the sufferer than ever before. Herbal cures, acupuncture, hypnotism and folk cures have produced good results. Relaxation definitely helps.

The Migraine Trust, 23 Queen Square, London. WCIN 3 AY exists to raise funds for research, arrange scientific meetings and disseminate medical information.

Treatment can be obtained at the City Migraine Clinic, 11/12 Bartholomew Close, London E.C.1 and at various provincial hospitals.



# The Badger is harmless

## BUT THAT DOESN'T PROTECT HIM

says Reg Moore

The badger is one of the few wild animals living completely in the open in Britain, but how long can it survive?

The animal is becoming extinct in many corners of the country and positions of their 'sets' known to farmers, foresters and the local hunt.

Badger digging and baiting are widespread in at least 28 counties and regarded almost as a cult by insensitive people lacking knowledge of past history.

The animals emerge after dark and have been victimised because of this as evil by country people in the past. They were even said to house witches among those bound by superstition.

### 'HARD DOGS'

Badgers caught by their neck in snares for long periods up to 15 hours at a stretch and then set upon by dogs have no chance of survival. Many groups of people have turned out in force to kill them as part of a spring rite. Pagan roots deep in fertility contribute to this cruel act of hysteria reminiscent of lynch mobs and witch hunting.

Several blacksmiths still make up badger tongs to provide false status in the country. Badger diggers with their ferocious terriers plague the animal out of sight. Tongs corner the badger and drag him from his trench, often ruthlessly without feeling, in wilful slaughter. At the end of a 'bait' the badger is often subjected to a second pair of tongs to close his small under-jaw and wrench the head up in order to cut the throat. They are sometimes slashed across the face with shovels or heavy steel bars before persecutors put them out of their misery.

### AFRAID

Organised digs with 'hard dogs', known as fighting or cross-bull terriers, are used to fasten on any slippery animal. Badger

cubs are often thrown to the dogs after having their legs broken so they cannot run away. Cubs are held down by heavy boots while terriers tear into them.

The badger is a powerful fighter but he is hopelessly at odds against his cowardly attackers. He puts up a brave fight against all opposition to defend his family. Derbyshire and Yorkshire are the worst areas for badger digging and remote regions of the West Country are other black spots.

Hunters try to excuse their cruelty by saying they are helping farmers get rid of vermin, but there is ample evidence that the little animals do no damage whatsoever and are just viciously persecuted. When children are also taken along to be corrupted in these 'digs' then something must be done to stop those enjoying the feverish hunts.

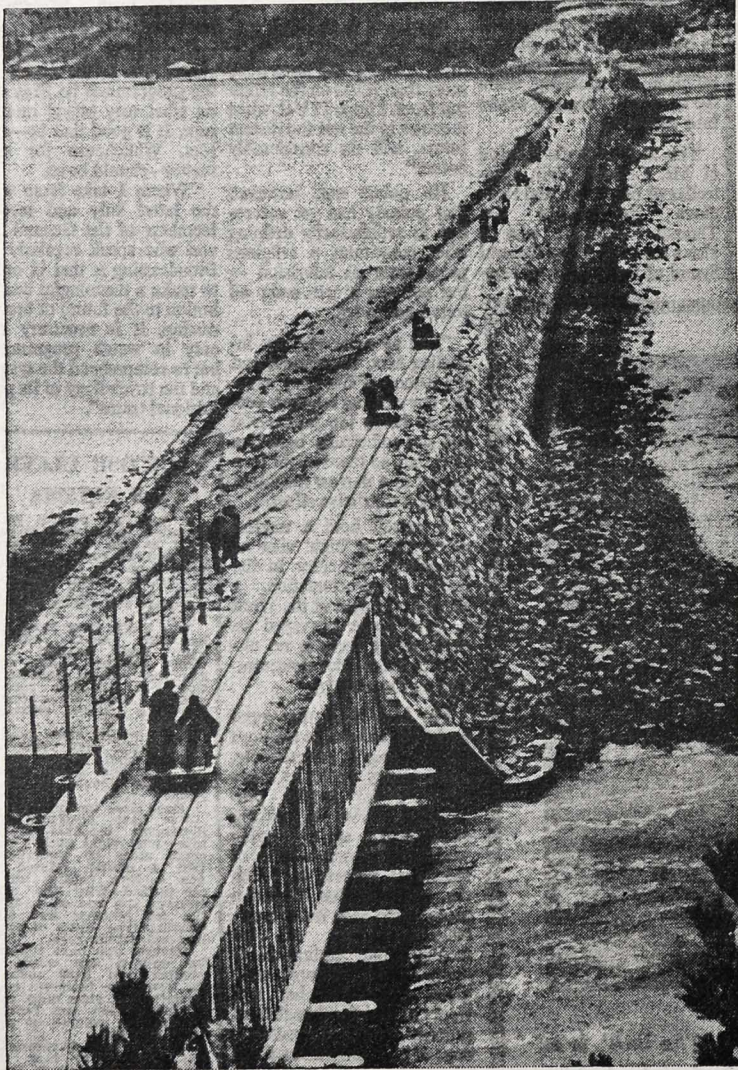
Badgers usually emerge at dusk and are generally afraid of all humans. They rely on their strong scent to warn them of intruders, particularly when there is a strong wind blowing.

There is plenty of evidence to show that badgers are harmless and even beneficial to the land. The Forestry Commission have recognised this by providing badger gates in wire fences. The Ministry of Agriculture has never recognised the badger as a pest.

Land used for agriculture should always be of value and that not used can be turned into nature reserves, which, in turn, can house more badgers.

Time is fast running out for all the wild life in this country and action to save these fine little creatures needs to be taken now in order to leave more room for flora and animals. Those animals that must be controlled can at least be treated humanely. Much of our heritage and reputation for loving animals will disappear if the only species to remain appear in zoos and country parks.

The complex social life of the badger has yet to be fully understood and appreciated. Many people need reminding that he is a creature much to be admired and treated with respect.



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A dam in Korea. We supplied some of the money, and 1000 refugees supplied the will to build it. In this kind of way, we give people the means to help themselves in 67 countries.

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# LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

A LIVELY LOOK  
AT THE TV SCENE

## Back to the classroom



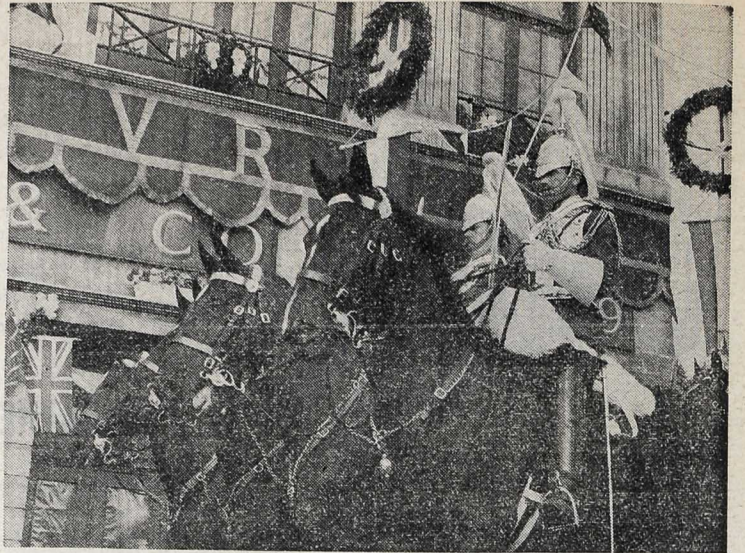
As the school gate clanged shut for the last time such things as 'istree' and 'jogru-fee' began to fade into the far recesses of the mind as adult interests took over.

But BBC-TV seems intent to keep alive the rejuvenated interest in matters historical which they sparked off with Henry's wives and Elizabeth R. The thirteen-week syllabus SHADOW OF THE TOWER on BBC-2 spans the reign of Henry VII, first of the Tudors. It is thus a kind of belated preface to the two historical series which preceded it.

The latest attempt to put telly flesh on

the bones of historical conjecture wallows in a welter of unfamiliar characters and the lack of a clear-cut theme may well reflect the monarch's own tenuous claim to rule. James Maxwell's low-key portrayal of Henry shows a king with neither the majestic bravura of his much-married son nor the regal authority of his granddaughter. Henry the Eighth and Elizabeth I are both familiar household names, but who has bothered much about the seventh Henry since leaving school! One does need a crib to follow the action—even if only the brief synopses in Radio Times.

Running concurrently for 13 weeks on Channel one is BBC's half-million-pound series of historically based documentary films THE BRITISH EMPIRE, which were shot in 25 different countries and took three and a half years to make. This expensive production purports, rather pretentiously, to document the rise and fall of the Empire which covered a quarter of the World's land surface, ruled the waves,



The Life Guards taking part in a re-enactment of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession for "The British Empire"

and had 398 million people under its flag. To a reactionary Imperialist the series seems frankly debunking. The producers delight in the decline into Commonwealth and take little pride in the rise of an Empire. They make much of the 70 colonial wars fought in Victoria's reign and that 92 per cent of this country's wealth—sweated from the colonies — was in the hands of only ten per cent of the people. The perpetual cry from the 'left'.

Outlines of more recent Imperial happenings are filled in with archive films, and pre-movie events portrayed by press-cuttings, still photographs, paintings, prints

and re-enactments by costumed actors. You can, if you are all that enthusiastic, get a regular aid to the course from your newsagent at 25p a week, as Time-Life, the American publishing concern, collaborated in making the TV series and picked up a third of the bill.

It is a safe bet that we shall be in for a fair whack of 'istree' on the TV screens in the future. A dozen of the 1971 annual awards to actors, writers, producers, designers, etc., went to the people who made The Six Wives of Henry VIII and TV always wrings the last drop of blood out of a successful idea.

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## HE WHO PAYS...

The dispute between Lamar Hunt and the International Lawn Tennis Association is only one of many such quarrels which could flare up over the next few years, as more and more sports are forced to lean even more heavily on their wealthy sponsors.

In theory, the idea of a wealthy businessman or a large corporation offering prize money and, as in Mr. Hunt's case, actual sponsorship of individuals, is fine. The trouble starts, however, when the hands began to waver over the cheque-books as certain "conditions" are "negotiated".

### Majority

The majority of the companies that have provided financial support for soccer and cricket have not only made a pre-requisite of saturation advertising at the venue of each event, but they have also required the controlling body of the game to invent a competition around their sponsorship. Hence, the John Player League, the Gillette Cup, the Texaco Cup, the Watney-Mann Cup, etc., etc. . . .

There has been much criticism of soccer having an al-

ready overcrowded fixture programme without introducing the sponsored competitions, and in cricketing circles the advent of one-day cricket, and its effect on the game as a whole, will long remain a subject of dark mutterings in the musty corridors of Lords (short of a revolution in that mausoleum of cobwebbed Players and Gentlemen). Yet, without this extra cash where would we be heading, in this day and age of superstars and £200,000 transfer fees? Make no mistake, soccer welcomes the green-backed transfusion as much as its ailing summer counterpart, and the so-called "minority" sports will snatch at any purse that comes their way, whatever the strings are attached.

What worries me, however, is where the control is to rest. Who is to have the last word when it comes to decisions about the most important thing of all, the game itself?

### Cautious

So far, the soccer administrators have been as wisely cautious over commercial sponsorship as they have over television coverage. After all, they have, at the moment, something to cherish. Theirs is the most popular spectator

## SPORTS SPOT

by Stew Linnell

sport in the world today, but it could all go flat on them in five minutes, if they were to allow over-exposure of the game. Some say this has already happened, but I think that current attendance figures prove otherwise. I also have extreme faith in the ability of Mr. Hardaker and Co. to administrate, even if their instructions to referees go a little too far.

### Complain

The brains of cricket, however, are very few and far between. Any group of men who can turn their noses up at the massive appeal of one-

day cricket and complain that it's ruining the long out-moded County game need their brains testing.

There is one example of sponsorship achieving nothing but good, although the administrators apparently can't see it in that light.

It appears to me, however, through all of this, that those who matter most, namely the spectators, are the ones who will suffer most, should sponsorship get out of hand.

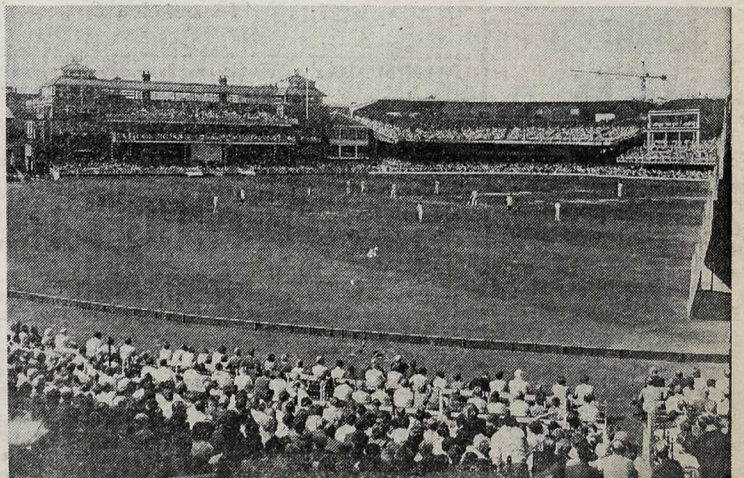
Let the men with the money put up the prizes; let them have their hoardings and banners plastered everywhere — but let those who

have lived with the game in question all their lives, and, in many cases, have been stars in their own right, administrate and run the competitions in the manner they know to be the best for the their sport!

Only in this way will we all get a fair deal!

### and Finally..

Bernard Shaw, on being told that an athlete of the day had just beaten a world record by 10 seconds, said, "Ah yes, excellent. But what did he do with the time he saved?"



The Gillette Cup Final at Lords