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In 1945 Dr. Anthony Barker and his wife Margaret, also a doctor, when to Zululand as Medical Superintendents of the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, named after a pioneering Archdeacon of the last century. It was a small rather dilapidated hospital with seven patients, a matron and six trainee nurses.

Today the hospital has eight doctors, some 250 nurses—200 of them trainees and 338 beds. The figures speak for themselves. They represent a long and uphill struggle to build up the amenities of a modern hospital in a difficult environment, to win Government and voluntary financial support and to win the confidence of the Zulu people.

The South African Government supports the hospital to the tune of £23,000 a year. At the same time the Government's apartheid and separate development policies put special pressures on the hospital.

AGAINST THE ODDS

Zululand is a 'bantustan' an area for separate African development, to which Africans are repatriated in large and unpredictable numbers. The result is not only a population explosion but also malnutrition owing to poor soil and poor farming methods. The hospital somehow copes annually with 6,000 in-patients, including 2,000 operations and 1,750 births. At the same time the staff deal with 70,000 out-patients at the hospital, as well as with 11 out-clinics where up to 300 people may present themselves at a time.

Apart from this pressure of sheer numbers there is a further subtle pressure on Dr. Barker. In stark contrast to the policies of the South African Government, he loses no opportunity to urge the principle of racial co-operation, a principle which his own hospital has always steadfastly exemplified, for all the staff share fully in work, meals and recreation. The odds are stacked against that in South Africa.

THAT'S LIFE

A NEW SERIES OF PICTURES THAT HIGHLIGHT THE HUMAN SCENE



A rare old spirit

If there's one word in these enlightened days that is over-worked by committed and caring people, it is the word **COMMUNITY**. Not that the word isn't important. It's just that we haven't thought enough about what we mean when we use it.

LOST FOR EVER

The reason for our confusion is the rapidly changing pattern of modern life, and it's this same confusion that makes us treasure Community Spirit like some rare old brandy—hard to find now that city life swallows up an ever-increasing percentage of the population.

Most of us look over our shoulders longingly at the old village way of life in which people lived and worked and belonged in a settled area with closely defined boundaries and familiar-faces, because we know that city and suburban life has robbed us of this style of living for ever. Only in pockets does this sort of community living still survive—and where it survives it is so taken

for granted that nobody ever talks about it. It's only in the areas where we've lost it and missed it that we are almost besotted by it.

The simple fact is that we care about this feeling of belonging because without it we cease to be fully human. What alarms us about urban living is that people no longer feel they belong, or what's worse, have any need to be responsible for those that live around them. So we try to reverse this dehumanising process by a whole army of community workers. But we can easily make two big mistakes. We can think that it's possible to put the clock back and re-create the old type of village community in our cities—and that's sentimental. We can also believe that community is only a geographical thing—lived out within certain defined boundaries—and that's being blind.

I know one person who lives on an urban estate works at a local factory and every Friday evening clears off with his wife to a Caravan site, returning late Sunday night. He is social secretary at the Site, and very

Chris Brodan calling



involved in community living—even though it's a long distance away from where he lives or works.

Community today is a much more complex thing than most people care to admit, and while it is very important for people to feel responsible for the area in which they live and where their children go to school—we must not over-simplify the issue by acting as if the car had never been invented.

DEEPER THINKING

Wherever people feel that they belong, have responsibilities to each other, feel at home—there is community. It is this feeling that we must encourage, for this is community spirit.

But where that feeling is missing, where people have no sense of belonging or responsibility to anywhere or anyone, we need to do some deeper thinking. Certainly Community Centres alone won't provide the answer here.

PERSONAL POSERS

Drink...

My mother has a drink problem which she will not admit to herself...she drinks what money she has and then comes to beg from me and my husband; she abuses and hits us. All we can do is watch her kill herself with drink and you feel helpless when you know you can't do a thing about it. My husband won't allow her in the house . . . I can't just forget her. I hope I will be hearing from you and that you may be able to help me . . . I've run out of people to ask advice from.

D.B. Walworth.

It looks as though your problem is one to which there is no answer if you want a 'cure' for your mother. But I think you are probably realising that there can be no cure unless, as you say, your mother admits the problem, an admission which could be the beginning of contact with Alcoholics Anonymous. That, honestly, sounds rather unlikely. So it seems that your mother's problem and yours can only be eased by your patient attitudes, your continuing to bring her into your home, despite the inconvenience, your continuing to love her as she kills

herself and makes you feel helpless. I hope your husband can be persuaded to be more patient.

I know this is easier said than done. As a Christian I would say that if you can be patient you will be redeeming this sad situation by sharing the sadness to which there is no answer. This is the kind of thing which Jesus did for man. If you could quietly recognise that you would be strengthened I am sure.



Have you got a problem? Readers are invited to write to "Personal Posers". Our special team of experts at 319, Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4, will do their best to tackle your queries.

Loneliness...

When my husband died five weeks ago everybody was very kind to me and it seemed that I was never on my own. Now I feel terribly lonely. I am a shy person and just don't know how to make friends. My daughter wants me to sell the house and move near her. I feel so confused and miserable and can't seem to do anything.

D.G. Oxford.

First of all I think you ought to be clear that your situation is not at all unusual. You are experiencing the same sort of feelings as thousands of bereaved people before you. You are in the middle of that worst period of all when the sup-

port of friends has been withdrawn and you are feeling your loss most acutely. Of course you are confused and miserable—and that's why it probably isn't a very good time to make long-term decisions. It may be that a little later on—say three or four months—that you can think a bit more clearly, and then you may see that your daughter's suggestion is the right one, or you may decide that something else is right for you. Until then is it possible for you to shut your house up for a month or two and go and stay with your daughter—or somewhere near her, so that you can be close to someone who does understand, but without having burnt all your bridges behind you?

Religious programmes...

I am a housebound person who depends a great deal on radio and television. Can't something be done to make the religious programme on T.V. on Sunday evenings more Christian? Sometimes I can't see what right they've got to be called religious.

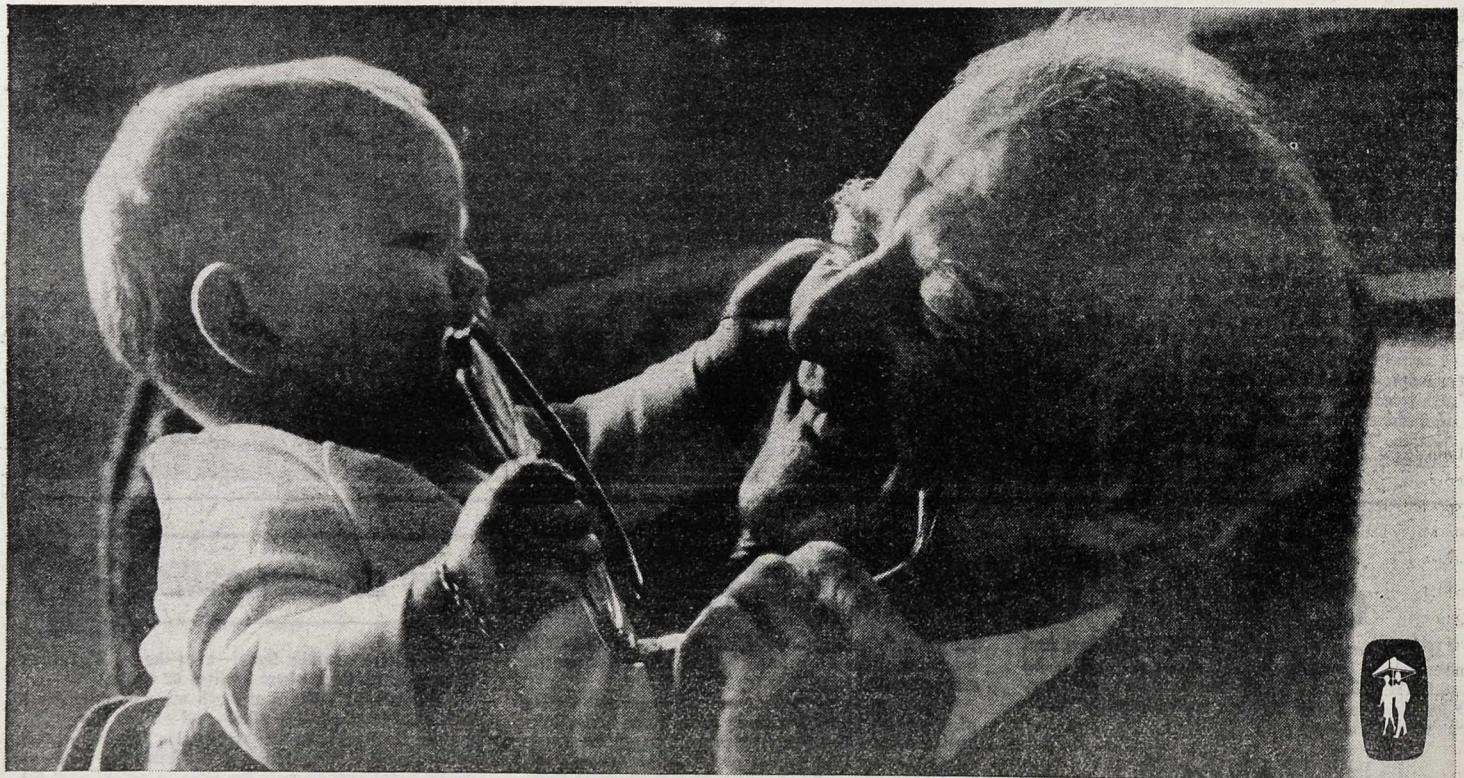
R.J. Worcester.

Most people watch T.V. in order to be entertained. The trouble with the Sunday evening religious slot is that it comes at a peak entertainment time when the television companies are chasing peak

audiences. The danger is that the presentations become so biased towards entertainment that we are left with programmes of popular music with vague religious connexions—and this is the only right they've got to be called religious.

I think there is often more religious content in other programmes than in those having that specific label, and that it would be better to scrap the 'religious' spot than present watered down instant religion.

With imagination religious broadcasting could be lively and interesting. But while it has to satisfy the criteria on minimal thought and light entertainment it is unlikely to improve. Why not write to the T.V. company telling them of your views?



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KALEIDOSCOPE

LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE

No. 2 in a series on local government

THE CENTRAL—LOCAL LINK-UP

Last month we outlined the general proposals for re-organising the country's local government, which are now on their way into practice.

The re-grouping with provinces divided into unitary and metropolitan areas will depend for success largely on the ability of central and local government to link up in a new way, as planned for in the Redcliffe-Maud Report which is the basis of the present proposals.

We look this month at the chances of this happening.

It's the Government grip on the purse-strings which is fidgeting the planners and decisioners at the local level, more than anything else.

But there are also the occasions laid down by law under which the central powers—that-be can intervene in the affairs of the local powers—that-might-be. Some of the statutes operating here go back a century or more to a time of very different conditions.

The central-local link-up is often embittered by these facts. The new proposals aim to grant local government a new and real freedom.

The Prime Minister committed this Government to

services; and then an unallocated extra will be left for local authorities to distribute as they see fit; 2) the long haul through the existing legislation on Government intervention will be begun—and already local suggestions about where the shoe pinches have been invited.

The present conglomeration of different sizes of local authorities makes this sort of decentralisation out of the question. For the Prime Minister to keep to this particular promise a big shake-up like the one now on the way is essential . . . and a very big change in power-attitudes as well.

The shake-up has three surprises up its sleeve: 1) one of the purse-strings is put into local hands. Detailed control from Westminster is replaced by control through programmes in the case of major

3) Government control over the internal administration of local authorities will be relaxed so that, amongst other decisions, those on what local government committees are needed and which officers are required for certain posts, will be left to the Town Hall. That's the shake-up: modest enough, no doubt; but enough to liberate the people

on the spot to decide and spend as they think best.

As long as the power-attitudes change as well, The Redcliffe - Maude Report stated as some of its starting-points:

"The complex local government machinery often is irrelevant and impotent. Hence the feeling that local government cannot help them and the frequent sense of frustration among councillors and officers.

BEGINNINGS OF CHANGE

Parliament and central government doubt the ability of local government, within the straitjacket of the present system, to run local affairs".

The Report's recommendations could begin to change things.

As long as the power-attitudes change. Parliament is elected to govern, and it never likes a reduction in this privilege. Local big-wigs are not likely to think that the shake-up will give them enough new power. The Rural District Councils Association and the Urban District Councils Association, in particular, have already cribbed at the re-organisation plan. They think the new units are too big. They speak for the smallest existing units. They want some power. The proposed sop of voluntarily established local councils isn't going to satisfy them.

The hoped-for decentralisation can be planned for. A revolution in power-attitudes can't. In the long run that is where the crunch will come.

Next month: Inside the New Local Councils.



The first woman High Court Judge in England—Elizabeth Lane

We want more Met Women

Strange to relate, it seems that it might be in the reign of Ted's Tories that unimagined and dizzy achievements lie in wait for the supporters of Women's Lib.

A Private Member's Bill, recently talked out, aimed at the end of discrimination against women in starting, doing or finishing a job.

You might not think that this was necessary. After all we have women M.P.s (but only 26), a woman High Court Judge, women doctors, women nearly anything . . .

But you have only to look at the self-multiplying ranks of the Civil Service, filed neatly away among the tea cups, to see something of the depressed state of womankind today.

Women cannot be radio operators; museum wardens; supervisors at Her Majesty's Stationery Office; special investigators with regard to supplementary benefits. Nor can they work at the Meteorological Office, which is as one political commentator puts it "no doubt why these chaps always look so glum on television".

All this and much more would go if this Bill had become Law. We can be reassured (or, in some cases, dismayed) that the fight against sexual discrimination is still hotting up in spite of the setback it has had.

PROFILE

Andrew Faulds, M.P.

All the world's a stage for one of Westminster's bluntest and most outspoken backbenchers. Which is only to be expected because Andrew Faulds, Socialist M.P. for Smethwick since 1966, is and was an actor.

Readers may remember him as Jet Morgan in "Journey into Space", or as Carver Doone in BBC TV's "Lorna Doone". Fellow Members of Parliament will remember him for his definite views on nationalised industries, art, and African affairs—he was born, 49 years ago, in Tanganyika, the son of a missionary.

Smethwickians will remember him as a good constituency M.P.: which is a great thing in this age of telly men and committee men and "public figures". He attends all local events, including bazaars of the whole multitude of local churches. He always visits (not replies to, but actually visits) every constituent who writes to him.



And he has helped take much of the sting out of the racial mixture in the district, which was sharp and bitter at the time of his election.

Married with one daughter, Andrew Faulds means a lot to his constituency. And, since he is able to find drama in the ordinary, Smethwick means a lot to him. And his style of parliamentary representation is important to the country.



for smart people

Harris cleaning

BRANCHES ALL OVER THE MIDLANDS

ONCE "IN" NEVER FORGOTTEN

"My husband's always being carted off by the blue-men. Got a thing against the police, he has — only the bloody fool won't realise he can't win. Same in the Army. Him struggling with six redcoats, his eye closed and his tunic ripped . . . they drag him into a truck and he winks at one of me neighbours — "S'all right, missus" he says, "it's only me volunteering for the Army."

Some men are born to trouble, some cultivate it, some stumble upon it by accident. Currently, there are over 40,000 men in the prisons of England and Wales today. About half are married. Allowing but two children per marriage, we have 100,000 people caught up in the penal circumstance—BUT 60,000 OF THEM ARE INNOCENT VICTIMS. One third of vicin-marriages are broken beyond repair. Over half the wives report deep difficulties over the management of their children . . . approximately a third sell or pawn property to solve immediate financial difficulties. A third have experienced, or are currently experiencing, nervous and mental disorders requiring

treatment. An unknown quantity take to drugs or alcohol, a few take to prostitution mostly at a casual level, such as paying for goods with sex. Most of these women are under thirty years of age, and their children are young.

"I wonder how many of THESE children will grow up to be prisoners? I'm no good at sums but I do know that if you take something away from someone, you don't end up having more."

It is estimated that by the end of this century, if present trends continue, 100,000 men will be sweating our prisons . . . with at least 150,000 innocent victims involved with them.

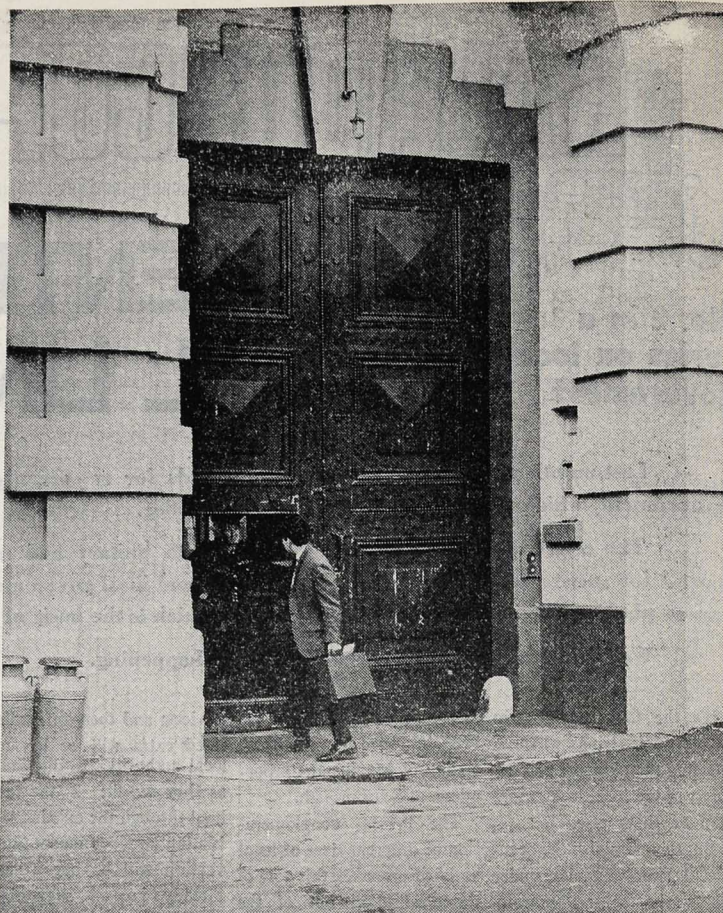
The point which worries me is—how many of these

men will be forced back into prison BECAUSE of the Criminal Records Office of Scotland Yard?

Let me explain.

Every person convicted of an indictable offence has his fingerprints, photograph and other particulars entered into a police file which is retained at the Criminal Records Office at Scotland Yard. Policemen in any part of the country have access to this information. Illegal instances have been reported where persons unconnected with the police have obtained information from these files—prospective employers, hire purchase companies, etc. A private enquiry agent once stated on TV that he could obtain such information through Scotland Yard's "back door".

Quite obviously, criminal record-files need to be kept—otherwise the police would be severely handicapped in their fight against crime and the criminal. But individual files should be open to positive review, as



through my prison past being discovered. Three times since discharge, I have 'clashed' with the police. Once, it cost me six hundred pounds to prove in the High Court of Appeal that I was in fact not guilty of police accusations. Another time, they raided my house in North London and searched it, to the distress of my wife and son, and whispering curiosity of my neighbours. When I protested to a senior police officer, he gave me some off the cuff advice. "Keep your head down", he said; "go to ground, don't try to compete". In other words, be hum-drum. Don't be ambitious, don't try to improve your status, don't try to be an individual.

court — THAT FIFTEEN YEARS PREVIOUSLY HE HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON AFTER A TEN YEARS SENTENCE FOR KILLING A MAN.

The man said:

"They've ruined my life. I thought I'd paid for what I'd done. Only my wife knew about it. I'd moved away, started a new life. Only my wife knew . . . but now my children know, my neighbours know, my employer and work mates know . . ."

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating an 'easing up' on the Criminal Records Office system in general. Nor am I making out a case of 100 per cent sympathy for the prisoner or ex-prisoner. Most men who go to prison deserve it, as I deserved it at the time. I'm not arguing about that. What I WILL NOT accept is that a man's past shall hang round his neck like a mill stone forever; what I WILL NOT accept is that the prisoner's past should contaminate the security and peace of mind of his wife and children.

We can start by altering the C.R.O. system.

Where a man can PROVE to an officially appointed board that he has 'gone straight' for a period of say five years, his C.R.O. file should be removed to a non-active section. Three years later, making eight years in all, application to the same board should decide whether or not his file should be destroyed completely.

I end this article with an actual quote recorded by me from a boy of twelve, whose father had been in and out of prison many times, but who finally—three years previously—gave the 'game' best, and settled down to a responsible life. Unfortunately, local residents and neighbours were not prepared to forget the man's past . . .

"My dad's been in prison and some of the kids started to take the micky, and I did what I had to do, I thumped and clouted some of them . . . and I made this boy's nose bleed, see, and his mouth, and his mum came up the school . . . and teacher had me out front. The boy's mum said I'd end up in prison, see, like my dad did . . . but I don't care. I'll hit the boys again if they say things about my dad . . ."

In those words, I detect the child shouting at society—"Just you wait! I'll get my own back, when I'm older."

And I almost hear society saying of the child—"Let's lock him up now, and get it over with."

And I hear my own voice of long experience saying—"When you GENUINELY and SINCERELY help an ex-prisoner you don't give charity; you invest in the future of Society."

Archie Hill investigated

CAUSES FOR CONCERN

well as 'negative'—by which I mean the usual procedure of trying to pin a certain crime to a certain individual by examination of the modus-operandi index. My concern about the C.R.O. system is not for the practising criminal. My concern is for the recovered, the rehabilitated criminal. The man who is going straight. Many such ex-prisoners (myself included) and their wives (mine included) fear the C.R.O. system. It is ever with us, a phantom which lies in wait.

"You get bent coppers as well as bent citizens. I don't say everybody's got a price, that everybody can be bought. But a good many can, no matter what their job is."

It's fifteen years since I myself came out of prison. In all, I lost seven jobs

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

April, 1972

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

Number 91

EASTER

ON EASTER MORNING A GREAT MANY PEOPLE WILL HEAR A PASSAGE READ FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS AS THE EPISTLE IN THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE They will hear these words "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you, immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry". And they might well be pardoned for asking what such words have to do with Easter.

The Colossians to whom St. Paul was writing were, like so many of us, superstitious people. Unlike us they were ready to accept miracles. So they might be expected to accept the Resurrection more readily than us, but accepting it would not necessarily mean that they would consider that it had any bearing on their daily life. But if they could be shown that because of the Resurrection people's lives were changed, they would be ready to listen. And the great new fact that the Resurrection was producing was just this—that men and women were giving up immoral practices and greedy and selfish ways. This was something utterly new and in town after town groups of men and women were breaking away from their old way of living and adopting entirely new standards.

And if asked why this was so they would reply "Jesus Christ who was crucified is risen from the dead — in His Name you will find new life".

We are living once again in an age not unlike that which faced the early Christians. It is in many ways a corrupt age, and one which is seeing large numbers of people abandoning Christian standards of morality. The affluent society has increased the coveting instinct in all of us. But for us, as for the Colossians, the strongest evidence of the Resurrection is in our hands—it is the quality of ordinary Christian lives that tells. So the Gospel of Jesus Christ is commended or condemned by the sort of lives that ordinary Christian folk live in the England of 1972.

The reason why the Colossian Christians changed their habits was that they believed in the Resurrection. No one claimed to have seen Jesus leave the tomb but Peter, John, Mary Magdalene and others did claim that on Easter morning the tomb was empty, and that Jesus was seen by them and other people.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Now is this true? We must honestly face up to this question. Did Jesus rise from the grave? Suppose we say No; then there will be no point in the May edition of the Caversham Bridge being published. But if the whole story is a cleverly arranged bit of fraud why should the disciples have risked life and limb to preach about the Resurrection? Why all this risk and change of habits if the Resurrection had not happened? Goodness does not flow from deliberate conceit, and lives are not changed to bolster up a pointless piece of deceit. Nor would Paul, born and bred a staunch Jew, first preach such a Gospel and then persuade others to accept it and to give up cheating and lying and indecent behaviour unless he knew for CERTAIN the truth of what he was saying.

So this Easter we Christians again proclaim that the basis of our faith is the Resurrection of Jesus. And the Easter faith only exists because of the Easter fact. Something happened on the first Easter day—and that something was the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave. This is what the Church has always believed: and because Christians have always believed it they live changed lives.

So the quality of your life and of my life is what matters because the Gospel will not be commended to people unless people see something about us. And the Church is weak today because ordinary Christians are not sufficiently different. We are not really living examples of the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth which we sing of in the Easter anthem.



Walton Adams

READING AT CROSS PURPOSES

A UNITED ACT OF WITNESS FOR ALL CHRISTIANS
IN
READING TOWN HALL 7.30 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY

THREE WAYS

But I would suggest there are three ways in which we ought to be different. First our lives ought to be joyous. St. Paul told the Colossians to seek the things that are above: we can sit lightly to earthly cares and worries. The world needs real Christian joy. We dare not be men of gloom.

Secondly we ought to live contented and not covetous lives. To-day the growing spiral of wage claims incites us all to be discontented with our situation.

Thirdly we ought to be more concerned than ever to uphold Christians standards of faithfulness in marriage. And if we are joyous people and contented people, and people with a happy home life, then others will turn to Christ and they will ask us about our faith. And our answer should be "I live as I live because I believe that Jesus rose from the grave, that there is a God and that there is a purpose in life".

In the end the only reason for changed lives is because Jesus rose from the dead. If you believe that, then life takes on a different dimension. Life then has a purpose and our prayer must be that with God's grace we will at all times show forth in our lives the joy and victory of the Cross.

Christ is risen. Alleluia, He is risen indeed.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

EDITOR: The Rev. J. G. Grimwade,
The Rectory, Caversham, RG4 7AD. Tel. 471703
ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs. E. Maule,
18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel. 471816
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Major N. J. Coslett,
9 Aldenham Close, Caversham Park, RG4, ORR. Tel. 475360
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CAVERSHAM WEST DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES

On Thinking Day, February 22nd, a party was held at Balmore Hall. About one hundred Brownies, Guides and Sea Rangers opened events with International singing games and camp songs. Candles were then lit, a chain of Friendship formed and Happy Birthday sung in honour of Lady Baden Powell.

"Thank yous with flowers" were said to Mrs. Canning ex-Brownie Guider of 4th Caversham (St. Andrew's) and to Mrs. Moss, who was also presented with a Souvenir Album to mark her retirement as District Commissioner.

Refreshments followed and the Guiders and their guests watched Mrs. Moss cut a cake.

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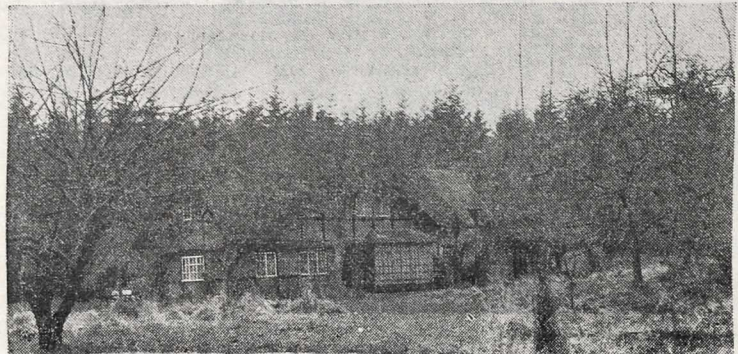
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Walton Adams

A COUNTRY CHILDHOOD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

by Elsie Gutteridge

A HAMLET IN THE TREES

Tucked away in a corner of Mapledurham Parish lies Nuney Green. There are many ways of spelling it. In a very ancient map I saw it was spelt Newney. A most delightful, peaceful place. A hamlet in the trees, for it was, and still is, surrounded by woods. At the turn of the century there were only eight houses on The Green and no road whatever leading to them, only two old cart tracks down Phillips Hill and Batchelor's Hill.

SIX MILES TO SHOP AND BACK

No tradespeople called, so all our shopping was done in Reading, about six miles away, as Goring Heath shop and post office was non-existent. There were no buses, only the carrier from Goring passed by two or three times a week. You could go in with him but you were never quite sure of the time of his arrival so had to wait about on the Reading road for him. Once a week my mother would walk into town and back to shop, often after working several hours at Mapledurham House. Sometimes she crossed the Thames there by the ferry and went into Reading from the Tilehurst side.

BUSY LITTLE GIRL

My father kept about a hundred hens and I used to deliver the eggs to customers. I was always busy as a child. When I was eight my mother gave me a key to our cottage, which I wore on a string, so that if she was out I could get in and prepare the evening meal. In holidays I was sent to help the elderly. I wrote their letters, read to them and did any little jobs and for a whole month was housekeeper to an old man who was dying. I never went stone picking but I can remember some women doing it.

A BRICK IN BED

Life in the country was good. We watched the fox-cub in a nearby pit and went wooding. I only remember us having one load of coal. Every Good Friday we went primrosing. Some Easters I had a new cotton frock, but clothes had to last. I was the sewer in our family. In winter we had a brick put in the oven. When it was really hot it was wrapped in a flannel and put in our beds to warm them. Once a white owl came down the chimney. We were sitting round the fire, there was a

noise and down it fell into the hearth.

LIQUORICE RIBBONS

Like all the other children I walked to Mapledurham school. Miss Butler was the headmistress and there were between sixty and seventy pupils. We took midday sandwiches and had a cup of cocoa every morning during winter, for which we paid half a penny a week. I also had another halfpenny a week to spend in school for Miss Butler sold liquorice ribbons. That was all we had for a treat until my mother went shopping and then she would say—"Would you like a banana or a few sweets? You can't have both". But sometimes we did!

When my people moved to Nuney Green I was fourteen months old. It was my home for twenty years. How it is altered with a few more houses and a made up road to them. At Goring Heath a mile away, is a general store and post office and there is a bus service into Reading. All this makes life more comfortable and easier, but give me the good old Nuney Green. Those days of my childhood were round the fire, there was a truly happy time.

A FINE RANGE OF FENCING TO SUIT EVERY PURPOSE



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OBITUARY

MARY NIGHTINGALE

Older residents of Caversham will be sorry to hear of the death of Mary Nightingale in hospital in February.

Mary was a true link with old Caversham. Born in Hampden Road, she lived almost all her life in the area, at one time attending chapel at the Weaving House in Cromwell Road which was, at that time, occupied by an Anglican Community. Her father was gardener there for some time and many were the tales she could tell of those days.

For many years she lived in the almshouses in Westfield Road where, for some time, she kept up her many contacts, particularly with young people, many of whom she used to instruct in handicrafts. Unfortunately increasing deafness made life difficult and, in spite of the visitors who continued to call, even after she went into hospital and, latterly, the Arthur Clarke Old Ladies' Home, she became increasingly lonely.

POND WATER AND SKIMMED MILK TO DRINK

Drinking water was fetched from an open pond at the bottom of the field, but after the death of a little girl we had 9 water butts installed and at another house a pump was put in. When there was a drought my mother used to carry bottles of water back from where she worked.

We had butter and milk from a smallholding owned by Mr. Simmonds at Nuney Green. I helped churn the butter and you could buy the skimmed milk for a half-penny a pint.

A life-long member of St. Peter's Church, it was one of her great sorrows that she could no longer attend, though she continued to receive Communion in her home for many years.

Most of her family of brothers were scattered, but her cousin, Jim, who lives at Bracknell, continued to visit her frequently right up to the time of her death.

At 86, she was very tired and, after many years as a semi-invalid, she slipped out of life very peacefully. Caversham will not be quite the same without her.

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WHOSE RICHES . . . ?

by Michael Atkinson

LET US START AT THE BEGINNING. A STEWARD IS ONE WHO HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH MANAGING WHAT BELONGS TO HIS MASTER. SO FAR SO GOOD. THE QUESTION IS WHAT IS THE STEWARD'S ORDER OF PRIORITIES ?

There are two orders of things with which a person can be entrusted. There are things which have no life in themselves, such as houses, land, vehicles, money. All that is needed to handle these is expertise which can be learned by anyone given sufficient effort.

The other order is of things which have life in themselves as does the steward. To handle these requires that a relationship develops; in other words the steward becomes personally involved. Husbands and wives exercise a stewardship of one another as do parents and children. Even dogs insist on a relationship if they are not to become strays! The relationship comes first, and if it is valued both parties work at improving it. They exercise their stewardship.

ALL men and women are called to exercise a stewardship of both kinds—of land, air and water, money and motor cars, of time and talents, of husbands, wives or children, of

parents, priests or people! Christians are not exempt from this sort of stewardship. Enormous growth has occurred in the Church as a result of the emphasis on the stewardship of Time, Talents and Money. This article shows no ingratitude for that. The question has to be asked Where is the Christian Stewardship Movement going? Whose riches are we to steward and what are the real riches? Are the results being seen in the fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit overflowing in loving and joyful lives! Or have the results been mainly financial and institutional? The answer naturally varies from parish to parish.

ALL Christians have, however, been given a gift of which other men know nothing. It requires a higher order of relationship, so high that men cannot attain it. Without the relationship man cannot exercise their stewardship of this gift, because the gift is the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the Gift of

God Himself. The Good News is that men have been given a relationship with the Gift, if they will accept both the Gift and the Giver. The Giver is Jesus. All Christians share in the Stewardship of the Holy Spirit.

Does a Christian Stewardship Renewal end with faces and lives full of the joy and vigour of the Lord, because more of His Life, His Love, His Joy, His Peace has been received and shared with others? Who are we to listen to for continuing renewal in the Church?

It is already being said. The young are saying it! More and more Christians are saying it! Even pop music is saying it! Try asking God—He will certainly say it!

'THIS IS MY SON, MY BELOVED, LISTEN TO HIM!'

What about more of us saying it? And in the power of the Spirit!



RETURN VISIT

The world famous Dolmetsch Consort are making a second visit to St. Peter's, Caversham and together with the Henley Singers are giving a concert in the church on Saturday, May 20th, at 8 p.m. on behalf of Christian Aid. St. Peter's was packed to capacity when with the Henley Singers the Dolmetsch Consort gave their concert in Mayday week, 1970. So delighted were they with their reception on that occasion that Carl Dolmetsch, who is regarded as the greatest recorder player of all time, expressed a willingness to come again for a second concert.

Members of the Consort are in constant demand all over the world. The Henley Singers have also acquired a reputation for their singing which is bringing them many requests for performances.

Admission will be by programme price 50p. and music lovers are advised to book without delay from Mrs. P. Pick, 2 Conisboro Avenue—Tel. 474470.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

My grandfather used to know a Mr. Bowen, who taught a Sunday school in a house in Send Road, Caversham, around the year 1914. If any reader can remember any details of this little venture, it would be very interesting.

Yours etc.

(Miss) R. M. Payne

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INTRODUCTION. Each month a brief article dealing with an aspect of saving will appear in this space. This month we introduce ourselves with a general indication of our service which is free—if you want advice ask for it.

Introducing Ourselves

We are a firm of savings consultants who offer you a free advisory service on saving and investment.

There are many saving and investment schemes available of which most people are unaware. We feel that knowledge of the savings market should be more widespread so that with professional help people may select a scheme that is best suited to their needs.

We discuss with our clients their requirements. From our knowledge of the market we are then able to advise on the most suitable scheme. In advising we take into account protection against inflation and gaining maximum relief of income tax.

Our advice is completely independent

Our Service

Some of the reasons for saving and investment are:

- house purchase
- financial protection for dependents
- school fees
- university costs
- creation of a capital fund for retirement
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In the last decade there have been great changes in the ways such needs may be satisfied. Also your circumstances will have altered.

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Walton Adams

STEPHEN AND BETTY BARTLETT

Stephen Bartlett, aged thirty-three, spent his childhood by the Thames in Essex. He went to Leeds University and has also worked as a bus conductor and trainee architect. Then when at St. Paul's College of Education in Cheltenham he met Betty. A spell of teaching and then came his years at Lichfield Theological College, a curacy at Scunthorpe and then a move to Cleobury Mortimer in Herefordshire where he is at present assistant priest.

Betty comes from Flintshire. In Scunthorpe she was secretary of the pre-school play groups' association as well as running a youth club for the mentally handicapped.

Her hobbies include gardening while her husband likes painting and sailing.

The Bartletts have two children, Becky, who is five, and Kate, now two. Becky will be going to Micklands School when the Bartletts have moved into 2 Blackwater Close.



Walton Adams

LEONARD AND JENNIE BURN

Leonard Burn who comes to Caversham as priest-in-charge of St. Barnabas, was born at Taunton and spent his boyhood at Cheltenham. After leaving Cheltenham Grammar School he worked for a time at Morris Motors before going to King's College, London, where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He was ordained deacon in 1968 and priest the following year. He served his first curacy at Kingswinford in the diocese of Lichfield and moved to All Souls', South Ascot, in 1970. His wife Jennifer spent her childhood in the Cotswolds at Moreton in Marsh, Chipping Campden and Tewkesbury. After a course in Business Studies at North Gloucestershire Technical College she has worked on the advertising side of journalism. The Burns were married in 1967.

April will see the arrival of two priests to join the Caversham Parish team. On Sunday April 16th the Rev. Stephen Bartlett will begin his ministry at Caversham Park and a fortnight later the Rev. Leonard Burn will take up his duties at St. Barnabas when he celebrates the Family Eucharist on April 30th.

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An applicant must be prepared to produce sufficient testimonials and other evidence of his or her qualification for interview by the Trustees.

The successful applicant will be required to contribute a weekly sum of 15s. towards the cost of maintaining the almshouses of the charity.

Application forms may be obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Trustees, Mr P. M. Blandy, 1, Friar Street, Reading, and must be completed and returned to him not later than April 19th, 1972.

Candidates will be notified when and where to attend for interview.

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SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

We print this month the form of service which the Bishop of Oxford has authorised for use in the parish of Caversham as a thanksgiving on the birth of a child. Many thoughtful parents feel to-day that as they are not committed members of the Church it is more honest if they do not have their children baptised, and are preferring a simple service of thanksgiving which does not require of them that they make any promises. Some Christian parents also feel that it is wiser for a child to be baptized as an adult when the promises can be made by the person concerned and not on their behalf by parents and godparents.

The service can be held either privately in the home or publicly or privately in church. It will never take place round the font.

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING ON THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

MINISTER: We are here to give thanks for the birth of this child.

O God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for your creative power and love, through which these parents have given birth to this child, and for the skill and care of all who have guarded the health of mother and baby. Grant that these parents, remembering your goodness to them, may bring up their child in the knowledge of your love, and serve you faithfully at all times, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARENTS (together): God our Father, we thank you for this child. Give us as parents, wisdom and understanding, and grant that by our love for him, he may learn to know and love you his heavenly Father.

MOTHER: Help me to be a good mother to N, so that through my care of him he may learn to trust in you.

FATHER: Help me to be a responsible father to N, so that as a family we may love and serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTER: Listen to what St. Mark says about our Lord's love for all children: Ch. 1 v. 13

"They brought children for him to touch; and the disciples scolded them for it. But when Jesus saw this he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it'. And he put his arms round them, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them".

ALL: Thanks be to God.

THE MINISTER SHALL HOLD THE CHILD AND SAY:

After the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I take you N. and pray that you will grow to know and love the God and Father of us all. Grant O Lord, that when you call this child may hear and become a member of your church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL: The Lord's Prayer.
(Further prayers for the family may be added by the Minister).

MINISTER: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace, now and for evermore. Amen.

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FIFTY HAPPY YEARS



We are very happy to congratulate Florence and Percy John Wardel on their fiftieth wedding anniversary on 12th March.

Walton Adams

FLORRIE AND HER HUSBAND, WHO WERE MARRIED AT ST. MARY'S, have spent a great deal of their married life in Caversham and for the past five years have lived in the Almshouses in Westfield Road where, in the newly constructed block they have a delightful two-roomed establishment, bright, cheerful, with all modern conveniences and far easier to keep clean than their previous home. Neither of them have had very good health in recent years, but they like to keep as active as possible and have fitted very well into this little community. Florence is able to undertake small shopping commitments for the residents who are not able to get about and Percy John is able to do odd jobs in the block. More than that, they bring a considerable amount of brightness and friendliness into the building and are greatly appreciated as neighbours.

Florence has had a lifelong connection with the church, though she is unable to get along to church services; her husband hopes to be confirmed this year together with two other residents at the almshouses.

They have three daughters, all living in the Reading area, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren; they gave a family party to celebrate the anniversary, when other members of the family were also present.

Florence will be 73 in October and her husband will be 75 in July. We hope they will live to enjoy many more and look forward to reporting on their diamond wedding. In the meantime, we send them our very best wishes for a very happy occasion.

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BACON AND COOKED MEATS

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD'S VISIT

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev. Kenneth Woollcombe, will be paying his first visit to the parish of Caversham on Sunday, April 16th. He will begin by being the celebrant and preacher at the Parish Communion in St. Peter's at 9.15 a.m.: after coffee with members of the congregation he will then attend the ecumenical family service at Caversham Park School: with him will be the Rev. Terence Harris, the Methodist minister, and the Rev. Stephen Bartlett who will just have arrived as the resident priest at Caversham Park.

The Bishop will next pay a short visit to Springfield St. Luke in order to meet the sisters and residents. He will then return to Caversham Park School for a buffet luncheon with members of the

Parochial Church Council, and his visit will conclude with an informal discussion at which it is hoped to consider the future pattern of ministry in new areas such as Caversham Park.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
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8.00 p.m.
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ST. JOHN'S NEWS

St. Valentine's Day at St. John's was an opportunity for those on both sides of the age gap to see how the other half lives.

The party in the hall brought together the youth club and some of the older members of the church. And who knows? Perhaps each group was helped to begin to like what it saw. Mr. J. Houghton did his usual grand job of encouraging everyone to join in and enjoy themselves, and the Summerdown Singers (no party seems to be complete without them) responded well to the challenge of soothing those present who really would have preferred the services of a record player.

OPEN HOUSE

St. John's was pleased recently to offer the use of its building to Gosbrook Road Methodists who were temporarily without a home for their Morning Service on Sundays. A small step perhaps, but, it is hoped, not without significance in the search for unity between Christians.

CAVERSHAM PARK

April House Communions

April 12th — 10.30 a.m. at 4 Redberry Close.

April 26th—10.30 a.m. at 76 Lowfield Road.

ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON T.W.G.

Over a hundred members and friends attended the Guild's 10th Birthday Party held at St. Andrew's Hall, Caversham. Guests included the Federation Chairman, Mrs. M. Major, and ladies from Reading West, Emmer Green and Tilehurst Guilds. Barbara Avery and her friends provided an enjoyable entertainment. The President of the Guild, Miss N. K. Brown was thanked for providing the wine.

At the monthly meeting on February 17th, Miss E. Matthews spoke about the Animal Sanctuary at Steadhampton, Oxfordshire. This is a registered charity run mainly by voluntary helpers. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs. D. Eccleston.

A second talk followed given by Sgt. Amor of the Crime Prevention Dept. Sgt. Amor gave some useful suggestions on how to protect our houses and property in such a way as to help in the prevention of crime.

The Chairman, Mrs. C. Mitchell thanked both speakers on behalf of the members for their most interesting and instructive talks.

ROSEHILL W.I.

Mrs. Russell was in the chair at the February meeting. Arrangements had been made for the setting up of the entry at the Daily Mail Ideal Homes Exhibition. So far five members have accepted nom-

We record . . .

ST. PETER'S

Baptized

Feb. 13—Ian Cuthbertson.
 Miles Riddle.

Married

Jan. 22—Kerry Boyes and Wendy Jarvis.
 Jan. 29—John Dentry and Patricia Baverstock.
 Feb. 5—Frederick Terry and Angela Harrison.
 Feb. 12—Robert Skinner and Caroline Tibble.

Funerals

Feb. 22—Mary Nightingale.
 Feb. 23—Frederick Paine.
 Ellen Clifton.
 Feb. 24—Brian Cheeseman.

PARISH SUPPER AT MAPLEDURHAM

A true village gathering is the best way to describe the social evening arranged by members of St. Margaret's Church and held in the Parish Hall on February 12th.

In spite of a risk of power cuts about 80 people gathered round the old iron stove and enjoyed a goodly array of refreshments, mostly home baked. Later they were entertained by folk singer Jack Holt with his guitar and songs from the younger generation.

Thanks to all concerned for making it such a happy and successful occasion.

M.K.

EMMER GREEN T.W.G.

Mr. T. L. Gwatin, M.A., F.M.A., gave an extremely interesting and at times amusing talk on the role of the museum and art gallery in the community, and mentioned some of the treasures to be seen there. He explained how changing climatic conditions had affected the geological formation of the local countryside, illustrating some of the larger mammals to be found there in prehistoric times.

The sales table and white elephant stall did good business.

Mrs. Booker has offered to arrange flowers in the Group Competition in April.

MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

Mrs. Bramwell was in the Chair at the February meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. There were not as many people present as usual, perhaps because it was so chilly with the power cuts. Those who were present, however, thoroughly enjoyed the talk and coloured slides shown by Mrs. Mortimer who obviously knows Switzerland very well indeed, perhaps because she was at school there once. The Vote of Thanks was given by Mrs. Plumridge who echoed everyone's thoughts by saying it made her want to set off at once for Switzerland. The prize for the knitted slippers competition went to Mrs. Harcourt—not surprisingly as she was the only entrant!

ILLNESS OF CANON KINGSNORTH

Canon Kingsnorth who has visited Caversham on a number of occasions to speak about his work in Zambia has been seriously ill with an obscure disease called the Guillan-Barre syndrome. This disease attacks the nerves of the body, resulting in a paralysis of the limbs.

Canon Kingsnorth has been in hospital for some weeks and can now move his arms and legs but not his hands. It is not yet known if he will recover complete mobility of his limbs. Mrs. Kingsnorth has asked for the prayers of Caversham congregations for his recovery.

UNITED SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN AID

This year United Services for Christian Aid are taking place at local level. One has been planned for Sunday, May 14th, to be held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 6.30 p.m. The Service will be conducted by the Rev. Derek E. Nichols, B.D.

Mr. Nichols is at present teaching at Brockenhurst Sixth Form College. From 1959 until 1969 he worked in Zambia. In addition to his work as a Minister he was Education Secretary and Treasurer of the United Church of Zambia and the Christian Council of Zambia. From 1967 until 1969 he was Chairman of the Lusaka District. He has also spent three years in Rhodesia.

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH — OVERSEAS MISSIONS GENERAL FUND

The amount raised for the year ended December 1971 was £245.53p compared with £189.8.0d for the previous year, a wonderful effort bearing in mind that Overseas Missions has a thriving Women's Work Section and also a J.M.A. (Junior Missionary Association) and that the people who give so readily are those called upon to support so many other causes.

1972 commenced with Self Denial Week and this brought in £19.65p compared with £19.86p last year.

FUTURE EVENTS

On Friday, 12th May at 8.0 p.m. there will be a grand concert at The Heights Methodist Church. Taking part will be the following:

Stella Cooke, A.R.C.M.

—Oboe

Horatia Raphael

—Piano

Horatia Raphael's musical education and career began in London and since moving to Reading she has appeared with the Delian Ensemble and in a number of concerts run by John Dingle. She also arranged and appeared in concerts connected with the Sonning Art Festival and her most recent concert was given at the Reading Art Gallery. We are very fortunate that she has agreed to appear on this occasion.

Estelle Beach

—Soprano

Estelle began her singing career at the Royal Academy of Music as a scholarship holder. During her time there she won all the available prizes for soprano voice, singing in concerts which Sir Henry Wood conducted. During the war she entertained troops, taking serious music to France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. She

concentrated mainly on Oratorio, concerts and recitals and took part in the Delius Festival at the Albert Hall. She has also done many broadcasts. Estelle appeared at a recent concert at the Reading Art Gallery and those who have heard her sing at Caversham will want to take the opportunity to hear her again.

Denis Catlin, A.R.A.M.

—Baritone

Denis Catlin studied singing and acting at the Royal Academy of Music, having been awarded scholarships which covered his training. Whilst there he was chosen to sing principal parts in several opera performances, choral and orchestral works, and dramatic performances. He was then appointed principal soloist at Wesley's Chapel in the City of London where he was soloist in many choral works and regular broadcasts. Later he was chosen to appear in an International Season at Convent Garden Opera, where he sang under many distinguished international conductors. He is an established broadcaster and is frequently heard in recitals, orchestral concerts, Third Programme operas and a diversity of Radio and Television productions. He is in constant demand from Choral and Musical Societies for works and miscellaneous concerts throughout the country.

Sunday, May 14th is Overseas Missions Sunday when the Reverend Derek E. Nichols, B.D. will conduct both services. The evening service will be a joint Overseas Missions/Christian Aid service when friends from all Caversham Churches will join in worship at The Heights Methodist Church.

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HOLY WEEK IN CAVERSHAM

UNITED FREE CHURCH SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 30th: 8 p.m.

Caversham Methodist Church. United service of Holy Communion.

Good Friday, March 31st: 10-30 a.m.

Caversham Baptist Free Church.
Preacher: The Rev. T. R. Harris.

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. Children's Service (St. Peter's).
11-00 a.m. Children's Service (St. Andrew's and St. Barnabas').
11-15 a.m. Children's 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).

Easter Day, April 2nd.

7-00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).
8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (all churches).

Caversham Heights Methodist Playgroup

Despite threatened power cuts and inclement weather, the Caversham Heights Methodist Playgroup's Open Meeting was well attended on Tuesday, 15th February.

The subject was "Primary Education—Any Questions". The panel, under the chairmanship of the Rev. T. R. Harris, minister of the church, consisted of Miss Toms, infant teacher at Kidmore End C. E. School; Miss Cooper, headmistress of Caversham Nursery School; Mr. J. Lane, headmaster of Micklands Primary School; and Mr. B. Wright, deputy head of Caversham Primary School in place of Mr. H. W. Turner, the headmaster, who was ill and unable to be there.

The many questions which were put by the audience covered a wide range of topics connected with pre-school and primary education, and these were expertly and interestingly answered by the panel.

The Playgroup meets at the Methodist School Hall in Highmoor Road on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for children from

2½ to 5 years old. Mrs. Joan Bernard would be pleased to answer any enquiries at Reading 477369.

There is also a Toddlers Club, which meets fortnightly, on Wednesday afternoons from 2 p.m. onwards. This is for mothers and their babies and young children to meet and have a chat over a cup of tea. The Playgroup equipment is there and it enables the children who are not old enough for Playgroup to use the toys and climbing frame, etc. Mrs. Ann Pape, at Kidmore End 3678 will answer any queries from mothers of babies and young children, who will be made very welcome at the Club.

Methodist Home Missions

The Home Missions week-night meeting was held at Gosbrook Road on Thursday, February 17th. The Rev. T. R. Harris was in the chair and Rev. F. Turk spoke on his work as Chaplain of Reading Prison. Musical items were given by Mr. Gordon Prior and Miss Mary Prior. The meeting was followed by films and a Buffet supper. The total of £537 was raised for Home Mission Funds.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, APRIL, 1972—SEVEN

9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist (all churches).
11-00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter's).
11-15 a.m. Family Service (St. Barnabas).
11-15 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
12-15 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).
6-30 p.m. Festal Evensong (all churches).

Confessions in Holy week.

Times when the clergy will be available to hear confessions will be announced in the church notices on March 25th.

Sick Communion.

The clergy will be glad to take the Blessed Sacrament during Easter week to those who are sick. All confirmed members of the Church of England are reminded that it is a rule of the Church that they receive the Sacrament at Easter.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND—ST. MARGARET'S 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.

Easter Day, April 2nd.

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

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, March 26th.

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

Easter Day, April 2nd.

11-00 a.m. Family Service and Junior Church.
6-30 p.m. Holy Communion.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, March 26th.

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

Easter Day, April 2nd.

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.
6-30 p.m. Evening service with Holy Communion.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, March 26th.

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

Easter Day, April 2nd.

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11-00 a.m. Morning service with Holy Communion.
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

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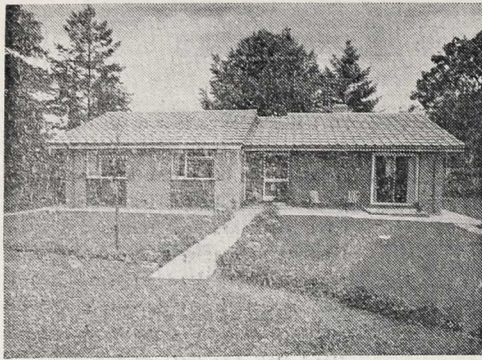
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Cement in our blood



It is a good many years since Joe Strong started business as a builder in South Street and it is unlikely he thought in terms of the kind of houses pictured now around the walls of the office of J. Strong and Sons in Ardler Road.

Yet, as Leslie says, the old methods still stand in good stead; foundations still have to be well dug and though red brickwork is now sometimes replaced with new material and whole sections are prefabricated, the principles remain the same.

It wouldn't be difficult to get any of the brothers talking house-building, not just salesmanship talk but real facts about what is still a craft. But then, as he says, he and his brother have cement in their blood. Serving their apprenticeship under their father before the war, Norman, Raymond and Leslie returned enthusiastically to pick up the threads and get the family business going again as soon as they were free to do so.

In the middle fifties the timber-framed system of building known as Cedar Homes became known and J. Strong and Sons who, with their knowledge of building, could see the advantages of manufactured housing, co-operated with the manufacturers in promoting system building in the area. It has proved so successful that their services have been requested as far away as the Persian Gulf where they were asked to build a house for the political agent. They have built in

Windsor Great Park for the Crown Estate, the Oratory School and are, at present, engaged on housing development for Eton College.

They are not interested in large scale development; all their buildings are individually planned and the results, as seen in the pictures in their office, are truly delightful, even to those normally biased in favour of traditional buildings. It should be said, in fairness, that their buildings are generally well landscaped; they are not cheap, but there's no harm in dreaming and if someone should happen to leave you a nice piece of land and enough money to build you'll find their office a fascinating place.

Nor do the brothers confine their interests entirely to building, for Leslie is a member of the British Water Ski Federation and an International Judge. This was an interest he developed after war-time training as a soldier on skis. Norman, on the other hand, prefers to spend his spare time on the water in a small cruiser, while Raymond's part-time enthusiasm is for horse-riding.

All this is a far cry from Joe's brickyard in South Street, but the same skills are still used, the craftsmanship is the same and Joe, who died in 1941, after building many houses in the district particularly in Ardler Road itself, would have reason to be proud of the firm and the way in which his sons and grandsons are carrying on the family tradition.

W.D.

THE WORLD AROUND US

There are a number of Caversham people who are members of the United Nations Association; there are probably far more who would like to join but who lack the time. For them this year presents a unique opportunity to learn more about the Association's work, for its General Council is to be held this year in Reading at the week-end 7th-9th April and its meetings will be open to the public.

Before the Council actually meets the branches will decide which four particular topics shall receive priority for discussion. They cover such fields as Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Rhodesia, and problems of European security, disarmament, environment, etc., all of which occupy the minds of most of us from time to time.

The meetings of the General Council, which cover all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, will be held in the Palmer Hall and the Students' Union at Whiteknights Park. On Saturday evening the Mayor and the Chairman of the County Council will hold a civic reception for the delegates and on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. there will be an interdenominational service in the Students' Union, conducted by Mr. Wheeler of the Trinity Congregational Church and addressed by the Archdeacon of Westminster.

As a rule the Council is addressed by one of its three

Honorary Presidents; unfortunately Jeremy Thorpe, whose turn it was this year, cannot be present, but the Council is certain to get a good speaker in his place and it will be well worth hearing if previous addresses are anything to go by.

Next month we hope to give you a full report; but since nothing will be quite as adequate as attending oneself, we give you the address where you can get further information if you wish to attend:

Algar Reed,
United Nations Association,
89B Broad Street, Reading.
Tel.: Reading 53583.

Obituary

ELLEN CLIFTON

We were all very sorry to hear of the death of Ellen Clifton of Hampden Road in February. Readers will probably remember that not long ago we published an article about Mr. and Mrs. Clifton on the occasion of their diamond wedding.

Mrs. Clifton, who had been in poor health for some time died peacefully at her home and it has been a great comfort to Thomas, her husband, and Dorothy, her daughter, that she did not have to go into hospital. Though they will obviously miss her very much, they are a family who truly believe that this is not the end, but a beginning. We would like to assure them of our prayers at this time.

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ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Taken all in all the British public have put up with the power cuts very well, and above all the electricity engineers have done a splendid job. Of course in many places Church Services and meetings have been affected and the Annual General Meeting had to be postponed at St. Paul's.

The Spiritual oversight of a Presbyterian congregation is in the hands of the Session, while upkeep and running expenses are dealt with by a financial authority, this latter body is elected by the congregation and every year they give an account of their stewardship at the A.G.M. In theory this leaves the minister free to concentrate all his energy on the spiritual welfare of the people; in actual practice it does not work out this way because generally the minister is chairman of the financial authority. The Session, the group of elected elders along with the minis-

ter, is responsible to the Presbytery which occupies the position of a bishop, and all questions of doctrine and discipline are referred to this court which meets monthly. Above all there is the annual meeting of the whole Church which is called the General Assembly.

In view of the union of the Presbyterian Church of England with the Congregational Church the meeting of the General Assembly in May this year will be the last of its kind in England, and naturally many people will be sorry about the changes that are taking place. But church members must face the future without prejudice and with courage.

The old order changeth, yielding place to new. And God fulfils Himself in many ways. Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

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LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

by Dorothy O'Neill



How would you like to be mother of children who "go to school" at home? Children whose "classmates" live hundreds of miles away, and whose teacher is invisible?

These are the children of the Outback—children who live on immense cattle and sheep stations, or in aboriginal settlements. Thousands of miles from the coastal cities of Australia, they "go to school" in a unique way—by radio.

For them, "school" means sitting at a table before a two-way radio transceiver, and tuning in to the School of the Air, where their teacher is waiting to give them their lessons by radio. As they wait for their names to be called, mother comes into the room, to be available for consultation, or in case the batteries go flat!

The School of the Air operates in conjunction with the Correspondence School through which Outback children have been receiving lessons for many years. These lessons are prepared in the cities by education departments, and they are posted fortnightly to each enrolled pupil, who then returns his completed set—also fortnightly.

Some mothers have supervised their children's lessons throughout the whole of their primary education. Mrs. Petering, wife of a Lutheran pastor at a settlement 160 miles west of Alice Springs, has brought up seven children who have all received their primary education at home. At one time she

was currently supervising four children in four different grades. When they eventually went to boarding school in the city, they were well up to the educational standard expected of them.

The School of the Air has been in existence for twenty years, the Alice Springs School of the Air being the first in the world. Now there are eleven others, and the twelve schools cover about 1½ million square miles—approximately one-half the area of Australia—yet the total enrolment does not exceed 1,000 pupils.

"Going to School" in the Outback

These Schools of the Air, have changed the lives of these isolated families; for they gather them into a "classroom" and bring friendship and learning into the silence. Across the air come friendly voices, teaching, talking, joking and singing. The children are linked with their teachers and with other children, and they can ask questions, or comment on lessons by radio.

Tourists visiting Alice Springs can go to see the School of the Air in action. They sit in a large, viewing

room beyond the studio, and watch the teacher, sitting in front of her microphone, with her lesson books at her elbow.

She "calls her register" by giving the code name of the name of the station where each child lives—and the children reply, their young voices coming clearly across the desert wastes.

Then follows the lesson, and studio listeners can hear the children answering questions, reading, singing or sharing their news.

There is a set time for news, but if it is really "hot" the child can break into the lesson. Some times there is a dramatic intervention . . .

"Please, Miss, a snake just came into the classroom . . ." This from a young boy on a far away cattle station in the north.

"Did you kill it?" asks the teacher halting the lesson.

"Yes", answers a boy's voice coolly . . .

These Outback children, and their parents, owe a great deal to one man—a Christian. The School of the Air is operated by courtesy of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, over the Flying Doctor network. It was the Rev. John Flynn, a Presbyterian minister, who founded the Flying Doctor Service in Australia. The service sprang directly from his concern for the Outback people.

Sometimes the minister of the John Flynn Memorial Church in Alice Springs speaks to his young flock via the School of the Air. The work of John Flynn goes on.

The Lone Circuit Rider

by E. Harper

That title sounds like a Western film. In fact it was the name given to the first American Methodist Bishop, Francis Asbury. During the 45 years of his ministry in America, Asbury covered 275,000 miles or more on horseback.

When they Christened their baby son, his parents, simple folk living in Great Barr, Staffordshire, probably thought he would remain in the parish. At first, when old enough Francis became an apprentice to the local blacksmith. Influenced by the Vicar of West Bromwich who introduced him to Methodism, he became a local preacher and at 21, a full time preacher.

Francis was chosen personally by John Wesley to go to America when only 26. He never came back to Britain but he did retain his British nationality. So greatly was he appreciated that in America a statue has been erected to him in Washington bearing a description "Prophet of the Long Road" while in his native land his West Bromwich home is carefully preserved. Naturally many Americans make their way there each year.

No doubt as he rode around he had cause to be grateful for his blacksmith's training. Certainly his handling of horses stood him in good stead on his travels.

7p.
What you spend a day on newspapers, half the people in the world have a day to live on.
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OOMPAHS under the bedroom window

Frank Graham reviews the Salvation Army Year Book

On any Sunday morning, your late-lie-abled slumber could be abruptly ended by 33,203 Salvation Army brass band enthusiasts.

But take heart. This total regiment of lusty oompah musicians is scattered throughout 16,044 Salvationist centres. The chances of them all appearing beneath your bedroom window at any one time—or even marching past in splendid single file—are very remote indeed.

Such facts emerge from among the mass of remarkable statistics to be found in 'The Salvation Army Year Book 1972', a 295-page volume packed with small print and 'Dedicated to the glory of God in whose name and by whose grace the work described has been accomplished'.

The Year Book also briefly records the part played by this international army of peace in meeting human need

at the more headlined sites of world disaster. For example, in dispatching relief teams to the centres of devastation when cyclonic tidal waves swept over East Pakistan.

Then, within weeks, pouring in manpower and materials to try and help cope with the avalanche of pitiful human misery which sought refuge in India during the East Pakistan political crisis.

In Britain, Salvationists served for twenty-one harrowing hours at the mortuary set up after the Ibrox Football Ground tragedy in Glasgow. When the last victim had been identified, they turned their assistance to the search for relatives and the offering of accommodation and nourishment to the bereaved.

Perhaps heaven itself is reserving medals for the other countless acts of gallantry which must lie behind this Year Book.

GOOD HEALTH

COPING WITH RHEUMATISM

by Jean Fielding

Every day we hear someone groaning: "My shoulders killing me....." or "Oh, the pain in my back . . ." for aching muscles are aggravated by the constant changes in our weather.

Muscular rheumatism (fibrositis) is due to an inflammation of the fibrous tissue elements present in the muscles and the tendons which attach them to the bones. It is revealed by pain, stiffness and sudden severe cramps on movement. Increased growth of the fibrous tissue results in the formation of fibrous nodules.

Attacks of severe muscular pain frequently occur when the body becomes chilled after exercise. To lessen this risk, relax in a hot bath containing a handful of common salt after an energetic sports, gardening or decorating session.

A hot bath at night will enable the sufferer to sleep soundly, for pains are eased by heat. Anyone affected with arthritis should add two handfuls of commercial Epsom salts to the bath water twice weekly.

To obtain maximum benefit, relax in the bath for ten minutes, then wrap up in an old blanket and go to bed for twenty minutes to perspire. Have a cold friction rub using a damp, rough towel to invigorate the body, then dry thoroughly before going to bed.

Gentle massage may ease

pain, but to break up the nodules firm kneading is necessary, and this can hurt temporarily.

Treatments for rheumatism include heat, such as radiant heat and diathermy, massage, acupuncture, naturopathy, osteopathy, tablets, diet, exercises and rest. Unfortunately what suits one patient often fails to help another.

When the pain is acute, a kaolin poultice is beneficial to provide penetrating heat for twenty-four hours. The poultices should be continued for several days after the pain has eased.

General health must be improved when possible by gentle regular exercises, walking and deep breathing.

A well-balanced diet is essential for rheumatic patients. This should include plenty of fresh fruit, salads, lightly-cooked vegetables, cheese, eggs, lean meat, fish and milk. Starchy, sugary, dried and fatty foods should be avoided.

A multi-vitamin supplement will help to restore lost energy, while water should be drunk freely between meals. Constipation must be corrected by eating dates, prunes or raisins. Cider, vinegar and honey three times daily will be helpful.

An overweight person should make an effort to slim. Fasting one day weekly is an easy method and helps to spring-clean the body by removing poisonous toxins.

All pain is made worse by tension, so it is important for anyone suffering from rheumatism to master the art of relaxation. Ten minutes' relaxing exercise once or twice daily can work wonders.

and after Casanova...

I've discovered a marvellous subject for one of those historical series we have been enjoying recently on TV. He is Thomas Gainsborough the 18th century portrait painter, whom I've been reading about in a new book, "The Ingenious Mr. Gainsborough" (published by Robert Hale and Co.), by journalist Geoffrey Williamson. You may know him as the author of a number of other books on subjects ranging from how to retire happily, to the history of the bicycle.

But back to the ingenious Mr. Gainsborough, who was born in Suffolk in 1727, youngest of a family of nine. He soon put his skilled pen to work by forging notes, purporting to come from his father, in order to get off school and go sketching. By the time he was 13, this very precocious young man was already

studying in London. At 17 he was working as an artist, and at 18 he married the natural daughter of a duke!

Soon he became an 18th century celebrity. He settled in fashionable Bath and was courted by all the world, the most fashionable portrait painter of his age. Everyone of note sat for him. . . statesmen, admirals, actors and actresses, noblemen, authors and famous beauties. David Garrick and Sheridan were among his friends.

Having conquered Bath, he repeated his success in London on an even bigger scale, and finally became royal portrait painter at the court of George III. What a life of romance, gaiety and colour. . . wouldn't you love to see it on TV? But maybe some film producer will snap up the rights first.



PLEA for the Big Family

by F. C. Price

How large should our families be? How many children should a married couple have and, rather more important, who should make that decision?

These are questions that are being raised more and more frequently in public. A few weeks ago Lincoln's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Reginald Haig suggested that parents with more than three children ought to be labelled "social criminals".

At its meeting on July 14 the National Association of Women's Clubs came out in support of Dr. Haig by passing a resolution that family allowances should be limited as a deterrent to large families.

Believing that such apparently isolated actions and comments form part of a concerted effort by a small minority to force acceptance of their views, a Roman Catholic couple from Walkden, near Manchester, have established a new "National Association for the Protection of Womanhood and Family Life."

They are Mr. Ernest Morris, a former policeman now employed by a security firm, and his wife Frances, a former policewoman. They have six children aged between 16 years and 15 months.

Mr. Morris said, "Enough is enough. The size of your family is a very personal matter. Why should married women be subjected to this type of remark? Why should I be told that I am socially irresponsible?"

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

There are many people who fully support Mr. and Mrs. Morris. A T.V. interview and a newspaper report brought them a flood of letters from all parts of the country, from people of all religious persuasions and none. There was an Anglican vicar of East Anglia and several unmarried people amongst their supporters.

Mrs. Morris said, "The response has been absolutely overwhelming and has encouraged us to go ahead with our plans. Our first step will be to hold a public meeting in Manchester to which we shall invite Dr. Haig to defend his views".

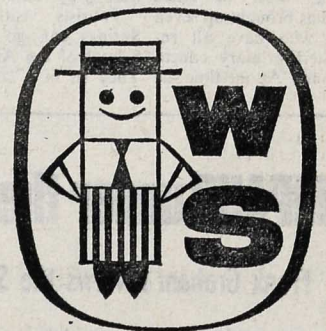
Mr. Morris said, "All I ask is to be left in peace and quiet to raise my family. They are not a charge on the state. We are supporting them ourselves.

"Five years ago I was in the police force upholding laws that said that abortion was wrong, that promiscuity was wrong and that homosexuality was wrong. Now these have been legalised and there is a growing attack on the large family.

"I feel that it is time somebody stood up from this so-called silent majority and opposed the views of these people. If they are going to promulgate a campaign against large families we must protect ourselves against this type of person".

Mrs. Morris told me, "Because I have six children people automatically assume that I am a Catholic. This is wrong. Many Catholics have only one or two children and many non-Catholics choose to have several children.

"Our organisation will cater for people of every creed and colour. We are forming it not because we are Catholics but because we have a large family".



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MUM'S PROBLEM

Mum was just starting to make some jam. The recipe said she must put 4 pints of water into the pan, but poor old Mum hadn't got a 4 pint measure. She'd only got a 3 pint measure and a 5 pint measure, and the recipe said she must put exactly 4 pints of water into the jam. She asked Dad and Aunt Liz how she could measure 4 pints of water, using the only two measures she'd got.

KING OR GLUMFACE

The world is so full of a number of things I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings. So wrote Robert Louis Stevenson. How come so many old Pa and Ma Glumfaces about, then? And their families of Jo, Jim, Doris and Connie Glumface? JUNIOR COMPASS wonders whether the Glumface families have forgotten to look at and enjoy the lovely things around them—things like trees, and birds, sunshine, animals, and blue skies? Friends and holidays, picnics, and fishing for minnows.

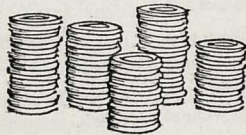
Perhaps the title of the Glumfaces' signature tune is Blank Despair:

We go to work to earn the cash
To buy the food to get the strength
To go to work to earn the cash
To buy the food to get the strength,
etc.,
etc.,
etc.



Oh dear! How awful!

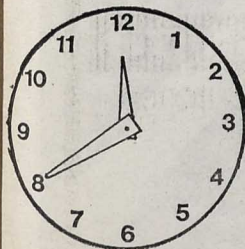
HELPING BILLY TO TELL THE TIME



KEEPING YOUR COOL

There's a time to blow your top and a time to keep your cool. One time to keep your cool is when somebody sets out to upset you, or trap you into doing or saying something silly.

You can help younger members of the family to learn to tell the time if you make a clock-face. Get a large round piece of white cardboard and print the figures 1 to 12 round the edge of it. From another piece of cardboard cut two 'hands', each with one pointed edge. Remember to make one hand a bit longer than the other. Pierce a small hole in the centre of the clock-face and a small hole in the wider end of each hand. Fasten the hands to the face by pushing a brass-headed paper fastener through the holes. You can then move the hands round to whatever time you wish.



The larger hand goes on top of the smaller one.

Answers to Mum's Problem

How do you think, Mum could have managed? There are several answers, and we give three of them below. Check your answer with the three we've given. Then try the puzzle out on your family and friends.

DAD said to fill the 3 pint measure and put from it three pints into the 5 pint measure; then to fill the 3 pint measure again and top up the 5 pint measure, leaving 1 pint of water in the 3 pint measure. Then Mum should empty the 5 pint measure, pour into the empty 5 pint measure the 1 pint from the 3 pint measure, fill up the three pint measure again, and pour the contents on top of the 1 pint of water already in the 5 pint measure. There were her 4 pints.

AUNT LIZ said Mum should fill the 5 pint measure first, and then fill the 3 pint measure from

it. She'd best then empty the 3 pint measure and pour into that measure the 2 pints she'd got in the 5 pint measure. Then if she filled the 5 pint measure again, topped up the 3 pint measure from it, she'd have 4 pints left in the 5 pint measure.

MUM said she thought it would be quicker if she filled the 5 pint measure, then filled the 3 pint measure from it, and poured straight into the jam pan the 2 pints left in the 5 pint measure. She could then pour the water out of the 3 pint measure back into the empty 5 pint measure, and top up the 5 pint measure to the brim. She would then fill the 3 pint measure again from the water in the 5 pint measure, which would leave her another 2 pints in her 5 pint measure, which she would pour into the jam pan, making 4 pints with the 2 pints she'd already put in. 'And,' said Mum, 'I shan't waste as much water as you two would!'



THE LURE OF CAVING

by Charles Moore

The fascination of ploughing under the bowels of the earth is quite new in an age of sport and leisure. What induces the active scrambler to cave clamber on all fours along mud-filled tunnels and over black clefts is something of a mystery. Those who crawl under the earth, or allow themselves to become immersed in ice-cold water, have great constitution and supreme curiosity.

Caving presents a challenge and chance to prove that fears of being enclosed in a confined space can be surmounted. The word 'cave' presents an image of fairy tale grottoes and dark coal mines. There are over 100 clubs practising caving as another sporting activity in Britain. The swelling number of active cavers is nearer 5,000.

Pitfalls

Caves have their own brand of exotic scenery. Sometimes they are all hard rock in a barren wilderness. Occasionally, water gushes out in the pale light of lamps lit to guide the way. The delicate glow of grottoes have to be explored to be appreciated. Cascading waterfalls underground fill the murkiest spots!

Caving, like mountain climbing, is ideal for the egoist as pursuits are forced on us by over-population. The exploration of the underworld cannot be taken vainly or lightly. Caving can be rewarding and fulfilling, but there are pitfalls on the way.

Rescues are carried out by well-drilled teams, efficient in underground movement, but the average person is quite helpless in a cave without foreknowledge. The majority of cavers are prepared for any kind of emergency and always ready to go to the rescue of fellow members.

Accidents are no more frequent than in rock climbing, although they draw publicity rather in the same manner as the big air crashes. The cave accident is still relatively new and the slightest mishap underground invites widespread comment.

Excitement

Fortunately, few potholers die through injury. Only prolonged exposure to damp or intense cold conditions causes death underground. Loose boulders, bad falls and flooding, have brought victims in the past, but in the main inexperience has added to the toll. Underground visits can be under-estimated and inadequate safety equipment can prove disastrous. The leader of a club party usually has foreknowledge of any danger and potholers are always advised to keep together

in groups. Only the single pot-holer, with vain optimism and lacking in safety equipment, is likely to get into trouble.

The struggle and search underground is a great challenge to young people who crave for excitement. They assume the challenge of overcoming obstacles, as in many other sports, and the curious nature of caving entices them into total darkness. The underground environment is completely different from that on the surface and tends to cut the potholer off from relative values left behind. The conquest of the cave depends on inner character and temperament, combined with an ability to adapt to the group. Team spirit is essential in pot-holing, but potholers are brought face to face with their inner selves and are closer to nature as responsible individuals.

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LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

A LIVELY LOOK
AT THE TV SCENE



Whicker's well heeled world

"Why is TV so fascinated by the rich?" demanded a recent headline. Personally, I never for one moment thought it was. Every dunghill and dreg of suffering humanity has been picked over in front of the TV cameras in the past few years and the idea of television obsessed with the lush-life seems ludicrous in the extreme. As it turned out, the story thus headlined referred only to Mr. Alan

Whicker, who, although he owns a fair slice of Yorkshire Television Limited, can hardly be said to speak for television as a whole.

I suppose that if—according to the late Lord Beaverbrook — Godfrey Winn 'shook hands with the heart of humanity', it was right for someone to suggest that Alan Whicker 'shakes hands with its bank statement'. **THE WORLD OF WHICKER** and **WHICKER'S ORIENT** are certainly peopled with the rich and illustrious, and for his seeming obsession with the 'good-life' he has had to take some sticks from critics who tend to regard poverty and strife as the staple diet of the small-screen documentary. There is, complained one critic, little likelihood of Mother Teresa appearing on a Whicker programme.



Alan Whicker hob-nobbing with the upper crust

What Whicker's detractors seem not to like is his being so detached and 'un-committed'. Both, I should have thought, admirable qualities in a reporter; but not, I hasten to add, in a TV critic! A reporter's job is to show us what IS, not what he personally thinks SHOULD BE, and Alan's undoubted penchant for hob-nobbing with the upper-crust is an asset which our TV screens allow us—the hoi polloi—to share in. From our pauperized position a few glimpses of how those who have got it made splash their lolly around seems a piece of harmless entertainment. Of course, if you really cannot do without 'social significance' you can always use Whicker as propaganda for oyru egalitarian crusade.

The moguls of television have not

been slow to cotton-on that when two or three dolly-birds are gathered together in a flat then you have a 'Series'. The idea took wing, I suppose, several years ago with **TAKE THREE GIRLS** which made a serious attempt to weave emotional stories around three girls sharing a fairly luxurious pad in the great 'met-rollops'. The scene was later parodied by Christopher Bond and Jilly Cooper — whose Sunday Times column you love or loath — in the often ribald and occasionally hilarious **IT'S AWFULLY BAD FOR YOUR EYES, DARLING**. Although I recognise its innate triviality, I found this a consistently amusing piece of escapism. The original half-hour play which spawned the series was panned heavily by the critics but found favour with the viewers. Whether it will be resuscitated for another stint only time, and the audience researchers, will tell.

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WHO'S FOR A NAP?— CRICKET'S BACK!

For as long as I can re-call (in all my twenty-five years), successive English cricket in touring sides, gentry up to the fact that have made vague promises of "brighter cricket". Having made their promises, and the inevitable sporting references to each other's immense ability, they have followed this with performances differing only in degree from those of preceding seasons. In short, I have witnessed the stagnation of what I was brought up to acknowledge as a stimulating and exciting sport.

Favoured few

The grey-haired, be-whiskered overlords of the game have apparently always striven to restrict attendance at matches to persons of their own ilk. That is to say, those favoured few who have time and money to waste by sleeping through day after day of incredibly boring county cricket, waking only to take a liquid lunch at the members' bar, before returning for an even sounder snooze in the afternoon.

To add insult to injury, the advent of one-day cricket in a competitive form, has, instead of waking the ageing there is money and popularity there for the taking, caused them to rise, albeit momentarily, from their foam-cushioned benches in protest at what this uncivilised invasion of their privacy has done to that last bastion of the British Empire — Test Cricket!

Personally, all these arguments of whether or not our middle-order batsmen are receiving a proper schooling from having to play too much one-day cricket, strikes me as being more than a little irrelevant.

As long as the game of cricket has returned to the forefront as a crowd-puller, let alone a money-spinner, the one-day competitions are more than justified. This is especially true when they encourage such great characters as Freddie Trueman to return to the fold, as he will be on Sunday afternoons throughout this season.

SPORTS SPOT

by Stew Linnel

Welcome back Fred. Aim a few bouncers at the Tavern next time you're down there! That will wake them up.

Absent friends

As all the eyes turn towards Munich and the forthcoming Olympic games, let us spare a thought for some athletes that won't be there.

I refer, of course, to those who have failed to qualify in their attempts to represent their country, in this, the most important sporting event in the calendar.

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of them throughout the world, all of them having set out with the intention of achieving that great honour, but having fallen short of their target, either through injury or loss of form at a crucial time.

May be they just weren't good enough in the face of the other challengers: but for whatever the reason that they won't be going to West Germany, let us congratulate them for their efforts and dedication in making the attempt.

Without them, the fortunate few who will be there would not be half so good.



England v Australia at Lords
Freddie Trueman bowling

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