



DECEMBER
1972

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

4p

If in doubt,
difficulty
or despair
ring your local



SAMARITANS

AGAINST THE ODDS

Joseph Abileah is a Jew; he is 57. His home is in Haifa, Israel. He regards Arabs as his brothers in a common homeland, a lesson he learned by sharing the same school lunch with Arab boys at his school in Jaffa, run by a Catholic teaching brotherhood. In those days, Jews were very much in a minority in this troubled corner of the world.

Joseph is a radical pacifist, a conscientious objector, a devotee of the international work camp movement devoted to the idea of world peace. He is a musician and was a violinist in the Haifa symphony orchestra and a music teacher.

Recently he has become full-time secretary of the Society for Middle East Confederation. Its object is to create a forum to consider and promote peace plans for the Middle East aiming at co-operation between Arab and Jew. Currently it is promoting a plan for confederation between Jordan, Israel and Arab Palestine, a plan which ideally could include all the Middle East.

Joseph Abileah spreads the idea of the society by broadcasts and public meetings, by contact with politicians and by the promotion of meetings between Arab and Jew, perhaps most notably by taking students from the Jewish Universities in Haifa and Jerusalem to visit Arab villages for the first time. He has toured Europe and the USA to gain support and financial backing for the society which has 500 Arab, Jewish, Christian and other members and supporters around the world. Particularly strong support has come from German pacifists and, in Israel particularly, from Christian Churches.

Clearly Joseph Abileah and his kind are an uncommon breed in the tense Middle East situation. Their views will take some swallowing particularly he thinks, by the militant nationalism of his own Jewish people, with their national state of Israel, new-founded after 2,000 years of persecution; but he says 'Zionism' is concerned with Messianic visions, not national states; that vision as always has the odds stacked against it—but vision can break deadlock.

...for there was no room for them at the inn

A scene at Calcutta Station.



Christmas is a time for the kiddies

In this country we're not renowned for displays of emotion. But the sight of a little baby usually arouses some sort of emotional reaction, even if it's only an 'aaah'. And that applies to any little animal, whether a puppy, a kitten, or a new born giraffe. We're a soppy lot really.

There are plenty of 'aaah's' about Christmas, plenty of people who think it's a time above all for the kiddies. A time for infants to dress up in striped blankets and act out their nativity plays in front of delighted parents, with the air thick with 'aaah's'.

But the trouble with kiddies is that they're not kiddies very long. They grow up. That must be this year's most obvious statement, but it seems to me that we don't behave as though it's obvious. We're very good at treating beginnings as ends in themselves.

To treat beginnings as ends in themselves makes them so unreal. And that is what has happened to Christmas. A few days of unreal life before the holiday is over and it's back to work again. As such it has no meaning apart from being a little booster in the middle of the winter.

Christmas is the beginning. A beginning to be celebrated with joy because the event is unique and stupendous—that God was born into His world as a baby. But Jesus didn't

stay a baby for very long. He grew up, and lived a life which brought Him to His death. And even that was not an end.

For the Christian, Christmas isn't a bit of unreality. It's the only reality. For the Christian, Christmas has very little

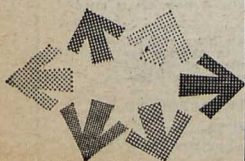
Chris Brodan calling



to do with fairy lights, tinsel, artificial snow and plastic cribs in department stores. It has everything to do with life when the fairy lights come down, and the plastic cribs go up to the stockroom.

God became man—not just a baby. That is only the beginning. And because of that He is intimately involved in human life—in the pain and suffering as well as in the joys and happiness. In the situation pictured on this page of people sleeping on Calcutta railway station.

There's not a single Christmas tree in sight, but there's more of the meaning of Christmas in that picture than in any number of glitter sprinkled greetings cards.



We go to separate Churches

We have been going to church as a family for years. Now our two children who are 10 and 11 refuse to go with us, and go to a church of a different denomination where many of their friends go and where they say they enjoy the services. We feel that a family should worship together, but at the same time feel committed to our church. Do you think we should just be thankful that they go somewhere and leave it at that? We worry about this a lot.

BAW, Notts.

For the moment I should certainly leave it at that, as long as the denomination is main-line Christian. But do try to keep communications open. Show interest in where they go. Try to understand what it is that attracts them. Try to go with them occasionally. As they grow older they will appreciate this and are more likely to see your point of view. Any force at this stage will only be resented.



PERSONAL POSERS

Upholding Christian Marriage

Church spokesmen will sometimes say that they have a duty to maintain the institution and standards of marriage in British Society. That seems a rather arrogant assumption in a society which is not notably Christian, and also seems to decry those men and women who, with integrity, live together without marrying. Do you think that the Church is making the most sensitive contribution to understanding in this field?

A.L., Staffs.

You obviously don't. But it is not possible to give a straight yes or no to your question. The Church is people—some are sensitive, some are not.

I get the impression that you would consider someone with strongly held views to be insensitive, and the reverse for someone who had no such views, or whose convictions are watered down. This may be a convenient way of thinking, but unfortunately is not true to life.

Christians see marriage as more than living together—even with integrity, as you say, and church spokesmen have a duty to express this. If they do this by thundering denunciations of all those who do not fall into line, then they are being un-Christian as well as being insensitive. It is not arrogant to uphold standards, but it is a different matter to attempt to force these standards on unwilling people.

Youth club needs discipline

I help in a fairly tough youth club in a big city. One of the things that bothers me most is the sheer wanton destruction caused by some of the lads. Coat hooks and other fittings are ripped from walls. Pipes in the toilets are bent, taps are wrecked. Sometimes I think the only answer for some of these kids is a thundering good hiding—but then you'd be up against the law. Don't you think we've gone too far in protecting people from common sense manners and discipline.

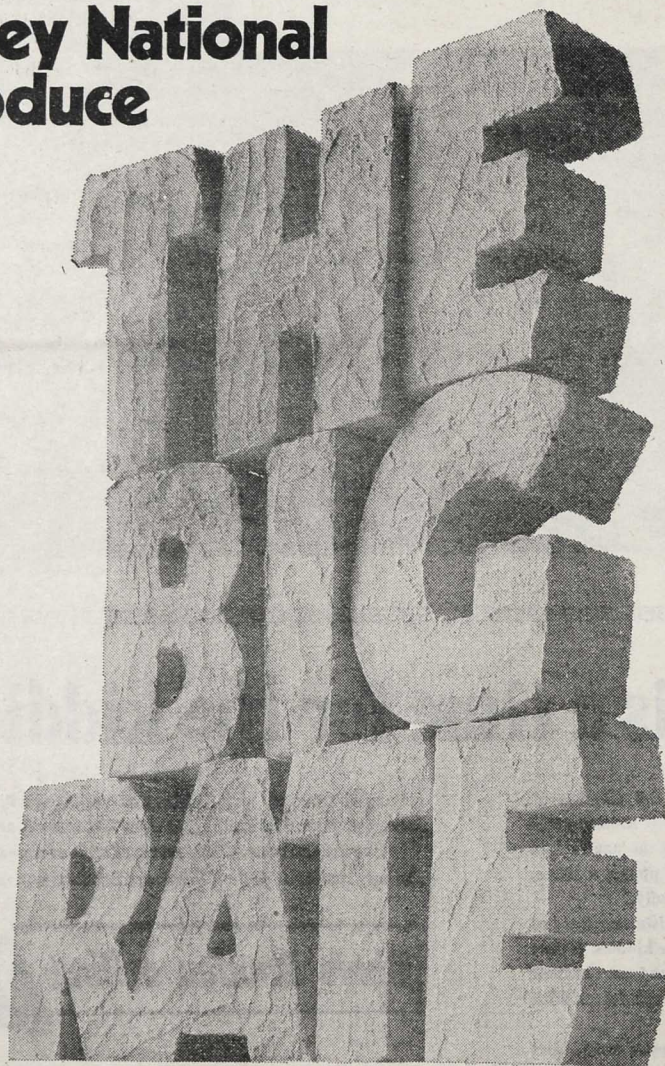
J.M., Hants.

I don't really think that 'good hidings' especially on adolescents do much good to the lads. It's just another setback as, unknowingly and uncertainly, they are trying to establish an identity—I'm no good—at least I can smash a tap'. Presumably the aim of the club is to help young people to grow to identity. Their infuriating destruction can be seen as an attempt to establish and assert themselves. You probably can't afford to let that go on. Perhaps you can make it clear that destructive members will not be allowed into the club and then act firmly on that principle. It is worth remembering though that some clubs have only become worthwhile by going through a costly period of vandalism which in the end bores the members who discipline themselves—much the best solution and a more maturing experience for the members than being 'knocked into shape' by adults.

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KALEIDOSCOPE

LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE

THE CITY

★
Homeground
for
politics



If politics is all Greek to you, cheer up,—it's all Greek to everyone. And more nowadays than ever, because the Greek starting-point for the word 'politics' is 'polis', which means 'city', and if there was ever a time when

business of the living in cities dominated politics, that time is now. The dictionary definition comes home with a vengeance that politics is what makes the polis tick.

Start with the fact that many acute observers of

modern Britain reckon that most of us are living — or very soon will be—in a great coffin of city-mass (megalopolis) stretching from the south-east across to the north-west.

FACING THE FACTS

Then add something even more startling — city living is universal. The city dweller might as well be in Lagos as London or Leningrad, in Buenos Aires as Berlin or Bombay. All the same nastiness; all the same convenience; all the same problems are there.

And all the same exciting possibilities.

An expert in city living and its effects, Rt. Revd. E. R. Wickham, Bishop of Middleton, has warned: "We must face the fact that the urbanisation of man runs right across the world". ("Urbanisation" starts from the Latin word for — guessed it? — 'city').

FREEDOM

He goes on: "The city spells freedom for man from the curses of nature; freedom from the seasons; freedom from the climate; freedom from religion because it is a secular place. Despite its ruthless, secular ropery character, the city offers man the kind of possibility that is good for him".

The good and the bad about city affairs are so pressing and so widespread that politics cannot avoid them. The issue may be Concord or the Common Market, containerisation, employment or education, housing, pollution, immigration or food. It makes no difference. For the good of all, Greek scholars or not, townie or yokel, it is Mr. City-Man that Mr. Politician has to be catering for now.

PROFILE GEORGE SMITH C.B.E. Vice Chairman of the T.U.C.

The 1972 Trades Union Congress at Brighton in September saw the end of George Smith's year as President. The forthrightness of his address then shows that he was the right man in the right place at the right time amongst the technology-threatened turmoil which is today's Trade Union movement.

"We carry a heavy responsibility to be understanding of the anxieties and apprehensions that ordinary people feel," he declared and went on to stress that the unions' basic policy must be to "secure for ordinary people rights as citizens and not solely as trade unionists."

George Smith is a 58-year-old Scotsman who started work in shopfitting and shipbuilding and became involved in the Trade Union movement through the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers in Scotland. He was first elected to the TUC General Council in 1959 and has been re-elected every year since.

He is still active in the building trade councils. In his TUC presidential address he underlined the need to end inter-union rivalry and competition, particularly in the face of the Common

Market, and he had helped his own union to give a lead since it recently amalgamated with two others to become the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

So George Smith, a family man with three children and since 1969 a CBE, combines a human touch, showing itself in care for people, with a brand of Scottish grit which faces facts. The TUC could do with keeping him around.



Watchman gives PRESSURE-GROUPS the once over

Up—or down—from the building labourer who grabbed a TV mike and blacked out a programme to advertise his cause, pressure-groups are here to stay.

The Americans call them lobbies and they are springing up everywhere like decorations at Christmas in the face of today's Big Stick structure of government where it is hard for every small interest to be noticed.

Mind you, pressure-groups of sorts have, been, like Emmanuel Shinwell, always with us. The Army, the Church, universities and various professional bodies have been able to exert behind-the-scenes pressure on political policies. And the British way of life is noted for the effective action of many voluntary bodies.

But something in the air is causing a pressure-group explosion. The tax system is complicated and not always just, so a group like the National Council for the Single Woman is needed. No one seems to do much about racialism in South Africa, so the Stop the Tour movement raises its head. A million people need good housing, so Shelter acts. Wages seem to mean less, so labourers grab mikes.

This growth is healthy. It shows that people are concerned about the real stuff of politics, even if they couldn't care a pipe's puff or a tooth's grin about the formal, party-voting Politics with a capital P.

If you want to start a do-it-yourself pressure group, first decide two things.

1 **What's it for?** It can be for someone else's needs, like Shelter or the Children's Society, in which case you'll have to raise support and money. Or it can be for the needs of yourself and others like you, as in the case of the National Council for the Single Woman or the Automobile Association. This means you can levy subscriptions from members.

2 **Who are you going to Lobby?** There is bound to be someone tailor-made for your needs. It might be the Queen. It's more likely to be a Minister, an M.P., or some agency of the Government or Civil Service. It could be a newspaper. It could be a section of the great British public—or all of it.

Once you've picked your cause and your target, go ahead. Good luck—and I'll see you in Trafalgar Square.

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What are we fighting for?

Before the Welfare State was established, many sick children who most needed help could not receive it because their parents were subjected to tests to qualify as 'deserving'. This led Allen Graham to found the Invalid Children's Aid Association in 1888 to help handicapped children and their families, especially those which were inadequate or in difficulties.

THE TASK

Then the battle was being fought against the older killer diseases, such as T.B., diphtheria and typhoid and ICAA provided emergency relief services—food, medicine, bedding and fuel. Now that medical science has enabled more deli-

cate babies to survive, ICAA has the task of helping them to lead happy and useful lives as far as possible.

VISITING

Trained social workers visit families with all types of handicapped children (physically, mentally or emotionally), to give them support and advice. They run groups for fathers and mothers or mothers alone who have handicapped children so that they can share experiences and ideas. Group meetings are also run for handicapped teenagers and their brothers and sisters, so that they can learn to help each other and to cope with the problems created by their disability.

If you want to change the world, you have to start somewhere.

Dig an irrigation ditch and water flows where no water flowed before.

And one small field in Africa can produce food.

The tools and the money to pay for them come from us.

The work comes from the farmer. Who uses his hoe to change his world.

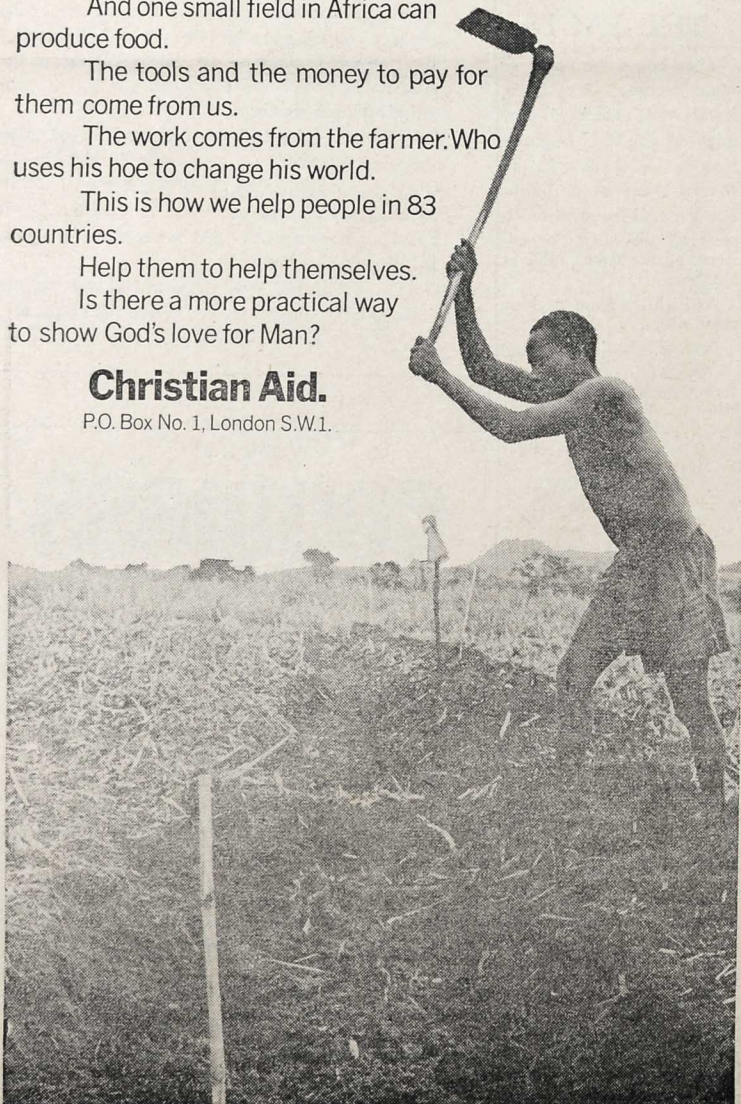
This is how we help people in 83 countries.

Help them to help themselves.

Is there a more practical way to show God's love for Man?

Christian Aid.

P.O. Box No. 1, London S.W.1.



PLAYGROUPS

Pre school playgroups are run for handicapped children under five years of age. These early years are vital to their future lifelong development. The playgroups give them confidence, help them to mix with other children, to learn through play and to develop their faculties as much as possible.

ASTHMA

Severely asthmatic boys can learn to cope with their asthma attacks at two special schools run by ICAA. Here they can learn at their own pace, with other boys like themselves and not be teased or bullied because of their asthma. Because asthmatic boys are scattered all over the country, it is more suitable for ICAA to run the two schools, rather than the local authorities who would only have a few such boys in their individual areas.

TEACHING

Children who have speech and language disorders can be helped by ICAA's special school in Sussex. They are given highly specialised teaching in small units, so that children like Janet, who has brain damage and cannot talk or understand speech, will learn to become independent.

UNDERSTANDING

Jimmy rocks backwards and forwards all day, screaming when anyone goes near him. He is being helped to behave more normally and to relate to the world about him at ICAA's special school for emotionally disturbed children. These children need very careful teaching and understanding and it is a slow task to help them to overcome their disturbances.

RESEARCH

ICAA has done much pioneering work in the past. Its most recent activity of this type was to research into the problems and needs of children with dyslexia (word blindness). Now the Association is study-



ICAA's Case Worker visiting a mother with a handicapped child.

ing the problems of children who have aphasia—which means that they cannot make sense of sounds they hear. Soon ICAA will open a school in the Midlands to help such children.

CHALLENGE

So although cures or treatment have been found for many diseases or impediments, new types of handicaps are continuously being discovered. It is part of ICAA's function to research into the causes and treatment of these, as well as to make life worth living for all types of handicapped children and their families. It is a war worth waging.



The John Horniman School for children with speech and language disorders, Worthing, Sussex. Although unable to comprehend speech because of damage to the brain, the children are generally alert and intelligent. They can be taught to speak by skilled speech therapists. In this picture a candle is used to help the child produce an "H" sound.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1972—ONE

December 1972

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

Number 99

99 NOT OUT!

NEXT MONTH THE 100th NUMBER OF THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE WILL APPEAR, AND WITH IT COME IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR A PAPER, which since it was launched in 1964, has become recognised not only as a Church but also as a community newspaper for Caversham and Mapledurham residents.

Our January edition will consist only of Caversham material. Hitherto our outer pages have been produced by Compass Newspapers of Birmingham; the Caversham Bridge has been merely one of many editions with local churches in different parts of the country providing their own news and features in the centre.

Recently our printers, the Blackburn Times, informed us that they would be unable to carry on printing for Compass Newspapers and ourselves in our present form after the end of this year. As a consequence the editorial board of the Caversham Bridge has arranged that in future our paper will be printed by the Eden Press of Kingston-upon-Thames.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of Compass Newspapers and the Blackburn Times for their help and co-operation over many years. Without the assistance of Compass Newspapers we should never have been able to come into existence, and in spite of many difficulties, although there have on occasions been delays, we have not missed out in producing a single number. But after eight years the Caversham Bridge is now a well established newspaper and the Board believes that we shall gain much by becoming an independent production. The price will remain the same and to compensate for the loss of the syndicated pages we shall be producing an extra four pages of Caversham news. A number of new features will be appearing in the coming months and the Board believes that our readers will welcome the new style Bridge: the paper will appear slightly earlier each month and the January edition should reach all our readers before Christmas.

The Rev. Peter Atkinson, who is already a member of the editorial board, will in future be acting as assistant editor and will be responsible for much of the routine work that is involved each month in assembling the material. I am most grateful to him for being willing to undertake this work. All items for inclusion in the Caversham Bridge, other than advertising material, should be sent to the Caversham Bridge Office at Church House, Church Street, Caversham.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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CAVERSHAM LENDS A HAND

AMIN'S SURGERY

General Amin's drastic piece of social surgery resulting in the rapid transplant to this country of thousands of British Asians, has caused problems for the statutory and voluntary welfare organisations. Behind the problems and statistics, however, it is easy to forget the flesh and blood reality of individual human beings with personal anxieties and needs. It doesn't require very much imagination to understand something of the 'cultural shock' involved when you are suddenly uprooted from home and deposited in a completely new environment within a matter of hours. The reception centres set up in this country to welcome Ugandians have therefore relied very much on the sympathetic assistance of voluntary bodies to ease the distress experienced by families coming here.



Newbury Weekly News

A warm reception.

HELP FROM ST. PETER'S

It is good to report that right from the beginning of the emergency Caversham was to the fore in providing volunteers. Very early on 2nd October, three members of St. Peter's, belonging to Caversham Red Cross Members' Group, Miss Dorothy and Miss Barbara Sidford and Mrs. W.

J. Pond, joined other volunteers at Greenham Common Air Base near Newbury. Under the efficient leadership of the Hon. Mrs. Palmer, the team was soon hard at work in the Medical Department filling up forms for every member of the various Asian families—no mean task when you discover that some families totalled twelve or more.

PATIENCE REWARDED

A complicated task was made more difficult by the uncertainty of flights from Uganda. Within the first few days there were seven hundred and fifty Asians at Greenham Common. The centre's capacity of twelve to sixteen hundred may well have been reached within the first week.

Mrs. Pond feels that Red Cross members have been doing a splendid job. She is also full of admiration for the skill and patience shown by an Asian doctor, Dr. Markandyn, in dealing with three hundred arrivals on the first day.

It is encouraging to know that so many people are willing to offer their services in an operation of this kind. Now that the work of rehabilitation is well under way it is up to the rest of the community to carry on the good work of welcoming these newcomers. Mrs. Pond has certainly found it a worthwhile task, not least because of the appreciation and patience shown by the Asian families she has met.

Amethyst Christmas Drinks

(Free from Alcohol of course)

These parcels will cost you less than if the bottles were ordered individually and have been chosen to provide a suitable collection.

Please be kind enough to send remittance with your order.

All orders are acknowledged by us and delivered by National Carriers, who usually take 7-21 days.

Scotland and Isle of Wight please add 40p.

Northern Ireland and Channel Islands, etc., add £1.

Christmas Presents. We will gladly enclose your card or note with any parcel.

- 721 **German, Danish, French**
Atlanta Gold Apple, Cherry, R/Grape, B/Currant. Probst E/Grape. Wunderbar Gold, Silver, Red, Pink. La Pomme Cherry. Bardinet Menthe.
12 bottles £5.70
- 722 **German, English**
Atlanta Gold Apple, Cherry R/Grape, B/Currant. Amethyst Apple, Pineapple, Grapefruit, Orange Juice. Amethyst Ginger, Ruby, Raisin, Cherry Flavour.
12 bottles £3.50
- 723 **Swiss, German, Israel, Danish.**
Rimuss Sparkling Grape. Chateau du Rhin Sparkling Grape. Wunderbar Gold, Silver, Red, Pink. Lindavia Cherry. Bardinet Menthe. Brunia R/Grape, B/Currant, Apple. Carmel W/Grape, La Pomme Apple, Cherry.
12 bottles £7.50.
- 724 **Swiss, German**
2 Rimuss Sparkling W/Grape. 2 Chateau du Rhin Sparkling W/Grape. 2 each Wunderbar Rhine Wine Red, Pink, Gold, Silver.
12 bottles £8
- 725 **German**
Atlanta Gold 2 B/Currant, 2 R/Grape, 1 Apple, 1 Cherry.
6 bottles £2.20
- 726 **Bulgarian**
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To AMETHYST DRINKS, Palmer Hall, West Street, READING, Berks, RG1 1UD.
- 6 Red, 6 white.
12 bottles £3.24
- 727 **English**
Amethyst 6 Assorted non-Wines 6 Assorted Juices
12 bottles £3
- 728 **German, English**
Atlanta Gold Apple, Cherry, R/Grape, B/Currant. Probst W/Grape. Amethyst Cocktail.
6 bottles £2.19
- 729 **English**
3 Eastern Gold (Bubbly Ginger) 3 Evening Gold (Bubbly Raisin Flavour.) 6 assorted Amethyst non-Wines.
12 bottles £3.90
- 7210 **Swiss, German**
Rimuss (Sparkling Grape) Chateau du Rhin (Sparkling Grape) Wunderbar Rhine Wine Gold, Silver, Red, Pink.
6 bottles £4.20
- 7211 **English**
6 assorted Amethyst Fruit (Pints).
£1.70
- 7212 **English**
6 assorted Amethyst non-Wines.
£1.70
- 7214 **English**
12 assorted Half Pints Amethyst Fruit Juices and Nectars.
£1.90

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COMMUNITY IN ACTION

by Ann Robson

What does the Reading Council for Community Relations DO? Its initials R.C.C.R. appear in the press most often in conjunction with controversy — immigration, discrimination, complaints, tribunals, even riots.

One thing it does is to set up, sponsor and subsidise playgroups — not for 'coloured' children' or 'immigrants', but for communities.

Stretching from Caversham Bridge to the railway is a very small, underprivileged community—with few amenities and many disadvantages. The side streets are subject to heavy traffic almost as much as the main roads which bound and bisect the area. Some of the streets lead directly onto the unfenced river bank. It has one very small recreation ground equipped (if that's the word) with one small slide and a climbing frame and situated at the junction of two main

industrial roads. It has no library, no nursery school.

A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

The under-fives in this area were in need of a safe, welcoming place to play—welcoming to all children, regardless of the family's background or circumstances. No private enterprise playgroup had sprung up or ventured into the district. So, the R.C.C.R. in its continuing role of improving community relations has provided one.

GROWING PAINS

It began just over two years ago in St. Paul's (Presbyterian) Church Hall — big enough, and most attractive now that the Church has given us permission to use the garden, but not in itself an adventurous place. Unlike most of the playgroups we know in Caversham, this group has no natural contact with the better off sections of the wider community. Therefore purchase of equipment, toys and running costs etc. have had to be financed by R.C.C.R. — itself dependent on voluntary effort. No re-

serve fund can be built up out of fees—since these have to be kept as low as possible to be within the range of all families. Because of this there are still great deficiencies in what is provided but nonetheless the playgroup is there.

DISCOVERING COMMUNITY

Now, twenty-six children are using the playgroup two mornings a week — Italians, Asians, West Indians, and, in the majority, English children. They are busy—making pictures, playing house, climbing, building, squabbling, laughing, singing, and (some of them) crying. Above all they are finding out—about things and about themselves. They are getting an opportunity to experience some of the situations, tools and people they will later meet in the larger and more formal world of school. Thanks to the initiative of R.C.C.R., and the generosity of those who have given toys, time and money for the playgroup, they have what all our children need—a safe and happy place to play and learn.

Photos: Walton Adams.



SPECTACULAR SAVINGS

★ THIS CHRISTMAS ★

BLACK DIAMOND COOKWARE	—	SAVE 22½%
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Looking to
The future

There's never a dull moment in Caversham. If it's not Charles I riding up to do battle, it's a property developer threatening us with yet another block of flats and if it's not Queen Elizabeth I tutting over the tumble down state of Caversham Bridge, it's the Town Council threatening to carve new roads all over the place.

However, Caversham people do care about their locality and are ever on the alert to protect it. The packed audience which came to see the Civic Trust film, *A Future for the Past*, amply demonstrated this when it agreed that the Town Council should be requested to reconsider designating the part of Caversham around the Parish Church a Conservation Area. The fascinating exhibition of maps and pictures of old Caversham showed buildings which all contribute to its character. That it is a place with important historical associations is beyond doubt. How can development be made to blend rather than intrude?

Among those to be considered are the housing estates to be built in Lower Caversham and Caversham Heights, the much needed school encroaching on green belt land and the scheme to cut roads through the Prospect Street-Church Street area.

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Talking point

BAPTISM IN TROUBLED WATERS

Laurence Stevens considers how different forms of baptism might co-exist in a united church.

Writing as a Baptist I admit that to the bystander, we Baptists must appear to be the "awkward squad" when it comes to questions of Christian unity. One of the greatest difficulties is about baptism. I recall that a rather mischievous college friend of mine who had a small printing press once produced a tract with the title on the cover, "The Bible teaching about Infant Baptism". The reader opened the tract to reveal a blank page! Baptists of course believe that baptism should be confined to those who make a personal response to the prevenient Grace of God and seal their commitment in the act of Believers' Baptism, thus becoming incorporated in the Church, the Body of Christ.

The reaction which greeted the resurrection of these plans from the limbo to which they had been consigned some three or four years ago was both predictable and strong. Briefly it could be summarised as "We don't want it".

The Residents' Association will look coolly and closely at these plans. There can be few Caversham people whom they do not in some way affect. If you want your voice to be heard, join us. 25p will enrol a whole household and our treasurer, Mrs. P. Germain, 62 Westfield Road, or any committee member will be pleased to receive it.

M.C.

What about the children?

The Baptist service of Infant Blessing and Parental Dedication is not unlike infant baptism, except that it is not baptism! It recognises that God's creative and redeeming purpose embraces the child, and that parents and Church have serious and demanding duties in which they will need God's help. Although one can see that some reproachment is possible at this childhood stage, it must be plainly said that many Baptists feel most strongly that the practice of Believers' Baptism with its emphasis on conversion and personal commitment is a truth that should not be lost sight of. Although we believe in the symbolism of total immersion, this is not the first concern, but rather that the candidate should make a personal commitment. But we have problems!

Inconsistency of unbaptised Baptists

Hans Kung wrote, "the ecumenical task of theology on both sides is seriously to consider the truth in the error of others, and the possible error in their own truths". Looking at Baptists from the other side of the fence, it must be admitted that we are inconsistent. It may not be pleasing to other traditions when Baptists baptise adult believers whom others have already baptised as infants, but it is consistent with the view that Believers' Baptism is the only valid form. But in many Baptist churches, especially new ones on housing estates, there is no insistence on Believers' Baptism. Instead an "open membership" means that any who profess their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord are received as full members. The object is to avoid "unchurching" those of other denominations, particularly non-conformists. The practical and unforeseen result of this enthusiastic undenominationalism is a reduced emphasis on any form

of baptism, and the anomaly of "unbaptised Baptists". This creates difficulties for Baptists, and scandal among others!

Not only . . . but also

Yet perhaps there is hope in our confusion. It seems inevitable that in any future united church both forms of baptism would be valid and co-exist side by side. Baptists would have to accept the validity of infant baptism provided that it was not performed indiscriminately, while others would be prepared to think of believer's baptism as equally normal.

Believer's Baptism is already acceptable to other traditions, and the Baptist policy of "open membership" churches is at least half way to a recognition, albeit reluctant, of the validity of

other forms. The snag might be the one which divided Baptists in the United Church of North India—the question of a person baptised in infancy who wanted to be baptised in adulthood as a believer. He could not be baptised again because his parents would have taken away that right in having him baptised as a child.

In England, present discussions between the new United Reformed Church and the Churches of Christ (who also practise Believers' Baptism and closed membership) may make it easier for Baptists to take their place in a united Church. As the summary of the Church Leaders' Conference in Birmingham put it recently, "It's not a question of whether the churches will unite, but only "how?" and "How soon?"



Mr. Michael Stride

Walton Adams.

A stride ahead

A new and welcome face in Caversham is that of Mr. Michael Stride. His job, which may not appeal to everybody, is one that will soon make him better known to many members of the public, particularly at times of personal distress. Mr. Stride is the new Superintendent and Registrar at the Henley Road Crematorium and replaces Mr. J. Morris who held the post for twenty-two years.

Though originally from Surbiton, he has been Assistant Superintendent of the Medway Crematorium in Chatham for the last seven years. In a job which requires tact and understanding, he is above all concerned that people should feel that the crematorium staff cares. This means making sure the grounds look pleasant and also fostering an atmosphere of reverence. The challenge of the work is to be continually improving the appearance of the whole establishment, though, as Mr. Stride points out, this can only be achieved with the co-operation of the public in looking after family graves.

Helping people at a time of bereavement can be a satisfying occupation, but when there is time, Mr. Stride enjoys playing the organ—he used to be organist at Walderslade Church in Chatham. Photography is another leisure time activity.

We hope Mr. Stride and his wife Christine, a former secretary with experience in a number of important personnel departments, will be happy in Caversham, and will not be allowed to feel isolated at the top of All Hallows Road.

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KATY AROUND CAVERSHAM

New paper coming out — much editorial discussion! The usual clichés — "People like to see their names in the paper". Nobody denies this, but do we really want to know that Mrs. Jones made the tea at the weekly meeting of the Women's Happy Half Hour—I venture to suggest that even Mrs. Jones herself isn't interested. She's probably sick of the blooming tea-pot anyway.

Of course we want to read about people—if I had my way this column would be packed with names, but surely to some purpose and with some meaning. Amy Jones of Redfern Avenue, widow with a young family, is the mainstay and support of the Women's Happy Half Hour, helps in the hospital once a week, is very popular with her neighbours and her garden is a joy to behold. Very different, I

suggest, from the shadowy Mrs. Jones who merely makes the tea. And if she happens to re-marry, falls sick or comes into a fortune, at least she is a real person with whom we can rejoice, commiserate or we can gnash our teeth with envy.

You still want to know who made the tea? Well, it's up to you—it's your paper.

★

I was not surprised but a little worried to find the majority of those opposing the inclusion of the grammar schools in the comprehensive scheme appear to come from Caversham. Everyone has a right to their opinions and to express them, but are you sure of your motives? I keep thinking of the young mother who I recently heard discussing the responsibilities of being a 'Kendrick Mum'. Are you sure it's really Jane's or John's education you are concerned with, or could you, perhaps be interested in the prestige of being a Kendrick or a Reading School parent?

And, for good measure, I'll probably hit the next person who says "We are taking a chance on Highdown School". It's a very good school and if a school like Cintra, with all the disadvantages you've been reading about recently, can watch its brighter pupils go on to University, Highdown, with all its advantages, has every opportunity of doing even more for Jane or John.

★

One of the saddest things about being in 'reduced circumstances' is the inability to buy presents for others. With the approach of Christmas, might I suggest once more that a pound or two tactfully given to an old-age pensioner a few weeks before Christmas, to enable him or her to buy small gifts for others, would mean far more than some of the expensive and often unwanted gifts that turn up on Christmas Day.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 12th October, 1972. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council further discussed the proposed siting of a school off Shepherd's Lane, and were informed of a site meeting when representatives of the Parish Council and the Henley RDC had met the planning officer from Oxford responsible for the local area. The Planning Officer had been left in no doubt about the feelings of both Councils regarding the proposed development, and he had been reminded of the extreme road hazards that would exist, the destruction of the present green belt area and the general loss of amenities to all the local residents.

There had been no further comments from the County Council since the meeting of the Parish Council in September, apart from a general comment that further discussions will be held at Oxford concerning the comments that had already been made by the Parish Council. Although letters requesting the support of the local Member of Parliament, and Mr. Hes-

eltine, the prospective Conservative candidate for S. Oxon had been sent to both these gentlemen, the replies had been disappointing.

Following a request made in September for the Thames Valley Police to arrange for more road patrols along the Upper Woodcote Road from the Reading Borough boundary, the Council noted that the police had been active in the area, and it was reported that some motorists had been apprehended for speeding.

The Parish Council are continuing their policy of urging the County Highways Committee to make more funds available for the purpose of maintaining the more minor roads in the area, especially bearing in mind the need to keep these roads clear for the bus services in country areas, remembering the frustration that was caused last summer to many residents as a result of the re-routing of the Chiltern Queens bus services.

The Council are anxious that the verges in Rokeby Drive shall be put in good order, and the County Council are to write to Henley RDC enquiring whether they have any proposals for garages or parking areas. Under existing conditions, the County Council would be unable to designate the verges until such time as the tenants can park off the highway.

A STIRRING SEND OFF



A SKIRL OF THE PIPES

THE SKIRL OF THE PIPES GREETED KATHLEEN McDONNELL, OF GOSBROOK ROAD, as she left St. Anne's church after her marriage in October, to James McGinn of Grange Road Glasgow. The tune, played by two pipers of the Berkshire County Royal British Legion Pipe Band, of which the groom is a former member, was, appropriately enough, "Marie's Wedding".

With four of her sisters in attendance as bridesmaids, Kathy and her husband were also welcomed by a Guard of Honour of Guides and Brownies. Well known to many present and former St. Anne's Guides and Brownies, she will be remembered by them as a devoted and enthusiastic Brown Owl during the seven years she held the position.

Good wishes for their future happiness go with Kathy and Jimmy in their new home in Swindon. But they can be sure of a warm welcome whenever they return to visit friends in Caversham.

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CALLING THE TUNE

by Maeve Murphy-O'Connor

MR. W. H. ROWE of St. Andrew's is featured this month in the series on Caversham organists.

Trees, for most people, are a source of delight and beauty. For Mr. Rowe trees have also been a source of bread and butter. Since moving to Reading from his native London in 1926, he has worked with the English Forestry Association Ltd., in later years becoming a director. A keen interest in his work led to membership of the Royal Forestry Society of England and Wales, and for fifty years has been chairman of the Forestry section of the Horticultural Trades Association.

AUTHOR

With a lifetime's experience in the world of botany it's not surprising that Mr. Rowe is something of an expert in his field with no less than three books to his credit, under the titles "Trees and Shrubs", "Trees and Shrub Growing" and "Our Forests."

Music, of course, has also been an important part of Mr. Rowe's life. Lessons started at a very early age but were interrupted after three years by illness. Interest in the organ came about almost by accident. At the age of fifteen, while on holiday in Eastbourne, he bought a second hand copy of Stainer's "The Organ" for two-pence.

MUSICAL PROGRESS

Mr. Rowe began to teach himself to play the organ, but even with Stainer's help, there came a time when he

could go no further without expert assistance. Lessons followed under the tuition of the organist of Berkhamstead Parish Church. 1920 brought his first appointment — at Slough Congregational Church. The next step was a three year period, from 1923 to 1926, as a part time student at the Guildhall School of Music. After moving to Reading lessons continued with the late 'Teddy' Deacon at Caversham Parish Church and the late Allan Brown at Kingsway Hall. By 1926 he became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Rowe has held two posts locally as organist and choir-master, the first at Caversham Free Church from 1928 to 1947 when he moved to his current position at St. Andrew's.

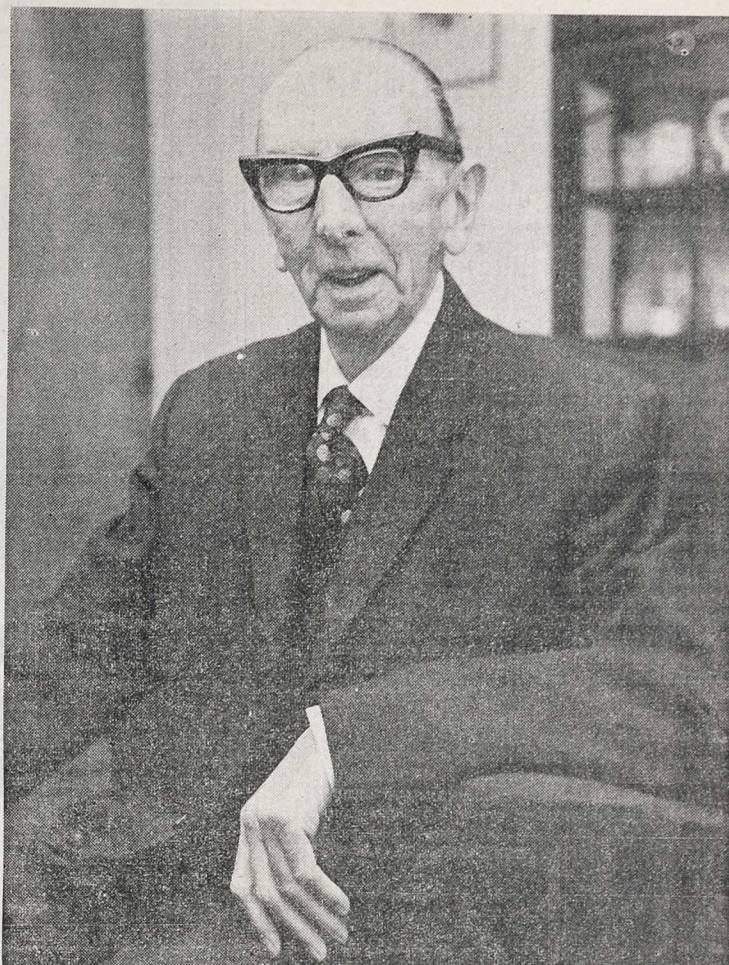
CATHOLIC APPROACH

Bearing in mind the wide range of experience and abil-

ity in most congregations, Mr. Rowe believes there should be a Catholic approach in Church music. He says it is a wise organist who knows his own, and his choir's limitations. Care should be taken to steer clear of music which is beyond one's capacity, but he feels strongly that 'the mawkish slush' which sometimes goes by the name of Church music should also be avoided. Believing that a good melody stands in its own right, he has no particular favourites among composers of Church music.

Like many other music lovers in Reading, Mr. Rowe strongly believes that the Willis organ in the Town Hall should be kept in the town.

Married with one daughter and two grandchildren, Mr. Rowe also has the distinction of having been awarded the M.B.E. in 1962.



MR. W. H. ROWE.

Walton Adams.

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An Oxfam shop with a difference was opened in London Street recently. It is devoted to the sale of second hand books, including many publications on the problems of economic development in countries overseas.

The shop follows the opening of the Gift Shop in Prospect Street in Caversham, which during its first eight months raised over £1000 by selling an attractive range of "Helping-by-Selling" goods. These are hand-made by craftsmen in village and cottage industries in overseas countries, thus providing work for many people who would otherwise be unemployed.

Anyone can help by providing clothes, books or bric-a-brac for the shops, or if you can spare a morning or

afternoon once a week and serve in a shop, ring the Reading Oxfam Office 52299. It's worth remembering, by the way, that Oxfam cuts expenditure to a minimum. Eighty per cent of the money raised does actually go overseas.

Ustinov Play at Mapledurham

"Half way up a Tree" is the unlikely title of a play by Peter Ustinov to be presented on 7th, 8th, and 9th December, by the Mapledurham Repertory Association. Taking a sideswipe at the permissive society, the play gives rise to the merriment of which Ustinov is master. Performances will be in Mapledurham Memorial Hall on Woodcote Road at 8 p.m. Tickets from Mrs. E. Wake, 126 Kidmore Road—tel. 474733.

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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS—KILLIECRANKIE, PERTHSHIRE, 9 DAYS. Leader: Rev. Roy C. Hewter.

Dates: Friday, August 31st to Saturday, September 8th. Overnight at CARLISLE.

Excursions to Balmoral, Glencoe, Pitlochry, Queens View.

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SWISS ALPS HASLIBERG AREA, 13 DAYS. Leader: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Morrow.

Dates: Thursday, June 7th to Tuesday, June 19th. Overnight at AACHEN & HEIDLEBERG.

Excursions to Interlaken, Jungfrau, 3 Passes, Lucerne, etc.

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AUSTRIAN ALPS—KLEINES WALSER TAL, 12 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates: Monday, June 4th to Friday, June 15th. Overnight at AACHEN and HEIDLEBERG.

Excursions to Lindau, Bregenz, Bodensee, Garmisch, Zugspitze, etc.

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BLACK FOREST, 9 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates not yet fixed. Either second half May or after June 20th. Overnight at AACHEN.

Excursions to Baden-Baden, Heidelberg, etc.

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HOLLAND, 8 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

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Mr. and Mrs. D. Medd.

STILL DOING THINGS TOGETHER

by Roving Reporter

By an odd coincidence, two of St. Peter's young people recently gave birth to babies on the same day. 19th September. Pat Lorenc, now Mrs. Morrison living at Tilehurst, had a daughter, Helen, while her life-long friend, Margaret Fennell, now Mrs. Boswell living in London, had a son, Samuel. Our congratulations to both families and to the happy grandparents on these happy events.

The Chapel on the Hill was packed to overflowing on September 30th when Linda Howard of Grove Road, who has figured in our

columns on several occasions, married Derrick Medd of Marlow. It was a joyful occasion, particularly as these young people, who have been involved in voluntary Christian work for some time, were recently baptised at the same chapel. They were married by the Reverend Callender and the address was given by the Reverend Hall of St. Stephen's in London, where Linda and Derrick have recently been working.

The brougham which took the young couple to the reception at St. Laurence's Hall, added a touch of novelty to a very pretty wedding. We look forward to having this young couple living among us and offer them our very sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future.

DAVID CROPP

Members of St. Peter's will be interested to hear of the recent marriage in Birmingham, of David Cropp, whose parents have done so much for young people in Caversham. David met his wife, Jane, who is doing research at Queen's Hospital, Edgbaston, while teaching English and remedial English at Great Barr Comprehensive School. Our sincere best wishes to them both. We hope to see them in Caversham before long.

THE CHILDREN OF ST. ANDREW'S

by
**Norman
Kent**

a service of Thanksgiving and praise in our church.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

At Easter a happy party of two coach loads of children, parents and friends set off for Camberley to see a Puppet Pantomime of 'Treasure Island' and all agree that it was a first class show and that they enjoyed it.

Our planned film show had to be abandoned at the last minute because of a broken projector. This was hastily replaced by a magic and Punch and Judy Show.

Later Messrs. John Gazzard and David Cooper arranged the terrific Musical Evening which they called 'Music with a Message' (from Handel to pop). All who attended it said how much they enjoyed it and how much they would like another such evening—How about it John and David?

Our Sunday School ramble and picnic went off well in fine weather—our only casualty was a boy with a 'smelly foot' having walked through a pigsty ??? We finished up in a field on a Farm for our picnic, and games were arranged for us by St. Peter's Scouts.

JOYFUL PRAISE

This is the title for our new project this term, each week we are looking at praise in a different light. Thankful praise. Reverent praise, Healing praise, Universal praise, Loving praise, Adoring praise, to mention but a few of the weeks. Two weeks which stand out, promising to be interesting if perhaps a little unusual in title, are the weeks under the headings S(W)INGING PRAISE, being arranged by the young teenage teachers and HIL-ARIOUS PRAISE being arranged by Messrs. Kent, Gazzard and Cooper. The possible visit of a live Camel and a film about the 'littlest Camel' add to the interesting ways we are finding of looking at things.

"WHO CARES"
Under the above title our project for the first part of the year got under way and we met many people who through their work DID CARE for others and served their fellow man.

We met an officer of the St. Johns Ambulance Service, a Doctor and a Nurse. A Policeman in the friendly shape of P.C. Titcombe, complete with his powerful motorcycle. A Social Worker, A Missionary from India. A Colonel from the Salvation Army, A Pharmacist, and not forgetting the Fire Chief complete with a Fire Engine and a crew of Firemen. Shall we ever forget that Fire Engine! after meeting a member of the League of Friends we took part in the Hospitals Fete at Brock Barracks and manned our Sunday School Stall, raising something in the region of £10, we 'became involved'. Finally we met one of the Cowley Fathers.

We collected their photographs and filled scrapbooks with pictures and cuttings about their lives and their work. Each week we listened with interest as each visitor talked about their job and why they chose to do their particular work, and each week our guests occupations and experiences helped us to understand a particular piece of the scriptures, reflected in modern day life.

We finished our term with

at things.

A service of lessons and carols is planned for Christmas Eve, in the Hall at 11 a.m. to which parents and friends are invited and we shall finish our project with a Festival of Joyful Praise in the church at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 14th January, 1973.

Each term our Teachers meet and spend a whole day planning our terms project and activities down to the smallest details of Hymns, scriptural passages and references. It always proves to be a very enjoyable day, and a happy way of preparing for our work.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

THE REV. B. SANDERS has certainly been round the parish, as he has been preaching in each church on behalf of the Church of England's Childrens Society. With one of the societies home's actually in the parish it is right that members of the congregation should take an interest in this work. Mr. Sanders visited St. Andrew's and St. John's in October, St. Peter's on November 5th and will be at St. Margaret's on November 26th and at St. Barnabas the following week at 9.15 a.m. There will also be an opportunity in St. Barnabas Hall on Saturday evening, December 2nd, to see a film about the work of the society. All interested are invited to attend. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. The choirs of the parish will be singing evensong in Westminster Abbey on Saturday, December 30th, at 3 p.m. Mr. R. J. Brind and Mr. H. Rowe recently paid a visit to the Abbey to discuss arrangements with the Abbey organist Dr. Guest. It is hoped that many members of the congregation will make the journey to the Abbey on December 30th and details about coach arrangements will shortly be available.

Many people commented on the fine singing of the choirs of the parish at the Dedication Festival Evensong in St. Peter's on October 1st, when the preacher was the Bishop of Reading. One piece of work that is always done behind the scenes on these occasions goes unobserved usually but deserves to be recorded—the magnificent tea which is provided by a body of helpers (mostly the wives or mothers of choir members) in Toc H so that the choir are refreshed between the practice and the service. Many thanks to them.

A MONTH OF STUDY. With probably over 400 people occupied in the six week study course that has just been completed there has been a *hull* this autumn in other meetings. Reports received to date make it plain that the groups have aroused a great deal of interest and the Caversham Bridge will next month be reporting on the Sunday afternoon conference that was held on November 12th to consider the findings of the groups.

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GREEN SHIELD STAMPS

Bellringers Annual Striking Competition

On Saturday 14th October, St. Peter's Bell Ringer's were hosts to the Reading Branch for its annual striking competition at St. Margaret's, Mapledurham. Ringing teams entered from St. Mary's, St. Giles', Reading University, Goring, Tilehurst and St. Peter's Caversham.

After a fine tea prepared by the ladies of St. Peter's, Mr. and Mrs. B. Castle of Hurst gave the results of their judgment for the most rhythmic team to St. Mary's 'Y' team. Having won the branch competition they now go forward to the Oxford Guild competition with the best wishes of the Reading branch.

A sale of Christmas items raised the sum of £4.34 for the St. Peter's Bell Restoration Fund, and three donations have been received towards the restoration of St. Peter's bells, two of them from visitors to Caversham who have missed the bells but who hope to hear them on their next visit.

Methodist Weekend Choir

On Saturday, October 7th, the choir held a social. The evening began with a concert which included choir items, solos, readings and sketches, which were enjoyed by all. A buffet supper followed the

LUCY AND ST. BARNABAS'

On Sunday, October 22nd, a new missionary project was launched at St. Barnabas in support of the work of Dr. and Mrs. Guy Daynes at St. Lucy's Hospital in the Transkei, Sister Gillian Elizabeth, a member of the Wantage Community who is at present on leave from St. Lucy's, where she works as a physio-therapist, gave a first hand account to members of the congregation of her work there. On the same evening Fr. James Naters, a Cowley Father, who has spent twelve years at St. Cuthbert's Mission of which St. Lucy's Hospital is a part, introduced a film sponsored by U.S.P.G. entitled "Pilisane" which means "Go forth and heal". This title aptly describes

the work of the hospital where Dr. Daynes and his staff use their medical skill and Christian love to heal patients by both medicine and by faith. One could not fail to be impressed by the real feeling of Christian compassion of the staff and by the joy of the patients.

In addition to curative medicine and surgery the hospital is very concerned with preventative medicine, particularly in the field of T.B. which is very prevalent in this part of Africa. The congregation of St. Barnabas are happy to have the opportunity of supporting this valuable work and the proceeds of the Missionary sale on November 18th were devoted to this purpose.

St Andrew's Notes

HARVEST SUPPER

A most enjoyable Harvest Supper attended by many members of St. Andrews Church Family on Saturday, September 30th. The hall had been beautifully decorated for the occasion, and as usual the refreshments were delicious.

A number of newcomers were welcomed, and everyone was thrilled with the entertainment provided by some of the young people.

During the evening a presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chennell. Mr. and Mrs. Chennell have recently retired from nine years of looking after St. Andrews Hall.

Warm appreciation was expressed to them for all that they have done.

10.30 a.m. at St. Peter's

Started as an experiment in June the monthly family service at 10.30 a.m. on the third Sunday of the month looks as though it has come to stay; the congregation recently found a St. Bernard dog figuring in the service. This informal act of worship is designed especially for parents with young children—it lasts exactly half an hour, and if you have not brought the kids yet be sure to do so on Sunday, December 17th. Mrs. Wise. Her many friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Wise has made a good recovery from her recent illness, and have been glad to see her back again at St. Peter's

concert to round off a happy evening.

Services on Sunday continued the weekend with the choir singing special anthems and taking part in both services. At 11.00 a.m. the preacher was the Rev. Donald Mason and at 6.30 p.m. the Reverend Terence Harris.

SWIMMING SHIELDS



Some of St. Peter's Brownies and Guides with the Swimming Shields they won in September at a Swimming Gala at Highdown School, arranged by the Local Association of Guide Parents.

Bindy & Betty Shaylor

wish all their friends

A
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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 discuss with our 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 are a firm of savings 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:

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- creation of a capital fund for retirement
- maximum tax free income from capital

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We Record . . .

BAPTISED

- St. Andrew's**
Oct. 8th Christopher Atkinson.
- St. John's**
Oct. 15th Brett Lucas.
- St. Barnabas'**
Oct. 15th Michelle Smith.
21st John Crossley and Ann Brind.

MARRIED

- St. Peter's**
Oct. 7th Michael Holgate and Rita Lawrence.
- St. Barnabas'**
Sept. 30th Alexander Legh and Christina Johnson.
Oct. 7th Keith Pummell and Christine North.
7th Stewart Timony and Elaine Stoddart.
Oct. 21st Derek Randall and Rosemary Trott.
- St. Margaret's**
Sept. 2nd Robert Glover and Gillian Lambourne.
Sept. 23rd Malcolm Carter and Margaret Tucker.
Oct. 14th Edward Fagan and Norma Taylor.

St. Andrew's

FUNERALS

- Oct. 26th Jessie Wicks.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Maplewood W.I.

Mrs. Kathleen Bubb presided at the members meeting on "Travels abroad with slides". Various members brought slides showing beautiful and unusual scenery from countries they have visited, including Norway, Canada, Libya, Japan and Africa. Social Time was spent in programme planning. Mrs. Osborne invited Produce Guild members to a 'Gardeners' Afternoon' at her home, during which time Mrs. Rose Painter will also give a flower demonstration.

Caversham Afternoon

Townswomen's Guild

The October meeting held in the Caversham Community Centre was chaired by Mrs. C. Mitchell. The Chairman thanked Mrs. L. Grey for organising the trip, enjoyed by so many members and friends, to the liner Queen Elizabeth II at Southampton in September.

Our Education Chairman Mrs. A. Smith gave an outline of future activities planned for the Guilds. The Speaker for the month was Mrs. Mena Lovesey of the World Craft Council, Founder of the first Craft Centre in Great Britain and a member of a family renowned for lace making through many generations. Mrs. Lovesey talked about the many and varied crafts practised and taught at the Centre. Amongst the many beautiful items on display

were some outstanding examples of lace work. At the close of a most enjoyable session a vote of thanks from the large gathering of members and friends was proposed by Mrs. Cowland. New members will always be welcome at any of our monthly meetings.

Emmer Green Townswoman's Guild

The Speaker, Mr. L. E. Taylor, B.Sc., commenced his talk on Water Conservation with a short quotation from a poem. He pointed out that water was something that was very much taken for granted by most people. It was most interesting to hear of the considerable amount of thought and money which is going into the task of re-organizing the country's water resources. Members saw slides of the regions covered by the various water boards and heard of some of their plans for the future. The closing slides showed the recreational aspects of reservoirs and how they could be enjoyed by the community as well as serving the community.

Blagrove Women's Institute

The October meeting was held on the 3rd of the month at the Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road. Miss Moore, of the Horticultural Department of the Berkshire College of Agriculture, Burchetts Green, gave a most interesting talk on gardening, especially work to be done in Autumn.

The Competition, a Harvest Arrangement, was won by Mrs. Sholl, and the raffle by Mrs. Fountain.

Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Elderfield were tea hostesses.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ST. PETER'S

Christmas Eve
4.00 p.m. Children's Gift Service with Blessing of Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
7.00 a.m. 8.00 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.

ST. JOHN'S

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.00 a.m. Carol Service for Children.

ST. ANDREW'S

Christmas Eve
6.30 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Blessing of Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. BARNABAS

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
Christmas Day
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Church of England
Times when clergy will be available to hear confessions will be given in the church notices on December 17.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 17th
11.00 a.m. Toy Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.
Sunday, Dec. 24th
11.00 a.m. Family Service and Communion.
4.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Lessons.

Christmas Day
10.30 a.m. Morning Service. (Shared with the Methodists).

Sunday, Dec. 31st
10.30 a.m. Family Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service conducted by the Revd. Trevor Landon.

Boy's Clubs' Exhibition

Caversham's two boys' clubs, Lowfield and West Caversham, staged a joint three-days "European Life" exhibition at the Toc 'H' Centre on October 26-27-28th.

The boys had been working on the project since August, and almost thirty European countries had contributed material for the event. It took the form of a pictorial journey through the continent of Europe, describing many aspects of national and regional customs, industry and leisure.

Personal greetings for its success were received from several principals of the various national tourist boards, and among these were verbal congratulations from Miss Phyllis Chapman, Director of the Finnish Tourist Board, when the Boys' Clubs' leader, Peter Shock, attended a farewell function in September at

the Royal Institute in London, prior to Miss Chapman's departure to Helsinki as marketing consultant to the Finnish Tourist Board.

The exhibition was the main item provided by the two local clubs as their contribution for the 1972 Boys' Club Week project.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY
at
ST. ANDREW'S
Thursday, November 30th
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Holy Communion
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MIRACLE IN BRIXTON

by
**Daphne
Ayles**



The Queen Mother, Patron of the Bible Reading Fellowship.

For the last twenty years "home, sweet home" to the Bible Reading Fellowship has been a gracious old town house in Buckingham Palace Road. Visitors are caught up in its friendly bustle as soon as they step inside, but then the staff are not only dedicated and efficient, they like people. They revel in the fact that in this Jubilee year they have groups and members in sixty-five countries and all six continents.

The Board Room dominated by an impressive portrait of the founder of the Fellowship, the Rev. Canon Leslie G. Mannering, Honorary Chaplain to His Majesty King George VI in 1951, and to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II until 1969, is also used for morning prayers. That's the secret of the Fellowship's success.

It all began way back in 1922 when the Rev. Leslie Mannering, Vicar of St. Matthew's Church, Brixton (a London suburb) felt there was a danger of becoming submerged in committee work. In an attempt to renew the dynamic of personal religion he wanted to get back to the fundamentals of faith—prayer, Bible study and Holy Communion. With the wholehearted approval of the congregation the Fellowship of St. Matthew's was born.

At first it was no more than a leaflet, with readings for the month, short explanations, and subjects for prayer. But this light couldn't be hid under a bushel. Other parishes heard of the scheme and asked to be included. By 1926 this simple organisation was renamed the Bible Reading Fellowship, and its first headquarters was a small office in front of Westminster Abbey.

Like the mustard seed it grew. In October, 1926, there were 600 copies of the Notes printed, but in February, 1929, the copies ran into 20,000. By 1930 it was necessary to find both new headquarters and a full-time Secretary. New sections, including a series for children and another for the blind, were launched in the years that led up to the second world war. By 1939 there were 238,000 members in England and overseas, while the Notes had been translated into many languages, including Arabic, Swahili and

Chinese, for the use of missionaries. When war was declared Series "B" was suspended to make room for Notes for Service Personnel.

During the war the depleted staff coped with restricted supplies of paper, difficulties with transport and printing, as well as "flying bombs" in 1944, but in the six years of war no fewer than 98,000 new readers joined the Fellowship.

Since the war the Fellowship has continued its upward spiral. Founded by an Anglican, it is now very much an ecumenical affair. In recent years Methodist and Congregational ministers have served on its Council as well as a Roman Catholic theologian.

The Fellowship has thousands of enthusiastic group secretaries. Usually the work is unspectacular and routine, but there are exceptions. An Arab sheik recently asked for help to understand the Bible and was given some BRF Notes. Months later he exclaimed: "These are what I needed. The prophet I honour, but Jesu I love! Praise be to God!"

When the Bible Reading Fellowship celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday in 1947, its Patron, Her Majesty the Queen (now the Queen Mother) concluded her message:

"To read the Bible regularly, to read it intelligently and devotionally, this will deepen our discipleship and enable us to take our share in creating and extending the Fellowship which may be used by God to build the kind of world He meant and wants it to be."

The Bible Reading Fellowship began as a miracle in a London suburb. People who don't know everything have been heard to sniff at the mention of Brixton, but then some people turned their noses up at the mention of Nazareth!

Just a thought

by **DEE MOSS**

Standing at the Town Centre bus stop yesterday, I glanced into the shopping basket of the woman before me in the queue. As you'd expect, in December, she was loaded with seasonal groceries and goodies. Balanced on top of the basket was a badly-wrapped bunch of plastic holly. Suddenly all our Christmas preparations seemed so pitifully phoney, I felt sick. Of course, I don't blame her for buying fake holly—the Christmas tree we get down from the loft next week will be best chain-store plastic.

It's just that the fake holly reminded me that somehow we have decked this God-given festival with trimmings of falsity, from the sickly singing of seasonal pop-tunes on the radio to the tinsel stars in our windows. And it's all so far removed from the child who was born in a stable long ago and far away.

And yet—as the woman squeezed her purchase together to make room for me on the bus seat, there was a real sparkle in her smile and there was sincerity in the way she wished Merry Christmas to me, a stranger, as I got off. The day after my meeting with the mock-holly woman, I watched a nativity scene, enacted in a candle-lit church, as small children sang their carols. I must have seen it all forty times before but this time it was different, because the producers had chosen a young couple to portray Mary and Joseph, and in her arms the girl carried her own first child, a boy of four months.

The sound of singing, the stirring of the congregation, awakened the child who smiled up at his mother and reached out to grab a straw from the manger. Suddenly, for me at least, Christmas was real. However we mass-produce the trimmings, the truth remains at the heart of our celebrations: Love came down at Christmas. They called His name Jesus.

CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRALIA

by **Dorothy O'Neill**

After four years in Australia, this British family feels that Christmas in Australia just isn't "Christmas" in the traditional sense.

We are not alone in our feelings. One man—a Baptist minister who migrated from England last year — was so disenchanted with the Australian Christmas celebration, that he decided to celebrate it all over again in mid-July, the Australian winter!

We find that after spending Christmas in Britain for most of our lives, an Australian Christmas is hard to take. In Britain, as in Australia, our manse was near the coast. But then Christmas was bathed in mid-winter calm. Light snowflakes dusted the hedges; the beaches were empty of all except the occasional walker and his dog. The sea-gulls called ceaselessly with thin, winter cries. The carol singers came, stamping

their feet, blowing on their fingers, and singing with stark realism: "See amid the winter snows..."

But Christmas in Adelaide—what a contrast! The sunshine saturates the roses and ripens the peaches. The sky is an unchanging blue. The children have just started their long summer holiday, so the beach bustles with family parties, surfers and life-saving crews. Overhead the shark spotting helicopter commutes restlessly ever ready to flash its warning to over-bold bathers.

We still have carols, of course, and many of them are the traditional English carols. At our church on Christmas morning, we rise gladly to the organ's rich invitation of "Come all ye faithful..." But when we sit down again, we surreptitiously pick up our church newsheet and gently fan ourselves. Yes, we are hot, despite the fact that the women wear thin summer dresses, and the men the smart shorts and walk socks which they wear in hot wea-

ther. We also have our own Australian carols, which to my mind are far more suitable for an Australian congregation. They speak of heat and dust in the same breath as praise to the Christ Child:

The North Wind is tossing the leaves,
The red dust is over the town,
The sparrows are under the leaves,

And the grass in the paddock is brown,
As we lift up our voices and sing
To the Christ Child, the Heavenly King.

But in spite of the climate, many people still celebrate Christmas in traditional English fashion, for South Australians are all settlers by descent. Parents and grandparents have passed on to their children the old customs, and they do their best to perpetuate them.

The Cornish choir, for instance, is still a stirring reminder of the Duchy—especially at Christmas time—when the choir sings the old Cornish carols in



Instead of snow a "White Christmas" in Australia has the whiteness of beach sand and curly wavetops—as Santa arrives at Sydney's Bondi Beach.

churches and halls of our city. These are carols which were written and compiled by the Cornish miners who came to Australia to work in the Moonta copper mines.

One of the most popular of these carols, sung every year, is "Calm on the Listening Ear" written by J. H. Thomas, a Cornish miner of earlier days. The opening phrase of the carol is taken up by various parts of the choir successively. One choir-master is quoted as rallying his choir with the words: "Now, boys, all together — one after t'other..."

As we migrants still try

to maintain our traditions, but it isn't easy. In our home we still have our Christmas tree—green plastic. (In England, the Scouts annually brought us a newly-hewn tree from the forest.) We also have the traditional Christmas dinner. Last year, I invited a young migrant family, recently arrived in Australia, to share it with us. I still have a vivid picture of the girl, mopping her face in the heat, while her baby dozed under the lemon tree in an atmosphere warm as a blanket.

Our daughters, too, insisted on ignoring the climate and enjoying their unusual

Christmas presents from England. These were two woollen ponchos, hand-knitted by a fond aunt. Our girls flew in and out of the garden, swathed in wool, while the temperature registered ninety-nine degrees!

But in England or Australia, of one thing I am sure, the essential message of Christmas doesn't change. Here, as there, is the joy, the tenderness, the essential beauty of Christmas experienced as we gather around the crib at Bethlehem.

Bethlehem...? Why that was a sun-soaked country too, come to think of it!

Are strong men going soft?

ASKS SAM NAPIER

William Whitelaw found his eyes wet with salted tears when he was made Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

And, almost at the same time, — thousands of miles away—Senator Edward Muskie, campaigning in the New Hampshire Primary, was seen by TV viewers to be weeping.

Are men in high places today going soft? And are male damp eye-lashes at last replacing the traditional 'stiff upper lip'?

It's still true that most British men would prefer to be surprised in the nude, rather than be caught weeping in public. Most—but not all.

The impassive Harold MacMillan wept when, as Prime Minister, he addressed 6,000 women conservatives in London's Albert Hall. And during his long career in public life Winston Churchill wept unashamedly many times.

Lloyd George's face too became tear stained on emotional occasions. And Disraeli, William Pitt and General De Gaulle—all strong men— have wept in public.

To-day there are strong medical reasons for destroying the 'Don't cry—be a man' tradition. Doctors say that men, by their stiff upper lip attitude, are driving themselves into ulcers, asthma and heart attacks.

The medical men say that if men were to have a good cry when they feel like it, they could add an extra five years to their lifespan.

Apparently the mistakes are made in childhood. Then young boys who weep are labelled 'cry-babies' and told by their parents that 'men don't cry'.

The fashion of masculine tears went out of vogue at the time of the French Revolution. The aristocrats who went dry-eyed to the guillotine set a new style in meeting adversity.

Man is the only species which sheds tears. And they helped him in the early days of his struggle for survival. Even when diluted 6,000 times tears will still kill a hundred different kinds of microbes. The secret lies in lysozyme—a bacteria-killing substance—contained in our tears.

For many Englishmen, not to cry in the face of disaster, is a matter of national honour. But the French and



Italian males both shed copious tears at times of joy or sorrow.

And there's no reason — other than tradition in this country — why men should not cry as freely as women and on the same occasions. Those who believe that the shedding of tears is not for tough guys should re-read one of the most poignant sentences in the Bible. It says 'Jesus wept'.

WE ALL BECOME CRIMINALS AT CHRISTMAS

— says Eric King

If all the laws still on the Status Book were rigidly enforced, Christmas Day would be a pretty miserable affair.

For instance, you can be prosecuted for playing charades at a Christmas party. And the only sport you are lawfully entitled to play is archery. This was part of the defence policy of Henry VIII, by which all able-bodied males between six and sixty were supposed to turn up regularly for training at the local butts.

At Christmas, on no account must you play football. The Puritans described it as "nothing but beastly furie and violence". King James I

once told his son to lay off "this laming exercise".

Christmas fare also came in for legislation. And it was recorded in Royalist-supporting Worcester that Puritans had "power to plunder pottage pots and open fires, ransack ovens and strip spits naked." This intrusion was to seek out "the abominable and idolatrous plum-porridge and mince-pies, things to be avoided by Christians."

Ironically, it was the Merrie Monarch himself, King Charles II, who really complicated the legal niceties of the Festive Season. He ordered that on Christmas Day no one should do the work they normally carried out on other days in the year. And that included essential services!



GOOD HEALTH

THE SLOW STARTER

by Jean Fielding

Many mothers would be much happier if they realised that every baby's rate of development is different. The slow starter can prove just as healthy and strong as the quick grower eventually.

A small lively baby often takes less milk than one who is fatter. During the first four weeks of life weight gains may be very irregular with the slow starter, though most babies gain more or less steadily after the slight loss of weight which takes place during the first week.

One baby is born big-boned and ravenously hungry while another may be small-boned with a poor appetite which alarms his mother considerably.

Some babies may be slow to get going because the mother's milk is not plentiful enough or the baby may be the sleepy type. Sleepy babies are usually on the small side and may have been born a little prematurely, while a colicky baby may only gain weight slowly.

A mother tends to become depressed when her baby gains only 2 ozs. a week while other infants are gaining far more. Naturally she watches her baby's rate of growth with intense interest. When he makes rapid progress she is delighted but if he fails to maintain this good record or to keep up with other children she feels guilty and anxious. "Am I looking after him properly? Is he getting enough food . . . care . . . affection?" she wonders.

ACTIVE

During the early months a baby has little interest to claim his attention except feeding, but by the time he reaches four months old he is becoming actively interested in his surroundings. He begins to play with his hands, make strange noises and experiment in many ways.

The more lively a baby is, the less interest he takes in feeding. At six months he may turn his head away from the spoon in order to look at some fascinating object, and show little interest in taking his milk either from the breast or bottle. These phases are only temporary and a mother should be prepared for times when her child appears not to be hungry.

A child should never be forced to take food he obviously does not want, for he will eat more at the next meal.


Boys average a little bigger and heavier than girls and at a year old a boy weighs about 23 lbs. and a girl 21½ lbs. The slow starter may still be under average weight but during the second and third year he often gains rapidly and many a puny baby becomes a strong six-foot adult even if he has worried his mother unduly by his slow growth.

SEASONS

The seasons also influence a baby's weight and rate of growth and in young babies up to three months the weight gains have been the smallest during November, December and January and greatest in those born between early April and the end of June.

One infant may be extremely advanced in his general bodily strength and co-ordination so that he sits, crawls, stands and walks at an early age. Yet he may be slow in performing delicate movements with his fingers, in teething or in talking. But the child who is slow in talking may become a brilliant scholar in later years.

A slow pattern of development during babyhood rarely has anything to do with lack of care or inherited defects for every child's growth rate is a mixture of patterns, for slow or fast talking, teething or walking tend to run in families.



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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Dad and Mum are probably raising the earth about the price of everything, like Dads and Mums all over the country. And probably when you look at the price of Christmas cards this year, you'll start raising the earth too, as you see your savings not stretching as far as you thought they would! So why not make your own Christmas cards this year? You can cut out coloured pictures from magazines and paste them carefully on the front of a folded sheet of good quality white writing paper; or you can draw and colour your own picture; or failing that, you can trace or copy and colour the pictures we've included specially for you on this page. Remember that coloured borders make the cards look more attractive. Use crayons, or coloured ballpoint pens, or paints, or a combination of all three.



Inside the folded white sheet write a Christmas greeting in your best printing. You could print a verse of your favourite carol inside some of the cards. Or what about using this old English verse?

So we keep the olden greeting,
With its meaning deep and true,
And wish a merrie Christmas
And a happy New Year to you.

A PARTY TRICK

You'll need to have a friend "in the know" to help you with this trick.

First, you are blindfolded and then your friend hides a penny in the room. In fact anyone else can hide the penny as long as your friend knows where it is hidden. Your job is to say where the penny is hidden. Your friend talks round the room, asking you such questions as "Is it here?" "Under this?" "On top of this?" and so on. But you have both got a pre-arranged code word, for instance the word "what". So when your friend asks "What about here?" you know that is the hiding place, and you answer "Yes". Some one in the audience is sure to think he knows what the clue word is, so next time round change the clue. You could use the word "and" on the second round—or any other word you fancy so long as you both know it!

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

**JUNIOR COMPASS
WISHES ALL IT'S
READERS
A
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**



WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG

Junior Compass has been having a bit of a think about Christmas, and newspapers and refugees, and what have you. And we've been busy imagining what a local newspaper might have made of one of the Christmas stories.

EGYPT CHRONICLE

WINTER/SPRING EDITON

Terror and suffering have reigned in Judæa since King Herod ordered all boy children under two years of age to be killed. It is said that the king panicked on hearing from some visiting Wise Men that a child had been born in Bethlehem who would one day be King of the Jews. Many families with young children have fled the district in an attempt to save their infant sons.

Our reporter interviewed one family who arrived in Egypt a few weeks ago. They were a typical refugee family of three—Joseph, Mary and a young child named Jesus. They'd brought just a few possessions tied up in a bundle, Joseph told our man. They'd heard that there were about a million Jews in Egypt, so they'd made for there. And how had they been received? our man asked. "With wonderful kindness," Joseph told him. "We've been taken in and looked after, although we're complete strangers in the land."

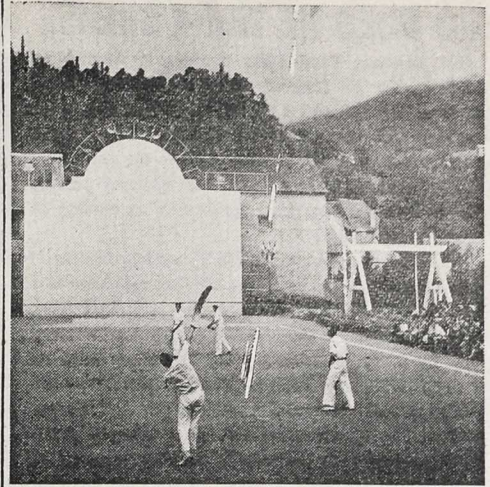
"And you're getting a job while you're here?"

"Well," said Joseph, "a man's got to do something to earn a living, especially when he's got a wife and baby to support. But our fellow Jews have been most kind. I'm a carpenter by trade, and odd jobs have been put in my way."

"And how are you taking it all?" our man asked Mary.

"I've already made friends with many of the Jewish women round about," she said. "And they've been a great help in showing me how to look after the baby, and where to buy our special Jewish food, and so on. They've even seen we haven't gone hungry when Joseph has been on short-time. But I'll be glad when we can get back home. It's all a bit strange here, and I'd like the baby to be brought up in his native land!"

Well, there you are, says Junior Compass. No fun and games having to make an escape like that. No air lift, no Social Security, no organised reception committee for those refugees! All on their tod, as you might say.



The Magic of Pelotā !

by Reg Moore

Pelota has a wide following in France and Spain and throughout much of Latin America. Every small village in the green Basque Country of the Pyrenees has its oblong pelota fronton. The sport has been popular in this lush corner of Europe since the Middle Ages

The characteristic wicker-basket, which acts like a racket, came into prominence during the last century. The hand game operated in the past and still draws followers in the Basque Country.

A long court and hard solid wall is essential and sufficient for play. Village churches in the Basque Country are likely to have a small fronton alongside, and many priests play with their flock between hours of service.

Many youngsters are encouraged to play with their bare hands and knuckles. The stone-wall fronton, or entire court, measures fifty feet across and is approximately thirty feet high. The playing area can be anything from two to three hundred feet long. A loose metal bar is fixed across the court and just below is the penalty area. The difference in sound when the ball strikes this spot indicates where the bar is touched and makes all the difference between being in or out of play.

Teams of three play in most tournaments, but the number varies when young people occupy the fronton in unorganised games. Servers take the ball on the bounce from fixed points in the playing area and hit it with all their strength against the far wall. Opposing players must take the ball alternatively on the bounce or volley and re-

turn it against the wall until the player of one side or another misses the ball completely, or sends it out of court by hitting the bar or playing just under.

The speed, direction, height and various combinations of rebounds, makes pelota a game for quick reflexes, skill and great stamina. The ball can be exceptionally hard and heavy in play, weighing nearly three ounces. It requires strength and agility for propelling rapidly and it rebounds off the wall at a lightning pace.

The long banana-shaped cesta, or chistera, as it is called in Spain, is shallow and gives tremendous leverage to the ball, helping to accelerate the speed as it is gathered and thrown in one movement.

Pelota tournament matches are followed by hand games in the Basque Country. Village priests have encouraged this form of playing for years, and it is not unusual to see them prancing about in their cassocks alongside their churches. The hand is held straight and used as a bat in pala or pelota a mano.

There are three main forms of pelota, including use of the wooden bat. Matches are generally three-a-side in France and Spain, but some single contests between known champions draw great crowds to watch. Festival time in the Basque Country during August is an occasion for the best exhibition contests.

The first side to score a set number of points, usually forty or fifty, wins the game. Modern frontons have giant electric scoreboards in places as far apart as Palma, Majorca, and St. Jean-de-Luz in France. Basque centres such as Pamplona and San Sebastian have regular weekly contests during summer to attract the sophisticated cosmopolitan audiences.

WHO DOES HE THINK SHE IS?

BBC top-man Lord Hill's apology to Mrs. Mary Whitehouse for Alf Garnett's alleged blasphemy in an episode of "TILL DEATH 'S DO PART" roused a sizeable ripple throughout the national press. While it seems inevitable that some sort of reaction from the good overlord may have been indicated—a severe reprimand perhaps—should it really have taken the form of an apology to Contrary Mary herself?

Mrs. Whitehouse is not ALWAYS wrong. But she is certainly not entitled to speak for TV licence-holders as a whole. And, by his apology, Lord Hill may well have created an unfortunate precedent. It must not be assumed—even by Mary Whitehouse—that Christians have an exclusive right to have THEIR doctrines defended on the television screen. Lord Hill might one day find himself embarrassed by accusations of bias, if, for example, he refused to apologise for so-called "blasphemy" directed at Marx, Lenin and Chairman Mao. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" is not a universal precept.

Some statistically-minded viewer counted no less than 65 "bloodys" in the first episode of the last "Till Death" series and then wrote to the papers about it—I suppose it made a change from hearing the first cuckoo in spring! But what never ceases to amaze me are the number of television sets which are locked permanently to one channel or seem to lack an "off" switch. Surely—like going to prison—watching Alf Garnett is a voluntary act; you need only be subjected to either if you do certain things!

It is a pretty safe bet that Yorkshire Television is unlikely to fall foul of the occupant of Triangle Farm with its "KATE" series.

Miss Phyllis Calvert, who plays Kate Graham editor of "Heart and Home" magazine, is such a likeable personality that one feels almost guilty at offering criticism.

Although no part of my career in journalism has been spent in the editorial offices of women's magazines, I do know that all publishing places have about them an aura of tension and expectancy, doubtless due to the pressure of meeting deadlines. And although Kate comes home pretty whacked after a day's work, the glimpses we get of life in the magazine office do not seem to justify such fatigue. This aspect of the series just doesn't come off.

In any case, real live women's magazine editors, who occasionally forgo chat shows in front of the TV cameras, seem a pretty formidable bunch of females; the kind of women who could tear our kindly Kate to shreds in a very short while.

Surely Miss Calvert should be transported to some screen locale more suited to her essential "niceness". At the moment she seems to be in the wrong job.



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LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

A LIVELY LOOK
AT THE TV SCENE



The Garnett Family—a typical domestic scene in this popular series.

SPORTS SPOT

by Stew Linnell

1976 - will we
be ready?

I wonder how fresh the Olympic Games are in your mind; no doubt you have fond memories of the petite Russian gymnast Olga Corbut (who could forget her), the amazing Finnish double Gold Medal winner Lassa Viren, and of course the 'superstar' of 1972, Mark Spitz.

What however, do you remember of the British performances? Our (oh so few) Golds, including of course the 'Darling of Belfast', Mary Peters, and our show jumping team; but the memory that will last in my mind is the 5,000 metres final, with Ian Stewart gamely lunging through to take third place and a Bronze medal.

Ian Stewart was very disappointed with that result, and rightly so. His immediate reaction after the race was to criticise the lack of support extended to him by David Bedford. Bearing in mind, however, the psychological problems facing Bedford in that race, I feel that Stewart was a little rash in saying what he did; but that one instance highlighted the complete lack of adequate collective training of our athletes.

One needs only to look towards the swimming pool to see yet another example of abject failure that could, indeed, should have been a completely different story.

In the past few months a lot of money has been spent in providing new and improved facilities for the training and development of

our athletes. The lesson that stares us in the face from the unfortunate Munich Games is that what has been done is nowhere near enough, and possibly more important still, the facilities so far provided have yet to be harnessed in the right way.

If we are to achieve the true potential of our sportsmen and women in Montreal in 1976, we must prepare in no uncertain way; and that means starting right now!

Let us look forward to Montreal, in the hope of seeing a British team worthy of the name.

The 12 days of Christmas

Fixture congestion is, as any soccer manager will tell you, a disease which is slowly killing off what is still known in the vicinity of Sir Alf Ramsey's house as "our national game".

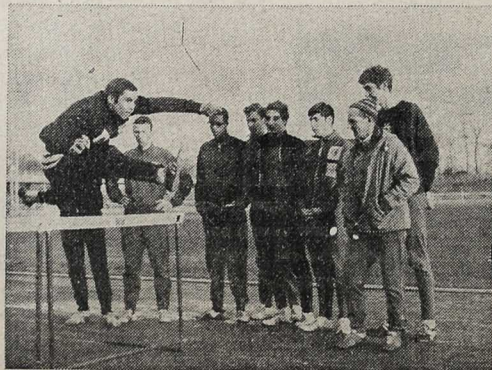
At no other time, however, is fixture congestion highligh-

ted more than during the Twelve Days of Christmas". In the space of that time most league clubs will play at least four or five matches.

Even the most avid enthusiast of the game would be hard pressed to find adequate reason for this totally ludicrous situation, other than sheer commercial gain. If, as would seem apparent, this is in fact the reason for cramming as many matches into as short a space of time as possible, then I am afraid that all one can do is join Michael Parkinson in despairing for the future of soccer and praying for 365 consecutive one-day Test Matches, commencing on 1st January.

Meanwhile, to all those unfortunate individuals who have to train in training while the rest of us are making merry—Happy Christmas lads!

Only five more months to the Cup Final . . .



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Published by Compass Newspapers, 319 Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4. Telephone: 021-236-2275. Printed by Blackburn Times, Northgate, Blackburn. BB2 1AB.