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THE PHONEY FAITH



TOP of the League in football and certainly somewhere near the top in superstition, ride the gentlemen of Leeds United.

Did you know that Manager Don Revie wears the same suit for every match with the missing button religiously un-sown-on?

Were you aware that Jackie Charlton is always the last man on to the pitch?

Was it part of your general knowledge that when these soccer men of iron travel on away matches they make darn certain that they always sit in the same seats on the coach?

It's all part of their plan for winning—a bit of additional insurance against bad luck. And most of us take out that kind of policy from time to time. We knew a clergyman who always insisted on lacing his rugby boots the same way before every game—a different style for each foot. "Wouldn't have felt right if I hadn't," he said.

There's no harm in a bit of superstition, as long as we can have a good laugh at it and realise that it's a hangover from the kind of primitive religion in which the gods were kept happy if you carried out the right sort of ceremonial, but got a bit irritable if you didn't.

It gets out of hand if we take it too seriously—or if, along with other things, it

becomes a cheap and nasty substitute for real religion.

The signs are that this sort of thing is happening. One television network gives a daily mid-afternoon spot to star-gazing lady who always ends up by saying "Think lucky and you'll be lucky". Advertisers of lucky-charm bracelets make a bomb from simple souls who buy their product. Women's magazines give a whole page spread to horoscopes—while only a quarter is given to the Christian faith, and sometimes not even that.

Today many people scoff at a faith in God. They write him off as a sort of super-Daddy, on the same level as Father Christmas or the fairies. Yet these same people hedge their bets. They write God off as a rank outsider and then bet heavily on luck or the stars or some other influence that is outside themselves.

This is a phoney kind of faith. It is looking for the perks of religion without having to pay any of the prices of commitment or involvement. It is a religion without a god, a religion without prayer, a religion without worship, a religion with no thought of other people. It is religion on the cheap, dishonest and selfish.

If you are one of those people who say: "Of course I'm not religious", next time you look at your horoscope or talk about luck or cross your fingers under a ladder—have a think!

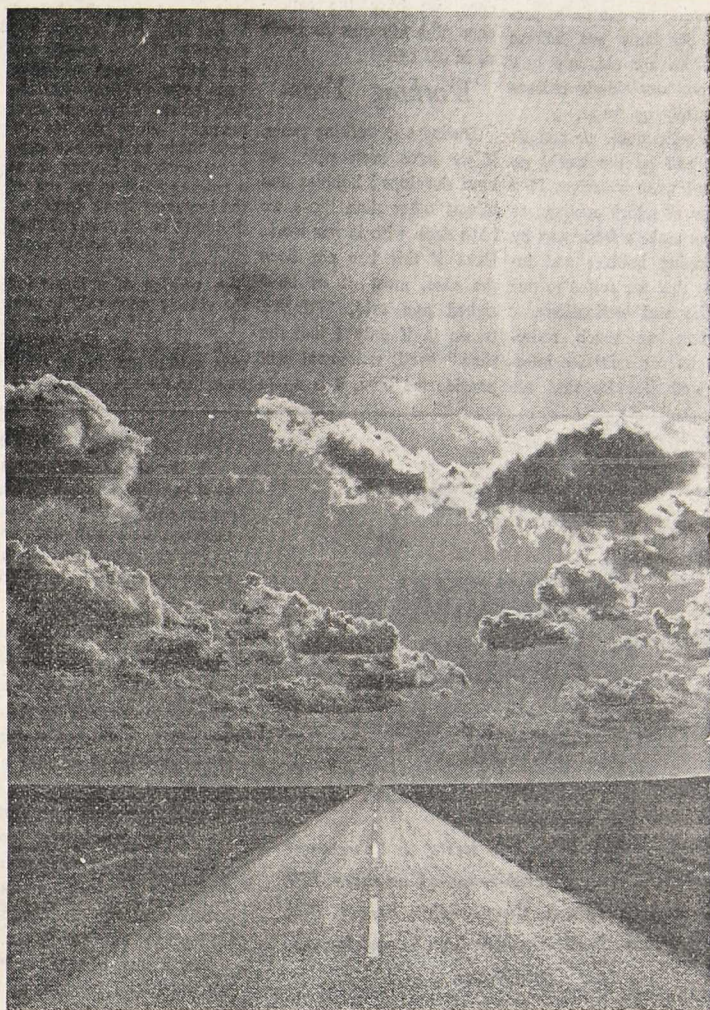


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The Way Ahead

1971 - another milestone on the Way of Life.

Enjoy the journey but don't be afraid of arriving

The Elephant and Castle

Training Project

by Keith Pound

What kind of parson do you want? What kind of parson do you normally find?

The debate about how the clergy should be trained to work in the modern world has been going on for a long time. And it's hotting up.

At last perhaps it is being realised that two years within the Close of one of our ancient cathedral towns may not be the best preparation for ministry in a world in which 80% of people live in big cities. And yet, for the most part, that's still the way it goes on.

Many men who offer themselves for ordination still come from the more church-going areas of the country—obviously enough. It's not surprising that if they are then courageous

CHURCH IN ACTION!



enough to go and work in a big city all too often they are bewildered, can't relate to people, feel defeated and go under.

It was because of all this that a link was forged two years ago between Salisbury Theological College and a parish at the Elephant and Castle, London, the parish of Holy Trinity and St. Matthew's. At least a college in a country town could have a foothold in an inner-city situation.

This was not the first new advance made in theological college education by Salisbury under its Principal, Canon Harold Wilson. Already men had begun to be trained in groups so as to equip them to take their place in the team ministries of the future. Already Salisbury offered an up-to-date training in communications, including the opportunity of experience in the college's own television studio.

Now, for the last two years, another dimension to the training has come about through the Elephant and Castle Training

Project. This means that all men who train at Salisbury must spend a part of their time, normally most of one term, at the Elephant and Castle, which is still an area today which prides itself on being one of the 'toughest' in London.

Here a lot of experience of the inner-city can be piled in during a few weeks. Men are involved in projects on homelessness, redevelopment, vagrants, offenders, young people, the elderly. They work alongside community workers and look at the problems and resources of the community. They see the role of statutory departments and voluntary organisations. And they think, study and reflect upon it all, looking at the particular contribution which Christian people may make in both the dying and developing areas of inner London.

"This type of personal involvement and encounter", writes one student (who afterwards ended up as a curate in almost the next-door parish to the Elephant), "not only shows up the personal defects and weaknesses of one's character, but also the inadequacies of any training programme which does not relate study to real practical situations".

What will tomorrow's parson look like? If the Salisbury-Elphant approach to training catches on—and there are signs that it is—then he will look much more like a man who knows his way around a modern city, who comes to terms with it, who sees clearly what life is like there and what the message of Jesus Christ means in that situation. A man, in other words, who has some clues about how the modern city can become the City of God.

D/EX 1758/8/1

A NEW BEGINNING *by Marjorie Wing*

OLD age is not a crime or a disease, but, to hear some of us talking, you'd think it was. Neither is it an excuse for bad temper, laziness or thoughtlessness. Old age is a part of life, in the normal manner of being, we shall experience it, and there is nothing we can do to prevent it. How we behave when we are old, and how we treat our elderly citizens is entirely up to us.

On retirement, we can sit back and let the world go by and wrap ourselves in a cocoon of selfish egotism, or we can make a fresh start by developing hobbies and interests that are suited to our abilities and inclinations. Before we reach retirement we can cultivate interests and hobbies that are

going to last a life time. Old age would be less of a problem if we took a new look at it. Instead of regarding retirement as an end of life, we could realise that in reality it is a new beginning, compared to most beginnings which start with no experience, we have the experience of a life time to guide us in old age.

Working Years

During our working years, if we have been wise, we have developed hobbies and talents other than those we have dealt with in our work. Even if this has not been the case, most of us have sighed and said, "I'd like to do it, if only I had the time." Well, retirement will provide the time, it is up to

us to do it, whether it be collecting stamps, gardening, painting, or what have you.

Worthy people plan homes and organise comforts for the aged. Some, are just beginning to realise that these charities in themselves do not solve the problems of the elderly. Of course, there are still those who are too infirm to help themselves, and must be helped in this way. But, happily the majority of old people are not infirm, some of them may have physical disabilities, but are bright and alert mentally. How can we expect them to live like cabbages without lending them a helping hand to get out of the impasse? If we don't, we shouldn't be surprised if they grow like their feeble companions.

A warden of a home for the elderly once said to me, "I get a real kick when I see one of my ninety-year olds setting off for a walk over the downs, with a ruck

sack on his back. "How often do our homes provide this sort of freedom? We are apt to sit our elderly folks in comfortable lounges and tell them when to have a bath, when to eat and go to bed.

Granted, there are cases of senility that have to be treated as children, but, are we sure that by coddling all old people in this manner, we are not breeding senility?

I know of a home where there are so many activities, it resembles a social club. There are many lectures and courses for all who care to join, evenings are devoted to various hobbies, a drama group read plays, one of the residents has organised a choir. These elderly people are alert, far too happy and busy to think about age. The few who are too feeble to take an active part, enjoy watching, and so have something a little more interesting to do than sit and think.

Each resident has a bed



sitting room, containing personal treasures such as a favourite chair or picture. They have their own plants and flowers to tend. Moreover, in these private sanctums they can entertain personal friends.

Alas, the waiting list for this home has been closed, it is far too long, vacancies are rare, for the residents are a long living lot. Would that more of our homes were run on these lines, though happily, we are beginning to realise that food and shelter are not enough. If our Senior citizens are to be happy, we must encourage them to help themselves.

Thanks

Thanks to medical science, we have a longer expectation of life. Perhaps those who are still young, should ask themselves "Am I fit to retire?" For we must be willing to relinquish youthful pleasures and not cling to them in a vain endeavour to stave off old age.

Do we plan what we are landing or death—which going to do with the years after all is but a new beginning ahead? Sixty may seem a long

long way off to a thirty year old. To many of us, it is but two thirds of a life time, what are we going to do with the last third?

We talk of the generation gap, there is no such thing if we bridge it with our common interests. The evening centres for adult education have proved this beyond doubt. In these centres one will find all age groups chatting together, be it about creative writing, musical appreciation, local history or any of the many leisure and education pursuits that are available.

It is no accident that so many of our artists, musicians and actors are so long lived, they have been too busy creating to worry about growing old. Who dares to talk of the generation gap when they take the floor?

Because they have an absorbing interest and purpose, they have kept abreast with the times, with brains alert for the next big adventure, whether it be a moon



Readers are invited to write to "Personal Posers". Our special team of experts 319 Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 3 will do their best to tackle your problems.

COLOURED CHIPS

I firmly believe that a multi-racial society is not only possible — but desirable. The future of the world depends upon different races getting on with each other.

What bothers me is the chip that black people carry on their shoulders. You can treat them as equals because they take offence if you treat them as you would a white. Any criticism or disagreement is always considered to be based on colours—and this is ridiculous, is there any hope of getting this right.

B.J. Birmingham.

It is hardly surprising the black man carries a chip on his shoulder. Look at his history: centuries of being thought inferior (think of Shakespeare's Othello); long periods of being exploited by colonial powers which were often only on the make; slaves to the white man; a fair amount of evidence that when it comes to getting jobs and houses the coloured man is at a disadvantage in this country.

It will take a long time to rub out that and as a general rule the white man can only fall over backwards not to give offence. There's a fair amount of bad behaviour of white man to black to make up for—and that behaviour is not only in the past.

At a more personal and individual level: when we have really got to know a coloured friend it is possible to talk in a totally honest way about our real feelings to each other, white to black and black to white. That can be the beginning of proper mutual understanding and respect.

The task will take a long time—certainly more than a life-time. And a lot of patience.

LETTING THEM DOWN

Until our family came along, I was very active in the local church—secretary of the Young Wives' group, collecting for charity, Sunday School teacher, work for the Christmas sale. Now, with three young children, I don't even get to church on Sundays very often. I feel rather guilty about it. Am I letting people down?

P.B. Southampton.

Almost certainly you aren't letting anyone down. In fact, you have a big job on in looking after your family. Most people in similar circumstances have to cut down on activities outside the home.

But it is not just a question of letting people down. It's a question of keeping alive your membership of the church.

Here are two suggestions you might be able to try.

First, church-going. Many churches nowadays have family services at reasonable hours on Sunday mornings, specially with young families in mind. If your own church doesn't have one of these, suggest that it might be tried. Or look for another church.

See if your Minister or Parish Priest can suggest some job which can be done at home and fitted round your domestic responsibilities. This might be clerical work or typing, perhaps in connection with your local edition of this paper. But there may be others as well.

You don't mention your husband's views, but if you can work this out together, it will obviously benefit all the family.

OFF THE RAILS

Until recently my wife and I thought that all delinquent children came from bad homes. But now the son of some friends of ours got into serious trouble—and yet his parents always give him a good home and show real, sensible love and understanding. I would say he has been given the right amount of encouragement and discipline and scope for his interests. Yet now he is a delinquent.

We have two young teenage children and are worried. What on earth can parents do to make sure their children don't go off the rails?

C.S. Sheffield.

All parents will sympathise with your worry—and share in it.

One thing that we have to remember is that we don't own our children. They are individuals in their own right and as they grow up become increasingly responsible for their own actions. Of course we have to do our best to make sure that if they go wrong it's not our fault. We have to give them love, time and understanding—without smothering them. But in the end we can't do their living for them. They have freedom of choice like anyone else—and that means being free to go wrong.

If, as you say, your friends have given their boy as much as can fairly be expected—then they can't be to blame. Of course they'll feel guilty—because in the same situation all parents would wonder where they'd gone wrong. None of us, however, can do better than our best, and certainly we can't make sure that our children don't go off the rails.

GOOD FOR A LAUGH



TORY BILL BRINGS NEW-TYPE STRIKES

The strikes set off in the last two months by the Government's Industrial Relations Bill are something new in this country.

They have not been for the usual disputes over pay, redundancy, or conditions. They have been political stoppages, using the withdrawal of labour as a weapon aimed at stopping the Bill becoming law.

The militant Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions has advocated the series of short-duration token

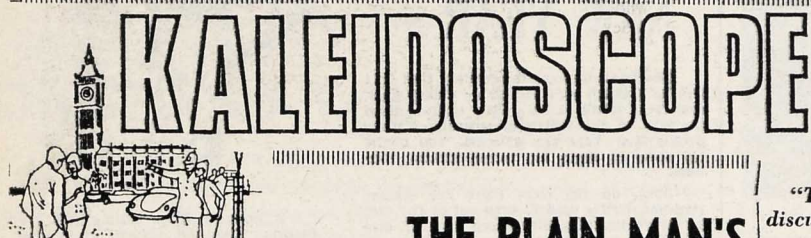
strikes and has rallied support for a vigorous and determined "Kill the Bill" Campaign.

Shop-floor feeling is running high particularly against the threat of possible imprisonment in certain strike-situations. The short strike has become their political weapon.

The Trades Union Congress has its own more predictable campaign against the Bill coming to a head on January 12 with a mass meeting in London's Albert Hall.



NATIONAL COMPASS, JANUARY, 1971—THREE



KALEIDOSCOPE

THE PLAIN MAN'S GUIDE TO WHO DECIDES WE LOVE THE RUSSIANS

by Watchman

One of the jobs we elect Governments for is to put together our foreign policy—what we do with other countries, or for them, or against them.

But who is it that decides whether we stay in NATO or have bases East of Suez, whether we start loving the Russians or stop hating the Rhodesians? Is it the Foreign Secretary?

Well, not exactly. In fact behind our foreign policy, behind the Foreign Secretary and Junior Ministers, who are the political bosses, are the Foreign Office and the Diplomatic Service, who are the professional advisers.

They form perhaps the most efficient machine for making discreet policy decisions in the world. In the Foreign Office, along with the elegantly gilded and carpeted rooms of the Ministers and the smaller, barer offices, still heated by coal fires, where the high-up professionals work, is the "third room".

The "third room" is the place of junior officials. And many important policy decisions start there in an outline brief drawn up by a bright, young official. His draft goes to the head of his department who consults with the heads of other departments. The papers are then passed to the appropriate Undersecretaries before eventually reaching the Minister in the form of a "submission". Already by that stage it is well on the way to becoming another plank in the UK's overseas platform.

This means that the broad lines of policy are carried on along more or less traditional lines and that Foreign Secretaries and Governments generally though not quite always can introduce only minor changes.



LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE

"There are two things we never discuss—politics and religion".

That's given as the secret for many a happy marriage, friendship or club.

But that sort of happiness is not worth that sort of price.

Especially nowadays.

The modern hotch-potch colourful kaleidoscope of a world is shaped in political patterns. These are not just red and blue patterns of party politics, but the whole psychedelic spectrum of how the hungry are going to get fed and the homeless housed; how the races are going to live together and wars be avoided; how people can live in modern cities and still

remain human. All this and much more is politics.

So it can't be a happy thing to give them the cold shoulder. Add to that the fact that these things are bound to be the concern of religion, particularly the Christian religion, and politics and religion come to be the two subjects we must discuss, if we are going to survive.

During 1971 we are bringing them together in this page, which will be called "Kaleidoscope" and which will look with your eyes at the shifting patterns and highlights of today's politics, often confusing and blurred to the ordinary person looking in.

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PROFILE

Christopher Chataway



The gay dash and determined enthusiasm of an international athlete has been at the disposal of the Conservative party in the House of Commons since Christopher John Chataway was elected in 1959 at the age of 28 as M.P. for North Lewisham.

His successes in long distance track events included the race he didn't win, when he helped Roger Bannister break the four-minute mile barrier.

Educated at Sherborne School and Magdalen College, Oxford, Chris Chataway has had a varied and outstanding career. His

years with ITV as a Newscaster and with the BBC as a reporter and commentator perhaps stand him in good stead in his present Government post of Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. He has had other jobs with a brewery, a firm of employment consultants, and a holiday resort development firm.

Chataway's political career began a year before his election to Parliament when he became a North

Lewisham member of the London County Council. He became an alderman of the Council, and Leader of the Education Committee of the Inner London Education Authority, for his years out of Parliament, 1966-1969.

Married with three children, he has held leading education posts in Government and in Opposition as well. In addition the wide range of his expertise can be seen from the fact that he has been a Front Bench Spokesman on Overseas Development and on Environment.

His critics would say that he is just a charming whizz-kid—a product of over-confident post-war Conservatism, all surface and no depth.

The popular image, though, has been formed from a mixture of the White City and T.V. studios, plus a dash of World Refugee Year. The idea of a once-for-all solution to the refugee problem was pushed by a trio including Chataway from the first idea to a successful United Nations project. For his part in this Chataway was awarded the Nansen Medal.

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When man first tamed the wild dog, he did so to
use him either for guarding, herding or hunting. Gradu-
ally the dog grew closer to his master until he shared
his hearth and home.

Today the majority of dogs are kept only as pets.
Some dogs, however, have very special duties and
obviously enjoy carrying them out.

Acting is a comparatively new occupation for
dogs. Specially coached dog stars as Rin-Tin-Tin and
Lassie, have earned fortunes for their owners. Today's
television employs many dog 'stars'. Fortunately, these
actor-dogs seem to enjoy their work. Notice how their
tails wag as they play their part, even sometimes when
they are supposed to be fighting fiercely!

Scotland Yard uses dogs to smell out drugs. Their
early recruits were Tess, an Alsatian, and Pitch a
black Labrador. Tess was born at the Police Dog's
training establishment at Keston. She and Pitch were
specially selected to smell out opium and marijuana.
"Anti-dope" dogs have been employed with great suc-
cess in Germany too.

The sight of a blind person being guided by his
or her dog is becoming increasingly common. Guide
dogs for the blind begin life in an ordinary family,
until, around nine months, if reliable in temper and
character, they finally undergo a stiff training before
being handed over to their blind owner. A strict diet
and regular veterinary inspection keeps them fit.

A high degree of skill

Most working dogs are still employed with farm
animals. In our own islands we have breeds which
have been herding for centuries. Doing the same work
for generations has inbred a high degree of skill and
innate obedience. The old English sheepdog has de-
clined in numbers, but Corgis, Border Collies and
Welsh sheepdogs still round up cattle and sheep as
efficiently as their ancestors.

In other lands other breeds look after herds too.
In Belgium the Bouvier cattle dogs are a well-known
working strain. Hungary has its Komondors and Lip-
taks, Australia its Heelers. Italian Maremma, Russian
Owtchakos and Swedish Vallhunds all tend flocks in
different parts of the world.

In Switzerland too, and in certain parts of Bel-
gium dogs are sometimes fitted with a harness and
two small milk trucks. The authorities keep a careful
watch to see these dogs are fit and not overworked.

Pulling sledges is the everyday chore for Hus-
kies in the Arctic and on Antarctic Expeditions.
Keeshonds guard barges in Holland. Truffle hounds
nose round for truffles in Spain and France. Sporting
dogs retrieve their master's 'bag', and in Portugal the
fishermen employ a curly coated dog to dive over-
board after lost tackle and fish that are caught.

Over the ages certain dogs have achieved fame
for certain work. Bungay, who lived in Tudor times,
regularly carried despatches to and from Court for
his Master, Sir John Harrington, who lived at Kelston,
near Bath. All the world knows of the work of the
St. Bernard dogs at the Swiss Hospice. In many homes,
ordinary household pets fetch the post, collect their
master's slippers and proudly carry a shopping basket
home.

The surest way to keep your dog happy is to give
him something to do, even if it's only fetching his ball
for a game.



by
Edyth Harper

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The financial experts prophesy that 1971
will be a tough year. As far as money goes,
each year seems to be a little tougher than
the last, so any means of ensuring a pros-
perous New Year are welcome. You might
try some of these old money-making cus-
toms.

Down on the farm there are several
traditional rites used to keep out of the red.
In Worcestershire blackthorn twisted into
a crown is baked in the oven, then scattered
over young wheat. A variant is to scorch
it in the fire and hang it up with the mistle-
toe.

A steady flow of eggs yields a good
cash dividend, so Welsh farmer's wives make
sure the poultry share any fruit eaten on
January 1st.

Piece of Toast

Owners of apple orchards carry out an
ancient ritual to make certain of a bumper
crop. First they collect plenty of cider.
Then, armed with pots and pans, kettles
and guns, they enter the orchard. A liberal
dose of cider is poured over the roots of
an apple tree. Into a forked branch goes a
cider-soaked piece of toast. Then the noise
starts. Guns fire, pots, pans and kettles
are rattled and beaten. The beaters bow
three times to the tree before finishing the
cider. This old custom of apple wassailing
is sure to mean a good harvest, or so they
say. Anyway it is a splendid way of keeping
warm, on Twelfth Night or on New Year's
Day.

Townfolk should be certain to carry
plenty of money on them at the start of
the year. It is said Robert Burns, never
over-blessed with coins to jingle, borrowed
from friends to fill his pockets on January
1st.

Both town and country folk can study
the weather, especially the wind. South and
West winds on New Year's Eve will blow
prosperity your way, but North and East
winds may see you penniless.



If none of these satisfy you, try first
footing. This old custom from over the
Border needs care however. Never let your
first foot be blonde and make certain
or she carries a lump of coal as well as a
bottle of whisky.

You're not superstitious or cautious or
far-seeing—whatever you choose to call it—
indulging in these customs? You hang up a
new calendar before the old is finished
defying the demon of bad luck

Try the lot

Then perhaps you make resolutions.
There are some wise ones that will certainly
help to give you a prosperous twelve months
ahead. You can resolve to save bus fares
by walking whenever possible, or buy a
Savings stamp, certificate or bond regularly.
The trouble with resolutions is they are
difficult to keep, but if you are really self-
disciplined and keep going for the next 52
weeks—you will have a pretty little sum
at the end of the year.

Perhaps the best thing to do is to try
the lot. Burn your blackthorn crown, ser-
enade your apple tree and raise 12 mince pies
before January 1st dawns. Fill your
money-box and your pockets. Bar the door
to red-heads and fair-haired friends on
New Year's Eve, and resolve to save at all
costs.

At least you will have done your best.
If on next December 31st, you feel it wasn't
enough—you can always try again, even if
you have to copy Burn's example. He bor-
rowed friend's money to jingle as he sang
"Auld Lang Syne", but whether this proved
lucky for his finances is open to doubt.



The price of bread affects every household. At Great Wishford,
a few miles from Salisbury there is a record of bread prices to be
seen on the side of the parish church. There has been a bakery in
the village nearby for centuries. 8 pounds of bread equals one
gallon, a term still used by bakers in making bread. The next price
sign to be erected will be in decimal coinage.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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IN CAVERSHAM

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CAVERSHAM'S NEW NURSERY SCHOOL

ONLY OPENED LAST SEPTEMBER BY THE READING EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND ALREADY WITH A WAITING LIST OF 150, THIS NEW NURSERY SCHOOL IN CAVERSHAM IS HELPING TO FULFIL A GREAT NEED IN THE AREA.

The Staff consists of two qualified teachers, including Mrs. Williams who is in charge of the school, and three trained nursery assistants. Two students taking their nursery training at the Reading Technical College

also come in, each for an alternate week during the whole year. A further couple of students from the Chiltern Training College help three months per term.

At the moment 90 children are on the register. Thirty attend all day, together with a further forty who come to the morning session only, making a total of seventy. After dinner the full-timers are joined by another twenty children who come for the afternoon period from 1 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.

The Nursery officially opens at 8-45 a.m. and the morning ends at 11-45 a.m. Those who stay all day can have school dinner and when more tables and chairs are available children attending mornings only will also be able to stay for this meal before going home. After dinner those who have a full

day in school rest from 12-30 p.m. until 1 p.m.

The School is there for the children and their varying needs. It may be necessary to enrol the occasional child at three years of age because of exceptional circumstances but usually children are admitted, if there are vacancies, between three and a half and four.

Others are deeply sensitive and need a more relaxed and peaceful atmosphere in which to develop fully—it is these children who stay all day and have a quieter afternoon period with fewer children in the school when they can receive more attention.

When entering Nursery School children can have their mothers with them to stay and help them settle in. This arrangement can go on for as long as the staff and parent feel it necessary. Often Mother will sit and do her knitting or help somewhere before going home. After look in on her way to or

from the shops, just to give the child security in this new situation.

There are few rules as such but the children experience kind, firm, loving control from those who look after them.

Already Mrs. Williams has plans for the future—a patio where sand and water trolleys and clay tables can be set up during suitable weather to save valuable space inside. The dividing wall between the two outdoor playgrounds could become an adventure wall with a hole or tunnel through it and perhaps steps over it to link the two areas. An out of doors sand pit and paddling pool would also be invaluable. So the ideas come and the list grows. Caversham Bridge hopes it was a great success and wishes Mrs. Williams, her staff and the Nursery School a very happy future.

M.K.

ONE FROM YOUR FAMILY?

THE ORDINATION to the priesthood of Mr. Shaylor that is due to take place on December 20th just as this paper is published may perhaps serve to focus attention on the state of the ordained ministry, not merely among Anglicans, but among all branches of the Christian Church.

A lot of thought has in recent years been devoted to the question of Christian ministry. Until recently the word "ministry" conjured up in the minds of most people an ordained man, but we have all come now to realise that ministry is the work of all Christian people: the distinction between the layman and the ordained man has been blurred as we see the laity not only sharing increasingly in the pastoral work of the church but also taking part in a Christian worship which was accepted by all of us, whatever our denomination, as being the exclusive role of those ordained. At the same time the growth in the welfare state of the ranks of professional social workers has taken away from the clergy many tasks which formerly fell to them simply because there was no one else to do such work.

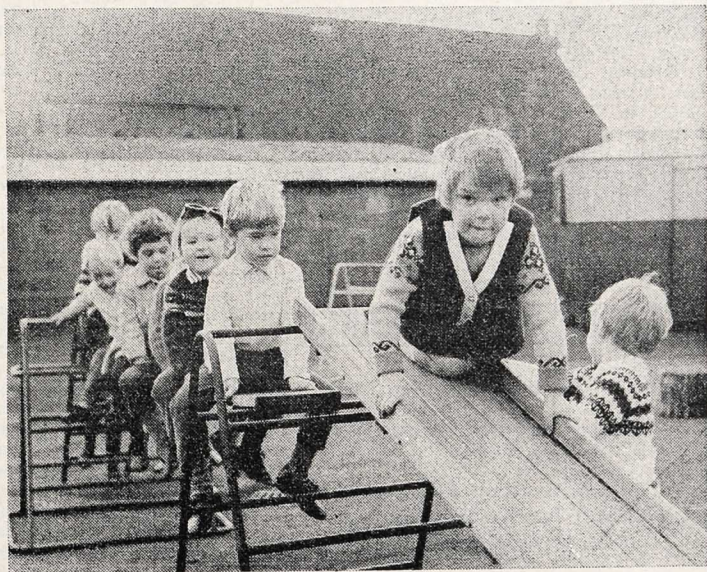
This sharing of ministerial functions by clergy and laity alike has undoubtedly led us to a deeper understanding of what the church is. But it has also had the effect of making many clergy less certain of their role now that their place in the order of things seems less clearly defined. This has meant not only that many men who at one time would have sought ordination have felt instead that they could exercise a real Christian ministry in a lay capacity, while others after ordination have sought a secular occupation, perhaps merely helping in a parish on Sundays. The result is that all branches of the Christian Church, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Church alike are acutely aware of gaps in the ranks of their clergy. The argument is therefore sometimes produced that the shortage may be God's way of helping us all to a yet deeper understanding of ministry, and that we do not really need so many ordained men. I think however, that we can accept the first part of this argument without necessarily accepting the second. Moreover when we are sometimes told that we shall soon no longer be able to support so many clergy I feel that if this is the case there is something seriously wrong with our priorities in this affluent age.

A few years ago the Church of England did in fact experience a boom and the number of men ordained in the years 1961-4 was over 600 annually; then a decline began until by last year the numbers ordained had fallen to 436 and a great many priests had also entered secular employment. Moreover the figures of a few years back are less healthy than may appear at first for there has been a great growth in the percentage of older men who have been ordained, and their working years must in the nature of things be less. The growth in population is another factor we have to reckon with: the population of the three counties which make up the diocese of Oxford has increased by some 400,000 in fifteen years and the building in Milton Keynes and other new areas means that further huge increases are expected in the immediate future. Not only are there less clergy but they have to be spread far more thinly.

Church life in Caversham may not unreasonably be said to be reasonably vigorous. On Christmas day thousands will flock to one or other of our churches, and I hope I am not unrealistic if I say that in Caversham the clergy seem to have a very definite part in the life of the community. But how many ordination candidates of any denomination are we producing? In the past the churches of Caversham have produced many men for the Anglican priesthood and I hope some also for the ordained ministry of other churches. But what are we doing about this today? As we see an older man who is so well known in our local community being ordained this month to serve God in this way after retirement from a strenuous secular profession may we not hope that others, Anglican or non-Anglican, young or not so young, will also follow? This is a matter that concerns us all wherever we may worship on Christmas Day. Above all let us make this a matter of prayer not only that every member of the Church, as the Good Friday collect in the Book of Common Prayer reminds us, may truly serve God in his vocation and ministry, but that we may perceive more clearly the task that God asks of those ordained and then pray that sufficient men will respond to His call to serve Him in this way.

At one time a great many families could number one relation among the ranks of the clergy. Who from your family is God calling—one of your sons—perhaps even you yourself?

John Grimwade



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ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM WINEMAKERS' CIRCLE

The second Annual Dinner and Dance held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Caversham, on Wednesday, November 18th, was attended by over a hundred members and guests from other Circles.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. H. Williams, were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. Douglas Ross and his wife, who presented officers and members of the Committee.

Mr. C. J. J. Berry, President of the National Association of Amateur Winemakers, proposing the toast to the Caversham Circle congratulated members on their successes in winning the Basingstoke Bowl and the Reading Cup at a recent Wine Festival held at Farnborough.

After dinner there was dancing to music by the 'Clef Quartet'. During the interval the Mayoress made the draw for raffle prizes—a noteworthy winner of some of these was the Mayor who announced he would be donating them to the Mayor's Market to be held the following day.

Maplewood W.I.

The November meeting was presided over by Mrs. B. Lewis, the President. Mrs. M. E. Hutchings was the speaker, who illustrated her talk on 'Colourful Canals' with slides. Recent events have included an "Evening of Music and Poetry" organized by members belonging to the League of Friends of Reading Hospitals and a Coffee morning and talk on decimalization. Mrs. Duck-

worth invited members who wished to join the Drama Group to visit her house. Mrs. Bubb gave the vote of thanks; programme planning was also discussed. The Keep Fit Classes were very popular.

Mapledurham W.I.

At the November meeting at Trench Green, the outgoing secretary, Mrs. Skinner, gave a talk on the visit to Sainsbury's decimal shop at Croydon. An exhibition of members' handicrafts was on show.

Mrs. Gregory gave a demonstration on sweet making and presented a box of home-made chocolates in a raffle won by Mrs. Collard.

Blagrove W.I.

When talking about the changes taking place in Reading, Mr. Davidson of the Borough Surveyor's Office, showed plans and a model of the new Town Hall and Shopping precinct. He explained some of the difficulties the planners have when faced with ancient buildings and the need to make present day traffic flow freely. Mrs. Sholl gave the vote of thanks. The Autumn Council report was given by Miss Reynolds. The total from the Jumble Sale was £25.10.0. The competition for gingerbread was won by Mrs. Waite with Mrs. Sholl and Mrs. Wilkie 2nd and 3rd.

Rose Hill W.I.

Mrs. Green, the President, welcomed three new members to the November meeting. Mrs. E. V. Ellingham gave a report on the Autumn

Council Meeting. The Committee was chosen for the members' meeting to be held in January. The speaker, Mrs. Hill (V.C.O.) spoke on "Leisure and Pleasure with the Guilds". Members were asked to bring gifts to the December meeting to be distributed to the underprivileged children. The competition, "An example of your hobby" resulted: 1st, Mrs. Worthington; 2nd, Mrs. Jackson; 3rd, Miss M. Stevenson.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild was held on November 19th. In her review of the year's activities, the Hon. Sec. Mrs. P. Tiffen, reported that these had been varied with something of interest for all members, including music, social studies and arts and crafts. The financial position was sound, money making efforts being well supported and sums had been donated to charities, including the Caversham Mayday Week. Miss E. Baker, Hon. Treasurer, presented a detailed statement. The new committee was elected the officers being returned unopposed as follows: Chairman: Mrs. A. Smith, Vice-Chairman: Miss N. Brown, Hon. Treasurer: Miss E. Baker, Hon. Secretary: Mrs. P. Tiffen. The Chairman thanked the members and committee for the support they had given her during her year of office.

A free for all tea then followed.

The Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the Annual General Meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild this week a presentation on behalf of all the members of the Guild of stainless steel dishes was made to the retiring Chairman, Mrs. Valerie Birtwhistle and, in presenting the gift the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Hill told Mrs. Birtwhistle how sorry they were that her term of office was over. In the three years that she had been Chairman, Mrs. Birtwhistle had missed only one meeting, and all the members of the Guild were deeply appreciative of the tremendous amount of work that she had undertaken on their behalf, and sincerely hoped that after a rest she might, at some future time, be persuaded to return to the Committee.

The returning officer, Mrs. Dawe, then announced the election of the following officers:

Chairman: Mrs. M. Hill; Vice-Chairman: Mrs. V. Kitcher; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. C. Griffith; Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. M. Dawes.

In presenting her Annual Report, Mrs. Griffith said that membership had increased during the year to 140, and there was still a waiting list of people wishing to become members. There had been twelve main Guild meetings in the period, with an average attendance of 89. A varied programme had

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Guild look forward to another busy and happy year under the Chairmanship of Mrs. P. Bannon who was re-elected unopposed at the Annual General Meeting in



Walton Adams.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Clara Brown of 27 Chazey Road, a member of the 12th Caversham Guide Company who was recently presented with her Queen's Guide Badge by the Caversham Commissioner Mrs. Joan Moss.

provoked lively interest and ranged from the Rev. Roger Packer's fascinating "ABC of Music" to "The History of Mapledurham House", which had been followed up

by a visit to the House itself. Theatre trips, a cookery demonstration, a two-day trip to Holland had been among the Guild's many "extra" activities, and the Annual Dinner Dance at the Grosvenor held by the Guild was now well established on Caversham's social calendar.

Classes on subjects ranging from Canework to Yoga had been enthusiastically attended. The Social Studies Group had worked hard and had also found time to visit the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Kodak factory, a Nursery Training College and a service industry. The International Group had had speakers from many countries. The drama group had had a very busy year, and their highlight had been winning a silver cup at the Woodley Festival. Their activities had gone beyond performing plays—members were encouraged to write material, and a competent performance of a serious play which took the sadness found in a drugtaker's family as its theme written by one of the members was later performed at the meeting.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Dawes, in presenting her report told of a financially successful year in which for the first time more than £1,000 had been through the Guild's account, but she feared that rising prices and, in particular, the astronomical rise in the rates for booking halls in the area, would make it difficult to cover costs in the coming year.

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The Rev. John Stevinson, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Rd., Tel. 471605.
The Rev. Malcolm Cooper, St. Barnabas House, 33 Grove Rd., Tel. 473095.
The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue, Tel. 471814.
The Rev. John Crowe, Caversham Park Church House, 2 Blackwater Close, Tel. 475152.
The Rev. Frederick Dawson, 25, Ikley Rd., Tel. 472070.
The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17, The Mount, Tel. 476988.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Lyn Lewis, 8, Kidmore Rd., Tel. 473633.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 7, St. Annes Rd., Tel. 472223.

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OLD CAVERSHAM

Two or three farms, a couple of inns, a handful of farm cottages—set among marshy fields, that was Lower Caversham a hundred years ago.

In those days Gosbrook Road was a mere Lane, there was no George Street or Reading Bridge and the only access to Reading was across the Clappers—a somewhat hazardous trip in winter—or up to Caversham Bridge. It was not until after 1880 that most of the land around was sold off as building land and Lower Caversham started to become the rather cramped residential area it is today. Even at the turn of the century it was still sparsely populated; in 1895 the whole population of Caversham was only just over four thousand.

I sat in one of those old farm cottages, now nicely modernised, in Gosbrook Road recently and talked to Mr. Hunt who, as a boy, lived in Paddock Road, perhaps the oldest surviving part of Caversham. Even in those days, in the early part of this century, most of the residents found employment on the farms or at the mill, later to become a powder mill and, still later the cork factory we know today. What was later to become a junk yard was then a riding school, run by a Mr. William Keeping.

PRESERVATION ORDER

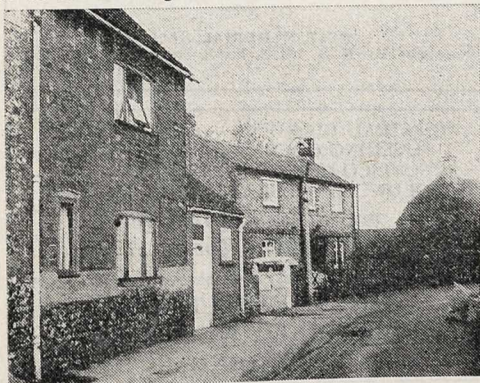
Most of the houses in Paddock Road were built in the early seventeenth hundreds; two old brick and timber houses inside the yard itself, will soon be disappearing. The huge wooden beams around which the houses are built are too crumbly for any kind of restoration. Unfortunately too, the house on the south side of the road, where Mrs. Allnut and her family have lived for very many years, is to be pulled down to make a wider access road to the warehouses in the yard, now owned by Fairview Estates. Mrs. Allnut herself is moving across to No. 8, now being carefully restored. No. 8, which still has the original well in the garden, together with three other houses on that side of the road are now, fortunately, the subject of a preservation order.

THE VAULT IN THE GARDEN

Many Caversham people will know about the vault in the garden of the house next door. Here over 250 years ago William and Elizabeth Randall, members of a wealthy Roman Catholic family, were buried. In 1925 it was thought more fitting for the remains to be removed and given a proper burial in Caversham cemetery. There was some difficulty at the time as Mrs. Thorpe, the occupier of the house, refused to have the remains brought through the house, fearing to offend the spirits of the Randalls so the back fence had to be removed to afford a temporary exit. The vault still remains in the garden.

The compilers of the Reading directories at the end of the last century had some difficulty in making up their minds as to the name of the road itself, and it appears variously as Lower Caversham, Paddock Road or part of Deans Road.

Slightly to the north, Briants Farm was sold in 1890 and Star Road, as it is now, was built. Fortunately the Red Cow, reputed to be the oldest public house in Caversham, remains together with a very small building on the opposite side of the road, possibly the last remaining part of the farm buildings.



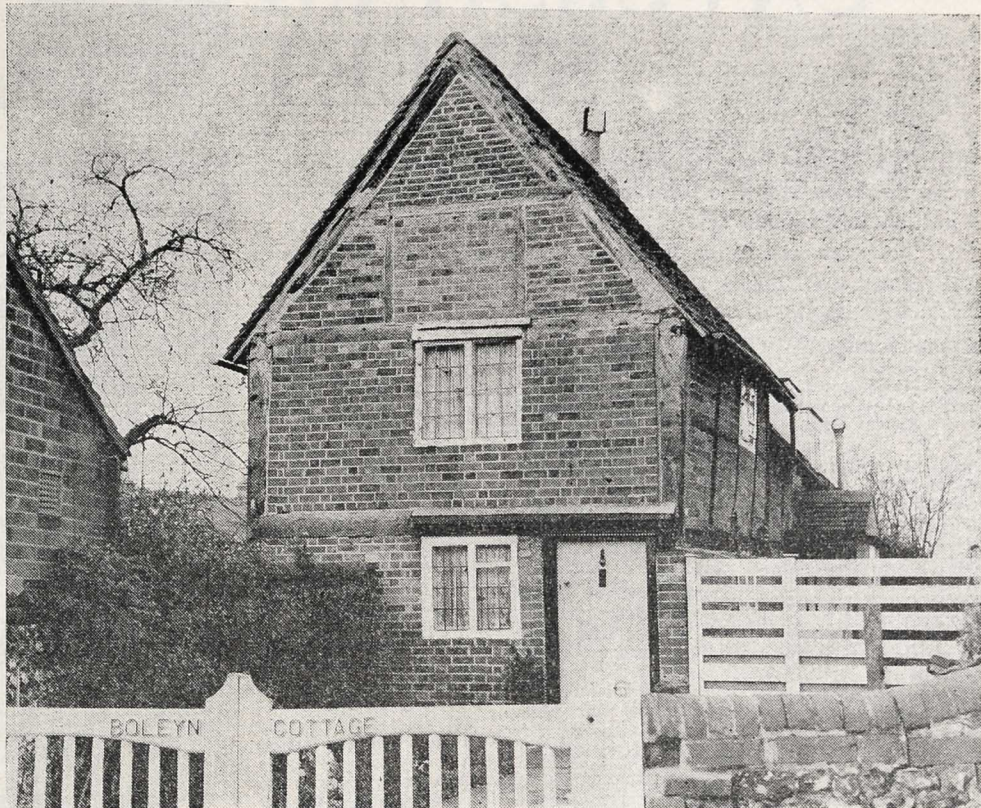
Walton Adams.

A DISTRICT OF CHARACTER

Deans Farm remains, but most of the old farm cottages are gone. But even now, in spite of the new flats and the ribbons of dull looking terraced houses, it remains a district of character and a stroll round the district picking out the old properties still remaining, is well worth while. Walk past the Red Cow up Amersham Road, on a wet afternoon, as I did, and you will get some idea of what Lower Caversham was like not so very long ago when, as Mr. Hunt says, everyone knew everyone else and "we were all good neighbours".

Perhaps it is because so many of the old families remain in the area that it still remains probably the friendliest part of Caversham.

W.D.



Walton Adams.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

SUN., JAN. 17th, 6.30 p.m.

United Services in Caversham and Caversham Heights Methodist Churches

WED., JAN. 20th, 7.30 p.m.

UNITY SERVICE IN ST. LAURENCE'S, READING

Preacher:

The Rev. NORMAN GOODALL

THURS., JAN 21st, 8 p.m.

Methodist Hall, Ardler Rd.,

Annual Meeting of
Bridge Scheme of
Social Service

SUN., JAN. 24th, 6.30 p.m.

Exchange of Pulpits

Preachers:

ST. PETER'S:

The REV. T. HARRIS

ST. ANDREW'S:

The REV. L. S. LEWIS

ST. BARNABAS:

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ST. MARGARET'S:

MR. L. WYETH

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KEEPING CAVERSHAM SWEET

After Mayday Week last July many people expressed the hope that the issues of World Development would be kept as much as possible in the public eye.

The nationwide Sugar Campaign in November, supported in Caversham and Reading, was a minor follow-up to Caversham Mayday Week in this respect.

CARDS DISTRIBUTED

Miss Reading, Lynn Merry of Evesham Road, Emmer Green, helped to boost the local campaign which was well reported in the local press.

Over 500 samples of free sugar, attached to cards explaining the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, were distributed in the St. Martin's shopping precinct by Caversham members of the Reading World Poverty Action Group. An additional 1,500 were distributed outside Sainsbury's and at the Meadow shopping precinct, Tilehurst.

COMMON MARKET NEGOTIATION

The aim was to enable public opinion to support the hand of the politicians nego-

tiating Britain's entry into the Common Market so that the poorer Commonwealth sugar producing countries are not forgotten—and the price of sugar is kept as low as possible for the families of Britain.

The cards stated that at present 65 per cent of our sugar comes from sugar cane, grown in Commonwealth countries. Some of them are very poor, and sugar is almost all they have to sell. With the money they earn they provide the new jobs, schools, and hospitals which they need. One country, Mauritius, depends on sugar for 95 per cent of its exports.

At the moment, they sell to us under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, guaranteeing steady prices for them and a steady supply for us. In other

developing countries where there is no such agreement one year the price of a ton of sugar may be as high as £100; another year the price may sink to £10.

In the European Common Market at present the price of sugar is about twice as much as it is in Britain. This is because almost all their sugar comes from sugar beet, grown in Europe. They grow more than they can use, because the farmer gets an artificially higher price paid by subsidies. This means that it is the consumer who eventually foots the bill.

Forceful negotiation would encourage European farmers to diversify and grow other crops, keep the price as low as possible and help Britain's Commonwealth partners to stand on their own feet.

J.Y.C.



Photo: E. Post.

Miss Reading distributing sugar cards in the St. Martin's precinct.

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MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, November 12th, 1970. Mr. E. F. Dawe, Chairman of the Council presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed of discussions that had taken place between representatives of the Council, the Area Planning Officer and the developer of the Cliff House /Ridge Hall site.

The Parish Council are anxious that the escarpment area should not be neglected, and they would also like to see a fence along The Warren boundary, although at present the area belongs to the developer. The developer has stated he is not prepared to make a financial contribution towards the cost of fencing. It is possible for the Council to obtain possession of the area, but at present it has insufficient funds to put the scheme into operation.

The Parish Council are to make a further attempt to obtain a grant from the County Council by making a request asking if a sum could be made available in the County Planning Committee's next years estimates

which could be passed on to the Parish Council so that a clearance of the area could be made.

After a period of many years waiting, the Council were pleased to record that work has started on preparing the turning circle in the village. A further improvement taking place along the road between Trench Green and the village is the construction of passing bays.

The Council expressed its concern at the growing practice of using the Mapledurham route for the many sponsored walks that now take place. The number of walks has recently shown a marked increase over the past few months compared with recent years. The situation was aggravated by a recent all night walk which meant that people had been walking through the village until 3 a.m. causing a disturbance. With regard to the night walks concern was expressed on the effect this might have on farm animals. The Council were aware of its limitations in being able to deal adequately with such a situation, particularly as each walk is separately organised and is always for a good cause. However, they feel it would be helpful if the police were advised of such walks, and the Council agreed that a letter should be written to the local police pointing out the problems that arise and the attendant nuisance problems that subsequently arise.

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Secretary: Mrs. C. H. Jordan, 7, St. John's Road.

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Secretary: Mr. V. T. Smith, 62, Woodcote Road, Tel: 476388.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mrs. P. T. Rix, 28, St. Andrew's Road, Tel: 477281

ST. BARNABAS' HALL

Secretary: Mr. C. H. Cox, 160, Hemdean Road.

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Secretary: Mrs. O. Stockwell, 98, Briants Avenue, Tel: 477465.

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Where's the Action?

The third in the series about children and religious teaching
by Fred Dawson

In the first two of these articles, we've thought about the sorts of 'religious education' (for want of a better term) which are available to us and we've looked at the people who have tried to put it into action in our church circles—the Sunday School teachers. We now have to face a real dilemma. Where ought the action really to take place? In our Sunday Schools, Sunday Clubs and so forth, where it springs out of the obvious belief and commitment of the teachers? Or in the days schools, where it has often been handled in rather a cold, academic way in the past, where it has to be put over in an impartial way, regardless of any beliefs the teacher may have? Or should it happen in both places? This burning issue affects all of you who have children, whether or not church members.

ACTION AND REACTION

A strong body of opinion sees the school as the proper place for the action. After all, religion isn't a separate sphere of life which we isolate from the rest of our experience (or shouldn't be!). It should be included as part and parcel of the rest of one's upbringing in school, so that as a child develops there's a real chance of some "cross-fertilisation" between what he finds out about religious ideas and what he finds out about other areas of life. So we as Christians might argue.

But in 1970 the debate about all this really heated up. The 1944 Education Act has always been a bit of an embarrassment . . . R.I. (or R.E.—Religious Education—as it's now called) was the only subject specifically demanded; And faced with the likelihood of a new Act before long, members of the Secular Society have been conspiring to swing the pendulum far in the other direction and get it written out of the curriculum altogether. Meanwhile back at the ranch, the Bishop of Durham and his formidable Commission argued that it should stay on its own merits, on the same basis as any other subject, but that it should not have any privileged status.

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So why not leave the action to the day schools? Drop the Sunday Schools with all their problems and let it happen where the kids do all the rest of their finding out. Let the day-schools take us over, buy us out and set up as 'Action Ltd'!

The answer is that the 'action' is too limited from the church's point of view if confined only to the day schools. The famous Cowper-Temple Clause of the 1870 Education Act saw to it, quite properly, that religious teaching in schools should be non-denominational. But the effect was to make most teaching over-cautions. Religion in schools has not generally in the past been put over as something that can be responded to, that can make sense of the whole of life. Most children have found out something about Moses and the Red Sea, possibly even something about Jesus and the Miracles! But Christianity has to be caught, not just taught. And the plain fact is that religion in schools has not been very infectious.

ACTION LIMITED

Today the problems are even greater. There are not enough teachers trained for this sort of teaching around in the day-schools. In 'squeeze' conditions, a Head Teacher in a secondary-school would have to think very carefully before appointing an 'R.E.' specialist if it meant losing him, say, an extra Mathematician or Linguist. So often quite 'unlikely' people are asked to take a share in this sort of teaching. In the school I taught at, a young atheist Economics master was asked to help out with R.E. for the VIth forms—a tough order for anyone, and one he certainly didn't wish to tackle. And in any case, is it right that 'Christian' religion should be taught in schools which are more and more multi-racial, where the children come from Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other religious backgrounds?

Now don't let me run down religious teaching in schools too much! Many R.E. teachers are Christians and no doubt feel the tensions I have been discussing very keenly. And there have been great efforts to up-date and broaden out teaching matter to make it as stimulating as possible. But this doesn't alter the fact that very often the most that can be hoped for is to pass on some grasp of ethics and turn the kids into 'good citizens'. I merely pose the question: Is this all that Christian parents want?

IMPETUS TO ACTION

Perhaps there should be more of an interplay between the Churches and the day-schools, the one helping the other. A promising scheme is being sponsored at present by the Reading Council of Churches. This scheme would set up a Religious Resources Centre, in some central premises in Reading, at which literature and audio-visual teaching aids could be displayed for the benefit of both day-school and church teachers. This could be a serious, church-sponsored impetus to both sorts of teaching. Its feasibility will depend

on financial foresight both from churches and from local authorities.

NOT REARGUARD!

I hope enough has been said to show that this isn't really a question of 'Either/Or'. Both Church and State are in ferment about religious education and what and where it should be. I believe that they are supplementary, that neither can be complete without the other. But which ever side we come down on, wherever the action is to take place, let's make sure it's not a rearguard one, as the church's actions often seem to be. This is a vital matter and needs serious consideration from us all—NOW!



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M.G.

All news items for the February issue must reach Caversham Rectory by Tuesday, December 29th.

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NEW CHAIRMAN FOR ST. PETER'S WIVES

At the annual meeting of St. Peter's Wives, Mrs. Joy Saunders who had completed her term of office was succeeded as chairman by Mrs. Brenda Lewis. Mrs. Saunders, the third chairman since the club was founded, was warmly thanked for the wonderful way she had worked for the club during the past two years. A report on the activities of the Play Groups was given—the number of children attending has been reduced as a result of the opening of the nursery school in St. John's Hall. The Rector presided and the evening ended with an "Any Questions" session when he answered a wide range of questions from his preference for maxis or minis ("Maxis of course we clergy have been wearing cassocks for centuries") to more serious topics regarding Christian marriage and the worship of the Church.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

AUTUMN BAZAAR.

A lot of hard work on the part of most members of St. John's congregation, resulted in a fine total of £142. This is more than 25% more than the figure reached in 1969. In a time of rising prices the organisers are to be congratulated on such a good effort. As always the whole of this sum will be used to further the work of the Church in other parts of the world. Held in St. John's Hall at the beginning of November, the bazaar was also a good social occasion. It was particularly nice to welcome back the Rev. John Stevinson and his wife, who together opened the bazaar in what must be the shortest opening ceremony on record. Perhaps it was this which contributed to the 25% increase in takings; giving people more time in which to spend their money.

The stalls were well stocked with the usual variety of goods including home made and garden produce, and an attractive display of home made soft toys. The afternoon was rounded off with an entertaining half hour of dancing given by the Reading Rovers of Tilehurst.

NOW IN AUSTRALIA.

Members of St. John's have been getting around. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bartlett visited the Netherlands. Mr. Cyril Badger spent his holiday in the U.S.S.R., and now Mrs. Betty Fowler is spending a much looked forward to holiday with relatives in Australia. Her friends look forward to her safe return and an account of her experiences.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Wedding bells for another St. John's family. This time for Christine Gillett of Henley Road to be married on 2nd, January. Christine had a long way to go in order to meet her future husband, Brock Allen. Although his home is in Woking, she met him in Zambia while she was working there as a nurse.

It is a small world for some people; they will be making their home in Germany while Brock is working there for his firm. Best wishes from Caversham for their new life.

ARRIVAL OF REV. MICHAEL ATKINSON

The Rev. and Mrs. Michael Atkinson will be moving to Caversham in the middle of January and Mr. Atkinson will start his ministry in the parish on Sunday, January 24th when he will be the celebrant at the Family Eucharist at St. Andrew's at 9-15 a.m. that morning. The Rector will preach and the service will include special prayers for God's blessing on Mr. Atkinson's ministry. All members of St. Andrew's are particularly asked to make a special point of being present that morning.

St. Peters News

Her many friends are delighted to welcome back to Caversham Mrs. Cheyney. On the death of her husband Dr. Cheyney she went to Canada for ten years. Mrs. Cheyney is now living at the Flat 71, Peppard Road and is very pleased to find many familiar faces still in the congregation.

Festivals in January. The Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6th will be observed as usual with a celebration of the Parish Communion at 7-30 p.m. at which the preacher this year is to be the Rector of Whitchurch, the Rev. A. Walmsley. After the service party food and games will follow in Toc.H. On New Year's Day, Feast of the Circumcision, Holy Communion will be at 7 a.m. and on St. Paul's Day, Monday, January 25th, Holy Communion will be at 8 p.m.

There are a number of interesting changes on Sunday nights in January. On January 3rd Evensong is replaced by the annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the lessons this year are being read by representatives of Caversham professional and business life. On January 10th the former vicar of St. Laurence, Reading, the Rev. Douglas Bean deserts St. Paul's Cathedral to come and speak after Evensong about modern trends in church music, and he will sing and play some of his own compositions. On January 17th there is no Evening service at St. Peter's but a visit is made to the Methodists and the following Sunday, January 24th, falls within the week of prayer for Christian Unity and the preacher will therefore be the Methodist minister, the Rev. Terence Harris.

St. Barnabas' News

At their November meeting the ladies of the Coffee Pot elected a new committee. Mrs. Whitby is the new chairman and Mrs. Palmer the secretary. They are supported by three committee members, Mrs. Brooks-Daw, Mrs. Hutton and Mrs. Perry. Apart from their monthly meetings in St. Barnabas' Hall, the ladies of the Coffee Pot are known for the delicious food they prepare for our dances and other social functions; for instance their Christmas Cheese and Wine Party on December 7th at which they entertained their husbands. Ladies of the Coffee Pot, may you continue to thrive and make your own special contribution of beauty and usefulness to the life of the district.

The best ten shillings worth in Reading. The Pig and Cider dance on November 6th was a great success, thanks to the many people who, between them, provided the food, bar, music, decorations and sold the tickets. Two live pigs, tucked up in a camping trailer slept through the entire proceedings, and together with a home-made cider press gave a note of authenticity to the atmosphere of the room. The competition to guess the combined weight of the two pigs was won by Mr. Hutton. The event raised £33 towards the Hall renovation fund. Perhaps you would like to reserve Friday, February 19th. There is to be a 'Hippie Hop'.

Miss Marion Hurford, a widely-known person in St. Barnabas' Church who died earlier this year, left £500 to be administered by the Rector and Churchwardens on behalf of St. Barnabas'. It has been agreed that the money should be used to establish a fund from which loans can be made to the Church or Church Hall accounts, in the event of the money being needed for a specific purpose.

The members of the Mother's Union showed holiday slides to one another at their November meeting. They all agree the new committee room is an excellent venue for their meetings and would like their appreciation made known to those who created it.

On Sunday, 27th December, the Office of Evensong will be followed by a carol concert given by the St. Barnabas Choir.

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CAVERSHAM PARK

Starting Family Worship.

WHEN? 11-15 a.m. every Sunday, starting Sunday, January 3rd.

WHERE? Caversham Park Primary School.

All are welcome. The aim is to have a service lasting about half an hour at which all age-groups will feel at home. However, special emphasis will be laid on introducing children to corporate worship. We hope to have a service which will hold their interest and enjoyment. But this will be with their parents present so that there is no gap between what is learnt and experienced in worship and what is experienced in the family situation at home.

How soon this weekly service gathers momentum will depend on the support it is given. Many have asked for services to be held in the Village—so we hope that a good number will be with us when we start at 11-15 a.m. on Sunday, January 3rd.

St. Margaret's News

Unconfirmed? a change.

Some adults, who have not yet been confirmed, are too self-conscious to come to the Parish Communion, and yet St. Margaret's offers little alternative by way of Sunday Services where people may quietly join in, until their faith has sufficiently matured for them to offer themselves for Confirmation. After consulting the congregation, the Church Council has therefore decided that on the fourth Sunday of each month, instead of Parish Communion at 9-15 a.m. St. Margaret's will have a slightly revised form of Matins. This will be used for the first time on January 24th., when Holy Communion will be said, as in the past, at 8 a.m.

Carols and Readings.

The annual service will take place at 6-30 p.m., January 3rd.

Two autumn events.

The Remembrance Day Service was better attended than it has been for a number of years—so much so that extra chairs were needed, and more copies of the service will be required next year. Two or three years ago, the service was revised, and although those who lost their lives in the two World Wars are still, of course, remembered, the service is also very much concerned with the present and the building of a better society: it therefore also looks forward, and this is perhaps one of the reasons, why it is drawing more people.

The night of the parish social was almost drowned in rain! But despite the awful weather, the social went off very happily, and it was good to see a good crowd there, representative of all the separate parts of the parish. Another year, given better weather, the numbers should be even greater.

House Communions.

8-30 p.m. Wednesday, January 6th (Feast of Our Lord's Epiphany) at 2 Blackwater Close.

10-30 a.m. Wednesday, January 13th at 6 Devon Drive by invitation of Mrs. Valerie Garfoot.

10-30 a.m. Wednesday, January 27th at 1 Mallory Ave., by invitation of Mrs. Sheila Goldsmith.

Caversham Park Theatre.

Advance sales of tickets for "Cinderella"—to be staged at the Kenton Theatre, Henley from January 13th-16th are going very well.

This original work with the script, music and lyrics written by Caversham Park people, has been widely publicised by word of mouth. Tickets for the matinee on Saturday, January 16th are already sold out.

Performances start at 7-45 p.m. and tickets can be obtained from Ted Edwards, 1 Devon Drive, (Tel. Reading 475439).

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LIVELY DISCUSSION AT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Caversham and Mapledurham Church Councils came together for a special meeting on November 25th to discuss the report of the Diocesan Working Party on Christian Initiation. The Rector pointed out how the new Baptism service was preceded by a preface in which the clergy were instructed to make careful enquiries before a baptism regarding the Christian practices of the parents and how at the institution of incumbents the duty of clergy preparing parents for the baptism of their children is now clearly stated. The Rev. P. Atkinson and the Rev. F. Dawson then introduced the report and they summarised the arguments for and against the report's proposals. The Council then divided into four groups to consider questions sent down by the diocese, and when the Council came together again an extremely thoughtful discussion ensued. Several members expressed doubt about the questions in the revised Baptism service, feeling that they were too demanding. This in turn led on to a discussion regarding the nature of the gift in Baptism. There was general agreement about the importance of administering the Sacrament in such a way that it is plainly seen as a great act of the Church and not a private affair, and the value of pre-baptism visits by members of the laity was stressed. There was division of opinion about the advisability of having a Naming and Thanksgiving service for parents who are unable to accept the full commitment required in the Baptismal promises. There was also considerable division of

opinion about the wisdom of allowing unconfirmed children to receive Holy Communion from the age of about eight years. The Council felt that if the Working Party had taken two years to produce the report they themselves could not deal adequately with such a subject in one evening, and it is hoped there will be further opportunities to pursue the many important proposals in greater detail. The five questions submitted by the diocese are as follows:—

1. Should members of a congregation share in the preparation of those who seek Baptism for their children and of those who wish to be confirmed? How can they best do this?
2. If parents are unable to accept the full commitment required in the Baptismal promises, should a service of Naming and Thanksgiving be offered to them?
3. How may parents seeking Baptism for a child (and indeed the congregation as a whole) be helped to realise the significance of the sacrament and the need to see it as an act of the Church and not as a private ceremony?
4. Should unconfirmed children, especially those who for some years have been accustomed to attend a Parish Communion with their parents, be admitted to Holy Communion?
5. Should a service of commissioning or commitment be provided for those who have been confirmed at an early age?

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Photo: Workingham Times.

The Rev. Roger Packer with the Bishop of Oxford and the Churchwardens of Sandhurst, after his induction on November 10th.

Obituary

DOROTHY DAY

The sudden death of Dorothy Day on November 6th at the age of seventy-eight came as a great shock to her many friends in Caversham. With her sister to whom the Caversham Bridge extends sympathy she had lived in Highmoor Road since 1934, and through that time had been a devoted worshipper at St. Andrew's. Miss Day was at one time on the staff of Newtown School, later teaching at St. Stephen's Church of England School, and finally at Hemdean House. In addition to teaching in the week she was also for nearly twenty years in charge of the girls section of St. Andrew's Sunday school and regularly produced a Nativity play at Christmas.

Miss Day was at one time treasurer of St. Andrew's Fellowship and with her sister was accustomed to run the bookstall at the summer fete. She was secretary of the Bible Reading Fellowship at St. Andrew's, and had delivered the Caversham Bridge from the time this paper started. She was also closely associated with the work of the British Red Cross Society, acting as

transport organiser for the Disabled Club run by the Red Cross. A keen musician she had been a founder member of the Festival Chorus, only retiring four years ago. And this long list of activities did not stop her from being a regular visitor to many infirm and housebound people: she also was a reader to a number of blind persons. A most loyal friend and faithful Christian she will be missed by a great many people who owe much to her kindness over the years.

Miss Olivey, Headmistress of Hemdean House school writes—

"It was with great regret that we learned of the sudden death of Miss Day—Miss Teacher Day, as she became known to us to distinguish her from Miss 'Hockey' Day, her sister."

Upon her retirement from teaching in State schools Miss Day came to us at Hemdean House, where she taught the second form for some considerable time, the children benefitting greatly from her great teaching experience. It was a privilege to have her on the staff. Her kind and sympathetic handling, and her efficient and skilful tuition of the children under her care made her an invaluable colleague.

When at last she gave up regular teaching, she was always ready to come to the rescue when a member of the staff had fallen sick. I shall always remember her with affection and gratitude. A.O.



Miss Dorothy Day (right) with her sister in their home

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, JANUARY, 1971—SEVEN

Farewell to the Packers

St. Andrew's was crowded at Evensong on All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1st, when the Rev. Roger Packer preached his farewell sermon. Taking as his text "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Mr. Packer warned his congregation of the dangers of being rich. "We are rich" he said "in words, dogma, tradition, man power, buildings, ideas. Consequently ours isn't the kingdom of heaven". He went on to warn those present that God had been stripping his church through the 1960's and that his process would increase in the 1970's.

After the service the congregation gathered in the church hall and a motor mower and a cheque for £120 was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Packer in appreciation of this their work in Caversham during the previous five and half years.

On November 10th a party from Caversham travelled to Sandhurst for the induction of Mr. Packer as rector by the Bishop of Oxford.

Gosbrook Road Methodist News

On Wednesday, November 18th, at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, a sacred concert was given by the Burghfield and Mortimer Choral Society conducted by Mr. G. Prior. The choir started the programme with two Negro Spirituals, 'Listen to de Lambs' and 'Were you there'. Mr. John Arthurs then gave two solos on a saw. The main work in programme was Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise', in which the soloists were Jean Phillips, Kathleen Radbourn and Edward Howell. The accompanist was Mr. E. Baker. The proceeds from this concert were towards the purchase of 'Hymns and Songs'—the supplement to the Methodist Hymn Book—for the congregation at Gosbrook Road.

BOYS BRIGADE

A recruiting display was held at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church on Friday, November 20th. All companies of the Reading Battalion took part in the display consisting of team games, drill, physical training and camping. Following this a film was shot of work in the Boys Brigade. The evening was attended by par-

ents and friends.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

An evening meeting of the Gosbrook Road Women's Fellowship was held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Film slides were shown by Miss M. Kimberley and Mrs. Kimberley showing their journey across Canada. Coffee was served and a collection taken for Women's Missionary Work, and £5 was raised.

A joint meeting was held at Gosbrook Road Methodist Women's Fellowship when they were joined by St. John's Mothers' Union on November 10th. The speaker was Mr. C. Buck who gave a talk about the 'Shelter' organisation, a collection was taken and £3 was raised for this cause.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Home Missions week-night meeting for Caversham Methodist Church Gosbrook Road will be held this year on February 18th at 7-30 p.m. The speaker is Rev. John S. Stephens of Tadley Methodist Church. A warm welcome is extended to everyone. The meeting will be followed by a Bread and Cheese supper.

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9-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
11-00 a.m. Matins (Holy Communion 3rd Sunday).
12-15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
6-30 p.m. Evensong (Not 3rd Sunday).

St. John's

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

St. Andrew's

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6-30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11-00 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
6-30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays).
7-15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION. (4th Sunday. Matins).
6-30 p.m. Evensong (1st and 3rd Sundays).

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10-45 a.m. Morning Service.
6-30 p.m. Evening Service.

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

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6-30 p.m. Evening Service

Caversham

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

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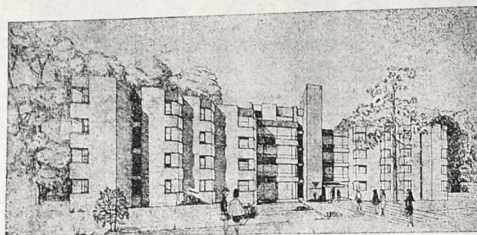
368 Quesbrook Road
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at

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WHEN IN OXFORD

A splendid modern residential club opens in Oxford in January. Run by the Y.W.C.A. this club for women and girls at 133 Woodstock Road, Oxford, should be of great use to many from Reading who wish for accommodation in Oxford. The club is only one mile from the centre of the city and rooms and flats are available at very modest prices. Further details can be obtained from the Warden.

Caversham
People
by
Roving Reporter

Congratulations to Linda Howard of Grove Road, on her engagement to Derek Medd of Bovingden Green. Linda, a member of the congregation of the Chapel on the Hill, is studying for her finals at Southampton University, while Derek is now doing computer programming at the United Friendly Insurance.

Another couple who have figured in our columns before are Linda Deal and Alan Eberst, married recently at Caxton Hall. Our young friends are living at Emmer Green and are, we understand, going to continue the very good work they do so enthusiastically for 'Shelter'. Our very best wishes to both of them.

And congratulations, too, to Brian Wells of Micklands Estate, Brian, a member of the Kidmore End football team, has recently become engaged to Susan Springfield, of Rugby, at present nursing at the Royal Berks. Hospital.

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Mr. P. H. Marsh
(West Caversham),
12, Wincroft Road,
Caversham, 471183.
Mrs. G. Thompson
(Mapledurham),
205, Upper Woodcote Road,
Caversham, 471328.

FROM THE
RECTOR
OF
SANDHURST

Thank you all very much for your most generous leaving present and the memorable send-off in St. Andrew's Hall on November 1st. Thank you too for the many cards and letters of good wishes which you sent to our new home.

The first week in Sandhurst, when we were technically on holiday, was one of hard work getting the Rectory in order, including the redecoration of four rooms. However, it was worth it. For on the night of the Induction, the house looked reasonably presentable and it was nice to see so many familiar faces in it. Helen seems to have taken everything in her stride and has settled very happily.

We hope that many of you will come and see us here. We will always be glad to have news of you. Some time next year we hope that a more formal visit from Caversham to Sandhurst can be arranged with a service in church and refreshments afterwards.

With best wishes and greetings to you all,
Roger and Jill Packer.

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10 YEARS AT MICKLANDS



Walton Adams.

Mrs. House in the secretary's office at Micklands School.

Mrs. Joy House, of 15 All Hallows Road, retired in November from the post of School Secretary at Micklands County Primary School. She and her husband, Bert, and 19-year-old daughter, Valerie, are moving to Newbury so that the family can be nearer Mr. House's place of work with the S.E.B.

One of Mr. Lane's first jobs as Headmaster of Micklands was to appoint a School Secretary. It needed 150 children for the school to qualify for a secretary. Towards the end of Mrs. House's 10 years at the school numbers topped 500.

As the school got larger—so Mrs. House's work increased. While the lower part of Caversham Park Village was being built there was a constant flow of new children arriving throughout each term.

In the early days Mrs. House's daughter, Valerie, was a pupil at the school. Now engaged to be married, Valerie is doing an accountancy apprenticeship at Heelas.

"I was very sorry to leave Micklands", said Mrs. House. "There was certainly no room for boredom. Every day was different, and it was a most interesting job."

The St. John's congregation will also miss the Houses. Joy has looked after the church linen for a number of years—and Valerie distributed "The Bridge" in the All Hallows Road area.

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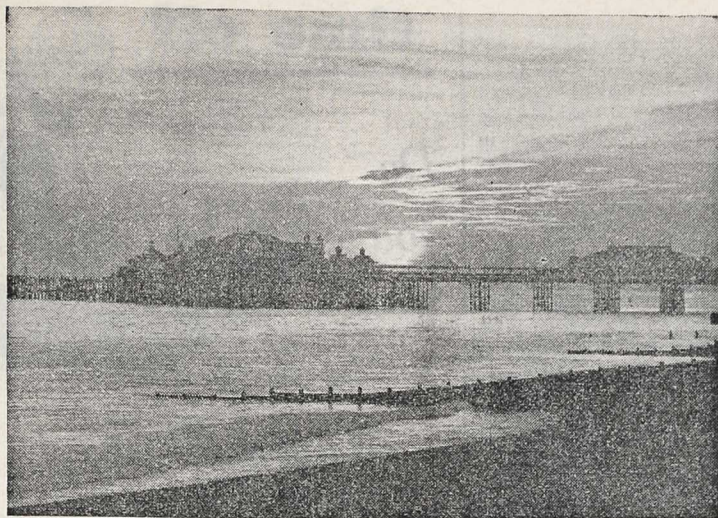
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It was Sunset. The Sky was Flecked With Little Woolly Clouds . .

NO TIME

by Olive Parker

IT was one of those days. The telephone had never stopped ringing. A tiresome letter in the post that had to be answered.

The bottom of the day came in the evening. There was a committee meeting that couldn't start till I got there. A husband held up in his office arrived for supper just as I was due to leave.

Then I found that my usual lift to the meeting had folded up on me. I had to choose between two bus journeys or a cross-suburban walk. I chose the walk and tried to make it a jog-trot. It was a hot evening.

I don't want to go on about my day. We all have them. But not everybody gets as cross as I did. Everything, I muttered as I puffed along, goes wrong for me.

There weren't many people about. Outside the library stood, right in my path, a psychedelic figure. Purple flared pants. A very tight pullover leaving an unseemly gap round the midriff. Bare feet, not unexpectedly grubby.

That's all I needed. Hippies. Silly young man standing stock-still in my way. If I'd time, I'd give him a few crisp words about littering up the public highway.

The mass of orange hair was pointing

skywards. It came down and seemed to contort curiously. He must be smiling under that thatch.

"Look", he said, waving an arm to heaven, "isn't it lovely?"

The sheer surprise stopped my feet and sent my head backwards. It was sunset. The sky was flecked with little woolly clouds touched into dainty pink on an egg-shell blue base. Opposite the library the road fell away towards the city. Dramatic storm clouds gathered like great purple castles. Rows of humble roofs had become gleaming lines of magic.

I remembered that, less than a month before, I had sat on sheep-cropped grass in the Hebrides, gazing with rapt attention at such a display until it faded into the darkling sea. Then I had time to spare for beauty. Time, I looked at my watch. The whole encounter had only taken two minutes.

"Thank you", I said to the orange hair.

"Nice to share it with somebody". He wandered vaguely off to his mysterious life.

"Did you see the sunset?" I said as I sank breathless into the chair. "Can we have the minutes of the last meeting?"

letter FROM AUSTRALIA

BY DOROTHY O'NEILL

One day in 1957 a group of people met with their priest to try to find help for themselves and others. Each was recovering from mental illness and their aim was to found a self-help group.

They used as a basis for their discussion a pamphlet describing "Recovery Inc", an American organisation for helping the maladjusted. This gave them ideas and practical suggestions for starting their own group, to which they added the particular emphasis that God as Supreme Healer must be central in their work.

This was the beginning of the Recovery movement in Australia. Today there are 100 groups operating, and every day more and more people with problems of inadequacy and maladjustment are finding understanding and help through Recovery groups.

The movement is vigorous and growing. Soon it will have international status, and you may find a Recovery Group starting up in your own neighbourhood in the non-too-distant future.

Self Help

Recovery is a matter of self-help and not self-pity. It is the only organisation of its kind in the world which is spiritually orientated. Through the group meetings people learn to be

honest with themselves, honest with each other and honest with God. They also learn how to be quiet and receive His guidance.

A woman who was afraid of dogs and stayed at home all day, was persuaded to attend a Recovery Group. She was helped there to see that she was afraid of herself, and not of dogs, and she began to improve.

Another woman was a compulsive eater. The habit became so tyrannical that it affected her mental well-being and upset her relationship with her family. In Recovery she found a group of people who understood her problem and convinced her that the solution to it largely lay with her.

RECOVERY GROUPS

There are 16 Recovery Groups in and around Adelaide where I live, and I attended one of these groups as an observer.

Without hesitation I would say that the quality of outgoing concern, compassion and sheer caring that motivated that group was unique. Here was Christianity in action.

The half-a-dozen people there had all suffered mental illness, and this fact created a bond of understanding. Each was pledged to help the other to recover. The basis of informal discussion of problems within the group was frankness, mutual respect of confidence, and the determination to face up to oneself. This demanded courage and truth, both essential ingredients in the Recovery Programme.

Shattering

Perhaps as you read this you almost unconsciously regard the maladjusted as 'them'. A quick glance at Recovery's handbook can be shattering to one's complacency. For instance, could it be that you give "too much importance to yourself and your feelings . . . ? Have you grown "inattentive to God's presence . . . God's providence and God's Will . . . ? Or could it be that you have "suppressed certain feelings against the better judgment of conscience or sound advice? . . ."

Recovery's work is regarded highly by Dr. Neville Yeomans of Sydney, co-ordinator of Community Mental Health Services in New South Wales.

"Recovery is by far the best movement of its kind in the world today", says Dr. Yeomans emphatically.

People I've known

by R. C. R. Adkins

A BURGLAR

The clock slowly chimed seven.

I was puzzled, the chimes seemed somehow muffled and they did not come from the usual place—my study mantelpiece, and then I understood, they were coming from the overcoat pocket of my visitor.

"Put that clock back", I said.

My visitor hesitated but I was between him and the door. Sheepishly he put his hand in his pocket, brought out my clock and put it back on the mantelpiece.

He had come to see me a few minutes before with a hard luck story of needing money to pay his fare to a place where, according to him, a good job was waiting. While I was listening to all this the phone rang and I had gone into the hall to answer it. Fortunately, it had been a very quick call—confirming the time for a Baptism otherwise, I felt sure, my visitor would have made good his escape—with my clock.

"Look", I said, "that story you told me was all lies, you are nothing but a burglar, stealing things from people". I paused for a moment and then added, "I think that I should call the police".



"Please, sir, don't do that. I am sorry, really sorry but, you know, you parsons are always going on how important time is" — he hesitated and then added, rather sanctimoniously, "how little time we have before we meet God", and then, thinking that had gone down well with me, murmured, "so you see, sir, I couldn't help wanting the clock".

"I hope you are sorry", I said, "but the important thing is to say this to God". I looked at him, "we will kneel down now and ask God's forgiveness".

He got down on his knees and I asked God to forgive us both our sins and to keep us in His way.

I remained on my knees with my hands over my face.

After a few moments I heard him get up and slowly go out of the room. I did not move, he could have helped himself to anything on the way out but somehow I felt he wouldn't.

I was right, nothing was taken but something was left. A half crown was lying on the floor. I put it in the collection plate the following Sunday, a coin equal to thirty pieces of copper and wondered whether he had thought of that much greater betrayal of friendship which worked out—at thirty pieces of silver.

THE WORLD WITHIN US

This month a psychiatrist starts a new Compass series by writing about the . . .

NERVOUS BREAKDOWN



"NERVOUS Breakdown"! What is it about these two words that makes people so alarmed or so ashamed? They are words that are scarcely mentioned, except in gossip about other people. The person who has had one often lives in dread that employers or friends will find out the true nature of the illness—that the 'period of observation' was really for 'nerves'. To have a disordered appendix is respectable, to have disordered thoughts and emotions is not.

It is strange that people are prepared, and almost proud, to admit that they were in a coma during a certain illness—that they completely lost control of their mental faculties—but are terrified of admitting to a period of confusion, which to a greater or lesser degree is all that a "nervous breakdown" is. A confusion which interferes with normal relationships with people and environment.

No doubt some of our attitude to mental illness is part of our inheritance. It has always been the least understood disturbance of bodily function, and as such is easily interpreted in superstitious terms, including those of demonic possession. Witchcraft and sorcery are part of the tradition, only to be replaced in the last century by Bedlam and straight-jackets.

It is most unfortunate that these pictures still exist in many peoples minds, for the whole field of nervous illness has been transformed by modern drugs and other treatments. Return to a full and normal life is expected, and very often achieved.

This of course means that we must be prepared to accept back into society, without hesitation, those who have been ill. Shame and fear are emotions that they should not have to bear. This can only happen if society learns to accept any form of illness as one of those hazards that could befall anyone. Acceptance back, unqualified acceptance, is a very important part of treatment, but one which is beyond the means of the psychiatrist to arrange.

Perhaps the church, and those of us who are members of it, could join in trying to bring people's views of mental illness up to date. Perhaps the church can continue to accept those who have been ill, and so mediate something of the love of God to the world. Perhaps by mediating that Love and Acceptance, we may be able to reduce the incidence of mental illness, which so often has rejection as one of the things that causes it.

This is a

compass

Newspaper

Does YOUR Church want one?

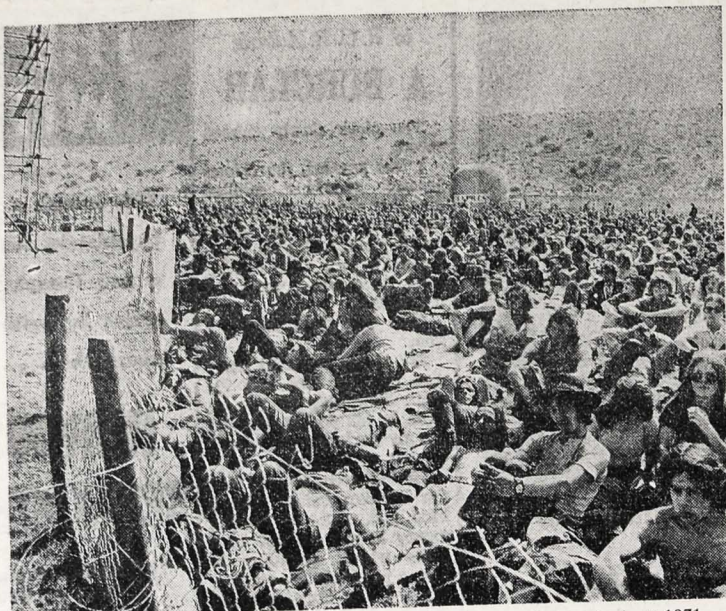


Write to: Compass Newspapers, 319 Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham 4.

Thousands of
Fans Flock to
the Isle of
Wight Pop
Festival—
August 1970.

Look around the Youth Scene

by David Collyer



1970 is now history so let's have a look at 1971. Pop Festival organisers say we've seen the last of the large scale Isle of Wight type gathering—but I doubt records, clothes, and magazines. It will complain about that this will prove true.

"Discos" are on the decline they say, but the threat has not been taken really seriously by the promoters who still play to packed houses.

In music the field will still be divided, progressive v. rock, folk v. pop, but it seems a safe bet that jazz will increase in popularity as new forms of "live" performance are sought after. One night stands have, in the main, gone from our theatres and cinemas, but there is still a demand for artists to meet their young public face to face. The difficulty is to find out where the right place is—to be "where it is happening".

Unfortunately my hottest prediction for 1971 is that youth clubs and movements will continue to decline because this is the last place where it will "happen". You can prove me wrong in Youth Circles by what you do and that would be a pleasure. But while too much complacency surrounds what we did and have done over the past few years, the present generation will be left cold.

No Competition

Commercial care for young people will grow, many youth leaders will criticise its explanations, its cost, its depravity, very few will recognise its importance to young people and work within it, or along side it. As one manager put it to me—"It's just as well with all my rivals that I don't feel any competition from youth organisations and the like".

Why not?

What is it that prevents well meaning people from being relevant—there's no gimmickery in moving with fashions. Fortunately the midi or maxi are winning their own dress battles. Predictably this change from the mini is being resisted by the middle-aged—the same group who previously deplored the mini.

1971 will continue the inconsistencies of the adult generation. It will publicly resist pop culture yet buy the records, clothes and magazines. It will complain about long hair and deplore skinheads, Hells Angels, students, and Yippies, but it won't do anything—except apportion the blame elsewhere: or claim any praise.

In fact 1971 will be very much like 1970 unless you're young and then it will be unlike any other year. You'll know your own age, by how you're looking at it, by now.

Predictions for 1971

- More Massive Pop Concerts.
- Midi and Maxi take control.
- Jazz grows in popularity.
- Youth Clubs will decline.
- Youth Leaders will object.
- Adults will continue to be inconsistent.
- Leeds will win the League and Manchester United the Cup.
- Voluntary Service by Young people will continue to grow.
- World pollution and population will continue to grow.
- You and I will be less significant.

time off

Do
you
want
to be a



Freelance Writer?

by MARIE SPINKS

Freelance writing can give you a great deal of pleasure and provide some welcome extra money. It is hard, competitive work and has to be approached with a professional attitude. A wide field is covered, and you must find out what particular type of writing you can do well. To be considered are short stories, feature articles, children's stories, poems, talks for radio, or even a full length novel. The biggest demand is for romantic fiction, and women's magazines publish hundreds of boy-meets-girl stories. But these are more realistic than formerly, and the characters must be convincing—jump right off the page as human beings. 'Cardboard characters', such as the prim schoolmistresses, the effeminate curate and comic charlatans don't stand a chance with today's readers. If you write a science fiction story your science must be accurate, or at least possible as suggested by the most up-to-date discoveries. You can often get good ideas for stories just by listening to people discussing their problems, or by some of the news items in the daily papers. You must have the ability to write lively, clear English and have a concern for the correct use of words. The main tools of your trade are people and words.

For certain radio programmes, notably 'Woman's Hour' these are written in a chatty, friendly style and are often about some unusual personal experience. The BBC publish their own book, 'Writing for the BBC' which can be ordered from any bookshop.

Some writers develop into real craftsmen in the writing of books for children. A schoolmistress, Violet Bibby, has just had two books published, and a secretary, Irene Swarbrick, will soon have the pleasure of seeing her first book in print.

Marie Spinks a regular contributor to Compass is Tutor in Craft of Writing to G.L.C. and Croydon Adult Education Institutes.

Many beginners attend classes in their subject, available at Adult Education Centres all over the country. The tutor is usually an experienced, practising writer and fees are very low. Nobody can teach anyone to write—only bring out writing ability if present.

Feature articles are easier to sell than stories. These can be on any subject but you must know what you are talking about, and a deal of research is frequently necessary. Articles on some aspect of your job could be offered to the appropriate trade or professional journal. Hobbies, such as camping, motor-ing, gardening, music or antique-collecting all have magazines devoted to their needs. Articles must contain news. News in this sense has nothing to do with headlines in the papers. It means telling readers facts they don't already know. . . .

When you have written something you think stands a chance of publication, you should study 'The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook' to find possible outlets and get an idea of what editors want. This book can be seen in the reference section of any Library. Having settled on certain periodicals, it is then necessary to get several copies of these to ascertain style and length of contributions required. You will probably have to alter your work quite a lot to bring it in line.

The ability to write poetry is more widespread than realised and a lot of publications will take a poem. Unfortunately, the competition is exceptionally fierce, but a real poet just keeps on trying. Short items are always wanted

on your efforts. The famous, including George Bernard Shaw, collected mounds of rejection slips when they were new writers. Above all, you must be your own severest critic. Writing isn't a craft for the smug and easily satisfied.

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BREAKAWAY 1971

Happy New Year, everybody! We always reckon to make some change or other on this page in January each year. Nobody can ever accuse US of being diehards or stick-in-the-muds! This year we're going to be JUNIOR COMPASS again, and we're going to have these columns to ourselves. Write and tell us if you approve, or not.

A Party Trick

Challenge your friends to balance a playing card on its edge. Of course they won't be able to do it. While they are busy trying, pick up a card yourself. Hold it in the palm of your hand, pressing the ends so that the card bends slightly. You'll find you can stand your card on the curved edge. (You could try this trick on your family, too!)

DID YOU KNOW?

The first New Year festival that we know about was held in the year 713 before the birth of Jesus. The festival was organised by a man named Numá, and was held in honour of the Roman god Janus, who was said to have two faces. It was from Janus that we got the name of January for the first month of the year.

JUNIOR COMPASS GETS A SLATING

Remember the picture of 'George' in last September's issue of YOUNG COMPASS? His brother Tom has written to give us a real ticking off. Here's part of his letter. 'What fun it was to see my picture in YOUNG COMPASS! But someone has made a mistake. My name isn't 'George', it's 'Tom'. George is my brother, and people say he looks like me, so I suppose that accounts for the mix up. Actually, George used to go to Church (he's a ventriloquist dummy, too, like me), but since I started going, he's dropped off. He's older than me, and Mr. Tunncliffe says he's old enough to make up his own mind. I quite like going to Church. I meet quite a lot of friends there and we have some interesting talks, and sometimes a good laugh as well. I like getting letters, by the way, so if you want to write, drop me a line addressed to 'TOM', c/o Junior Compass. I'm interested in football and cycling, and like quite a lot of other things, as well as the Bible and Church. Love from TOM.'

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OUR GRAN

Our gran had lots of sayings she was always trotting out—quite sensible ones some of them were, too. Our Gran had no use for people who couldn't be bothered about right and wrong, and good and bad—or about looking clean and tidy, or about 'being civil', as she always called it. If we said 'I don't care', our Gran always said 'Don't Care was hanged'.

'Two wrongs don't make a right' was another of our Gran's favourite sayings. And, come to think of it, they don't do they?



The
FIRLAND SAGA
by
Canon Norman S. Power

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A Story worth reading

If you enjoy a really exciting story, don't miss reading *The Firland Saga* by Canon Norman S. Power. Richard, the hero, is ten years old and has always believed that he was the miller's son in the land of Borea in AD 475. Then suddenly he discovers he's a king in exile from Firland. Many of his schoolfriends—all of them orphans like himself—also turn out to be exiles from Firland, and one of them, Hilda, discovers that she is really a princess. They all decide that they must prepare themselves to invade Firland and free it from the wicked Queen Ivis, who rules there. Evil monsters, half men and half beasts, called Yelgs and Ergs, now occupy the land. To say more would spoil the story, but there's an Evil Glass Eye, and a wizard, and a terrifically exciting battle. The book is published by Halmar Publicity Services and costs only 6/-.

DON'T FORGET...

Write and let us know what you think of JUNIOR COMPASS. Give your age, too!

What about this?

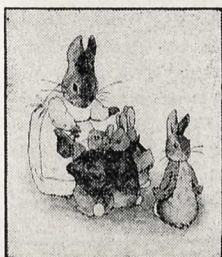
In the year 1571 William Shakespeare was alive. In 1671 Colley Cibber was born. He became a famous actor in London. In 1771 Sir Walter Scott the well-known novelist, was born. In 1871 Vladimir Ilyich Ulanov Lenin, the famous Russian revolutionary, was one year old.

Perhaps in 1971 *Junior Compass* has got a reader who will one day become famous! Maybe it could be YOU!



URGENT MESSAGE

Don't forget to put out crumbs for the birds if the weather is bad this month and next. And if there's ice about, put out a bowl of water for them, and keep it free from ice.



Peter Rabbit and Family

AT the turn of last century a small boy in Wands-worth received a letter from a lady to whom his mother had been governess. To his delight, he found it to be in the form of a short story illustrated with amusing sketches of rabbits.

The lady's name was Beatrix Potter and this letter was later to become the basis of her first book—'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. From this apparently casual beginning was to spring a series of little tales familiar to every boy and girl in this country and beyond.

The amazing story of Beatrix Potter

by
JOY TODD

Beatrix Potter was born in London on 6th July, 1866. Her parents were wealthy and her childhood was confined to the limits of their Victorian household, either at 2 Bolton Gardens in London, or in Scotland or the Lake District.



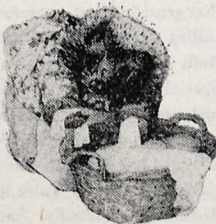
Two Bad Mice

Much of her time was spent alone, so quietly as to be almost overlooked, but it was by no means wasted. She learnt to sketch and passed many hours in the South Kensington Museums making detailed drawings of the exhibits. Whilst out of London she was keenly interested in wild life and the countryside and made a lasting friend in Canon Rawnsley, Vicar of Wray near Windermere.

He it was who encouraged her to make up her first little book—'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. After at first rejecting it, Frederick Warne and Co. published the book and subsequently some thirty more stories. All of these portrayed people, places and most of all, animals familiar to her and to her readers in their everyday lives.

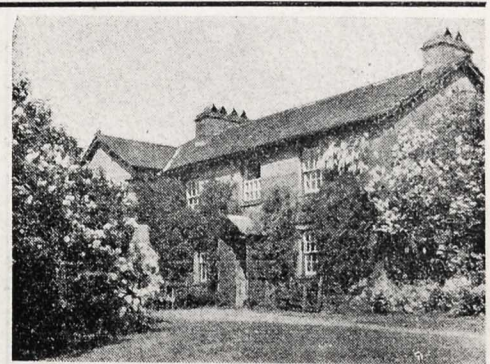
Such lovable characters as Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-Duck and Squirrel Nutkin are all the more realistic because they are modelled on real animals. A pet hedgehog, a duck from the farmyard and squirrels at Milford Hall in Suffolk!

Beatrix Potter married, at the age of forty-seven, Mr. William Heelis, a lawyer who handled her affairs. Eight years before she had amazed her family and friends by buying Hill Top Farm at Sawrey near Lake Windermere.



Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle

She took an active interest in the farm, spending as much of her time as possible there and gradually



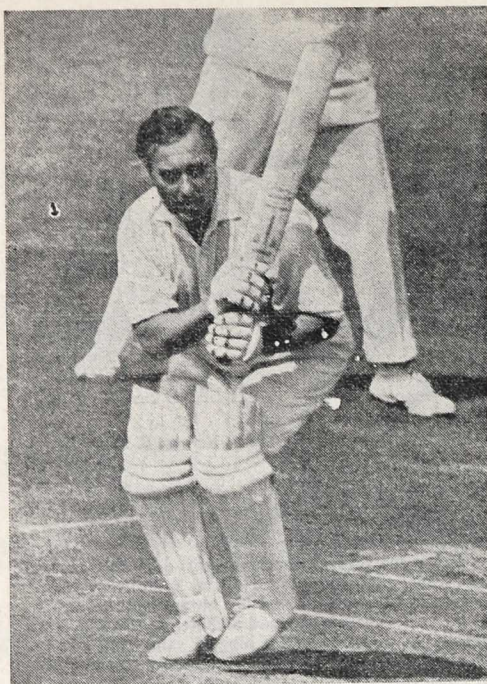
Hill Top Farm near Lake Windermere.

acquiring most of the village.

After her marriage the farm became her permanent home. She loved the country and country folk and was an expert sheep farmer. A great desire was to preserve the countryside and, to this end, she helped the National Trust to purchase much of the land in the Lake District.

Twenty seven years ago, in December 1943, at the age of 77, this grand old lady

died. The first thirty-five years of her life had passed entirely unnoticed but today her name is a household word and she left two great legacies to every child—A series of timeless little books of such charm that their fascination has extended to many countries and the opportunity to enjoy much of England's loveliest unspoiled countryside together with her own beloved Hill Top Farm!



Denis Compton in typical action

TREMOL TREATMENT

for relief from the effects of PSORIASIS.

- PSORIASIS forms a white lustrous scale on a reddened area of skin. Both the scale and skin are always dry unless broken or brought away by too much scratching or combing. In most cases the reddened skin is of normal temperature and the scale thick and raised on the skin, especially on the scalp, elbows and knees. Where the skin is of a finer texture, as on the body, scaling takes place as thin flakes or a light powder.
- PSORIASIS may be hereditary, may occur with puberty, may follow injury, exposure, shock or worry, or may be due to faulty nutrition and faulty elimination. It may also be persistent and recurring and sufferers often despair of ever having a clear and healthy skin.
- UNDER the Tremol system your own treatment is specially prepared for you to suit your individual needs. You apply the treatment in the privacy of your own home without any interference with your work or pleasure. Sufferers in all walks of life have applied Tremol Treatment in this way with gratifying success. Why not you?
- Think what a healthy skin means to you. No unsightly scale, no distressing patches of redness, no irritation and freedom from embarrassing anxiety when you are at work or with your friends. With a healthy skin you can work with pleasure, you can join freely in sports, recreation and social activities, you can dress with pride and share the freedom and happiness of holidays. A new life is opened out to you.

Here is the opportunity you have sought. Write today, enclosing 1/- in stamps for Brochure and full particulars of Tremol Treatment. Address your letter to—
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH LTD.,
Enquiry Department 6A,
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Don't throw
both away for want
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Buy a new Harris.



The paint brush with a name to its handle
GACIN

Summer suns are glowing

BY NORMAN POWER



With the M.C.C. in Australia Norman Power looks over his shoulder at some of the heroes of the past.

SOMETIMES I picture celestial debates on planetary achievements. I imagine some ex-citizen of Alpha Centauri (Planet X) making his points about the drawbacks of earth . . . pollution . . . atomic horrors . . . nerve gas. I have my reply The Boat Race, Wimbledon, the Cup Final, Hastings Chess Tournament and . . . Test Matches in Australia, under that blazing sun, to thaw our wintry hearts.

There are some things we do well, things that give a sort of innocent joy that is unbeatable. I pity folk who have no interest in any sport—they do miss so much.

The Australian Tour brings in a flood of memories. "Run along to Shepherd's my Dad used to say at breakfast, "and see if they have 'Test Match Special'." It was, if I recall, a 1d. We had no radio in the 'twenties" and I used to trot over the snow, along Wretham Road, to the little Post Office in Soho Road where the kindly Shepherds had a copy kept for us. On the way back I used to glance at the precious sheet. There were the dear familiar names, names to read with reverence, for I was brought up to reverence Bishops and First Class Cricketers to a degree close to idolatry. I've never had any difficulty in calling Bishops "My Lord" (though I feel there has only been one person who should really be called 'Your Grace') and when I meet First Class Cricketers today I tend to stammer and become a child again!

Yes, there on the sheet they were. Hobbs, Sutcliffe, Hammond, and Maurice Tate. We followed their Odyssey with breathless partisanship. Later memories are poignant too. The unhappiness of the Bodyline Tour, the humiliation of Hammonds Post War "Good Will" Tour that the Aussies took so deadly seriously. The slow recovery of English Cricket until Typhoon Tyson swept away the giants of the antipodes. How we sweated

with Freddie Brown (listening now, ball by ball, at 7 a.m. on freezing mornings) and agonised with Dennis Compton. I can still feel the pain in his knee!

I know nothing about Dennis Compton as a person (though I treasure one charming letter from him) possibly he would despise everything I believe in and stand for. But he had a strange effect on me, and I believe on others. He had a unique gift for making you identify with him, to be there with him as he faced Lindwall, probably with his knee strapped up and a bandage round his head. You felt he was human, scared, fallible and yet also gallant and brilliant. Surely the most exciting of cricketers! There were giants—but thank heavens we've still got them with us.

Isn't Colin Cowdrey too nice a chap to be left out there without us rooting for him? Isn't he a bit vulnerable and edgy too, till he gets set? And don't we want the gallant Basil D'Oliveira to do well, as much as ever we did Duleppsinjhi?

Once you've been bitten by the bug you'll always fall under the spell of a Test Match fought out in the summer heat of Australia while we shiver in a murky English winter.

LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

A lively look at the TV Scene

Whatever happened to Waggon Train?

Unless the keen edge of memory has become blunted by the passing years, TV horse-operas are not what they used to be. And for this we must blame—or praise, depending upon your point of view—the redoubtable Lord Hill, one-time boss of ITV. Around about 1965 the good radio doctor prescribed a curb on our consumption of American imports. Not, apparently, from any economic motive, but because he felt the amount of violence we were ingesting was too much for our delicate stomachs.



The resulting abstinence and the loss of a number of cops and robbers series may have been to our benefit—personally I doubt it. But, in the rash of mollycoddling, a number of Westerns disappeared from the small screen.

A couple which spring to mind are *Gunsmoke*, with that great hunk of guntotin' lawman Matt Dillon and his stiffleg deputy Chester, and also the *Wyatt Earp* series. Both Dillon and Earp—a deadshot with the Buntline Special you will recall—were firmly on the side of 'law and order' and a social historian might want to make something out of that! Somewhere along the Mason-Dixon Line we lost *Rawhide* too, but I suppose Gil Favor and Rowdy Yates had to get the 'beeves' to their destination eventually. And whatever became of *Waggon Train*?

The current crop of Westerns on ITV consists largely of old films made originally for the big screen. Naturally the quality varies because there aren't all that



number of cine colour Western films available, and, with the voracious appetite of TV, they seem to be scraping the barrel already.

BBC does offer a couple of genuine TV series. On BBC-2 there is *High Chapparral* and on the popular channel *The Virginian*, which, I am told, will probably go on for at least another two years more.

Both series are excellent viewing, but, to me, with the smell of cordite still reminiscent in the nostrils and the firm belief that no Western should lack its full quota of dust-biting Redskins, they are not true Westerns within the meaning of the Act. In the current Western-costume-dramas, tears flow almost as fast as bullets whine. And what used to be simple, exciting escapism now has overtones of social consciousness. Attempts at emotional realism mixed up with the gunplay don't seem to suit the style at all well and I live in fear that any moment now we shall be faced with *Cathy Come Home in the West*!

... END SMILE

