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NATIONAL COMPASS, DECEMBER, 1971—ONE

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THE GREAT... BIG MISTAKE

Big things demand and command attention. A good big 'un is always better than a good little 'un, they say in the sporting world. The man with the big voice can make himself heard. Big nations can make little nations quail: especially if they wave the big stick.

On every hand politicians lure us towards the big pay packet, which will enable us to buy the big telly, the big house, the big car. If the nation can establish its bigness, we shall, we are told, be powerful—Big Brother with a Big Voice in world affairs.

In the field of international politics bigness really comes into its own. The great nations, the 'Great Powers' as they are often significantly called, are usually those who have the big battalions, the big purse, the big resources—who can overwhelm others by sheer strength. And many of those who call on Britain to be Great again are really longing for those arrogant, insensitive pulse-quickening days when

Chris Brodan
calling



Britannia ruled the waves, when a British gun boat sent to a trouble spot would prove the point and when our Empire poured wealth and reflected glory onto our country.

Were we great then—or just big? Is big the same as great?

It's easy for nations or individuals to confuse the two, to allow the lust for power, importance and prosperity to shut out sensitivity, compassion and justice, which are the essential ingredients of greatness. When that happens as it has so often in history, a nation loses soul and any claim to greatness.

It occurs to me that the greatness of Jesus—the greatest to so many—lies much in His 'little-ness' and His refusal to be Mr. Big.

Today there are many calling us to be big. There are few calling us to greatness.

CHURCH IN ACTION!



Canon Leo McCartie, Administrator of St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham, heard that a man had died from cold and malnutrition in a nearby sub-way. That shocked him into action. The result is the establishment of a free Night Shelter for homeless men in the crypt of his cathedral.

Concern with their problems

The Canon formed an ecumenical management committee with friends from Christian Aid and Toc H, raised money from the Cad-

bury Trust, the local authority and private donations, and appointed a full-time warden, Jim Reid, who not only runs the Shelter, which was opened on 1st May, but concerns himself with the men's problems during the day. He doesn't get much sleep.

The doors open each night at 10.30. A queue forms early on the cathedral steps for there are only thirty places for the night in the crypt. Others, sadly, have to be turned away after they have been given a cup of soup and a round of bread. Those who have obtained a place for the night have their bread,

NIGHT SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

soup and mugs of tea sitting round tables, talking to each other and to the helpers for the evening.

Giving a sense of belonging

The helpers are all volunteers. They come from a wide variety of backgrounds: several are university students. Some stay the whole night, ready to serve breakfast before the men leave at eight o'clock. These helpers are vital to the enterprise, not only to do practical jobs, but also to give a sense of belonging and value to men who spend so much time in rootless wandering.

D/EX 1758/8/12

letters

SPIRITUALIST SEANCES

Sir,

I read with interest your 'Personal Posers' column in the October issue of 'Compass' concerning demon possession and the seance.

During the winter of 1968/69 my wife and I had an extremely frightening spiritual experience, brought about by our involvement in seances using a type of ouija board. We found our lives to be dominated by forces beyond our control and came nigh unto complete insanity or suicide.

However, by the grace of God, we were led to a minister who loves the Lord Jesus Christ. He told us of the powers of Christ, the same today as ever.

We knelt down, confessed our sinful condition and asked forgiveness in Jesus name. We slept soundly that night after many weeks with hardly any sleep at all. To describe fully the nature of our torments whilst under the influence of this spiritual power would be impossible in so short a letter, but they were very satanic and very real. We now thank God for the newness of life we have found in Jesus Christ and trust the Lord will use us to help others who find themselves involved in similar situations.

JOHN A. COCKERILL,
Sedgley, Nr. Dudley,
Staffs.

BELIEF IN AFTER-LIFE

Sir,

I was surprised at the dog in the manger attitude shown in your reply to J.D. of Oxford, in the Personal Posers column of the October edition of Compass.

Of my Orthodox Church-going friends, by far the greater percentage do not believe in an after-life and those who do have rather strange notions of harps and cherubs and clarion calls for the chosen few depending on their sect.

I would have thought that the philosophy and teaching of spiritualism would have been of enormous benefit. J.D. would then realise that her husband in

spirit is probably closer to her in death than in life and is no doubt very proud of the way she has coped.

I thank God each day for my Spiritualism which I came to know four years ago, not as a result of bereavement but through chronic ill health. I have been disabled with arthritis since a teenager. I now know that the Healing Ministry of Jesus which was passed on to the disciples lives on today.

Spiritualism is such a practical philosophy.

Mrs. PAULINE PAGE,
Moseley, Birmingham.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Sir,

I was very interested in your answer 'Is the Bible True?' (National Compass, September, 1971).

One would imagine that the Jews would not have had the courage to arrest Jesus and sentence Him to death, knowing He had performed miracles including raising people from the dead, even if they did believe his power was from Satan.

Neither would those who actually nailed Him to the Cross have had the courage to carry on with the task after seeing Jesus replace the ear which Peter had smitten off with his sword.

Strange that such an event as the Resurrection of Christ should not be recorded in history although many other events of that period are dated and recorded.

We know therefore that these things 'can't possibly be true'. Are we therefore to accept the story of Christ as poetic truth?

Yet if we have enough faith to accept the 'impossible' story of Jesus Christ, then surely by that same faith we can accept the Bible as literal truth throughout. Adam and Eve, the Creation, Noah's Ark, in fact, THE LOT!

If a Christian is allowed to accept the story of the Creation as poetic truth, why then should he not also accept the story of Christ as poetic truth? In human terms both are equally impossible.

Looking forward to your answer.

Raymond C. Clark,
Twerton, Bath.

Sir,

I was surprised to read your reply to 'Is the Bible True?' I do a little reading of the Bible myself and I do most thoroughly believe the description of creation, which is of course about Adam and Eve.

You as clergymen, must surely know that the prophecy at Genesis 3: 15 ties in with Rev. 20 v 2. It is of course about "the serpent" whom, I'm sure you will agree, is Satan the Devil.

Perhaps you would be Christian enough to explain a little more fully the explanation you have given. I feel that as the clergy are saying they represent God, then they have a duty to make it clear to people the Bible's truths. They are in actual fact obligated to do so, would you not agree.

Awaiting your reply.

S. D. Small,
Southampton.

Sir,

In answer to the question raised by J.P., Middlesex, 'Is the Bible True?' your views are really amazing. You say that factually the Bible account of Adam and Eve is not accurate. If you discount this the very first of God's own records to us about mankind, then the theory of God's inaccuracy can be applied to all His teachings. Every divine revelation is indeed accurate and dare not be questioned. God's word has NO similarity to the writings of mere men in poetical language. A Christian preacher was once asked: 'Do you really believe that a whale swallowed Jonah?' 'Oh yes', came the reply, 'and if God had said that Jonah swallowed the whale I could just as easily accept it. This is God—honouring faith, and we have this either completely or not at all.'

Mrs. A. L. Ponsford,
Thornhill, Southampton.

THE EDITOR REPLIES:

It is too easily assumed that the Bible is an "either or" book. Either it's all fact and the word of God, or it's all fiction. The point we have been trying to make is that it is not necessary for everything to be fact for it to be true. So a clergyman who has doubts about the factual truth of God—who is spirit—walking in the garden in the cool of the day—is not thereby opposing the truth of the Bible. Truth is not a mechanical thing. It is something that is experienced. Known in the heart. That is the test of truth—at least the only valid test. Faith is not 'believing the impossible' as Mr. Clark suggests—it is going further than reason alone will take us—but not abandoning reason at the very outset. There is a reasonable basis for believing in the Resurrection even though the event cannot be 'proved' factually. There is no reasonable basis for believing in the story of Adam and Eve as fact—and therein lies the difference.

PERSONAL POSERS



My family won't go to church

I go to church regularly and my husband and grown-up son are quite happy for me to go. In a way I think they see me as the family "rep" with the world of religion. But I care about what I believe and I want my family to share it. However at the moment I feel so isolated that I don't know what to do about the whole thing.

L.J.C., Swindon.

Many wives face the same difficult situation and often their families' attitude is the strange one you describe. I would hope that the feeling of isolation is made less by the family atmosphere of the congregation you belong to and that your priest or minister and other members understand and provide support.

You ought not to try to angle or catch your husband, and even less your son, into coming to church. As with everyone they must choose on the basis of what they see.

And what they see will be how much you care about what you believe, as you put it. This must show itself naturally and without special strain. You can build up your faith by using as much as possible of what your church provides, without putting church before home. Your influence will then be real and, in God's way, effective.

Have you got a problem?

Readers are invited to write to "Personal Posers".

Our special team of experts at 319, Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4, will do their best to tackle your queries.

My friend spurns me

A very good friend of mine recently lost her husband. I helped her in many ways then, and she seemed very grateful. But now she has changed, and is either rude or ignores me when I meet her. I cannot understand this, and do not know what to do for the best. Shall I ignore her, as her attitude only upsets me

V.A.M., Ipswich.

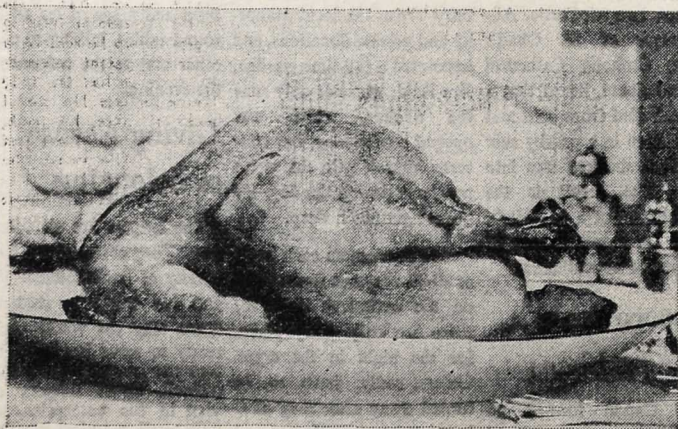
I'm sure it upsets you, but it may be of some help to you to know that this is quite a common reaction to bereavement. A lot of bitterness and resentment can be caused between members of a family or friends over things which are said during such a period.

Your friend has had a great shock, and it is difficult for her to function normally, or behave in her old characteristic way. This is a time for understanding on your part.

Try not to take what she says as a personal slight, and don't go out of your way to ignore her. Just act in a friendly manner, and in time—although this may be considerable—your relationship should return to its old state.



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KALEIDOSCOPE



UTOPIA — 1858 STYLE

The following instructions to clerical staff in 1858 were found in the demolition rubble of an old building in Lichfield, Staffs. The staff were apparently about to enjoy benefits conferred by some new legislation and the employers seemed determined to leave no doubt in their minds of the great advantages they were about to enjoy.

- The document reads:
1. Godliness, Cleanliness and Punctuality are the necessities of a good business.
 2. This firm has reduced the hours of work and the clerical staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.
 3. Daily prayers will be held each morning in the main office. The clerical staff will be present.
 4. Clothing must be of a sober nature. The clerical staff will not desport themselves in raiment of bright colours.
 5. Overshoes and topcoats may not be worn in the office but neck scarves and headwear may be worn in inclement weather.
 6. A stove is provided for the benefit of the clerical staff. Coal and wood must be kept in the locker. It is recommended that each member of the clerical staff bring four pounds of coal each day during the cold weather.
 7. No member of the clerical staff may leave the room without the permission of Mr. Smith. The calls of nature are permitted and the clerical staff may use the garden below the second gate. The area must be kept in good order.
 8. No talking is allowed during business hours.
 9. The craving for tobacco, wines and spirits, is a human weakness and as such is forbidden to all members of the clerical staff.
 10. Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced the partaking of food is allowed between 11-30 and noon, but work will on no account cease.
 11. Members of the clerical staff will provide their own pens.
 12. Mr. Smith will nominate a senior clerk to be responsible for the cleanliness of the main office and the private office.

All boys and juniors will report to him 40 minutes before prayers and will remain after closing hours for similar work. Brushes, brooms, scrubbers and soap are provided by the owners.

The owners recognise the generosity of the new Labour Laws, but will expect a great rise in output of work to compensate for these near Utopian conditions.

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LOOKING IN ON THE POLITICAL SCENE



The age of Telepolitics (2)

UNVEILING THE LEADERS

Flabby chunk of man; rather foolishly dressed in a pin-stripe suite and tin hat neurotically smoking his way through one cigar after another; mouthing staccato phrases of something that sounds like Shakespeare played at slow speed.

Can this be Winston Churchill, the greatest Englishman of the century? Yes, it could be and it would have been if he hadn't just missed the tele-age which has made him the very last great Englishman.

Never again can we have a leader to admire from afar. We shall never again be ruled, or guided, by a person we can idolise as a myth, radiating greatness in an aura of mystery.

Television will bring to our homes 20in. coloured shots of every wart and wrinkle, every quirk and trick.

We will not be allowed to harbour any illusions about how our leaders look from almost any angle, about how they speak on almost any occasion and about how they are unfortunately and permanently just human.

This is something no one can now avoid. The Winston Churchill era cannot be manufactured afresh. T.V. cannot be dodged; it must be faced. It's a fact of modern life.

Harold Wilson—the tele-P.M. of the fireside, armchair, comfortable chat—is undoubtedly the first of our leaders to adapt power and government to this new approach. Harold joins us for a chat, man to man, and very reasonable. We might be in the public bar or the park or the bus. He is a specialist in instant familiarity. And he has the telly to thank for this.

Ted Heath may never make it on the box. Even since his pre-election training and pepping-up he remains a specialist in instant unfamiliarity. And he has the telly to blame for this. He cannot help it: his nose, his teeth, his smile, his voice are just not televisual. So we may be tempted to think, JUST BECAUSE OF THIS, that he is not a great Prime Minister.

But this feeling may be because television is to some extent phoney. All the impressions it gives us are not genuine. The surface facts it unveils are real enough, but greatness isn't a matter of warts and pipes and teeth. It's a matter of personality, which can't be filmed: but which can be interfered with by an over-presentation of the surface facts.

PROFILE

CLIVE JENKINS

He is 44. He is Welsh—son of a Port Talbot railwayman. He is a scourge of any employer in the scientific or technical field who blunders or slips up in his labour relations.

And he's a man with a record. A record of being quick and early into action as a worker and a trade unionist. Quick and early, that's Clive Jenkins.

He left school at 14 and took an unskilled job in a tin-plate and light alloy works. The next year he was already a member of the Association of Scientific Workers.

Three years of night school left Jenkins qualified as a metallurgist. At 19 he was appointed night-shift manager of a tin-plate works.

Quick progress again and he was, at 20, the youngest full-time union official ever in the British Labour Movement. That was in Birmingham as an Assistant Divisional Officer by the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians (ASSET).

In 1957 Clive Jenkins was promoted to Deputy General Secretary before—quick and early again—he became the youngest ever General Secretary at 34.

After amalgamation with another union he was still at the top and has 230,000 members in his Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, one of the fastest growing unions in the country.

This quick trek from tin-plate worker to white collar leader has

brought this man in his effervescent prime to a position of real power at a time of real crisis.

As the clash between unions and management boils on, Clive Jenkins is going to froth to the surface again and again. Quick and early. And dangerous to opponents.

Dangerous because he has worked at his facts. His four books published so far and the other three on the way cover a wide area of unionism and socialism. And dangerous too because of his native Welsh gift of the gab.

In his vigorous side-career in journalism and especially in his appearances on television at conferences and in debate he is a blistering opponent and a persuasive advocate. He is compulsive viewing.

There and everywhere Jenkins is a man to be watched.



Santa's Reindeer are waiting

says
DICK HARVEST

There are not so many reindeer in the world to-day as when grandfather was a boy. But Santa will have little difficulty in finding a team for his Christmas journeys this year.

In Scotland there is a 100 strong herd some 2,000 feet up the slopes of the Scottish Highlands. And from among these red nosed Rudolfs a relay team for the chimney top trip can be found.

But it's within the Arctic Circle amid the snow and ice that thousands of reindeer live happily. They roam across the frontier between Norway and Russia in search of lichen and moss.

Laziest on Earth

Even nowadays these strange animals still pull sleighs for Laplanders all the year round. But it takes six months to train a reindeer to do the job. They are among the laziest animals on earth.

Both the male and the female have antlers with the male possessing the larger and more beautiful. These they shed just before winter descends upon them.

Domesticated reindeer are a valuable source of wealth to the Lapps in Northern Scandinavia. They provide milk, meat and hides as well as acting as beasts of burden.

They travel well over broken ice and snow. And they can, if necessary, pull a sled 100 miles in a single day with a load of up to 300lbs.

And they give milk. But before you can milk a cow reindeer you have to lasso her and tie her to a post. There isn't much milk, but what there is is very rich and can be diluted with three parts

of water. Chilled it makes a strange sort of ice cream.

Reindeer, which are so valuable alive, are equally valuable dead. As meat it will fetch about £20. The hide keeps the Laplanders warm and is worth £50. And the reindeer provides boots, gloves, bedding, rugs and even boats for their owners.

Into knife handles...

Their sinews make thread as strong as nylon. Their bones become knife handles and jewellery. The hooves boil down into gelatine, soup and oil. The tail makes a shaving brush.

Nearly half a century ago hunters from all over the world were killing the herds, for reindeer had become plentiful. But the slaughter threatened to make the creatures extinct.

To-day Santa has little to worry about. The herds roam freely protected from the hunter by stiff penalties and only natives may kill them.



WIVES FOR SALE—CHEAP

by Eric L. King

Even with the new divorce laws, getting rid of an unwanted wife can be a pretty expensive business. But a couple of hundred years ago it used to be done with financial benefit to the delighted husband.

A belief persisted into the 19th century that a husband could 'lawfully' sell his wife provided the sale took place in public and the woman was delivered to the buyer in a halter.

The price of a secondhand wife rarely exceeded 20 shillings and was often much less. Hence the delight of a Suffolk farmer who sold his for five guineas. He was so pleased with the sale—reported in the Ipswich Journal of 28th January 1787—that he gave her a guinea to buy a new gown and had the bells

rung at Stowmarket to celebrate the occasion.

Equally delighted must have been the Hereford butcher in 1802 who sold his in the market-place for 24s. and a bowl of punch. And there is an account of a later sale at the same market when the price paid was only a shilling although the woman was described as being young and good-looking. She wore a smart hat and stood quietly looking down while her husband holding the rope invited bids. After she'd been 'knocked down' for a shilling the following exchanges passed between the parties: 'Be you willing, Missus, to have me and take me for better, for worse?' asked the bidder. 'I be willing,' she replied. 'And be you willing to

sell her for what I bid, Maister?' 'I be,' said her husband, 'and will give you the rope into the bargain.'

He would certainly have had the sympathy of the man who, in announcing the sale of his wife at Carlisle market in 1832, described her qualities with unusual candour. 'Gentlemen,' he said, 'it is her wish as well as mine to part forever. She has been to me only a bosom serpent. I took her for my comfort, but she became my tormentor, a domestic curse, a night invasion, and a daily devil.' After much else in the same strain, he concluded, 'She can make butter and scold the maid. She can sing Moore's melodies, and plait her frills and caps. She cannot make rum, gin or whisky but she is a good

judge of their quality from long experience by taking them.'

After an hour or so, says the newspaper report, this paragon was 'knocked down' for 20s. and a Newfoundland dog.

Usually the woman had little say in the matter which must have surprised the Southwark carpenter in 1766, who, having sold his wife decided he wanted her back. She refused to return saying: 'a sale is a sale and not a joke.'

In spite of the male domination of the early 18th century there were women of spirit, like the lady who, according to the Gentleman's Magazine of March 1735, was married at 16 and after having 20 children in the space of 21 years left her husband and retired into a convent in France, where, the newspaper added, she was living happily 'in a very religious manner.'

CAROLS ARE AS POPULAR AS EVER

by Sam Napier

In spite of the growing popularity of hit tunes with a Christmas atmosphere, the traditional carols will be sung by millions of people during the festive season.

Which carols will you sing this Christmas?

Each year people of all races and tongues enjoy the traditional hymns which link our celebrations with the past. Yet many know little about their origin.

Of recent times a few new Christmas carols have appeared. But none have received the world wide acclaim which would merit their place alongside those we learnt at our mother's knee.

Throughout the world many, many voices will join in singing the beautiful 'Silent Night, Holy Night'. For a long time this has been a favourite Christmas carol of the earth's millions of Christians.

This deathless melody was composed by the church

organist at Oberndorf in Austria. In the snowbound church the parish priest and the organist sat pondering. In an hour Xavier Gruber wrote the music without revision. And the priest provided the words.

Nobody knows who wrote the first ever Christmas carol, but the modern version was probably begun by St. Francis of Assisi. He sang Christmas songs to the children of Southern Italy as he tried to turn their pagan merriment into Christian joyfulness.

One carol that is included in every carol singer's repertoire isn't really a Christmas hymn at all.

The 'Good King Wenceslas' celebrated in it was anything but a beloved ruler. During his drunken reign he was several times accused of murder. The poet immortalised him for the only decent thing he ever did—gave a free meal to his fuel gatherers.

Today many of the Christmas hymns have survived hundreds of years and are still tremendously popular. So long as Christmas is celebrated, the singing of carols will be an important part of the occasion.



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BRANCHES ALL OVER THE MIDLANDS



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

December 1971

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

Number 87

FEARS

MANY PEOPLE ARE DOMINATED IN THEIR LIVES BY FEARS OF A VARIETY OF KINDS. THROUGHOUT ADVENT WE PRAY THAT WE MAY CAST OFF THESE FEARS WHICH THE COLLECT DESCRIBES AS WORKS OF DARKNESS, AND PUT ON INSTEAD THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT.

These fears are of many kinds. Some people are dominated by fears of guilt and others by fears of blame. For others it is fear of insecurity that makes their life miserable; others are obsessed with anxiety about their health; many people have what is commonly called an inferiority complex, convinced that they will never adequately do what is expected of them. In one way or another different kinds of fear control the lives of millions of people. These fears are indeed works of darkness and succeed in cutting many people off from God.

But how are we to get rid of these fears? First of all we must try and understand the cause of them. So many of our fears can be traced back to some childhood experience which we have tried unsuccessfully to forget but which has in fact taken root in our subconscious mind, becoming a sore spot which festers from time to time. It helps also to realise that we are not alone in having fears—as I have just said millions of people have them in some form or other.

So first we try and understand our fears and then we try to refuse to let them bully us. But there is no short cut to this effort of the will. If we consulted the best psychologist in the world we should still have to make the effort for ourselves. Yet fortunately there is more to be said than just that. The Advent Collect goes on to say: "Put on the armour of light". The armour of light is faith—faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in us.

Faith is the opposite of fear: ultimately it is faith alone that will overcome our fears. Faith heals by replacing thoughts of fear with thoughts of the love of God for us, and of his power to work in and through us.

There are various ways in which we put on the armour of faith. One way is to soak our minds in the thought of the love of God, so that this seeps through into our subconscious mind. Some people think that meditation is some terribly technical exercise. It is not—it is just a matter of soaking ourselves in scripture and of absorbing an understanding of the love of God so that it becomes part and parcel of our very being. And some passages of scripture will be of particular help to us—for example, our Lord with the disciples in the boat during the storm as we see how his presence reassures them, and not only calms the waves, but more important removes their fears. So we can learn to utter short prayers as we go about our daily work saying such phrases as: "I know, God, that you love me"—"You are helping me: use me, Lord", or "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

And we can make experiments in faith, remembering that we are not alone but that underneath are the everlasting arms. And so we find that faith does work and that God does see us through. Fears, if they are allowed to go on, cripple and poison countless lives. But we are meant for better things. As we use the Advent Collect let us take steps to see that the works of darkness are cast away and that we do indeed put on the armour of light.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM'S GAZEBO

When so many old buildings have been pulled down recently in Reading can we afford to let this fall into decay?

A restored gazebo could become a delightful feature at the west end of Caversham Court. — always provided that the charm of the Warren can be preserved, and that planning permission will not be forthcoming for development which is contemplated.

The residents of Caversham justly love and are proud of the gardens of Caversham Court. The lawns and terraces and the noble yew hedges are beautifully kept, and with the poplar trees and the glimpses of the River Thames make this one of the loveliest spots in Reading.

BEFORE THE REFORMATION

This was at one time the garden of the Old Rectory of Caversham. Before the Reformation Caversham Church and Rectory belonged to the Augustinian Priory of Nottley in the parish of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire. At the surrender of the Priory in 1538 the Rectory and its lands were sold into lay ownership. The earliest owners were the Alexander family. William Alexander (otherwise known as William Milward) who was the owner in 1586 appears in a Chancery case. A tenant to whom he had granted a lease complained that so much of the property had been conveyed away that what remained was not worth the "consideration money" that he had paid. The Milwards appear to have been Roman Catholics; the next owners, the Browne family, were "much attached to the cause of the King" in the Civil War. Remembering that Caversham Park was then owned by a devoted Royalist, the Earl of Craven, and that Mapledurham belonged to the Roman Catholic Blount family, while across the river the Vachell family of Coley were by loyalty, conviction and marriage equally firmly attached to the cause of Parliament and "the Gospel" one can see in miniature and at close hand the division of the country.

LOVEDAYS

After the Restoration of King Charles II the Old Rectory was leased to Thomas Loveday, a citizen and goldsmith of London, who was Fourth Warden of the Company of Goldsmiths. Many later generations of the Loveday family lived here. The most celebrated was John Loveday, philosopher and antiquary, who collected a famous library in the house. The memorial in the chancel gives particulars of him and of his family.



The unique Gazebo in Caversham Court which it is hoped will be restored.

An old newspaper cutting of 1909 says the house was then owned by Lt. Col. Caversham Simmonds "by whose instructions the forthcoming auction sale is to be held". The property was again sold in 1931; Messrs. Nicholas' sale catalogue has photographs of the house, which is now demolished, and of the gardens which are scarcely changed.

1663

The garden house or gazebo almost certainly dates from the time of Thomas Loveday. It appears in views of Reading and of Caversham as old as 1734, but a reference in a diary of one of the Loveday family describes it as dated 1663. There is little doubt that its age makes it almost unique. It stood at first clear of trees, for the sake of the views of the river. If the trees surrounding it were cut back the interest and purpose of the building would be more clear.

The Corporation of Reading are the owners and should be the guardians of this particular relic of local history. For about thirty years they have been urged to care for it properly. Recently a meeting has been held where Corporation members and officers discussed it with members of interested local societies. There is now some hope that, by a co-operative effort involving the Corporation and local societies, and individuals, to give and to raise money, and to organise and provide voluntary labour, the building could be put in order both as an ornament to the gardens and the riverside and to serve a useful purpose as a shelter and viewpoint for old people.

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EDITOR: The Rev. J. G. Grimwade,

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OF GARDENS AND TREES AND THE RIVER
CLOSE BY WE HAVE A GOOD VARIETY OF
WILDLIFE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR. THE FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVA-
TIONS OF WHAT HAS BEEN SEEN DURING
THE LAST YEAR—MOSTLY IN THE
HEIGHTS AREA.

BUTTERFLIES

Beginning with last spring
—I saw my first butterfly on
February 24th flying across
Baylis's Corner on a glorious
sunny morning.

I have noticed fewer red
admirals and peacocks about
this autumn and last. Per-
haps the dry spells in Septem-
ber and October have not
suited them? However, there
have been plenty of painted
ladies and tortoise shells.

Vanishing Willow Warblers

For several years I have
missed hearing the willow
warbler around the Darell
road corner. Now only the
chiff-chaff can be heard. For
a few days in autumn—on its
way migrating south—it turns
up and one can hear the rat-
her faint sub-song during a
warm spell of weather.

A pair of black-caps stayed
the whole of last winter in
this area, and a pair of gold
crests were often seen
throughout the year—per-
haps enjoying the various
conifers around here.

Increasing mallard

Last spring the mallard
from the Thames called at
various gardens on the
Heights—preferably those
with a pond. They have in-
creased in this area these
last few years. They even
feed in small groups among
the pigs at Mapledurham
sharing their food.

Wild geese too are often
seen. At least twice this Octo-
ber flocks have flown exte-
remely low over the houses.

Obituary

With the recent deaths of
MR. KELLY and MR. TAY-
LOR, both of Chazey Close,
Mapledurham has lost two
well-known members of its
community. The former was
postman at Nettlebed for
many years before coming to
live in Chazey Close. The lat-
ter was in charge of the dairy
herd at Dysons Wood farm
and then worked for the rural
district council keeping the
roadsides in good order
throughout the district. We
extend our deepest sympathy
to both their families.

The Caversham Bridge
also regrets to record the

Birds in the garden

The green woodpecker
seemed to be making a come-
back last February. How-
ever the lesser spotted wood-
pecker, so smart in red,
black and white, is often
around—generally heard rat-
her than seen.

Both jays and magpies
abound during acorn harvest,
always arriving at the two
oaks for a noisy breakfast
and supper. Magpies are
around all the time feeding
on scraps put out for birds.
During nesting time, they are
a menace, upsetting one lot
of parents after another as
they steal eggs and young.

A bumper acorn crop

Because of the fine autumn
our summer visiting birds
stayed longer than usual.
Spotted flycatcher and chiff-
chaffs were still here on Octo-
ber 2nd. The housemartins
were still seen on October
15th.

Squirrels, like the wood-
pigeons, are everywhere. The
former have had a busy time
with a bumper acorn crop.
In 1970 it was the walnut
which was so prolific and I
found almost 30 small wal-
nut trees last spring coming
up all over the garden where
the squirrels had buried them.

Now with 1972 nearly with
us—we shall be wondering
what sort of weather is in
store for us. Will it bring the
swallows a week earlier with
a fine early spring, or shall
we have to feed the birds late
into March because of snow
and ice? We shall have to
wait and see.

A FINE RECORD



Walton Adams

Readers will be sorry to learn that after 41 years, as Cub Master with the St. John's pack, Mr. A. E. Emmons has had to retire. He took over in 1930 when there were only 8 boys. But such is his skill and enthusiasm that the week after he started each boy brought 4 friends. Since then there has been no looking back. How many boys he has helped through the cubs is anybody's guess; he doesn't know himself, but there are many former cubs and scouts in Caversham, who can look back with gratitude to Mr. Emmons for the start he gave them in life. In all those 41 years he is proud that in each one of them he has been able to take the boys to camp. To mark his retirement in October he was presented with a silver tray and sherry glasses. It was fitting that Mrs. Emmons was also included in the presentation, because, as her husband wishes to make clear, she has helped in many practical ways with the running of the pack. It is perhaps also fitting that his successor as Cub master is one of his former cubs, Mr. F. Davis. The Caversham Bridge congratulates Mr. Emmons on his fine achievement and wishes him an equally rewarding retirement.

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BOUND TO BE FREE

"I WANT TO BE FREE!"

This is the articulate and inarticulate cry of the modern world. "I want to be free to do what I wish". Many parents will have been met by that sentence. Most of our young people in their quest for freedom feel that it will only be achieved if they can break away from their parents. The young fellow who goes to live in London, "I am free. In London no one knows me, no one will tell my parents, no one will tell me off". A young girl arrives at her eighteenth birthday, "Now I am free. I don't have to follow my parents' wishes any more. I can do what I like".

The great little word of their world has always been "I". This lies at the centre of that three lettered word "S-I-N". "I am free to do what I wish". It is a heresy to regard freedom as doing what you like. You don't believe me? You make it a talking point in your family and see what conclusions you come to. Remember that some folk say, "Now I can do this without any ill effect at all", and

"I am free to break this habit if ever I want to". Sometimes people who feel that they are free are not as free as they thought they were. "I can stop this whenever I like".

Have you heard the parable of the Eagle? One bitter cold frosty day, high above the Niagara River, a great golden eagle stood perched upon a pinnacle of the cliff. It saw floating in the water below it the carcass of a bullock. It was floating in the water the famous Falls a few miles away. The hungry bird swooped down on the bullock. It drove its claws into the carcass, and then got busy. After a long time it could hear the rush of the Niagara Falls, but it thought, "I am free. I can rise at the last minute when the carcass goes over the edge. I am free to fly back to my mountain home". Its feet were frozen into the carcass!

There is a sense in which we only become free when we voluntarily accept a bondage. An athlete will not go out on a spree just before a big race. If you invited him he would say, "I am not free to do what you ask. If I did

what you asked I should not be free to run". He has voluntarily accepted a bondage of self-discipline in order that he may be free to run the race. What do you want to be free to do? If you misunderstand freedom and live according to your misunderstanding you will inevitably find yourself in a new bondage. There is a point here worth pondering.

The Lord Jesus says all that needs to be said about the theme. In his first sermon he announced that He had come to bring "release to the captives and liberty to the bruised and bound". But as He offers freedom He says to all those who would find it, "Follow Me". When He has bound you in loyalty to Himself, you find the glorious liberty of the children of God. He was willing to be bound in our flesh that He might be free to be our Saviour. This world really needs to understand the significance of Christmas for herein lies the answer to our quest for freedom.

I believe that only God can bring freedom to us. Why do I say that? Because of the root of the trouble, "I". The more "I" try to save "myself" from "me", the more "I" stiffen, rigify, and rouse the thing which lies at the root of the trouble. If the "self" is the cause of it all, something must move in from outside, in order to free us from ourselves. The meaning of Christmas is precisely that the love of God and the power of God moves in on a world in bondage. Here is salvation. God has come in the Lord Jesus to save us from ourselves and make us free. Are you free, because you are bound to the Lord Jesus?

CAVERSHAM TRADERS

Too late to advertise it, we have the news that Caversham Traders are holding a special Opportunity Week at the beginning of November. By the time this reaches you it will be over and local people will have had the chance of discovering for themselves what their local traders can do when they really pull out all the stops.

This Opportunity Week is part of a special effort to remind local residents that in spite of the handicaps many traders have suffered in recent years because of new development, they can and do offer a really first class service.

Almost everything we need can be purchased in Caversham now, as easily as in Reading. Besides the very adequate daily needs shops, the first-class hardware merchants, chemists, drapers, stationers, jewellers, gardening shops and so on, we have recently acquired a china

shop, a shop selling excellent quality dress material, a shoe shop, an optician, a travel agency, an antique shop, electrical equipment shops, and several others. True we still have a few needs. Dress shops, for instance, are limited by virtue of their size, though what they offer is good and reasonably priced; we could do with a really good book shop selling, among other things, book tokens, we now have a local vet, but not an undertaker. And we most certainly need one or two new facilities, a decent public toilet being

high on the priority list. But by and large there is not much we cannot buy in Caversham. Looking around I see ideas for Christmas gifts which will save many, particularly the elderly, a long and tiring trek into Reading or other towns. There are gay knitting bags, a wonderful selection of reasonably priced jewellery, attractive kitchen-ware, bulbs in pots, sports gear, games for the young. I am told that our local sweet shop is this year stocking novelty items as well as very attractive boxes of chocolates and sweets. There are TV sets and washing machines, or furniture, for our more expensive gifts and, at the other end of the scale, all we need in Christmas cards, wrapping paper etc. Even the daily-need corner shops away from the main centre will be selling much that is suitable for Christmas presents. And for those who have everything, a browse round Mr. Robinson's antique shop during the week and the yard stalls at weekends can be guaranteed to produce something of interest for almost everyone.

I understand that the yard will become the focal point of the Christmas trading period, and that St. Peter's Scouts are setting up a card stall there, the proceeds going to charity.

In short, we do not need to appeal to you to support our traders for anything other than purely selfish motives — they supply almost everything, they are handy and the service, on the whole, is first class and more personal than anything you can find elsewhere.

W.D.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 14th October, 1971. Mr. W. H. Wheeler, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council considered a suggestion from the County Planning Officer that it might wish to purchase the piece of land off Hewett Avenue, and adjacent to the Playing Fields, which is currently the subject of a planning development application. If the Parish Council, or some other local organisation or body, are not prepared to acquire the land to secure its future retention as a public space, some form of residential development on the land might take place. Bearing in mind the rough estimate of the purchase value of the land, based on it being used for residential development, the Council were not able to accede to such a request. The Council have, however, again strongly opposed the proposal to build on the site, and have stated they might possibly consider purchasing the land if it were available as a public open space valuation.

The Council have been aware for many years, as also have many residents, of the very dilapidated state of the Memorial Hall and also the lack of facilities in the Hall. A Committee have recently been preparing a Report regarding proposals for erecting a new Hall which will provide much improved accommodation.

The Committee's report was submitted to the Council and has been accepted in principle. However, a large sum of money will be required to build the Hall, the

means of obtaining the sum of money was clearly stated in the Report. It is apparent that eventually a Parish Meeting will have to be called, and for the Parish Council to seek authority from the Parish to enable them to obtain a loan. The Council have not yet finalised the arrangements towards the acquisition of the money they will require, but it is hoped

these will be completed within the next two months.

The Council were informed by the County Surveyor at Oxford that observations had been made at week-ends of the numbers of cars parked at the bottom of the Village, and it was considered no parking or waiting problems existed, and therefore, 'No Waiting' or 'No Parking' signs would not be required.

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JOHN and UNA CROWE

A Presentation

A farewell presentation will be made to the Rev and Mrs. John Crowe on Sunday December 19th at 7.45 p.m. in Balmore Hall. Contributions are being received by the Church and District Wardens of the parish.

All the young Anglican clergymen who have flitted through Caversham recently will be remembered for their efforts in particular fields, a new approach to youth, new contacts with local industry, parish holidays, and so on. But there can be few who have broken as much new ground as John Crowe who now lives with his wife and two children on Caversham Park Village.

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When he came to us in 1967, after theological training at Oxford and Lincoln, a spell in the far east as one of the earliest members of Voluntary Services Overseas and three years as curate in Wolverhampton, he had many talents and much experience. He knew that as parish curate he would be expected to help with the production of the 'Bridge' and, with his particular interest and experience, he hoped to do something to interest Caversham people in the problems of the underdeveloped countries. What he did not know was that he would become the first in the district to take part in an experiment now beginning to develop throughout the country, to start what might be termed a house ministry. Nor did he realise he would be responsible for running such a mammoth affair as Caversham's Mayday Week which, as our readers will recall, was held last year, with the main purpose of involving local people in the problems of those in need, at home and abroad.

Not quickly forgotten

When he and his family move to Little Hampton, Evesham, at the end of the year, John will leave behind a good foundation on which to build Christian work in a new district and a renewed interest in the problems of others, rest to be continued after others, and he will not quickly be forgotten.

It is not surprising that John met his wife, Una, through their common interest in Christian Aid, an interest to be continued after they married in 1968. Una, a teacher by profession, became highly involved in the work of fostering overseas aid from the time she arrived here and served on the local race relations committee until the responsibilities of bringing up a young family forced her to give this up. But, since a home ministry is essentially a family one, she has nevertheless continued to play her part.

Community Life

Caversham Park Village was a bit of a misnomer since, despite the good hous-



On the stairs at 2 Blackwater Close.

Walton Adams

ing, it was in no sense a community, lacking even a hall in which residents could meet. All the same there was a great deal of community spirit even from its earliest days and it was with this that the Anglican Church was mainly concerned when it was decided to purchase a house on the estate and settle a member of the clergy there. There could have been none more suitable than John and Una Crowe and their home quickly became the centre of many community activities and the beginning of a real church ministry when family services began to be held there. Their ministry was different from any other in the district; this time there was no gap between the clergy and the laity.

A good fault

It was a job for which they were ideally suited because of their natural friendliness and interest in others. If John sometimes wore people out with his exuberance and enthusiasm, it was a good fault and stirred many people to what will probably be a life-long interest in the problems of the underprivileged. It is hard to overestimate how much we will miss them, but we wish them, and young Josephine and Monica, a very happy life in their new home. Links have been forged which will not lightly be lost and as we pray for a suitable replacement, we pray also that John and Una will make the same happy relationships in Worcester as they have done in Caversham.

W.D.

Nicholas

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LEARNING FOR LIVING

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1971—FIVE

In this second article on the modern approach of primary education—the Rev. J. Y. Crowe puts a series of questions to Mr. G. W. Haysom, Headmaster of Caversham Park County Primary School.

J.Y.C. "Mr. Haysom—what is new about the modern approach in primary education?"

G.W.H. "We must reject immediately the old idea that the children are in school merely to absorb all the information which we may decide is good for them, and which we compel them to learn by using an elaborate system of bribes and coercion. We are more concerned with what children are than with what they know."

J.Y.C. "What sort of children do you want them to be?"

G.W.H. "We want them to be as alive as possible. We want them to be alert, observant and curious: eager to understand every thing they see and hear. Young children often lose these characteristics during their school years; we must preserve and cultivate them."

We want them not only to understand but also to appreciate the world around them. They must be able to work and play harmoniously with other children, and hence to appreciate the purposes and importance of self discipline. This is the ideal towards which we are aiming."

J.Y.C. "Traditionally—parents have been eager that their children should learn basic skills—like reading. What do you mean by reading readiness?"

G.W.H. "Firstly it means that a child must have confidence in himself—a strong desire to learn—and a belief that it can be done. This I believe is the one essential in any learning situation. Secondly he must have the necessary language development to make a success of learning to read. Pre-reading experience means experience in the widest sense—experience in handling materials, clay, sandwood and water—and in developing all round skill in a rich environment. The next step is to give the child the experience of seeing written symbols—not in a book or on flash cards but in connection with themselves. Reading begins with things and not with books."

J.Y.C. "What about the other basic skills like maths?"

G.W.H. "Confidence in maths comes from success based on understanding. I'm sure that progress springs from child made discoveries. Opportunities are provided therefore for discovery through the use of structured apparatus. Thorough understanding of elementary number concepts and processes is the only sure basis for subsequent maths teaching and learning."

J.Y.C. "Clearly a lot must depend on the teaching staff. How do they help children grasp this sort of learning from daily experience?"

G.W.H. "This is the skill of teaching. The teacher has to recognise how it all fits together, to see when the child is ready for the next stage, and to work out what that next stage will be."

J.Y.C. "But doesn't the size of classes mean a teacher can't establish that sort of relationship with all the children?"

G.W.H. "This is where the helpers can be of value. The more adults you have—the smaller the groups of children can be. Helpers, students and parents can help in the classroom—for example supervising project work and giving the children a chance to talk about it. The teacher is there to stimulate, guide, encourage and co-ordinate what is going on, to know each child intimately and to be aware of the next stage of progression. When formal teaching is required the teacher must provide it."

J.Y.C. "How do children work in small groups?"

G.W.H. "They circulate in small groups within the total teaching space to different areas—for example the maths area, the interest bay and the writing and creative area. Sometimes a child will work at depth on one particular project. If you think of a historical project like medieval castles—this will involve exercising the basic skills of reading, writing and maths as well as creative skills."

J.Y.C. "I gather the teachers work as teams in the junior and infant departments. What does this mean?"

G.W.H. "It means that the teams you mention meet together after school each day to discuss the day's work and to prepare the next day's programme. Thus instead of one teacher thinking about one class—all the teachers can put their ideas together. The staff then have a better chance of seeing the school as a whole. Frequently they look ahead over a longer period of time. Co-operative teaching also enables more accurate assessments of each child's progress."

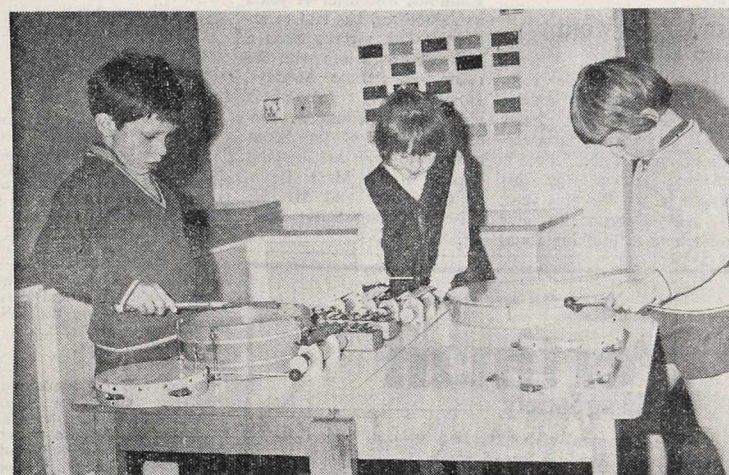
J.Y.C. "I understand the children do objective tests. What does this involve? Also, how do you assess each child's progress through the school?"

G.W.H. "It is the juniors who do some objective tests. Because these are nationwide we can measure our children against the national



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average and pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses.

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J.Y.C. "Mr. Haysom—thank you very much for answering these questions. Methods and the philosophy of education have changed so much over the past 15 or 20 years. We can't all go back to school and learn all over again—but we can make the effort to understand what is happening in our schools. Then there can be a real partnership between home and school in our children's development."

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ST. JOHN'S NEWS

SUMMERDOWN SINGERS

For over a year now St. John's has been pleased to watch the progress of this ladies choral group—no prizes for guessing the origin of their name. Aled by Mrs. Yvonne Milne, they now number a dozen and have sung in St. John's on two occasions. They are also becoming quite well known at several Old Age Pensioners' Clubs, where their visits are much enjoyed. Further engagements will keep them busy into next year.

It is an informal group, meeting one evening a week for its own enjoyment, as well as for the pleasure of others, rather than for serious study. New members would be very welcome. Previous choir experience is not essential. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Milne at 267 Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

There will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday, 4th December at 2.30 p.m. in Caversham Hall to raise money to cover the cost of buying music, thus helping the singers to extend their repertoire.

CHRISTMAS WORDS AND MUSIC

Every year people complain that Christmas is upon them before they know where they are. Given a certain amount of effort there is no real reason why this should be so. But this year, to help everyone to give more time to thinking about

and preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth, there will be a programme of words and music suitable for Christmas, in the church at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st December. The Summerdown singers will be taking part and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will stop being busy and use this evening for quiet reflection.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VACANCIES

4 year olds can now be accommodated at Sunday School which meets at 11 a.m. in St. John's Hall. Interested parents should contact Mrs. Yates tel. 477895. On the 3rd Sunday in the month the children join the Scouts and Guides and the rest of the church, in the Family Eucharist at 9.15 a.m. where they make a welcome contribution to the service. It is good to see so many of their parents with them on these occasions.

WELCOME

The church is very sorry to lose the services of Mr. Emmons, who after 41 years as cubmaster, has had to retire. It has always been a pleasure to see him with the clubs on Parade Sundays. However, St. John's is pleased to welcome two former members of the Scout troop who will be stepping into the breach. Mr. F. Davis as Cubmaster and Mr. M. Wise as Group Scout Master.

YOUTH CLUB

Thanks are due to Mr. Shaun Holmwood who is at present helping the young people of St. John's to form themselves into a youth club. After a promising start the club meets fortnightly on Monday evenings in the hall. Any old games or other suitable equipment would be a welcome addition to their resources.

SHAGGY SHEEP STORY

Cottage industry has come to South View Avenue in the shape of a spinning wheel and a 7lb. fleece, straight off the sheep's back. Two years ago the Mawby family acquired a lamb as a pet. Beauty, the name she was given, far from being the black sheep of the family, was regarded with great affection by Mr. and Mrs. Mawby and their children. Sadly however, Beauty is no longer with them. Sheep aren't the easiest of creatures to take with you on holiday and during the summer she had to be literally farmed out. Unfortunately on their return from holiday, the Mawbys visited the farm only to discover that Beauty was apparently suffering a crisis of personal identity. Instead of making her home with the other sheep, she appears to think she is a cow and spends all her time with the cattle, even following them into the milking parlour.

But her fleece is something to remember her by and with the help of the borrowed spinning wheel Mrs. Marion Mawby hopes to knit a suitable memorial to Beauty.

CAVERSHAM PARK VILLAGE

CAROL PARTY

As an occasion to combine carol singing with a social get-together—a carol evening has been arranged for Tuesday, December 21st at the home of David and Myra Parsons—9 Gayhurst Close, starting at 8 p.m.

In order to get some idea of possible numbers it would be a help if those intending to come would contact Mr. and Mrs. Parsons (478005) or the Rev. John Crowe (475152).

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

On the following Sundays at 11.15 at Caversham Park School—December 5th—the Revd. Dr. R. Ashman (Superintendent Minister of the Reading Methodist Circuit); December 12th—the Revd. J. Y. Crowe—Half Hour Family Service.

There will be no 11.15 Family Service on December 19th or Boxing Day, December 26th.

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

A service of Carols, Mime and Christmas Readings will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 19th. This will be produced by regular members of the Family Service congregation and there will be some rehearsals from time to time starting from the end of November. If any adults or children would like to take part in the mime or choir items—please contact the Rev. John Crowe. Besides well known carols and readings familiar to any carol service congregation there will be some modern carols and readings.

HOUSE COMMUNIONS

8.30 p.m. Wednesday, December 1st at 2 Blackwater Close 10.30 a.m. on Wednesdays, December 8th at 15 Montpelier Drive and December 22nd at 2 Blackwater Close.

ACTIVITIES AT ST. BARNABAS'

Twelve patients from Borocourt Hospital were entertained recently by members of the Mothers' Union for an enjoyable afternoon of tea and games. The programme was planned by Mrs. E. Earley, and all the patients received presents before returning to the hospital.

Under the new leadership of Mrs. Hawthorn members of the Sunday Club are presenting an afternoon of Carols with Nativity Tableaux on Sunday, December 19th at 3 p.m., and it is hoped that parents and other members of the congregation will be able to attend.

On Saturday, November 27th, the Overseas Committee has arranged a sale and proceeds will go towards providing an irrigation pump for the use of farmers at Mpongwe in Zambia. The sale which will be held in the Church Hall opens at 2.30 p.m.

Local Dentist in the chair

Nearly 50 parishioners of Caversham and Mapledurham recently spent a weekend at Wycliffe Hall Theological College, Oxford. A wide variety of professions and callings were presented a chemist, a doctor, an actuary, a farmer, a butcher, school teachers, civil servants, directors and scientists and still the list is not exhausted. They went to Oxford for training in readiness for the Stewardship Renewal Campaign.

Mr. Denys Birtwhistle, Chairman of the Steering Committee, presided at all the sessions, the subject matter of which ranged from the need for Stewardship from the spiritual angle, Church money at National, Diocesan and Parish levels to individual living and standards of giving.

Latent powers of acting came to light when the 'Role playing' session was reached. The 'Oscar' had there been one available, would have been presented to the couple who played an excellent portrayal of an old lady slightly hard of hearing and the tactful and understanding visitor.

The original concept of the weekend was to compress into a short period the number of training sessions which in previous campaigns had taken two weeks to cover. The general opinion was that the weekend succeeded not only as a training method, but the benefit of meeting fellow workers from such a wide range of occupations who are all working together for a common cause was evidence indeed of the working of the Holy Spirit.

W.A.V.

Eighty Visitors Commissioned by Bishop

A fleet of coaches brought parishioners to Reading Town Hall on a September Sunday night as hundreds of people flocked to the special Christian Stewardship service. Seated one side of the platform was a choir of eighty while, on the other eighty visitors whom the Bishop of Reading commissioned and who during October have visited some eleven hundred homes. The last Stewardship campaign gave the parish of Caversham a promised income of £16,500 annually. With Mapledurham participating as well the campaign this autumn brought pledges totalling £21,144. When however allowance is made for the decline in the spending power of the £ in the past five years this increase may well prove insufficient if the parish is not to cut down on its commitments. More im-

portant however than the financial aspects of the campaign is the opportunity it has provided for visiting so many homes, and the clergy will be kept busy for some time following up the main requests that have been received.

On All Saints' Day, Monday, November 1st the Pledges made by over six hundred families were presented at the altar at the special Eucharist which marked the conclusion of the campaign. The preacher was Fr. Mark Gibbard S.S.J.E. After the service those who had helped in the work of the campaign enjoyed refreshments in Balmore Hall.

ST. BARNABAS' HALL
Saturday, November 27th
2.30 p.m.

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'SQUASH' — IT'S NOT JUST A GAME!

Where do you play? What a funny name! These are some of the comments made about the unusual name of the youth group at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

"Squash", the group's name, derives from the title given to the Methodist meetings which used to be held in members' houses some years ago. Like those groups of the past, it meets in the homes of members and church members so what better name to call it. Still, enough of this—a rose by any other name! as Shakespeare once wrote.

They are a lively group of young people who meet every week after the Sunday evening service. A varied programme of speakers and discussions serves to generate a lively interest in a wide range of subjects. They like to have joint meet-

ings with other youth groups and to visit places which are of particular interest. They also have a preaching group which has taken services in several churches in the area.

Not all our activities are confined to Sunday evenings. They hold socials, organise sales, etc. and go carol singing at Christmas in order to raise money for various charities. Also they like to take a holiday together every year—last year it was in North Wales.

Once a month they take their fellowship to the manse where under the guidance of the Rev. Terry Harris they learn and discuss our faith.

A warm welcome is always there for any new members so if you are between the ages of 14 and 21 why not come along. Telephone Bruce Alderman (Reading 56983) or Graham Kirby (Reading 475174) for further details.

Bulmershe College Choir at Caversham Heights Methodist

As announced last month, a concert of special interest will be given by the Bulmershe College Choir at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Friday 10 December at 8-00 p.m. It should prove to be an enjoyable evening with this well-known group of singers who are Eisteddfod winners.

The proceeds will be in aid of the Methodist Missions Women's Work Department, and tickets may be obtained from church members, price 25p.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townwomen's Guild

Good wishes for a healthy and speedy recovery were sent to Miss N. K. Brown who is in Battle Hospital following a fall at her home. 'Brownie' as she is affectionately known is one of the founder members of Caversham Afternoon Guild and continues to serve the Guild in many ways.

The Arts and Crafts section are attending tating classes and the Chiltern Knitting Group have a number of garments ready for display at our next meeting. These garments will then be sent to the Salvation Army and the Church of England Children Society's Homes.

A talk given by Miss D. M. Higgs entitled "Antarctica with film" was most interesting. The slides showed the peace and beauty which is Antarctica. Miss Higgs joined an international party led by Peter Scott, the first tourist party to cross into the Antarctic Circle in an ordinary boat. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs. L. Grey.

Charades kept the members guessing during the informal half-hour. The meeting came to a close with a reminder that the Federation Carol Concert will be held on Monday, December 13th at St. Laurence's Church. Tickets are available from Mrs. T. Kirby.

Maplewood W.I.

At the October meeting the President, Mrs. Berry Lewis, congratulated Mrs. Phyllis Duckworth who so successfully organised and staged the Exhibition 'This Green and Pleasant Land' in Reading Town Hall. Mrs. Sheila Smith was also congratulated for winning a silver salver, the prize for the best entry in the Marion Knill Crochet Competition—for novices.

There were fifty-one entrants. Mrs. Turner, our Delegate to the Autumn Council Meeting gave an interesting account of it. An enjoyable morning was spent recently by members attending a talk on 'Eating for Health' by Mrs. Barbara Laito. The speaker at the monthly meeting was Mrs. B. Osborne who demonstrated the making of delicious curry dishes. Mrs. M. Rowe gave the vote of thanks. Winners of the competition for oven gloves were Mrs. Rose Painter and Miss M. Cole, in a draw for 1st prize.

Mapledurham W.I.

Mrs. Bramwell took the chair at the October meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. A very interesting and informative talk was given by Mrs. C. Bowes on the History and Scenery of Greece. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Gale.

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs. Russell took the chair at the October meeting. Mrs. Keeling was congratulated and thanked for her hard work on our entry for "The Green and Pleasant Land", which was one of those to be considered as part of the entry at next year's Ideal Homes exhibition. Mrs. James finalised arrangements for the outing on October 11th. Mrs. Beasley reported on the Mayday week meeting held in Caversham.

Proceeds from the Autumn Fair on Saturday 20 November are to be divided between

Fund for the Blind and Elderly Poor in the locality (Xmas parcels). It is hoped that transport will become available in order that the Emmer Green Old People's Clinic can continue with its work, several members volunteered to help each week. Our speaker was Mr. J. Blatch on "Pleasures on my doorstep". The competition "My favourite antique" resulted: 1, Mrs. Green; 2, Mrs. Montague; 3, Mrs. Beasley.

Emmer Green T.W.G.

Mrs. Munday, of Brightwell, brought about 150 dolls to the meeting, and spoke of the history of some of them. They were a most colourful selection, some were made of wood, and they had come from every corner of the globe. A few were over 100 years old.

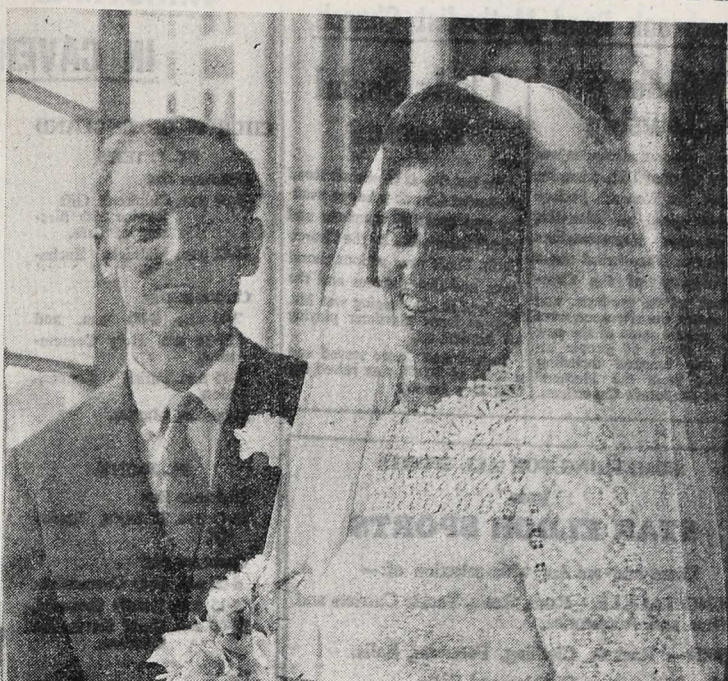
A new venture for the Guild is a Rambling Club, and several members had already been on a morning walk.

The Social Studies had enjoyed a talk on "Water Resources", and some members paid a visit to the Oxford

Blagrove W.I.

Mrs. Price, vice-president, presided at the October meeting. After welcoming members from Tokers Green Institute, she presented the birthday posies. The college of the River Thames, the Institute's contribution to "This Green and Pleasant Land" was on view. Mrs. Day thanked Mrs. Sholl and her helpers for all the work they had put into it. Mrs. Howard Cusworth talking on "Come for a holiday in Northern Ireland" explained how it was still possible to enjoy a pleasant and peaceful holiday in places remote from the troubles. Mrs. Bartlett gave a report of her visit to Luxembourg as winner from the Southern Region in the European Woman of the Year Competition.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, DECEMBER, 1971—SEVEN



Walton Adams

Mr. Pope and Miss Reynolds who were married at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, October 16th

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Gosbrook Road Methodist Church**Women's Fellowship**

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on October 12th, when the ladies of the Women's Fellowship were given an interesting talk by two Representatives from Nestles. They heard about the history of the Company and all its products, and at the end of the afternoon were able to sample some of the new products. About 60 people attended this function including the ladies from the Mothers' Union at St. John's Caversham.

Choir Social Evening

On Oct. 9th at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church a happy evening was spent by members and friends entertained by the Church Choir. There were various choral items and two sketches and the highlight of the evening was Mr. Arthurs from Mortimer playing his musical saw.

Refreshments were served and a total of £10.50 was raised for Gift Day Funds.

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4-00 p.m. Children's Gift Service with Blessing of Crib.

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day

7-00 a.m. 8-00 a.m. and 12-15 p.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. Parish Communion.

11-00 a.m. Mattins.

ST. JOHN'S**Christmas Eve**

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion. 9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist. 11-00 a.m. Carol Service for Children.

ST. ANDREW'S**Christmas Eve**

6-30 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Blessing of Crib.

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day

8-00 a.m. and 11-15 a.m. Holy Communion.

9-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. BARNABAS**Christmas Eve**

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day

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

ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM**Christmas Eve**

11-45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day

9-15 a.m. Parish Communion.

CONFESSIONS

BEFORE

CHRISTMAS**Church of England**

Times when clergy will be available to hear confessions will be given in the church notices on December 19.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH**Christmas Day**

10-30 a.m. Morning Service.

METHODIST CAVERSHAM**Christmas Day**

11-00 a.m. Morning Service.

Preacher: Rev. T. Harris.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS**Christmas Eve**

11-45 p.m. Christmas Communion.

Methodist Services**CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road)**

Sunday, 12th December

11.00 a.m. Family Worship Annual Christmas Toy Service

6.30 p.m. Film Service "Followers of the Way".

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS (Highmoor Road) METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, 19th December 4 p.m.

4.00 p.m. Family Worship Annual Toy Service and a Nativity Play by the Sunday School.

PARISHES OF CAVERSHAM AND MAPLEDURHAM

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's and St. Margaret's).

11.00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter's). 6.30 p.m. Evensong (all Caversham Churches).

9.45 a.m. Family Eucharist (all Caversham Churches).

Matins (St. Margaret's).

Services Sunday Dec. 26th**CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road)**

11.00 a.m. Family Worship

Preacher: Mr. John Clark.

No Evening Service

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

11.00 a.m. Family Worship.

Preacher: Rev. T. P. Harris.

No Evening Service

We record . . .**BAPTISED****St. Peter's**

Oct. 10—Alexandra Eldon

Oct. 24—Elaine Farrow

St. John's

Oct. 10—Nicola Ross

" 17—Susan Latham

St. Barnabas'

Oct. 3—Erica Scrase

" 10—Belinda Strong

" Julie Colton

" 24—Samantha Squire

At Caversham Park School

Sept. 5—Sarah Darke

Richard Warburton

Oct. 17—Joel Mitson

Matthew Malone

MARRIED**St. Peter's**

Oct. 16—Christopher Reynolds

and Susan Pope

Keith Harris and

Margaret South

St. Barnabas'

Oct. 2—John Hamer and

Louise Clark

" 30—Robert Bishop and

Susan Wicks

BURIED**St. Peter's**

Oct. 26—Timothy Judd

WHOM TO CONTACT**CENTRAL ORGANISER**

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AREA ORGANISERS

Dr. E. V. Beale (North Caversham).
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Secretary: Mr. C. H. Cox, 160, Hemdean Road.

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Secretary: Mrs. O. Stockwell, 89, Briants Avenue. Tel: 477465.

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National Children's Home

The amounts collected in Lower Caversham for the National Children's Home was £100.294p. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously. E. R. Eagleman, Local Secretary.

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Even the office girls treated him with an obvious and mocking contempt, attitudes which were encouraged by those above him. Only a crank would spend every lunch hour with a plastic box of home-made sandwiches, the ear-plug of a transistor radio bringing music from a mid-day concert and a worn bible opened on a soiled and stained blotter.

Before each Christmas, he could always be relied upon to sell diaries for a mental health charity and calendars for the lifeboat service; he would sing carols in aid of the children's home at the top of the hill and bored everyone with a one-man recruiting service for blood donors.

"If only," his manager sighed, "you would devote as much time to improving yourself as trying to help all the sick, lame and weary, you might make something of yourself." But he didn't seem interested. For some reason, he found greater happiness in the voluntary work and, as everyone planned for Christmas parties and dances, he sank

even lower in their estimation as a miserable puritan who wanted none of the good things in life.

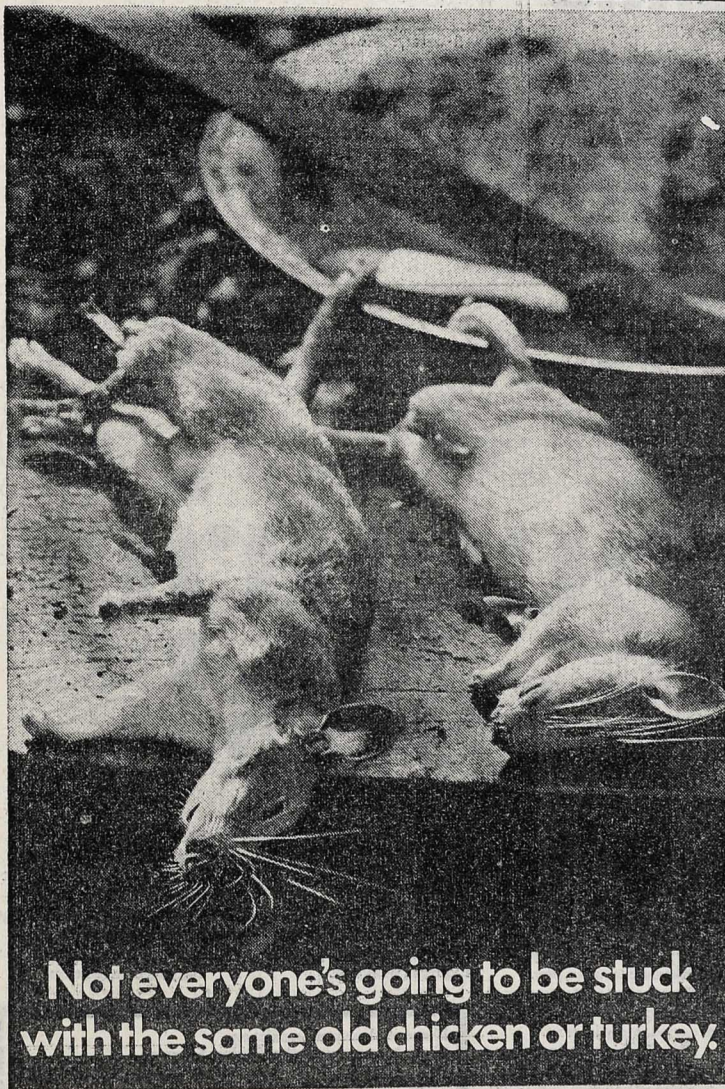
His own children were normal, healthy creatures and he encouraged them in their love of animals and in the nature walks organised by the school and the youth club. But this seemed to make him even more pathetic in the eyes of his office colleagues. They could not understand that, having been blessed with such good fortune, he should devote his leisure time to the needs of the lame ducks.

The office had organised a midnight party for the coming Christmas, complete with comedians, singers and strippers; a coach had been provided for those who wanted to drink freely into the small hours. But he wasn't interested and his reason was a joke around the office for weeks.

It appeared that the local society for handicapped children was arranging a rather dissimilar party and that he was acting the part of a clown while the kids ate cream buns and drank lemonade.

"Well," they scoffed, "he always was a bit of a stick in the mud. God, what a miserable world it'd be if everyone was like him."

And everyone's entitled to their opinion.



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JUDY SINGS OF PEACE AND LOVE AND FREEDOM

by Geoffrey Brown

"Although virtually unknown to the general British public, folk-singer and songwriter Judy MacKenzie is almost a household name to one section of the community—the church". So runs the opening paragraph of the press handout released by Musical Gospel Outreach to accompany her new L.P. 'Peace and Love and Freedom'. One only wishes it were true. The fact is that this highly talented ex-teacher has hardly been heard of within the church except amongst the Billy Graham fringe. After this L.P. let's hope that she has a much wider public.

The backing on the album is highly professional and well arranged.

Any drawbacks? Well of course nothing is perfect and it would be misleading to pretend that every song in the album is equally satisfying. Judy MacKenzie's voice is more at home in the softer and more gentle registers, and at times sounds a bit strained and strident, as in 'Never a man like this man'. But at least the quality of the song is not obscured, and one can imagine it being a

great success in the hands of a group like the Settlers or the New Seekers, who can give the number a more "full bodied" sound.

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

People who are concerned about the need for contemporary Christian expressions of faith must be heartened by this record—and it is to be hoped that Judy will develop her considerable talents still further in the years to come.

RARE TALENT

All the songs on this album released by Key Records (KL009) are her own composition, and they show her in the first place to have a real and rare talent for writing lyrics—I have heard little better in recent years than the words of 'In remembrance', and it is refreshing to find someone who at last can write on Christian themes in a truly contemporary style.

HAUNTING THEMES

Musically it is possible to be put-off at the first hearing. Most of her melodies are elusive and seem to lack the kind of definition that makes them easily memorable. After the second or third hearing however, the whole album comes alive and it is difficult to put the haunting themes out of one's mind. Particularly notable in this respect is 'Through my days'.



Judy MacKenzie—folk singer and song writer



THE FORMATIVE YEARS

In these days when so many mothers feel the economic necessity to go out to work, there is much talk of the possible damaging effect upon the children.

The early years are the formative ones when a child's character and habits are in the making. This is the time when he is especially sensitive to his home environment. Many years ago the Jesuits said, "Give us a child until he is seven. You can do what you like with him afterwards."

What then are the home qualities a child most needs to help him at this formative period?

The first essential, I consider to be, love in limitless quantities. It is important to understand each child's individual needs and to cater for them. The child needs to be surrounded by your love. It gives him a warm wanted important feeling which will stand him in good stead as he grows up and has to tackle life's problems. Make him feel that he is part of the family and has his own special place in it.

Give him a pet that he can learn to love and care for. He will learn how others respond to love and attention and will unconsciously, form some idea of their value.

The second essential I feel is to create a sense of security. A child needs to feel that he has someone he can fall back upon when in difficulty. Mother must never be too busy to listen. Never must she say, "Run away darling. I'm busy now." A sensitive child is thus made to feel unwanted and may not ask for help again when he needs it.

A Sense of Security

Giving a child a sense of security, does not mean making him dependent on you.

A good mother will urge her child to dare and go and will provide him with the necessary opportunities.

Ethel Kennedy once said, "If they're going to develop independence, they have to do it young. The less they fear, the more they'll accomplish." So if your child wants to spread his wings early, give him all the encouragement he needs.

A sense of discipline in the home is a "Must" for children. As a teacher for many years I realise fully its value. A child must learn that there are certain rules to be obeyed. Maybe it is the problem of going to bed especially when there is something interesting on T.V.

If you tell a child to do something see that he does. It is no good saying, "Put your toys away," if they are left on the floor to be picked up later by long-suffering MUM.

Try to create an atmosphere in which good manners play a part. In this permissive age, manners and consideration for others seem to be sadly lacking. Teach him to respect people older than himself as well as those in authority.

A very vital essential is to give a child a broad religious awareness of the universe. Take him into the country, let him marvel at the wonders of Nature and he will soon become aware of a Superior Being. Let him begin to grow in a Christian atmosphere where he is taught to look for the good in others and help them all he can. Take him to Church whenever you can. Send him to Sunday

School (Play School too) and he will learn to mix with others and consider their needs unselfishly.

The world of childhood is a wondrous place. The formative years are fascinating ones in which a child's character is made or marred.

Let us see to it that these vital years are rich with the opportunities he needs and all will be well in the future.

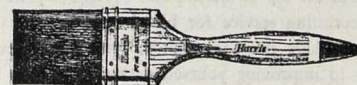
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looks at
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THIS IS CHRISTMAS

We've said it before, and we say it again! We like sometimes to think of the birthdays Jesus had when he was one, two, three, four and five-years-old.

If you've got a small brother or sister or cousin, watch the things they do, and note how old they are when they do them. If you haven't got someone very young in your family, watch the small children in other people's families.

Now you can picture Jesus as a little boy looking wide-eyed at the strange new world—pushing everything into his mouth, learning to say his name, perhaps sucking his thumb as he went to sleep! And he'd be almost certain to have asked lots of questions—How? When? Where? and Why?

Little Jesus, were you shy

Once, and did you ever cry?

Had you ever any toys,

Like most other girls and boys?

And did your mother let you spoil

Your clothes, with playing with the soil?

Did you kneel at night to pray,

And did you join your hands, this way?

And did your mother every night

Kiss you and fold the clothes just right?



THOSE BITS AND BOBS

It's not too late even now to start collecting wool, pictures and silver paper to make your own Christmas presents and decorations. Here are the ideas we promised you last month.

Silver and other coloured tinsel paper

Shape the paper into bells by moulding on a thimble. Remove carefully and pierce a hole in the top of the bell with a darning needle. Knot a length of cotton and thread through the hole, so that the knot is on the inside. Fix the bells in clusters on your Christmas tree.

Egg shell halves

These, too, make attractive decorations. Wash and dry as many half egg shells as you can collect. Make a hole in each and fix the cotton in the way suggested for the bells. Lacquer the shells in different colours and sprinkle with glitter while they are wet.

Pictures

Paste small pictures neatly on little notebooks. Larger pictures can be pasted on to pieces of cardboard. Make a bow of ribbon and stick it on the back of the top of the card. (This is so that the picture can be pinned to the wall.) At the bottom of the card attach a calendar tab that you can buy from large stationery shops.

If you've got a specially lovely picture of the right size frame it this way. Get a round cheese-spread box. Cut a large circle out of the box lid, leaving a narrow edging. Paint the outside of both halves of the box. When the box is dry, stick the picture inside the bottom of the box, then glue the lid on to the box. Fix a ribbon bow to the back of the box in the same way as suggested for the calendar.



Christmas Cards

Make your own by folding a piece of good quality white writing paper. Paste a gay picture on the front, or draw and colour one yourself. Print a Christmas greeting inside with a coloured felt pen.

(Idea—see that you've got at least one sick or lonely person on your Christmas card list.)

Coloured wools

Make a long length of knitted cable by casting three stitches on to a knitting needle with a point at each end. With a similar needle work in plain knitting, but instead of knitting backwards and forwards in rows, start each row at the opposite end from where you left off, pulling the wool round the back of the work (fairly tightly). When the cable is long enough, cast off. Then stitch the cable up into a round mat. A pretty rainbow effect can be made by using different coloured wools in the same cable.

JUST AN IDEA

Part of the fun of having a birthday is getting lots of presents.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb:

If I were a wise man

I would do my part;

Yet what can I give him—

Give him my heart.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

NATIONAL COMPASS, DECEMBER, 1971—SEVEN



**There's a great demand for new table games, says
Reg Moore, and for those who can invent them
there are fortunes to be made**

Every Christmas, indoor games sales boom. Their horizons are unlimited for the imaginative and ingenious fond of playing indoors on cold wintry nights.

You can make a fortune in inventing them. The originators of Monopoly, Subuteo table football and cricket, and miniature racing cars, have retired as millionaires. The old-established chess and draughts masters play according to the rules formulated thousands of years ago in many countries.

Firms producing board games cry out for new ideas every winter and the period before Christmas is a make or break time for them all. New best-selling ideas have not, so far, been forthcoming, to match the widespread demand in a country as made for indoor life as Australia is to the great outdoors.

Hundreds of new ideas filter through to the large firms, but almost as many are rejected before they reach the blueprint stage. Any new invention could hit jackpot proportions if accepted. Monopoly made its American inventor a multi-millionaire. The game combined all the assets and appeal for old and young. There was atmosphere in the old London place names and streets; surprise, an essential element of any good game. Monopoly allows anybody to make dramatic last-minute recoveries at any stage of the game. There was universal appeal and suitability for all the family. The last ingredient is absolutely essential at Christmastime, when all the family are gathered together around the fireside.

Science-fiction and spy games have had their popular mode in recent years and games like Scrabble and Lexicon are popular in almost every English-speaking country. Inventors of these popular pastimes can make several thousand pounds if accepted and get three times the amount over with world-wide sales on the American market.

But many ideas are rejected and rarely get beyond the wastepaper basket. Usually they have some small defect, or are just too vague or complicated for all ages to follow.

War games are still in fashion and the motor racing thrills can be bought on any indoor home circuit. Totopoly is almost as popular as its rival company Monopoly, and steeple-chase racing games abound.

Inventing games can be more fun than playing them and far more rewarding if you are on a winner.

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BROADLY speaking, once the six o'clock TV news and the attendant background chat programmes are safely out of the way we are expected to sit back, rid the mind of serious thought and let pure entertainment wash over us until near bedtime. Then, after the final news bulletins, addicts of old films and intellectual insomniacs can take over.

How then does one classify a programme of cookery instruction which comes on at 6-20 p.m. in the no-man's-time betwixt high-tea and settled-down telly-viewing?

Graham 'Galloping Gourmet' Kerr's *Entertaining With Kerr* has revolutionised the TV cookery-class and made it a part of the Showbiz scene. You may recall through the mists of time and smoking fat the scientific intensity of cookery with the late Philip Harben, when we first learned to tenderise meat and condition an omelette pan. Then there came along the sophisticated culinary of Fanny Craddock with monocled Johnny hovering around with the appropriate wine bottle. Later dear Zena Skinner brought us down to earth with practical recipes we could afford to cook instead of just drool about.

Now, when cooking with Kerr, the food seems relatively unimportant; the show's the thing. A lot of the fun stems from an element of uncertainty; things go wrong for him just as they do in mum's own kitchen. I suspect, however, that like pro-wrestling, most of the mishaps are carefully rehearsed, but no matter, it is all good for a laugh. There can be no doubt about the popu-

LOOKING IN WITH ERIC LAWSON

Culinary Capers

A LIVELY LOOK AT
THE TV SCENE



larity of the programme, because at the pregnant moment when the dish is carried steaming to the TV studio dining-table for the final mouth-watering nosh-up, no less than 7½ million of us are drooling along with Kerr.

About now we are halfway through the 26-week run of the bi-weekly series *Owen M.D.*, which seems to have more than just a touch of the Finlays among its antecedents. Nigel Stock, who created a memorable Doctor Watson in the Sherlock Holmes series, has forsaken both Baker Street and the urban health commune of "The Doctors" for the rurality of a small-town practice in the Cotswolds. The location film is shot at Chipping Campden on Fridays.

The stories are the work of a number of different and highly competent writers and, on the whole, the series manages to avoid the patchiness and lack of continuity which could easily result. As one who professes a complete lack of faith in any doctor who does not wear a hairy suit and a watch-chain across his vest, I wouldn't mind discussing my multifarious ailments with Dr. Thomas Owen at any time.

ERIC LAWSON



Graham Kerr—the galloping gourmet

SPORTS SPOT

by Stew Linnell

SHEFFIELD'S OTHER TEAM

Wherever they finish in the First Division this season, Sheffield United have made certain that they will never again be regarded as the poor relations of Sheffield Wednesday, for so long the top-dogs of soccer in the town of the steelmen, and now floundering in the harsh reality of the Second Division.

Wednesday, for all their airs and graces at having one of the most magnificent stad-

iums in Europe, have never really had a team to match the opulence of Hillsborough, and now find themselves overshadowed by the once-lowlowly "Blades" from Bramhall Lane.

United, who are even showing their new-found grit in an attempt to have Yorkshire County Cricket Club, with whom they share Bramhall Lane, "evicted", have achieved their sudden success by very quiet, careful but positive team-building by manager John Harris.

The names of Currie, Colquhoun, Scullion and Badger emblazon the school-books and satchels of hun-

dreds of new-found supporters, who have hurriedly changed their allegiance from the distant stars, such as George Best, to the new super-heroes on their doorstep.

There is one name I have deliberately left until last. Trevor Hockey. If ever a club's success was typified by one player, it is Sheffield United and Trevor Hockey. Transferred from Birmingham City for a "mere" £40,000 last January, Hockey has been the key to really switch itself on.

To take the analogy one step further, in the words of a long-suffering United supporter, "Harris built a first-class precision engine, and then slipped in the over-drive—Trevor Hockey".

Well done the Blades; their's is the kind of story every soccer season needs—and long may their story continue.

A NAME TO REMEMBER

With all the ballyhoo that has recently surrounded heavy-weight boxing anyone would think that we were back in those halcyon days of Henry Cooper (before he started showing us what he had been saving his right hand for) and Cassius Clay (before he found out that he could afford to fight for a cause other than his own pocket).

It has been suggested that Joe Bugner's unfortunate inability to put an opponent down permanently is related

to the accidental death over two years ago of a fighter Joe knocked out in the ring, the theory being that Joe has been suffering from an inhibiting psychological block ever since.

If that is the case, then every sympathy goes out to the unfortunate Joe.

Jack Bodell is something else, however. No mysterious hang-ups or hoodoos here. Just a plain straightforward, gentle giant who wears 'em out over the prescribed number of rounds. Very boring it is, too.

So that's what all the fuss is about. Two "great" boxers

of the exciting seventies—except neither of them possess the ability to deliver a knock out punch!

All is not lost however. Over the horizon, like the U.S. Cavalry in every good Western, strides a young man from Coventry by the name of Danny McAlinden. Remember that name. I believe that both Bodell and Bugner will have good reason to remember it 'ere long.

AND FINALLY, FOLKS
A man gazed incredulously at a huge mounted fish. Finally he said, "The man who caught that fish is a liar!"

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Jack Bodell with the Lonsdale Belt.

compass SEEKS A TREASURER



Mr. Chris Sole

Ten years ago a group of young men came together in Birmingham to start Christian News Ltd., which grew in time into national Compass Newspapers.

Mr. Christopher Sole was one of these. He has served the paper faithfully since its early beginnings using his Chartered Accountant's skill as the group's Honorary Treasurer, later combining this role with that of Company Secretary.

"No-one could overestimate what Mr. Sole has done for Compass Newspapers" says the Editor and vice-Chairman the Rev. Geoffrey Brown. His skill in financial control and forecasting and his reliable judgment have been a great strength to the Board. Mr. Sole is soon leaving Birmingham to take up a new business appointment in the North of England and will be resigning from the Board of Management with the grateful thanks of its members for the good job he has done.

Compass Newspapers now needs someone to take his place. We should be most pleased to hear from anyone with accounting skills, interested in Christian newspapers who would serve in a similar honorary capacity. We need someone with an hour or two to spare each week, who would keep an eye on our books and take a hand in our financial forecasting and pricing policy. Compass Newspapers is published by Christian News Ltd., which is a Company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity. If you think you could help us, contact Mrs. P. Andros, Compass Newspapers, 319 Gazette Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham. Telephone 021-236-2275.