

SPEARHEAD

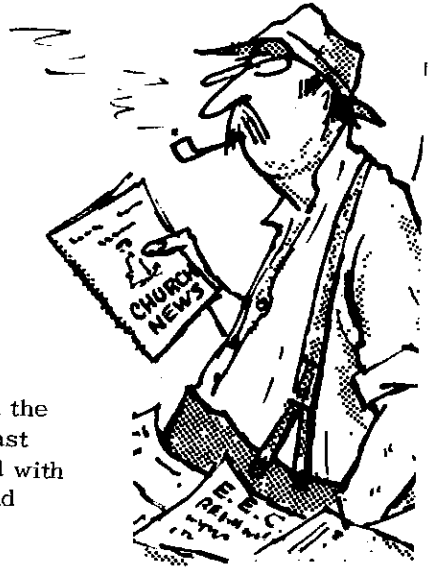
The
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of the
parish
of

St. Thomas
Brampton

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FROM THE EDITOR

The cartoon "After all, we're all in the same boat" which appeared in the last issue of Spearhead, was reproduced with the kind permission of Mr. Lurie and "The Times".

Overheard after the Hunger Lunch -
"For a pound, I thought we'd be having a full meal, I'm still hungry!"
I don't think the message had got through, do you?

I enjoyed Ian Wallace, thought I would; loved Marisa Robles (how do you pronounce that name?) didn't think I would; sweated at the Barn Dance, knew I would; was slightly bored at the Messiah, always am; looking forward to "Christmas in Brampton", see you there.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Christian Aid says that special issue Christmas Postage Stamps are very valuable as a fund raising commodity. Will all Spearhead readers, families, friends and neighbours, in fact anyone who is prepared to do so, save all such stamps from cards and presents. A box will be available to collect them in church - or let Doug. Inger have them when you can. We will see that Christian Aid gets them to help swell the funds.





APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTS PROJECT REPORTING FROM KENYA

Ernest Shimmin is sponsored by the St. Thomas's Life Style Group through Action Aid for two years. He is working in Kenya and has recently sent a letter describing his life and work. So far, through the sponsored walk, which raised over £200, Hunger Lunch, and various contributions, Life Style has raised sufficient money to pay all expenses promised to Ernest, and this is being sent immediately to Kenya. Life Style is now seeking further projects to finance in Africa, the proposal at the moment being the provision of clean water through the "capping" of natural springs.

Ernest tells us in his letter that he has "got to know Action Aid in Kenya fairly well" as the project is funded by them, and he states the region is in the middle of several settlement schemes. The area "suffers a lot of the problems of our new towns the church is the only real body apart from schools which link everybody together". He says that passing a school and "seeing a 4% population growth is alarming", and "most people have no clean water supply" and as roads are dirt, communication in the wet season is poor.

He speaks of his house in the Mission Compound, how his predecessor has built a model workshop with AID money, and initiated implement development with the standard harrow made from local wood and metal teeth.

The Rev. Opoti is in complete control of the station and he seems to have accepted Ernest "even though my religion is somewhat suspect". There are three trainees who are beginning a 6-month apprenticeship scheme.

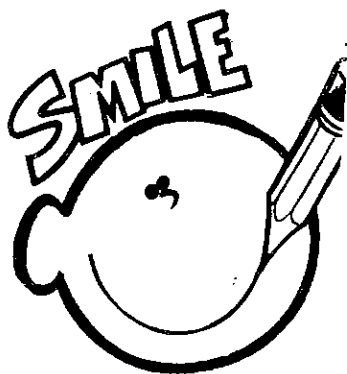
Ernest is now working on the prototype of an ox-cart and a plough will follow. "... but the main problem is getting the right materials." Ploughs are imported from India - of a high standard, cheap and duty free, but duty is payable to manufacturers importing materials. The main problem then is telling all of these identical designs apart, i.e. the ones that bend and those that don't!"

Ernest particularly stresses the need to "especially sponsor school children as the main part of a family's income disappears on school fees and a child really doesn't stand a chance here without some form of education".

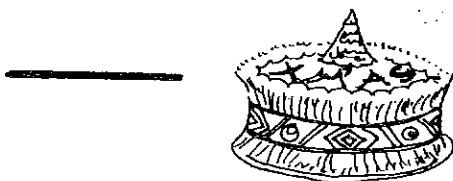
Time passes quickly in his job and he finishes, "It hardly seems 5 minutes since running around the Edale Hills!"

A local church had problems with its heating system, and after various amateur attempts to get it functioning properly, the minister called in a plumber. Hours later, having made little progress, the plumber scratched his head and knelt down in front of a radiator to scrutinize it yet again. Just then the minister re-appeared. "Don't bother," he said, smiling. "We've had the whole congregation attempting that method of repair!"

B. Ryder



Some people in winter are prone to freeze
 While others sweat and smother,
 And by some tricky quirk of fate
 They marry one another.



TRY PEPPERMINT CREAMS AT CHRISTMAS

- 1 lb. Icing Sugar (Sieved)
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 3 drops oil of peppermint or $\frac{1}{2}$ teasp. peppermint essence



Mix together the icing sugar and egg white. If the mixture is too dry and will not hold together, add 1 or 2 drops of cold water. Divide the mixture in half. To one half, knead in the peppermint oil. Roll out on pastry board, lightly dusted with icing sugar to about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Cut into rounds with 1" cutter. Place on dish and keep in warm place for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. when they will have firmed up.



Make Fondants with second half for a change. Roll out as for peppermint creams. Cut into rounds and decorate with glaze cherries. Roll some into small balls and press a walnut piece into sides.

FROM THE RECTORY



My dear friends,

- Well, you haven't seen me start an article like that before, have you? Quite like the old-fashioned parish magazine - the butt of the journalist's jobs. There was that awful occasion when an earnest Vicar began his monthly letter like that; but when the parish magazine came out, the 'r' had been left out of the word 'friends' - - - - . The Vicar protested that it was a misprint; but others wickedly suggested that it was a Freudian slip - - - . (You see, I'm even adopting the 'dotty' style - that comes from too much reading of the Derbyshire Times).

But where was I? Ah, yes: My dear friends - Well, it is the run-up to Christmas - Advent, we call it in the church. Soon we shall all be caught up in the welter of celebration that is Christmas - the annual folk-festival of the English. May you and your family all have a really super time - I'm sure you will!

The trouble is that amid all the jollification it is difficult to reflect on that truth which the festival is supposed to celebrate.

"He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all;
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, and weak, and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy".

We are all children at heart. That is why the new testament writers expressed the truth which they wanted to convey not in clever, philosophical propositions, but by homely stories about shepherds, wise men, and angels; and that is why Mrs. Alexander's hymn still speaks more clearly than the theologian's talk.

God is not just 'way out there': He is right here, in all the joys and sorrows of our lives:

"and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness."

In the slum quarter of Calcutta a little old lady works among the desperately poor people of that teeming city. In her hospice are many who are dying - Mother Teresa and her helpers care for these needy people with a devotion which never ceases to amaze those who visit her humble dwelling. The local people cannot really understand why this little community should want to take such trouble over people who have no hope of living more than a short time anyway, yet they recognise that here is Goodness: here is God. Mother Teresa seeks no glory. Yet the glory of God is revealed in that humble house and shines throughout the length and breadth of the world. Here is Christmas - God becoming present in ordinary human situations.

So in all the extravagant spending and merrymaking of this season, try not to forget the Christ-child. How about a collection at your Christmas dinner for Mother Teresa? I shall be glad to forward it to the right quarter.

You will all be most welcome at any of the Christmas services. The 9.30 am on Christmas morning will cater especially for parents with young families, who may leave, if they wish, before the Communion begins.

Gill and I send you our warmest greetings. And may 1982 be a year in which God leads us all closer to Himself.



Mother Teresa was once confronted by an American newsman who asked her why she should expend her limited resources on people for whom there was no hope? She knew that she had no answer that would make sense to him so she replied softly: "These people have been treated all their lives like dogs. Their greatest disease is a sense that they are unwanted. Don't they have the right to die like angels?"

Upon us rests the responsibility of giving such interpretation of Christ to the world that men shall be compelled to consider him, to draw near to him, to revere him and, ultimately—through the ministry of our lives—to trust and serve him.

— Dr J. Stuart Holden

THE ROYAL



The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Chesterfield did a lot for the people of the town. Even the most convinced anti-royalists (and there are some at large in the district) must surely admit that.

The spontaneous release of patriotic emotion which this couple evoke wherever they go seems to indicate that the symbol of the crown meets an important need in the life of the people. Whereas all the political turmoil, the economic problems, and the industrial conflict tend to induce in us, as a nation, a sense of self-depreciation, the symbolism of the Queen and the heir to the Throne enables us, if only for a few short hours, to emerge from this slough of despond, and recover our sense of identity: to say to ourselves, 'We're one nation, and we're O.K.'.

It is a remarkable phenomenon that in this egalitarian age the crown should still be held in such high regard. That it is so is due to the remarkable qualities of our present Queen who has earned the admiration of every section of the population. But is surely due no less to the personality and character of Prince Charles. Not every member of the Royal family is an admirable person. If the heir to the Throne were seen to be an unsatisfactory character, it is probable that the monarchy would now be on the way out. We may regard it as an act of divine providence or our marvellous luck (according to choice) that we have Charles; and there must be comparatively few who do not look forward to the prospect of his coming to the Throne.

VISIT



Now the Princess is having a baby. All who value the crown will earnestly hope that Prince Charles' heir will prove to be as well qualified to occupy the Throne as his father and grandmother. That cannot be guaranteed; but much can happen to help or to hinder. We now know that the experiences of a child during his early years are crucial for the healthy development of his personality. Most important of all is the relationship with his mother during infancy. Inevitably Prince Charles will continue to travel extensively in the course of his duties as Prince of Wales; and his visits to London are bound to be more frequent as the Queen delegates more of her functions to her heir. Inevitably there will be public demand that the Princess should accompany her husband. This demand she should steadfastly resist. The welfare of her children

- and ultimately that of the country - requires that she herself should give them all the attention they need.

The story is told of our present Queen when she was a princess. She and princess Margaret had been wandering around the woods of Balmoral and had become lost. They went to a cottage for a glass of water. The woman gave them some water and sensed somehow that they were important children. She said to them, "There you are my dears, now tell me who you are." Princess Elizabeth replied, "Oh, I am nobody, but my Daddy is the King!"



This should be the testimony of all true Christians, "Oh, I am nobody, but my Daddy is the King of Kings!"





150th Anniversary Celebrations



Saturday 12th December 1981 at 7.30 p.m.
"Christmas in Brampton"
Gabriel Woolf and the Renaissance Singers
A celebration of Christmas in Song and Story





Gabriel Woolf



Sunday 20th December 1981 at 6.30 p.m.
Festival of Carols



Thursday 24th December 1981 at 6.30 p.m.
Carols around the Christmas Tree



Thursday 24th December 1981 at 11.30 p.m.
The First Eucharist of Christmas

Friday 25th December 1981
Christmas Day at St. Thomas'
Holy Communion at 8 a.m.
Family Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Saturday 16th January 1982 at 7.30 p.m.
The Sound of Brass
Holymoorside Brass Band

Saturday 23rd January 1982 at 8 p.m.
New Year Party
Guest Artists; The Four Folk

