

# *The* CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

*January – December 1955*

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Goring United Reformed Church  
Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex.

: No. 65.  
: Bi-Monthly.

THE CHRONICLE  
Goring Congregational Church.  
Shaftesbury Avenue

January and  
February 1955. :

MINISTER: Rev. C. C. Franks.  
19, Brook Barn Way, West Worthing. (Tel: 41319).

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(Tel: Goring 43304).

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Manse, December 1954.

My Dear Friends,

This letter will reach you after Christmas as we make ready to face the New Year. What of 1955? Mercifully we cannot know now what it holds and yet surely God wants us to work and plan with Him to make that future what we conceive it should be.

We have our responsibilities in many spheres, but none is more important than that we have as Christian men and women: responsibility to God, to our neighbour and to ourselves. These responsibilities we hold as individuals, as members of a local community and as Church members. It is this last aspect I want you to consider especially, and may I suggest, as I did at the Church Meeting on December 2nd, that you should make opportunities of doing this in your homes as you meet one another in the ordinary social way. Will you set aside some part of your time for a consideration of the work that our Church is called upon to do in this day and district, and then bring the fruits of your talking and thinking and praying to the Church Meetings that we all may share and seek the guidance of God for us.

I suppose that a perpetually dissatisfied man is not a pleasant companion, and yet there is a "Holy dissatisfaction" that we should always have. Satisfaction can throttle the life out of a Church. We must be sure that it never grips us.

There is a story which tells how the famous Italian master Michelangelo visited the studio of the younger great master Raphael. He saw, resting upon an easel, a nearly completed painting, carefully executed by the skilled artistry of Raphael. Michelangelo studied it carefully. Then going across to the easel he wrote across the painting the simple word "AMPLIUS" - make it larger, expand it into a great work. We have much to be thankful for in our fellowship but this word is surely not one that we can ever afford to ignore.

And how shall this be? In the biography of Percy Mather - pioneer missionary to Asia - this comment is found, "When a man is keen to buy up opportunities, opportunities are brought within his reach".

May God be with you throughout 1955 and may you know the joy of His presence at every moment.

Yours very sincerely,

C. C. FRANKS.

"Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it."

ALBERT SCHWEITZER.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr Editor,

May I take up your challenge in the current issue of the "Chronicle" and suggest that Temperance Advocates should be true to their name, not only by advocating TEMPERANCE but also by temperance in their advocacy? Far be it from me to decry the merits of "Total Abstinence", but the very great majority of my friends and acquaintances are what are called moderate drinkers, and in the whole of a fairly long life I cannot recall more than one or two (apart from very casual acquaintances) who have ever been the worse for drink in the common acceptance of that expression, whether they have been regular drinkers or have indulged only occasionally at festivities and celebrations. Apart from actual knowledge I have not been able to distinguish between teetotallers and others.

I do not doubt the accuracy of the figures quoted from the World Health Organisation, but such figures carry very little weight with the man in the street who sees little or no evidence amongst his friends to support them. Neither is he convinced by the fact that many doctors and top class athletes maintain that partaking of even a little alcoholic drink is necessarily harmful. There are plenty of doctors and athletes (probably a majority) who do not support this view. It has been widely stated that both Boat Race crews include beer in their diet during training.

The real strength of the Temperance Cause lies in the admitted evils of excessive drinking, and it is that excessive indulgence that we should strive to eradicate from our nation. In a truly Temperance campaign we should have the support not only of teetotallers but of the moderate drinkers as well, and we should not repel sympathy and support by intemperate advocacy. It is no excuse to suggest that the brewers are equally intemperate in presenting their case. It is no answer to "a campaign to secure as beer drinkers millions of women who do not at present touch alcohol" to state that "any man who takes a drink before getting into the driving seat of a car is a potential murderer". I have seen that statement in print but it simply is not true and people will not accept it. It does no good at all: rather it arouses resentment and opposition. How much better is the answer to "Beer is Best" - "Beer is best left alone". Personally I don't like the stuff (I have not been brought up to like it), and it is quite expensive, but if my friends do like it in moderation and feel that they get value for their money, what right have I to suggest that they are failing in their Christian duty, and that "no Christian should support it (the drink trade) by drinking intoxicants at all?"

Well, Sir, I have already "stuck my neck out a mile", but I do not wish to have my head cut off so perhaps you will allow me to sign myself

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE"

THE EDITOR REPLIES:

Three dictionaries we have consulted, including Webster's and Cassell's give "total abstinence" among their definitions of temperance, and it is interesting to recall that as far back as about 400 B.C. the Greek historian Xenophon stated "Temperance means moderation in healthful indulgence and secondly, abstinence in things dangerous, as in the use of wines". As regards temperance in advocacy we do not charge the person who is enthusiastic about Evangelism, or Missionary or Sunday School work with being "intemperate". Why then pick on the enthusiastic advocate of total abstinence?

"Temperance Advocate" cannot recall more than one or two people known to him who have been the worse for drink, but the essence of our Christian belief is surely the value in the sight of God even the humblest individual; if there were but one or two victims of this craving for alcohol we should as Christians be concerned for them. However we have the World Health Organisation - not a temperance body - giving 86,000 as the number of drink addicts in England and Wales, and in addition, a further four times that number suffering from alcoholism in its earlier stages;

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this makes over 400,000 victims (about twice the total membership of ALL the Congregational Churches in England and Wales), and everyone of these a brother or sister for whom Christ died, and therefore our concern. Moreover every one of this huge army was once a moderate drinker and no doubt fully intended to remain so. It is no good urging a man who has become an addict to drink in moderation. If he drinks at all he just cannot stop. His only salvation is complete abstinence.

That in short is the answer to the plea for "moderation" in drinking. How can the Christian Church hold that this is not its concern, or escape responsibility if it does not keep its young people acquainted with the terrible risks they run once they commence to drink. It would be a gross betrayal of its trust for the Church to advocate so called moderation.

We would not agree with the statement that the drinking driver is a potential murderer; actually manslaughter is his potential offence. A car in the control (?) of a man who has had any drink is as much a lethal instrument as a loaded rifle, and we do not countenance people being loose on the roads with loaded rifles whether or not they have been drinking. It is surely symptomatic of the unhealthy view we as a nation take of this matter of drink that there should be any question of sympathy for the drinking driver. The slaughter on the roads is appalling, drink is one of the principal causes, and any man who drinks before getting into the driving seat is guilty of a heinous crime. In the sight of God, which we wonder is more important, the life of that little child, killed not because the driver of a car was drunk, but because he had been drinking "moderately" and his reactions were in consequence slowed down - that young life or the satisfaction of the driver's "moderate" requirements?

For the Christian however is not the test "is my example in drinking moderately likely to be a stumbling block to any younger or weaker person who may copy me? A drunken person is an unpleasant sight and it is unlikely that any abstainer would be tempted to commence drinking as a result of the sight and example of such. Actually the moderate drinker is much more of a danger in the matter of example than the drunkard, as it is not at all unlikely that the sight of one who is respected drinking in moderation may prove a temptation and be the cause of someone acquiring the habit.

If the drink problem is ever to be solved it will be because Christian people are concerned and voice their concern in no uncertain manner. The "man in the street" will never start a crusade for such a purpose. In such a campaign there is no room for compromise and to advocate "moderation" in preference to total abstinence is already to have lost the battle.

#### THE GROWTH OF A CHURCH

Many will be surprised to know that Goring Congregational Church is the youngest member of the family of 95 Churches within the Sussex Union. This young Church is now 14 years of age and like all children of fourteen is growing fast. In membership strength it now outstrips many of its elder brethren within the Sussex family. Particulars of the 12 largest Churches (in numerical strength) reveal that our young Fellowship is the 9th largest Congregational Church in the County.

<u>NAME OF CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>SEATING CAPACITY</u>	<u>SCHOLARS</u>	<u>TEACHERS</u>
Brighton (Union)	396	1000	52	7
Hastings (Robertson St.)	389	1050	98	12
Worthing (Shelley Road)	336	620	104	18
Eastbourne (Upperton)	225	500	62	10
Brighton (Lewis Road)	190	400	280	38
Hove (Cliftonville)	180	500	112	23
East Grinstead	174	250	140	24
Portslade	153	300	97	20
Goring	151	190	106	15



<u>NAME OF CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>SEATING CAPACITY</u>	<u>SCHOLARS</u>	<u>TEACHERS</u>
Littlehampton	150	550	130	16
Chichester	141	400	66	16
Hassocks	127	200	133	19

It will be noted that Goring has the smallest margin between its membership and the capacity of the Church. Is this not an indication of the need for early Extension before this young Church becomes of age? W. G. H.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At an inaugural meeting held on Wednesday, October 13th, it was decided to hold a men's meeting fortnightly on the lines of the Women's Fellowship recently formed by the ladies; the first meeting was held on Tuesday, November 2nd, when the address was given by Mr A.E. Pearn, his subject being the life and work of Dr Albert Schweitzer. Additional interest in the address was the showing of a series of lantern slides, giving illustrations of the work done in Dr Schweitzer's hospital at Iambarene.

At the meeting on November 16th, the times was devoted to the procedure to be adopted and to the election of officers. It was decided that the title "Men's Fellowship" was the most suitable, and that the theme "Meet my Neighbour" be the basis of the Fellowship. The following officers were elected:

PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN	Rev. C.C. Franks	REGISTRAR	Mr P.S. West
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Mr A.E. Pearn	COMMITTEE	Mr E.J. Mackie, Mr M.J. Miller,
SECRETARY & TREASURER	Mr Harry Horsfall		Mr J.R. Bridger.

The speaker on November 30th was the Rev. B.R.H. Spaul, M.A., his subject being the work of the Council of Social Service, and on December 14th, our minister the Rev. C.C. Franks spoke of his experiences in Palestine. H. H.

#### THE GROWING LIGHT

There is a Congregational Church in the Holloway district of London which has the very intriguing title of "THE CHURCH OF THE GROWING LIGHT". Some time ago the minister, Rev H.D. Oliver, M.A., appealed to readers of the "Christian World" for new hymns based on the theme of the Growing Light. A large number of hymns were submitted and from these six were selected as the most appropriate. It is a matter of interest and gratification that one of these six were contributed by a member of our congregation, Mr Malcolm Rutt, and we would like to extend warm congratulation to Mr Rutt on the hymn which we give below. Mr Rutt must, we feel, hold the record as a letter writer to the "Christian World" and certainly it is not quantity merely, but letters of a very high quality which he so regularly contributes.

Light of Beauty, rainbow hued,  
In our lives with radiance shine  
That we may reflect Thy glow,  
Making human things divine,  
Light of Beauty be our guide,  
And with us through all abide.

Light of Goodness, be with us  
As we tread life's common ways,  
Turning ugly things and drab  
Into things of joy and praise,  
Light of Goodness be our joy,  
Turn to gold all base alloy.

Light of truth, to us reveal  
Wisdom of the East and West;  
May our open minds receive  
All that's greatest, all that's best.  
Light of truth upon us fall;  
May we always hear Thy call.

May we seek and find the Way ---  
Way of love that Jesus trod;  
Build the Kingdom that He preached,  
Kingdom of our Father God.  
Brighter yet may our light grow  
That God's love through us may glow.

"Persons may be divided unto two classes; those who do things and those who get the credit for them. If you have any choice, choose the first class... there is less competition." INCCG.

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CHURCH NOTES

NEW MEMBERS. Since our last issue two friends have been admitted to membership and to them, Miss A.E. Ebbutt of 12 Rose Walk, who comes by transfer from West Ealing Congregational Church, and Miss D. Parslow, of 4 Glynde Avenue, Goring, by transfer from Kingston-on-Thames Congregational Church, we offer a very warm welcome.

In an article in this issue contributed by Mr Hite he gives some interesting figures regarding the Sussex Churches of our order, and considering the comparatively short time that Goring Church has been in existence the progress made is certainly quite encouraging.

THE SALE OF WORK. This event, held on 17th November, was an outstanding success and cordial thanks are due to the ladies who worked so hard, and also to the gentlemen who gave valuable assistance with the setting up of the stalls and otherwise aided the united effort. The final result was a net sum of £207.5.0. for the Children's Hall Extension Fund; as we go to Press this fund stands at £220 and it is a good start towards the substantial amount required to effect the extension.

HOME CHURCHES FUND. Mr Nodes, our Treasurer, supplies the following particulars about this fund and these are of added interest in view of the fact that the assessment for our Church for 1955 made by the Sussex Congregational Union is £60. Mr Nodes states: "Collections and donations to the Home Churches Fund of the Sussex Congregational Union have amounted to £40.15.11. Adding this sum to £25 collected for the Pastors' Widows' Fund the contribution by our Church this year for Home Missions amounts to £65.15.11. compared with £54.4.4. in 1953".

AN URGENT REQUIREMENT. Under the above heading we referred in our last issue to the need for additional Sunday School teachers. It was gratifying to learn from Mr Franks' recent pulpit announcement that two ladies had offered their services for this vital work. Sincere thanks are due to these friends and to the staff who have been working under very trying conditions for some time, due to the rapid growth in the number of scholars, which has rendered the present accommodation inadequate. We trust that their difficulties will be eased in the near future by the completion of the extension to the Children's Hall.

THE GIFT DAY. We go to press just too early to be able to include in this issue the result of the Gift Day, but the amount received will be known by the time you read this. If it was not possible for you to get to the Church on 16th December, no doubt Mr Nodes will still be pleased to receive contributions to the fund. The growth in the number of Sunday School children has created this financial problem, but it is a problem which is a source of gratification rather than otherwise. If you have not already helped this cause please do what you can at an early date.

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE. In former years it was a well established practice to spend the last few moments of the old year and the first few of the new year at Church. It is good to be able to state that Mr Franks has arranged to conduct such a service this year and he hopes that there will be a good attendance at 11.15 p.m. on Friday, 31st December.

OUR MINISTER: To the many duties and responsibilities which he is already shouldering Mr Franks has added two more. These are chaplaincies at Swandean Hospital and at Worthing Youth Club. We would all wish him well as he undertakes these tasks and trust that they may afford further opportunities for the spread of the Gospel message.

THANK YOU MR CURTIS. Once again we are indebted to Mr Curtis for specimens of his craftsmanship, and no doubt you have seen the handsome book

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rack and the box for contributions to the Extension Fund which are now in the Church lobby. Those of us who find difficulty in even knocking a nail in straight can but gaze in admiration at such beautiful work, and wonder how it is done.

SUNDAY GAMES IN WEST PARK. The protest which Mr Franks made at the action of the Worthing Corporation in giving permission for the West Park playing field to be used for hockey on Sundays has brought the matter prominently before the public. Mr Franks has also given a statement to the Executive Committee of the local Free Church Federal Council and we trust that as a result we shall find that the Nonconformist Conscience is still very much alive in the Worthing area. It may not be practicable for the Corporation to reverse its decision in this particular instance, but that body should be left in no doubt as to the views of Free Churchmen on such a vital issue as the right use of Sunday.

#### EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

1954 ON THE WANE. This issue of "The Chronicle" should be available for distribution on the last Sunday in the year, on the day after Christmas, when we trust all our readers had a happy time. 1954 has been a year of note in the history of our Church, especially by the coming to us in March last of our minister and his family, who now seem so well known to us that they might have been here for years. The months since Mr Franks assumed the pastorate have been times of progress, with increases in congregations, in membership and in the number of children attending the Sunday Schools. We look in 1955 for a continuation of this expansion and to seeing at an early date the completion of the extension to the Children's Hall.

And so, on to the New Year, and may we work together for an increase in the effectiveness of the witness of our Church in the neighbourhood. Mr Franks refers in his message to the need for a "Holy Dissatisfaction" and it is a thought we must constantly keep in mind if our coming together in fellowship is to be productive of the results which alone will justify what we are doing at Goring - the winning of men and women for Jesus Christ.

This and no more we ask, that as we do  
Let it be done to us. Let actions pray  
In the quiet of truth, and let that  
light shine through

Let us seek nothing for ourselves. If  
ill

Our aims and means, deal with our  
crying dust

Itself the things there is no need to say. According to Thy High remorseless will.  
And save us only, Lord, if both be just.  
HUMBERT WOLFE.

#### COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1954.

<u>ENVELOPES</u>				<u>LOOSE CASH</u>				<u>ENVELOPES</u>				<u>LOOSE CASH</u>					
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Oct.	3rd:	10.	18.	10.		8.	5.	4.	Nov.	7th:	11.	6.	6.		9.	8.	3.
	10th:	11.	12.	6.		7.	15.	10.		14th:	11.	1.	0.		8.	13.	3.
	17th:	7.	16.	6.		8.	1.	2.		21st:	9.	1.	6.		7.	9.	1.
	24th:	10.	9.	0.		8.	10.	6.		28th:	8.	15.	6.		5.	11.	7.
	31st:	8.	13.	0.		7.	1.	6.									



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My Dear Friends,

#### THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Manse. February, 1955.

Dr John Marsh, in the January issue of the Congregational Quarterly, writes "Evangelism is not only one of the activities in which the Church can engage, it is also a dimension of everything that the Church or the individual Christian does." Here, in Worthing, judgments like this have certainly been taken to heart and at the moment two projects are being planned. The first, in order of time, is to be the relaying of the Glasgow Mission of Dr Billy Graham which opens on April 18th. It is anticipated that a mammoth marquee will be erected where several thousands will be able to share in these services each night of the campaign. I would sincerely commend this venture to you for your prayers. Realising that there is by no means universal agreement with either the theological beliefs or the evangelistic "techniques" of Dr Graham, I believe that it is right for us all to ask God's blessing on what is being done in His name and for His sake.

The second evangelistic work arises out of the Presidential address, delivered to the Free Church Federal Council at the beginning of the President's term of office. It is "Visitation Evangelism", and while its approach to the people is very different from that of the campaign mentioned above, its end and object - of winning men for Christ - will be precisely the same. This is a united act by the great majority of Free and Anglican Churches in the town. Just when and how the whole plan will come to life we cannot say, but most certainly it is already stirring most vigorously. Once again will you pray that God may guide us to do the right things and that we shall be ready to accept any challenge that He may lay before us.

Evelyn Underhill says, "All evangelism is a sacrificial job. It means constant renunciation and self-offering, acceptance of weariness and monotony, contempt and apparent failure, a perpetual death to self-will." Are we ready for such a witness?

Ill health has struck our fellowship in these last two months to such an extent that I am afraid that my efforts to extend the boundaries of my visiting have been completely defeated. To those who are still unwell we send our greetings and look forward to the time when you will be back to your former strength again.

Yours very sincerely, C. C. FRANKS.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MR AND MRS FRANKS

Just as the copy for this issue of "THE CHRONICLE" goes to the printers we have the glad news of the birth on 11th February of Mr & Mrs Franks' third child, a daughter, to be named Katharine Joy. We know that it would be the wish of the whole of the Fellowship at Goring that warm congratulations and good wishes should be extended to Mr & Mrs Franks: may this young life be a joy (not only in name) and blessing to them in the years that lie ahead.



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OUR APPROACH TO WORSHIP

The responsibility of the "man in the pew" is well set forth in the following words of Rev.D.W.Langridge M.A.: "One wonders whether the folk passively sitting in the pews realise to what an extent the success of a service depends upon their reverence, their expectancy, their thoughts, and their intensity and their devotion. **How different our routine sessions of worship would be if all of us - resisting the dull and deadly sense of familiarity - if all were able to believe that we are actually then and there in the presence of God,**"

SHOULD WE REFUSE TO COMPROMISE?

In a note in the "Radio Times" referring to an item in the Third Programme there occur these words, "One principal function of the Church is to refuse to compromise." Do we agree with this contention? It would be interesting to have our readers' views, particularly as the record of the Free Churches in recent years seems to indicate that there is both individually and collectively a decided tendency to compromise on some issues, in a way which 40 or 50 years ago would have been unthinkable. **We wonder for instance, how many members of our Churches regularly (or irregularly for that matter) fill in football pool coupons and feel that this is compatible with their Christian convictions.** What harm in such a form of amusement, involving trifling sums of money, some will say. But if gambling is wrong, then it is the principle which is involved, and whether the stakes be large or small is beside the point. **Incidentally, we have had experience of people spending up to £10 a week on this form of amusement. The great evil of this thing is that it is responsible for vast numbers of people in this country, including many of immature years, being indoctrinated with the idea that the really desirable aim in life is to acquire a large sum of money for which no service to the community whatsoever has been rendered. Such an outlook is to say the least of it unhealthy, and we submit, unchristian.**

A bill to make it easier to run lotteries for the alleged benefit of sport, charities, etc. is, it is anticipated, shortly to be brought before the House of Commons. It is odd that so many "sportsmen" can apparently be induced to give a few pence weekly to the football or cricket club of which they claim to be supporters only if there is the chance of a handsome money prize attached. **It seems to us a queer form of "sportsmanship". We cannot but view with anxiety this attempt to spread the lottery system: it almost seems as if it is not generally realised that as far back as 1824 lotteries were declared illegal in this country because of the evil effects for which they were responsible. They were declared a "statutory public nuisance" and offenders were dealt with under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. Evidently our forefathers did not think that lotteries were so very desirable!**

Well, do we compromise on this issue or should we in Church Meeting express by resolution our condemnation of this attempt to spread opportunities for gambling, advising our local members of Parliament of our views? **It would be good to see the Nonconformist Conscience aroused from its prevailing lethargy.**

The matter of compromise is much before us just now when Church Unity is being urged. Here the position is not so clear; as we are considering an aim which is certainly desirable if it can be achieved without sacrifice of principle. **Some would be prepared to go a long way to secure unity, but we wonder whether unity may not be purchased at too great a price. Should we Congregationalists be prepared to take episcopacy into our system for instance? This appears a minimum requirement of union with the Anglicans and would certainly split Congregationalism at once. The logical end of the move for union seems to many people to be an absorption of us all by Rome, and we have a feeling that even the most ardent advocate of union among Free Churchmen would not be prepared to swallow that! The Quakers in this country number but some 20,000 but their influence for good is out of all proportion to their numbers. Would their witness have been so effective if they had been absorbed in one huge National Church? We wonder.**

A.E.P.

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OUR BOOK RACK

It has been said that reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. That being so most of us know that regular exercise is usually highly desirable!

So the attention of members and friends is drawn to the Book Rack so beautifully made by Mr H.J.Curtis, and which is fixed to the wall just inside our little Church Lobby. Some of the books and pamphlets can be purchased as indicated, but many of these interesting booklets etc. are for your taking without charge.

A little book, "Floor of Heaven" by Beryl Barber will be for sale or allowed out for short periods free. The author presents most vivid pictures of rural India in a series of sketches, and the book is made up of 26 short chapters, with many illustrations, each chapter guaranteed to arouse and hold the reader's interest. Many folk class missionary literature as "dull", and so toddle off to the nearest circulating library. If "Floor of Heaven" is dull reading, then heaven help us!

Writing of monkeys Miss Barber expresses a bond of affectionate understanding with such creatures, and she adds "they are such ardent lovers of life, so cheerfully wicked and unrepressed." There is a Bengali saying that monkeys could easily talk if they liked, but they are much too clever to do so, for then they would have to enter into agreements and discussions, and be subjected to all the discipline to which poor humans foolishly submit!

Missionary reading "dry" did you say? Not this book at any rate. Yours for 3/6, or lent out if you will first notify that you are taking it. C.H.C.

CHURCH NOTES

CHURCH FLOWERS: Mr Grew has placed on the Notice Board in the Church Lobby a rota with reference to the provision of flowers for the Sunday Services. Will those who have kindly promised to join in this scheme please consult this rota. Any other friends who are willing to be responsible for the provision of flowers should consult Mr Grew on this matter.

THE WARDEN OF BUILDINGS: Mr Hodder has intimated that he feels that he should now resign from this office, to which he has brought the benefit of his skill and technical ability. At the Church Meeting on 2nd February, his resignation was accepted with regret, and a warm expression of thanks for Mr Hodder's ready help was passed. Mr Hodder will continue the oversight of the Small Hall extension until the work is completed.

VISITORS TO THE PULPIT: On 27th March, Mr Franks will be away from Worthing and the pulpit will be occupied in the morning by Dr Leslie Church, the well known Methodist preacher and writer. We can be sure of a stimulating experience. In the evening, there will be an innovation, the service being taken by a team of young lay preachers from the Central District of The Sussex Congregational Union. These young people are doing a good piece of work which merits our support. Please note 27th March and try to be at both services if at all possible.

THE CHILDREN'S HALL: We hope soon to see the completion of the extension and it was a happy thought which prompted the suggestion that the opening ceremony should be performed by our Life Deacon and much loved friend, Mr C.H.Cornwall. There could be no one more fitted to officiate on such an occasion than Mr Cornwall, who in so many ways shows his love and devotion to the Church of his Lord and Master.

DEEDS OF COVENANT: The very name frightens some people off, but it is good to report that Mr Horsfall has received some response to the appeal for more members to combine their F.W.O. with a Deed of Covenant. Thanks are accorded to these friends for this valuable help to the finances of the Church. May we again bring this matter to the attention of all present and prospective contributors to the F.W.O. Scheme, who are paying



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Income Tax on part of their incomes at the Standard Rate of 9/- in the £. By executing a simple form of covenant the Church will receive an additional 16/4 for every £1 paid under F.W.O., at no extra expense to the giver. The promise is for a period of seven years but ceases at death and no liability is attached to the estate of a late member. It is all very simple, as Mr Horsfall will be pleased to explain.

DEACONS' ELECTION: The result of the election will not be known in time for the publication of this issue, but inasmuch as Miss Thomson is not seeking re-election, we would wish to record the grateful thanks of the Fellowship to her for the past three years of loyal service, and to express the hope that her health will show a steady and rapid improvement.

THE GIFT DAY: The result of the Gift Day was a matter of encouragement and gratification to everyone, and is certainly a vindication of this method of dealing with exceptional items of expenditure. At the close of 1954 the Extension Fund for the enlargement of the Small Hall stood as follows:-

Gift Day	£559.	8.	0.
Children's Bricks	11.	15.	0.
Donations	13.	0.	0.
Collecting Boxes	6.	19.	6.
Church Box		11.	1.
Sale of Work	208.	7.	9.
	£800.	1.	4.

DR LESLIE COOKE: At Church Meeting on 2nd February, Mr Franks referred to Dr Cooke's impending departure from Memorial Hall to take up a post with the World Council of Churches. He will not in consequence be seeking re-election as secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. It was decided to send from the meeting to Dr Cooke, good wishes as he undertakes this work in the wider sphere of Christian service. Who, we wonder, will be his successor? The holder of this office has a great responsibility in the work and witness of our denomination and it must be our fervent hope and prayer that a worthy successor to Dr Cooke will be forthcoming.

THE TOLL OF SICKNESS: The early months of the year always seem to bring more cases of illness than any other time. This year has been no exception and we would wish to convey to all who have so suffered the assurance that they have been remembered in thought and prayer by their fellow members at Goring. Days brighter both for weather and health are, we feel, not far off now, and we hope that the summer of 1955 will be superior in every way to that of 1954.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF: There is still a need for more teachers, the immediate urgent requirements being for two women and one man to bring the staff up to the number necessary for the efficient conduct of the classes. The rapid growth in the numbers of children attending has been a source of thankfulness but it has at the same time brought in its train this staffing problem. Volunteers for this worthwhile task will be most welcome and should get in touch with Miss Ford, the Sunday School Superintendent.

THE MID-WEEKLY SERVICE: With the approach of Spring, may we express the hope that more members will find it possible to join in the Thursday evening services. Numbers are not everything, but chairs which are occupied are much more of a help to worship than the "wide open spaces". Mr Franks will, we trust, forgive us for saying that while we are sure he would not wish friends to come merely for his sake, at the same time it might be borne in mind that this service involves for him considerable preparation. The reason for our existence as a Church is our belief in the value of corporate worship (the other things are adjuncts, pleasant maybe, but not strictly essential to our purpose) and this does not mean just worship on a Sunday. Cannot YOU come?

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NEW MEMBERS: At recent Church Meetings the following friends were admitted to membership, and we give them a warm welcome as they join in this closer fellowship with us. Mr & Mrs E. Tilbury of "Canford", Bolsover Road. Mrs Galer of 63 Ardingly Drive. Miss Judson of Bradfield College, Reading. Mrs Morris of 34 Pevensey Road. And Miss Wendy Hughes of 40 Melbourne Road. Miss Hughes makes history by being the first Junior Member to be admitted and the occasion is a particularly happy one for Mr & Mrs Hughes.

#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the General Meeting of the Women's Fellowship held in the Church on 18th January, the following officers were elected:-

President, Mrs C. C. Franks; Vice-President, Mrs J. R. Bridger.  
 Treasurer & Registrar, Miss A. M. Thomas; Pianist, Mrs P. S. West.  
 Missionary Committee Representative, Miss D. Parslow.  
 Secretary, Mrs H. Horsfall.  
 Committee, Mrs P. Atkinson, Miss H. Grey.

It is a pleasure to report a slight increase in the attendance for the Fellowship meetings, and a very hearty invitation is given to all ladies of the Church to attend the meetings on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3 o'clock.

Speakers from various outside organisations give varied and interesting talks which are greatly appreciated. We especially thank Mr A. E. Pearn for his illustrated talk to us about Dr Albert Schweitzer.

E.H.

#### MTN'S FELLOWSHIP

We should very much like to see the attendance at our Fellowship doubled. During the past two months, we have had most interesting and informative speakers, who told us quite a lot we didn't know previously about the Press, the Law, our Worthing Public Gardens, and in "Any Questions", we told each other our own opinions about such widely differing subjects as "Are you satisfied with the new Congregational Praise Hymn Book", "Should the Church publicly state its views on the present tendency to hold political meetings on Sundays", and, in lighter vein, "Are the so-called B.B.C. comedians really funny."

On Tuesday, 8th March, Mr N. Buchanan will tell us of his many years experience in Russia, and on 22nd March, Mr J.W.R. Elphick, Worthing's Road Safety Officer, will try to impart a sense of Road Safety into all of us - pedestrians and motorists alike. Then on 5th April, the Rev. Ivor H. Eaton, B.D., of Littlechampton will speak about "The Life and Message of Edwin Markham".

Can we tempt you from the fireside occasionally to join us?

H.H.

#### EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE: When our local Council agreed to allow Sunday hockey in West Park they certainly started something, and the whole question of the Council's attitude to Sunday observance has been raised. Our own minister called the attention of the Worthing Free Church Federal Council to this matter, and at the Church Meeting on 2nd February, he informed us that it was hoped that a meeting would shortly take place between a deputation from the Free Church Council and some members of the local Council.

It is good that the Free Church view of the proper use of Sunday should be stated in unequivocal terms. There is a lamentable tendency for the Labour Party to hold political meetings on Sundays, and our local young Conservatives recently held a Sunday conference in Worthing, attended by Brig. Prior Palmer, M.P. In these days of shorter working hours and five day working weeks, it would appear quite unnecessary for such events to take place on Sundays. (See Men's Fellowship report above where this matter was discussed.)



## 6.

DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER AT 80

Dr. Schweitzer celebrated his eightieth birthday as he would have wished -- at his hospital at Lambarene in French Equatorial Africa, the scene of his labours for over 40 years. His wonderful physique has enabled him to stand the rigours of a climate which few Europeans can even live in for other than very short periods at a time. **In the last year or two** he has supervised the building of a new leper hospital at Lambarene, and owing to the discovery of drugs in the U.S.A. which have proved effective in the treatment of this dread complaint, for many centuries considered incurable, complete cures are now possible and patients are returning to their homes entirely free from this disease. **We must hope** that the Doctor may yet be spared for some years to continue his mission of healing.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The steady increase in the figures of membership is most gratifying and not a few friends turn their thoughts at times to the possibility of seeing a commencement made with the building of the Church itself. We are however fortunate in having such a lovely Church Hall and most visitors comment upon this when they first see it. A perusal of that excellent little hand book which Mr Harrison prepares each year reveals the fact that there are a considerable number of names therein of friends who are most regular in their attendance at Church and at other gatherings, but who are not actually members. It makes for a strengthening of the witness of the Church when more join in the closer fellowship of membership, and perhaps those concerned could ponder upon this; Mr Franks is glad at any time to have a talk on the duties and privileges of Church Membership.

COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER 1954 AND JANUARY 1955

		<u>ENVELOPES</u>			<u>LOOSE CASH</u>					<u>ENVELOPES</u>			<u>LOOSE CASH</u>			
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
December	5th.	11	10	3	8	8	4	January	2nd.	10.	2	2	8	6	7	
	12th.	8	6	0	7	4	6		9th.	10.	11	6	7	18	2	
	19th.	11	4	9	13	2	3		16th.	7.	5	0	2	16	1	
	26th.	8	2	6	8	2	0		23rd.	12.	16	6	8.	0	11	
		<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>		30th.	9.	11	6	8.	8	3	
										<u>50.</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>35.</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	
Total for two months.....								£161.	17s.	3d.						
British and Foreign Bible Society...								£	9.	2s.	1d.					
L.M.S. Widows and Orphans Fund.....								£	11.	15s.	0d.					
Fen Place (Christmas Day).....								£	6.	16s.	0d.					

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1954.RECEIPTS

1953	CHURCH FUNDS	£.	s.	d.
	OFFERTORIES -			
£309	LOOSE CASH	399	12	2
422	ENVELOPES.	459	13	4
21	SUNDY DONATIONS		19	6.
38	INCOME TAX ON DEEDS OF COVENANT		67	4
27	INTEREST ON LOAN TO SUSSEX UNION		26	3
14	DONATIONS- CHRONICLE FUND		15	8

710 BALANCE IN HAND 1/1/54

BALANCE BROUGHT DOWN  
RENT (1953)CHILDREN'S HALL  
CONTRIBUTION FOR  
DECORATION - WORTHING  
CORPORATION  
SUNDY LETTINGS

987	8	8
687	16	6
£ 1675	5	2
620	13	1

26 14 2

18	3	7
18	13	0
63	10	9
£ 684	3	10

COMMUNION FUND38 OFFERTORIES  
28 BALANCE 1/1/54

52	7	6
42	0	0

£94 7 6

SPECIAL PURPOSES

89 LONDON MISSIONARY SOC.  
30 SUSSEX CONGREGATIONAL  
UNION - HOME MISSIONS  
23 CONGREGATIONAL UNION-  
PASTORS & WIDOWS  
5 CONGREGATIONAL UNION  
(FEN PLACE)  
12 BRITISH & FOREIGN B.C.  
3 COLONIAL MISS. SOCIETY  
7 NATIONAL CHILDREN'S  
HOME & ORPHANAGE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL

88	1	0
40	15	11
25	0	0
6	16	0
31	16	0
9	2	1
3	3	0
20	16	0
18	13	6
£212	7	6

1953		£.	s.	d.
£375	MINISTERIAL SALARIES, SUPPLIES ETC.,	445	7	7
20	MINISTERIAL EXPENSES	20	0	0
53	MANSE EXPENSES	69	3	3
54	ORGANIST AND MUSIC EXPENSES	63	1	10
81	CARETAKER & INSURANCE	81	14	0
117	ELECTRICITY GAS AND WATER	136	9	5
23	CHRONICLE - COST OF DUPLICATION	26	15	6
8	MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY	18	17	8
90	MORTGAGE INTEREST ON MANSE	63	15	0
8	SUBSCRIPTIONS	11	1	6
6	INSURANCES	6	18	6
15	RATES - CHILDRENS HALL	16	7	3
38	SUNDRIES	54	3	1
-	REMOVAL EXPENSES	29	10	0
-	ADVERTISING, ETC	11	7	6

BALANCE CARRIED DOWN

DECORATION CHILDREN'S

HALL	86	10	6
FOLDING CHAIRS	24	16	0
NOTICE BOARD	20	18	3
NETT BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54	551	19	1

£ 684 3 10

16 SUNDY GIFTS TO SICK  
AND NEEDY  
8 VARIOUS DONATIONS  
- SUNDRIES  
42 BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

28	0	0
8	8	0
10	11	6
47	8	0
£ 94	7	6

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY 88 1 0  
SUSSEX CONGREGATIONAL UNION 40 15 11

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES	31	16	0
BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY	9	2	1
COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY	3	3	0
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE	20	16	0
SUNDAY SCHOOL	18	13	6
	<u>£212</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

CHURCH GARDEN FUND

BALANCE 1/1/54

SUNDRY DONATIONS

£.	s.	d.
3	9	10
3	7	0
£6	16	10

PURCHASE OF PLANTS

SUNDRY DISBURSEMENTS

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

£.	s.	d.
1	2	0
	19	0
4	15	10
£6	16	10

ORGAN FUND

BALANCE 1/1/54

SUNDRY DONATIONS

INTEREST - SUSSEX UNION

372	13	9
43	18	0
21	5	0
£437	16	9

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

437	16	9
£437	16	9

BAZAAR FUND

BALANCE 1/1/54

182	15	8
£182	15	8

REDECORATION OF MANSE (BALANCE)

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

8	7	6
174	8	2
£182	15	8

CHILDREN'S HALL EXTENSION FUND

GIFT DAY

SALE OF WORK

CHILDREN'S BRICKS

DONATIONS

BOXES

CHURCH BOX

554	8	0
208	7	9
11	15	0
13	0	0
6	19	6
	11	1
£795	1	4

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

795	1	4
£795	1	4

CHURCH BUILDING FUND

BALANCE OF C.R. BARRETT'S

LEGACY 1/1/54

INTEREST, YEAR ENDED 31/12/54

H.G. KING LEGACY

INTEREST, PERIOD TO 31/12/54

750	12	8
31	17	6
200	0	0
5	14	0
£988	4	2

BALANCE IN HANDS OF SUSSEX  
CONGREGATION UNION 31/12/54

988	4	2
£988	4	2

CHURCH WORKING PARTY

BALANCE 1/1/54

SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, ETC.

GOODS SOLD, JUMBLE SALE

P.O. BANK INTEREST

PENNY BOX COLLECTIONS

(DETAILS SUPPLIED BY MISS  
M.N. STEVENSON)

43	9	7
25	7	11
45	7	9
1	18	6
2	13	2
£118	16	11

MATERIALS

WOOL

SUNDRIES

DONATION TO BRITISH SAILORS

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

61	5	9
1	8	8
7	10	11
2	2	0
46	9	7
£118	16	11

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BALANCE 1/1/54

TOTAL RECEIPTS 1954

(DETAILS SUPPLIED BY MR  
H.E. BLACKMAN)

23	13	4
77	14	10
£101	8	2

TOTAL PAYMENTS 1954

BALANCE IN HAND 31/12/54

68	4	7
33	3	7
£101	8	2

HOSPITALITY - FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL (PER MR H. HORSFALL) £23 3.0.  
EAST HAM CHILDREN'S OUTING (PER MR H. HORSFALL) £22.12.0.

WE HAVE EXAMINED THE VOUCHERS AND ACCOUNTS AND COMPARED THEM WITH THE  
SUMMARIES SUBMITTED AND FOUND THEM TO BE CORRECT.

26.1.55.

T.G. WILLOUGHBY  
S.F. GREW.

No. 67  
Bi-Monthly

THE CHRONICLE  
Goring Congregational Church  
Shaftesbury Avenue

May and  
June 1955.

MINISTER: Rev. C. C. Franks,  
19 Brook Barn Way, West Worthing. (Tel: Goring 41319)

<u>CHURCH SECRETARY:</u>	:	<u>CHURCH TREASURER:</u>	:	<u>EDITOR OF CHRONICLE:</u>
Mr A. E. Harrison,	:	Mr G. L. Nodes,	:	Mr A. E. Pearn,
Haverstock,	:	5 Parklands Avenue,	:	Furzedown,
Parklands Avenue,	:	West Worthing.	:	Somerset Road,
West Worthing.	:	(Tel: Goring 42731)	:	Ferring.
(Tel: Goring 41034)	:		:	(Tel: Goring 43304)

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Manse. April 1955.

My dear Friends,

Easter is with us as I write to you. Once again we have been recalling the world shattering events that took place in and around Jerusalem some 1900 years ago. It is amazing to think that history so old could be so completely contemporary. The same follies and needs of men are with us as they were then. Fundamentally the world has not changed. But the hope of this season is not in men. Indeed their unchangeableness would only be a reason for despair and a sense of futility to all those who worked for a purer fairer world. Our hope is in the permanence of the grace of God in Jesus Christ; in the utter dependability of Jesus for every crisis and emergency; in the assurance that we do not place our faith in a dead hero but in a Risen and Living Lord Who is the Son of God.

There is every reason for confidence as the churches face the coming days, but there is no room for complacency. We live in a day when it is possible to see great changes in the spirit of the churches themselves, and in the attitude of the stranger to them. Nevertheless we should be at fault if we were to think that no responsibility rests upon us in the grasping and developing of the opportunities that God is giving to us.

It was my privilege to go to Northampton recently to attend the 59th. Congress of the Free Church Federal Council. The theme set by the Moderator was "The Nation for God", and throughout the days we were there we were constantly being brought back to that hope, that need, that challenge. In his Moderatorial address the Rev. Copland Simmons reminded us of the Congregational martyr, John Penry. When he was hanged in 1593 he bequeathed a Bible to each of his four small daughters, and ended his will thus: "I leave the success of my labours, the calling of my country to the knowledge of Christ's blessed Gospel, unto such of my countrymen as the Lord is to raise up after me." The Moderator commented "that is, to you and to me." Later in his address he quoted some words of the theologian Emil Brunner, "As a candle exists by burning, the Church exists by witnessing." Any further comment from me would be superfluous.

"Go ye", said Jesus, "and I will always be with you."  
We must be going.

Yours very sincerely,  
C. C. FRANKS

A WHITE WEDDING

A "White Wedding", and moreover the first at our Church that linked up with the early memories of Elm Grove. On a happy, sunny April day Daphne June Wiseman, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. T. Wiseman, was married to Mr Peter Neal Rippon of Bexhill in



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the presence of quite a large company.

Daphne in her childhood days attended our morning Sunday School at the Elm Grove School Hall, and our very existence as a Church at Barrington Road is largely due to the devoted way in which Mr Wiseman so whole-heartedly gave himself to the work of building up our early fellowship. We are for ever indebted to him for what he did during the years 1940 to 1944 before he and his family left our town to live at Bexhill, where they resided for some years before returning to Worthing.

Mr and Mrs Wiseman's son, the Rev. F. H. Wiseman, B.Sc., B.D., of Wanstead Congregational Church, conducted the actual marriage ceremony, the Rev. C. C. Franks giving a beautiful little address, and although the service was not "fully choral", two hymns were sung, and a visitor contributed the song "Bless this house, O Lord, we pray", whilst the register was being signed, and then the triumphant Wedding March music followed.

Our very best wishes Daphne and Peter, and we are glad your new home will be so near to us.

C.H.C.

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#### THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Though illness and other causes have affected the attendance at our fortnightly meetings the members who have been able to be present have agreed that the various speakers have introduced varied and interesting subjects.

Unfortunately Mr N. Buchanan was not well enough to give us his address on "Russia" on March 8th., and so opportunity on that date was taken to discuss some of the "Any Questions" for which time was not available at the previous session; the discussion which followed showed that even two sessions had not used up the many aspects of religious and topical subjects.

On March 22nd., Mr J. W. R. Elphick, the Road Safety Officer for Worthing, gave us a very interesting talk on Road Safety, which was most vividly illustrated by a series of Talkie Films. These films, taken of road incidents and accidents, were most realistic, and fully emphasised the need for care on the roads both by drivers and pedestrians.

On April 5th., the Rev. Ivor H. Eaton, B.D., of Littlehampton gave an address upon "The Life and Message of Edwin Markham", a subject which was obviously near to his heart; we were glad to have the opportunity of learning from so able an exponent something of one who had done so much to encourage the preaching of a social gospel. At our final meeting on April 19th., Mr Buchanan has very kindly agreed to come to speak to us on Russia.

We feel that it can be claimed that the experiment of starting a Men's Fellowship has been fully justified by the results, and we look forward to the new session commencing in the Autumn and to the maintenance of the same high standard in our future meetings.

H.H.

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#### PALM SUNDAY MUSIC. APRIL 3rd.

Even in Church life much can happen in ten years! In the Spring of 1945 our little "fellowship" was still worshipping in the Elm Grove School Hall, with a piano to lead our singing. And our Church "Chronicle" (then only recently started) recorded that with the coming of the lighter evenings, and starting in April, the war-time afternoon services would revert to the more usual hour of 6.30 p.m., and "it was hoped to have an anthem at the evening worship".

Now ten years later an augmented choir, accompanied by the organ now installed, gave us a beautiful rendering of Maunder's "Olivet to Calvary". Special occasions usually bring more visitors than we normally see, and it was so this time; all present must have felt that the cantata was given in a spirit of worship, and with due and fitting reverence. As printed copies were not available for the congregation it was

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particularly helpful to hear the words being sung by the soloists, and even the spirited choruses could often be followed in theme and wording. Mr F. Bain is to be congratulated on his organ music, and for so training the choir that no obvious conducting was necessary. And it was good to sing hymns like "Just as I am" and "Thy way not mine, O Lord" to the old familiar (and some of think beautiful) tunes.

C.H.C.

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CHURCH NOTES

NEW MEMBERS. We record with pleasure the fact that since our last issue nine new members have been admitted, eight to full membership and one to junior membership. To these friends a warm welcome is given in the assurance that they will find, at Goring, a real Christian fellowship; in both giving and receiving may they be blessed and strengthened in the Faith. "The Chronicle" for March and April recorded that Miss Wendy Hughes had made history by being the first junior member to be admitted and we are glad that her brother, Mr Brian Hughes, has also been so admitted. Those who now come into full membership are Mrs F. Ferrar of "Domus", Bolsover Road, Mr and Mrs Gander of 110 Barrington Road, Mr and Mrs B. C. Hoskins of 40 Robson Road, Mr and Mrs Keen of 71 The Strand and Mrs Franks Pearn of 26 Aglaia Road.

THE DIACONATE. On Sunday morning, 3rd April, at the Communion Service, Mr Franks welcomed the newly elected deacons, Miss M. L. Hawke and Miss M. Wiseman. All members will join in wishing that these friends' term of office will be for them a rich experience, and for the fellowship a source of strength. To the retiring deacons, Miss B. J. Ford and Miss L. C. Thomson, the grateful thanks of the Church are due for their years of service on the diaconate. Mr and Mrs Newman and their family have moved from Chesterfield Road and it is unfortunately no longer practicable for them to attend the Church regularly. In these circumstances Mr Newman has felt that he must resign from the diaconate and his resignation has been accepted with very real regret. To him also sincere thanks are due for his willing service to the Church in so many ways. Mr and Mrs Newman and their children will be very much missed by us all; we hope that they will find happiness in their new home and in the Church which they eventually join.

CHILDREN'S HALL EXTENSION. The extension has taken longer to complete than was estimated though this is not altogether unusual in building operations. However, it is hoped that completion will not be delayed much longer and we look forward to the additional accommodation being available soon, so that the work of the Sunday School may be carried out with greater comfort and efficiency. According to the figures furnished by the Church Treasurer it appears that about £500 will still be required to cover the cost of the extension, and it is hoped that the proceeds of the Sale of Work to be held in November will go a considerable way towards liquidating the outstanding indebtedness. It would be gratifying if the entire cost could be covered before the end of 1955.

Miss Stace has put forward the suggestion that to assist the Extension Fund, members of the congregation might consider dropping one penny in the box in the Church lobby as they leave after each service. This seems a good idea and we gladly pass it on to our readers, trusting it may appeal to them. We seem to remember a hymn in our young days which went "Hear the pennies dropping". Perhaps we shall have to revive that hymn if Miss Stace's idea catches on!

ENGAGEMENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE. These are the Anniversary months and in addition Mr Franks has arranged two pulpit exchanges for the morning services. Please therefore, note the following dates: 8th. May - Rev. T. E. R. Langridge of Clermont Congregational Church, Brighton. 15th. May - Sunday School Anniversary;

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services conducted by Mr Franks. 12th. June - Church Anniversary; services conducted by Rev. Martin Shepherd of Christ Church (Congregational) Westminster Bridge Road. 26th. June - Rev. Barnard H. Spaul, M.A. of Shelley Road Congregational Church, Worthing. The morning exchanges are on 8th. May and 26th. June.

27th. March 1955. Mr Franks fulfilled an engagement at his old Church at Abercarn on this day, and the morning service was conducted by that eminent Methodist, Dr Leslie Church. He is, of course, a great preacher and the service was a memorable one. In the evening a team of young people from the Central District of the Sussex Congregational Union took the service, which was well attended. The young people are to be congratulated on the way they carried through the whole service; the sermon was delivered by a young man who certainly has a decided aptitude for preaching. Everyone present was impressed by his able manner of delivery, the way he had marshalled his material and his strong clear voice. It is to be hoped that he will be led to enter the ministry so that his talents may be more fully used in God's service.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMN BOOK? A superfluous question to put to Congregationalists of course, but for just that odd one or two who did not find all those hymns of which the first lines were given in our last issue we supply the numbers. They were as follows: 664, 514, 477, 363, 358, 500, 414 and 109.

#### "THE NATION FOR GOD"

These words were the theme of the 59th National Congress of the Free Church Federal Council held at Northampton from 21st - 24th. March, under the chairmanship of the Moderator, Rev. F. P. Copland Simmons, M.A., who stressed the need for constantly keeping before the Churches the fact that evangelism was their pre-eminent concern. The Moderator referred to the drift away from the Churches, to the fact that some 85 or 90% of the population of this country had no connection with any Church and saw no reason why they would so align themselves. Here was the task for the Churches to tackle, and to tackle unity, he said. This might well be the answer to the problem of disunity with which they had to deal. Among the resolutions put were those on Africa, Weapons of Mass Destruction and Road Safety. The Home Secretary spoke on the care of young people and Mr George Thomas, M.P., on the influence of Nonconformity. Further speakers on the subject of evangelism were Rev. Tom Allan and Rev. Colin Roberts, who stressed that before evangelism was possible revival was necessary. Dr Leslie Weatherhead, in a closing address, urged that all should look at Jesus and see Him in the full glory of the Saviour of the World and as a present living Lord requiring our utter commitment to Him. Mrs Batten, the leader of the Women's Section, dealt with the menace of drink and urged that all ministers, deacons and leaders should accept an obligation to be total abstainers so that, as she said, this evil thing can be attacked with clean hands.

"Atheism belittles human nature and destroys its capacity for heroism. The human mind can soar in one direction only, and that is upward. He who lives in the steady sense of God's presence, though his life be narrow in its opportunities, shall be strong and do exploits."

W. J. DAWSON.

"This is the hope for the world, that we shall learn to love, and in learning that, unlearn all anger and wrath and evil speaking and malice and bitterness."

IDA CHURCH.

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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION SECRETARYSHIP. As the Council of the Union has been unable to make a recommendation in the matter of a successor to Dr Cooke, it appears that no appointment is likely to be made at the coming "May Meetings", and interim arrangements will have to be made to cover the ensuing twelve months following Dr Cooke's departure from Memorial Hall in May. It seems a pity that there should be no secretary for so prolonged a period in view of the great importance of this office, not only to the denomination but to the whole of our national church life. Dr Sidney Berry, in his long term of office and Dr Cooke for a shorter period, have both carried the responsibilities involved with great distinction and it is no easy matter to follow such men. We would all pray that a decision in accordance with God's will may be reached and that the appointment, when it comes to be made, will be welcomed by the whole denomination.

SIR WINSTON'S RETIREMENT. We feel that it would be the wish of all our readers that in our humble way we should pay tribute to a great man and trust that he may be spared for some years of happy retirement. His life has never been dull from its earliest times right through a long career, and it must be a remarkable experience to look back, as Sir Winston can, to such a varied and exciting run of events, in so many of which he has had a part. He leave office in a blaze of glory, above all to be remembered with gratitude by his countrymen for the way he inspired the nation and the free world in those grim days of 1940 when all seemed lost.

THE HYDROGEN BOMB. The Free Church Federal Council at its recent meetings at Northampton discussed among other things the proposed manufacture by this country of this dread weapon. The Pacifist outlook figured prominently in the discussions as was to be expected, but the resolution which was ultimately carried did not specifically condemn the proposal to make the bomb here, but urged the desirability of the prohibition by international agreement of all weapons of mass destruction, accompanied by a drastic reduction in all other armaments. The surrender of policies of aggression by all nations was also urged. Frankly we do not see that this gets us very far; we all agree that the aims are excellent, but is it unchristian to wonder what value can be placed on agreements made by the Communists when their record is considered. They make no secret of the fact that their aim is world domination, by non-belligerent means if possible, but by force if necessary to achieve their purpose. Any war into which they enter is a "war of liberation" and not aggression. They do not hesitate to shoot their own cabinet ministers and to keep anything up to twelve million of their own people in slave camps where there is an appalling death rate. We do not think we do any service to our country or to the cause of Christianity to ignore such facts as these.

We appreciate that there is a strong pacifist body of opinion within our Churches and we have a profound respect for those who hold these views. It does appear to us, however, that the wars of 1914/1918 and of 1939/1945 might both have been avoided had it been made perfectly clear that this country and the U.S.A. were prepared to fight. The lives of many millions, including some six million Jews, might well have been saved if a restraining hand had been placed on Hitler in time - - and there was ample opportunity for this to have been done. Perhaps we may have from a pacifist the answer to this.

BILLY GRAHAM. Mr Graham's campaign in Scotland appears to be following the lines of the Harringay experience, with large numbers coming forward at the end of the meetings in response to his appeal. We all hope and pray that as a result many may be brought to a knowledge of Christ and His saving Gospel. Worthing is having its own relay of the Glasgow meetings and big preparations have been made to accommodate several thousands nightly in the large marquee in Victoria Park. This has involved much hard work over a period of some months for the ministers in charge of the scheme and for



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their helpers. The results of this venture so far as the life of our local Churches is concerned will be watched with great interest. **Worthing is a town where attendance at Church is much more usual than in many places in this country, but congregations are largely composed of the elderly; this is to be expected in an area which is a favourite for retirement, but the need for young life is urgent if the causes are to be maintained. Will Billy Graham meet this need in this district? Let us hope so.**

**2 ONLY OUT OF 1135!** It does not sound a very big proportion. The Friends Temperance Union recently kept a record over four periods of three weeks each of references on the B.B.C. to alcoholic drink. There were, in that time, 1135 such references, but two only were what might be considered "pro-temperance". The references were classified as follows: Undesirable 598; Harmless but unnecessary 292; Casual references 245. There is something sinister in the way the drink interests are able to insinuate their propaganda into so many programmes on a public corporation such as the B.B.C. and it just isn't good enough. Should not the Church have something to say about this kind of thing? The alarming increase in drunkenness among young people under the age of 21 (and particularly among young women - accompanied as always by a sharp rise in illegitimate births) is surely a concern of all Christians. Every victim of this curse of drink is a brother or sister for whom Christ died and, therefore, has a claim on our compassion; but it is not much use being compassionate if we do nothing to prevent fresh victims being created. To a large extent the Church today pretends that this problem does not exist and fails its Master in so doing. May we pray that our Church will never fall under this condemnation.

#### THE FAITH OF A GREAT CHRISTIAN.

Some years ago that great Nonconformist leader Dr S. W. Hughes, whose sudden death in September last is still so deeply mourned, stated his beliefs in the following words: "Christ is not our problem. He is our Saviour. He is more than an interesting figure in history. As Sovereign Ruler of all mankind He is the interpreter of history and the Judge of all mankind. People and nations will live as befitteth moral and immortal beings when they believe of Christ: "For of Him and through Him and unto Him are all things." That is the faith that will bring peace in the human heart and in the soul of mankind... The age demands our utmost for Christ. Humanity is lost and ruined without Him. But in His Sovereign Power, He can make all things new - and all Christians are ordained to be co-workers together with Him."

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#### COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1955

<u>Envelopes</u>		<u>Loose Offerings</u>		<u>Envelopes</u>		<u>Loose Offerings</u>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Feb. 6th:	11 12 8		7 8 9	Mar. 6th:	9 4 0		4 15 0
13th:	9 10 9		6 15 0	13th:	12 7 4		6 19 6
20th:	6 18 10		6 7 0	20th:	11 2 0		7 12 6
27th:	8 7 6		7 0 0	27th:	10 9 0		9 0 10
	<u>36 9 9</u>		<u>27 10 9</u>		<u>43 2 4</u>		<u>28 7 10</u>

Total for two months: £135.10. 8  
L.M.S. Medical Missions: £ 35.16.10

Children's Hall Extension Fund. Total to 31.3.1955: £845. 3. 7

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No. 68  
Bi-Monthly

THE CHRONICLE  
Goring Congregational Church  
Shaftesbury Avenue

July and  
August 1955

MINISTER: Rev. C. C. Franks,  
19 Brook Barn Way, West Worthing. (Tel: Goring 41319)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

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Fursedown,  
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THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Manse,  
June 1955.

My dear Friends,

It is an obvious truism to say that the pattern of our Christianity is shaped according to our attitude toward Christ. Yet it is a fact that is often forgotten, and many allow years to pass without a re-examination of the manner of their approach to Him.

The German sculptor, Johann Heinrich Von Dannecker, determined that he would make a statue of Christ. When he had completed his first cast he invited a group of children to visit his studio and to inspect his work. They gazed admiringly at the stately figure and then one boy exclaimed, "He must have been a very great man." Dannecker was bitterly disappointed. The sense of greatness was not the impression that he had aspired to convey. He thanked the children and dismissed them.

Having set to work and completed his second cast, he sent for a fresh group of children to visit him. This time they smiled appreciatively and felt magnetically drawn to the lovely figure on the pedestal. It was a girl who broke the silence. "He must have been a very good man" she exclaimed. Dannecker was less displeased than before, but he was by no means satisfied. He decided to make a third attempt. The third cast having been completed he again sent for some children. He scrutinized their faces as they entered the studio. This time, to his secret delight, the boys snatched off their caps as they caught sight of the statue, whilst one of the girls fell in her knees. Dannecker felt that at last he had expressed the adoration that was in his heart.

"Adoration" - the act of recognition of the wonderful fact of Jesus Christ - the perfection, the purity, the power. There is a sense in which we can become too familiar with Christ, in which we can slip into habits of thought about Him that make Him seem to be little more than an unusually affectionate and useful friend. Elevate Christ in your minds and hearts and His influence upon your lives will be intensified; allow yourselves to become accustomed to Him and imperceptibly but inevitably He will move you less and less.

Jesu, of Thee shall be my song;  
To Thee my heart and soul belong;  
All that I have or am is Thine.

And Thou, blest Saviour, Thou art mine;  
Jesu, my Lord I Thee adore;  
O make me love Thee more and more.

Can we echo those words of Henry Collins? Jesus once asked the Pharisees, "What think ye of Christ?" I believe that is the question He asks of us all today - a question that not one of us dare leave unanswered.

"O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Yours very sincerely, C. C. FRANKS.

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A MISSIONARY CHALLENGE

Our missionary meeting took place too late in the month for any report of it to be included in the last "Chronicle".

In his missionary sermon on May 1st. our minister reminded us of the call to be witnesses for Christ in all the World, the call which comes to us as it did to the first disciples. We cannot stop the spread of the Gospel, but we can limit its appeal by our indifference. Is our Church indifferent that so few came to welcome Rev. S. H. Dewdney, the deputation of the L.M.S. from Papua? Those present came in contact with a very vital personality and listened to a most informing address.

Rev. S. H. Dewdney sketched the history of the mission in Papua from 1880, paying high tribute to Lawes, who founded a college at Port Moresby and did invaluable work in translating the Scriptures. Chalmers opened new stations all along the coast and met his death in attempting to penetrate a district occupied by cannibals. Aird Hill Memorial Church is a reminder of his martyrdom.

The speaker then described his own station of Onokolo. Since the War the attractive assembly of thatched roofs on piles has been replaced by dwellings covered with corrugated iron and having timber floors. In the evening, however, the women with gay coloured grass skirts still cook in the open. The thatched hall of the men still stands. No longer is it used for initiation ceremonies, but it still is sacred to the men of the district. Onokolo is the centre of a district forty five miles in extent. Each of the eleven stations in this area now has a pastor or lay preacher. A second hospital has been built and all the work has been done by the people themselves. Now a European nurse has charge of eleven orphans who were in the care of the missionary's wife.

A school educates 300 boys; girls come for preliminary training for pastors' wives and then proceed to Lawes College with their husbands for two years further preparation. Marriages are "arranged" in childhood. One of the missionary's difficult problems is to help these young married people in the early days of adjustment to a new kind of life. This is still a primitive people, subject to relapses into superstition. In the mountain districts the natives are nomadic and work among them is difficult. On the coast journeys are made by canoe with the attendant dangers of surf landing.

In the face of many setbacks missionary work goes forward and the Assembly of the Church in Papua, to which each station sends a representative, bears eloquent testimony to the advance of Christ's work.

Shall we, by prayers, gifts and personal interest, see that this work ever goes forward?

H.G.

SCRIPTURE EXAMINATION

Thirteen members of the Children's Church entered for the Scripture Examination for the first time this year and all passed. They were;

HONOURS CERTIFICATE: Raymonde Waite, Jacqueline Dobson, Olive Bentley

FIRST CLASS: Edward Hite, Wendy Hughes, Brian Hughes

SECOND CLASS: Jeremy Peddar, Judith Ward, Raymond Miller, Robert Topham, John Lindfield.

THIRD CLASS: Delia Hughes, Colin Miller.

Congratulations to all, especially to Raymonde Waite, who has won second prize out of 104 schools to enter, and thanks to all those who helped.

B.J.F.

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"Into the world of fears and hatreds we need to pour a double portion of the spirit of confidence in the power of love. "Not peace at any price, but love at all costs." All our problems today resolve themselves into the problem of learning to live together."

Canon Peter Green.



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IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY NOTICE

An AUTUMN TINTS BAZAAR will be held in the Church Hall on 16th November, 1955. To be opened by the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor D. W. Morecraft, at 11 a.m. Chairman, Mr S. W. Woolven.

Members of the various organisations of the Church are actively engaged in preparing for this effort on behalf of the Extension Fund and the co-operation of all friends of the Church will be gladly welcomed.

The stalls, which will be decorated in Autumn tints, will display for sale the goods which are being prepared, including Needlework, Knitting, Fancy Goods, Sweets and Cakes, Toilet Requisites, Flowers, Men's Goods, Children's Wear and various articles of many kinds. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We have now come to the end of the first year of our Fellowship together, and although at times the numbers at our meetings have been small, we have had some very interesting and helpful gatherings with some excellent speakers.

We shall long remember Mr Pearn's lecture on "The Life and Work of Albert Schweitzer", Miss Anthony's address on the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and also Miss Cable's talk about the United Nations Organisation. We shall also remember our first "Members' Afternoon", when our Vice-Chairman, Mrs Bridger was in the chair and led devotions. Mrs P. S. West and Mrs Corben played piano duets in a delightful manner, Mrs Hite sang charmingly as always, and Mrs Franks gave some beautiful recitals. Although this meeting was in lighter vein we all felt we had received a message. At our business meeting the officers and committee were asked to serve for another year.

Our last meeting was a visit to the Women's County Rally at Union Church, Brighton, a report of which has been very kindly written by Mrs Franks and is given below.

Our opening meeting for the next session will be on September 20th. when we hope many more women of the Church will join us; we shall be delighted to give them a hearty welcome.

E. H.WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP'S BRIGHTON TRIP

Mrs Franks writes: Twenty-nine of us had the joy and privilege of listening to the Rev. Elsie Chamberlain, President-Elect of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, for an inspiring 35 minutes at the County Rally of the Sussex Federation of Congregational Women, held at Union Congregational Church, Brighton, on Thursday May 26th. It was not only the importance of the message she had to pass on to us, but the sincerity and vitality of this "ordinary", yet "out-of-the-ordinary" woman, that made what she had to say seem, to us women, so compelling and urgent.

Her subject was "Evanston - what next?" and she managed to link the sense of purpose of that wonderful Assembly (at which she was a delegate) with the sense of vocation in our individual lives.

Taking the second half of her subject first, she recommended to us literature giving information as to what was being done towards Unity between the Churches of the World. This would provide us with an answer to the accusation "The churches aren't getting together anyway". Then she gave us a few brief glimpses of some of the things that were said and done at Evanston, and above all, showed us what was being accomplished through prayer. She urged US to PRAY, that even greater things might be brought to pass - greater problems solved and greater barriers broken down, leaving us feeling full of tremendous hope for the coming of God's Kingdom even yet upon this earth.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

The Hydrogen Bomb

Are we justified in experimenting with and later using nuclear weapons? I quote an editorial comment from the "Christian News Letter". "Prof. Waddington in a letter to "The Times" stated that it is almost certain that atomic and hydrogen bomb tests will tend to produce long term genetical effects of a harmful kind. Surely the right of self defence does not justify actions which might gravely injure future generations. And if it does not, what is the point of experimenting with weapons which ought not to be used even in self defence."

H. GRAY.

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THE CHILDREN'S ANNIVERSARY

Sunday morning 15th May saw the happy sight of the platform crowded with children, and the very youngest ones down below had one of their experiences of what goes on in the "grown-ups Church".

The children took a prominent part: beside the singing of their own hymns several presented tokens of God's gifts for our provision, warmth, in nature etc. Others contributed to a statement of Christian beliefs, and still another group emphasised the world-wide character of the Church today.

Margaret Mercer read the lesson, and all will remember how ably she performed this for one so young.

Before the commencement of the morning service the superintendent and teachers met with the minister in a service of re-dedication to the task to which God had called them, indeed a high privilege and deep responsibility, and remembered the great reason for the Church, Christ's death upon the cross, in a service of Holy Communion.

The minister addressed both morning and evening gatherings, and later joined parents, teachers and children in the School Hall for a social hour. It was an especial pleasure to welcome to the services parents who were not normally present, and it is hoped that the occasion proved a useful one in the work of furthering God's Kingdom among young and old.

R. L. R. (

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DEPARTURE

It is with very much regret that we have shortly to say good-bye to Mrs Lunn, who has been a junior teacher in the Children's Church for the past few months. We would like to thank her for all she has done and to wish her all the best in her new home in Greenock, Scotland. Now this will mean a vacancy. Will someone kindly volunteer to do this very important task please? With our new hall nearly completed we will not be able to take any more children unless we can have adequate staff.

B. J. F.

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AMERICAN CHANSON

On May 7th. an American Chanson was held in the Church Hall in aid of the Children's stall at the Autumn Bazaar. Home-made teas were served, and there was an orchestra and a concert arranged by Mr Bain and Mr Smith; a member of the Magic Circle performed conjuring tricks. The teachers wish to thank everyone who supported this effort and are pleased to record that the proceeds amounted to over £18.

B. J. F.

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CHURCH NOTES

NEW MEMBERS: Since our last issue three new members have been received into the Fellowship and to them we extend on behalf of the whole Church, a very warm welcome; may this be for them an occasion of much blessing and for the Church added strength in the tasks that lie ahead. These friends are - Miss D. M. Walsh of 59 Terringes Avenue, Miss Johnson of 58 Pembroke Avenue and Mrs Kenning of "Lynwood", Melrose Avenue.

A BRING AND BUY SALE: A Bring and Buy Sale will be held in the garden at the home of Mr and Mrs G. L. Nodes, "Crantock", 5 Parklands Avenue, West Worthing on Saturday, July 2nd, at 3 p.m. Proceeds will be in aid of Refreshments for our Church Bazaar on November 16th.

THE CHURCH GARDEN: We are grateful to the gentlemen who give of their time, energy and skill in looking after the garden. Their numbers are few and it has become advisable to enter into a contract with a nurseryman for the cutting of the grass. The cost is moderate, 3/- a week for 26 weeks of the year. There is a "Garden Fund" but it will not run to covering this new liability and to save the General Church Fund being charged with it small contributions from members of the Church and Congregation will be most welcome.

CHURCH WORKING PARTY: The final meeting for this session will be held on Tuesday, July 12th. It is hoped that a goodly number will be there to hand in finished work for the Bazaar in November M.H.

SUNDAY ENGAGEMENTS: Mr Franks will be taking a well earned holiday during August and we all trust that this will be, for him, for Mrs Franks and their children, a happy and restful time. During Mr Franks' absence the Sunday services will be conducted on August 14th by Dr Leslie Church, on August 21st by Rev. S. O. Morgan, B.A., B.D., and on August 28th by Rev. R. W. G. Talmev. Dr Church and Mr Morgan are old friends who are always assured of a very warm welcome at Goring, and we extend such a welcome also to Mr Talmev as we look forward to becoming better acquainted with him.

AT THE DOOR: We have been accustomed to see Mr Cornwall in the Church vestibule before and after the Sunday services, and there is no one better fitted than he to give a word of welcome to strangers. Mr Cornwall's recent indisposition has obliged him to discontinue this service to the Church, which he undertook in all weathers. We shall miss him "at the door" but rejoice that he is now recovered sufficiently to be able to attend the Sunday and Thursday services. The many things Mr Cornwall has done for his Church ever since the earliest days at Elm Grove have all been for him labours of love, but we are none the less grateful for so much willing and effective service undertaken for his Master's sake.

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"FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABOURS REST"

On Tuesday, May 31st last, after a prolonged illness bravely borne, there passed quietly away in a local nursing home one of our number, who together with her husband joined our Church when it was first formed in June 1947. This friend was Mrs S.J. Knott of 77 Lansdowne Road, and it is only fitting that it should be placed on record how deeply indebted our Church is to the ever enthusiastic and loyal efforts of Mrs Knott, more especially in the early years.

Coming to us from Streatham Congregational Church some years before the War both Mr and Mrs Knott were formerly members of the choir at the Shelley Road Church. But with the advent of war both these friends readily gave their warm support to our local efforts, and the endeavour to form a new fellowship in this district. From then onwards Mrs Knott was one of those who did most to make our Ladies' Working

Party the outstanding organisation in the days which followed. Untiring in her efforts, Mrs Knott, together with Mrs Humphrey as President, most generously gave time, thought and physical strength to give purpose and direction to our cause in the time of strain and anxiety associated with the days of war. Mrs Knott often had the Working Party to meet at her house, and her advice was always welcomed, and often asked for. And even up to the end her interest in our Church was retained. To Mr S. J. Knott, together with his two sons and daughter, our Church offers its genuine sympathy in their great loss, and most gratefully acknowledges the splendid record of real Christian service so well done by Mrs Knott from 1941 onwards.

Yet another old friend has quietly entered into the great unseen world, passing away on the morning of June 7th. in a local nursing home. Mr S. J. Cox of 39 Wallace Avenue, was probably not known to many of our present members, but coming to us from Croydon during the days of war both Mr and Mrs Cox and their daughter, Marjorie, regularly worshipped with us at Elm Grove, and later in our new Church Hall. But the passing of Miss Cox only two years ago proved a very heavy blow, following on the loss of two sons in the war. Although in his ninetieth year, our friend managed to keep active, and retained his interest in many things, including that of Sussex County cricket. Also, although latterly unable to attend Sunday services, he quite often expressed his good wishes for our Church and ministry.

A former member of the Church has recently passed quietly away in a Worthing nursing home. Mrs Margaret Anderson was the mother of Mrs R. V. Challis of 38 George Vth. Avenue, the latter still being on our Church Roll. Coming to Worthing in 1941 Mrs Anderson formerly lived in Wallace Avenue and often attended our Sunday services and also contributed liberally to Church funds. Following a year or two in Scotland her recent return to this town enabled her to see our Church Hall for the first time, and to worship once again with us. So, although unknown to most of our members, we had the pleasure of warmly greeting her, little realising that the end was so near.

C. H. C.

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#### COLLECTIONS FOR APRIL AND MAY 1955

	<u>Envelopes</u>			<u>Loose Offerings.</u>				<u>Envelopes</u>			<u>Loose Offerings</u>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April 3	9	18	9	11	0	9	May 1	8	3	3	-	-	-
10	9	9	5	14	15	0	8	11	1	0	10	10	6
17	9	17	7	8	8	0	15	10	1	3	-	-	-
24	9	6	7	9	5	4	22	9	11	8	10	4	10
							29	15	11	11	8	12	7
	<u>38</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>54</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

Total for Two Months: £165 18 5.

May 1st: London Missionary Society £14 10 0. May 15th: Sunday School £17 7 7.

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"O God, Who has sent us to school in this strange life of ours, and has set us tasks which test all our courage, trust and fidelity; may we not spend our days complaining at circumstance or fretting at discipline, but give ourselves to learn of life and to profit by every experience. Make us strong to endure. When the battle is set, may we know on which side we ought to be; and when the day goes hard, when cowards steal from the field and heroes fall around the standard, may our place be found where the fight is fiercest. If we faint, may we not be faithless; if we fall may it be while facing the foe."

Dr W. E. ORCHARD



No. 69  
Bi-Monthly

THE CHRONICLE  
Goring Congregational Church  
Shaftesbury Avenue

September and  
October 1955

Minister: Rev. C. C. Franks,  
19 Brook Barn Way, West Worthing. (Tel: Goring 41319)

<u>CHURCH SECRETARY:</u>	:	<u>CHURCH TREASURER:</u>	:	<u>EDITOR OF CHRONICLE:</u>
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Parklands Avenue,	:	West Worthing.	:	Somerset Road,
West Worthing.	:	(Tel:Goring 42731)	:	Ferring.
(Tel:Goring 41034)	:		:	(Tel:Goring 43304)

### THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

The Manse. August, 1955.

My dear Friends,

I have just finished writing a sermon for tomorrow. Thinking to relax for a moment I picked up a book only to find that the theme that I had been working at was the subject of the chapter which caught my attention.

Jesus is described by the author as a man who knew how to keep his enthusiasms from fading. They were as fresh when He went to the Cross as when He went first to Jerusalem with His parents. Once again what a mighty example there is here in the character of our Lord. There are few who do not know how difficult it is "to maintain the spiritual glow", how, almost imperceptibly, the enthusiasm and vigour of early faith decline. There are many who yearn to regain it. They want to learn the secret of St Patrick:

St Patrick, as in legends told,  
The morning being very cold,  
In order to assuage the weather,  
Collected bits of ice together;  
THEN Patrick breathed upon the pyre,  
And every fragment blazed with fire!

What is it then that turns frozen faith into a fire of enthusiasm? Better still - what can prevent the refrigerating process?

There are three influences which are prone to break down our zeal. To be on our guard against them, to refuse to submit to them, will go a long way to keep the fire alight. The influence of Custom. We get used to things. We get used to Jesus. We forget the thrill that gripped us when we first knew Him as our Lord and Saviour. We take Him for granted. The whole wonder of the Gospel is accepted as if it had no new thing to offer us. Beware of CUSTOM.

The influence of Adaptation. The enthusiast is always out of tune. He is different. He is compelled to accept isolation. It is the price he pays for his earnestness. The influence to submit to the contagion of the crowd begins to exert pressure, and unless he recognises what is happening to him he begins to adapt himself to the "un-enthusiast". Beware of ADAPTATION.

The influence of DETERIORATION. Faith needs renewal or it falls into disrepair. We need to overhaul it, to repair the holes that have been torn in it by disappointment and sorrow. As body and mind must from time to time receive new reinforcements of energy so does the soul. Beware of DETERIORATION.

I am just about to start my holiday. Perhaps a review of past weeks in personal experience has made me write like this. Perhaps someone else too needs these warnings. If so I am glad to have given them.

God bless you all,

Yours very sincerely,

C. C. FRANKS.

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship opens its Winter session on 20th Sept., and the meetings will be held in the new Children's Hall on alternate Tuesday afternoons. We give a very hearty invitation to all the women of the Church to join us.

We offer a very warm welcome, friendship and, we hope, interesting speakers. The following is our programme for the first half of the session, ending at Christmas:-

- 20th. September: Speaker: Rev. C. C. Franks  
 4th. October: do : Miss Joan Strange. Subject: Refugee Camps  
 18th. do : First Anniversary Meeting. Speaker: Rev. Vera Brazier of Burgess Hill. Tea will be served after the meeting  
 1st. November : Speaker: Miss E. Gerard. Subject: "Old Worthing"  
 22nd. do : Open meeting and joint meeting with the Men's Fellowship  
 Speaker: Mr M. E. Clifton James, who will give his lecture, "I doubled for General Montgomery". This is the man who fooled all Europe.  
 29th. do : Members' Afternoon. "My favourite hymn - and why".  
 13th. December : Christmas afternoon arranged by Mrs Franks.

DO COME AND JOIN US

E.H.

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship, meeting in the new Church Hall, will commence the Winter session on Tuesday 11th October at 3 o'clock and thereafter will meet on alternate Tuesdays. The programme for the meetings up to the end of this year is as follows:-

- 11th. October. : Speaker: Rev. C. C. Franks. Subject: Palestine.  
 25th. do : do Mr J. Johnson " Law and the Lawyers.  
 8th. November : Any Questions  
 22nd. do : Mr M. E. Clifton James. Subject: "I doubled for General Montgomery"  
 6th. December : do Mr A. E. Pearn. do 114 years of voluntary Christian  
 Social Service. The story of the Field Lane Institution.

All men will be most welcome at these meetings. Those who attended the meetings last session thoroughly enjoyed the programme provided and look forward to the coming session confidently. These afternoons coincide with the meetings of the Church Working Party and the ladies very kindly extend an invitation to the men to join them for tea (at the ridiculously low cost of 6d per head) when our meeting is over. This added attraction makes a very pleasant conclusion to the afternoon's fellowship together.

T.G.W.

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A PLEA FOR FRIENDSHIP

At a recent Church Meeting I appealed for magazines of a scientific or philosophic nature for a Displaced Person in Mannheim, whom I have "adopted". The editor has asked me to tell you a little more about this small effort to bring friendship to one of the lonely remnant of refugees, who have no home and no country. For health reasons these have not been absorbed into any resettlement scheme. Mr Dorys Abramenko is one of these. He is 47, very poor and slightly hunch-backed. He is a Russian Ukrainian, a mathematician. He writes perfect English, German, Russian and Ukrainian. He used to be a mining engineer. He is a very intelligent man. Two of his studies have appeared in scientific journals. He is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, a non-smoker and a non-drinker.

I received this preliminary information from the Secretary of this adoption scheme. She suggested Mr Abramenko for "adoption" as he is a most cultivated man and writes good English, thus needing no interpreter. I wrote a letter introducing myself, and as tactfully as I could, expressed a desire to help in whatever way was most needed. A ninepenny coupon was enclosed for a reply. The reply was not sent for

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some weeks. The reason was that Mr Abramenko had had a most difficult month and had no desire to write. He said he was in need of no material help. "Not with bread alone will live the man, and I find it far more important spiritual bread, the food for the mind".

He asked for a book by E. Schroedinger, "The Structure of Space and Time", if it were not too expensive. I sent this book at once. Mr Abramenko was delighted with it. I learned of his living conditions. He occupies a small room in a German home. "I have had a long experience of adjusting my needs and requirements to existing means at my disposal, and never exceed or overstrain them; therefore I have been able to live on any sum of money which I happened to earn, without borrowing from friends or acquaintances". He is glad to have some work to do and reads in his leisure. Later he asked for another book, "The Sources of Eddington Philosophy". This writer has made a special appeal to him, as his clear ideas "sounded like blows on materialistic philosophy". He considers Communism "the greatest and most dangerous enemy of the whole humanity".

Later letters described in a most interesting way the celebration of Easter in the Greek Orthodox Church and the construction of the Church in Mannheim through the efforts of the community. My letters have been monthly. I now hear from the Secretary for the adoption scheme that Mr Abramenko is very lonely and would like to have more frequent letters.

I have given quotations that you may have a more complete picture of this man. If anyone would share this correspondence with me another friend would cheer a man who truly needs and deserves sympathy and encouragement. As my own interests are literary rather than scientific I feel a second correspondent could supply much of what I lack.

"The Remnant" of refugees in Central Europe is a disgrace to civilisation and a challenge to members of the Christian community to seek to alleviate the misery and hopelessness of their condition.

HILDA GREY.

#### CHURCH NOTES

CHURCH WORKING PARTY: Mrs W. G. Hite informs us that it is hoped to commence the new session on Tuesday 13th September and all ladies of the Church will be most welcome. Further details regarding the first meeting will be given later.

A MISSIONARY SUPPER: The needs of the Church Overseas are for our support in prayer, an interest in what is happening on the mission field and in financial help. On Wednesday, 5th Oct., at 7.30 p.m. a "Missionary Supper" will be held at the Church, to be followed by a film showing some aspects of mission work. The tickets are 2/6d. each and can be obtained from Miss M. N. Stevenson. All are welcome and it is hoped that the occasion will be well supported by members of the Church and congregation. Further details will be announced in due course.

AUTUMN TINTS BAZAAR: Friends are reminded of the Bazaar to be held on 16th Nov. and to be opened at 11 a.m. by the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor D. W. Morecraft. The chair will be taken by Mr S. W. Woolven. There will be the following stalls: Church Working Party (2), Children's Church, Minister and Men's, Flowers and Fruit, Cakes and Sweets, Toilet Requisites, Ices and Soft Drinks. Refreshments will be served - Coffee from 10.15 a.m. onwards, Lunches, Teas and Suppers at the appropriate times.

It is hoped to raise £500 from this effort in order to clear the outstanding debt on the Extension to the Children's Hall. Gifts for the various stalls will be gladly welcomed and for any further information about the Bazaar please apply to Mr S. Grew or to Mrs G. L. Nodes.

C. N.

MR WEBBER AND MR MARSHALL: Mr G. Webber has served the Church faithfully as caretaker for some years, but advancing age has compelled him to relinquish this position. We feel that everyone would wish to be associated with the



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letter of thanks and gift sent from the Church to him on the decision of Church Meeting, and to hope that he and Mrs Webber may yet enjoy several years of good health.

We welcome Mr H. Marshall as successor to Mr Webber and hope that he will derive much satisfaction from his work, the efficient performance of which means so much in the smooth running of Church affairs. We tender our sympathy to Mr and Mrs Marshall in regard to Mrs Marshall's illness and trust she will make a rapid and complete recovery. Mr and Mrs Marshall are at present in temporary accommodation which is unsuitable for them, and if any of our readers should hear of two or three rooms to let, preferably within a reasonable distance of the Church, will they please advise Mr Marshall or any of the Church officers.

HAVE YOU ANY SURPLUS CUTLERY? We hear that the Church cutlery department is decidedly short of knives and forks, and it is thought that some among our readers may have a surplus of such things. May we suggest therefore that this section of the household goods be examined (by yourself or by your butler) and if it is found that one or more of these articles (large or small size) can be spared, please let Miss Thomas have them (or it) not later than the end of September.

OPENING OF CHILDREN'S HALL EXTENSION: The extension took much longer to complete than was originally anticipated, but all is now finished and the official opening took place on Saturday afternoon, 23rd July, when Mr Franks presided, Mr Eric Hobden performed the opening ceremony, and the voice of Mr Cornwall was heard, he having recorded his speech on the tape machine. It was a happy occasion and although his doctor had forbidden him to act as opener, Mr Cornwall was present and did in fact on Mr Hobden's suggestion actually turn the key to open the door to the extension.

The Sunday School staff had worked hard both in the new hall and in the old, and the general effect of the furnishings and decorations was most pleasant. The grateful thanks of the Church are due to the staff for this labour of love. This addition to the accommodation will not only greatly assist in the efficient running of the Children's Church and Sunday School, but will also supply a very suitable hall for the mid-week service and for other meetings.

Thanks are due to Mr Hodder, who designed the extension and has supervised its construction, and these are gratefully recorded. Mrs Hodder is, we are glad to say, much better following her recent illness, but Mr and Mrs Hodder feel that they will be wise to reside in future with members of their family. Accordingly they will shortly be moving from Goring to Harrogate. We shall miss them and they will take with them the warm good wishes of us all.

VISITORS FROM CUCKFIELD: It has been the custom for some years for a number of our members to go to Cuckfield Congregational Church for their Anniversary Service and to stay to the tea which follows. When the visit was paid earlier this Summer it was suggested that perhaps the Cuckfield fellowship might at some time pay a return visit to Goring. We are glad that this proposal has borne fruit, and that a party from Cuckfield will be coming by coach on 18th September, aiming to arrive in good time for the evening service. This service will be followed by the service of Holy Communion, and then a social hour will be held in the Children's Hall. We trust that there will be a good attendance at Church that evening (and on all other Sunday evenings as well, of course) so that the occasion may be one of real fellowship. This we would suggest is an example of Independency developing on the right lines.

THE MINISTER'S HOLIDAY AND OUR VISITING MINISTERS: We "go to press" a day or two after Mr Franks' first holiday Sunday, and we all hope that he and Mrs Franks and the children will have a very happy and restful time. We know that Mr Franks never spares himself when he feels that there are calls on his time and energy, and he has no union to see that he does not exceed his

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quota of hours. We do not think that many of us would feel like undertaking the preparation of two or three sermons a week, quite apart from the manifold duties and responsibilities which are a minister's lot.

On Mr Franks' first Sunday away the services were conducted by Dr Leslie F. Church. What a master of the art of preaching he is! He seems to have all the gifts needed for proclaiming the Gospel message, not least of these being a burning zeal and a complete dedication of himself to the service of his Master. We feel that all who were fortunate enough to be present on 14th August would wish to offer him a word of warm thanks. We shall not soon forget his vivid description of his visit to the house of Hermes, and the evening sermon on the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

Our other visitors are Rev. S. O. Morgan, on 21st August and Rev. R. W. G. Talmey on 28th August. It seems hardly the thing to refer to our dear friend Mr Morgan as a visitor; we regard him as one of the family and he is always assured of a warm welcome. Mr Talmey has conducted the services at Goring once before and we are looking forward to becoming better acquainted with him.

CAN YOU HELP? At the Church Meeting held on 4th August, Mr Franks mentioned that there were a number of our members who for reasons of age or infirmity were unable to get to Church services unless they were taken by car. Mr Franks wondered if volunteers would be forthcoming to make it possible to arrange such a service for these friends. This matter will be receiving attention at the next deacons' meeting, but it would be of assistance in coming to a decision on the practicability of such a scheme if any car owners who feel they could help will give their names to Mr Harrison or to any of the deacons.

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#### SUSSEX CONGREGATIONAL UNION - RALLY AT "THE DOME", BRIGHTON

A rally of Sussex Congregationalists has been arranged by the Union at "The Dome" on Saturday, 8th October and it is hoped that our Church will be well represented. Full details will be given later, but please if you can book the date now.

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#### EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: A further agitation for the abolition of the death penalty has followed the hanging recently of a woman who had committed murder. Opinion in all political parties and among Christian people is sharply divided on this issue. It is a horrible business, particularly for those responsible for carrying out the sentence. The only possible justification for the retention of this form of punishment is if the lives of other people are saved because the penalty acts as a deterrent; those who favour abolition say this is not so, but a strong body of opinion takes the opposite view. It is all very difficult. Perhaps some of our readers would care to state a case - for or against.

DEATH ON THE ROADS: Why are we so complacent about this? The scale of the casualties has for long been appalling and appears to be getting worse; ten people killed in a train smash is front page news; 4/500 killed every month in road accidents hardly causes comment. Are we grown callous or is there some other explanation? This does seem to be a matter on which the Christian conscience of this land should not be silent.

DEATH TO THE SOUL: That there are few things more soul destroying than intoxicating drink is emphasised by the report recently issued by the Economic Research Council on Drunkenness among persons under the age of 21. While drunkenness among those over 21 is happily showing some decrease, with the under 21's there has been a sharp increase - greater among young women than among young men, and accompanied, as was only to be expected, by an increase in illegitimate births in those age groups. The

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connection between drink and immorality is plain for all to see.

The issue of such a report would, not so very long ago, have resulted in the great majority of the Free Church ministers taking it as the subject for one of their sermons the following Sunday. It would be interesting to know to what extent this was the case in 1955.

What has the Church to say about it? Can it ignore the fact that 7652 girls under 21, some as young as 13, 14 and 15, were the mothers of illegitimate children in 1953 in this country? Are we to be content that the brewers should reap a rich and increasing monetary harvest while for many young people the harvest is to be one of misery and degradation? And should not the non-abstaining Christian face the situation squarely? For to him or her we feel it is the duty of the Church to say, "Do you realise that when you drink with friends, or attend sherry or cocktail parties, or drink intoxicants at weddings, you are supporting the trade which is responsible for the downfall of so many young (and old) people? Do you appreciate that the mainstay of this trade is the moderate and the occasional drinker, and that without their support the trade would quickly die? Do you then realise that you personally bear part of the responsibility for what has happened to these young girls?"

We realise that we shall be very unpopular to state such things so bluntly, but we submit that we are not giving our OPINION but are putting forward the COLD HARD FACTS of this drinking business. No doubt Church members in the 21st Century will be as amazed to think that we tolerated this trade in drink as we are when we remember that the abolition of slavery was strongly opposed in this country by many good Christian folk.

The columns of "The Chronicle" are open for "letters to the editor". Here is an opportunity for any non-abstaining reader to write and show that our assessment of the position is not fairly stated. It will be no answer to say that one knows lots of people who have been drinking for years with no apparent ill effects. So do we. It is to be noted however that the ranks of the drunkards and drink addicts have but one source of recruitment --- from among the "moderate" drinkers.

#### COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE AND JULY 1955

		<u>Envelopes.</u>			<u>Loose Offerings.</u>					<u>Envelopes.</u>			<u>Loose Offerings.</u>		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
June	5	11	8	3	9	2	10	July	3	9	10	9	9	8	4
	12	7	16	6	6	13	5		10	11	4	6	10	0	0
	19	10	1	4	10	8	8		17	7	14	6	7	15	6
	26	11	19	3	9	7	1		24	10	15	9	9	4	6
									31	10	14	1	9	12	0
		41	5	4	35	12	0			49	19	7	46	0	4

Total for two months: £172. 17. 3. Pastors' Widows' Fund: £14. 17. 3

National Children's Home and Orphanage: £8. 17. 0.

The sum of £76. 5. 10 has been received from the Chief Inspector of Taxes (Claims) in respect of refund of tax under Deeds of Covenant for the year ended 5th April, 1955. In accordance with the resolution of Church Meeting this amount will be used to reduce the mortgage outstanding on the Church Manse.

G.L.N.

Mr Nodes refers above to the sum received in respect of refund of tax on the Deeds of Covenant, and this useful amount does serve to emphasise the great advantage to the Church of members of the F.W.O. scheme making their payments subject to a simple form of deed. If everyone who pays Income Tax at the Standard Rate (at present 8/6 in £) on part of their incomes would do this we should soon have the Manse loan repaid and be thinking about building the Church. Please think about it, or better still have a chat with the expert on Deeds of Covenant, Mr H. Horsfall.

Ed.



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THE CHRONICLE  
Goring Congregational Church  
Shaftesbury Avenue

November and  
December 1955

Minister: Rev. C. C. Franks,  
19 Brook Barn Way, West Worthing. (Tel: Goring 41319)

<u>CHURCH SECRETARY:</u>	:	<u>CHURCH TREASURER:</u>	:	<u>EDITOR OF CHRONICLE:</u>
Mr A. E. Harrison,	:	Mr G. L. Nodes,	:	Mr A. E. Fearn,
Haverstock,	:	5 Parklands Avenue	:	Furzedown,
Parklands Avenue,	:	West Worthing.	:	Somerset Road,
West Worthing.	:	(Tel:Goring 42731)	:	Ferring.
(Tel:Goring 41034)	:		:	(Tel:Goring 43304)

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Manse. October 1955.

My Dear Friends,

I was reminded the other day of the last words of David Copperfield. They are these: "Oh, Agnes, oh my soul, so may thy face be by me when I close my life indeed; so may I, when realities are melting from me like the shadows which I now dismiss, find thee still near me, pointing upwards." There could not be any finer friend than one who stood "pointing upwards". And we have such a one and more. One who not only points upward but helps to propel us upward to the higher heights of joy and victory in life.

And how does this happen? It is by the gift of faith in Himself. It is by instilling into us the unshakable confidence that Jesus who lives has, in some way that we cannot describe or understand, given over to us something of Himself. "This is the victory that overcometh the World, even our faith."

I do not move toward victory by faith in a written record, however accurate that may be, or by faith in a church however firmly linked to history. The only faith that can overcome is a living faith in a living conqueror. Into this world came that living Conqueror and in this world He is still. It is only a matter of weeks before we shall be in the season of Advent again, remembering this tremendous fact. Commerce and industry are already beginning to impress upon us that "Christmas is coming". It is not too soon for us to be making our own preparations of the spirit to be ready to celebrate it, in what is surely the way in which He would wish, by a new gesture of faith, by a fresh grip on the Conqueror, by a re-equipment to overcome the world.

He is "pointing up" to victories not only in our own experience of life but to victories for others. The opportunities and needs of the district around us are almost frightening; they would be completely so if it were not that He has made His promise through His servant to us.

To those who believe it is "Victory" all the way.

Yours very sincerely,

C. C. FRANKS.

THE CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

At this year's meetings of the Assembly of the Congregational Union of England and Wales (The May Meetings) the new Prayer Fellowship was given a blessing and 1st January 1956 will see the commencement of this venture. It is a first step in the hoped for integration of the London Missionary Society and the Union.

A handbook will be issued to all members of the Fellowship, and Miss Hawke, who is the secretary for our Church, has a specimen copy which she will be pleased to show to anyone who contemplates joining the Fellowship. So far 14 members have been enrolled,

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but it is hoped that this number will be very considerably increased shortly.

The annual subscription is but 1/- a year; please consult Miss Hawke for all information about the scheme.

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"WHERE AFES SWING TO AND FRO"

(Congregational Praise, Hymn No. 344)

About 1887 a small boy watched with awe and wonder as the famous James Chalmers presided at a Children's Missionary Meeting.. In front of this already famous missionary were curios, spears, clubs and other fearsome looking weapons. Chalmers looked his part - quiet in manner, yet brave and fearless looking, with the physique and appearance one would associate with the romantic age of foreign missions.

And now in 1955 on October 5th., at our Missionary Supper evening, here again was something to wonder at. We together watched a sound and coloured film of real beauty showing the same historic mission field, but in place of savage and naked cannibals who murdered Chalmers and his fellow worker as they landed, we saw a plane about to alight, and a gay little launch skimming the lovely seas, and carrying the fluttering flag of the L.M.S. - - - still on the same mission, "Goodwill amongst men".

A stormy evening greatly reduced the attendance, yet even so 65 were present, and it need hardly be said that the supper itself was a feast of good things, which must have entailed much thought and preparation, and reflected great credit on those ladies who made the arrangements. Receipts roughly covered the expenses, and during a brief interval those present were privileged to hear the Rev. H. J. Rowse of Sompting Congregation Church and Chairman of the local Auxiliary of the L.M.S. say a few appropriate words. Mr Rowse has an attractive personality, and we were pleased to have him with us.

Our Church Hall seemed transformed! Here were all the chairs facing the entrance, with a wide central aisle. The alcoved lobby seemed a natural surround for the beautiful little film screen. And all around the Hall itself were large photographs of mission work in Africa and Papua, together with many curios and fascinating specimens of native art. Helped by Miss Grey our minister made the Hall look very attractive, and a local friend (Mr Jenkins) showed the films to an appreciative audience. The whole evening was well planned and gave us "something to think over" as the I.B.R. Association might say.

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 C.H.C.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

We are pleased to give below a letter on the above subject received from our friend, Mr Malcolm Rutt. Mr Rutt is a frequent contributor to the columns of the religious press, and to the "Christian World" in particular. The editor of that journal quite recently referred to the esteem in which he held Mr Rutt and to the value of his contributions to current religious thought.

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 In response to your invitation in the current issue of the "Chronicle" I would offer the following observations:

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY

1. The bottom has long since fallen out of the "Deterrent" argument. The published statistics of the countries which have abolished Capital Punishment prove the exact opposite.
2. Capital Punishment is a confession of failure. ALL punishment should be redemptive, NEVER vindictive or revengeful.
3. The effect of executions on the Community is deplorable. A friend of mine who for many years was a chaplain at a well known London prison once described to me the horribly unclean atmosphere of the place on the mornings of executions. Everyone feels tainted and soiled by it. And there is no doubt that it is the shadow of the gallows that gives to murder trials the undesirable sensationalism which always surrounds them.

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And we still await proof that judicial hanging is always humane and instantaneous!

AND FROM THE RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT

Capital Punishment is the continuation of the old law of revenge, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"; but Jesus of Nazareth proclaimed ideals and teaching in complete contradiction to that law.

We have no right to shelter ourselves behind the figure of the Public Hangman. The guilt is upon us all. Deliberately to train an individual to become an expert killer, and then over a period of years to encourage him by monetary rewards to continue to kill in cold blood, is not only a communal sin against him, from the Christian angle it is a sin against God, in Whose image we, everyone of us, are.

I would conclude by quoting your own words. "It is a horrible business". Let us then in the name of Jesus, unite to get rid of this unspeakable horror, as we have in the past got rid of such hideous things as the sending of children up the chimneys, down the mines, and into the factories - concerning which "horrors" the vast majority of good and pious Christian folk had no "sense of sin"! For this is not an academic problem calling for debate. It is a terrible evil demanding a CRUSADE.

It is no argument to say that the Christian Church is not united on this issue. We do not necessarily owe allegiance to the Christian Church. We do owe allegiance - ALL THE TIME - to the ideals and teaching of the Carpenter of Nazareth, if we claim to be His followers.

But what a chance of leadership the Church is once again missing! And the pity of it!

MALCOLM RUTT

"TO THINK OVER"

(A favourite form of words used in the I.B.R.A. Notes on Bible Reading)

Many of our young folk of today may never have heard of the story of Queen Victoria, who, when receiving a dusky potentate visitor at Buckingham Palace, handed her guest a copy of the Bible, at the same time remarking that it was reverence for, and belief in that book, which had made England great.

We have travelled far since those days - farther and ever so much faster, and the danger is that in our haste we may lose our sense of values, and what are things of real worth. So although this royal story may have lost some of its appeal, it still remains true that the Bible lays stress on things which are priceless, and not to be lightly disregarded.

So in the closing weeks of yet another year attention is drawn to the help and inspiration to be found in the notes issued by the International Bible Reading Association and the Bible Reading Fellowship. At present our Church has a total membership for these two organisations of 119 readers, 102 adults and 17 children, and many of our number have been greatly helped in this way.

B.R.F. membership for 1956 will remain at 2/- subscription, with the notes issued quarterly, but some increase in price is to be expected in the near future. The I.B.R.A. issue half-yearly notes, and the annual subscription will be 3/-. But the little booklet entitled "Notes on Bible Reading" will in the New Year have special aids for worship each day, and will include prayers, and prayer suggestions, thoughts for meditation, and pointers to devotional reading in the Psalter and hymn books. Also the book of notes will be larger, and thus permit of increased size of type, and in addition the main Christian festivals and the principal days in the Church year will be observed.

The I.B.R.A. cater for all ages, and for the children aged 8/11 years the new booklet "Treasure Trove" will be attractively printed in two colours, together with maps and coloured pictures, all for 9d. per half year.

New members wishing to join should apply to Miss M. Stevenson (3, Somerville Court, Princess Avenue, West Worthing), who will gladly supply any information needed. If



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application for membership is made through Miss Stevenson the subscriptions payable are as stated, otherwise individual members affiliating pay a little more.

Some of us can testify to the very great value of the books of notes issued, and such help to Bible reading works out at well under one penny weekly in cost. C.H.C.

#### CHURCH NOTES

THE WOMEN'S GUILD. To avoid any misunderstanding may we remind the women of the Church that the former Church Working Party and the Women's Fellowship have been amalgamated under the title of the Women's Guild. Meetings are held on Tuesday afternoons, the Guild Working Party at 2.30 p.m. and the Guild Devotional Meeting at 3 p.m., these two meetings being held alternately.

HARVEST FESTIVAL. The Church was full to overflowing on Sunday morning, 25th Sept. and there was a fine display of fruit, vegetables and flowers, which were next day distributed among our own sick folk and a number of local "good causes". The children took an active part in the morning service and were most generous in bringing their gifts for this occasion. It was altogether a very happy day and grateful thanks are due to all who in any way contributed to the festival.

POUND HILL, CRAWLEY. The development of Crawley as an industrial town (it is anticipated that it will have a population of some 60,000 within the next few years) with the opening up of new residential districts there, has afforded opportunities for the creation of new Church fellowships. A site on the eastern boundaries of Crawley has been allotted to Congregationalism for the building of a Church, and a company of Free Church friends have for some time been worshipping together in a Community hut near the site.

On 9th October the Pound Hill Church was formed, some 30/40 joining into membership at the Covenant Service. At the recent Assembly of the Sussex Congregational Union at Crawley it was resolved with enthusiasm to press forward with plans for erecting a Church building as soon as possible, and it is hoped that building operations may be commenced shortly. In such a rapidly expanding neighbourhood there are almost unlimited opportunities for the creation of a strong Congregational fellowship. Support for the scheme is promised by the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and as this is at present the only new Congregational Church building planned in Sussex an appeal is made to all the Congregational Churches in the county to do what they can to help. The Church at St Leonards has already responded to this appeal by making a gift of some £21. It is hoped that the response throughout the county will be in the same generous spirit.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. The Winter session of the Fellowship opened on 11th October, when Mr Franks gave a most interesting talk on Palestine, based on his personal experiences during the 1939/1945 War, when he spent a considerable time in that region. It was a "personally conducted" tour of about 100 miles, in the course of which towns and villages, the names of which seemed so familiar from our reading of the New Testament, were visited and described.

The Fellowship meets on alternate Tuesdays, (the same day as the Guild Working Party) at 3 p.m. and a warm invitation is extended to all men to be with us on these occasions.

AUTUMN TINTS BAZAAR. In case you have forgotten the date or lost your diary, please bear in mind, Wednesday, 16th November, when the bazaar will be held. We hope that as a result of this effort the cost of the extension to the Children's Hall will be completely cleared. It will be gratifying if we can finish the year free of debt to this extent at any rate. (See separate notice with details of this event)

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NEW MEMBERS. Since the date of our last issue the following ladies have been admitted to membership of the Church, by resolution of Church Meeting on 29th September. We extend to them a warm welcome and pray that their coming into the fellowship may be for them an occasion of joy, and that for the Church it may be an added source of strength. These friends are Miss E. V. Spurgeon from Steyne Gardens Methodist Church, and Mrs James and Miss Appelbee from Bromley, Kent. If you have not already made the acquaintance of these ladies please make an opportunity to do so.

THE NEW HALL. The extension to the Children's Hall is proving not only of inestimable benefit to the Sunday School in coping with the increasing number of children who happily are coming to us, but it is also found to be much more suitable for the mid-week service and for other meetings. There appears no doubt that it will be well used in this and other ways, and the decision made last year to embark on this building operation has been well justified.

THE PASSING OF MRS HODDER. We extend to Mr Hodder and the members of his family the sincere sympathy of the fellowship at the passing of Mrs Hodder. There had been hopes of a recovery on Mrs Hodder's part which would have permitted them to move to Harrogate where they planned to live with some of their family, but it was not to be. Mr and Mrs Hodder have for several years been loyal and hard working members of the Church and there is a permanent reminder of Mr Hodder's efforts in the Children's Hall and the extension to it. Both these buildings were planned by him and erected under his supervision. He will be much in our thoughts and prayers in this time of sorrow for him.

THE TOLL OF SICKNESS. The fine summer has not rendered our membership free from sickness and as we go to press it is with the knowledge that among the Church Fellowship there are a number who are suffering in various degrees of seriousness. We would like them to be assured that they are remembered by us, that they are missed very much, and that their recovery to full health and strength is a matter for which we pray.

++++++  
+            A DAY TO REMEMBER            +  
+            WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16th.            +  
+            +  
++++++

AUTUMN TINTS BAZAAR to be opened at 11 a.m. by the  
MAYOR OF WORTHING, COUNCILLOR D. W. MORECRAFT  
CHAIRMAN: MR S. W. WOOLVEN

Come and buy your Christmas gifts.            Articles to suit all tastes.  
Coffee will be served in the Children's Hall at 10.15 a.m.  
also Lunches, Teas and Suppers at various intervals

Further particulars on hand bill enclosed which please pass on to your friends.

#### EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

ECUMENICITY. We do not like the word, but it is now apparently well established in the vocabulary of religious terms so we must put up with it. It was much to the forefront last year when the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches was being planned and while it was being held; great things were expected from this gathering of Christian people from all over the world. May we confess to a measure of disappointment at the eventual results - at least the results

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which are apparent to the average layman (if we can lay claim to such distinction). We heard much about the "sin of our disunity", but we belong to that awful body of people who see no sin in this, and feel that many of our differences are healthy and inevitable unless we are to become robots. We cannot see for instance that the present divisions among the Free Churches need prevent the kind of united action by them such as was taken in the past, with great effect on many occasions, and which showed the Nonconformist Conscience as a powerful force for social righteousness.

Seeing that talks extending over some years have brought the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians little if any nearer agreement for union, and that even the London Missionary Society and the Congregational Union of England and Wales have so far been unable to reach a satisfactory basis for integration, the prospects for any wider measure of union, such as with for instance the Anglican Church, appear rather dim.

One almost gathered last year from the statements of some leading Free Church ministers that there was little in the way of sacrifice of principle which would not be considered justified in the interests of union. To find Congregational ministers of many years standing thinking in such terms shook us to the core. We even wondered why they had remained Congregational ministers so long.

The World Council of Churches has done some admirable work relieving distress among the refugees and displaced persons who still remain a blot on our civilisation. Would this task be carried out any more efficiently by one united church rather than by the present organisation? The 20,000 Quakers in this country exercise an influence out of all proportion to their numbers. Would their influence be greater or as great if they were swallowed up in one big united church?

#### COLLECTIONS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1955

		<u>Envelopes</u>		<u>Loose Offerings</u>				<u>Envelopes</u>		<u>Loose Offerings</u>	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
August	7	7	18 4	11	0 0	September	4	9	1 8	9	4 6
	14	9	5 8	9	17 1		11	10	8 3	10	3 6
	21	7	12 6	6	0 7		18	11	1 0	11	6 0
	28	12	3 0	8	7 6		25	9	9 4	-	- -
		<u>36 19 6</u>		<u>35 5 2</u>				<u>40 0 3</u>		<u>30 14 0</u>	

Total for two months - £ 142 18 11.

Home Churches Fund - £ 25 2 0.

The Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of sums amounting to £3. 1.0d. placed in the Collecting Box in the Church Porch and a total of approximately £60 from the boxes circulated amongst members by Mr Truss. With these additions the School Hall Extension Fund has now reached £880.

I have often been told, when lamenting a misfortune or a disappointment, "Well don't make a song about it!" That is good advice to a Christian, up to a point, but we must not make our religion a series of "don't's".

Our joy in all that our Saviour teaches us of the Father's love should be so overflowing that, like the birds in spring, we do "make a song about it".

IDA CHURCH.