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of recognition in this report that such a move may rightly have to be made, not least in the context of other religions which decline to go away. Whether the tools here provided are sharp enough for such a venture, I wonder.

Meanwhile, Baptists may well sigh enviously as they sample this amalgam of wit and wisdom. Not for them the taking of doctrine so urbanely. Nonetheless, the concerns here canvassed are of burning relevance to a wider Christian constituency than the Anglican Church.

NEVILLE CLARK

### SOME RECENT LOCAL HISTORIES

The following histories of local churches and allied subjects have recently been received and are commended to the attention of interested readers and researchers.

*Living Stones: The Story of the Baptist Church in Westbury Avenue, Wood Green, North London* by David Rushworth-Smith. 1981. 36pp. £1. Available from Westbury Avenue Baptist Church, Wood Green, London N22 6SA.

The booklet vividly describes the life of the church from its beginnings 90 years ago, in what was then a village on the edge of London and is now a busy suburb. While emphasizing the church's uncompromising evangelical stand, the writer describes fully and frankly some of the problems and turbulent episodes in its history.

*A Church in Our Town 1818-1981* by W. Byrne Robson. 35pp.

Westoe Road Baptist Church, South Shields dates from 1818, and this booklet was published to mark the centenary of the present building in 1981. The writer admirably sets the story of the church in its wider religious and social context of the north-east, and many fascinating details of life and times in the last century, both in the church and in the town, emerge.

*St Leonard's Baptist Church 1880-1980* by Kenneth N. Kirby. Bethany Enterprises, Moorwood Lane, Nuneaton. 1980. 104pp.

Drawing heavily on the church minutes, this is a very detailed account of the 100 years' history of the church, including the difficult years of the Second World War when St Leonard's found itself on the front line. The style is episodic rather than connected narrative, but an excellent index (rarely found in such histories) makes the assortment of material accessible to the reader.

*The Baptists at North Bradley since 1650* by A. P. Isaacs. 1982. 29pp. Available from the author, 11 Manton Close, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0RZ.

Bradley was one of the earliest and most important centres of