



The changing face of Caversham

Caversham never stands still. No-one who has seen Mary Kift's new book of photographs of old Caversham could doubt that statement. The continuing life of Caversham is shown in the following changes that have taken place in the past year.



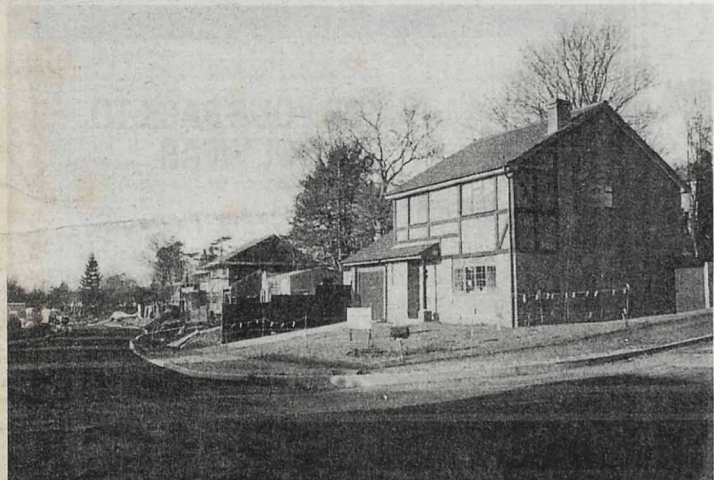
—Peter Sear

Lyfield Court in Emmer Green — flats and cottages for retired people where St Benet's children's home once stood.



—Peter Sear

New flats for elderly people being built on Milestone Way, Caversham Park.



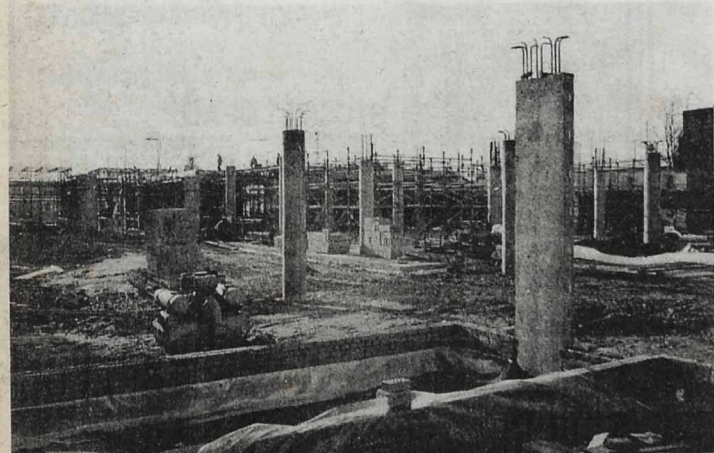
—Peter Sear

Queen Anne's Gate, a new housing development off the Henley Road.



—E. S. Archer

Thamesway. A new development off Wolsey Road.



—Peter Sear

The new Waitrose building taking shape on the site of the old Regal cinema in Church Street Caversham.



—E. S. Archer

'Warren Towers', a new development in St Peter's Avenue.

D/EX1758/21/2

TALKING POINT

By Revd. CHRIS JUSTICE
Minister of the Chapel on the Hill



THE CHALLENGE

DUE to the growth in the size of our congregation over recent years, we have had, in the past twelve months, to plan and begin to build a new building in which we can worship God. The project, right from its inception, through the planning stages, the financing, and the actual building, has been a challenge to us — and at the same time, a great blessing from a very gracious heavenly Father.

As I read my Bible I see very clearly that God is far more interested in people than he is in buildings, so at the outset of this project we were determined that this building would not become the preoccupation of the church. But as we proceeded we became deeply conscious of the fact that through what was essentially a very practical exercise, the Lord was teaching us a great deal about himself — his grace and generosity — and about his purposes for us as individuals, and for his people as a community. I am glad of this opportunity to share with you something of what we have been learning.

The first thing we learned was that we had to know clearly that this project was God's idea, not ours. We felt sure that if it was his idea, then we could rely on him to provide all that was necessary to see the project completed. After praying together as a church, we were convinced that the Lord was telling us to go ahead. On the strength of this each person in the church was asked to pray about their financial commitment to the project — and, as a result, without any public appeals or fund-raising efforts, we are now confident that we will have enough money to see the project through. This has, of course, cost us all something — but what a delight and privilege to see something that God has planned taking shape — and knowing that we are involved. What an important lesson to learn. That if we find out what God's purpose for our lives is, we can confidently pursue it — knowing that he will bless us in it.

So, the initial decision taken, and the finances dealt with — the next step was the planning. That went through very smoothly — although a number of people told us that it was highly improbable that we would get planning permission. Then, in October 1983, the real work began. We had decided to do as much of the work as possible ourselves. So the ground had to be cleared, an existing building demolished, and the foundations dug. Before we could begin to dig, we had to clear away the unwanted building — and a lot of earth!

Jesus talked about our lives being like buildings — and the foundations on which they were built being the most important factor to be considered. If you and I want to see God's purposes established in our lives there is undoubtedly a lot of surplus material that needs to be removed first. The Bible shows us that sin — our self-centredness and rebellion against God — is the barrier that prevents us from knowing God personally. God's purpose in sending his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world was to remove this sin by taking it upon himself when he died on the cross. As we accept this for ourselves, God has pledged himself to remove the barrier — and bring us into a real relationship with him. Then he can begin to build his purpose into our lives.

By the way, the building we had to demolish was perfectly functional — but it was not what was required for our needs. We had to learn from this that some things exist in the life of the church that, although they were once right and appropriate, can become an obstacle to God's purposes today. We have had to sacrifice that old building to enable God's plans to go ahead. It is possible that some of the traditions we hold dear have to be carefully reassessed and we need to be clear in our minds why we do the things we do.

So now the foundations were laid. Hard work and costly work in terms of finance, time and energy. But it all made the ground ready for the building to be erected — and God's plan for us as a church to proceed.

We have seen again that if we want to know God's best in our lives, we must allow him to do what he wants with us. All that he wants removed must be removed. The only foundation that can be laid is a firm, real faith in the Lord Jesus — and it's from there that we begin to see God's purposes grow.

We are looking forward to seeing God's plan for this church going ahead in the future — the prospects are exciting, if we will continue to allow him to do what he wants with us.

Dear Sir,

I am greatly disturbed over the moral and spiritual decline of many as evidenced by the large numbers of tax evaders and fiddlers that cost the nation and law-abiding citizens hundreds of millions of pounds in lost revenue; the robberies with violence; teenage sex and sexual assault; the selfishness and infidelity of a partner that can break up a home; glue sniffing; the mis-use of drugs and drug pushing, all of which are on the increase and reported daily in the newspapers. We are continually shocked, click our tongues and turn the page thinking, in resignation, what can we do about it! We blame this, that, and the other; but do we ever ask **what** can we do about it? Passing more laws and giving tougher sentences has not brought abatement. I believe this is a problem for the Church to try and solve; for we individual members, with our knowledge and experience of the saving power of Christ can

testify how lives can be changed by surrendering oneself to Him.

Nor is this gospel of salvation for miscreants and thugs alone, but for all who would experience a closer fellowship with God through this same Jesus.

Last October the Caversham Bridge published a letter of mine suggesting a team, composed of priests and laymen capable and willing to hold outdoor meetings at a suit-

able vantage point supported by church members. Has anyone given this a second thought? Or leaflets containing a short passage from the Gospels, a message from one of our priests, and a testimony from a church member could be distributed monthly with the Caversham Bridge. I believe these ideas to be feasible, providing there is the will to attempt them. When we become concerned, pray and think about it, ideas begin to flow, for that is the way

God works. (Have your readers any good ideas?)

Let us move from resignation into action! I realise this would need a good deal of thought and planning, but the need is urgent, and worsening. Funds? Start a fighting fund, backed by prayer. Help save a soul, or a home!

Yours faithfully,

H. D. Marshall
164 Kidmore End Road,
Emmer Green



Postbag

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The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



LOOKING AHEAD ...

We are now into 1984 and I wonder what changes we can expect to see in SPORT, Internationally, Nationally and locally.

There will, of course, be the Los Angeles Olympics. If these are interfered with politically, as have the last few Games, then I think we will at last be saying 'goodbye' to the Olympic ideal. As it is, the games will be very different from previous Olympics, as there will be very few true Amateurs taking part. The world's top athletes are now allowed to be paid, as long as the money goes into their trust fund, to be drawn on later. The likes of Coe, Ovett, Cram etc., will go into the Olympics with substantial funds already in their accounts, but competitors will be 'amateurs' in the sense they will not be directly paid for taking part in the Games.

We will probably see the tennis stars complaining that they are poorly paid for their tantrums on court, and professional footballers striking because they cannot manage on £55,000 plus a year!!!

Locally we may see Reading F.C. on its way up to the next division. Under the new 'management', the club has made good, if not

SPORT IN 1984

spectacular progress and is certainly making the effort to be a club that the town will support and be proud of. Good luck Roger Smee and Reading.

The Borough Council have plans in hand for the development of the 'pop festival' site and the Caversham Bridge Hotel. These include a number of sports facilities, especially for rowing and water sports and before the end of the year these plans may well be turned into reality.

In March, we have the Digital Reading Half Marathon again and this will be another success with over 6,000 people of all ages taking part in Reading's largest participant sporting event. It will be raising substantial money for the B.S.A.D. and many other charities, including the Caversham Branch of the Save the Children Fund. They have several people running for them this year and I am sure Mr Norman Kent in Church House would welcome sponsors for his runners...

By the way, if you are running on March 25th, you should by now be moving into your final preparation. You should be run-

ning three to four times a week, with at least one of your runs lasting for an hour, because it is important to get used to being on your legs for up to two hours by the event. Don't worry too much about speed, the training and extra fitness will enable you to run faster, just get used to running for a reasonable length of time. We have had a very mild winter so far but remember to keep warm when you run and to wrap-up well when you have finished or get indoors and get changed quickly.

Finally, running brings me on to one big change that may happen in 1984. With the continued rapid growth of 'fun' running and running for health and the springing-up of the ½ marathons and marathons all over the country, a new structure is likely to emerge. In the past all running has been under the control of the Amateur Athletic Association but they have failed to take a realistic approach to the fun-running concept and it is likely that a new body may emerge to control the quality and safety standards of this branch of running.

May we all enjoy a fitter 1984...

CHAMPIONS



—Peter Sear

Berkshire under-11s table tennis champions — Emmer Green School pupils (left to right) Simon Macro, Luca Redo, Adam Winslet, Shane Richmond, and Neil Organ. This is the third year that Emmer Green School has won the Berkshire championship. The team now goes on to play in the south-east regional finals.

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AS WE go to press, we learn with great regret of the death of Peter Shock on January 5, after a short illness. He was a regular and popular contributor to this newspaper. He enriched Caversham life with his many activities and he will be sadly missed. We offer our condolences to his family. A full obituary will appear next month.

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BY the time you read this it's possible that some of the Christmas spirit will have worn off; but I've been asked by so many people to say how much they appreciated the kindness and helpfulness of our shop people especially, that I really must do my best. The lady whose car got stuck outside Belle Boutique for example — she was amazed at the speed with which the people in the motor shop opposite came to her aid. There must have been hundreds of such kindnesses in the area; it's a pity we can't mention them all.

One of our editors with battery trouble on a busy Saturday also received obliging and friendly service from the same shop

Some, of course, don't want to be thanked. Despite appeals, the lady who came to the aid of our apparently dying cat, Lucky, early one Sunday morning, has not been traced. We'd love to thank her personally. However, we can express our thanks for the prompt action of our local vet, who runs an emergency service. And, of course, the pet shop in Prospect Street is a mine of helpful information on the care of animals.

Pets and People

Actually Gee-gees is one of my favourite shops. You never know who or what you're going to meet there. Currently a great favourite is Hazel, the squirrel who refuses to take her place in the great world outside and has been cared for

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

by Jill and Jerry since she was tiny.

Certainly the shop is one of the liveliest places I know. Quite apart from animals, I'm always surprised at the efforts Mr and Mrs Brown put into caring for their own family. Recently they've been ferrying young Guy back and forth to Basingstoke where he's been playing

lets concerning postal weights, charges, etc, and a large poster giving Christmas posting dates would help too — it isn't only H.M. Forces who receive parcels at Christmas.

The staff and check-out girls at our local supermarkets deserve mention too. They've continued to be

helpful Pat was when she herself had to sell her mother's effects. I quote: "I was very pleased with the price she paid me . . . it's done very pleasantly and tactfully and with no pressure to sell. That's a great help when you are disposing of things which have a somewhat sentimental value."



■ The staff of Keith Bailey Travel at St Martin's Precinct.

E. S. Archer

the lead in "David Copperfield", his most important role to date. Then there have been visits to Woolwich to see their eldest son, Murray, who is in the army and has been having an operation on his arm. Giles, meanwhile, is rehearsing for the Multi-Coloured Swap Shop shortly to appear at the Hexagon. And if that isn't enough, at the time of going to press they are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a baby to their daughter, Miriam. No news yet, so hopefully the entire family managed a rest over the Christmas holidays — apart, that is, from feeding all the animals!

And owners and managers of smaller shops exhibited endless patience to dithering customers like myself.

Pat Howard

I'm also delighted to pass on a message just received about this lady who now has an antique shop in Prospect Street. One reader says how

she goes on to say that she has introduced Pat to a neighbour, who, moving into an old people's flat, has had to sell a lot of her own things. Far from finding this sad, she says: "It took all the ache out of the business." One can hardly say fairer than that!

But one place where I'm always likely to lose my temper, if not my life, is the junction of Hemdean Road with Church Street. On the face of it, crossing that road looks simple, but I find it a veritable nightmare; by the

time you've made sure none of the traffic going east or west in Church Street is turning into Hemdean Road — and motorists who don't indicate are no help — you're quite likely to dash out triumphantly only to find yourself coming to unpleasant terms with a bus coming down Hemdean Road. Won't somebody sort out that problem for us — please!

Phyllis Heiden

It was a great pleasure for our family to be able to nominate this lady for an 'Evening Post' award for bravery and courage recently. Since her husband, himself a very brave man, died of Parkinson's Disease some years ago, she has devoted herself to founding and helping to run the Reading Branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society. That much I knew but, being invited to call in on their Christmas Party recently, I was delighted to meet several Caversham people helping with the organisation. If only one could mention them all. But this I will say — a great many people are doing a great deal to help others in Caversham!

Clinic closure

Just in case you were worrying, when we mentioned the possible closure of the Emmer Green Clinic, it has now been made clear to us that it is only the family planning facilities that have been withdrawn. All other services continue there unabated!

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST PETER'S NEWS

WE HAVE grown accustomed to the very high standard set by St. Peter's when it comes to drama, but surely the nativity play, held in December, must be the best to date.

All honours must go to the writers, Mary Smith and Ros Rutherford, who wrote the play and, resisting the current trend to modernise the Christmas story, simply took large passages of the gospel, together with familiar quotations from people like T. S. Eliot, put the whole together in a most moving way. The sheer professionalism of the performance amazed everyone. Barbara Justham, no newcomer in the field, produced the whole play superbly well, aided by a very strong team — Bob Rutherford in charge of lighting, Lesley Coward who designed the set — no easy task in a small space — Marion

Thwaite in charge of costumes, Pat Morrison, stage manager, and Lionel Bourne who directed the excellent choir drawn from members of St. Peter's congregation.

In general it would be unfair to pick out any particular member of the cast, all of whom gave excellent performances. With such a script it could so easily have been stilted — it wasn't, and even the youngest members of the cast caught the spirit of the story. But it must be said that Jane Kane's performance as the Virgin Mary was outstanding. A difficult role by any standards, and involving lengthy periods of simply sitting saying nothing, in full view of the audience, she managed it without any mawkish sentimentality and it will be long before anyone forgets her "Magnificat."

ST. JOHN'S NOTES

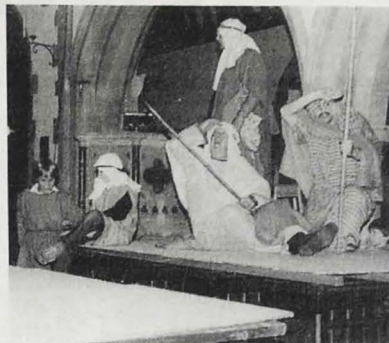
CHRISTMASTIDE was as full as usual at St. John's. On December 13, the Mothers' Union held their carol service — open to anyone who wanted to come to sing, and stay on to tea afterwards.

On December 19, at the 9.15 Eucharist, in place of the sermon, the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs each mimed a Nativity scene, while their leaders told the story, linking it to their weekly activities. It was a moving moment when the Guides gathered "round the baby in the stable" and sang Taps.

In the afternoon there was a seasonally colourful traditional service of Nine Lessons and carols. The choir, with extra members from the congregation and friends, had practised for several weeks, and every word was clearly heard. The cross was carried in procession, there were four servers, and the Christmas tree was decorated and lit (The tree had been decorated the day before by the Junior Youth Group "and not a cross word between them as they did it," said someone who was dusting the church at the time).

After two evenings' work the church was ready for Christmas Day, with the crib, and the evergreens, and dried and fresh flower arrangements in position.

There were about two hundred worshippers at the Midnight Service. "A lovely service — what Christmas is about," said someone. There was a toy collection for the Probation Service at the 10am Christmas morning service when young families come to worship together.



— E. S. Archer
A scene from St. Peter's nativity worship

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

ON DECEMBER 12, sixteen young people from Caversham Methodist Church went to Leighton Park School, where they received their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Fifteen received silver and one a bronze award. It is hoped that some of these young people will go on to try to gain the Gold Award.

Christmas celebrations were well attended this year. Many lovely toys were given to Mrs Jean Pugh at the Annual Toy Service. Mrs Pugh was there to receive the toys on behalf of the Social Services.

A Family Christmas Party was held, organised by the senior steward, David Herbert. This was a very happy event with a family tea, followed by games, stories and a visit from Father Christmas for the little ones, and quizzes and musical entertainment for the rest of the family.

On Sunday, December 18, a special Carol Service was held entitled "Gifts from God." The focus was on the gifts that God gives to us all the year, and that we so often take for granted, i.e. poetry, prose, music, humour, friendship. Twenty-two young people took part, and the choir sang Christmas music which added to the service.

Carol singers from the Church were out in force on two evenings of Christmas week. The Boys' Brigade collected £22 for the National Children's Home, and other Church members collected £17.50 for mission Along-side the Poor.

Christmas would not be Christmas without the two special services in the Methodist Churches — or that is what a good number of people must feel, as Caversham Heights Church was crowded for the Midnight Communion and many came to the Family Service at Gosbrook Road on Christmas Day. The children brought their toys, and the congregation shared the fun of moving space vehicles and toy dogs that sat up and barked, and toy trumpets which added to the carol singing. The Christmas services were led by good friend and Minister, the Rev. Ralph Rogerson, and to him and his family and all other friends in Caversham come wishes for a very happy and peaceful New Year.

CHRISTMAS AT ST BARNABAS

ST. BARNABAS Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3, was well attended once again. £500 was raised by the Fair, substantially beating the previous highest amount raised. The money has been sent to Dr Guy Daynes to help him in his missionary work in the Transkei. Thanks to all who made this such a success.

streets. The Christmas collections totalled £379.

* * *

AT THE end of each year the church gives 10% of its income to charities and for the work of the Church overseas. The following sums were given:

- USPG Blind Scholarship (to sponsor blind pupils at St. Michael's School for the Blind, Ranchi, India).....£250
- USPG General fund.....£450
- Train-a-Priest fund...£175
- Missions to Seamen...£100
- Dr Guy Daynes' work in the Transkei (making £900 given in total in 1983).....£50
- The Sue Ryder Home.....£100

There was a full church for the Carol Service on Sunday, December 18. The choir was augmented by members of the congregation. St Barnabas' Guides and Brownies joined the congregation. The lessons were read by Claire Gosnel, Mrs Anne Sear, Caroline Giddings, John Westwell, Mr Tony Durant, Mrs Dorothy Gillings and the Revd. Peter Sear.

Extra chairs were also needed for the Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve — when the Christmas Story was presented in words and mime and slides, and the Crib was built up — and for the Midnight Communion. Christmas collections were in aid of the Church of England Children's Society and the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project (formerly the Simon Community) which provides food and shelter for those who would otherwise be wandering the

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH NEWS

SHEPHERDS, KINGS — these we expect to find in a nativity play, but alongside these traditional characters, the Caversham Park Church Sunday Circle's excellent nativity presentation included Peter Abrahams (reports of whose work for young alcoholics was featured in this newspaper in connection with the sponsored walk from Scunthorpe to Southampton) and Joyce and David Newby.

The inclusion of Joyce and David was particularly apt as they themselves were amongst the congregation enjoying the play. They had arrived from Sri Lanka less than 24 hours before for a

three week trip to the UK and were warmly welcomed by the members of the Church, who were delighted to hear up-to-date news of their work with the Save the Children Fund in Sri Lanka.

Not only were they able to describe what they had experienced during the recent racial riots in Sri Lanka, but they also discussed with members of the Church the position of Christians in Sri Lankan society and the interest, mostly generated by television news, that Sri Lankans showed in the problems in British society. A hint that we should put our own house in order?



— Peter Sear
On top of St. Paul's — organists Philip Bowcock and David Butler with some of the younger members of the choirs in the parish on a choir outing to the Museum of London and St. Paul's Cathedral

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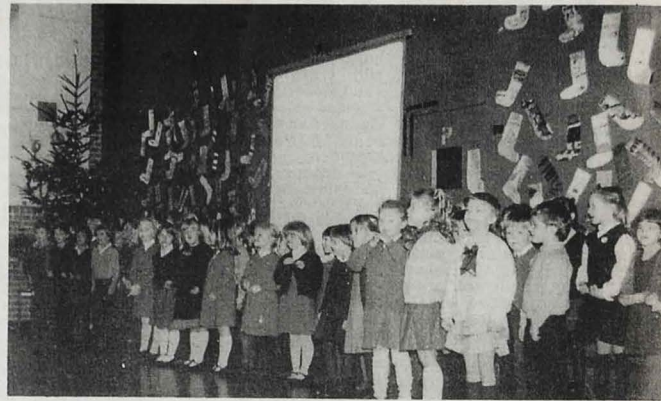
that the organist is poorly this week..

but I've been able to make other arrangements, luckily!

CHRISTMAS IN



LEFT: St Martin's RC Primary School — "The Bright Light Shone in the World"



Emmer Green Infants' School — Christmas Carols and Readings illustrated with slides



LEFT: The Hill Primary School — "The Christmas Children" by an Armenian story-teller Trig-trog



Thameside Primary School — Festival of Carols



LEFT: Caversham Primary School — The Nativity Play



St Anne's RC Primary School — "The Story of Good King Wenceslas"



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Caversham Park (Upper Juniors) School — Medieval Christmas Festival

IN THE SCHOOLS



Caversham Primary School — "The Wizard of Oz"



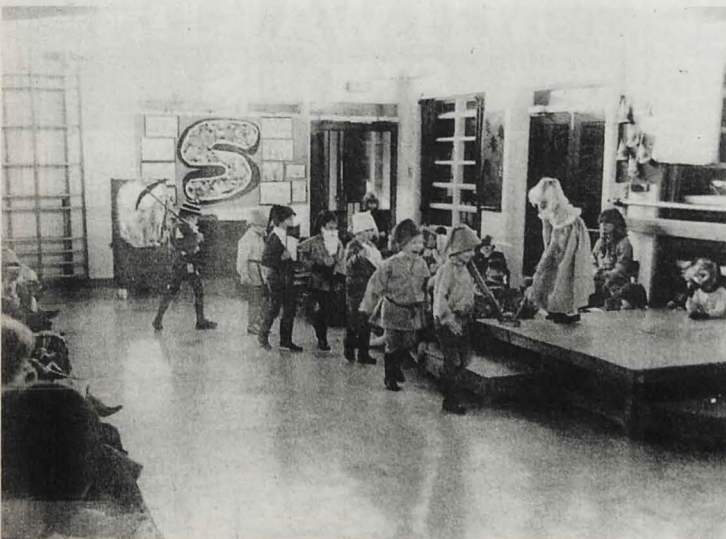
Caversham Primary School — "The Circus Tumblers"




The Hill Primary School — "Pied Piper of Hamelin"



Caversham Park Primary School (Lower Juniors) — "Baboushka"



Caversham Park Infants' School — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"


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NEW roads are not planned and constructed in the twinkling of an eye. Years of thought and planning go into them, but once the machinery is set in motion it is difficult to reverse it, even if it becomes apparent that unwarranted assumptions were made in the first place. That is why it is important to be as clear as possible at the very outset about what is intended.

The story of Reading's Inner Distribution Road goes back for years. It is now about to enter its third phase, a phase which, whatever else it is, is certainly an improvement on the original concept which a combination of financial restrictions and public opinion fortunately scotched. A fourth phase will eventually follow, by which time vast sums of money will have been spent which may or may not solve Reading's traffic problems. One sure thing is, that it will not solve Caversham's. A third Thames bridge on the other hand could, at a much lower cost both financially and environmentally, bring relief to Caversham, Reading and Sonning all at the same time.

This third river crossing has also been talked about

**RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT
BY WATCHDOG**

ANOTHER CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

for years. Various sites for it have been suggested but the one that has eventually found favour with all parties concerned except Oxfordshire County Council, who still stick to a route to the west of the town, is to the east of the borough boundary. This route is now Berkshire County Council policy, and when the I.D.R. has been completed, could be the next major road to be constructed, 'when' and 'could' of course being operative words.



To that end Caversham Residents' Association set up a sub-committee to look at all the issues involved and they came up with a number of recommendations. The main issue was how far this bridge could be built in isolation. It would link with the A329(M) and cross the railway line and Thames to a point opposite Caversham Park Village. There are those who say

that it would still be useless unless a northern by-pass for Caversham was also constructed. Another school of thought contends that to think of a third bridge without linking it to the national network is a nonsense. Others say it should be a local bridge for local traffic only.

It was in the end the latter view that found favour. The arguments against linking it to the national network, meaning to the M40 and the Midlands, was, expense apart, that alternatives already existed or were in the pipeline, that the environmental damage to the area of outstanding national beauty through which it would have to pass would be unacceptable, and the bridge itself would be less costly if it were as small as present day traffic requirements need rather than as big as it could be.

The northern by-pass should not be regarded as an indispensable part of the plan. If at a later stage it should

be found to be necessary, great care should be taken as to the route it should follow. Simply to draw a line on a map could result in the demolition of property and the destruction of little pockets of rural land which are doubly valued when on the edge of a built-up area. The sub-committee found in fact that there was only one route that could do the job of linking this bridge to the A4074 with the minimum of disruption and destruction.

Even this could lead to the infilling which new by-pass roads on the edge of urban areas always attract, as witness the case of the M4, to the south and west of Reading. Development of this nature would have to be strictly guarded against.



What emerged was that the bridge alone would remove a lot of traffic from the existing bridges and their immediate approach roads, thus speeding up the flow and consequently easing Reading's traffic, and bringing salvation to Sonning. In addition to these benefits it would bring a minimum of accompanying damage. The pity is that Reading's IDR will have gobbled up the

money that ought to be available. Caversham Residents' Association has had an observer at many of the sittings of the Central Reading District Plan Inquiry, and he has also spoken on those points of especial concern to Caversham people. The Association also made the point, and themselves rather unpopular with the powers that be, that the plan as presented was different from that that went out for public consultations as it had been altered to suit British Rail's requirement for a vastly increased amount of office space on its town centre site. As Reading's office growth is a sensitive point all round, they dared suggest it made rather a nonsense of public consultation.

What did emerge from the inquiry was that local objectors, whether as individuals or representing an organisation, had a far greater grasp of local conditions than the expensively briefed counsel and other experts who represented the big property developers. These people were there in their own time, at no little disruption to their personal lives, and needless to say, without being paid for it. The community has cause to be grateful to them.

An application is in for eighteen flats on land off Wolsey Road. This can only add to the worsening traffic congestion in that area. With the houses still being completed there, the equivalent of a new village will have appeared in the middle of Caversham within a few years.

THE LINK GROUP

DURING December members of the Link Group and their friends have engaged in several pre-Christmas activities. Firstly, on December 7 they welcomed the friends they have made during the past

year who are generally confined to their own homes to a Christmas tea party at the Baptist centre. A musical quiz on the piano provided a lively introduction, after which everyone made short work of the Christmas fare. The festive mood was further increased when Cath Pynn brought in a group of young recorder players from Mapledurham who performed a very attractive programme of Christmas music.

Secondly, the toys which have been so generously given were taken to the Home for Battered Wives, the NSPPC and to the Family Aid Centre for distribution to suitable homes.

Lastly, on December 29 Link Group members and their friends went Carol Singing to the Arthur Clark Home, Warren House, Wordsworth Court and the homes of some of their older friends, when a good time was had by all.

All the members of the Link Group have enjoyed so much

meeting their many friends in Caversham in the past year and look forward to renewing and strengthening friendships in 1984 which they hope will be a year of happiness for all.

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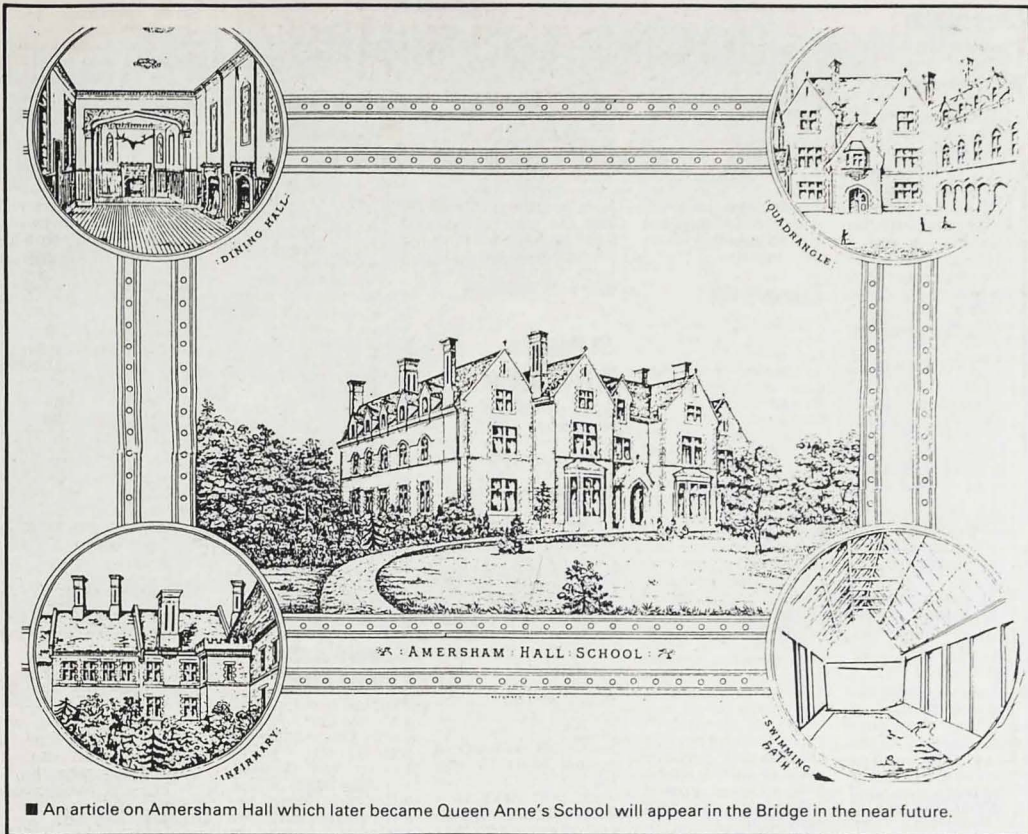
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■ An article on Amersham Hall which later became Queen Anne's School will appear in the Bridge in the near future.

"Transformation Scene" comes to Caversham

IT IS in the best tradition of English pantomime that, when everything is at its darkest, when the forces of evil appear to be triumphant, when the principal boy and girl are in a hopeless case, then the good fairy arrives — if possible in a burst of blue fire — waves her magic wand and turns all their squalor and poverty into the glorious radiance of the Transformation Scene.

The Bible is full of stories of God's own Transformation Scenes, some — like Lazarus or Blind

Bartimeus — as sudden and startling as those in the pantomime. St Paul, who was himself the subject of an amazing change, bids us to be transformed by Christ. For most of us, however, it proves to be a slower process, hesitant, uncertain and by no means complete.

In the latest production of Theatre Roundabout, Sylvia Read and William Fry try to reach out for this transforming power. In a blend of lyricism, comedy and serious reflec-

tion, they conjure up Alice through the Looking-Glass, a church committee, a torture cell in Chile, the Pool of Bethesda and the view from the Delectable Mountains.

For more than twenty years this husband-and-wife team have been touring all over the British Isles, in Western Europe, Kenya and the United States. They have performed in hundreds of churches and cathedrals as well as in theatres, schools

and universities. A film of their work has recently been shown on television.

Their Christian shows are not intended to preach or hammer home a message, but rather to awaken the heart by acting out stories of human joy and sorrow. Each scene is a parable about the world we live in at the end of the twentieth century and is to be enjoyed by audiences of every age and kind.

Transformation Scene is to be directed by Denis Crey,

who is well known as an actor and director in many lands. The production is sponsored by the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and has its official premiere at USP House in February/March 1984.

Transformation Scene will be on Saturday, February 18 at 7.30pm in Caversham Baptist Church. Tickets available beforehand from Church representatives or from Church House price £1 or on the door price £1.20.

Sir Rickman Godlee, Benefactor

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FOLLOWING last month's request for people who might benefit from it, it may interest readers to know a little about the man who instituted the above trust.

Rickman Godlee was born in 1849 and came from a Quaker family. His father was a London barrister and his mother was a sister to the first Lord Lister. He went to a Quaker school, Grove House, in Tottenham and on leaving studied medicine and became a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1872. For a time he went to Edinburgh to learn new methods of surgery being introduced by his uncle. He became Professor of

Surgery at University College Hospital and filled all chief posts at the Royal College of Surgeons, becoming its President in 1911. He was on the staff of Queen Victoria's Household and appointed Surgeon-in-Ordinary to King Edward VII, and later to George V. He was created a baronet in 1912.

After his marriage in 1891 he and his wife made their country home at Coombe End Farm, Whitechurch. His hobbies included rowing, and writing; he was a keen naturalist and spoke many languages. In fact he was a man of many parts.

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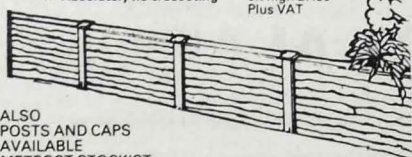
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CAVERSHAM Community Association

CHRISTMAS floral decorations for the home was the theme of the demonstration given by Mrs Joy Freeman on December 5. Using greenery, flowers, baubles, etc, Mrs Freeman made attractive arrangements for the table, porch and children's parties. The members were given useful tips and ideas for making their own arrangements — a colourful yet simple decoration was made from fixing a knitting needle in plasticine and then threading tiny baubles in varying sizes over the needle to make a tree shape.

Members of the Reading East Salvation Army Band and Songsters visited the club on December 12 and gave a Carol Concert which has become a much enjoyed annual event. Poems and readings interspersed the carols and later Alistair Todd, the Bandmaster, asked the members to choose their own favourite carols. Karen Cox, the Songsters Leader reminded the audience of the true meaning of Christmas and one of the Songsters then read the Christmas story from the New English Bible. The members went home after a happy evening to the lively strains of "Jingle Bells" from the band.

The 1983 meetings finished with a Christmas party. The clubroom was attractively decorated and tables set out with a salad meal and cakes ready for the members' arrival. After the meal Christmas cake was served and the entertainment commenced. Rob Crompton was welcomed to the club and led the members in carols and songs, accompanying them with his guitar. He sang members' requests and showed his versatility in a varied programme. Mr Crompton gave one of his records to Ted and Olive Howard as winners of the "Lucky

Spot" dance and was then asked to choose the prizewinner of the best homemade hat competition. Margaret Payne received the prize for a striking Christmas pudding design. Auld Lang Syne was sung to end a very good party.

Chazey WI

CHRISTMAS was celebrated at the December meeting by carols accompanied by Mrs Cope on the guitar. Mrs Bigges, UCO for Berkshire, and guests from several other institutes were welcomed by Mrs McCombe, the President. A delicious fork supper provided by members was served with mulled wine and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The evening ended with everyone taking home a present from the bran tub.

The following week, forty members went by coach to the Apollo Theatre at Oxford to see Wayne Sleep in a "Dash of Christmas". This non-stop breathtaking performance of dance, music and mimicry proved exciting and entertaining.

In 1984, the club is looking forward to more outings and interest groups being formed.

CAVERSHAM DARBY and Joan Club

IN September the Club met at the Dance Centre for an afternoon to chat and have a game of Bingo. In October they welcomed Mrs Burden who is always pleased to play for the members to enjoy a little dance.

November brought Mrs Rankins to give the ladies an afternoon of exercises which they feel does them good. They also enjoyed Mr Dickinson who brought his records and organised a "guess the tune" game for the afternoon.

Mrs Bint came with her piano accordion which was in great demand as she played

many requests. Mr Kent came to give a talk on the warship the Mary Rose, and brought some fine pictures.

Mrs Burden came to have a little sing-song and the members all went in the middle of December to the Children's Chase for an excellent luncheon.

St Peter's Wives Group

AT the AGM, held in November, members welcomed the Rev Richard Kingsbury as their new President. The Secretary reported on a busy year: speakers have covered topics ranging from the running of Marks and Spencer and the Pappard Trust, to the raising of the Mary Rose, collecting antique clocks and travelling in India. The Treasurer confirmed that membership had increased and that the group is still in funds. Contributions have been made, as usual, to several charities during the year. Elections were held to replace three outgoing committee members. Mrs Marion Croft remains Chairman for the second year.

On December 13, Mrs Phil Bailey, known to many of her skilled and fascinating home economics demonstrations, expounded the technique of Australian Plastic Icing. Despite the unfortunate name, the method is attractively simple and members, amused to hear that Mrs Bailey has seen only one student fail to master it, were encouraged to reach new heights of creativity and skill with their Christmas cakes this year.

Members look forward to another of the Rev Derek Spears' Musical Evenings on February 21.

Mrs Bint came with her piano accordion which was in great demand as she played

CAVERSHAM Heights Townswomen's Guild

MEMBERS of the Reading Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild were helped into a really happy mood for Christmas at their annual party. The singing group and members alike were warmed on arrival by an excellent glass of punch which all have come to hope for year by year. The group, called "The Variations", consisted of nine unaccompanied voices, and sang songs originally made popular by the Carpenters. "There's a kind of hush", "A Child is Born" and "It had to be you", to mention only a few. Members were encouraged to join in the more familiar ones. A pleasant buffet-style supper was set out for all, and the evening concluded with carols and hymns for Christmas, not forgetting the ever popular "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas".

ROUND THE CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THE December meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Emmer Green.

The speaker, Mr D. Clarke, showed slides of a delightful and unusual walk he had taken in Little Tibet, in the Himalayas. A vote of thanks was given by Miss N. Pollard.

The chairman thanked the committee, who were retiring, for their services over the past two years.

A splendid array of beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts was brought, to be distributed to the elderly in Emmer Green. Mrs K. Taplin won a box of festive groceries in the Christmas raffle.

Caversham Ladies Club

THE last meeting of the year was the Christmas party. This was held at the Baptist Church Centre, and 48 members sat down to tea. After carols were sung everybody enjoyed their tea served by the committee, and the Christmas cake made and iced by Mrs Bray was cut and distributed.

The competition of a table arrangement in a margarine tub was judged by Mrs E. South, and the winners were Queenie Strong, Edie Lock and May Harwood. Every member then received a Christmas card and gift, and willing hands helped to clear up.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE Guild met on Thursday, December 15 when a very happy afternoon was enjoyed on the occasion of their 22nd birthday. Mrs E.

Smith (President) cut the Birthday Cake which was made by Mrs Grey and iced by Mrs Deane. A very lively and interesting talk on Flower arranging was given by Mrs J. Freeman. Members were shown how very simple arrangements could look most elegant for their Christmas Dinner Table and other special occasions. Members had great fun joining in a game of "Give us a Clue" which was organised by Mrs E. Manning.

The meeting closed with carols heartily sung by all and the Chairman, Mrs Olive Wetherill wished everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. The Chairman hoped that members would continue to support their guild next year and she stressed the fact that new members are always very welcome.

Rosehill WI

MRS ALLWRIGHT welcomed members and two visitors to the last meeting before Christmas. After reports of coming activities, general knowledge was tested with a quiz, causing much amusement at times. Afterwards there was a special tea and Christmas Cake baked by Mrs Roberts and iced by Mrs Barge. Before going home everyone took a present from the lucky dip.

Blagrove WI

THE 21st birthday of the Institute was celebrated at the December meeting. The President, Mrs J. Price, welcomed Mrs D. Durie, VCO, one new member and visitors from Maplewood, Rosehill, Loden, Earley and Sonning Institutes. Tea was provided and served by the Committee and a cake made and iced by two of the members was cut by founder members Mrs Wright, Mrs Maule and Mrs Taylor. A varied and interesting programme of Christmas songs and carols was given by the Kidmore End Singers to a warmly appreciative audience.

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ROUND THE CLUBS (continued)

Caversham Women's Institute

AT the December meeting after the Agenda members enjoyed their Christmas and 22nd Birthday Party.

The President, Mrs Hilda Adair, welcomed Mrs Slade who gave a talk and showed colourful slides on trekking through the Himalayas at Christmas time.

The beautiful iced

cake was made by Mrs Lily Hensley and members enjoyed their excellent buffet supper with cider and each received a small gift.

At the meeting on February 16, a talk will be given on the work of the Sue Ryder Foundation.

The competition will be a plate of home made shortbread biscuits.

Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD'S December meeting was a festive occasion. After the President, Mrs Joan Fry, had welcomed members, their husbands and friends, business was cut to a minimum so that the fun could begin. St Andrew's Hall looked very cheerful, set out with candle-lit tables. Members of the Caversham Players provided really excellent entertainment with a

short play by Tchekhoff, a sketch by Alan Melville and songs from the delightful singer Yvonne Coe. This was followed by a lavish buffet supper prepared by the Institute's committee members and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

At the close of the evening, Mrs Drury, VCO, thanked the President and all who had contributed to such a happy meeting.

At the evening service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on December 11 the children of Checkendon C.E. Primary School performed the musical nativity play 'Only A Baby' by Reginald Chapple. All the 26 pupils aged 5-11 years were involved in the singing and acting under the direction of their Head Teacher Mrs Diana Bean. Mrs K. Chambers accompanied them on the piano. The children also performed at Borocourt

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST NEWS

LARGE congregations attended the traditional services held during the Christmas period. At the Toy Service on December 11 gifts were provided for the children of Peppard House. The children of the Beginners and Primary departments of the Junior Church also took part.

On the afternoon of December 18 there was standing room only for the Christingle Service which followed the theme 'Love came down at Christmas'.

The members of the church who took part sought to show how the love of God in Jesus is being expressed in the life of the Church today. The service reached its climax with the distribution of lit Christingles (candles in oranges) to the many children and young people present.

It was a pleasure to see many visitors not only to these services but also to the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and Christmas Morning services.

Hospital and Checkendon Parish Church in the following week.

OBITUARY GLADYS CURLING

IT WAS with much regret that friends at Caversham Methodist Church received the news of the death of Mrs Gladys Curling. Gladys died on Tuesday December 6 1983. She had been ill for a number of years at her home in Chiltern Road, but had always been cheerful and a joy to visit. During her earlier life Mrs Curling had been a very hard worker for the church in Gosbrook Road, especially in catering and sewing, and as treasurer for the Women's Fellowship (an office she held right up to the time of her death). Mrs Curling was one of the original

"cooks" for the Stay-a-While at Caversham Heights. With her husband Ted she was very involved in the local Grocers' Association, and had been a great help in the organising of social events.

Gladys always made visitors welcome to her home and was always interested in all that was happening around her. She was a happy part of the household at 134 Chiltern Road and will be sadly missed by many people, especially her husband Ted, her daughter Julia and son-in-law Chris, and their children Catherine and Stewart.

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

ANGLICAN
St Peter's
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
 11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
 11.15am Matins (2nd, 4th Sundays)
 6.30pm Evensong

St John's
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
 11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
 11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
 11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
 6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
 11.00am Service for Parents and Children (last Sunday)
 4.00pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
 11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
 10.30am Morning Service
 6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)
 11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)
 MORNING WORSHIP (2nd and 4th Sundays)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
 11.00am Morning Service
 6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST
Caversham
 11.00am Morning Service
 6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
 11.00am Morning Service
 6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St Anne's
 9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)

Our Lady of Caversham
 8.30 and 10.30am, 5pm Mass

St Martin's School
 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House
 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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 February 22 — 8 Harlech Avenue (Margaret Dimmick)
 February 29 — 17 Odiham Avenue (Liz Beckett)

Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN
 The Rev Richard Kingsbury, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel: 479130 (Office: 471703)

The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.

The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Derek Spears, 25 Ikley Road. Tel: 472070.

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

BAPTIST
 The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST
 The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

UNITED REFORMED
 The Rev Philip Lee-Bapty, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
 The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
 The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

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