

CAVERSHAM

BRIDGE

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No 233

SOUTHCOTE BOUND

WHO'S going to be a Vicar with no church? Why, our own Derek Spears, whose first task when he gets to Southcote will be to get a roof put on his Church.

That's one problem he has not had to face in Caversham, though he has resolved successfully other difficulties as great.

Caversham will be sorry to lose the Reverend Derek Spears in April when he goes as Vicar to Southcote parish. He has been here five years, and has made his mark in many fields, from talking to St Peter's wives about Offenbach, to giving a graphic personification of the Devil in the Mystery Plays last

year, and more lately taking important roles in the Caversham Players productions.



Twice in the past three years Derek has had thrust upon him the task of looking after St Peter's — during Canon Grimwade's three months' sabbatical, and more recently during the nine months' interregnum before the Rev Richard Kingsbury arrived. Throughout

this period Derek has also been priest at St Margaret's, Mapledurham. To see him leap on to his great black motorbike after taking the service at St Peter's in order to officiate at Mapledurham at their 11 o'clock service was a spectacle not easily forgotten, but it also served to show a dedication to his job, matched by the sincerity that showed through in conducting his services.

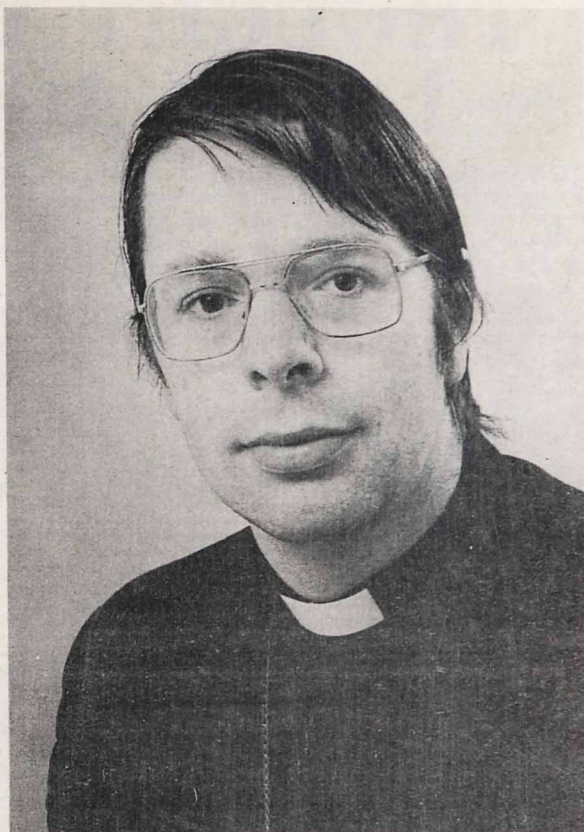
In his pastoral work too, it was his sincerity and tact in difficult situations that will make him remembered in more than one household where disaster had struck and where his sympathetic presence

eased the grief and sadness.

Derek has always been at home among young people. He has been known to frolic around at St Peter's Brownie Pack holidays and Cub camps. Last year he took over the organising of the Parish Holiday at Embley Park, rushing hither and thither to make sure that everyone was having a good time.

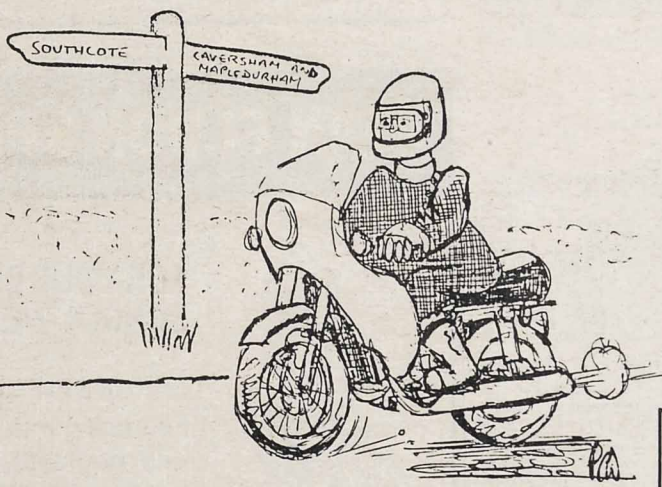


We shall all miss Derek — he has won a place in the hearts of Caversham and Mapledurham people. We shall watch Derek's progress in Southcote with proud interest.



■ Derek Spears

— Walton Adams



The Abbeyfield Society

THIS MONTH the "Caversham Bridge" features the Abbeyfield Society in its more general aspect. In a subsequent issue its activities in Reading and, in particular, in Caversham will be highlighted. "Abbeyfield" is unknown to many and to others it appears to be one of the lesser known organisations catering for the housing needs of lonely elderly people. Our feature seeks to remedy any lack of information which may exist.

Of those people over 75 years of age it is claimed that half live alone and that half a million of them require practical help and care. Care of the elderly is one of society's most pressing concerns and one which will continue to grow. It is a challenge to our humanity, not that we care enough but that we give the right kind of help. Such help must enable the elderly to maintain their dignity and independence thereby enabling them to continue a normal

life in the community.

Help is required everywhere and currently more than 800 houses in towns and cities throughout the country have been set up and are administered by the Abbeyfield Society. The first Abbeyfield House was opened in Bermondsey in 1956. The idea was simple and in a way somewhat revolutionary. It aimed to provide small communities where the elderly could remain indepen-

dent but supported by neighbours and friends readily to hand.

Abbeyfield houses appear in various shapes and sizes and are indistinguishable from other houses in the street. Within each house six to eight residents have their separate rooms — their own territory — furnished with their prized possessions which reflect their individual personalities. Within their rooms residents are free to do as they please within the bounds

of common courtesy as found in any other well ordered home. The rooms are heated, provided with wash-basins with hot and cold running water, a kettle and a small boiling ring. An Abbeyfield house is not just a collection of bed-sitting rooms — it is a home from home run like any other family home by the housekeeper. The housekeeper cooks and provides the two main meals of the day — lunch and high tea, does the shopping and ensures that the

house runs smoothly. She is neither a nurse nor a supervisor; she does not interfere but is available when needed like any other head of a family. She keeps a weather-eye on the residents and if one is unwell she deals with any problems and difficulties.

The management concept

The housekeeper is, in turn, supported by a House Committee which manages the house and cares for the social needs of the residents, assisting with personal matters such as the collecting of pensions, shopping and visits to doctors and chiropodists. The members of the Committee make regular visits to the house and act as a link between the residents and the community.

Finance is of vital importance, the

houses aim to be self-supporting. Each resident pays a fixed weekly/monthly sum to cover the cost of the room, heat and light, meals, the housekeeper's wages and the general upkeep and running of the house.

Whilst each house is set up and supervised by an autonomous local Abbeyfield Society it is the local executive which builds foundations and determines future strategy. Abbeyfield's growth throughout the years has been dramatic and has seen many changes.

Such changes have been direct, like the financial help given by government, whilst others have been indirect, such as the Society's venture into Extra-care for the frail elderly.

The supportive houses exist to help those who cannot

quite cope on their own but are basically fit. Such houses are not intended to deal with the problems of severe illness or feebleness. Extra-care is an extension of Abbeyfield's concern for the elderly in that residents are, hopefully, looked after for the rest of their lives — it is both ambitious and costly.

The ongoing task

Since 1956 Abbeyfield, helped by thousands of volunteer workers, has pursued its aim to provide comfortable homes for the elderly where their independence is respected and loneliness is much less to be feared. The number of people requiring such help increases year by year and whilst Abbeyfield is continuing to expand the problem remains.

TALKING POINT

By REV TOM MEAGHER
Catholic Priest in Caversham



PRECISION OF THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE

AS A parallel to the article by the Rev Ralph Rogerson, may I make a plea in this issue for more precision of thought and language, and especially in regard to Religious thought and language. To take up the Methodist minister's point about Truth, thought and language must be the vehicles by which Truth is given to us.

The Catholic Church had a wonderful means of expressing that precision in its language; the "dead" language of Latin. How sad that this means has been virtually jettisoned from the Church, so that even students for the priesthood are now ignorant of its importance and its riches. Fortunately, the Church promulgates its decrees in Latin, so that exact meaning is kept in this regard; in the almost free-for-all Liturgy the beauty of the Roman prayers has become something very woolly in the vernacular.

The decline of precision doesn't only apply to the Liturgy; it covers all our lives in this age of instant news (and, therefore) instant "wisdom", so that people seem to form their views mainly, if not wholly, from the Television, Radio and Newspapers. Where is the person who would now consult an authoritative book on the subject? Religious affairs always seem to suffer particularly, and there is very often abysmal ignorance shown even by those who should know better.

I have heard it said that Catholics, for example, worship Our Lady and even the Pope! No amount of disclaiming could dislodge these wrong statements from the minds of the listeners; the statement, however wild, has been made, and that seems to make it far more important (at least for the time being) than those famous ten statements inscribed on two tablets of stone. It is also said that the Church should bring itself into the twentieth century, as though Christ's moral teaching (for it is that to which they refer) should be brought up to date. How can moral teaching belong to one century rather than another. Only the application of principles can be used more particularly in one century or another; the principles are timeless. If we keep God's commandments, we act in accordance with the purpose of our creation; if we do not, then we are distorting God's plan, and jeopardising our own eternal salvation. No amount of pretending, or talk about "situation ethics" can alter facts.

Turning to the doctrinal aspect of God's revelation, we have recently received very wrong impressions of the work of the "Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission", or, since people seem to love letters ARIC. This was a grandiose title for a group of luminaries, who met in the not-too-distant past to discuss different points of doctrine. They especially considered the subjects of Authority and the Eucharist. Their findings certainly do not justify the description "substantial agreement" given to their joint statement on the Eucharist, or their evident euphoria when considering the meaning of authority in the Church.

When debating Authority they did not appear to consider the Catholic belief on the Infallibility of the Pope, on which that faith sets such great store. To reduce this position to one of "presidency" is to emasculate it almost out of existence. Where is the deep discussion on the Divine Institution of the Church or the Papacy? Even more, it is extraordinary to apply the word "substantial" to the "agreement" about the Eucharist. There could not be substantial agreement when the nature of the Real Presence of Christ, the meaning of the Mass as the representation of the Sacrifice of Calvary, nor the nature of priestly orders were even considered, or if they were, we should surely have been informed of the fact.

It is precisely the loose description "substantial" which illustrates my point about lack of precision; St Thomas Aquinas, applying the principles of Aristotle, sets great store by the exact meaning of the word, ironically in relation to the Eucharist.

Again, Our Blessed Lord, on his discourse after the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when he foretold the Eucharist, was very careful in his terminology, and was most insistent on the fact that the bread and wine would be his Body and Blood. So insistent was he that the Jews were horrified and many left him. Jesus, not being

prepared to compromise in any way, said to his apostles "Will you also go away?" — being prepared to do without his friends rather than promulgate a bogus doctrine.

What then is handed to us now in the name of religion? It seems to be a kind of policy that nothing "controversial" should be mentioned, as though one might dare to rock the various smug boats in which we live. This means that nothing definite is stated at all; and then along will come our old friends and substitutes for religion "I do no harm to anyone" or "well, Christ was a good man". So often when we hear or read opinions on religion given by whatever denomination, and they seem to be interchangeable versions of a kind of cosy, easy morality; the only difficulty may be that any connection between this and real religion is purely coincidental. It might seem difficult to understand why Christ should have died. Why should Christian martyrs have died either?



Did Christ not become "controversial" when he revealed the truth in general, or any one of many truths in particular? He could easily have headed off his persecution by the Jews if he had pointed out that he didn't mean any of his very hard teaching.

Is it possible that the time is now here that was predicted by St Paul in his warning to Timothy "the time will surely come when men will grow tired of sound doctrine, always itching to hear something fresh; and so they will provide themselves with a continuous succession of new teachers, as the whim takes them, turning a deaf ear to the truth, bestowing their attention on fables instead".

When Our Lord sent his apostles out they were to "teach all that I have commanded you". The "all" contains some very stern stuff.

Very often this vagueness and wooliness in morals and doctrine may have something to do with a wrong understanding of that much abused word "ecumenical". If ecumenical activity is to mean anything, it must include honesty. No good ever comes from cloaking over truths; that is not only dishonest, it is uncharitable, for if one believes something to be right, one will want all to share it for the privilege of the truth. Who will thank us for pretending?

What this generation, and indeed any other, looks for is conviction and authority. Our Lord spoke as one who like the Scribes and Pharisees, but "as one having authority". If a Church can speak like that, and give the timeless teaching of Christ fearlessly, preaching the truth "in season and out of season", it will at least make the genuine inquirer pause and think.

To return to my original plea: where is the logician, the clear thinker, the limpid reasoner with great faith, of today? In other words, where is today's St Thomas Aquinas? Perhaps St Thomas's method is almost unknown today, but he argues by logic, and the apparent simplicity of his argument always covers great intellectual depth. The great difficulty is that, while his great work, the "Summa Theologica" was written for fifth formers, even students in seminaries today find him difficult. (I won't be led down the path of considering the "advances" in education). St Thomas keeps carefully to the point he is making, and comes to a logical conclusion from logical premises. His whole thesis is that, while Faith is a gift from God, the Act of Faith is a reasonable act. If it were unreasonable, people would not accept it. Reason is given to us to help faith, and because the object of Theology is God Himself, then Theology, far from being unscientific, is the queen of sciences.

How different from much of the gimmick-laden waffle, or collections of jargon which can pass for theology today! I would commend St Thomas to anyone who doubts the intellectual content of the faith, or who thinks that the faith, or any part of it, may be untrue. It may be wishful thinking to expect another genius like him, but let us pray for his clarity of thought!

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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CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH GOSBROOK ROAD

APRIL 8 AND 9

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 8

11.00am MORNING SERVICE. Preacher Mr John Phillippo

3.00pm-6.00pm AFTERNOON TEA will be served

6.30pm EVENING SERVICE. Preacher Rev John Stephens (Superintendent Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit)

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7.00pm-9.00pm COFFEE will be served

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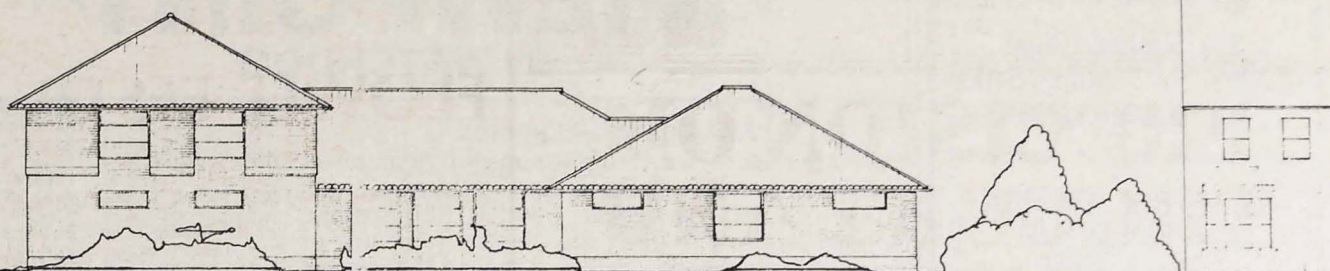
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NEW HEALTH CENTRE FOR CAVERSHAM



■ There was a mixture of jubilation and regret when the Priory Road practice finally exchanged contracts and the green light was given for the new Health Centre. Clearly the doctors are excited at the prospect ahead. The plan of the front elevation is shown above though the final building may differ slightly. Existing buildings in Hemdean Road can be seen at one end. It is hoped that the new centre will open in May 1985

Summer in Belgium for 25 shillings

NO! NOT can you go, but were you there? In 1921 that is. Bargain as it seems, only half the St Peter's Scouts could be provided with that fare for their ambitious summer camp.

An extract from the Parish Magazine for September 1921 reads:

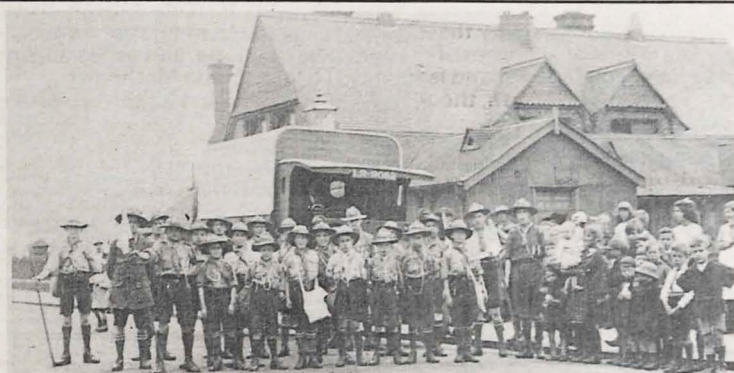
"The Summer Camp was held at Ostend. Thirty-two members of the St Peter's troop, together with the 1st Berks troop, camping in the Marie Henriette Parc. We left Reading on Wednesday July 27th, and 'roughed it' in Redhill station, and completed the journey to Dover early in the morning. The crossing was smooth and calls for no comment. On arrival at the camp site, we found nothing prepared, owing to some misunderstanding, and

slept that night in an open band stand, but thanks to the efforts of the British Chaplain and the Belgian Scoutmaster we found accommodation for everyone next day. It was a holiday camp, no scout work being carried out, bathing and visits to the town being the order of the day. A very enjoyable day was spent at Middlekerke, where German guns and dug-outs were visited and many souvenirs collected, a few of them of a dangerous nature, but they were promptly consigned

to the lake. On Sunday we had a Church Parade at the British Church, followed by a march to the cemetery, where a wreath was laid on the grave of an 'Unknown Belgian Soldier'.

The camp, in spite of many unforeseen difficulties, was very enjoyable, and we arrived in Reading at midnight on August 4, feeling very fit, having by this time recovered from the effects of a very choppy return crossing. 'ASSISTANT COOK'

Were you one, or do you know any of those scouts? The



■ Caversham Scouts (about 1920) ready for camp



3rd Reading, St Peter's Caversham Scout Group is hoping to contact and welcome many past members, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides to its Anniversary Gala Weekend on May 4 and 5.

The Group was first formed in 1909, seventy-five years ago, and also celebrates its tenth year at the Grove Hill HQ.

Festivities commence on Friday Evening, May 4, with a Barn Dance. An Open Afternoon and Gala Supper follow on the Saturday and all Group members past and present are invited to apply for tickets!

There will be many attractive 'limited edition' articles and souvenirs on sale as well as displays and photographs of the Group's many achievements.

Keep the dates in

mind and look out for our notices and posters.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

Long delays expected

WE CAN look forward to a summer of discontent with Prospect Street being up for three months whilst essential sewerage work is being done. Nobody is going to deny the necessity for any of the road works to which Reading has been subjected in the past year, though one has been due to poor materials being used in the first place, but it does sometimes seem as if contractors take their time when it comes to public works, regardless of the delays and confusions caused.

Prospect Street is a main artery through Caversham; it is a shopping street, and the contents of a large car park disgorge into it. It is not very long though, in spite of its key position, and three months seems an excessive time to be working on it.

When it is finished, motorists can then have fun dealing with the mobile mini-roundabout to be installed at its Gosbrook Road junction when the Waitrose development is completed. At present pedestrians are the main sufferers as they have to step out into the traffic stream to avoid the mud lying on what used to be the pavement, but then pedestrians don't really count.

A number of people have commented on the height of the associated office building rising on this site. It is too high for its surroundings and

this was pointed out, particularly by Caversham Residents' Association, at the public inquiry, but they were over-ruled. Let us hope that this is not the thin end of the wedge as we do not want Caversham to emulate Reading with its dozens of high rise office buildings.

Plans turned down

Protests have paid off with regard to two sets of applications that have been turned down. This does not mean we have heard the last of them, of course. The Lorco-Goodman's-Salter's site has been refused permission for the large office and small housing proposals. The housing development at the end of Hemdean Road has also been turned down. The Chairman of Planning, Coun B. Fowles, was possibly stretching it a bit when he likened the proposals to Victorian terraces in a mining valley, but he had a point. The problem about this particular site has always been that outline permission already exists, which makes it difficult to fight with the same vigour with which any proposals further along the valley would be contested. It is therefore encouraging to see the Planning Committee recommending an examination of the validity of this original permission. No one wants to see either Victorian terraces or modern luxury housing on this site.

The vagrant gypsy life

A lot of uncharitable carping has been heard and written about the

temporary gypsy encampment along Richfield Avenue. A tolerant society ought to be able to put up with a few people who do not conform with accepted norms. These gypsies are (probably "were") by the time this appears in print, on land not being used at present, they are not amongst housing, are interfering with no one's convenience, and are only by their very nature, there temporarily.

Urbanisation, current farming practices, motorways and modern roads, are harassments enough for these people, who are only following their traditional way of life. Imagine the complaints if they started queuing for Council houses. To say that they are not really gypsies because they don't roast hedgehogs or dance round a camp fire to clicking castanets is tantamount to saying that most of us are not really English because we don't wear smocks or sun bonnets and dance round a maypole on the village green.

Swans on the Thames

Swans however are on the whole popular, even if they do sometimes hiss in a threatening way, but one

thing they share with gypsies, apart from living in the open air, is that their way of life also is threatened. If you would like to hear more about swans, their history and their habits, then come to the Annual Meeting of the Residents' Associations, on Monday, April 2. After the formal business, Mr Laurence Over, who is a mine of information about these elegant creatures without whom the Thames would be unthinkable will be talking about them and showing some of his excellent slides.

We shall not be considering a third bridge as previously announced,

as it seemed better to postpone this till later when more information was available. As has also been stated elsewhere, a merger with Mapledurham Area Residents' Association is to be recommended. Fuller details about membership of this enlarged association are obtainable from the Secretary on Reading 472300. A lively Residents' Association is vital to a locality. If you do not belong, consider doing so. If you would like to be more actively involved, offer yourself as a committee member. Don't be put off by natural reticence.

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THE HISTORY OF AMERSHAM HALL

THE YEAR was 1824 and in the village of Chenies, near Rickmansworth, Ebenezer West was busy founding a school for young gentlemen. Here it flourished until 1829 when it was transferred to nearby Amersham, to remain there until 1861. Then once again Ebenezer West moved his establishment, this time to Caversham. Why he chose this particular place is not known but there must have been a reason for this choice. Here in the Little End district of the village he purchased a large piece of land, some forty acres, lying north between the turnpike road to Henley and the old unmade way to Emmer Green, which was little more than a track between fields. On this site he built his new school which he named Amersham Hall. Once again it flourished, first under his

headship, and later that of his son Alfred Slater West. Then in 1892 Amersham Hall was sold and renamed Queen Anne's School, becoming a branch of the famous Grey Coat School at Westminster.

Ebenezer was a devoted member of the Baptist Church in Caversham and a generous benefactor to it. Every week the boys from Amersham Hall attended Sunday service, each paying a guinea a year for pew rent.

When his father died in 1895 Alfred Slater West took over the running of the school.

It was a fine complex of buildings. The large dining hall had several fireplaces and over the main one hung a large pair of antlers. The quadrangle seems to have been an attractive place with arches on at least one side. There was also an infirmary for boys who fell sick and the use of a large heated and

covered swimming bath, which must have been quite a feature in the school and cost parents an extra seven shillings a term for their sons to use. The boys also played football and cricket and had the use of three

guineas per annum. The horsecab terminus was just near the school, outside the Prince of Wales, and here pupils could catch a bus into Reading station. The cost in those days was seven and a half pence in our

successes and between 1869 and 1880 more than fifty degrees were obtained by former pupils, mostly at London and Cambridge. Boys from Amersham Hall were first sent up to matriculate at London University in 1849 and by 1880 one hundred and sixty-two had passed this examination. Of those fifty seven took Honours and thirteen were Exhibitioners or prizemen. Perhaps the most noted scholar of all to have attended this school was J. M. Keynes who later became the famous monetarist.



Once Amersham Hall, now part of Queen Anne's School.

Peter Sear

Fives Courts and a covered gymnasium.

During the headship of Alfred West fees for pupils under twelve were seventy guineas a year, for those over twelve the fees rose a further ten

present day money. No day boys were taken and the number of boys attending was limited to eighty.

J. M. Keynes was there

The school had many scholastic

Life at Amersham Hall was not just concerned with doing well at exams and enjoying plenty of physical recreation. Apparently there was a thriving group of Amersham Minstrels, giving the boys the chance to take to the stage as well. They put on many shows and during term time were always in great demand at village entertainments where they were always the most popular item on the programme.

It seems clear that the school was careful to give all those attending the chance of a good all round education and there is no doubt it was a very happy and well ordered establishment.

M.K.

lands War, but the rest of the world certainly has not, and as long as nuclear weapons exist there is the threat that one of these lesser wars, at least in European eyes, could escalate into the final nuclear holocaust.

One can only agree that the method of policing is ridiculous. Why cannot the United States guard their own weapons and base? Why take police off the streets of Reading and off the M4 where they could be dealing with petty criminals and murderous motorists? Has Zolius even considered how far youthful crime could be attributed to the feeling that nothing matters when there is no future ahead? A society which spends untold billions on weapons of self destruction instead of on care for those who need it and on enhancing the beautiful world we were once given, should not be surprised if this attitude

rubs off on its younger members.

This is an issue on which you cannot sit on the fence. You are either for nuclear weapons and all they stand for or you are against them. If you are the latter you must do something about it. We cannot all be Greenham Common Women, even if we are women, but we can wholeheartedly support their aims. I do not find it at all confusing that they have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Peace is what it is all about.

MOLLY CASEY

14 Albert Road
Caversham

KATY

Dear Sirs,

I enjoy Katy in Caversham's page in Caversham Bridge, but must disagree with her on one point.

That is that the junction of Hemdean Road with Church Street is a hazard due to approaching buses.

Surely one should expect to see buses in a section of the road which is a bus lane only. The danger occurs through irresponsible motorists ignoring the many road signs, unless of course many of them cannot read!

I agree action should be taken at an early date.

V. D. RIMES

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Postbag

GREENHAM WOMAN

Dear Sirs,

Zolius gives what I am sure he intends to be a balanced view of the Greenham Women, and ends up sitting on the fence. In fact he is not even there, for there are enough give-aways to show which side, given a tap, he would be prepared to fall.

The use of the word "notorious" in his first paragraph is one of the indications. Why not "famous" or if that sticks in the throat, "the best known protest group" would be a factual choice.

Later he refers to Rent-a-Mob, not even crowd, you notice. This is an amusing enough term to mock widespread support for a view with

which you disagree, but Rent-a-Mob will not get out tens of thousands of women on a freezing cold Sunday in the run-up to Christmas. Only deeply held conviction will do that. Zolius believes that widespread expression of opinion gets nowhere. What then does move governments? I believe equally firmly that if there had not been mass protests and publicity about the effect of nuclear war, some power mad government would already have resorted to it.

Then he goes on to state that he believes in the deterrent value of nuclear weapons. Maybe this country has had a long period of peace, if you don't count the Falk-

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

A foretaste of Spring

IT WAS William Wordsworth who waxed lyrical about the daffodil — and good for him. The congregation at the Baptist Church could well do likewise, and not only about the daffodil but about many similar horticultural delights. During past weeks the drabness of winter has been brightened by some marvellous floral arrangements which have adorned the Communion Table. It is traditional in the Church for friends to donate flowers for a variety of reasons; to commemorate the passing of a loved one, a wedding anniversary or for the sheer joy of beautifying the place and there could be no better reason. Yes, spring is in the air and what a foretaste we have had of late — both the donors and

the arrangers merit thanks and congratulations, long may they continue with the good work.

Dropping a brick

In the March issue "Watchdog" drew attention to the intriguing and beautiful brickwork to be seen not a million miles away. Watchdog "dropped a brick" in not mentioning the Baptist Church on the front elevation of which is to be seen a veritable dog's dinner of the bricklayers' art. The juxtaposition of the bricks is undoubtedly the brain-child of Alfred Waterhouse, that great Victorian architect who designed many other architectural delights.

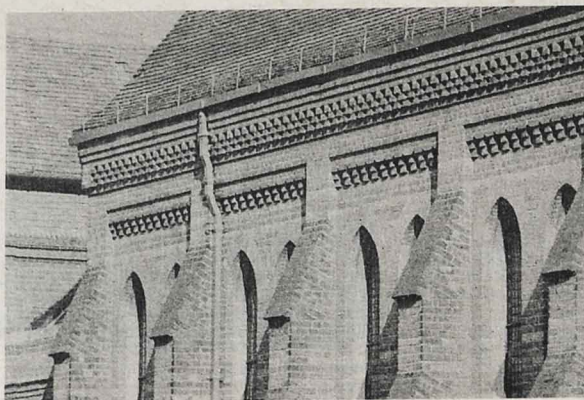
Baptist Churches affiliated to the Baptist Union remain

autonomous — in essence they are a law unto themselves — under the guidance of the Minister, Officers and Deacons. The governing body is the Members' Meeting in that it steers the affairs of the local church and can, but seldom does, overrule those whom it has appointed to direct operations. As with all businesslike organisations the Church holds monthly business meetings and an Annual General Meeting at which those in authority are appointed or re-appointed for the ensuing year, as are the leaders of the various organisations sponsored by the Church.

At the recent Annual General Meeting the Church Secretary and the Treasurer — both of whom had been reappointed — presented their reports on the past year's activities. These could have been deadly dull but

in Caversham the Baptist Church is a hive of activity hence the reports were full of interest. The Secretary, Mr Bernard Miller, emphasised the progress which had been made in widening the Church's contacts in the neighbourhood by the strengthening of the many and varied activities. This, in turn, had led the Church family to a deepening of its faith and commitment and had prompted a strong desire to seek new opportunities for evangelism in its many facets. Mr Norman Ide, the Treasurer, in similar vein, praised the financial commitment of the fellowship

in responding to the increased target which had been set for 1983. This, together with the receipt of several legacies gave reason for confidence that the outstanding balance of the debt incurred by the redevelopment of the premises would be cleared earlier than originally anticipated.



Interesting patterns created in the brickwork of Caversham Baptist Church

Peter Sear

Women's World Day of Prayer

ON FRIDAY March 2 Christian women throughout the world kept a day of prayer, with interdenominational services on the theme of "Living Water". In Caversham about 80 women and a few men gathered in St Anne's at 8.30pm to join in prayers and readings chosen by women from Sweden.



Mrs Weller led the service and Mrs Joan Effendovitz Headmistress of St Joseph's Convent school, shared her thoughts on water as a symbol of Christian life, referring to images of thirst and of water in poetry and theology. After the service the congregation shared refreshments in St Anne's Hall.

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ST JOHN'S NOTES

THERE was a christening at the 11.00 Family Service on February 5. This is the service Helen Marie's family regularly attend, so it was appropriate to welcome Helen when the young families were the congregation. The small children, who were there with other families, were delighted, and crowded round the font, to watch. They followed through the theme of "a candle in the world" by cutting out paper candles, with help from their parents. Helen's parents said "That was a lovely service" and everyone took the opportunity to admire the baby, and say how well her two-year-old

brother, Kevin, had behaved.

These services, held at 11.00 on the first Sunday in the month, are friendly and informal, and planned to interest and teach small children. There is an activity they enjoy, and songs they can sing. All young families are welcome.

The Mothers' Union held their winter party on St Valentine's Day. About seventy people enjoyed the old time songs sung by the Newtown and Redlands Singers, and one of the excellent Mothers' Union teas.

When a member of the congregation reaches ninety, and is still active and energetic, that is a cause for thanksgiving. When it is Miss Elsie Platt, of "Platt's the Grocers" and all East Caversham knows her,

then the congregation just had to have a little celebration. Retired people remember how, when they were children and were sent to Miss Platt's shop "you had to behave properly there". Grandmothers remember how, in wartime rationing, Miss Platt always managed to find a jelly for children's birthday parties. So, it was with pleasure and affection, that St John's congregation signed a birthday card for Elsie, and saw Alan Wilson give it to her, with a bunch of spring flowers, before the start of a 9.15 Communion service.

Some changes are planned for St John's garden, and offers of help with that work, or with the garden rota, are needed. Offers to Alan Wilson, or ring 473798.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN READING

An Exhibition of Children's Art is to be held in the Hexagon from April 14 to 28. The theme of the display will be "The Easter Story".

Please participate by getting your Sunday School to exhibit, and by going along to see the end result.

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GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

FRIENDS at Gosbrook Road were very pleased to welcome to their annual event for Overseas Missions, the Rev David Milling, who spoke and showed slides of India. It was a very rewarding evening and all enjoyed it. The Overseas Mission's anniversary continued on Sunday, February 19. Rev Ralph Rogerson led the morning service. The young people received their Junior Missionary Association certificates and medals during the service. Also the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award winners were presented with badges and cards of congratulation. It was also a time of saying "goodbye" as Jim and Joyce Plunkett prepare to move away to Blackpool. Jim received a pottery lamp from the church as a parting gift, and in appreciation of all the work that they have done and the support and strength they have been during their twelve year stay in Reading.

A Jumble Sale was held to launch a fund for refurbishing the Church Hall. The sale raised £91, which was a good beginning. Other fund-raising events have been arranged for later in the year.

On February 25 the 1st Caversham Boy's

Brigade Band, The Ambassadors, went to Crawley in Sussex for the first competition of the year. About 450 young musicians took part in the competition. They came from many different parts of the district including Isle of Wight, Brighton, Southampton, Canterbury and of course Caversham. Of the bands taking part six were from Methodist Churches, six from Baptist, and three from U.R.C. The Southern District Band Championships are the main competition for Boy's Brigade Band in this area. The Ambassadors did very well, gaining third place overall and winning the following awards: Best Display and Showmanship, Best Percussion, Best Mallets (xylophone type instruments) and best Colour Guard (girls).

The band have just purchased new valved trumpets which the young people are looking forward to playing. These new instruments will give them a much wider variety of music, and should bring new opportunities to them. During the summer they will be playing at Reading Football Club, Highdown School, Childe Beale Trust, Worcester, Sandy, Hemel Hempstead and Hendon.

Uic

by PHILIP WEBB



ST BARNABAS' NEWS

TUESDAY February 28 was a cold, damp evening, which perhaps explained why only 25 people were present at St Barnabas' AGM.

The AGM received reports about various aspects of church life — the Sunday School, youth work, the work of the Overseas Group, the financial state of the church — unhappily St Barnabas had had to draw on its reserves last year in order to meet its financial commitments, and the same would probably be true this year. But there was hope: Revd Richard Kingsbury in his remarks likened the church to the Israelites travelling on to a new and bright future in the Promised Land.

In his report Revd Peter Sear spoke of the church as a team, and he

thanked the members of the team in their many and various ministries. He warned about complacency. In youth work (which, he confessed, was at rather a low ebb) and in other aspects of church life there was always the danger of assuming that someone else would come to the rescue — it was one of the dangers of being just a part of a large parish.

In the elections the following were appointed:

District Wardens: Ernest Pakenham Walsh and Valerie Gardiner.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Owen Jewiss and David Miles.

PCC members: Michael Matthews and Michael Archer
District Committee members: George Davies, Walter Williams, Sallie Wall and Margaret Notton.

Sidesmen and

women: Michael Archer, Roy Barnes, George Davies, Neil Earley, John Evans, Ken Heale, Ray Hester, Sheila Hester, Hugh Ilott, Owen Jewiss, Michael Matthews, David Miles, Ian Munro, John Notton, Margaret Notton, John Sansom, Bernard Smith, Caleb Smith, Alan Standing, Brian Warren, Roy Westwell, Walter Williams.

This year Michael Matthew had decided not to seek re-election as a District Warden. He was thanked for all that he had done during his six years in office and his wife was thanked for her support. In particular Michael was thanked for his keeping a close eye on the fabric of the church (which, the meeting, was assured he would continue to do in future if requested.)



Mrs Noreen Smith, President of Reading and District Welsh Society, and Revd David Evans at the Society's bi-lingual St David's Day service, held this year at St Barnabas Church.



Girls from the 1st Emmer Green (St Barnabas) Guide company provided a guard of honour when Sonia Peacock, their Guider, and John James were married at St Barnabas' Church.

Peter Sear

Constance Gladys Johnson

CAVERSHAM lost another link with the past on the death of "Connie" Johnson of Woodcote Way at the end of February.

Mrs Johnson was born in Winchester in 1898 but eventually moved to Reading where she worked as an upholsterer for the Reading firm of Vincents. It was during this time that she met and married Wesley Johnson, a member of a very old local family. After their marriage they moved to Canada where two of their sons were born.

Wesley's ill health brought them back to Reading in 1926 where they built up a flourishing greengrocery shop in Oxford Road. In 1938 they moved to Woodcote Way where they opened a grocery and greengrocery store.

Wesley died 28 years ago, but the business remained in the family and is now run by their son, Donald. Another son, Theodore, has a store in Hemdean Road, their daughter, Mrs Ruth Soper, lives in Hewitt Avenue, while another son, Norman, lives in Blackpool. Mrs Johnson also leaves 14 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, to whom she was known as Nanny and of whom she was very proud. They will miss her very much.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Blagrove WI

MEMBERS were welcomed to the February meeting by Mrs J. Price, the President, who later presented the birthday posies. Following the business, Mrs Noble, of Whitechurch Hill WI was introduced; her subject "With Queen Victoria in the Highlands" proved very interesting. She read from Queen Victoria's Journal of the happy family occasions which took place in Scotland and supported by colour slides of Royal Deeside and Balmoral as it is today. Miss D. Chapman gave the vote of thanks. The competition for a

home-made pin cushion was well supported and won by Mrs Aldiss, 2nd Mrs Hunter and 3rd Mrs Housden. The raffle prize, given by Mrs Messant was won by Mrs Beacroft.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

THE month of February was a quiet month mainly because the weather was so poor and a number of members were ill.

Mrs Rankin brought along some very colourful films with views of the flowers

and shrubs in her garden, and also the wild flowers in Wales. The St Peter's Brownies entertained the members with a concert which everyone enjoyed, and also provided a colourful tea.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE February meeting was held at Church House. Mr Penny gave a most entertaining and instructive talk on plants for the small garden. A barrage of questions from members followed; these he answered as fully as possible with much humour and patience in the limited time available. On February 2 the annual birthday party was held at St Andrew's Hall, where members enjoyed an excellent supper followed by a lively display of Scottish dancing with some of the more energetic enthusiastically joining in. This happy evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THE Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their meeting at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

Homeopathic medicine was the subject of the talk, by Mr M. Auson. The colourful slides showed many flowers and plants, grown organically, providing the tinctures, powders and oils for use to stimulate body healing from natural sources with no side effects.

The Chairman was delighted to announce that fifty parcels had been distributed to elderly people in

Emmer Green and Caversham, at Christmas time. The members of the Guild voted to support the NSPCC and the Guide Dogs for the Blind as their charities for 1984.

Maplewood WI

AT MAPLEWOOD'S February meeting, Mrs Mann of Berkshire College of Agriculture brightened up a cold wet afternoon with her demonstration of "cheap and cheerful cookery" — the appetising dishes she created living up to the title.

On the business side, nominations were made for the new committee.

The meeting was rounded off with a good chat over a cup of tea.

Caversham Ladies Club

THE February meeting was held in the Baptist Church Centre with Mrs M. Harwood in the chair. After the usual business she welcomed Mr L. Strong who showed a most excellent film of Water-skiing in Finland.

This was very much appreciated by all the members, and he was warmly thanked.

Chazey WI

WHAT a surprise February's meeting turned out to be. The speaker who was booked, at the last moment was unable to attend, and so the husband of one of the members, Mr Churcher, gave a fascinating talk on the history of magic. It was explained how it had originated in ancient times, following through to today's television personalities. Then the fun started, with members involved in simple tricks. Mr Churcher captured everyone's attention and all thor-

oughly enjoyed themselves. The vote of thanks was very sincere.

The business time was concluded, firstly with Eileen Waltham congratulating the organisers on the success of January's popular moveable feast, and secondly when Gale Russell, competition organiser, presented Patricia Hughes with a cut glass stem vase for winning the most points throughout the year.

Caversham Community Association

MRS Dorothy Page was the guest speaker on February 6. Her talk on "Dieting" was informative and encouraging to those wishing to reduce weight. Mrs Page gave advice on a diet for healthy eating for everyone and said that moderation in eating, with a variety of the right foods to give a well balanced diet, would gradually reduce the overweight. She also advised that meals should be eaten three times a day rather than a large meal in the evening. Mrs Page gave ideas for meals on her diet sheets and ended by inviting questions from the members.

A Valentine party was held on February 13. The refreshments were in the form of an American supper, each member providing a share of the food. The Sue Broadway School of Dancing gave a display during the evening. The talented students in attractive costumes gave modern and acrobatic dances which were enjoyed very much by the audience. Margaret Cameron then read some poems written by Pam Ayres. A Competition was held for a poem in Valentine style. Nancy Nelhams was the winner. The evening ended with a group singing game.

The following week Mrs P. Haseltine was the guest speaker when she gave a talk, illustrated with a slide film show, on the "Chiltern Country". Mrs Haseltine said that this area was heavily wooded until the 18th century. At one time the beeches in Buckinghamshire provided wood for many English church chairs, the wood is now obtained from abroad. Walkers can make use of the 3,300 footpaths to explore the attractive villages in the Chilterns. The films depicted some lovely buildings, churches and outstanding landmarks and were much admired by the members.

An Old Tyme dance evening completed the February meetings with a few modern dances included in the programme. Doreen Crawley and Nancy Nelhams led the dancers through the various routines.

Caversham Women's Institute

AFTER the usual business at the February meeting, the President Mrs Hilda Adair welcomed Mrs Pat Harding who gave an interesting although moving talk on the wonderful work of the Sue Ryder Foundation.

The 50 bedroomed house at Nettlebed, that once belonged to the grandparents of Ian Fleming, was in 1937 generously given by the family as a training school for nurses.

In May 1978 the house was acquired by the Sue Ryder Foundation as a home to meet the urgent need for facilities for the continuing care of cancer patients.

The Competition for a plate of home-made

shortbread biscuits was won by three members — Mrs Jane Stockill, Mrs Lily Hensley and Mrs May Smith.

A warm welcome will be given to new members.

Rosehill WI

ON YET another rainy afternoon Mrs Allwright welcomed members to the February meeting. After reports about various activities they were given a most interesting talk, with slides, by Mrs M. E. Hutchings, entitled "Colourful Canals". Watching this members were transported all over the country, through numerous locks, on the long boat owned by Mrs Hutchings and her husband. A record number of entries for the competition which was for a photograph of a "Water Scene" was won by Mrs Barge, 2nd Mrs Ellingham, 3rd Mrs Roberts.

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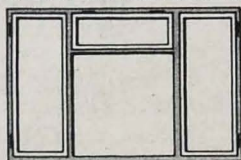
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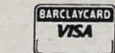


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JOHN DUSSEK MEMORIAL CONCERT

THE CONCERT held at St Peter's on the evening of February 12 in memory of John Dussek was a fitting tribute and thanksgiving for John's life and for the way in which he used his considerable musical talents for the worship of God. The church was filled and those present enjoyed a carefully chosen and beautifully performed programme.

It was quite apparent that a tremendous amount of thought and effort had gone into the planning and execution of this concert, and those who arranged it and those who participated, should feel rewarded for their labours by the pleasure it gave to the audience.

The programme undoubtedly reflected the taste of a young man well known to us all. Nevertheless, it was appropriate that we should hear works on the organ, an instrument beloved by John and played so well by him, anthems representing the choir whom he trained so meti-



■ St Peter's Singers and Orchestra at the John Dussek Memorial Concert. — E. S. Archer

culously and so faithfully, and, as a superb climax, the Charpentier Mass, perhaps unknown to many of us, but, as all agreed, a most pleasing choice.

The fine organ playing in the works by Handel was complemented by the richness of the strings and the surprisingly attractive sound of the recorders — we say surprisingly, not because we have not heard recorders played so well before! Contrast, balance and pace were all well maintained.

The anthems gave the choir an opportunity to demonstrate the full range of their ability. They attacked the Pitoni with verve and joyfulness, then followed the gentle purity of Mozart, and finally, Redford's "Rejoice in the Lord", sung movingly with formal precision.

During his life, and particularly after his serious illnesses, John was supported unflinchingly by the love, humour and courage of his wife, Molly. It was typical that Molly should play at the concert and even more characteristic that she should give a brave and witty

speech in which she thanked the many friends who had supported her, and presented a gift from the Dussek family to St Peter's as a memorial to John. The choice of an elegant music stand for the use of the choir master could not have been more appropriate. Equally appropriate was the choice of the Friends of Reading Hospitals, as recipients of the proceeds from the retiring collection, an acknowledgment of the good work done by the hospital staff, and in particular, the rehabilitation unit at Battle Hospital.

In his speech of thanks the Rector reminded us that love is greater than death and that music has a timelessness and a healing power which transcend mortality.

The Charpentier Mass was sheer delight. The notes of the carefully produced and annotated programme

quoted the Mass as having a "predominant character of tunefulness, simplicity and sweet jubilation". It was performed by the five gifted soloists, St Peter's Singers and the accompanying instrumentalists not only with technical excellence but with sincerity, conviction and above all, joy.

At the end of the concert, we all joined together to sing John's favourite hymn "Ye Holy Angels Bright". The concert will, as time passes, become a pleasant memory, but it will be a fitting tribute to the life of John Dussek if we, as he did: "Let all our days Till life shall end, Whate'er He send Be filled with praise".

DUO

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND SOCIAL

THE Caversham branch of SCF held its annual social at St Andrews Hall on Saturday, February 11. Over one hundred people attended to enjoy a variety of entertainments. Air Vice Marshal Cox presented awards to two young ladies who raised money for SCF. Apart from being a social success the evening resulted in over £150 profit. The Committee would like to thank all who attended and helped in any way to make the evening a success.

Visions

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WE RECORD

BAPTISED St John's February 5 February 12

Helen Marie Grierson
Kevin Ciappi
Barbara Ciappi
Mark Ciappi

St Barnabas February 19

Owain Hammond
Jemma Parish
Caroline Pigot

St Anne's February 19

Kieran Michael McCafferty
11, Haghill Rise, Taplow
Sarah Louise Iremonger
12, Onslow Gardens
Philip Douglas Keen
220, Henley Road
Stephanie Celia O'Donnell
143, Henley Road
Michael Thomas Rodbourne
30, Church Street. (In hospital).
Kerrie Anne Penn
49, Briants Avenue
James Norman Vickers
105, Hemdean Road
Thomas Alexander Vickers
105, Hemdean Road
(previously baptised in hospital)
Alice Louise Vickers
105, Hemdean Road
Joanne Louise Kelly
286, Hemdean Road
Adam James Marks
10, Donegal Close
Amanda Marie Teresa Thompson
15, Queens Road

CONFIRMATION

Michael Thomas Rodbourne
was confirmed in hospital

MARRIAGE St Barnabas March 3 MARRIAGE St Anne's

Sonia Peacock and John James

DEATHS St Anne's

William Patrick Pearce and
Juliet Veronica Petheram

Sarah Kennedy, 162 Henley Road
Died December 29, 1983
Cecil James Cullum
42 Marshland Square, Emmer
Green. Died February 20, 1984
Michael McDonnell, 296 Gosbrook
Road. Died February 24, 1984

FUNERALS St John's March 5 St Peter's March 1

Edgar Nelson Whiteway

Dorothy Hawthorne

CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

Wednesdays at 10.30am

April 4 — 18 Woods Road (Jeanne Latter)
April 11 — 1 Kelso Mews (Diana Etherington)
April 18 — 14 Netley Close (Rose Osborne)
April 25 — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Jane Lynch-Watson)

LINK GROUP

THE monthly meeting of the Link Group took place on February 27.

A discussion followed on the preliminary arrangements for the Nearly New Sale. It was urged that the home-made stalls should be as well stocked as possible with a variety of goods — cakes, jams, plants etc for which all gifts will be gratefully received.



Christopher Stevens then gave a talk on the work of Peppard House, which is a home for children who have such special needs that it is a strain for parents to care for them in their own homes. Such children used to be kept in institutions where they

cannot receive adequate care, due to low staffing. In recent years a more enlightened outlook has brought about a greater understanding of the need for these children to mix freely with everyone, and to be met with a loving, caring attitude. Peppard House was set up three years ago under a charitable trust, and at present eight children are cared for by a devoted staff. These children suffer from such severe handicaps that their frustration makes them very difficult to handle. The love and understanding which they receive transforms them into children who eventually are able to form happy relationships with each other. In some cases they are even able to return to their own homes,

surely a mark of the wonderful success of Peppard House! It is hoped that another home may be opened in the area later on. Reading is very fortunate to have one such home, staffed by men and women of such vision and patience, as there are very few like it in the country.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the speaker.

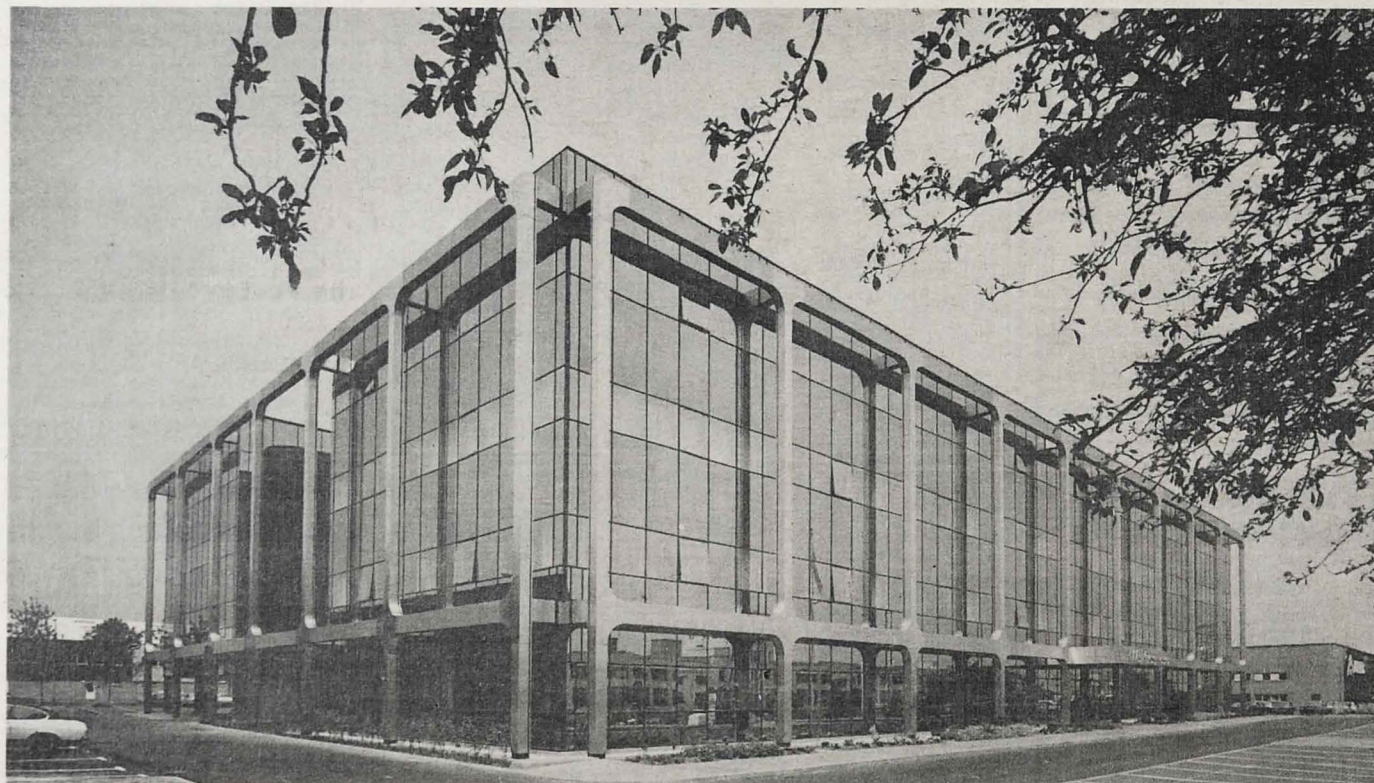
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DIGITAL READING HALF MARATHON

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They're off!

BY THE time this edition of the Caversham Bridge hits the streets the nearly seven thousand entrants in this year's Half Marathon will be on their marks for the race of their life.

Perhaps it would be interesting to reflect at this time on what has gone into this year's event... over £3,000

in postage stamps, 28,000 safety pins, 7,000 each of — Mars bars, Lucozade, embrocation, oranges, bags, etc,

5,000 plastic bags for clothing storage, 25,000 plastic cups for the feeding stations, 1,000 or more gallons of water, over 1,000 plastic cones for road marking, several hundred yards of fencing, a mile of rope and several hundred metal stakes, 200 blankets, 6,500 medals, 400 helpers... and the cheques from runners if put on one

pile would be nearly five feet tall... and over the last twelve months the mileage covered by the runners in racing and training would be over 85,000 miles.

There are many people taking part for all sorts of reasons but perhaps the most outstanding is Mrs Avril Moat, Matron at the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed.



STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

Despite her extremely busy life as a mother of eight children and the very dedicated and caring Matron at Joyce Grove she decided to take part herself to raise money for the Home when a well known person could not be found to run for this worthwhile cause. She will deserve your support as this outstanding Home for terminal and convalescing cancer patients could not exist without continued financial support from the public.

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TRANSFORMATION SCENE



Sylvia Read and William Fry in a scene from the Theatre Roundabout production of 'Transformation Scene' at Caversham Baptist Church.

Photo — Peter Sear

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

AT THE February meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild Mr Alan Nicholls spoke about his work as an Officer of HM Customs and Excise. He had started as an assistant preventive officer in the Waterguard Service in London Port, had been at Southampton boarding the 'Queens', and at London airport; had worked on VAT for 8 years and latterly on Excise work.

300 years have passed since the modern Customs Department was formed in 1681 and Excise in 1683, when Parliament granted the whole levy raised by Excise to Charles II, who gave it to Nell Gwynne.

The work of the Customs at the ports aims to prevent smuggling at airports as well as along the coasts. Imports and exports must be known about so that duties can be collected. There is a lookout kept for, say, skins of animals which might become endangered species. Cocaine, not seen for a long time and once a rich man's plaything, is now being seized, heroin detections are up by 88 per cent and preventive work stops

guns coming into the streets. Kilos of cannabis are seized both by Customs and the police.

The Department's other main responsibilities lie in collecting Excise levied on oils, tobacco products, beer, distilled spirits and cars, and VAT on consumer expenditure. Duty is payable on all forms of betting and gaming.

As far as VAT is concerned, there is a central unit where a computer keeps records of traders' returns, but all the verification of these details is carried out by local officers. Wines and spirits can be stored in bond, the duty to be paid on delivery.

The strategy has been to develop the Investigation Department which co-operates closely with other departments and the police and sends officers to places like Pakistan to receive intelligence about the detection of international groups smuggling drugs such as opium, heroin and cocaine.

A degree of stamina and integrity is called for, and an awareness of people that only comes as a result of experience is an indispensable asset.

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ANGLICAN

ST PETER'S

Palm Sunday 8am Holy Communion
9.15 Parish communion and distribution of palms
11.15 Holy communion
6.30 Evensong

Wednesday 18
Maundy Thursday 7pm Holy communion
9.30am Holy communion
8.30pm Holy communion
12 noon Three Hours Devotion (preacher — Revd Richard Kingsbury)

Good Friday 8am Holy communion
9.15 Parish Communion
11.15 Holy communion
6.30 Evensong

Easter Day

ST ANDREW'S

Palm Sunday 8am Holy communion
9.15 Family eucharist and blessing of palms
11.15 Holy communion
6.20 Evensong

Tuesday 17
Wednesday 18
Maundy Thursday 8pm Sung eucharist and vigil
9.30am Holy communion
8pm Service of the Cross
8pm Easter Eve Ceremonies
8am Holy communion
9.15 Festal Eucharist
11.15 Holy communion
6.30 Festal Evensong

ST BARNABAS

Palm Sunday 8am Holy communion
9.15 Family eucharist and distribution of palms
10am Holy communion
8pm Sung eucharist
10am Service of Devotion for Good Friday
8am Holy Communion
9.15 Family eucharist

ST JOHN'S

Saturday 14 8pm Stainer's Crucifixion
8am Holy communion
9.15 "Hosanna to the King" — Special service for Palm Sunday
6.30 Evening Prayer and Meditation

Maundy Thursday 8pm see Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
10am Good Friday meditation
11am Children's Service followed by children's picnic and walk

Good Friday 8am Holy communion
9.15 Family communion

Easter Day

ST MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Palm Sunday 11am Family eucharist
9.30am Devotional service
8am Holy communion
11am Family eucharist

METHODIST

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

Palm Sunday 11am Morning worship
6.30 "The Cross of Christ" (Choir cantata)
— Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday 10.30 Devotional service (with Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, Caversham Baptist Church)

Good Friday 8am Holy communion
11am Divine worship with holy communion

Easter Day

GOSBROOK ROAD

Maundy Thursday 8pm Holy communion (with Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Caversham Baptist Church and St John's) — see Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Good Friday 9am Holy communion

Easter Day

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (meets in Caversham Park School unless otherwise stated)

Palm Sunday 11am Family eucharist
10.30am House communion at 14 Netley Close

Wednesday 18 8pm Holy communion at 1 Aldenham Close — see St Barnabas'

Maundy Thursday 8pm Holy communion at 1 Aldenham Close — see St Barnabas'

Good Friday 11am Family Eucharist

Easter Day

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday 10.30 Morning service
6.30 Evening service

Maundy Thursday — see Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Good Friday — see Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Easter Day 10.30am Morning service
6.30 Evening service — holy communion

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST ANNE'S

Saturday 14 11-12, 6-15-7pm Confessions
5.30 Blessing of palms and mass for Sunday

Palm Sunday

9am Mass
11am Mass
6.30 Stations of the Cross and Benediction
7.15am and 9am Mass
7.15am Mass

Monday 16

Tuesday 17

7.30pm Penitential service and confession
9am and 7.30pm Mass
3.15 Confessions

Maundy Thursday

9am Mass (mainly for children)
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
10.30am Stations of the Cross and Sermon
3pm Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord (followed by confessions)

Holy Saturday

Easter Day

Confessions 10.30-12, 3-4, 5-6.30
Vigil Ceremonies begin at 8pm
9am Mass
11am Mass

OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, Richmond Road

Palm Sunday

8.30 Mass
10.30 Mass (preceded by Blessing of Palms)
5pm Mass
10am Mass

Tuesday 17

Good Friday

6.30pm Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord (followed by confessions)
4.5pm Confessions
8.30 Mass
10.30am Mass
5pm Mass

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