



# A PAGE FROM THE PAST



Flooding in Gosbrook Road during 1947. Houses in George Street can be seen on the right



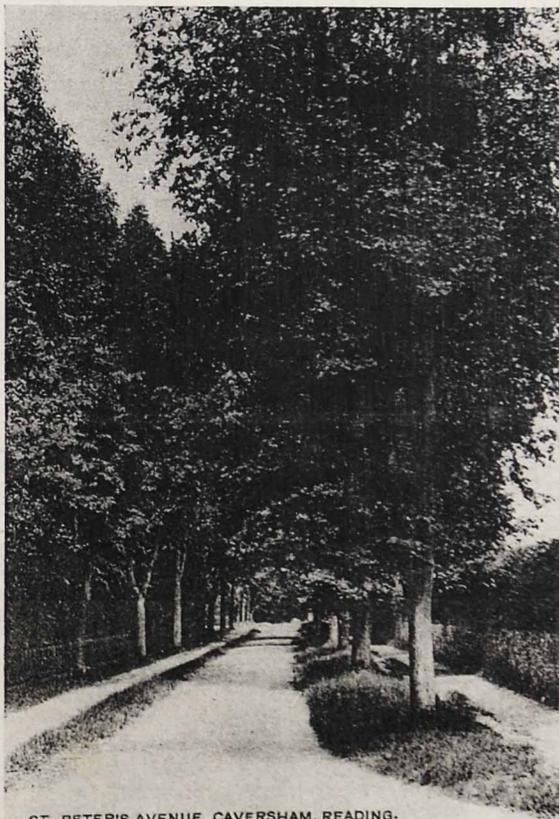
*Caversham, Entrance to Warren*

The entrance to the Warren 1910. The little house is still there, though the thatched roof has gone, so have the railings and ornate gate. Gone, too, are the beautifully clipped trees in the front garden



*Caversham, Kidmore Road*

The first part of Kidmore Road in 1908. New houses line the road and young plane trees have not long been planted. Today they are mature specimens giving the road generous shade



ST. PETER'S AVENUE, CAVERSHAM, READING.

Looking up St Peter's Avenue c 1935, from the Warren. The elms have now gone but the first part of the road remains unmade

D/EX 1758/21/10

# TALKING POINT

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's, Caversham



## LETTER FROM LLANGYNIDR

ALAN Wilson has recently spent two weeks in Wales leading a camp for young people from St John's and friends.

I FEEL for the child who put on her form that her special hobby was "watching TV". Even if you have the set, the sides of Dyffryn Crawn, a thousand feet either side of our schoolhouse, block out the best part of the signal; reflected images play around the screen, and give one of the least watchable pictures in mainland Britain. They don't even have the same kind of news around here — no "Grans", no "Weeny crime", no "dramas". It's forty years since anyone around here took a "Death plunge"; and then there was a war on. Today's Radnorshire Telegraph is all beaming medical graduates and livestock prices. So this is it, mother, we're on our own. It's three miles to the nearest stand-pipe, and I hope the water holds out in our little stream.

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Friday. Dr Richard Goodwin arrives. Not your average GP, or your average Quaker. Richard has wild red hair, a backpack, and two tents. He's wearing the only kilt and sporrán in Abergavenny this afternoon. Nice of him to bring us a water-melon. He wants a tape of Scottish Country Dancing. The girl in Woolworths explains that last year they had a consignment of Jimmy Shand, meant for Perth. But that was last year, and the best she has for us today is Pipe-Major Robertson's favourites.

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Saturday. Time for the under eighteens to join us. Jackie joins the Radnorshire Telegraph. Somebody has brought me a Church Times. What is Jackie, anyway? "Dear Claire, I'm desperate. Sometimes I hate my boyfriend, and sometimes I love him. Last night I wanted to chuck him, but it's awful on your own. You go off people, don't you?" Is our frame tent full of desperate girls? Will they go off me this week? Perhaps I've gone off people. I'm going to put my collar back on, and go and sit in my tent with my wife, and read the Church Times.

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Monday. Through the fog of returning consciousness drifts the low moan of the Farne Islands foghorn. No this is Wales. No foghorns here, it's a choir of cows. No, it's electrical, it's a vacuum cleaner. I didn't know we had a vacuum cleaner here. I'd better investigate. Six o'clock in the bathroom, and Pipe-Major Robertson is alive and well. His favourites suggest he is an easy man to please. So am I. We compromise, by turning him down to a mouse's whisper, and I stomp off to bed again for half an hour.

Thursday evening. It's all happened. We have been thrown in the river, done a Tarzan across a rock pool, played British Bulldog (twice), taken them for half an hour lying on a hillside at night. Now for Richard Goodwin's Country Dancing. It's a fairly intensive activity, punctuated by the occasional wailing lament...

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Friday. "Let's make a Eucharist"; Clear the schoolroom to sit in a circle on the floor. We forgot the books; but it doesn't matter — most people know the service anyway. The candle goes around the circle and everyone leads our prayers. We share communion, everybody passing it on to their neighbour. The Eucharist ends up as a party, with the youngest boys, who think dancing is cissy, swinging their torches around the floor for disco lights. I think we all wanted to cry, or sing, or hug each other at different times tonight. So there is somewhere on this earth where the tribe who read the Church Times can meet the tribe who read Jackie; be real with one another and share what we have shared as equals. It hasn't been easy. To find the freedom you have to forget the image, and that can be humiliating. I am surprised to discover it enhances and does not diminish vocation to have a week when my handle cuts no ice, and people take me just as I am. Remove the rules and uniforms and... we survive.

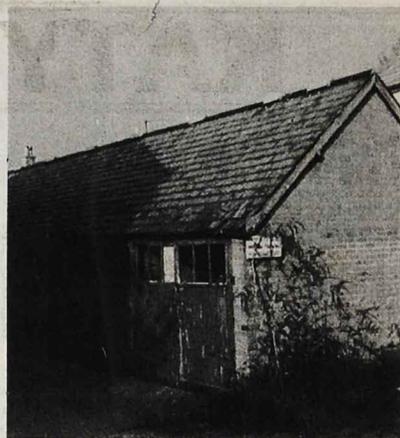
In 1951, reflecting on the future of the Church, and the Christian Community she had founded, and the world that had just smashed itself to pieces, a wise woman wrote; these words.

"Everyone, I suppose, builds up his or her life with some picture of himself. Some people are quite a lot like the picture they build, some are a little like it, and some not at all. But no one knows himself until the picture is challenged, and perhaps broken altogether... we found things buried in ourselves which were really shocking. But we know that there is no peace, whatever kind of facade they put on, for people who somewhere inside themselves have a fear of being known. They must break through this fear, no matter what the cost, if they are going to have any message for this generation."

If I stand on my pride, and refuse to be known in the way she is talking about, then for me Church is a sham. The real thing cost Jesus everything, and heals people. Sunday Christianity tolerates the patronising and supercilious images of others, that excuse us from taking them seriously, and keep us safe from them. But it heals nothing, it means nothing, it costs nothing. If weeks like ours in Wales help break the images and lay us open to each other, perhaps we have been brought closer, not only to each other, but even to God.

### FURTHER PICTURES FROM THE PAST

Soon to vanish. The Victorian cow shed now used as lock up garages at the junction of Highmoor Road and Darell Road. It may not be attractive but it was once part of Toots farm. In its place will come a three-bedroomed house. How it can be squeezed into such a small area is hard to imagine.



THE WARREN, CAVERSHAM, READING

Before 1930 most of the Warren looked like this. Across the river it was still possible to see the country scene as it always had been, unspoilt by housing estates and industry, for Tilehurst had not yet spread far along Oxford Road.

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The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Maudslough 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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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

## THE CHANGING FACE OF CAVERSHAM

I don't know if it's old age which makes me think things are changing faster than ever in Caversham. Now it seems we have lost the local Co-op; hard lines if one is a really enthusiastic Co-op member. But what peeves me is that until the new Waitrose opens we shall have practically no choice of shops here, apart from the small shops which, good though some of them might be, don't always have a wide range of goods. And Shop-

per's Paradise, though admittedly cheap, has such a limited range that I hardly ever use it, particularly as, in the likely event of finding nothing at all one wants, it's difficult to get out of the shop without joining a long queue or clambering over the chains.

I'm not slanging Liptons where, with few exceptions, I usually get what I want and find the staff friendly — but I do like to have a choice.

## THE OXFAM SHOP

It's a long time since I mentioned the shop in Prospect Street but I've used it a lot lately and feel I must say — for those who don't know — that it's an extremely good one. OXFAM Shops vary a lot, but ours is excellent, by any standards. Apart from OXFAM's own

range of goods and odds and ends, they are well stocked with clothes, all in very good condition and at very reasonable prices — and there is a fitting room if you need it. It's a good place to browse for books, jig-saw puzzles, jewellery, etc. And the service is always friendly.

## Co-ordinating scheme for all local organisations

Please come and air your views on  
**Wednesday, November 21**  
at 8pm  
At St Andrew's Hall

## THOSE DARNED BIKES

I'm glad to hear St Martin's have finally seen fit to break up the concrete round the trees in the precinct; it's a pity they didn't do it before. But I do wish somebody would do something about young

people cycling around the precinct, often on one wheel — sooner or later somebody is going to get hurt. If we all — myself included — stopped being afraid to tackle these youngsters, perhaps we could prevent it.

## JUDITH BURGIN

Usually about this time I have news of our young people who are leaving school, going to university, graduating and so on. This year I've had virtually nothing, so I was pleased to be told about Judith Burgin of Kidmore Road, who is about to go on a tour of America with the Royal College of

Music Symphony Orchestra. Judith, who has just gained three A-levels at Kendrick School, holds a junior exhibition at the RCM and will be joining the College as a full-time student this year. Congratulations are definitely in order — and let's hope we have a chance to hear her play some time.

## PORCELAIN REPAIRS

Do you have a favourite piece of porcelain which has somehow got broken? You might think you can't afford to have it repaired and it's true that such jobs usually cost the earth. But I'm told that Drusilla Murdoch, of 71 St Peter's Avenue,

after a thorough course of study, is now offering to do such jobs at a very reasonable price — and I have it on best authority that her work is extremely good and that she's always very honest about telling you if something is really beyond repair.

## PART-TIME COURSES

It's a bit late to boost part-time education for this year, which is a pity as Sheila

Smith tells me that at least three Caversham ladies are taking a City and Guilds Course in Embroidery and Design at the technical college and are getting a lot of satisfaction out of it. For the next couple of years I hope to take a part-time English Certificate Course at the local university. Again, it's a bit late, but for your future information, I should say I really do think £50 (or half that for OAPs) for a two-year course, which includes tutorials, guest lecturers and Saturday schools, seems excellent value. So do watch out for university courses in future; they're not always widely publicised but the office in London Road always has a mass of information about such courses.

## POST OFFICES

It is alarming to hear that yet more Caversham post offices are to close. Already queues on pension days are enormous — heaven knows what will happen now. Or is it, perhaps, a deliberate ruse to get pensioners to have their money paid through a bank, however inconvenient. Incidentally I really do take my hat off to Mr and Mrs Syal in Prospect Street PO, who cope admirably with increasing difficulties. What's more, they're very helpful and never begrudge time spent in explaining to customers the whys and wherefores of the various forms we all have to cope with these days.

## ONE WAY?

Caversham's summer temporary one-way system is to be considered as a permanent scheme. Any firm proposals would be fully publicised before being finalised by the Council and could take up to a year. Views to Cllr Fred Pugh, please, at 472949

## Greengrocery on Caversham Park Village

Which reminds me I've been asked to mention the very helpful young man at the greengrocery on Farnham Drive; I'm told he gives excellent service and has a good

selection of fruit and vegetables. As I've said before, my own shopping is limited to Prospect Street and Church Street, so I'm always glad to hear from shoppers in other areas.

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# STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



## THE OLYMPICS—WINNERS AND LOSERS

THE Olympic Games once again sorted out the men from the boys and the women from the girls. Although the Eastern bloc were missing the British performances were still very creditable. Seb Coe proved himself to be a great Olympian, although if Cram had not been suffering from injury problems so

close to the Games I think the story could well have been different, but luck as well as courage and determination plays a part in creating Olympic champions. Poor Steve Ovett, he is dogged by injury and other problems, it doesn't seem very likely that we will see him gracing the tracks of the world

again — but remember Coe 12 months ago!!!

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In the ladies events on the track the long awaited clash of Mary Decker and Zola Budd turned into a disaster for both of them. Neither of them deserved a gold medal; Decker because she was chiefly responsible for her fall, but she

failed mainly because of her lack of spirit — most athletes at that level would have got to their feet and made some sort of effort. As for Budd, she showed her lack of racing experience and I do not believe that the reaction of the American crowd really affected her for the rest of the race because if she was all out to win

she would not have been aware of any crowd reaction.

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It has been quoted that Mary Decker (and no doubt Zola Budd as well) lost a million dollars by not winning — so much for the "amateur" Olympics! Something will have to be done to make them at least honest...

These days people are retiring earlier than ever but it seems hard to believe that a well-known Caversham resident who is bronzed, fit and normally seen in tennis shorts, has just joined the ranks of retired people. Schoolmaster Robin Sharp from Matlock Road left Ashmead School at the end of July.

where he has perhaps made his largest contribution to sport as a first-class coach and also through a long association with Caversham Lawn Tennis Club. Many promising young tennis players have gone through his hands as well as the children of many of the rich and famous.



MR SPORT RETIRES

during his term of office including the Reading Sports Injury Clinic, the setting up of the Reading Sports Aid Fund (designed to give financial assistance to up-and-coming young sports people) as well as the strengthening of the Reading/Düsseldorf link which has led to many exchanges between

different sports clubs in the two towns.

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I hope Robin and his wife, Pru, will enjoy a very happy and energetic retirement and although he will be absent from Caversham for some of the time, he will not be moving away permanently; his contribution to local sport will therefore continue.

He has been involved in sport in Reading for as long as I can remember. For many years he was Head of PE at Ashmead School and then in later years as Head of Non-examination subjects.

His involvement with young people throughout his school life has been enormous and he was in fact responsible for taking some of the first parties of local school children on skiing trips to Austria, something which he has continued for at least 20 years. In addition to the above he has coached football, cricket, swimming, rugby, badminton and squash, and as he goes into retirement he is learning yet another game, bowls, and hopes to teach that also.

member and for a number of years as chairman. Within the Borough Council he had a good reputation as a tough negotiator of sports matters concerning the town.

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He fought hard for what he thought was right and certainly won more than he lost. During his "reign" all the sports facilities in Reading improved and are still improving as a result of his efforts. The Reading Skillmaster Competition was born during his chairmanship and under his guidance the event was a major part of the Reading sports scene for a number of years. Many other developments took place in the sporting life of Reading

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As a youngster in Scotland he was a very good athlete but later developed his first love of tennis

His achievements outside school have been considerable and in particular on the Reading and District Sports Council where he has served both as a

Reading improved and are still improving as a result of his efforts. The Reading Skillmaster Competition was born during his chairmanship and under his guidance the event was a major part of the Reading sports scene for a number of years. Many other developments took place in the sporting life of Reading

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St Peter's Cubs entertained parents and friends at Highdown School in friendly athletic competition. The pack divided into four teams (their sixes) representing four countries. Stan Eldon presented the medals to the winners. The athletics evening was organised by Liz Norton. The events were sponsored by Weetabix, hence the title!

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# WHOM SHALL I SEND?

IN the summer of 1983 I was preparing for my final year at art college (West Surrey College of Art and Design, Farnham) not knowing what I would do with a BA(Hons) in Textile Design. I had chosen to specialise in woven textile design for my third year, and during the autumn term my tutor began to advise me on possible outlets for my skills — setting up my own workshop, being an apprentice in someone else's workshop, going on to do a post-graduate course and so on.

## Confused

I had no idea what I really wanted to do and I became more and more confused weighing up the alternatives. As a Christian, I'd prayed about my future and knew that I couldn't plan anything without God's guidance. I knew this way would be best for me, I just didn't know what that was.

## Overseas?

In November, while visiting a friend, I was challenged with the question: "Well what about overseas work, Sally-Ann? Have you ever thought seriously about serving the Lord overseas?" It came like a ton of bricks, as this possibility had always niggled

around the back of my mind, though I'd never seriously prayed about it. I read a passage in Jeremiah (29 v. 11-13) which says: "For I know the thoughts that I think towards you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

"Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."

## Missionary societies

This spoke to me, and I realised I'd have to take God at His word and seek His will for me, searching with all my heart. So I *did* pray about it, and I asked the Lord to show me clearly if this was the path I was to take. Well, the following week was just full of indications that I should begin inquiries about overseas work. So I began to write to various missionary societies, telling them of my qualifications and asking if they had any advice to give me.

At this time, the idea of going abroad to work was a very remote one, and I remembered all the Missionary talks and meetings

I'd been to, in past years. These people all had "useful" skills and talents, like nursing, teaching or farming. What could a weaver offer in service to God?

## Tear fund

Well, TEAR fund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief fund) replied. They were involved in craft work in a number of countries, and would I like to come and talk further with them? That first formal discussion was very important and I found out that there was a job vacancy in Bangladesh as a Textiles/Craft Consultant. I felt it right to apply, and then things started to happen very quickly!

In my experience as a Christian, I've found that God delights in seeing a step of obedience, however tentative. As soon as I showed God I was willing to look into this more deeply, He took control sending me periodic reassurance in various forms.

## Looms

This reassurance came in "little" things, like finding out that Eva Pettigrew (the girl I would be replacing in Bangladesh) also trained at West Surrey College of Art and Design, in woven textiles. Not only that but she had the same personal tutors as myself! Another thing was that I'd chosen to weave on a dobbie loom for my third year (there are several types to choose from) and guess what looms they use on the project in Bangladesh? Yes, dobbies! Some people looked at these things as coincidences, but I know that it is my Heavenly Father dealing with everything, down to the smallest detail!

I had to keep my feet on the ground though, and work hard towards my final degree show/exhibition in June.

Once that was over, and I'd graduated, I had time to prepare for my final interviews with TEAR fund, which were tough, but necessarily thorough.

## Heed

And now I've been appointed as the new Textiles/Craft Consultant with HEED handicrafts of Bangladesh! TEAR fund will send me out, and I will work within the HEED organisation when I'm there (Health, Education and Economic Development).

## Teaching

My work will be split between the capital, Dhaka and the villages of the Manipul tribe. In Dhaka I will advise on marketing such crafts as straw-art work, macrame, crochet, block printing and so on. This will involve designing new items, working with the tailoring section to make garments. The products are sold locally in Bangladesh and India, and exported to a Western market (available in Britain through TEARcraft and TRADICraft). In the villages I will be working alongside the women, teaching them how to use the new dobbie looms, and helping them to adapt their traditional designs to a new mechanism. All girls grow up knowing how to weave, as each home has a back-strap loom. But through the work and support of HEED and Intermediate Technology Industrial Services the women now can learn to use Western looms. These looms enable them to weave cloth of a wider width and longer length, opening up potential for making larger items and garments. These can then be sold bringing in extra income to the villages. The men are being taught to make their own versions

of the dobbie looms, so that ultimately they can become independent of their sponsoring group.

The looms have only been in operation there since February, so the project is still very new. They are having to cope with monsoon conditions at the moment and its hard to get any weaving done in 18 inches of water!

## Support

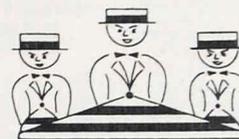
The work will be challenging and exciting though I know I will face times of uncertainty, loneliness and homesickness. So I am ever-grateful to my family and friends, especially those at Caversham Baptist Free Church, for their continuing love and prayerful support. I hope to fly out in late September as I have to do three months' language training in Dhaka before I begin the job in the new year. A year ago I wouldn't have dreamt I'd be off to Bangladesh for four years, but then God's ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts, and His will for us is often very surprising. He'll guide me through the next step, as He has through each experience I've and He'll continue to surprise me, no doubt, in what is ahead!



Sally-Ann Ousley

— Peter Sears

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## THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN

ST ANDREW'S Sunday School meets in St Andrew's Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Sheila Ivens (477180) or Mr Peter Watsham (478744).

ST BARNABAS Sunday School in the Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). (Also Children's Service last Sunday in the month).

ST JOHN'S Nursery Church (for children up to 8 years) in church during the Sunday eucharist at 9.15am. Family Service 1st Sunday in the month at 11am (mainly for children over 4 years).

ST PETER'S Sunday School meets in the Rectory at 9.15am (except 2nd Sunday which is Parade Service). "Cherubim" Club for babies and pre-school children in church every Thursday at 2.30pm

ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM) Family Workshop 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-12 noon. Contact Mrs Heather Robinson, 4 Hilltop Road (476873).

CAVERSHAM PARK At Caversham Park School 11am. Contact Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close (478430).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST Junior Church — Sundays 11am. Youth Squash — Sundays 8pm.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH Bee-Gees — Sundays 10.15am. Sunday School — Sundays 11am Young Peoples Club — Sundays 7.30pm.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH 10.30am Creche — up to three years. Beginners, juniors and seniors three to 14 years. Fourteen Plus Group. Secretary: Mrs J. Morgan, 7 Grove Road, (Sonning Common 72-3704).



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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL

ISN'T it wonderful to know that, in a world of change, our God is unchanging? That has been our experience over this past summer, as we have seen Him at work in so many ways. Quite a few of our fellowship were able to be involved in the several Bible weeks held up and down the country, and were thrilled to see real miracles of God's power, healing people in body, mind and soul.

But of course, He is also the God of our everyday lives, changing people as they turn to Him. It was with great joy and rejoicing that we recently baptised Clive Boorman. Clive was contacted through "Daybreak" in Sackville Street, a drop-in centre for the unemployed. "Daybreak" is supported by several Reading churches and aims to bring the message of Jesus to young people whose lives have been all but destroyed by drugs, glue sniffing and various family and social problems.

Clive was like this — until by God's grace he saw himself as a sinner and turned to Jesus. Now, born again as a child of God, he is a new person, with God's power changing him day by day.

Pray for the work of "Daybreak" — God is very much at work there!

\* \* \*

As mentioned last month, a Holiday Bible Club will be held at the chapel

very soon, and a warm welcome awaits all children who come along. There will be a variety of activities each day, and a good time is guaranteed. Details below...

### THE CASTLE OF ADVENTURE!

**Where?** Caversham Hill Chapel, Peppard Road

**When?** Half-term (Monday, October 29 to Friday, November 2) 9.30 - 12 noon

**Who can Come?**

All 5-11 year olds

**Cost?** Nothing. Just bring lots of enthusiasm!

## ST PETER'S MEETING POINT

The Bank Holiday ramble is becoming traditional with St Peter's congregation. This August Monday was centred on Hambleden, and about 60 people, with an age span of almost 80 years, set off, with Barbara Chapman leading the party through steep but very lovely Chiltern woodland. It seemed likely at one time that half the party would never return, but eventually all assembled again, collapsing in the "Stag and Huntsman" garden. Some got no further, but most finished the walk to the river and over the weir, to picnic on the river bank. The Rector may have avoided the walk, but he was forgiven when he provided ice creams all round! It was as usual, a very happy day.

## ST JOHN'S NOTES

There were no precedents to follow when the church wardens presented Alan and Lucy Wilson with their wedding gift from the congregation after the 9.15 Communion service on August 5. No one in the congregation could remember the wedding of a priest-in-charge. Lucy and Alan promptly unwrapped the parcel then and there. So all had the pleasure of seeing how pleased they were with the skeleton clock, and gift voucher. "It's lovely," said Lucy, "Thank you!" "Oh, crumbs!" said Alan, and then "Thank you! I don't know what to say!" And that was unprecedented too!

The first parish work Lucy and Alan undertook together, after their wedding, was to take 30 young people to Wales for two weeks. They walked, and rowed, and explored, and when Richard, a Scottish friend of Alan's joined the camp, learned Scottish dancing round the campfire.

## ST ANNE'S NEWS

A happy people has no history?

The parish of St Anne's is still around, but alas we appear to have been incapable of

They visited a coalmine, closed in 1980, and now used as a museum, had to wear proper safety helmets and were shown round by ex-miners, who told them stories about the mine. Another memorable outing was up the mountain to see the stars and the countryside at night. As they walked through the fields, in the mist, a flock of sheep gathered round them, pushing and bleating.

The first Sunday they joined the worshippers at the local church and Alan helped to conduct the service. By the second Sunday they found the communal camp life of work, and games, and worship had brought a real feeling of community between them, and that Sunday Eucharist, held at the camp, became a most special experience.

The campers, and their parents, really do thank Alan and Lucy for their work, and care, which made the camp possible, and the holiday so enjoyable.

generating any news this month. There have been a number of leaks however, that more activity is planned for September.

## '3 POINT TURN' IN CONCERT

There will be a

### Rock Gospel concert

at

Caversham Baptist Free Church in which "3 Point Turn" will be performing on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1984**

at 7.30pm

Admission is FREE but by ticket obtainable from Mr C. Ham on Reading 477851



HEAR MAX SINCLAIR AT CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT STREET, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, at 8pm

IN A split second one July day Max Sinclair's life was dramatically changed. His neck was broken in a car accident. Evangelist and father of three, optimistic for the future, he suddenly faced the terrible possibility of permanent paralysis. Hundreds prayed. Hopes for recovery rose, but fell, yet were to be miraculously fulfilled. He was the fourth person in 20 years to walk out of his ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

□ □

Formerly a chartered accountant, he is now involved in directing the programmes at Hildenborough Hall, a Christian Conference Centre near Seven-oaks. He is in demand as a speaker and counsellor and travels widely in this country and North America.

## QUAKERS IN THE PAST AND THEIR MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Reading Elders have arranged a series of four talks on the theme: "Quakers in the past and their message for today." These will be held at Reading Meeting House (2 Church Street, off London Street) on successive Tuesdays (19.45 - 21.45) in

September and October 1984. The last part of each meeting will be spent informally over tea and biscuits.

**Oct 2 JOSEPH ROWNTREE**  
Gillian Hopkins  
**Oct 9 FRIENDS IN THE 1930s**  
Kenneth Barnes

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## PARISH HOLIDAY



Preparing for the line-up for the Miss Embley competition

Photo: John Tomlin



# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## FAREWELL TO AMERICAN PASTOR

On Sunday, July 15 during the evening service at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church presentations were made to Rev Milton and Mrs Ann Chester prior to their return to Texas. David Herbert, senior steward at Gosbrook Road and Mrs Jo Nichols, senior steward at Caversham Heights Methodist Church made the presentations.

Left to right: David Herbert, Mrs Ann Chester, Rev Milton Chester, Mrs Jo Nicholls.

Photo: Eunice Cooper



## LINK GROUP

MEMBERS held the first meeting of the new session at the home of their Chairman, Mrs Doreen Bennett.

Arrangements were finalised for the outing to the Child Beale Trust gardens with a party of mentally handicapped children on September 22.

Mr Mike Kane told members that the distribution of leaflets to every house in Reading telling of the work and appealing for help for the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project was now under way. Ideas were exchanged about the way groups could help to ensure that every house in Caversham would be visited. There had been an enormous

response to the appeal for clothes and bedding and it was stressed that this was a continuing need.

Further discussion followed about the wish for closer co-operation between the various organisations working to provide help for the elderly and for those in need in the area. In order that all those involved might be able to exchange ideas and to discuss ways of providing an effective co-ordinated scheme, a meeting has been arranged with all the various organisations in the area. This will take place on November 21 at St Andrew's Hall. Please keep this date free and come to listen and contribute to the discussion.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

ONE morning this summer I sat up in bed crying over a letter from the Foreign Office forwarded to me by my MP. The Namibian prisoner we had been inquiring and worrying about had been released the Foreign Office was pleased to confirm. He had been imprisoned incommunicado for at least six months without charge and now was free.

Amnesty letter-writers often don't know how effective their efforts have been but it is always worth trying to help another human-being and we certainly rejoice at every release reported. Independence and impartiality are fundamental principles in the work of Amnesty. They affect all the movement's worldwide activities from painstaking research into individual cases through to mass

publicity campaigns.

The Reading group "adopts" at least one prisoner of conscience at a time for whom we work. We write careful, polite letters asking for their release, trial and news of their health to the relevant authorities and publicise their plight as usefully as we can. We have been privileged to meet one of our released prisoners, a former prime minister of his tiny island, and to be thanked by

him for our work. We have listened with mixed feelings to a brave Chilean lady describing her life as a Catholic teacher whose only crime

By  
JEAN  
CARROLL

was a love of democracy but who suffered imprisonment, brainwashing and torture. She finally escaped through a Catholic network and with generous help from a Quaker friend lives in England but she is parted from some of her children and will always be disabled. Our Ukrainian prisoner wants free trades unions and is in a labour camp for festooning a statue of Lenin with leaflets. All those for whom Amnesty works are detained for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion and have not used or advocated violence.

Prisoner of Conscience Week this year has the theme "Women of Courage." I hope you will see in the media items about female prisoners of conscience. There are many in the

same position as Winnie Mandela, the famous black South African. Her movements are restricted as well as her work, her social life and her self-expression and she endures personal harassment of her privacy. You will also hear of the torture women endure all over the world. There is the case of the mother who was beaten and given electric shocks in a military barracks after being abducted in December 1975.

Held for four and a half years without charge or trial she was finally released after appeals by Amnesty and others. But she was forced into exile only to be reunited with her young daughter in July 1983. There will be an exhibition about Amnesty's work in the Central Library at the end of October where you can learn more about our work.

I am sure, like me, you will want to thank God for the safety, freedom

and justice in which you live as you are reminded of the plight of others. Amnesty always needs new members to write, campaign, finance and pray for human rights so do contact me, Jean Carroll if you would like to support our work. My address is: 45 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8SR. You can join Amnesty directly at Amnesty International, British Section, 5 Roberts Place, London, EC1 0EJ.

## WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

The West Berkshire Community Health Council represents the public's interest in Health Service affairs in Caversham, Reading and West Berkshire.

The twenty-four members of the Council are drawn from local authorities, voluntary organisations and other sections of the community. They form an experienced independent group, representing your health care interests.

Council meetings held regularly are open to the public and notes are put in the local press

The influence and effectiveness of the Council depends on the weight of public opinion behind it. Views, ideas, proposals or complaints on any aspect of local health affairs — from individuals or from community or other groups — are welcome.

The more views that come to hand the better the Council can act on your behalf.

For further information, call or telephone our friendly staff  
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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

## BUGS BOTTOM UNDER ATTACK

IN spite of the Borough Council making it quite clear that they were on no account prepared to sanction the building of five hundred houses in Hemdean Valley, the developers have gone ahead and put in their application. They are clearly placing their hopes on being granted permission on appeal. It is only to be hoped that the Department of the Environment takes note of the massive opposition the plans have invoked.

neighbourhood of the major part of a wedge of open country with landscape value separating two existing residential areas." In the last major attack on the valley in 1968 refusal was recommended "because of the damage which would be caused to the landscape and amenity value of the open land in Hemdean Valley."

Since then there have been no applications except for the three and a half acres of land for which outline consent already exists. The Borough recently has been aiming to have the valley included in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, presently the subject of a boundary review, and this would grant a considerable measure of protection.

This is not of course the first attack on the valley. Building started to creep onwards from Oakley Road before World War II, but by the mid '50s the Borough Council was digging in its heels when it reached the present levels. That did not stop the developers, who continued putting in applications, all of which were refused, three of them on appeal. In 1957, the Inspector recommended that "the land in the valley should remain undeveloped, forming a wedge of open country with landscape value separating two built up residential areas."

Although amenity provides the strongest case as facilities can often be increased, all the same five hundred houses will bring heavy pressures, notably from traffic, most of which will converge on choked up central Caversham, on play space, far from adequate even for present conditions, and on the water supplies which are already unreliable in North Caversham after a few weeks of dry weather. The hollow gesture of leaving space for a primary school should be seen for what it is.

It is essential that when these plans come to appeal everyone who opposes them should write a letter or attend the inquiry. Two-hundred people went to the one held in 1968. They won. We must try to do the same in 1984.

they then voted to retain the existing 30 mph limit.

Some of the money currently available for repairing listed buildings will go towards repairs to the brickwork of St Anne's Well. It has certainly begun to look shabby by late.

No longer will the hunting horn and shouts of Tally-Ho be heard throughout the town. Red coated huntsmen and the cry of hounds will be a thing of the past in our parks, allotments and highways, as it is no longer permissible to hunt, at least for pleasure, the fox, the hare or the stag on land belonging to the Borough Council.

All very laudable of course and it shows the municipal heart is in the right place at least.

### Third Thames bridge

A public meeting, organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association, will take place on Monday, October 8 at 8pm at Church House, on the subject of a third river crossing. The idea is to present current thinking on the matter both from the Councils involved and from local residents. There will be speakers from Berkshire and, it is hoped, Oxfordshire County Councils.

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In 1961 he stated that "the proposed development would deprive the

**Tree triumph**  
 Residents and the Borough Council, backed by the Reading Chronicle who kept St Martin's aware of public indignation, won the battle of the trees when workmen appeared and removed the concrete which would certainly have killed them. St Martin's, is a

**Council news**  
 Councillors listened dutifully to all the reasons put forward for raising the speed limit in Henley Road to 40 mph, such as a more "realistic" limit often leading to a decrease in speeds, fewer accidents because traffic was not going so fast and because people were more careful because it was going fast. Perhaps they also found the arguments difficult to follow, for

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# FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF CAVERSHAM

I HAVE been asked to write about "my first impressions of Caversham, England" as a visiting or exchange minister from America. Thus, I share with you as I reflect on my impressions gained over a five week period of being an English pastor and two weeks of holiday in your country.

1. The people have been friendly in Caversham, Reading, and in our travels. My wife and I have not been treated rudely by any people, although I am sure we have tested the patience of a few of your drivers and store clerks.

2. I'm impressed with the cleanliness of your country and with the extensive "parks" system that you enjoy. There is lots of "green" and you certainly use it effectively. Further, your gardens, in

many instances are works of art. I'm impressed with the way you use flowers and with the way flowers are used in and on businesses as well as by your civic leaders.

3. Your public transportation system is excellent. It is possible to get around without an automobile! Your trains are crowded, and at times it is difficult to understand your schedules, but you can get to where you are going rather speedily. Driving is a different experience! I have not had any accidents, but I'm sure that I have scared and surprised a few people. Your law requiring seat-belts is a superior idea, but your speed limit ought to be re-evaluated — seventy miles an hour on some of your two-lane highways is excessive.

4. It appears to me that the expectation of the pastoral leader (preacher, minister) is quite different from the expectation in the USA. My congregation expects me to be a preacher (acceptable in the pulpit), an administrator (that is, operate the programme and business of the Church), and to be a teacher.

At this point, my observation is that you desire a person who is a pastor, a person who can visit and relate to you one-on-one in your homes and businesses, and who relates to your individual hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

You may be correct in England and we may be wrong in

America. A pastor can certainly be that "significant other" who can stand beside in times of stress, strain, anxiety, disappointment, and joy.

Your expectation of the pastor then demands that the lay people pick up the duties and responsibilities of church administration.

5. Finally, my

impression of the Church in England is not particularly strong. The "evangelical fervor" seems to be lacking. The significance and importance of the claim of Christ upon the individual seems not to be understood. The Church is almost an adjunct or an addendum to the real living that takes place every day of the

week. These words may be strong, but the most important commitment and priority we can have is to the Lordship of Christ in our every duty and every relationship.

The Church in America suffers from many of the same symptoms and until all we who profess to be Christian begin to take seriously our redemptive role in society we will not win the battle with all of the forces that would pull us down and destroy us.

All of this is said because we can all go back to the roots of meaningful and

purposeful living. Our response, individual and corporate, can change the course or the direction of the Church. The Church can be the light in a dark world. The Church can be the caring and compassionate "hands" of Christ in a world that seems bent on self-destruction.

I am impressed with the people of this great land, and I believe that if they (you) respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ your nation can be even greater and your Church can be an example and light for the world.

By **THE REV MILTON CHESTER**  
of **Aldersgate Methodist Church, Abilene Texas**

## CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ON August 6 Mrs Phyllis Bailey was welcomed to the club for a demonstration and talk on Chocolate Confectionery. Mrs Bailey advised her audience that good packaging was important if they wanted to produce confectionery for selling at bazaars and fêtes etc. Good ideas for making boxes from stiff card and advice on worthwhile books to buy were given to the members. Many delicious recipes were read out by Mrs Bailey during her talk and decorative dishes of chocolates were on sale at the end of the evening.

The dancing enthusiasts were able to enjoy themselves the following week when an Old Time Dancing evening took place.

A "Mini" Arts and Crafts evening was held on August 20 when members were asked to display their work. Prizewinners were as follows:

**Floral Arrangements:**  
Anniversary Theme and Muriel Rampton Rosebowl — Margaret Cameron.  
Jam Jar Arrangement and Joe Ramp-

ton Cup — Margaret Cameron.

Garden on a Plate — Margaret Cameron.  
Miniature Arrangement — Patricia Haines.

**Cookery:**  
Jam Tarts — Anne Wright.

Fancy Cakes — Gladys Weal.  
Quiche — Anne Wright.

**Knitting:**  
Child's Garment — Margaret Cameron.  
Adult Garment — Elsie Prett.  
Crochet — Margaret Cameron.

**Photography:**  
View — Hilda Watts.

Portrait — Betty Petherbridge.  
Humorous — Gladys Lambourne.

**Art:**  
Painting — Nancy Nelhams.  
Animal from vegetable — Margaret Cameron.

The judges were Rose Painter for Flower Arranging, Irene Deacon for Sewing and knitting and Stephen Waite for photography.

## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

### "USES OF DAIRY CREAM"

THE next meeting of the Social Studies group will be at the end of October and the next meeting of the Guild will be on September 20 and will be a talk "Down the Blue Nile" by R. Snailham. In the meantime items for the bazaar including old toys which can be improved on will be welcome.

Members at the

August meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall, Caversham heard an instructive and amusing talk by Mr Blaney from Clifford's Dairies who said that he was doing what Terry Wogan would call his "night job."

Cream is not so fattening if you are prepared to go easy on it and also to cut down on other things. There are three varieties of fresh

cream and natural yoghurt is an alternative to the sour variety. Some simple recipes were demonstrated which did not use an extravagant amount. Mr Blaney stressed the value of thinking about what you are going to make first, bringing all the ingredients together and good presentation. The cakes made could be frozen.

Having watched among other things a way of treating a dessert orange and having laughed shamefacedly about some people's nervousness when using a forcing bag I felt personally encouraged to go ahead and decorate a sponge cake at home rolling the sides in a mixture of crushed biscuits and ground hazel-nuts.



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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.  
(Parish Office: Monday - Thursday 9.30 - 12.30. Tel: 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 Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

The Rev Peter Mullins, 23 Ilkley Road, Caversham. Tel: 472070.

### BAPTIST

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

### METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.  
The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 Allhallows Road, Caversham.

### 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.

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

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Every boy who passes through the School receives instruction in Biblical and Modern History and Geography, English Language and Literature, Latin, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and the higher branches of Mathematics, Natural Science (Chemistry, Botany, and Animal Physiology), and Class Singing.

The School Session is divided into Three Terms of between Twelve and Thirteen Weeks each.

### FEES.

For Board, Laundress, and Tuition in the subjects specified above:—

Pupils under Twelve years of age, Seventy Guineas a Year.

Pupils above Twelve Years of age, Eighty Guineas a Year.

Pew Rent, One Guinea a Year.

The only EXTRA FEES are—

German and Drawing—Each One Guinea and a Half per Term.

Instrumental Music, 3/6 an hour, given by the Music Master in Half-hour Lessons. Use of Piano, 7/- a Term.

Swimming Bath, 7/- a Term.

Disbursements for Books, Pocket-money, Travelling Expenses, Medical Attendance, etc.

A Term's Notice, or a Term's Fee, is required previous to the removal of a Pupil. The Board and Tuition Fee is paid each Term in advance.

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RAILWAY STATION: READING, from which the School is distant a mile-and-a-quarter: (cab-fare, 1/6.) Reading can be reached by the G.W.R. in 50 minutes from Paddington. The L. & S.W. and S.E. Railways also have branch lines to Reading.

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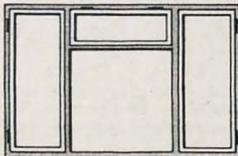
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Readers may be interested in seeing a photocopy of the original prospectus for Amersham Hall School dated 1880. This was the source material M.K. used for the basis of her facts given in a recent article in the Bridge, which provoked comment in a subsequent issue.

Editors

# 'SEVENTY HAVE FUN TOGETHER'

## The Parish Holiday

**Saturday:** Arrived a bit early but found two croquet matches, bowls and tennis already "Cavershammed." Imagine an Elizabethan mansion in 60 acres of grounds with swimming pool, lake and squash court — this is Embley Park! Inside we find a warren of corridors, big dorms, little bedrooms, stairs at every corner, a library, dining room, and chapel. Rector leads us to our bedroom and gets us completely lost. Supper (super three course meal) reveals seventy of us, all ages and types, noisily getting to know each other.

**Sunday:** We're surprised how well we slept! John Tomlin's dawn swim caught the boys' dorm going to bed but they bounce back with a challenge at football against "the veterans." Warm, friendly feeling to our Eucharist this morning — Wilf swinging at the keyboard — great

family feeling to the week already. Sinister plans for tournaments in every indoor and outdoor game possible, so I take a pleasant walk and return to find I've been entered for putting, whist, bowls and Scrabble in my absence. **Monday:** Abandon diet schedule. Boys' dorm force draw with Veterans' XI, but surely the men shouldn't have had fourteen players on the field at once? Headmaster showing round prospective parents must have been shocked by crowd's invective but seemed not to hear (though Marion K's voice sent crows wheeling over woods a mile away). Staff seem very friendly. Strange joviality in kitchen before meals — shouts of "Cheers, Vicar!" — Rector often late for meals and looking slightly flushed.

**Tuesday:** If someone had told me I'd play tennis, swim twice, read half a novel and enjoy

three cooked meals in one day, I'd not believe them — but it's true! The children seem to be having a great time together. Gillian Hopkinson knits in the sun. A carload takes off to Beaulieu. Andrew Hill's prediction comes true — Caversham clergy cheat at croquet.

**Wednesday:** Shock, horror today — Mary Woolley knocked out of Scrabble tournament. All-comers Rounders match tonight ends in chaos (never seen so many convulsed in laughter at once) and Orpwoods inch their way towards the finals in all sports. School staff mutter about their secret star entry for Friday's "Miss Embley" contest. Hope it's Judy Wheeler (Housekeeper) — must get film for camera.

**Thursday:** Weather still wonderful — Gillian tanning nicely as she knits. Think I've got to know most people. Didn't realise Caversham churches had so

many characters! Birthdays and wedding anniversaries cause universal joy. Rector's swimming trunks disappearing.

**Friday:** This is it! Swimming gala, Miss Embley contest, children's sports, celebration supper party etc etc. Will I make it to bedtime? School staff pipped at post when "Michelle" from boys' dorm wins Miss E coveted sash, so all contestants precipitated into swimming pool. Headmaster watches his clerk of works and two male staff vamp at poolside, cheek muscles twitch a bit. Gala ends in candlelight swim and water polo. Pool ripples gently with John K's mascara and Caleb's flowers abandoned. Inside the part's under way ... Roch snr waxes lyrical (who says North Americans have no humour?) and Orpwood after Orpwood collect trophies. Strange chap in cabaret — looked like Derek Spears. Excellent humour from boys and girls. They cer-

tainly got some of us taped ... School staff seem reluctant to go home tonight.

**Saturday:** I wander round the school. Chapel quiet, but I still hear the singing from last night's worship. Pool deserted, but I still hear laughter and splashing. Tennis courts silent, but I still see Rodney practising his strokes for the Big Match. Lawns empty, but I still hear the click of croquet balls and Gillian's needles. Dining room peaceful, but I still hear Grace being said by a six year old. Hall, Library and Lounge all quiet, but I still hear two-year-old Elizabeth's laughter and Nellie's reminiscences and the h u s h e d remonstrating over last night's Bridge and the gentle murmur of a dozen friendships being deepened.

We load the car but still can't tear ourselves away. Sid and Tony have gone back to painting the Bursar's Room. They have a coffee with us. "Will you all be coming next year? It's been a great time having you!" Yes, Embley Park, we'll be back. Thank you for your hospitality and thank you all fellow holidaymakers for a week of enjoyment at every level. Whatever form our church life takes, the Parish Holiday week together looks like going from strength to strength!

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**ANGLICAN**

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

10.30am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

**METHODIST**

**Caversham**

11.00am Morning Service

6.30pm Evening Service

**Caversham Heights**

8am 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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**St Peter's**

July 22—Gregory Smith

**St John's**

July 1—Natalie Clark

Thomas Stafford

Richard Stacey

Rebecca Stacey

July 8—Karen Lambden

August 12—Matthew Polley

Aisha Applewhaite

Melanie Artivich

**St Barnabas**

July 29—James Green

**Caversham Park**

July 22—Tanya Pullin

James Latter

Heather Slater

**St Anne's**

July—Liam King

Robert Fixter

August—Luke O'Sullivan

Sadie Gordon

**BELIEVERS BAPTISM**

**Chapel on the Hill**

May 20—Susan San

Melanie Thatcher

Andrew Brown

July 29—Clive Boorman

**CHILD DEDICATION**

**Chapel on the Hill**

June 17—Christopher Downing

**MARRIED**

**St Peter's**

July 7—Liam Kelly and Judith Jackson

July 14—Neil Elvish and Charlayne Vernon

21—Alastair Barrow and Linda Allen

22—Gordon Brake and Jennifer MacGregor

Aug 11—Gregory Clarke and Anne Wilson

Anthony Carr and Sharon Jacobs

24—Mark King and Kristin Penney

**St John's**

July 14—David Evans and Helen Stretch

28—Graham Mortimore and Tina Josey

**St Barnabas**

Aug 4—John Moe and Joanna Bridger

**St Anne's**

July—Ian McLoughlin and Bernadette Swallow

August—Kieren O'Brien and Jacqueline Wise

Giorcarlo Ricciardi and Deborah Paget

David Brown and Fiona Durnin

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**St Anne's**

August—Bill and Vera Good

**FUNERALS**

**St Peter's**

August 22—William Holt

**St John's**

August 29—Jane Collins

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