



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE—SPANNING THE CENTURIES

LOOKING at the great volume of traffic that crosses Caversham Bridge today, from towns north of the Thames such as Oxford, Banbury and Birmingham on the one hand, and from factories, businesses and offices to the south, it is difficult to imagine the frail structure that once existed here.

Today's streamlined cars and long transporters are a far cry from the groups of pilgrims on their way to the abbey, the peasants pushing humble carts or driving wagons, and the colourful processions accompanying illustrious persons en route to Winchester from London.



Among the earliest records we find that in 1157 there was a trial by combat between Robert de Montford and Henry de Essex on an island in the river not very far from where the first bridge came to be erected. In 1211 there was an order to the Keeper of Windsor Forest to deliver to Andrew, Sergeant of Caversham, 'one good oak for ferrying poor people over the water of Caversham'. Where a bridge actually existed there was usually a ferry for the poorer people who could not pay the tolls exacted for crossing the bridge. Also, early bridges were frequently swept away during floods and the ferry was vital for crossings until the structure could be repaired. It is fairly certain that at Caversham the island known as Piper's Island today extended to well past today's bridge and that this was linked to the bank by a road in early times.



Reading became a place of importance when the abbey received its foundation charter in 1125. The first Caversham Bridge was built to coincide with this and the arrival of the friars and Francis-

cans. The latter arrived in England in 1224 and quickly acquired a piece of land in Reading.

The thirteenth century was a time of bridge and road building allowing greater communication between towns and monasteries, and the first Caversham Bridge was instigated by the Benedictines, Henry III and the Lords of Caversham Manor at that time, the Earls of Pembroke. There was a link between the abbey and the bridge in that the income of the living of St Laurence's Church before the dissolution of the monasteries was augmented by half the offerings taken on Caversham Bridge.

In 1314 several documents referred to "the great bridge" at Caversham and to the small chapel there. As early as the reign of Edward I, assizes were held on the bridge (as they also were on Wallingford Bridge) and the chapel became an important resting place for pilgrims and scholars who gave thanks for their safety in reaching so far. In 1376 it came into the possession of the Abbot of Notley and many relics were exhibited there including a life-size image of the Virgin Mary "plated with silver and jewelled" along with "the blessed Knife that killed Seynt Edward, the dagger that killed King Henry schethe and all and a peece of halter Judas hanged himself withall" and also an "aungell with oon wing that browt to Caversham the spere hedde that percyd our Saviour his syde upon the crosse". All of these have long since disappeared from Caversham.

With the dissolution of the monasteries, the chapel came into the possession of King Henry VIII who sold it to his cofferer, Anthony Brigham who also acquired Cane End House which had belonged previously to the monks of Notley. The Brighams owned Cane End House until 1742 when Thomas Brigham died. One of his daughters, Elizabeth,

married a young courtier, William Vanderstegan, in 1750 whose forebears had come over in the seventeenth century with the court of William of Orange. From then onwards the Vanderstegans became the owners of the Brigham lands which included the island property upon which the chapel was built and it remained in their possession until bought by Reading Corporation on the building of the new bridge in 1926.



Among the many notable people who used the bridge was King Henry III who visited his Regent, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who lived in Caversham. It must have been a sumptuous occasion when Queen Elizabeth I visited her Comptroller, Sir Francis Knollys, who we learn "made great cheer and entertained her with many devises of singing, dancing and playing wench and such like". Earlier, in 1560, had been the great charter of Queen Elizabeth I, a document in which Caversham Bridge had received special mention. The Mayor and Burgesses were given full permission to "carry away two hundred loads of the stone called ragged or free stone in the late monastery of Reading" to mend Caversham Bridge. No-one by then cared apparently about vandalising the monasteries and using the stones for their own houses and walls.

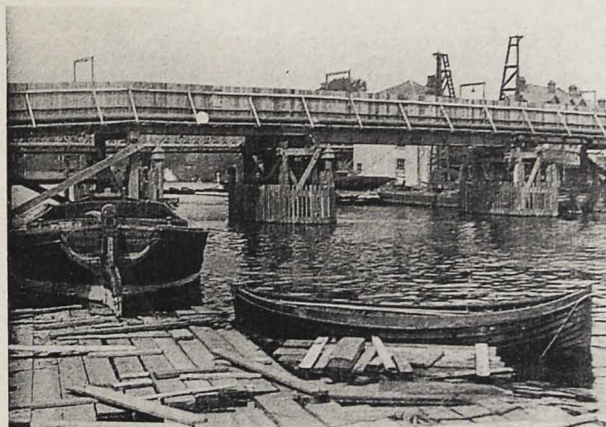


In 1613 Anne of Denmark, queen of King James I, crossed the bridge on her way to Bath, the occasion being of sufficient importance for Thomas Campion, the poet, to write a masque in her honour. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick the Kingmaker, came to Benson and Caversham Bridge. At that time the Mayor of Reading received a

By EDNA M. FITZEUSTACE

Caversham to court the daughter of Richard Beauchamp owner of many lands thereabouts.

The saddest person ever to cross Caversham Bridge must have been King Charles I. The bridge played a vital part in the Civil War and, after the battle of Edgehill in 1642, King Charles took his army to Oxford with the intention of proceeding to Reading via



■ Building the present bridge.



■ The new iron bridge erected in 1869 covers the remains of the original Medieval river crossing. Waterman Piper's cottage is on the right.

letter from the King demanding that the bridge "Over the River Thames at Caversham" be rebuilt and strengthened and made fit for the passage of the Royalist army. It had probably been broken down by the Parliamentarians to safeguard Reading.

The battle which followed on the Oxfordshire side of the bridge was disastrous for the Royalists but, despite this, King Charles remained for some time at Caversham House owned by Lord Craven. It was at this house in 1647 that the sad parting from his children took place, and the defeated monarch crossed over the bridge for the last time.

It was discovered that passing water traffic was affecting the structure and in a charter of 1638 it is mentioned that the foundations were often shaken by barges. Thereafter a toll of fourpence was

exacted to contribute towards any damage incurred. Also, to cross over the bridge "all foreigners to the liberties of the borough" had to pay two pence for a laden wain and a halfpenny for every horse with a pack.



It was customary in the early days to patch up old bridges rather than build new ones and, frequently, it was discovered that several bridges had been built on top of each other. This was the case at Caversham up to 1868 when the old bridge was taken down. Although it seems likely that the Reading part of the bridge had been widened in the first half of the eighteenth century, the Oxfordshire section remained the same narrow width which, if inconvenient, was at least picturesque and attracted painters as famous as J. W. Tur-

ner and the local artist, Havell.

As an unwelcome inheritance from the Brighams, the Vanderstegans came in for their share of repairs to the bridge; in 1836 these amounted to £1,500 although the little chapel had disappeared when King Henry VIII dissolved the religious houses.

Due to the increasing traffic of the 1920s the bridge which consisted of a combination of brick arches with wood and iron girders, was totally unsuitable. The new bridge, far more practical though not as aesthetically pleasing, boasted five spans with a roadway twenty feet wide and two footpaths each five feet wide.

When the old bridge was demolished, the Waterman's cottage (known as Piper's) had to be moved some twenty-five feet and, instead of taking it down and re-erecting it, it was decided to

move it wholesale. By means of hydraulic and screw jacks this was accomplished, the furniture and possessions of the family remaining in the house (which weighed one hundred and fifty tons) during the operation.

After much debate Reading Corporation took over responsibility for Caversham Bridge in 1911 and a new bridge, completed in 1926, was opened by the Prince of Wales. It has since the very early days remained an important link between north and south, some of the great burden of traffic being shared by Reading Bridge which was constructed in 1924.

Acknowledgements are due to the booklet by A. L. Humphreys FSA published in 1926 at the request of Reading Town Council.

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TALKING POINT

By Rev PHILIP LEE-BAPTIST Minister of St. Pauls United Reformed Church

I WONDER WHAT READERS THINK

I WONDER what readers think about bishops and other church leaders entering into the affairs of state, engaging in the political debate, which seems to be more prevalent in the last year or so. Do you think that they should be doing this? Well, politicians don't like it or at least it makes them feel uneasy — perhaps the same sort of feeling that church leaders might have if politicians were to preach sermons! Many church people don't like it either. They feel perhaps that it is not quite right for Holy men to poke around in the muddy waters of politics.

Politicians often respond by saying that churchmen should keep to their own business, which role they narrowly define as the care of souls and spiritual concerns. As one MP said last year, the clergy should at least give up politics for Lent! Or their unease is expressed by saying "that bishops do have the right to speak, but they don't know what they are talking about. Only we politicians, who have our hands on the affairs of state, know the real issues." A lot of church people would agree, or at least think that church leaders should confine themselves to spiritual things.

MISUNDERSTANDING THE FAITH

This confusion arises from a deep misunderstanding of what Christian faith is all about. There are many people who think that there is a great chasm between private life and public life, between spiritual things and material things, between the soul and the body, between the sacred and the secular and that Christianity is really only concerned about the private and spiritual, the soul and what is described as sacred. The Bible makes no such division.

It may distinguish between certain things but it does not separate and divide.

The Bible bears witness to the God who is Sovereign over all things, and of his Creation as a wholeness, a wholeness broken by sin but a wholeness that is being restored in Jesus Christ. The Lord is King and the earth is the Lord's.

St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians says of Christ that He is enthroned at God's right hand in the Heavenly realms far above all Government and authority, all power and dominion, and any title of sovereignty that can be named. Or again in his letter to the Colossians, "Every power and authority in the universe is subject to Him as head".

Can it really be said then, that Christianity and the Church has little or nothing to do with politics, public life, the material welfare of people, the condition of the body politic?

St. Paul often talked about earthly kingdoms. He used the phrase, in older versions translated as, "principalities and powers".

It is not always clear to what he is referring. Sometimes it's the powers of state, sometimes it's the evil powers of darkness in the heavenly places: but they can be one and the same!

Essentially, the earthly powers are good. God has put them there and given them their authority in order to preserve justice and the ordering of the state.

So He says we must obey the Emperor and civil authorities, but if these powers usurp the place of God and deny the sovereignty of Christ, then they become agents of the powers of darkness in the heavenly places. History is strewn with examples of this, for instance, the tyrants and dictators and the totalitarian regimes who play at being God, and the whole body politic becomes demonic.

CONSEQUENCES OF WITHDRAWAL

If in any way we withdraw any aspect of life, such as public life, from the rule of Christ then it does not remain neutral or come under our rule, it comes under the rule of evil. Leslie

Newbiggin in his book "The other side of 1984", gives terrible examples both in ancient and more modern times. So The Law which is God's gift to Israel becomes the yoke of bondage, and the Imperial Power which was given by God for maintenance and justice and order becomes the embodiment of evil.

Take economics, it used to be regarded as part of ethics, that is, the right and proper ordering of the household. But when economics become regarded as a separate science and governed by its own laws, it becomes demonic. So, "Christians contemplating the appalling cruelties of the dark satanic mills in the early days of industrialisation believed that it was impossible to interfere with the working of economic laws, that the writ of Christ's Kingship did not run in the autonomous Kingdom of economics and that the best one could do was to offer charity to the victims."

Or again, apartheid owes its origin partly at least to the teaching of Christian missionaries. They wished to preserve and cherish the cultural values of the African people, and not enforce them into a European mould. They recognised the good gift of God in those bonds of family, language and culture which maintains identity. When race, however, was made absolute and treated as an unchanging part of creation, and one race separated from another, then what was good became an instrument of satanic evil, as we see in South Africa today.

Newbiggin concludes "The decision for Christians is not whether or not to be involved as Christians in public affairs (politics etc). It is whether our responsibilities in the public sphere are to be discharged under the Kingship of Christ or under the dominion of the evil one."

NEED FOR ENGAGEMENT

So it is entirely right that church leaders and Christians generally should be engaged in political debate. It is part of our witness to our Lord and King. Again, there is no Biblical authority for privatising our faith. There is no part of life, no power or authority where His writ does not run unless it is given over to the evil one. There are no "no go" areas for Christ.

Church leaders may have little or no knowledge of economics, though I suspect that many are not entirely ignorant, far from it.

When the Bishop of Liverpool delivered his powerful lecture last year on the evils of poverty and the divided nation, the politicians thought he was full of compassion but that he knew little about economics. Other Christian leaders are talking about the evils of unemployment and the threat to community stability and they are told the same thing. But they don't have to know about economics. What they do have to say is that the household of the nation is not running well and people are suffering and that they fear for the health and wellbeing of the nation. It is not showing that it is under the Kingship of Christ. You politicians who are experts in economics — what are you going to do about the situation? Also, the churches and the Gospel bear witness to the fact that economic theories are not absolute and immutable. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. There are many other things that make up the health and wholeness of the household; indeed, all that our Lord taught us about the real nature of human life and community.

Also, we need to remember that the statements of church leaders are only a part of the witness. In the end, it is all those Christians who work in, and have responsibilities in the public sphere — and in one way or another, that is practically all of us who may well be able to witness more effectively.



■ John Madeley (right) of St. Peter's, and Tony Moss (St. Annes) setting off to join the 17,000 cyclists for the 56 mile ride from London to Brighton on Sunday 30th June. The aim was to raise money for seeds for Africa's poorest villagers. We hear that they both finished in fine style.

Photo — E. S. Archer



■ Miss Donna Wright and Mr Neil King married at Caversham Methodist Church.

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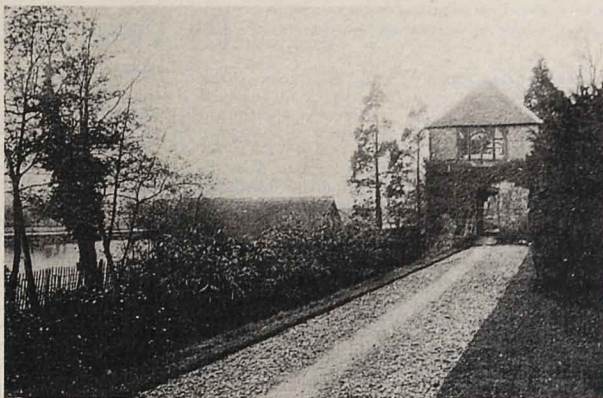
BY M.K.

BEHIND these pictures of Caversham Court lies a story. In 1983, when Adrian Gordon was head gardener there, an elderly lady walked up to him one summer's day and told him she had lived there as a girl for a few years, either before 1918 or after 1921.

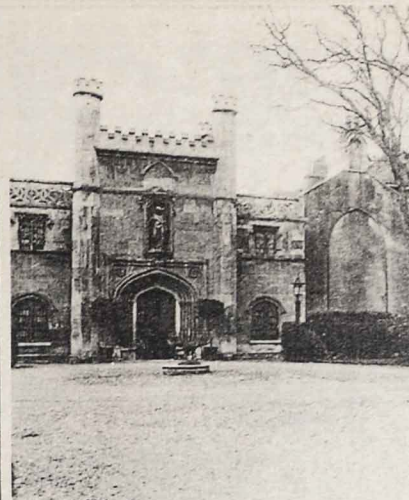


She then produced a handful of photographs of the old property taken when she was a girl. Her father was Thaddeus Arathoon and because Caversham Court was too damp for his little daughter's health he soon left. Apparently, according to my research,

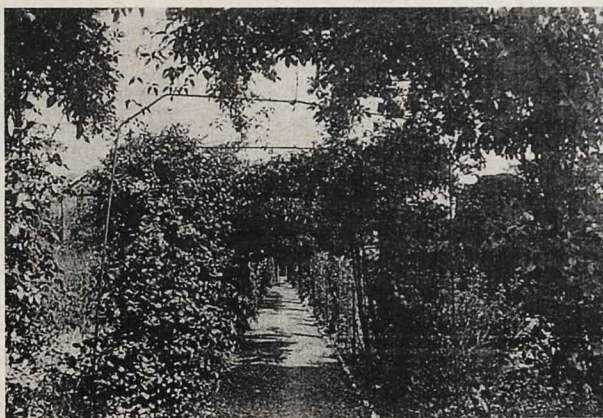
he also lived at Caversham Grove for a time between 1918-1921 and for a while at West Dene, a large house at the junction of Woodcote Road and St. Peter's Avenue. His daughter now lives in Monte Carlo and comes to visit local friends now and then. She sent Adrian a complete set of these photographs because he was so interested and he kindly allowed me to have them copied for this newspaper. I believe Mr Arathoon made a fortune in India but am not sure. Perhaps someone in Caversham can remember the family and can add more to the story. At later dates the rest of the pictures will appear in the Caversham Bridge.



■ The Gazebo — then in good condition and with what appears to be two open doors opposite each other, for they are open and one can see right through the building to trees beyond. The boat house vanished years ago.



■ The front of Caversham Court, pulled down in 1933.



■ This may be a walk in the vegetable garden — now allotments.

THE McCARRISON SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION AND HEALTH

THE Annual garden party of the Society, held at the home of Barbara and Gordon Latto in Derby Road in June, had a very local flavour. The first speaker, John Madeley, Caversham parish reader and editor of 'International Agricultural Development', who had recently returned from a visit to Mali, spoke

on "Why Hunger in a World of Plenty?" Appealing for funds for Seeds for Africa, he stressed that money was still an important factor in many countries, it was quite possible, he said, to find people starving in one village while a few miles away a more prosperous village was showing a very different story. Many

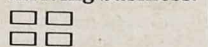
of the poorest were now totally without money and unless money was found for them to buy seeds there would be no harvest next year either and the famine cycle would get worse.

John was followed by Sir Julian Rose of Hardwick Estate. Sir Julian, who worked for many years in experimental theatre, was forced some years ago, because of the death of his father and elder brother, to come home and take over the estate. Already interested in organic growing, he decided to concentrate on this himself, he also now had an organic dairy herd and sold dairy products door-to-door in the district.



Christopher Finzi, who also concentrated on organic health foods and owned the Sun health

food store in Newbury, was another who did not set out to be a farmer. A member of a very well-known musical family and himself a cellist and conductor, he became aware when he was living in France, of the way in which the local peasants grew their own natural food*. Returning to England, he decided to do the same and now has a very thriving business.



There is now, it seems, a tremendous interest in organic farming, which is far less energy consuming than using chemical fertilisers, there is also an increasing demand for such products. Those who attended the garden party learned a great deal about the subject including the fact that Japan, which we all think of as being highly industrialised, has the largest propor-

tion of the population owning its own smallholdings, of any other country.

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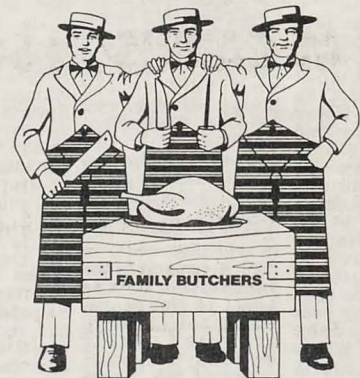


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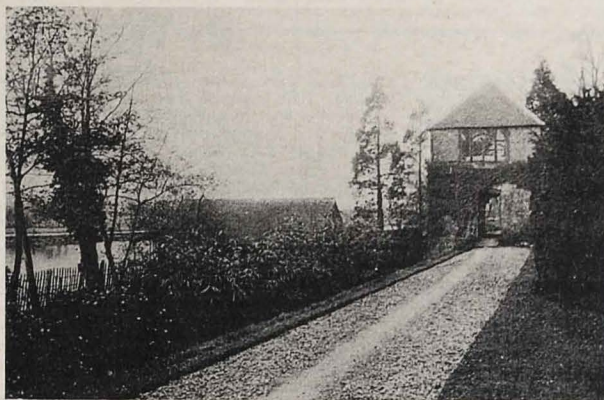
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BEHIND these pictures of Caversham Court lies a story. In 1983, when Adrian Gordon was head gardener there, an elderly lady walked up to him one summer's day and told him she had lived there as a girl for a few years, either before 1918 or after 1921.



She then produced a handful of photographs of the old property taken when she was a girl. Her father was Thaddeus Arathoon and because Caversham Court was too damp for his little daughter's health he soon left. Apparently, according to my research,

he also lived at Caversham Grove for a time between 1918-1921 and for a while at West Dene, a large house at the junction of Woodcote Road and St. Peter's Avenue. His daughter now lives in Monte Carlo and comes to visit local friends now and then. She sent Adrian a complete set of these photographs because he was so interested and he kindly allowed me to have them copied for this newspaper. I believe Mr Arathoon made a fortune in India but am not sure. Perhaps someone in Caversham can remember the family and can add more to the story. At later dates the rest of the pictures will appear in the Caversham Bridge.



■ The Gazebo — then in good condition and with what appears to be two open doors opposite each other, for they are open and one can see right through the building to trees beyond. The boat house vanished years ago.



■ The front of Caversham Court, pulled down in 1933.



■ This may be a walk in the vegetable garden — now allotments.

THE McCARRISON SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION AND HEALTH

THE Annual garden party of the Society, held at the home of Barbara and Gordon Latto in Derby Road in June, had a very local flavour. The first speaker, John Madeley, Caversham parish reader and editor of 'International Agricultural Development', who had recently returned from a visit to Mali, spoke

on "Why Hunger in a World of Plenty?" Appealing for funds for Seeds for Africa, he stressed that money was still an important factor in many countries, it was quite possible, he said, to find people starving in one village while a few miles away a more prosperous village was showing a very different story. Many

of the poorest were now totally without money and unless money was found for them to buy seeds there would be no harvest next year either and the famine cycle would get worse.

John was followed by Sir Julian Rose of Hardwick Estate. Sir Julian, who worked for many years in experimental theatre, was forced some years ago, because of the death of his father and elder brother, to come home and take over the estate. Already interested in organic growing, he decided to concentrate on this himself, he also now had an organic dairy herd and sold dairy products door-to-door in the district.



Christopher Finzi, who also concentrated on organic health foods and owned the Sun health

food store in Newbury, was another who did not set out to be a farmer. A member of a very well-known musical family and himself a cellist and conductor, he became aware when he was living in France, of the way in which the local peasants grew their own natural food. Returning to England, he decided to do the same and now has a very thriving business.



There is now, it seems, a tremendous interest in organic farming, which is far less energy consuming than using chemical fertilisers, there is also an increasing demand for such products. Those who attended the garden party learned a great deal about the subject including the fact that Japan, which we all think of as being highly industrialised, has the largest propor-

tion of the population owning its own smallholdings, of any other country.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

KEEP HEMDEAN VALLEY GREEN

THE campaign to save Hemdean Valley is now on. The two largest residents' associations, Caversham and District, a veteran of such struggles, and Emmer Green, newly formed and vigorous, have joined forces to co-ordinate plans. Whilst each will prepare and present its own case, information will be shared and resources pooled.

The public inquiry has been fixed for 15-18 and 22 October at the Civic Offices. Everyone who possibly can is urged to attend even if only to look in for a short time, as this all goes to make the Inspector aware of the strength of public feeling. Those wishing to speak are required to register when the inquiry opens. It is hoped however that there will be an evening session, probably on the last day, though this is entirely at the discretion of the Inspector, which will be run on informal lines and at which individuals can have their say without registering.

Letters are an

important part of the protest. The address to which they should be sent will appear in next month's Caversham Bridge. A briefing meeting for those wishing to participate in this protest will be held on 9 September at Caversham Primary School at 8.00pm.

In the meantime petition forms will be circulating. If you would like to take one to collect signatures apply to the Secretary of either association (Molly Casey, 14 Albert Road, Tel 472300, or Alan Perrin 12 St Barnabas Road, Tel 474625). Do not forget though that signing a petition is no substitute for writing a letter. Do both. And remember, this is not a hopeless fight. We stand a good chance of winning, as long as everyone does his or her bit.

Look out for further information in next month's Caversham Bridge.

WHAT A RELIEF

THE Victorians invented the public loo and sprinkled them liberally around their towns, Reading being no exception. Their successors followed suit as the town expanded. After a period of neglecting them or closing them down, the Borough Council has woken to the consequent paucity of these essential features of urban life and has set aside a sum of money to refurbish existing ones and to construct others. The Emmer Green shopping precinct will eventually be getting one and the existing one at St. Martin's precinct is to be refurbished.

Another welcome innovation is the provision of public notice boards in selected places. These are not primarily for graffiti but to provide a space for notices which are often flyposted in unsuitable places. St. Martin's Precinct is to have one, so there will be no need to pin notices to the trees, which even if it does not harm them, cannot do them any good.

A MODERN DOMESDAY

THE humble villagers of Caversham must have been puzzled and not a little fearful when strange men, who said they were from William, the conquering Norman king, arrived there and started asking questions and writing down the answers. They were probably too much encumbered with scraping a living and surviving to take

much interest in a huge book that appeared shortly afterwards in 1086 and listed all that the king owned in his newly acquired kingdom. It would certainly never have crossed their minds that nine hundred years later we can refer to this great volume and find out what Caversham, as it was spelt at the time, was like in those dim and distant days.

This summer, to celebrate next year's nine hundredth anniversary of the Domesday Book, a modern Domesday is being compiled.

The King's Commissioners this time are mostly school children and WI members. In Caversham and its surrounding districts, Thames Side, St. Anne's, Highdown and Hemdean House have been given the responsibility of carrying out the survey. Wearing badges bearing the message "I am a Domesday project researcher" they are looking at a wide expanse stretching from beyond Cow Lane to Sonning and out into the rural areas of South Oxfordshire. They have certainly had far more to deal with than their Norman predecessors who found a scattering of dwellings valued at a mere twenty hides, where two bondmen, twenty eight villeins and thirteen bordars (woman and children didn't count) scraped a meagre living with the aid of four ploughs and one mill. This lowly hamlet's sole claim to fame was that it was held by the powerful Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham.

As part of their project, Thames Side pupils who are sharing the area approximately west and north of Reading Bridge with St. Anne's and Highdown, called on Councillor Ron Jewitt and questioned him closely on his work for the Borough and County and on plans for the future of Caversham. They have also been visiting the factories and businesses along Richfield Avenue and finding out about their products and the number of people they employ. The younger pupils have helped by making sketches of the area. Hemdean House girls are tackling on their own, the land as far east as Sonning and going north to Dunsden and Emmer Green. As this includes a potential

third bridge site, this has been one of their concerns. They have questioned a district nurse and a farmer and in common with the other "Commissioners" have looked at the educational and leisure facilities to be found there. There does not appear, in William's time, to have been a single church to record. Nor of course was there a BBC monitoring station or gravel workings.

When it comes to the actual placing on record of all this information, hi-tech is the order of the day. Computers are of course everyday fare for children of today, who with the familiarity of old hands, have typed their information into their BBC computers, the possession of which was an essential prerequisite to taking part in the project. This will then be put on to a video-disc which can hold the equivalent of a million pages of writing, and which will be read by laser beam. What would William's men make of that? But then what did those humble

villagers make of men who could actually write? And what will future generations think of this effort?

At any rate, there will be a chance for the present day to judge when excerpts are shown on BBC TV next year. Who knows, Caversham might be one of the places chosen.

THIRD BRIDGE

READING Civic Society has submitted its comments on a third Thames Bridge. It is a well reasoned statement, but comes down unequivocally against the provision of a third bridge. For that reason the Secretary of Caversham's Residents' Association who was also the vice-chairman of Reading Civic Society, has relinquished the latter position to avoid the appearance of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. This decision does not however entail resigning from the Civic Society itself, an organisation which is fulfilling a useful and much needed role in Reading.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I'VE often apologised for filling this column with news about local shops, this time I'm making no apology because there really is a kind of all-change just now, at least in the Church Street/Prospect Street area. Caversham Bookshop has now moved into its new premises in Parslows' old shop, there's going to be a lot more room for display, a special children's section and so on. Incidentally the owners are very pleased with the work of the Caversham firm who carried out the alterations and I'm sure they'll be only too willing to recommend them to anyone else.

We also welcome back Pat Howard who has already moved into the old bookshop premises, I've not had time to go in yet, but it looks as though antique furniture is going to be an added attraction.

OLD FRIENDS DEPART...

A shock was to

hear that our sports' correspondent, Stan Eldon, is giving up his sportswear shop. As he says, far too many people have been trying for a slice of the cake and with rising costs they are just another small business which is disappearing. His fear is that in a few years there will be little choice but to shop with the large multiples. There will, I hope, be more about the Eldon family in next month's 'Bridge', our 250th edition and a kind of 'Down Memory Lane' affair, one of the first people we ever interviewed was Stan, so he has some memories of his own.

Fortunately the gentleman who repairs shoes and cuts keys at the back of the Sportswear Shop, is moving to the Henley Typewriters Shop on Caversham Bridge. I understand that Mr Pickersgill is not giving up altogether, so there must be another bit of news about such an old

and valued member of the community which I must chase up some time.

...BUT SOME STAY ON

It was sad to see that the Caversham Gift Shop was on the way out, apparent from their 'Closing Down' sale notices. However, happily we are able to report that following pressure all round, the shop will continue, possibly extending its merchandise. Good news for Joan Smith, who has worked there since it opened and who enjoys her contact with all customers.

HAIR-RAISING

I'm highly unlikely to change my own hairdressers since I find their charges eminently suitable to somebody on retirement pension and, furthermore, it's one of the friendliest places I know. But I must admit to being very impressed when I recently met John, the latest owner of Salon One in Bridge Street, for he's a young man with a very professional approach to his trade. All his staff are fully trained, apart from the juniors and, to make sure they are kept up-to-date with the latest developments, once a month the stylists from Wella, whose complete range he stocks, come to instruct everyone. This is a unisex

shop, open six days a week and on Fridays until 7; for good measure John employs a real barber of the old school, something which is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Personally I wish John well, with hairdressers like him there's really no need for people to trundle off to Reading.

Actually we are very well served in this part of Caversham as far as hairdressing goes, and they all seem to be much in demand. There is also Kappers on St. Martin's Precinct, managed by Joyce, her staff too are fully trained and they specialise in Biosthetics. Don't ask me what they are but it is something to do with dispensing with detergents, they really do take hair care seriously. Then there is Raffles in Church Street, I'm afraid I don't know much about them except that they do a very good line in styling and trimming men's hair. And, of course, there is our good friend, Barbara, over the chemists' shop in Church Street, again this is a very friendly place, always busy but always able to 'fit you in'. No prizes for guessing where I go, either! Now, what news from other districts.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

At this time of the year I find myself supporting various

charity fetes, coffee mornings and so on. Occasionally I find a 'good cause' I've not noticed before and a few weeks ago I received an invitation to a coffee morning in aid of the Reading & District Home Physiotherapy Service. Being able, on the odd occasion I need it, to trot off to an excellent local physiotherapist, it has always concerned me that so many more people would benefit from his treatment if only they could afford it, or could get there, so I was delighted to go along and find out what it was all about. If anyone needs it, I've got a leaflet on the service which is 'a registered charity set up to bring physiotherapy to the homes of those patients for whom attendance at hospital is not practicable, who cannot afford a private physiotherapist and where home treatment is not covered by the NHS physiotherapists'. I won't go into more detail here, except to give you the address of the secretary, Mrs M. Davis, 1 Elstow Avenue, Caversham Park Village (Tel: 475104). She will, I'm sure, give you all the information you need. In the meantime they are much in need of people to organise fund raising events, such as coffee mornings and, of course, donations large or small.

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MR John and Lady Anne Eyston welcomed the 250,000th visitor to Mapledurham on June 22nd. Mrs Celia Holloway from Letchworth was the lucky recipient of a framed picture of the house, and a cream tea. Mapledurham House, built in 1588, and the Watermill, mentioned in the Domesday Book, are open to the public at weekends, bank holidays and other times by arrangement. Further details from 723350.

— E. S. Archer



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ABOUT LOLLYPOPS AND OPENESS TO GOD

THEY are growing lollypops in the Rectory garden. It is a fact which ought to be known. Evidence can be supplied by any of the children who harvested the entire crop in about three minutes flat on the last Sunday afternoon in June.

Quite a lot of other things happened there at the same time as St. Peter's kept St. Peter's day in style. Somebody had had a bright idea. "Let's not just have tea before our Festal Evensong", it was said, "Let's have a family afternoon for all the church". And so it was. The sun shone for about the first time that month, as the Rector had said it would. Games were played. Preparations were frantically (and less frantically) made. A magnificent spread

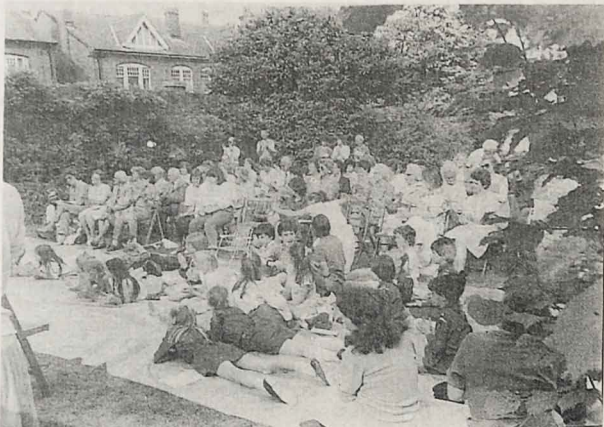
was enjoyed by a couple of hundred people. An entertainment "just happened" for an hour and a quarter (there must be some way to tap some of that talent). And a whole crowd processed singing up the road into church for Evensong, where all the stops were pulled out, and the festival concluded naturally in the worship of God.

Colin Scott-Dempster, a former Assistant Curate, joined in the praise of all the organisers in his sermon. He went on to ask "Have you a vision? Are you ready for change? Are you open to others?" We could see life brimming over at St. Peter's. We thanked God for it. We prayed for it. Where will we let him take it?



■ Enjoying the entertainment at St. Peter's Party.

— E. S. Archer



■ St. Peter's Party at the Rectory June 30th.

— E. S. Archer

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ST. ANDREW'S SUMMER FETE

THE St. Andrew's Summer Fete was held on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd June. It was opened by the Mayor of Reading Mr Brian Fowles at 2pm.

The proceeds of this year's Fete was in aid of the Muscular Dystrophy Group of

Great Britain. Muscular Dystrophy is not just one disease but a group of hereditary disorders, characterised by progressive muscular wasting and weakness. It afflicts one in approximately every 3,000 new-born boys. Girls very occasionally fall victim to the disease. One of the St. Andrew's family, Stephen Gazzard suffers from the disorder.

Muscular Dystrophy takes many forms. In its most extreme state (Duchenne), death before the age of twenty is almost inevitable. In its milder (!) forms, the victim, during teenage, loses the power to walk or even to stand so is confined to a wheelchair for the rest of a life, which frequently exceeds our allotted span of three score years and ten.

Twenty years ago, positive diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy was rare. Victims of the disease were described as having "outgrown their strength" during youth. Research into the disease began only in 1973, one of the

main centres of world-wide research was then, and remains today, Hammersmith Hospital in West London. Stephen attends the clinic there twice a year, to be told recently by Professor Dubowitz "Hang in there, young man! One day — soon I hope — we will find the answer".

Indeed, research has reached an exciting stage. The genetic process, which leads to Muscular Dystrophy, is now understood. "Carrier" parents can be identified and potential cases of the disease can be detected at the anti-natal stage. Genetic Engineering — a somewhat misprised science — may enable us within the next 5-10 years to prevent the disease. Continuing experiments with drugs give hope of checking the disease in existing sufferers and may even lead us to a cure.

Despite the somewhat doubtful weather the usual generosity was shown at the Summer Fete and over £1,000 was raised to provide a wonderful boost to the Group and Stephen and the 27,000 other victims of Muscular Dystrophy.

ST. JOHN'S NOTES

St. John's Day on June 24th was both a sad and happy occasion. It was the last time Graham Lynch-Watson worshipped with St. John's before he left the parish. The congregation came to know and love Graham during the last interregnum, so there was sadness. Then John Sumner came back as guest preacher for the first time since he moved to Swallowfield. St. John's were very glad to welcome him back, and to hear that all was well with Alice and the children. So it was also a particularly happy St. John's Day.

As always, a great deal of hard work went into making it a festival. Somehow, in spite of the wet weather, enough flowers and foliage were found to fill the bowls. There was a great tidying up. The men moved chairs, and tables and carried china from the hall, so answered, and now the Mothers' Union refreshments they had organised in the church.

It was a memorable service. The Youth Group sang several hymns, to a guitar accompaniment. Their final song, a version of St. Francis's prayer, nearly had the processing choir and clergy dancing out of the church. Afterwards the congregation were able to chat to old friends again and hear each other's news. Then everyone helped to clear up — in fact the washing and wiping up was done by three Mothers' Union members, one Brownie, one choirman and two clergy. How's that for co-operation?

JUSTHAM CUP

THIS years Justham improvement. His Cup — the parochial task in deciding the competition for young winner was unenviable — was held, such was the at St. Andrew's on standard, but his May 18th. The 18 choice of Lorraine entrants aged Jarvis from St. John's between 7 and 13 was warmly approved. years old provided a Of our own choir, very high standard of Caroline Jellyman singing and delighted was second, and Ali-the sizeable audience son Young third, with with a varied fayre of her brother and sister music ranging from Vanessa and Christ-Handel to Lloyd-Web-opher highy comber. Parry's 'Jeru-mended along with salem' proved to be a Philip Aspden. testing set piece, but However, as Barbara Mr Bob Barsby, Direc- Justham wrote "All of tor of Music at Pang- you are winners", and bourne College was in initiating this com-most impressed by the petition some years vocal talent on dis-ago now, she provided play and, over a cup of a vehicle for a very tea in the hall after-healthy musical wards, provided each enthusiasm which I competitor with a am glad to say is brief report on their flourishing in the performance and parish. suggestions for future

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE HILL CHAPEL

IT was a special joy to welcome Mrs Sue Hayes to our Ladies' Coffee morning on Thursday in June. Sue, with her husband and four children, lives in Swindon and has a wonderful testimony of how God has worked in her life.

About ten years ago Sue was admitted to hospital for surgery following a time of ill health. Up until then she had had no time at all for God — she felt she was quite able to run her own life. But in hospital she felt drawn to a ward service, although she could not explain why at the time. After the surgery, Sue's old school friends and distant relations visited her. At first she was pleased — until it dawned on her that they were coming for a reason.

In the end the doctors told her that they had removed a malignant growth weighing eight and a half lbs from her stomach. She was given two years to live. The bottom dropped out of Sue's world. What about her children? The youngest two were hardly more than toddlers. George, her husband, had been drinking heavily for some time, and the added strain worsened the problem.

But then someone told her that Jesus could heal her. At last she confessed her need of Jesus to be her Saviour. The local Baptist minister came to her in hospital and anointed her with oil

and prayed that God would heal her. Sue was healed — dramatically and instantly!

She described that if felt as though hot water was being poured in through the top of her head, and was passing out through every pore of her body! It was so real that she feared her bed was wet! But it was the healing touch of Jesus. George wanted her to have radiotherapy — but with each treatment she felt better and better, rather than weaker and weaker.

Back at home, George's drinking was destroying their lives, but he was not able to admit he was an alcoholic, and it took him a long time to ask God to forgive him. But the alcoholism was still there. Eventually he was able to admit the problem to the Lord and receive healing. Since then he has been free from alcoholism.

What a wonderful work God has done for Sue and George. They are not special people — in fact, they are very ordinary. But Jesus is extraordinary, and is very concerned for people. Of course, he does not work in the same way in everyone's life. But as his people we can all experience his love and intervention each day.

If you would like to read more of Sue's story, a book has been written. It is entitled "Reclaimed" by Helen Penfold, and is available through local bookshops.

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

LAST month held a mixture of joys and sorrows for friends at Caversham Methodist Church, as it was with much regret that the Church heard of the death of Mrs Eileen Barker. Eileen had been ill for some time, but had shown tremendous courage, fortitude and serenity during her long illness. She was always cheerful and thanked God for each day of her life. Attendances at her funeral and memorial services were a testimony of the love and affection in which Eileen was held by the people of Caversham.



The wedding of one of the Sunday School's former scholars took place on Saturday June 15th when Miss Donna Wright was married to Mr Neil King. All friends at Gosbrook Road wish them both every happiness.

The Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corps have been busy again putting in appearances at Woodley



■ Musical Director Michael Evans with the Revd. Brian Skinner at the Sainsbury Singers Concert at Caversham Methodist Church.

Carnival, Notting-ham, Thameside School, the Church June Fair and Caversham Singers. Water Carnival.

The Women's Fellowship had a very successful outing, when they were joined by ladies from Caversham Heights Methodist Church for a visit to Windsor Safari Park. This was followed by tea at Windsor Methodist Church. A concert given by The Sainsbury Singers was held in the Church. This was very successful and

BAPTIST NEWS

THE Annual Assembly of the Berks Baptist Association was something of a social occasion. Coming as it did in mid-June it provided a missed opportunity for the lady delegates to air their Ascot hats and their male counterparts their striped blazers and straw boaters. However, as with those other notable events in the social calendar there was more serious business afoot. The Assembly opened with a Service of Worship during which the Revd. Dennis Weller was inducted as President, signifying his acceptance of the office by signing the Presidential Bible and delivering his Presidential Address on the theme of 'Encouragement'. He urged those present to encourage and support one another both as individuals and as corporate church fellowships and illustrated his theme by referring to the story of Barnabas as told in the Acts of the Apostles. The Service of Induction concluded with Communion.

At the business session a roll call of churches in the Association took place and delegates from the respective churches were invited to stand to be recognised. Ministers, and those appointed to full time service within the Association, during the past year were called to the rostrum to receive a Presidential Greeting. Reports, presented with much good humour, were given by all of any importance and happily brevity was wisely observed for the pews of Windsor Road Baptist Church, Slough, were, to the less well upholstered, a little hard to bear. An exhilarating and enjoyable day concluded with Evening Service which had a distinct musical flavour in that the 'Gospel Singers' and 'New Light' from Caversham sang both as independent choirs and as a unified group. The Service was further enlivened by the guest speaker, the Revd. Norman Wright, President of the Baptist Union, who provided much food for thought and action appropriately garnished by his inimitable wit, and so ended a day which was anything and everything but dull.

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ST ANNE'S NEWS

SOCIAL events fortunate enough to escape cancellation owing to the misguided June weather, began with the parish fete. This was a great success, both as a festivity and as a money-raising effort: the fete itself accounted for £921 and the draw for £836.

On the 17th Fr O'Malley celebrated his golden jubilee with a Mass, followed by a gathering of old and new friends in the hall.

Since this copy was prepared we have heard of Fr O'Malley's death on Wednesday 3rd July. Words cannot express the feelings of The Parish at this loss. The packed Church on the evening of the golden jubilee Mass serves as a testimonial to Fr

O'Malleys work in Caversham.

There was great sadness in the parish at the sudden death of Cllr. Joe Bristow, admired and loved by all who knew him for his many years of hard working public service and for his great personal qualities. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Finally, a note of regret about two non-events attributed to the weather: the Corpus Christi Mass and procession in the grounds of Mapledurham House and the parish barbecue, both well-loved parish traditions. Last year they were happy and sun-drenched occasions — to be triumphantly revived next year, we hope.

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Christian Stewardship

PRINCIPLE OR PRACTICE?

CHRISTIAN Stewardship has been with us for many years now and many Churches have adopted the "Principle" of Stewardship, but how many have adopted the "Practice" of Stewardship?

The most recently published figures, nationwide, for giving, makes pretty dismal reading. Average weekly giving for those Churches publishing figures are, Anglican £1.02, Methodist £1.75, URC £1.79. It is perhaps significant that the present average pocket money for children is £1.09. What a way to thank God for all his gifts to us!

What of Caversham? When you go into any of the Anglican Churches you will see a notice telling you that we have adopted the "Principle" of Christian

Stewardship. Well and good, but have we adopted the "Practice"?

It can be claimed that we do better than the National Average — nothing to be proud of!

We can also say that we meet our Diocesan Quota and that our quota is the largest in the Diocese. Good, but is that good enough?

If we look at the facts behind our achievements we find the cracks appearing all too often.

Church treasurer report falling income, and regularly we hear of the loss of "Good" pledges. Surely all pledges should be "Good" pledges, there can be no other if we "Practice" Stewardship.

Why is it necessary to have to remind our congregations to review their pledges? Look at this year's

accounts. Four out of five treasurers have had to dip into reserves to meet the budget. This shows that "Principle" has not become "Practice".

What is Stewardship about? It is not about donating sufficient money to meet budgets, rather it is a personal response to God for all his gifts to us.

As Christians we believe that we are God's creation and that our lives and our abilities come from Him.

God has given us everything, our ability to absorb knowledge and to convert that knowledge into our ability to earn our living to provide for ourselves and our families and to provide a just proportion for God's work on earth.

It is a human frailty to consider what we earn as "ours", and we

use "our" earnings to surround ourselves with luxuries which we come to regard as necessities. It is so easy to provide for our own needs and to forget the needs of others.

I am firmly convinced that if all who are pleased to call themselves Christians were to really put Stewardship into practice, the Church would have sufficient money to be able to solve the problems of world food distribution. What a triumph that would be, what a shock to those outside the Church! Would it not make the unbeliever sit up and take notice?

May I invite each and everyone of us to consider our position.

Take stock of our surroundings, our homes and our possessions and then our giving.

Pray to God, first thank Him for our lives, our abilities and our homes and then ask Him to guide us in our giving and to show us if we have got our priorities right.

Once the Holy Spirit has released us from the desire to possess, then giving becomes much more readily a part of our lives.

Giving is a mark of God's Grace and until we really know God's love, we are not likely to be generous in our giving.

May God Bless and Guide us all in our Practice of Christian Stewardship.

John H. Wilson
Caversham Park

TRIBUTE TO DENIS SLADE

DENIS Slade was born in Prospect Street, in the house where his father had a corn store, and he lived all his life in Caversham. He went to the Collegiate School, with his brother Len, and his first job was with Herbert Engineering, who were manufacturers of racing cars. Most of his

working life was spent on the railways, first on the line, then in the drawing office, and finally in the signalling office. Denis had a special skill with things mechanical and electrical, and this aptitude was developed further after his retirement, when he spent fourteen years working with his friend Ernest Davey, repairing church organs in different parts of the country. It is entirely fitting that his family should ask for all contributions in his memory to be given to the St. Andrew's Organ Fund, he was very proud of our church organ, and its excellent condition is very largely due to him.

Denis' parents later moved to South View Avenue, and during that time he attended St. John's Church, where his uncle Ernest was organist for over fifty years. His mother was a talented pianist, and Denis and his brother Len were keen members of St. John's choir. Denis was also active as a server, and was an enthusiastic member of the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary. Denis had many other social activities; he was an active member of the Oddfellows, from the age of sixteen onwards, and belonged to their Caversham Branch, which later amalgamated with the Newbury Branch. He became Chairman of the St. Stephen Bristow Branch, and was a member of the Past Branch Chairmen's Lodge.

Denis and Betty were married in 1939, and soon afterwards moved to Morecambe Avenue, where they brought up their two daughters, Ingrid and Adrienne. Denis became a member of St. Andrew's Church, joined the choir there, and began his work as a ver-

ger and caretaker of the church, which he continued right up to the end of his life. It was entirely appropriate that he should have died in the church, which he loved so much, sitting in the choir stall, practising the anthem for the St. Peter's Patronal Festival. Even more extraordinary was the fact that his death occurred on the eve of St. John's Patronal Festival. The church meant a great deal to Denis, not only as the place where he learned his Christian faith, and shared with delight in the worship of God, but also as a fellowship and community of Christian people, whom he cared for in a personal way. Denis was a faithful and regular visitor, especially of those who were ill or infirm. He also kept in touch with many past and present members of the church, through his ministry to bereaved families, as caretaker of the Garden of Remembrance.

Denis will be remembered by most of us as a personal friend, who took an interest in everyone, and always had a lively sense of humour. He was always utterly reliable and conscientious in everything he undertook, and he would go to endless trouble to help anyone who needed him. We shall remember him as a verger, a choirman and a server, but we shall remember him most of all for himself. Our love and sympathy go to his wife, Betty, to his daughters Ingrid and Adrienne, and to the other members of his family in their bereavement. We thank God for every remembrance of Denis, and we commend him to God's love and care, with complete faith and confidence, knowing that he is growing into an even deeper fellowship with God, and that he will continue to pray for us, as we shall pray for him.

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READING HIGHWAYS STRATEGY

CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION was founded in 1966 and almost at once found itself caught up in controversy over a third Thames Bridge. Ever since then it has been giving the matter careful thought and familiarising itself with the various proposals that have come up over the years.

THIRD THAMES BRIDGE. As a result of a vote taken at the Annual General Meeting, there was a clear majority of practically 75% in favour of a third Thames Bridge to the East. On the choice of which of the two was to be preferred, it was felt that there were factors involved about which the average lay person was likely to be insufficiently informed, but that as a general guiding line, the less intrusive of the two was to be preferred.

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A western bridge attracted negligible support, and that solely on the grounds that it would be more effective in removing traffic from the centre of Caversham and particularly from the

A4074. It was strongly opposed by the majority on the grounds of the severe environmental damage it would do to an area of high landscape value and because of a poor link-up with the Reading road system.

A vote was also taken of those in favour of no bridge at all, which attracted the support of over 20% of those present, their main fear being that the rural character of South Oxfordshire would be spoiled because, whatever the intention, in practice new roads attract more traffic. Other fears were that a new bridge could lead to a link from the M4 to the M40, and this would make the existing pressures to develop impossible to withstand. Most of those holding these views also felt that the same amount of money spent on improving the public transport system would bring longer lasting benefits.

However the view that South Oxfordshire's rural character must be safeguarded was also expressed by many of those in favour of a third bridge and these fully supported the recommendation that this bridge should be a local bridge for local use. On no account

would they wish to see any major road constructions to cater for unrestrained traffic growth.

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Although no vote was taken on the point as the decision being taken was which of the crossings to favour, nevertheless a significant minority of those in favour of an eastern bridge thought it would only be of real use if it was accompanied by a North-East Caversham link. The opinion was also expressed that a major dual carriageway crossing was essential in order to cater for future expected traffic growth. Several members pointed out the need for careful traffic management in the vicinity of Caversham Park.

Summing up, the two strongest expressions of opinion to emerge were that the bridge should be to the East and that Oxfordshire's rural character should not be spoiled.

CROSS TOWN ROUTE. On the subject of the Cross Town Route, we confined ourselves to the Caversham Road section. Accepting that because of its role as a major traffic route the road is always going to be environmentally disadvantaged, the least undesirable option seemed to be a four lane road even though it involved the loss of some of the plane trees, which are one of its few redeeming features. There was a two-thirds majority in favour of this, but even amongst these, concern about the trees was marked. The Council should take note of this and give priority to replanting. It was not clear whether any trees on the south-west side were to be lost, but it was felt that if this were so, with slight realignments it could be avoided. There could be some advantage in replacing the present plane trees which have had their appearance somewhat spoilt by heavy handed pollard-

ing in the past. The more enlightened methods now used would maintain new trees in peak condition for a much longer period. Plane trees for replanting were favoured by most, as they are particularly suited to urban conditions and make a real contribution to the street scene.

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It was felt that it might also help to ameliorate conditions for those living in houses to which traffic will be brought nearer, if they were to be offered grants towards sound insulation.

Since the Annual Meeting a committee meeting expressed the feeling that the observations on trees in Caversham Road were also applicable to those in Vastern Road and King's Meadow. The general implication of this would be that environmental considerations should play a major part in planning the Cross Town Route.

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FOR their first special 'get together' and a summer season, St. Andrew's Church Fellowship visited the Carterton to renew acquaintance after four years with the previous Priest in Charge, Martin Loveless and his family.

Several members of the local congregation joined the Fellowship in a

Christian witness. An exciting innovation had been the recent baptism of two adults in the River Thames at Lechlade. Is this an idea for Caversham?

The visit closed with prayers and on the return home we were full of admiration for the work being done by Martin and Philippa.

Ken Bond

AN APPEAL FROM THE EMMER GREEN YOUTH & COMMUNITY WORKER

EMMER Green Youth and Community Centre is a Local Education Authority maintained Centre that aims to provide a wide range of activities and learning experiences for children and young people. In order to fulfil this aim I need to recruit volunteers who are willing to give one evening a week of their spare time in the youth club.

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□□
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THE LINK GROUP

A BUSY YEAR

THE Annual General meeting of the group was held on June 17th at the home of Mrs Doreen Bennett. In her Chairman's report Mrs Bennett spoke of the regular monthly meetings as the 'tip of the iceberg'. The activities went on every day, each member, representing ten churches in the area, having a particular responsibility. A number of new members had joined recently and had taken part enthusiastically in the work of the group.

Looking back over the past year, Mrs Bennett said that a great deal of time and effort had gone into the initial planning financing and setting up of the Caversham Care Centre, now opened. In spite of this, other activities had gone on as usual — the fortnightly tea parties for the elderly and housebound, the 'furniture nusiness', the personal contacts with many local organisations and the allocation of gifts to various causes. There were other special events including:

1. A lunch to which clergy and their wives were invited
 2. An outing for the Mencap Youth Group to the Child-Beale Trust
 3. The meeting for over one hundred people from local organisations in November from which support for the Care Centre had come.
 4. The special Christmas tea party for the elderly and housebound
 5. The Carol Singing at homes for elderly people.
 6. The distribution at Christmas of toys to the NSPCC, Family Aid Women's Refuge and Mother and Baby homes.
 7. The concert by the Phoenix Choir in aid of the Care Centre
 8. The Annual Sale in May to raise funds for various Link Group charities
 9. The opening by the Mayor of the Caversham Care Centre.
- The Chairman thanked all members for their hard work

during a particularly busy year.

The Treasurer reported that donations had been given as follows: to the Mencap Youth Outing, the NSPCC, to Katesgrove Family Aid, to the Peppard Trust and Heathcroft (for the mentally handicapped), towards the Care Centre filing system, to REAP for a large gas cooker, and to the Reading Cyrenians.



Reports from individual interests followed.

The Caversham Care Centre was now open after a busy year of planning. The meeting last November had brought together organisations which could use the Centre and others offering help. Caversham Rotary, Caversham Consolidated Charities, among many others had helped financially. A filing system had been set up, the Pop-in Centre fur-

nished and visitors and telephone calls were gradually increasing. Link Group members among others were helping to man the office and the Pop-in Centre.

Furniture or household goods had gone to the Priest Hill home for single parent families, to REAP (bed linen and blankets), Family Aid, Katesgrove and the Social Worker of the Royal Berks Maternity Unit.

Mencap Friday Club, which a Link Group member is temporarily helping to run, expressed grateful thanks for last summer's outing, much enjoyed by children and helpers.

The NSPCC thanked members for a donation. The inspector on his rounds finds individual needs for which money given by the group was used.

The work of the Parkinson's Disease Society was increasing and more help would be needed.

REAP was grateful for clothes and blankets sent — members were told that the average age of those given shelter had dropped from forty-five years to the early and mid twenties.



Berkshire Women's Aid this year reached its tenth anniversary and during these years had helped over a thousand women and even more children. Furniture and household goods were needed for rehousing families.

The Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work which gives help and guidance to teenage girls up to eighteen years old appealed for funds.

Reading Victims' Support Scheme needs more volunteers to visit victims of crime — this is a worthwhile scheme which gives great comfort to the frightened and shocked victim who needs 'somebody to talk to'.

The meeting ended with a simple, much appreciated, Com-

munion Service conducted by the Revd. Richard Kinsbury.

From the above report it is obvious that the Link Group has indeed had a busy year.

Christian Aid

VICTOR Smith would like to thank those who helped in Christian Aid House to House Collection in the St. Andrew's District.

This year's collection amounted to £522.34, this truly was a great effort and was much appreciated.

OBITUARY

Fr. William O'Malley

The Board of the Caversham Bridge Newspaper offers its sympathy to the relatives and friends of Father William O'Malley, and would like to register their gratitude for his work in Caversham over many years.

(A full tribute appeared in the June '85 Caversham Bridge on the occasion of Fr. O'Malley's 80th birthday).

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

CAVERSHAM BOOKSHOP MOVES TO NEW PREMISES

By John and Lindsay Mullaney

AS most readers will know Lindsay and I are not only the proprietors of Caversham Bookshop, but I am also one of the editors of this paper. Consequently rather than risk abusing that position, we decided to pay for this half page as an advertisement feature.

Six years ago come September we opened our doors for the first time. Or rather, our first sales were at the SCF fair at the Oratory School in Checkendon. Now we are expanding to a purpose built shop over twice the size of our previous one. The main purpose of this advertisement is to thank those who have supported us, and so have enabled us to extend our service.

In our view a bookshop is an integral part of the cultural and social life of the community. It complements the work of the local library, schools, adult colleges and the like. Lindsay and I would therefore like

to take this opportunity to thank publicly those institutions who have supported us.

It may be of interest to readers to know that we supply books to most of Reading's schools. Schools especially have a role in forming the future of our community. Consequently their support is essential to a local bookshop's survival. Unfortunately in many areas schools have turned to direct supply organisations and book clubs so causing the closure of many small bookshops. This has led to longer term self-evident detrimental effects on the cultural life of the community.

Berkshire in general and Caversham in particular have benefited from a more enlightened vision of education, reading and leisure. For this reason we owe our thanks to those who have seen the merits of a local bookshop and used us accordingly.

We are essentially not only a family business but a Christian family business and run the shop on Christian moral principles. We keep a careful eye on the nature of our stock and discourage dishonesty in any form. It must be to the merit of Caversham people that we have experienced very little theft. On occasions we have had to impress on people the fact that an order is not only a legal contract but also a moral commitment.

Many of our customers have

become personal friends. The village nature of the Caversham community was demonstrated recently by the close interest shown in the expected birth of our baby and his subsequent progress. It was most heartwarming to receive so many expressions of goodwill.

As mentioned the new shop is larger — over one thousand square feet compared with four hundred and fifty in the previous premises. Our stock then ranged from between 15,000 to 20,000 books depending on season. So we envisage even greater choice in the future.

The new shop, formerly Parslows, has been completely rebuilt and we want to express our personal thanks to all those involved in planning and building it. They are all local

firms and no praise can be too high for the friendly, caring attitudes and skilled workmanship demonstrated by all concerned — a stroll round the shop should demonstrate the high degree of craftsmanship employed.

As for the future, we shall continue our care over selecting stock, offering advice where required and speedy ordering. A great majority of books are obtained within a week, many within four days. Specialist books are ordered direct from the publishers and the average time is just under three weeks. Unfortunately, uncontrollable factors, such as current unavailability, postal problems, pressure of work in the publishers' warehouses, can cause delays, but these are the exceptions.

We hope to see our old friends and customers at 18 Prospect Street and perhaps the more central position will entice more readers to support their local bookshop.

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Rosehill WI

THE Twenty-second Birthday! The President welcomed guests and members to the party, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Members were entertained with group games and a lovely tea. The cake was made by Mrs Withers, and iced by Mrs Roberts. Mrs E. Ellingham was presented with a silver cake stand for most points in competitions over the year. Mrs O. Gilmartin was second, her prize a silver goblet. Mrs B. Smith who was sitting in the lucky chair received a book token.

During the month the Institute had taken part in the Emmer Green Fete, holding a stall to which members had contributed produce. Those who attended the group meeting especially enjoyed Mr Robert Gilmartin's talk on 'Tales and Travels of a wild life artist'.

Maplewood WI

AT Maplewood WI June meeting members listened to Mr Robert Roscoe, conductor of the Reading Youth Orchestra, speaking on the clarinet family. He demonstrated how the varying lengths of the instruments can alter the range of sound from high E Flat to the Bass clarinet and went on to talk about its other intricacies.

After tea Mrs J. Le Mare, President, told members of her day at the Albert Hall for the Annual General Meeting where five thousand delegates discussed resolutions covering help for drug addicts and their families, control of acid rain from power

stations and how to increase food sufficiency for Third World Countries.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs Iden with a magnificent pansy.

On a lovely sunny afternoon at the end of May a Mystery Tour via Wantage and across the downs to a tea stop at Marlborough and home through Newbury had been very much enjoyed.

Chazey WI

AT their June meeting, Chazey WI welcomed Mr Griffiths of the Reading Wine Making Circle. He entertained the group with a film showing how to make five gallons of apple wine, and five gallons of red wine. After the film Mr Griffiths answered numerous questions on all aspects of wine making, and also offered some very useful tips. A vote of thanks was given by Linda Roach.

The business of the meeting followed, including a report on the County Show and the Group Meeting, held at St. Andrew's Hall in May. After coffee, the members were treated to, and greatly appreciated, a repeat performance of Chazey's mime that had been presented at the Group meeting.

Caversham Ladies Club

AFTER welcoming several new members at the June meeting the chairman introduced Mr N. Kent who gave a very interesting talk on Puppets. He joined the Magic Circle and made magical props. He then

started carving Punch and Judy sets in wood. Many of these have now been exported all over the world. Since then he has made hundreds of puppets, mostly now in papier mache and also given many shows, as well as appearing on television.

There is an anniversary of Mr Punch every year at St Pauls, Covent Garden, May 7th to 10th. The chairman thanked him for a very interesting afternoon.

St. Peter's Wives' Group

MRS Barbara Justham made a return visit to St. Peter's Wives' Group for their June meeting. She enthralled members with her reminiscences of a trip she made to Rhodesia in 1953 as a member of the Covent Garden Opera Company. The Group's thanks to her for such an interesting evening. The Wives do not meet during August but look forward to the 17th September, when the Revd. Richard Kingsbury will talk on the work of a Parole Board.

Caversham WI

BEFORE partaking of the very appetising Strawberry Supper at their meeting on 20th June, members were entertained by the Maiden Erlegh WI Singers, with a programme of songs and readings appropriate to the summer season. The songs were delightful, including one recently brought back from America by their conductor. Toes were tapping and a great deal of fun was caused by the performance of the so-called Dorset National Anthem, members of the Caversham Institute joined in the chorus with gusto.

The supper, provided by members, gave an excellent opportunity for them to get to know their visitors. Altogether it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Blagrove WI

TWENTY-five members went to the Berkshire College of Agriculture for the June meeting where Mrs Dunn of the Home Economics Dept demonstrated "Cooking for tomorrow" by three dishes which were later divided and sold to members.

Food was again the theme of the July meeting where Mr Jennings gave sound advice on "Eating cheaply with Meat" a subject hear to the heart of all members. The "flower of the month" competition

was won by (1) Mrs Aldiss, (2) Mrs Mesent, (3) Mrs Housden. Raffle prizes went to Mrs Hayward, Mrs Mortimer and Mrs Housden.

The President, Mrs Popplewell, reported on her attendance at the Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall.

Caversham Community Association

ON the 10th June the visiting speaker was Mr Roy Clark, the Secretary and Chairman of the Berkshire branch of PRO-Dogs, an organisation which exists to give the dog back his good name as man's best friend. Mr Clark said that in our society there is growing criticism of the dog and PRO-Dogs principal aim is to promote responsible dog ownership. They also support training dogs for the deaf and run a scheme called PAT dogs for visiting

elderly and sick people in nursing homes who would otherwise be deprived of canine companionship. Kath Sammers and her dog Robbie with Carole Walker and her dog Barbee gave a demonstration of obedience tests. Later Robbie, with his friend Lucky, and Barbee met the members who had pleasure greeting the friendly dogs.

The meeting on June 17th was arranged by some of the members. Margaret Reeves organised a television game which was won by Maida Feast. Margaret Cameron prepared two quiz games won by Olive Howard and Muriel Waite. The evening ended with Olive Howard reading some of Joyce Grenfell's amusing monologues.

An Old Tyme dancing evening held the following week was enjoyed by the members. May Plant led the dancers through the various routines.

Outings during the month included a visit to the television studios at Teddington to see Des O'Connor's show and visits to the Gas Board showroom for cookery demonstrations.

Townswomen's Guild News

THE leisure afternoon for June was held at Mrs Denning's. The 24th Birthday Party of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was held in June at St. Andrew's Hall, when Miss Evelyn Turner came along for the Federation and Mr Keith Churcher entertained members with

his "pot-pourri" of tricks during a very enjoyable evening. The birthday cake was made and iced by Mrs M. Norman and Mrs C. Lott. The Federation Quiz semi-finals and final took place in the Friends Meeting House on 25th June.

At the end of the month Social Studies group, accompanied by some husbands, travelled to an Oxfordshire country public house where Mrs Purton's daughter and son-in-law provided a good meal. It being a fine evening members were able to wander down to the river afterwards before returning home by coach.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen' Guild

THE June meeting was held at Church House and the speaker was Mrs A. Ball on 'Medicines in our society today'. She spoke of the strictly controlled research into a drug before it goes on the market. In the last thirty years they have practically eliminated T.B. Scarlet Fever, and helped a great deal with Blood Pressure. Doctors are monitored whilst prescribing the drugs. After questions she was warmly thanked by the chairman.

There have been very successful coffee mornings in aid of Operation Dhaka at the homes of Mrs D. Stockwell, and Mrs E. Smith, on both occasions being helped by other committee members. Two members also attended the Commonwealth Institute for a day on 'Australia'.

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th 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
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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)
FAMILY SERVICE (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday only)
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)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

meet at the Friends' Meeting House in Church Street (Reading) for worship at 10.45am. There are classes for children at the same time. Fortnightly study groups in Caversham. Tel: 475783.

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St. Peter's

June 2nd

9th

22nd

23rd

30th

St. John's

May 12th

June 2nd

St. Andrew's

March 3rd

April 21st

May 5th

June 30th

Caversham Park

June 2nd

St. Anne's

June 2nd

CONFIRMED

By Bishop Wild at St. Barnabas Church on Tuesday June 4th

St. John's

Heather Walker, Angela Butlin, Emma Cooper, Mandy Primmer, Tracey Primmer, Julie Parsons, Sara Whalley

Believers Baptism

Caversham Baptist Free Church

June 23rd

MARRIED

St. Peter's

June 1st

22nd

29th

St. John's

May 14th

May 11th

June 22nd

St. Andrew's

April 20th

June 8th

St. Barnabas

June 8th

St. Anne's

June

FUNERALS

St. John's

May

St. Andrew's

Feb. 12th

14th

April 18th

July 2nd

St. Anne's

June

Jodie Leggett Oliver Boughton
Joel Price Kiris Price Luke Price
Nicolas Cleeve
Felicity Zverko
Thomas Balmont

Tina Waite John Waite Darrel Duggan Trevor Duggan
Charlotte Cox Jamie-Lee Ratcliffe

Thomas Berresford
Anna Hanks
James Larkin
Philippa Graham

Andrew John Louise Ashton.

Andrew Johnson

Andrew Thurley and Christine Brown
Christopher Jupp and Helen Ballard
Conrad Latto and Philippa Winslow
Peter Lancaster and Anne Hornsby
David Brighton and Susan Wisbey
Stephen Goodchild and Helen McKenzie

Paul Netherton and Sarah Strange
Mark Makepeace and Linda Beeton
Trevor Horell and Tracey Williams

Ian Savin and Sarah Steer

David Northmore and Janice Fox

Michael Barnes and Heather Illott

Sivalingham Suppiah and Anne Tay

Tom Cockrill Graham Gardner Emily Sherwood Grace Goodbody

Maurice Wilson
Mildred Cambridge
Ailsa Cambridge
Denis Slade

Michael Kinsella Joe Bristow Terence O'Donnell

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