

# CAVERSHAM 2001

## — planning, change and development

THE YEAR AD 2001, with its futuristic sound, is now only sixteen years away, and the pace of change is speeding up all the time, or so we are told. Will Caversham have changed beyond recognition by the early twenty-first century, or will it basically remain the familiar place we know. With the help of a few fellow crystal-ball gazers, this page takes a look at some of the main planning and development changes which could occur in the 1980s and 1990s.

There seems general consensus that no significant extension of the built-up area will occur during the next fifteen years or so. However, the only long-term solution to continued pressure on Hemdean Bottom, as Labour Planning Spokesman Graham Rush outlined, could be the purchase of the land by the Borough Council to safeguard community access.

### Central Caversham

The area which has seen greatest change in recent years is Caversham Centre, focusing on Church Street. With the completion of the Waitrose development and the riverside housing this area may appear to have reached a new equilibrium, but few shopping/commercial areas remain static, and Caversham will be no exception. The Waitrose store marks another stage in the gradual decline of the "Village Centre" — local shops providing for the basic needs of local people. The changes in shopping patterns and in the function of Caversham shops will be reinforced if a High Street chemist moves into the precinct, as is rumoured, and is

followed by continued growth of specialist and consumer-goods shops. Caversham will become more of a self-contained centre rather than providing only "basic needs"; the remaining small local shops could suffer further. One Reading commercial agent could see the possibilities of redeveloping parts of the central area for new shops: the row of shops opposite Waitrose, for example, the bottom part of Prospect Street or perhaps the former cinema currently occupied by the New Testament Church of God. Increasing pressure for office development is also likely; a trend which concerns both Graham Rush and Molly Casey (of Caversham and District Residents Association). As office

by Stephen Witt, Post Graduate Researcher at University of Reading studying local planning authorities and housebuilders and is a member of Caversham Baptist Church

locations in Reading creep nearer the river (new Kings Meadow House; further offices on the current Goodmans site), so Caversham could become increasingly attractive. Residents and

### Caversham riverside

One aspect of Caversham which may see change, even if little new development, is the riverside. On the Reading bank of course, there is con-

On the Caversham side, there will be much less change (the marina; housing at the end of Mill Road) but greater use will certainly be made of the river — it is after all one of Caversham's/Read-

View Island when it returns to the Council in the 1990s will all contribute to improved riverside facilities. Amenities such as cafes and restaurants could be established to cater for the many people who are attracted to the river, and there may be opportunities for water-sports facilities.

### Community facilities

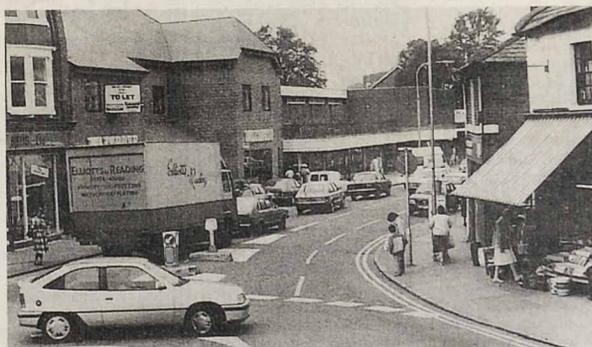
An area near the river that will almost certainly be redeveloped by 2001 is Abbotsmead and the land between the University boat club and Waitrose carpark. With part of the area owned by the Council, some form of community use seems likely. Sheltered housing for the elderly seems a strong contender, but a community centre/meeting place has also been suggested, particularly following the loss of the Balmore Hall. With cash limits liable to continue, Ian Fenwick a former Chairman of Caversham Liberals suggested that local groups could work together with the Council to develop a community facility. If land was provided by the Council, then voluntary bodies could cooperate to finance and construct a centre.

The single most important factor influencing Caversham is the road network, and the measures taken to improve it. There remains deep concern over the impact of a Third Thames Bridge, and little confidence that it will bring substantial improvement. Molly Casey was confi-

dent of the benefit of a "local bridge" but thought a dual-carriageway link would be worse than no bridge at all; Ian Fenwick saw greater relief for Sonning rather than for Caversham; and Brian Fowles was of the view that any bridge without a northern peripheral road to the A4074 would be disastrous for Caversham. The only certainty is that motorists will not behave quite as traffic engineers imagine, and there will be extra congestion at a few unexpected places even if general conditions improve! Will the new bridge have any side-effects however? It could lead to pressure for industrial or residential development along, and near, the Henley Road. And since a new road often forms a new "target" boundary for expansion (eg M4 and Lower Earley), what chance of some form of development (housing, "high-tech"?) beyond Amersham Road. A shrewd developer might propose a "Country Park" based around the old gravel workings, and/or offer to pay for the new road as part of a package — the approach recently taken by Speyhawks on the former Earley power station site.

Who knows what the next fifteen years will bring: less traffic; a new one-way system; a pedestrianised section of Church Street, flanked by Waitrose and a new shopping development; offices between Wolsey Road and the Waitrose Arch? Maybe, but then, maybe not.

## Two views of Caversham today



—Photos: N. Wright

the local planning authority are certain to resist most proposals for either type of change, and will attempt to retain the traditional character and mixed uses of areas such as Prospect Street. Actual change, as always, will be the outcome of the conflict between market forces and planning.

siderable development either under way or in the pipeline — the Richfield Avenue high-tech/leisure park; housing and offices on the Goodmans site; more housing between the bridges; and beyond Reading Bridge, the partly elevated section of the Cross Town Route and of course the Third Bridge. development of

ing's greatest assets. A greater focus upon the Thames is a particular theme of Brian Fowles in his year as Mayor; increasing its attraction and use by both river-borne visitors and local people. The marina, the short-stay moorings in Christchurch Meadows and potential development of

# TALKING POINT

From the Editorial Board

## WHAT'S IN A BIRTHDAY?

BIRTHDAYS come and go. They are a point in time marking the passing of time, but they are very special in their own way. Such celebrations mark the achievements of the past and in the case of this newspaper, are an opportunity to be thankful for the vision, energy and drive of our founding fathers. We are proud to have come this far to celebrate two hundred and fifty issues in twenty-one years. However much we have enjoyed preparing for these celebrations (and basking in the reflected glory of the compliments which flowed in our last edition) we have only marked a milestone in the history of the Caversham Bridge for before the ink is dry on the presses from the printing of issue 250 we (the Editorial Board) are busy with the next, No. 251.

### What have we achieved?

Parish magazines are an English institution. They are the means of communication with members of the flock. The Caversham Bridge is much more than a parish magazine, it is the means of communication between the various branches of the Christian Church in Caversham.

The Caversham Bridge too is more than a parish paper since it provides a platform for the many and varied interests represented in the wider community. A glance at the last few issues of our paper will show what a wealth of activities, interests and causes flourish here. We can claim to be an instrument of the ongoing co-operation between the various church communities in Caversham for where people know about each others' aims and activities, then distrust and suspicion depart. The editorial board is in itself an excellent example of ecumenical harmony in practice. Our encouragement of the publication of news and views from the larger sphere of Caversham is one way in which the community spirit of the area can develop and grow to the benefit of all.

### What of the Future?

With so much achieved what tasks can be set for the future? The first thing to say is that our task is not a finite one, it is a continuing one. Whatever has been achieved in the ecumenical field in Caversham is only the beginning of a process of Christian growing together. Gone are the days of hostility and rivalry between the denominations. Gone are the days of suspicion. It is by and large fair comment that the individual Christian communities accept each other as branches of the Christian Church. These communities still have and will have as many areas where they differ rather than agree. We hope we shall be part of the ongoing process of helping to understand those differences and reinforcing those areas of agreement.

In the general life of the community around we hope still to be a platform for the whole spectrum of life in Caversham and to foster the integration of those aspects into the life of the community. It will not go amiss if, in our strivings to reflect on the life of the community, we find it necessary to prod or criticise from time to time. Whatever we do our aim will be for the good of the community.

### How can we achieve our aims?

Our readers will not need to be reminded that the Editorial Board of the Caversham Bridge is a group of lay people representing the four main Church Groupings in Caversham. That board is independent and is not beholden to any party line, political or ecclesiastical. It has a small band of regular contributors but also relies heavily on correspondents from the Churches and organisations together with the occasional contributions from others. We are glad to consider for publication material from any source provided it is topical and of interest or instruction to the reader.

We claim to be read in four thousand homes in the Caversham area and we rely on the goodwill of a loyal band of (volunteer) people to deliver this paper to your home. There are many more than four thousand homes in Caversham and the scope for extending our coverage is great. If you, dear Reader, appreciate our paper recommend us to your neighbours and friends and give their names to your local deliverer.

We seek to serve in Caversham and to be the Bridge between all aspects of the life in the Community. You can be a part of that seeking and serving — helping to make Caversham a better place to live in. We now look forward to edition No. 500.

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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All contributions for the November issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, October 2. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, September 27.

## OBITUARY

### Mr Harold Casey

THE death of Mr Harold Casey, of Albert Road, Caversham, was learnt with very great regret. His death occurred on August 21, and he was cremated at the Reading Crematorium following a service in the Quaker Tradition. A very large number of relatives, friends and neighbours, and colleagues from the University were present, and many tributes were made of him, by members of his immediate family, by neighbours and by his former Professor at the University, R. Tuck. They gave witness to a quiet, kindly, modest man, who, because of a long, serious illness, was not well known except to a small group of people who felt very privileged to have known him, and, in some cases, to have worked with him.

Apart from his immediate family, close friends and neighbours, he was almost certainly best known among his colleagues in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University, of which he was a member for 30 years before retiring through ill health in 1982. The University rewarded him for this sterling service by conferring the Honorary Degree of Master of Philosophy on July 2, 1983.

After leaving school Harold spent a short time in an accountant's office and then served in the Army Pay Corps during the war. He then took a Diploma in Agriculture and after a short period as Investigational Officer at Manchester University, in 1952 he joined the Department he served for the next 30 years. At first he was in charge of the processing of all farm account information in the Province, with a staff who then used archaic calculating machines. From this he was responsible for the development of procedures for computer-based data processing and presentation which have now been adopted widely.

In 1965 he was appointed Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, supervising students in research, teaching data analysis and farm planning techniques and also acting as adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of its farm data system. All

his students testify to the great help he gave them in many ways. When Harold received his Honorary Degree the presenter said that he had demonstrated more to the university than it had a right to ask, and had brought academic respect and practical benefit to the institution which he for so long served.

All this had been with the constant background of serious ill-health, and is to be remarked on as most people in his immediate neighbourhood had little knowledge of the quiet, modest man.

Among the tributes at the service were two most moving ones, from Bernard, his son, and Rosamund, his elder daughter. Although, obviously his family will miss him most, as husband, father and recently grandfather, those privileged to have known him will also miss him very much. All join in very real expressions of sympathy to his wife Molly, and to his children Bernard, Rosamund and Hester, and other members of family.

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

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

The Rev Adrian Dorber, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 473095.

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 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. Tel: 482530

### UNITED REFORMED

The Rev Philip Lee-Bapt, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

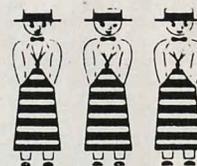
The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

### 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: 723418

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

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# EMBLEY PARK 1985

or impressions of a first timer by Hermione Evans

YES, I admit it, pure lassitude and nothing else, is the sole reason for the Evans Family taking their holiday at Embley Park this year. You know how it is, the revels of the Old Year, the debauchery of the New, leave one in no state to peruse the holiday brochures, catalogues or back pages of the Sunday Times, not to mention the long distance telephone calls at an hour when British Telecom is laughing through its financial teeth. As for Embley, it positively begs one, week after week,

through the pink pages of the St Barnabas Newsletter (other churches no doubt have their own particular one) "Come to Embley. Just let Richard know". It was just too enticing! Moreover, amongst the younger cognoscenti, (our sons included) Embley was evidently the place to go! Southern England's answer to Club Mediterrane no doubt.

I, however, must confess to a slight sense of unease

when quizzed on our holiday plans for this summer. Much mumbling and muttering through clenched teeth "Er, well actually we're going on the Parish Holiday to Embley Park". Just supposing one's audience hasn't been totally silenced by a vision of cloistered religiosity it might just beg the question "What's that?" to which the answer "a boys' boarding school near the New Forest", is not reassuring.

Thus it was that Saturday July 27 witnessed our little contingent hastily chucking into the back of the car

those few clean clothes we could find, including for good measure wellingtons, sun-tops, raincoats and just in case the rain got really heavy, swimsuits. Desultorily, we set off for Embley.

Imagine our delight when after entering the lodge gates of Embley Park and driving some half a mile down the drive flanked on each side by acres of farm, woodlands and fields, our stately home appeared majestically on the horizon. "Stately" and "majestic", however, were apparently illusions, for failing to locate the main entrance, our first internal inspection of Embley was via the tradesmen's route and in spite of the kind and friendly welcome our hearts couldn't help but sink. A rambling maze of corridors, damp, dark, battered and bashed by generations of cricket bats, football boots and boisterous boys, led to our room, which being a sort of garet affair was even less welcoming than the corridors. As for the beds, veteran rather than vintage, they sank even more than our spirits. John's was like a veritable hammock and required much early morning flexing of the muscles to heave himself out of it. This presumably is what is meant by a "Good character building British Education". Fortunately for characters already built, a more comfortable bed was quickly found.

are clearly "de rigueur". Hence, showering and washing more than the face required a certain amount of ingenuity. Matron, a no doubt august and venerable figure had a splendid private bathroom of her own, which I quickly tumbled upon in my initial meanderings through the maze of corridors so, taking a leaf out of Ariadne's book (mixed metaphor?) I tied a thread to my ankle and kept close tabs on it. My apologies John and Lynda Roach if my late night soakings kept you awake, but I had to do something to ease the aching muscles.

grandfather clock. That and the library had sweeping views across the croquet lawn and tennis courts to the countryside beyond. The Nightingale Room, generally out of bounds to children, was euphemistically called the Quiet Room, but it soon became clear that for the "teetotal" parishioners of Caversham, it really served the purpose of a "snuggery" where adults retired to the earlier hours playing such games as Whist, Bridge, and Trivial Pursuits.

The weather at Embley this year was not good, and even the inclusion of wellingtons in the luggage did not charm the sun into making an appearance, yet I can honestly say that we had a wonderful holiday.

The secret of Embley is its unique atmosphere of fellowship, fun and friendliness. Everybody, but everybody, cares about giving everybody else a "good holiday". God really does seem to work

his love, not just through the prayers and church services, but through fun, games and frolics (particularly in the Boys' Dorm). No-one is forced to join in and yet it is impossible not to want to. And there is something for everybody, from the eldest to the youngest. At the entertainment and prize-giving on the last evening, there is not a family who does not go away with some small token of achievement, even if it is only a reward for having the largest bump.

We are a family whose idea of a blissful holiday is to escape from anything even slightly resembling humanity, and yet at Embley we managed not only to endure humanity, but to love it too. However, don't take our word for it that Embley is good. The greatest testament to its success lies surely with a third generation, who with their grandparents are carrying on a great tradition. So if you haven't managed Embley yet, give it a try! But just leave room for us.

## 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 meets in the Hall 9.30am. (Not 2nd Sunday in the month). Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). The children join in the 9.30am Family Service on 2nd 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)** Sunday School meets at Trench Green Hall 10.45 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.
- 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 V. Stott, 6A Hazel Road, Purley, Reading. Tel: 419186.
- CHAPEL ON THE HILL:** Children's Activities. Sunday 9.30-11am Boy and Girl Jucos (10-12 years); Boy and Girl Covenanters (12-15 years). 10.25-11.15am Nursery (3 and 4 years); Primary (5 and 6 years); Adventurers (7-9 years). During the second part of the morning worship there is a baby creche available. 8.30pm 16+ group meets. For more information please contact the Pastor: Chris Justice. Tel. 474529.

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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

### Have travelled

I DO wish people wouldn't disappear unexpectedly from the Caversham scene. Calling in the Church Street travel agents recently, I was sorry to find that Bill Waters, the manager, had left and was now working for Hazlemere Travel in Windsor, and that Becky Walker had given up work for the time being. Fortunately Colleen Chandler is still there and still a very active member of the New Testament Church of God. Ian Corbett has taken over as Manager and Chantal Elliott has taken Becky's place; Mandy Howells is another fairly recent arrival.

### The Missing Pharmacist

Mr Morgan, for years a familiar figure in his chemists' shop in Church Street, is another who retired unobtrusively. A much-travelled man in his earlier years, he was a mine of information about many places, not least Caversham and district — many an item in this column was first learned about in his shop. I understand he is still living locally but fear we must respect his obvious wish for privacy and merely content ourselves with wishing him a happy retirement.

His place has been taken by a very friendly young lady, Pat Way, a qualified pharmacist. Mrs Way has already made many changes in the shop, not least the name — it will now be known as Caversham Pharmacy. She plans to increase the stock and hopes to carry a good range of baby items and, with Christmas in mind, will be stocking up with cosmetics and toiletries. I think she's going to find Caversham a happy community, and wish her well.

### The Unlikely Lads

One shop assistant I've long meant to mention because she is always so cheerful and helpful is Mary Hardy, who actually only left High-down School last year. I'm glad I left it till now because it gives me the chance to mention the latest activities of the Reading All-Girls band (known as the Unlikely Lads) in which Mary is the singer and future guitarist. The band has only been in existence for five months but they have just been involved in making a record in connection with AM-AID, Reading's own effort to feed the Ethiopian hungry. By the time you read this the record will be on sale. Incidentally the band is also available for engagements and the person to ring is Karen Cooper (867723). It is typical of Mary that despite the illness of her mother and increased domestic responsibilities, she is as friendly as ever. And her new managers,

Mrs Durbridge, who took over a few months ago, is another welcome addition to Caversham community.

### St Martin's Precinct

With all the rumours flying around about possible changes, I'm happy to report that, far from disappearing from the scene, Liptons is to become part of the Presto chain. The manager tells me that the only change the customers will notice will be lower prices and a change in uniforms for the very friendly staff who, it is hoped, will remain with the store. And for those of you who remember Diana Hannah, who worked in the frozen food department, I have to report that young Matthew, born in May, is a very thriving youngster — Lipton's best, the manager says.

### More Shops

Far from dying on its feet, it seems Prospect Street/Church Street is beginning to pick up as a shopping area, not least because of the good sense of the shopkeepers themselves. Mr Perrin of the Gift Shop and Mr Allnutt of Cookware are in close consultation to avoid competition; they are merely anxious to fill existing trading gaps here and that they are certainly doing. Incidentally, mistakes can happen even in the best advertising copy, so if anyone reads our adverts in detail it might be as well to point out that the Gift Shop is not going into the selling of lingerie — ladies nighties do not figure in their stock and the line should have read "Special Gift Wrap Service for Ladies Nights". Customers

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In the November issue I hope to be able to give our readers a fuller idea of all that is available in Caversham when it comes to Christmas shopping.

### Brickbats

It's a pity people can't make more of an effort to keep our streets clean. The immediate vicinity of take-aways, fish and chip shops, etc, are some of the most obvious places to find an early morning mess of greasy papers, tin cans and so on. And I may add that I've counted a number of shopping trolleys left in gardens and down alleyways. Shame!

### Bouquets

Not all of us agreed with the planning permission given to the flats at the top of Prospect Street but I can't help admitting that the builders have done their very best to mitigate the inconvenience to pedestrians. The lady next door, expecting the most inconvenience, has found them very helpful in their efforts to clean up any mess they made. Not content with that — believe it or not — they presented her with a lovely bouquet from Interflora "With apologies for the inconvenience."

And I'd like to add my own words of appreciation; recently we've had the misfortune of having "car trouble" and have twice been towed back by the AA. Apart from the time we got lost outside Cardiff and had to call the AA to find out where we were, I don't recall using their services before. If the two gentlemen who came to our rescue recently are typical of the AA, the organisation is to be congratulated. In spite of being very short-staffed they were so helpful that, in other circumstances, one could almost say it was a pleasure to deal with them.

### Departures

The tenants of our flat, Susan and Gary, will soon be leaving us after three years to continue their training in other parts of the country and I'm sure they'd like me to say how much they have enjoyed living in Caversham. So much have they made of our open spaces, particularly in search of bird-life, that it isn't surprising that Gary has joined with gusto in the campaign to "keep Hemdean Valley green".

We shall miss these two young people very much. And if anyone doubts the wisdom of providing accommodation for students at a reasonable rent, I wish they'd talk to me about it. The number of phone calls we had when we recently advertised the flat shows how great the need is and in the six years we've been letting to students we've never had cause to regret it.

### What news?

Talking of students, I've had very little news of the successes of our young people in recent exams; I'd like more. So far I've only heard of two who have done exceptionally well in "A" levels and are off to university. I don't want to embarrass them, so do let me have news of others to include.

### Are you Diabetic

Some time ago I met Mr and Mrs Abraham selling flags on behalf of

the British Diabetic Association and have just received a very informative letter from Don about the ways in which the organisation can help anyone suddenly confronted with the news that they are diabetic. As he says, with control and using common sense the disease should not cause too much fear or hardship — he will, he says, be only too happy to give any help he can if anyone cares to ring him on 471136.

## STITCHIN' TIME

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# REFLECTIONS

## OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S PARISH TWENTY YEARS ON

By Rev Thomas Meagher

LET'S call this piece "The Bridge and St Anne", for the subject I have been asked to consider could well take Caversham Bridge as its starting point. Hundreds of years ago the Bridge served not merely as a crossing point of the River, but housed a Chapel of St Anne for the pilgrims' route to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. Stones from that chapel are now built into the present Shrine and the Altar of the Chapel of Our Lady of Caversham in Richmond Road. There is the visible reminder of St Anne's Well near the top of Priest Hill...

So that should make us particularly suited

to talk about relationships with the monthly "Caversham Bridge" and our fellow-Christians, surely? Well, so it should, but diffidence creeps in here. After all, in my previous incarnation, as a pencil-slim curate on a racing bike, there was no such thing as the "Caversham Bridge" (I stressed the inverted commas, because, old as I am, I hardly pre-date the Bridge) or, if that is ambiguous, the River Crossing. When I returned in 1981 the monthly was a well-established part of the local scene. True, there had been serious hiccups from our point of view, but these soon became

water under "The Bridge", and it didn't take long to right the situation, so that now relationships are growing stronger.

The difficulty is much more intractable. It is the virtual impossibility of finding the time to develop these connections on a regular basis; for not only is the parish growing steadily so that now it has a weekly congregation of about 900, but also because it continues to increase even without the inevitable growth of housing to the north. This has coincided with a serious shortage of clergy which makes one wish that one were in three places at once on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and even, occasionally, Sundays. So much repair work has been done, and St Anne's needs refurbishing...

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On the ecumenical side, I have very happy memories of my Induction as Parish Priest here; still more do I remember the Installation of the Rector, and Richard Kingsbury's kind words then and since. Other treasured memories include the friendship of all the local clergy and their families, and perhaps, above all the pleasant tea party for all the clergy suggested by our Archbishop, Maurice Couve de Murville, and held at the Presbytery when he came on visitation in the first weekend in July.

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As Richard Kingsbury said recently in his witty talking point the "Caversham Bridge" reflects our world, and it will, I hope, continue to do so. It isn't quite the "little world of Don Camillo", nor is it idyllic, but it is normal, and is not at all bad. What we have to do is to bring it closer to God, and I hope that we are all trying to do that. For my part, I think we are on the right lines. There is great respect obtaining between the denominations, and no desire to trample over dearly held beliefs as though "we are all the same". Goodwill and friendship, based on mutual charity, God's greatest gift, must be the starting point. I think we have come a long way down that road. Can we not leave some work to the Holy Spirit?

## CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL — LOOKING BACK

TWENTY years ago and another world! The Chapel on the Hill quietly pursued its even way, very much in the manner of the small country chapel it set out to be back in the 1850s when it was first built. True, there had been innovations. The old swan-necked gas lights no longer illuminating the pulpit, and the gas lights no longer hissed from the walls. The internal colour scheme had been altered and brightened up, and backs had been added to the old open-backed pews. Even a carpet down the central aisle in place of the old strip of linoleum, and new hymn books in place of the ancient Moody and Sankey!

The old building had become a comfortable and well-looked after place, and many children thronged the Sunday school classes, stretching the endeavours of all the adults who were able to teach and lead.

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The dedicated and faithful ministry of Pastors Robert Eeles and Richard Callender saw a building up of the church with young families coming in and numbers increasing. The form of worship was still much "in the tradition of the forefathers", but towards the end of Richard Callender's ministry there were signs of a greater freedom in worship and a desire to move on from the traditional pattern which had served so well for many years. A period of three years from 1976 without a pastor was a time for the whole church to draw together in a closer and more loving fellowship, and in 1979 a call to the leadership was given to Chris Justice who was at that time serving with "Ambassadors of Christ". This call was accepted and the Justice family came to live in Caversham.

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The following years up to 1984 saw a steady growth in the numbers coming to worship with us, so much so

that the old chapel could no longer comfortably contain the Sunday congregations and much prayer and thought was being given to ways of providing a larger building in which to worship. The answer to our prayers came in September 1984, when our lovely new Worship Hall was opened after a year of hard work and dedicated slogging by all the able bodied members of the fellowship.

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The old chapel is now used for our young people's groups and week-day meetings, but still on the wall can be seen the old but ever-abiding text "Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness." Our meeting together on Sundays is now a time of greater openness and freedom in worship, with a joy in praise and an open expression of loving thankfulness to our Heavenly Father and our ever-living Saviour. The old days have passed and old ways have altered, but the love and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is still the dominant factor which binds the church together and motivates our hearts to join together in fellowship and praise.

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# STILL MORE

## TWENTY YEARS OF ANGLICAN CHURCH LIFE IN CAVERSHAM

LOOKING backwards is often regarded as a symptom of senility, but it can be a reviewing process whereby lessons can be learnt from any mistakes that have been made. Twenty years ago the population of Caversham was much less than it is now, the M4 was still a project and a smaller proportion of the inhabitants travelled daily to London and other cities.

### CLERGY

The Parish consisted of St Peter's, the Parish Church and three daughter Churches, St Andrew's, St Barnabas and St John's. Each district had little contact with the others, but early in the sixties, a spirit of co-operation appeared together with a set of young Clergy under the leadership of The Rector, John Grimwade, and the parish was knitted into a whole unit. Curates coming in from other Dioceses introduced fresh ideas and approaches to needs.

### PARISH HOLIDAY

David Clift, now a Canon in Kent was responsible for introducing the

Parish holiday, the very mention of which caused hands to be raised in horror, but those who went in faith found a wonderful and enjoyable experience. The idea caught on so that in some years there were three separate week holidays, nearly 300 people.

### CAVERSHAM BRIDGE NEWSPAPER

David's wife Mary brought the idea of a Parish Ecumenical Newspaper, and the 250th issue has now been celebrated.

### BRIDGE SCHEME

Stimulated by the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity The Caversham Bridge voluntary social service scheme was started, it has changed its name but it is the same Christian based scheme and it continues to serve those in need.

### STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship of Time, Talents and Money pioneered by St Andrew's in the late 50's was undertaken on a parish basis, and whilst perfection has not been attained, progress has been made up the ladder of personal commitment.

### PARISH OFFICE

The setting up of a Parish Office complete with a Secretary and a duplicator, made it possible for the Clergy to use their time more effectively, and some undertook duties at Diocesan level, and outside the Parish. Service sheets, Hymn sheets, Reports, Minutes of meetings, weekly notices are all churned out. Questions have been asked as to whether quite so much paper is necessary for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

### ECUMENISM

Co-operation with other denominations has ebbed and flowed, whilst joint study groups have proved popular with a relatively small and dedicated body of people, regular worshipping in each others Churches has not found favour with many. Caversham Park Village is a thriving community where ecumenism seems to work. The Village school serves as a Church on Sundays and House communions are celebrated during the week. Anglican Clergy together with Readers,

Ministers from other Denominations all take their full part in providing services.

Mention was made at the beginning of the growth of population. During the last twenty years Caversham Park Village was developed and in 1981 the Parish of Mapledurham was joined with Caversham, so that there is now a Parish having six congregations and five Churches. There have been as many as eight Anglican Clergy, but now conforming to the recommendations of the Sheffield report, we only have five Clergy, just what we had to start with.

### WORSHIP

Operation "FIRM FAITH" saw the introduction of the Family Eucharist and it soon became Parish policy, the worship was based on the Book of Common Prayer with 1928 modifications, until General Synod introduced the experimental services and the eventual introduction of the Alternative Service Book. There is now a pattern of services to suit each congregation's needs. Non-eucharist "Family" services are appearing regularly to suit the needs of children and those who are yet to be confirmed. Although there have been fluctuations in the numbers of Church members the overall picture remains the same.

### Calling All Singers

RADIO 210 is recording Christmas Carols, for broadcasting over the Christmas period, in Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Sunday, October 20, at 2.30pm. There will be a rehearsal on Thursday evening October 17 at 8.15pm.

If you can join the congregation you will be very welcome.

For further information please ring 471622 or 474464.

## A METHODIST LOOKS BACK

NO DOUBT the majority of us would think of our churches as unchanging places where people may come and go but where church life rolls on much the same year by year. Yet the changes that have taken place in both the churches — at Gosbrook Road and the Heights — are indeed numerous.



At Gosbrook Road the biggest crisis was with the roof when the walls were found to be pushing outward under its weight. As often happens with repair work, other problems follow, like dry rot in the floor and masonry disintegrating in the tower. The result was much hard work raising the cash and a transformation of the interior of the church. Gone were the old pews and in came chairs, and a bright new appearance.

In the life of the church there is much more activity. Twenty-one years ago there were no Girls' Brigade, no Anchor Boys, no Duke of Edinburgh's Group, no Keep Fit

Class or band. Some have regrettably disappeared like the Youth Club and the Thursday Fellowship.

At the Heights there has been a substantial increase in the accommodation (in 1973) and now a further extension to the kitchen facilities is about to start. The organ was extensively refurbished in 1981 and is now one of the major instruments in the area.

The activities at the Heights, like those at Gosbrook Road, have grown out of all recognition. The youth work encompasses Boys' Brigade, Brownies and Girl Guides, a Sunday night fellowship "The Squash" and a Saturday Club. In place of the Wesley Guild has come the popular Caversham Heights Society (described elsewhere in this issue). The church is extensively involved in outreach activities through the "Stay a While Club" for Senior Citizens, "Outawhile" for the housebound and "Share a care" telephone service. This last complements the extensive pastoral concern of the church. All these are part of the mission-

ary activity of the church but that has not stopped the congregation from supporting ventures elsewhere — St George's Mission in East London (on a continuing basis) and the provision of facilities at a school in Haiti.



Both churches have taken on board changes in church government which did away with the all-purpose Leaders' Meeting and set up a series of committees to deal with different aspects of church life which, however, is much more cumbersome. They have also assimilated a new hymn book and their services are changing albeit at times imperceptibly. The influence of the youth organisations is helping to make worship more exciting and free and less bound to the hymn/prayer sandwich.

Both congregations have sought, seek now and will continue to seek to be churches where Christ can be found and which express their faith in service to the community at large.

**Nicholas** 1882  
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# REFLECTIONS

## ST PAUL'S URC 1964-1984

THE year 1964 was a time of change for St Paul's. Our minister since 1959, the Revd John Martin, moved away from Reading having received a call from the Presbyterian Church at Gravesend. During that year, St Paul's was honoured by a visit from the Right Revd Frank McConnell, MA, who was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England. In June 1965, the Revd George Shearer was inducted to the pastorate of St Paul's.



Our organist at the time was a well-known Caversham figure, Mr Charles Stephens, one of several organists by whom we have been ably served over the years. Also in that year, E. P. Collier School began using the church hall for school meals, which provided a welcome addition to the church's income. 1966 brought another honoured visit from the Moderator of the Presbyterian C of E for that year, the Right Revd Burns Jamieson, MA. One of the church organisations in being at that time was the Manse Working Party, formed about fifteen years before to raise funds for repayment of loans needed to purchase the Manse at 41 Highmoor Road. All their worthy efforts might well

have gone up in smoke — literally — for that was the year when fire broke out in the roof of the Manse, but the Fire Brigade did very well to contain the outbreak. However, the Shearer family (six in number) were homeless and, thanks to the kindness of neighbours and friends, were offered accommodation until the Manse was made habitable again. Sadly, in February 1968, Mary, wife of the Revd George Shearer, died. A memorial fund was opened, all the monies received being donated to install a kindergarten at Rajshahi, East Pakistan, in her memory — a project in which Mary Shearer had a very keen interest. Over the years, discussions have taken place about the future of St Paul's, and, in 1969, it was the possibility of amalgamation with St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in London Road, but after all the talking, it was decided to carry on as we were for the time being. The following year, the possibility of redeveloping the site at York Road was being investigated but planning problems put an end to that bold and ambitious scheme. 1972 was a busy year for St Paul's. The Revd George Shearer accepted a call from a congregation in Co Durham, and this was also the year when the

Congregational and Presbyterian Churches united to form the United Reformed Church. In September, 1973, the pastoral vacancy was filled when the Revd Stephen Haine came to us, combining his duties as minister of St Paul's with that of Industrial Officer for the Reading and District Council of Churches Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM).



Consultations began in 1975 on grouping of Broad Street, Trinity (Queens Road) and St Paul's U. R. Churches to share ordained and lay ministry, but nothing evolved from the lengthy discussions. A "retreat" was held at Aston Tirrold URC one Sunday afternoon in 1976 to talk over more effective use of our resources. As a result, a Brownie Guide pack was formed and also the Collier Community Association in an attempt to establish links with the neighbourhood. Out of the Community Association there emerged a Mother and Toddler group which is still in being, but, sadly, the Community Association folded several years ago when most of the key figures moved away within a short space of time. 1977 was a year for celebrating at St



■ Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration of John and Nelly Tomlin (left) and Leslie and Edith Hardy (right), August 10 at St Andrew's Hall  
— E. S. Archer

Paul's, eighty years having elapsed since the first act of worship at York Road in what is now the church hall, and seventy-five years since the present church building opened. The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Bill and Margaret Mander, joined in our celebration, as did five former ministers and many former members of St Paul's, some of whom travelled long distances to be present. That year, the Revd Stephen Haine was Mayor's chaplain, and conducted the service on Mayor's Sunday at Caversham Baptist Free Church.



In January 1979 a visit was received from the Moderator of Wessex Province of the URC, and at the end of the year a presentation was made to Miss Irene Sharp in recognition of fifty years work in the Sunday School and Junior Church.

In April 1980, the Revd Stephen Haine resigned his charge at St Paul's to take up a post involving social work with the London Borough of Hillingdon, and in November 1981 the Revd Philip Lee-Bapty should have been inducted to St Paul's, again combining these duties

with those of Industrial Officer at ITEM, but accident and bad weather caused two postponements and the induction eventually took place on January 8, 1982, at the third attempt, and in spite of more bad weather. In October of the same year, Mrs Eileen Lee-Bapty died suddenly and, although we had known her for only a short time, she was held in very high esteem. In her memory a sizeable dona-

tion of monies received was made to Christian Aid specifically for the education of children.

With the closure of Broad Street URC in 1984, St Paul's was asked to accept pastoral oversight of the small congregation at Rokeby Hall, Tokers Green, which we gladly agreed to do.

1985 sees us a smaller and older congregation than in 1964, but we still have the Women's Guild, Over

Sixties Club, Youth Club, Junior Church, Cub Scouts, Brownie Guides and Mother and Toddler group serving our local community. Although situated "on the other side of the river", something like fifty per cent of the membership is living in Caversham or other localities north of the Thames, and some of the members have been regular readers of "Caversham Bridge" from Issue Number One.

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**ROUND THE CHURCHES****NEWS FROM  
THE HILL  
CHAPEL**

THE schools' summer holiday is an unusual time for the churches in Caversham. It seems that many people go away for holidays, but very few actually come here on holiday. Thus the numbers meeting each summer are often fewer than during the rest of the year. But God's presence amongst His people doesn't change — He is always with us and continues to speak to us.

As different men have ministered God's word to us this month, it has been wonderful how God has spoken through each of them in different ways. We have been made very much aware that we are fighting, as Christians against the evil powers of this world (Eph 6 v.12). We are surrounded by so much which is wrong — pornography, immorality, materialism, child abuse, the occult and its many forms. People read their horoscopes and think nothing of it, but in God's sight it is evil. We have the responsibility to stand against these things in Jesus' name. Only when we are dressed in the whole armour of God can we do this. One of our main weapons is prayer — we constantly need reminding of this, don't we?

Also we have been learning about the place of spiritual gifts and how each gift can be used for the building up of individuals

and the whole church. We should not just sit back as part of a congregation — we must be ready and willing to contribute whatever the Lord gives us, whether it is a hymn, a prophecy or whatever (1 Corinthians 14. v.26). As this happens we will begin to see real growth and maturity.

**"Adventure Safari"**

Following last year's highly successful "Castle of Adventure" holiday Bible Club, we will this year be taking the children on an "Adventure Safari" (not literally so don't worry!). This will be at half-term and we look forward to welcoming many who came last year and many newcomers. Each day there will be a variety of activities from treasure hunts to video games, and drama to model making. The details are below:

**Adventure  
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**BIG BOOST BY  
BACH CHOIR**

ST ANDREW'S Church Organ Fund will benefit from the proceeds of a Concert to be given on October 19 at 7.30pm in the Church when a small section of The Reading Bach Choir, who have volunteered their services will perform "The Miserere" by Allegri, "My Heart Is Inditing" by Handel as well as music by Tippett, Bruckner, Durufle and others. The evening has been arranged by Bob Norman who will conduct this Charity Concert. The choir would love to see as many people as possible on the night as they aim to raise £500 for the Fund. This will be a curtain raiser for a full Reading Bach Choir Concert to be given at the Church on January 25, 1986.

Please help the choir to help St Andrew's by telling your friends and by bringing them along to the Concert on October 19. Some of the finest and most beautiful music ever written has been included in the programme. Tickets are available from the District Wardens or at the door and include refreshments during the interval. St Andrew's Church has already gained an excellent reputation for the quality of the Concerts held there.

The addition of a mixer to the existing Organ will undoubtedly enhance the music of the Church considerably and bring a new dimension to this fine instrument which is valued at £64,000. Those of you who remember last year's highly successful "Contrast" Concert, given by the same group of singers, will no doubt be eagerly looking forward to this latest musical event. Everyone will be most welcome and your support will be much appreciated by the Fund raisers.

**QUARTERLY MEETING  
AT BAPTIST CHURCH**

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH, SATURDAY OCTOBER 5, 8pm. SPEAKER: Miss EVA PETTIGREW, (Tear Fund — Bangladesh 1978-1985).

Do come and meet Eva informally before the meeting. Light refreshments provided from 7pm. Slide show of the project.

Singing led by "NEW LIGHT" at 7.45pm.

Eva Pettigrew, a weaver from Sussex, served with HEED (Health, Education and Economic Development) Bangladesh. She was sponsored by Tear Fund to set up a programme of weaving amongst the MANIPURI villagers in north east Bangladesh. The immediate aim of the project was to create employment and income for the MANIPURI. In October 1984, with the project in an advanced stage, Sally-Ann Ousley, a member of Caversham Baptist Free Church, commenced an assignment as Craft Adviser with HEED HANDI-CRAFTS based in Dhaka. Earlier this year Eva returned home and Sally-Ann assumed responsibility for the weaving project at Kamalganj.

**ST JOHN'S NOTES**

EVERYTHING happened on August 10 at St John's!

Phyllis and Brian Colley organised a jumble sale to raise funds to pay for treatment for their two-and-a-half-year-old great nephew, Paul, who has brain damage and is severely handicapped. There is no NHS treatment available until he is five. They booked Caversham Hall, and friends, neighbours and St John's congregation went to help. It seems there was no other jumble sale in Reading that day — so all Reading came to Caversham Hall. Well it seemed like it! Mountains of jumble were sold — six bags full to an

Irish woman to take to her sister's large family in Ireland — a broken radio to a Nigerian who liked mending them — and mementos to an Australian. All the tea and cakes provided were sold, and with donations, £200 was raised, and Paul's parents have sent a very grateful letter, saying they now have a team of volunteers to help with his individually designed exercise programme. It will take a very long time and they must be remembered in St John's prayers.

□ □

In the evening there was a barbecue in the garden at St John's House — a "bring and share" event, so there was a wide variety of food. Sylvia Purkis smoke-dried herself as she cooked the sausages and beefburgers, but everyone enjoyed themselves. About 9pm the rain came down, so the party had to break up — that's summer — as it is!

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

**Old buildings  
— new uses**

THE doctors' surgery on the site of the former Balmore Hall opened at the end of August to a flourish of buttonholes and all round congratulations. It should not be long before it plays as important a part in the life of Caversham as did its predecessor on the site. Tastes in building styles vary so

I do not intend to compare it with Balmore Hall, but the forecourt is without doubt much neater and more attractive. We wish the doctors a long and happy occupancy of their new premises. It was also pleasing to see that the Bridge Street practice of doctors moved into the Priory Avenue house, allowing it to continue as part of the community life of Caver-

sham which an impersonal office from outside never could have done.

**Toodle Loo**

Meanwhile across the bridge the old Victorian cast iron loos, butt of many a dreadful joke and even worse puns, have been dismantled and sent off to the Chiltern Open Air Museum where they are to be restored to follow their former function in life. If you want to renew your acquaintance with them, Newland Park near Chalfont St Giles is the place to head for.

**Blake's Lock Museum**

In Reading now, but still with Caversham connections, the opening of Blake's Lock Museum this summer was an event looked forward to and welcomed on all

sides. This old Victorian pumping house could be seen across the Kennet downstream from King's Road for those venturing along Kennet Side, but few had approached it from the opposite bank. With the opening of Kenavon Drive it can now be reached from there or on foot from Gasworks Lane. Newly cleaned and restored and with a paved sitting-out area it is now most attractive and provides an unusual view of Reading.

Inside is a display of Reading's trades and industries and of its traditional waterways' life. A chemist's shop, a barber's shop and a bakery have all been reconstructed with their original equipment. Caversham is well-represented with Green's photography, Leach's dairy and many examples of its boating and

riverside life.

It was Martin Adams and Sue Reed of the Reading Museum and Art Gallery staff, who were largely responsible for getting the scheme off the ground. Martin still lives in Caversham and Sue used to. It was they whose efforts and expertise made the local history exhibition held in Church House in 1978 in connection with St Peter's Victorian Restoration Centenary such an outstanding success. They have worked well beyond the call of duty on this new project and the result is a delight. It is open daily, except Monday and Tuesday, and from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday. Do go and see it.

**Keep Hemdean Bottom Green**

The campaign to save Hemdean Bottom from developers is going well. Write now to the Inspector (APP/Q0315/A/84/025324) Room 15/07, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ if you already haven't. Attend the public inquiry, from October 22 to the end of the week at the Civic Offices, even if you can only drop in. Look out for details of an evening session which can only be announced after the Inquiry has started.

**Thank you**

May I take this opportunity of thanking all those good people who have been so helpful and supportive of myself and my family in the last few weeks.

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THE group is now preparing for its Annual All Sorts Fair on Saturday October 12. Goods of all sorts for sale will be gratefully accepted — Cakes, preserves, handicrafts, toys, Good as new. Christmas

Cards hopefully will be available also at Caversham Care Centre. The Annual Christmas Fair will take place again at Wallingford. More details later. Contact Ann Deane 473798.

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## CAVERSHAM WEST DISTRICT GUIDE CAMP

MONDAY July 22 — what weather! It rained hard and the wind blew. How would we cope with pitching camp for fifty-nine people the next day if it continued to do so? We need not have worried. We woke to brilliant sunshine and the weather was set fair for three days.

The journey to St Helens in the Isle of Wight was quite an adventure for some of the guides. The coach set off from St Andrews Hall, and reached Portsmouth in good time for the ferry, but all the guides' personal equipment had to be transferred to a luggage trolley for the crossing and then packed into another coach at Ryde. The guides enjoyed the ferry and for some the journey along Ryde pier was the first experience of travelling in a train. By the time the camp site was reached everybody had arrived — the guides and Guides from Croydon with her family, Q.M. who had brought her car and the packed van and trailer with

enough equipment for all. After a picnic lunch we set to and by supper everything was pitched. While it is fine, the guides think far too much fuss is made over putting away all their clothes in their kit bags at night and avoiding sleeping against the tent walls. After sleeping bags got wet after a rainy night they were more careful.

□□

On Wednesday the scouts in the next field were discovered! The Scouts invited guides who were prepared to climb about twelve feet up a rope ladder, to have a ride on the aerial runway they had constructed. Everybody who started the climb made it! The next day about half the guides joined the scouts in mini Olympics. Fetching water proved to be a popular but slow process as both camps shared the same tap.

During the week Seagrove, Bembridge, Sandown and Ryde

beaches were visited on foot. Some of the guides found walking trying but recovered when there were shops in sight. In the middle of camp a coach trip to Black Gang Chine and Alum Bay was organised. At Black Gang the gnomes have given place to a Pirate Ship, Story Book Land, a Gold mine and a Wild West town amongst other features. The wooded cliffside offered considerable protection from the wind and by the time we were on the chairlift at Alum Bay, the sun shone.

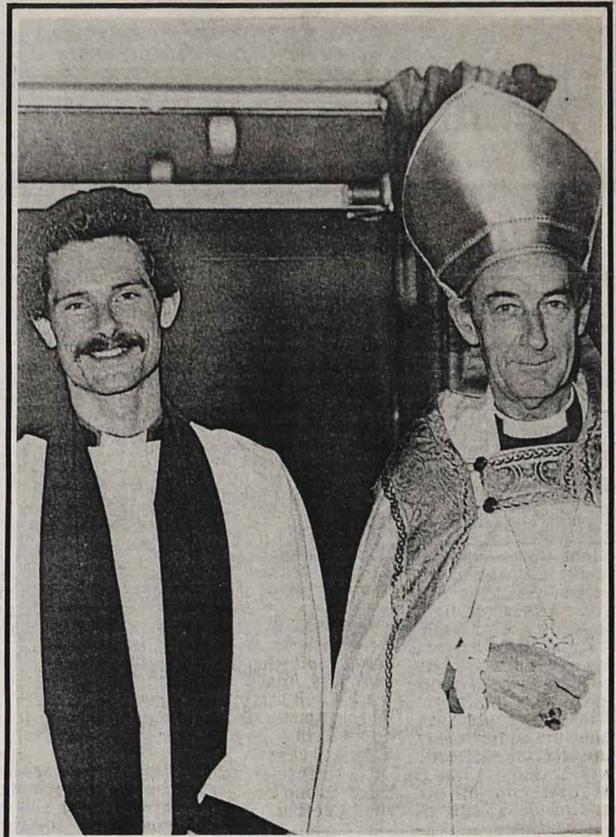
On Sunday morning it was raining and as everyone had got wet walking back from Sandown the day before we wondered whether it was wise to go a mile to Church as planned. We were glad we went as not only was it dry inside, but we were given a very warm welcome and were able to worship God in a lovely setting. By the afternoon the sun shone again so we dried the wet things while some

walked to Brading to see the museum. By evening the Guides Own had been planned and during the service two recruits were enrolled. The hymn singing was helped by flute accompaniment and the theme was "Give us this day our daily bread" as different sections of the Lord's Prayer were thought about each day.

□□

On Tuesday everything was over for another year. The Challenge had been completed, the Fancy dress judged and the tents were struck dry. There was the usual last minute rush to get all the items pushed into sacks or boxes and loaded into the van. The field was scavenged again and then everybody was on the coach, leaving St Helen's behind. As the coach approached Ryde, rain began to fall and by the time we reached Portsmouth some of the bedding rolls that had fallen apart were wet. We had made it, just in time.

J. M. Sawyer



Licensing of the Rev Paul Kenchington by the Bishop of Reading at CPV on September 5, 1985  
Photo: G. Aisbitt

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

### Thatcham, past and present

IN AUGUST Mr Peter Allen MA, who teaches history at a local school, gave an imaginative talk entitled "Thatcham, Past and Present" based on his book "A Popular History of Thatcham" in St Andrew's Hall to Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild. Thatcham, a Saxon name, has now a semi-urban character and contains much light industry. There is ribbon development along the busy A4 road and new estates have been built, yet Broadway could have been the equivalent of the Saxon "green", with St Mary's Church at one end of the enclosed village. A

powerful Saxon, Aelfeah, freed all his serfs and gave the manor at the same time to King Edgar the Peaceful, the first King of all England. The manor was given by Henry I to Reading Abbey in 1123. By the early years of the fourteenth century Thatcham had gained the rights and privileges of a borough and its church had status as an old "minster church" with Newbury and East Ginge within its parochia. Economic decline set in, however, as Newbury's prosperous cloth trade increased.

Francis Baily, whose family had lived in Thatcham, became a president of the Royal Astronomical Society and is buried there in the family vault. Our own Peter and Anne Sear from St Barnabas' Church, Emmer Green are now installed at the parish church.

Members of the drama group are getting together again.

The leisure afternoon resumes on the first Wednesday in October and the speaker on the subject of "Wild Life in Britain" at Social Studies, in Highmoor Hall at the end of the month will be Mr D. Chandler.

### Blgrave WI

A VERY successful garden party was held on July 9 at the home of Mrs Doreen Sawyer when the rain clouds kept moving just long enough. Again on August 6 the weather was reasonably kind to the coach load of members who went to Blenheim and Woodstock. Some toured the Palace whereas others concentrated on the magnificent grounds and the village.

September 3 brought Mr Martin from Peppard to talk about "A view of Henley Regatta", having been involved since 1964 when he became a steward. Since his retirement he has been active on the Regatta committee in organising this world famous event. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Wright and the competition for a holiday view postcard was won by Mrs Housden, Mrs Mortimer being second and Mrs Sawyer third. The raffle prize was donated by Mrs Reed and won by Mrs Sawyer.

### Chazey WI

AT THE September meeting the President welcomed members and introduced Josephine Ives, a freelance chef, and Lady Butler from Lymington, Hants, who entertained members to a very lively demonstration of table napkin folding. The fun started when all members were presented with napkins and attempted some of the many variations.

The business of the meeting followed, and the evening ended with coffee and biscuits when members could buy from the Bring and Buy stall.

### Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent welcomed members to the September meeting. Although there was a break in August, no fewer than three members opened their homes or gardens for coffee and afternoon tea socially, and were able to make money for funds. The speaker this month was Miss Anne Hornsby of the Redgrave Theatre, Farnham. Her subject "A Peep Behind the Scenes" was most fascinating with slides of the Theatre

## LINK GROUP

ALTHOUGH the Group did not meet in August, members have been busy in various ways. Arrangements have gone ahead for the fortnightly tea parties for the elderly and housebound which resumed on September 5. With about twenty guests, transport, catering and a large enough room, these have to be planned. Arrangements were also in hand for the outing for mentally handicapped children on September 21.

The Care Centre office and "Pop-In" Centre have remained open during August with advice, practical help offered or given, or someone to talk to when needed.

Ideas for the future of the Centre are being discussed and the Committee has been busy with plans for the Autumn. One of these is the sale during November at the Pop-In Centre of Charity Christmas Cards. **CARD BUYERS PLEASE NOTE!**

and excerpts from plays etc. The sales table was very colourful this month with plants, vegetables etc. Theatre Programmes and memorabilia from members were also shown on another table.

### Chazey WI

HOLIDAY time, and Chazey WI enjoyed their August meeting with a Mystery Tour. First of all the coach took them around some of Oxfordshire's beautiful countryside, stopping at the White Horse at Uffington for a short walk and a look at the wonderful views around. The final stop was at the Rose and Crown Hotel at Ashbury where a delicious buffet supper was ready and waiting.

## Caversham Community Association

LYNN Gould, from the Consumer Advice Centre at the Civic Centre, was the speaker on August 5. The members were advised on the correct procedure to follow with complaints on faulty goods or unsatisfactory service etc. Individual queries were answered during the course of the talk and useful leaflets on various goods were available. As this meeting was on the first Monday of the month the Nearly New stall was held

with Vicki Scheel in charge.

On August 12 Doreen Crawley organised a whist-drive for the members. Vicki Scheel was the winner with Arthur Painter receiving second prize.

Another "Members Evening" was held the following week when three of the members were asked to entertain the club. Olive Howard commenced by giving some more of the amusing recitations as performed by the late Joyce Grenfell. Margaret Cameron then gave an interesting talk on her family history and told of her great-grandfather who was a barber, hairdresser and dentist in Victorian days. Nancy Nelhams completed the evening with a slide film show with Joan Annett helping at the projector. Many of the photographs were taken on a visit made by Mrs Nelhams to California, USA and gave fascinating views of Disneyland, San Diego and Los Angeles.

## Church people's Luncheon Club

THE Club meets in St Lawrence's Hall on the first Thursday of every month from 1-2pm. Why don't YOU come along to the next meeting on October 3? Share a lunch of fresh sandwiches, cheese and biscuits and coffee with fellow Christians for £1.20, and then listen to H. GODWIN ARNOLD talking about Chapels and Meeting Houses for about 15 minutes. No-one minds if you have to walk out before the meeting closes, but numbers for catering purposes would be appreciated. Please let one of the following know if you would like to come:

Sally Hallett 474460, Chairman; Eric Few 780938, Secretary; Bill Vincent 472965, Retiring Chairman.  
Future events: 7.11.85, Dr Max Pemberley "Christian Aid", 5.12.85, Wolfgang van Emden, "Butterflies".

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 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)  
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 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
 11.00am PARISH COMMUNION  
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**St Anne's**  
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