

BLACK AND WHITE IN ALL WEATHERS



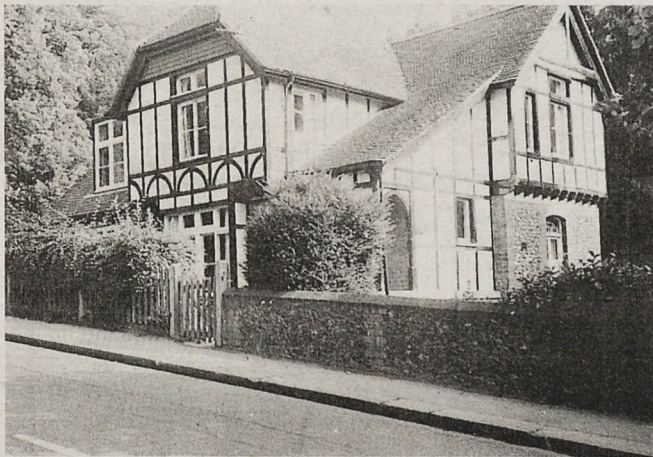
Tudor Cottage, Rotherfield Way



Tudor Cottage, 10 Church Street



We thank Mrs Edna Fitzeustace, who has provided this page of photographs of some of the interesting and historical dwellings in Caversham



Monksdene, St Peter's Hill



Buckside, off Church Road



Warren Lodge, The Warren



Old Cottage, Lower Henley Road

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

TALKING POINT

By Chris Justice, pastor at Caversham Hill Chapel

"NEW BEGINNINGS"

OF COURSE, at the beginning of a new year we often talk about resolutions, turning over new leaves or making a fresh start — and of course, two or three weeks later, there usually follows the admission of failure, we were not able to "keep it up". All our well-meant determinations have been conquered by our inability to change ourselves. And when we have gone through this process over successive years, we eventually reach the place where the whole idea of resolutions and new beginnings really becomes a bit of a joke. And we even make the resolutions on New Year's Eve, knowing and admitting that it is inevitable that they will be broken.

But if you are discouraged by this apparent inability to change, let me tell you some good news. The Lord Jesus Christ made it very clear that there is a possible new beginning for us. He said that if we are to experience life as God intended it to be, it is absolutely essential that we experience a new beginning. The Bible tells us that we are all, in fact, spiritually dead (Ephesians 2: 1,2) — unless God, by his Spirit, brings us to life spiritually, and opens up to us the sort of life that Jesus described as "eternal" and "life in all its fullness". We need to experience what he called being "born of the Spirit" or "born again" (John 3: 1-7).

At this point, you might be thinking, "If I haven't the ability to make a small change like giving up cigarettes, or cutting down on chocolates, or not losing my temper with the children — how am I ever going to be able to make such a major change?" Well, here is another piece of good news for you. It is not us that makes the change! Jesus made it clear that if we will come sincerely to God, admitting our failure to live life his way — confessing our sin — and submitting our lives to his rule, then he will, by his Spirit, make us into a child of God, and beginning the process of "conforming us to the likeness of his Son" (Romans 8: 29). God wants us to know him, to relate to him, and thus to know life as he intended it to be. And he has the power to make us into the people he wants us to be.

But what of those who have already experienced this "new birth"? Does this idea of new beginnings lose relevance to them? Have they "arrived", and so have no need for further change? I have already said that, at the point of submitting our lives to God, a process begins. And although that process is a day by day affair, there are points along the way where important steps forward are made. They are not really new beginnings — just a fresh determination to press on. The apostle Paul, while undoubtedly rejoicing over his confidence in his relationship with God, still recognised that he had a long way to go — and there were still areas in his life that needed change (Philippians 3: 12-14).

So, the Christian life is not meant to be a succession of new beginnings, followed by failures, followed by new beginning, followed by failure, and so on. It is one new birth followed by a step by step change. To be constantly making new starts must be an admission that the past has been wrong and I for one am not prepared to say that everything I have been doing up to this point has been wrong! My confidence is that since the Lord Jesus Christ came into my life he has been directing my life — and I have rejoiced in his leading. I know I still have a long way to go — and there's a lot that still needs changing — but I do see that as a matter of pressing on towards the goal — not a succession of failures and new beginnings.

So, whether your need is a "new birth" or a fresh determination to "press on" be assured that as you come to God with that need, he is prepared to meet you at that point and take you on.

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.
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All contributions for the March issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, January 29. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, January 24.

GENERAL SYNOD — a first report

The week at Synod

The first vote of the first session of the new synod (this sounds like the opening of a sermon!) had the unexpected effect of dividing brother Richard and I, which I suspect is not going to happen very often!

Synod was debating whether men could be ordained if they had "entered into a marriage which in relation to that person, or to the other party to that marriage, was a re-marriage during the lifetime of a former spouse". The debate was, in my view, one of the best of the week, with passionate views expressed on both sides.

Votes at synod are either taken by a show of hands, or on request, by a vote in all three "houses" — bishops, clergy and laity. There was such a request and the result was fascinating. All three houses voted in favour — the bishops 21-6, clergy 113-81, laity 98-95! Richard and I went into different lobbies — but I will leave it for readers to speculate who voted how!

My overriding first impression of synod was the friendliness of fellow members, old and new (nearly half of the 550 were new), the informality, the deep spirituality in many of the speeches and the liveliness of the debates.

Proceedings started with a service at Westminster Abbey, attended by Her Majesty the Queen (synod affords unusual opportunities for name dropping).

The preacher was Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev Alastair Haggart, and one sentence at least I hope I shall long remember "pray for the

RICHARD Kingsbury and John Madeley were both elected for the first time to the Church of England's General Synod, the church's chief governing body, which held its opening session in November. John Madeley reports on:

gift of ears, so that you can listen to each other and hear what is said".

With issues such as the ordination of women priests due to be decided in the next five years, the ability genuinely to listen to each other is going to be vital. The issue of women priests was not formally debated this time, although there was a great deal of "fringe" activity.

There were debates on a Board for Social Responsibility document, "Goals for our Future Society", youth work, the teachers strike, a sharing church (the code words for money) suffragan bishops, lay representation on deanery synods — which seems likely to be changed, with Caversham and Mapledurham having nine rather than 12 votes as before.

I discovered, by the way, that we are among the seven largest parishes in Britain. In the "goals" debate I managed to get my maiden speech over with!

One of the week's most moving moments came when Dr Beyers Naude, General

Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, addressed members. Dr Naude, an Afrikaner who once supported apartheid, spoke of the growing feeling in South Africa that again in February!

disinvestment and economic sanctions by the West were the last remaining hope for peaceful change, and the avoidance of civil war. He said that a recent poll of 800 South African blacks, carried out by the Institute of Black Research, showed that 77 per cent favour sanctions.

A memorable week — we resume again in February!

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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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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

Mayor opens surgery

THE NEW Balmore Park surgery was crowded with familiar faces one Saturday morning in November, though fortunately not because some dire calamity had sent them all in search of emergency treatment. It was instead a very convivial occasion to mark the official opening of the new premises. The Mayor and Mayoress, Caversham residents of course, were there to perform the opening ceremony and wish the doctors and the rest of the staff a happy occupancy of the building, a wish with which the rest of the company concurred over a champagne toast.

The surgery has of course been functioning since the beginning of September so many will already be familiar with its interior. It is a very well planned and equipped building, pleasingly furnished and decorated, and with a strong emphasis on its community aspect, as befits a building which replaced a much used and still missed community hall.

The Mayor drew attention to this in his opening speech, for this in his opening speech, for the controversial as it was, it would have been artificial to ignore it on such an occasion. Nevertheless the surgery was, he felt, a worthy successor to Balmore Hall and he was sure that the Radcliffe sisters, who

had given it to the people of Caversham, would have approved of its successor, especially as the money obtained from its sale has been earmarked for a new meeting place.

It was pleasing to note that the handsome slate plaque unveiled by the Mayor commemorated the sisters and the fact that the surgery occupied the site of Balmore Hall, itself built on part of the ancient Balmer's Field, (that same one that "ran blood" after the fight for Caversham Bridge during the Civil War). To the words of the motto that hung in the Priory Avenue surgery "Pax introentibus, Salus exeuntibus" have been added the words "Benedicto habitantibus". For those whose Latin is rusty or non-existent, this translates as "Peace to those who enter; health to those who leave; blessings on those who dwell here."

Whatever regrets still linger for Balmore Hall, the wishes of all must be that the surgery has as long and useful a life as its predecessor, and that it will play as large a part in the life of the community as the hall controversial as it was, it and the ancient open field which dates back over the centuries to Caversham's distant past. Dr Hamilton Fairley, his partners, and especially Dr R. Smith, who both conceived and masterminded the birth of

this new enterprise, together with all their staff who organised the move, are to be congratulated on all the hard work which brought their plans to fruition.



The vagrant gypsy life

A huge sigh of relief went up when the gypsies, who for months past had been encamped along the A4074, finally upped sticks and moved away. Their chosen sites were then ploughed up or fenced off.

this problem and South Oxfordshire, which has suffered particularly from constant camping, has identified a number of sites in its area that should be suitable. They are sufficiently far from residential areas to disarm opposition, at least that is the hope, though one can almost hear the howls of protest from local people. It is not for us in Caversham to comment on the suitability or otherwise of the sites, none of which is near us, but neither should we shrug our shoulders and not care two hoots as long as we don't have them in our back yard. So away with the raggle-taggle gypsies-O, but where to?

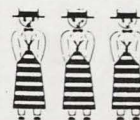


Balmore Park Surgery — E. S. Archer



The Mayor and Mayoress at the official opening of the new surgery photo — E. S. Archer

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And yet somehow it was not an action to be viewed with unadulterated pride.

Gypsies have followed their way of life for centuries, but in modern Britain they have become something of an anachronism. Increased traffic, road widening, intensive agriculture and the spread of housing into the countryside, have all deprived them of land on which to camp, so that now they are driven from one small unsuitable pitch to another.

It is really irrelevant as to whether they are true gypsies or tinkers. The true gypsy, like the yeomen of England, is a creature of the past. Their modern counterparts deal in scrap metal instead of peg making, just as the yeomen's descendants now work on the production line or commute to a tower office block. Unfortunately the modern gypsy's life generates an enormous load of rubbish (as indeed does the city dweller's) and their camp sites rapidly become little short of rubbish tips, so that not unnaturally, loud protests are evoked. Most reasonable people have no objection to their camping on odd bits of the countryside and are even prepared to tolerate a certain amount of the traditional pilfering. The squalid mess they leave behind, however, really tries their patience. The Gypsy Council would be doing a good service if it impressed on its members the importance of clearing up a camp site before leaving it, even if only in such a way that the refuse collection service could easily remove rubbish.

Permanent gypsy sites seem the most satisfactory answer to

Car park charges

When I wrote last month about the Chester Street car park, it was before the Borough Council had issued its report on the matter. This report provoked instant complaints from users, even those who had been urging that something had got to be done to free the car park for shoppers and discourage, or at least make long-term parkers pay.

The Council states that it is their aim to promote short-term parking. To slap on a charge of 20p for the first two hours scarcely does this. It will only encourage the increased use of the double yellow lines in the bus lane section of Hemdean Road, if all one wants is a loaf of bread or to collect the dry cleaning. Why pay 20p for the pleasure of walking or driving further? For genuine workers in the area, £2.50 a day is a lot. There is no reason at all why they should not pay something, as they would have to if they worked in the town centre, but a season ticket should be obtainable at a more reasonable price. And then of course, if the high cost succeeds in deterring long-term parkers and they migrate to the Waitrose or Promenade car parks the cost of running the pay and display machine will not be recovered. It seems you can't win.

Trees

A recent issue commented on the Borough Leisure Officer's proposal to reduce the cost of maintenance of street trees. The Caversham streets being considered for receiving this treatment are Morecambe Avenue, Albert Road and All Hallows Road. Of course if you are one of those who think that

trees are a nuisance with their untidy leaves and roots, you will be glad, but if you think trees add distinction to a street, you will want to object. Let your Councillors know or write to the Borough Recreation Officer. If you don't, and possibly even if you do, you could hear whirr, whirr, one day and down would come those trees which took years to reach their present height. What they will be replaced with the report does not say; probably something small, neat and polite such as befits a suburban garden. Maybe even plastic ones.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

AS I write this at the end of November, many people have got their heads down, as it were, at the renewed session of the Hemdean Bottom public Inquiry. I've no doubt Watchdog will give a fuller account of the Inquiry itself, so it's not my job to talk about it, but I must say the amount of work going into the opposition and the time devoted to the cause has amazed me. It's one thing for people who are paid, the Counsel for the developers, their witnesses etc to attend day after day, but for those who do it just for the cause one can only express utmost appreciation; I'm told the Emmer Green Residents' Association have been particularly vigilant in this respect.

Caversham Community

But that's typical of Caversham; it really is a community and we want to keep it that way. Honestly we don't want to become part of a vast urban sprawl such as exists south and east of Reading and we know only too well that Hemdean Bottom development could easily be the thin end of the wedge. Like many in this so-called mobile society, I used to feel I had no roots. What I knew as home disappeared during the last war and it wasn't till I came to Caversham some 25 years ago that I began to feel I belonged somewhere. True my work on the "Bridge" has helped, but I doubt if there are many districts in Reading where one is often recognised and greeted in the local shops and in the streets. The atmosphere is catching and I find an increasing number of folk, often unknown to each other, greeting others here in a way that would have been unheard of some years ago. Even the friendly "Good Morning" from workmen erecting scaffold at "Cavershams" on the way to 8am service the other Sunday morning seemed a delightful sign of the times.

Our Friendly Butchers

Which reminds me — I don't think I've mentioned how much I appreciate our local butchers. Alas for years I got by without knowing the difference between silver-side and topside — I still don't, but I do know that when I go into Jennings and simply ask for a piece of beef for roasting, my

ignorance is not going to be taken advantage of. I still miss our old friend Bruce, but he would have been proud of the young people who took over. Personally, I'm grateful.

Sunday Opening

By the way, I'm going to nail my colours firmly to the mast and say that I personally am totally against Sunday trading as foreseen in recent legislation. Quite apart from my views as a Christian, I like to feel that one day of the week is different. But there's a more practical reason than that; the only people who are really going to benefit are the big stores. Small shops which are often staffed only by the owner will be unable to keep up the pace, and staff in other shops, whatever anyone says, are going to find it very difficult to

refuse to work on Sundays if asked. Anyone who says they work all the week and need Sunday for shopping should ask themselves what about the shop assistants. And as for it being "an outing for the family" as I've heard it described, have you ever seen young children thrilled to death with the idea of being dragged round a supermarket? Now I'll sit back and await letters from those who disagree with me.

Departed Friends

It has been sad over the years to see many traders disappearing from the Caversham scene, so I was delighted to receive a very long letter from Miriam Corp who, with her husband, ran a watch-repairers — and earlier a shop selling jewellery and fancy goods — in Prospect Street. Many people will know that they have now moved to Northampton, but they continue to visit the area frequently though, as Mrs Corp says, with a 90-year-old mother to be visited, there isn't always much time to look up old friends. Saying how much she enjoyed her life here, she says she and her husband were astounded by all the cards and letters they received when they left. She particularly misses her good friends in Oxford Street and says: "I always loved that little street — it seemed to take us straight to its heart the moment we arrived. From my kitchen window I watched all its joys and sorrows and I miss it still."

And — please — if anyone hears from old Caversham residents over Christmas, I shall be delighted to pass on news to our readers; we don't forget our friends easily.

Lest We Forget

And talking of forgetting, though it may seem an odd time to mention this, I've recently been asked to comment on the fact that some Caversham people found it difficult to find anyone selling Poppies in November. It looks as if next year, when we see posters calling for volunteers, some of us will have to get our fingers out.

Greetings

I think it only remains for me to express my personal thanks to all who have fed me with odd items throughout the year — please keep up the good work. And a Happy New Year to all our readers!

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ST PETER'S CUBS (Wolves Pack)

DURING the year ten of our Cubs have been working for and gained their world Conservation badges, part of which entailed visiting Marwell Zoo, near Winchester, to study endangered species. During the visit, the Cubs were very interested to learn that they could adopt an animal, so a sponsored Bird Watch was arranged and £150 raised.

Two of the cubs wrote reports about their subsequent visit to the Zoo:

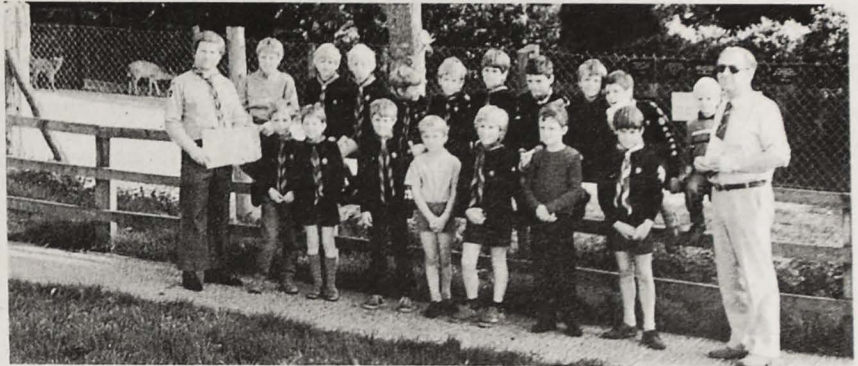
Matthew Jones writes: "On October 13, after Church Parade, some of our Cub Pack went to Marwell Zoo. We went to see a Nyala which was the animal we raised £150 to adopt. When we got there, Mr Knowles was waiting for us. He told us all about the Nyala and we presented our cheque to him. We saw the father "male" come out into the enclosure: it was quite exciting. Then we had our lunch. After that we saw some monkeys and lions, also the snow leopards which were my favourite animals."

Timothy Watsham writes: "After we had

collected in all the money we had a total of £150. One of the many animals we could adopt was the Nyala. It was so beautiful. In the end we chose it. They are a medium sized animal about two metres long and one and a quarter metres tall. They feed on leaves, bark, buds, fruit and grass. In captivity Nyalas have lived for sixteen years. They are brown with white stripes for camouflage, except for the male which is black with horns. Mar-

well Zoo is the only zoo in the British Isles with the Nyala and it hopes to spread them all over Britain."

St Peter's Cubs (Wolves Pack) welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading to their meeting on November 21 when they were able to see models of the Cubs had made of old Reading and also to watch a shadowgraph play about the duel on de Montfort Island between Henry of



Cubs at Marwell



"Bird Watch" at Dinton Pastures



Female Nyala at Marwell Zoo

Essex and Robert de Montfort in 1163. very proud to announce that

The Mayor told the Cubs some very interesting facts about previous Mayors of Reading and showed them his old Scout uniform with all the proficiency badges he had gained.

The Pack are also

Matthew Jones, one of their members, is the winner of the Berkshire Chess Championship which was played at Wokingham on November 16. Matthew was able to show the Mayor his trophy and the Pack presented him with a new chess set in honour of his achievement.

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Male Nyala at Marwell Zoo

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

St Margaret News

A jumble sale for Gillian Rose WHAT a wonderfully efficient and dependable lot they are at St Mar-

garet's! There was George ringing up just after nine on the Saturday morning — "I've got to pick you up at 10. I'll

be there at five to, because of loading the car with jumble." Then on arrival at Rokeby Hall to put out all the trestle tables, they were up ready and the three dear ladies from Chazy Heath who had done this (without being asked) were sitting waiting to sort jumble. Marvellous! And to make it even better there were some new faces among those who came to buy and those who came to help man the stalls. No problem over who would deal with the refreshments, for the super little group who always cope with the Jubilee Club teas came along and sorted that one out.

No problem either with the float, for the treasurer arrived with it all under control. Weatherwise it was a dreadful day, rough winds and torrential rain, but even so there was quite a little gathering and inside it was warm, bright and cheerful and there were plenty of cups of tea and home-made buns if anyone needed them.

Just before four

thirty all left overs had been packed in boxes and bags to go to the tip or be taken to various people in need and at four thirty sharp Jane's two young friends arrived with her car and trailer and everything was soon packed on board. They were really grand for it was almost dark and pouring with rain, yet they cheerfully loaded up, getting wetter and wetter.

Remembrance Sunday Many of St Margaret's congregation commented on the most moving Service of Remembrance held in church on Sunday, November 10. In all the years there has never been one so simple yet touching. Tim Etherington came with his trumpet to sound The Last Post and the organist and choir put much hard work into a beautifully sung anthem.

LINK GROUP

A MEETING of the group was held on November 25 at the home of Mrs Audrey Preston who chaired the meeting in the absence of Mrs Pat Jenkins.

Members heard an account of the visit of the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading to the Care Centre on November 19. They were first shown the work of the office and then joined the large number of visitors in the Pop-In Centre for coffee and mince pies and a chat. They also saw the large number of Charity Christmas cards on sale in the Centre. These were selling well. The visit of the Mayor and Mayoress was much enjoyed by visitors and helpers.

Members were asked for help with stewarding and with the provision of coffee and biscuits after the concert in the Baptist Church on December 7. Arrangements were also discussed for the Christmas tea party for the elderly and housebound to be held at the Baptist Centre on December 11. Members were asked for offers of refreshments and help with decorations.

Money from the sale in the Spring was voted for the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project and the Cyrenians Shelter for the homeless to provide extra food at Christmas.

St John's Notes

ST JOHN'S Autumn Bazaar was held on November 9. After the succession of fine Saturdays the weather broke in a gale of wind and rain. All the same, stall holders spent the morning getting ready. The year's work of making, contriving and storing, produced a great deal to sell, and there was the usual problem of not enough tables to display everything. Several things were seized with the comment "I can use that to make something for next year's sale." (They never stop!) When it was all ready it was a very colourful display of bargains, ready for the customers. In spite of the weather there was a long queue, the hall was soon full, and the stalls emptied fast. Dolls, cakes, jams, Christmas decorations, jewellery, plants, white elephants and stocking fillers sold rapidly and everyone seemed very pleased with their purchases.

It was very pleasant to meet old friends, and to see some of the

oldest members of the congregation being looked after by the young people. The afternoon ended with a grand draw, compered by Alan Wilson, with each winner making their own choice of prize. The total amount raised was £422, and St John's are very grateful to everyone who helped, gave and bought.

Does anyone remember a decorated Copeland plate being used as an alms dish in the past? It was found while cupboards were being tidied. The picture on the plate is a very Victorian Christmas angel, surrounded by the words "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy." The plate was taken to the Reading Museum, and they say it was made between 1850-67. Now the pottery firm of Copeland-Spode has been written to and they hope to be able to help when their historical expert comes back from an American lecture tour in December. In the meantime, can anyone tell St John's anything about the plate?

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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-Bapty, 41 Highmoor Road, Tel: 471909.

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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

Unity Mass at Sonning Common

A FEW years ago the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches got together to run a Christian bookstall at Sonning Common Village Day. From this sprang the Sonning Common and District Ecumenical Steering Group, which meets several times a year to organise inter-church events in the area.

The Steering Group meetings are regularly attended by representatives of the following churches:

St John the Baptist, Kidmore End and Christ the King, Sonning Common (CE);

Tokers Green United Reformed Church;

Gallowstree Common Methodist Church;

St Michael's, Sonning Common and St Martins, Caversham Park Village (RC);

Blounts Court Road Congregational Church, Peppard.

Regular contact is also maintained with the Sonning Common Free Church and All Saints, Peppard (CE).



Each Christmas and Easter the group distributes details of local church services to

most houses in the Sonning Common district. Every Good Friday they organise a United Procession of Witness through the streets of Sonning Common. And several times a year the group organises united services, each denomination taking turns to host the event.



Rather than adopt a diluted compromise of a service, the group prefers to use the regular form of worship of the host denomination. By this means we learn from the rich and varying traditions of our fellow Christians, without sweeping our sometimes profound differences under the ecclesiastical carpet. Therefore we have had a Methodist Advent service, Anglican Evensong for Christian Unity Week, Whitsun Worship at the United Reformed Church and, on November 3, Roman Catholic Mass at St Michael's, Sonning Common.

The Unity Mass was based on the regular Sunday evening service at St Michael's. Readings were taken from the Mass for the Unity of Christians and special order of service booklets were produced for the occasion. About one hundred and twenty people, represent-

ing eight local churches, attended the service which was celebrated by the Rev Cecil Keane, Parish Priest of St Michael's.



The address was given by Dom. James Donovan, Bursar of the Benedictine Douai Abbey, Woolhampton. He spoke of the progress made in recent years towards Christian Unity, making particular reference to the close links being forged between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches as a result of "ARCIC" — the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission. Representatives of the various local churches assisted with the Bible readings and the bidding prayers.



Many people found the service very moving and poignant, the unity of worship created by the earlier parts of the Mass contrasting severely with the separation at Communion time when, in accordance with Church Law, only the Roman Catholics were permitted to receive the eucharist.

The RC hierarchy views the eucharist as "the visible sign of unity achieved" and, as such, considers it false to allow inter-communion until a greater measure of unity has been achieved. In other words, the eucharist should not be used as a means of glossing over the many issues which still deeply divide the Christian denominations. This is particularly difficult for those Anglicans who, find themselves in close agreement with the Roman Catholic position on the eucharist, especially those mar-

ried to practising Roman Catholics.

Obviously it is easy to flout Church Laws; there are many who argue that "widespread civil disobedience" of such laws is the only way forward. In the final analysis this must be a matter of personal conscience. However, history shows that such "go it alone" policies often end up creating even further divisions, the only effect on the existing institutions being a hardening of attitudes. Those interested in inter-communion (which should include all Christians!) would do well to read "Sharing Communion", available from the Association of Interchurch Families.



Notwithstanding the pain of eucharistic separation, most people who attended the Mass found it a worthwhile and prayerful experience. Many members of the Church of England must have been surprised at the similarity to their own ASB Communion Rite — a far cry from the situation thirty years ago. One eminent Anglican jocularly expressed his disappointment at the lack of "bells and smells"!



After the service many of the congregation adjourned to St Michael's Hall for coffee and light refreshments. It was a heart-warming sight to see so many Christians of different denominations, ministers and laity alike, enjoying each other's company, honestly recognising their differences, but sharing that which they have in common — prayer, the Word and the Love of the Risen Lord.

Tony Hadland

THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE

ANY latter day Verdi, looking for a libretto, strong characters, strong situations, melodramatic plot, would have needed to look no further than Hugh Mills play "The House by the Lake", which formed the first production of the Caversham Players (The Puffins) 1985-6 season in St Andrew's Hall. Closely examined the plot (involving a run-down mill, murder, poison and hypnosis) might have seemed not a little improbable, but such was the passion and conviction that the cast brought to the play that any such doubts were forgotten; the play worked up to a tense, gripping climax that held the audience in suspense right to the end.

It was certainly one of the best casts that the Players have assembled. Sheila Hodson gave a marvellous portrayal of the neurotic Janet, culminating in a virtuoso performance in the hypnosis scene in the play's last act, particularly noteworthy being her expressive facial gestures. No less good was Yvonne Coe as Stella, outwardly the county miss, but inwardly the scheming murderess. The contradiction was finely caught, aided by a fine economy of gesture and excellent costuming. As the two sides of villainy Ken Etherington and

Charles Croft complemented each other well; Ken as Maurice, suave and scheming, outwardly debonair, inwardly cold and calculating, Charles as Colin, all bluster and threat, a thoroughly nasty piece of work who well deserved his poisoned cup of coffee.

The rest of the cast gave sterling support. Marion Thwaite as Iris, the wronged wife of Colin, conveyed well the unhappiness of a woman driven to contemplate murder, and as the enigmatic Mr Howard (who turns out to be the detective) Ray Hammond turned in a nicely judged performance, a figure of sanity in a web of corruption. Marjorie Tillman gave a rounded vignette of Nurse Thompson, caring but formidable when roused, while as Brenda, a refugee from the Emerald Isle, Anne Bliss babbled on delightfully (her little scene with Janet

before the climax raised the dramatic temperature). The cast was completed by Elwyn Price who bumbled effectively as Colonel Forbes.

The play was magnificently directed by Jessica Gilbert; moves were well thought out and under her guidance the cast achieved a high level of dramatic intensity. If the opening of Act One dragged a little it was more the fault of the playwright — otherwise pace was well maintained. The stage and setting were up to the usual high standard of the Players (not many amateur groups are blessed with such an efficient backstage crew). All in all, a highly entertaining and gripping night out; the nails of one member of the audience were bitten to the quick. Our thanks to Jessica Gilbert for her excellent direction and her talented cast for a splendid evening.

R.R.

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RUNNING FOR FUN

For the thousands of people who still want to run for their own pleasure, health and fitness there will be another opportunity to run in the DEC READING HALF MARATHON on April 6. Within a very short time after the launch of the 1986 event by the Mayor, Councillor Brian Fowles, hundreds of entries were received. The entry forms are now available so make YOUR commitment to run NOW and once committed make adequate preparations. Start off by running two or three times a week and slowly increase the distance so that you are capable of running five miles by Christmas. The more training you do the easier the task on Race Day and the more you will enjoy the fun of taking part in

what is not only Reading's largest participant sports event but one of the biggest in the country.

The course for the coming year is basically the same as in previous years (thanks to our local councillors) but the Start and Finish will be at the South Reading Leisure Centre in Northumberland Avenue. The good news about this change for the runners is that they will have a fast downhill finish instead of the uphill one of the last few years and the wheelchairs will share the same finish with the runners.

The main charity being supported by the event will again be the British Sports Association for the Disabled and they will be putting the money received towards encouraging and enabling the seriously handicapped to take part in sport.

RUNNING FOR MONEY

AT LAST the world knows that athletics is no longer an amateur sport! For a long time now payment has been made to top athletes but even national newspapers and the media have been reluctant to discuss it and have preferred to pretend it didn't happen. Even last year when the London Marathon organisers announced prize money in excess of £100,000 the media didn't really catch on. However, the recent disclosure that a teenage South African, Zola Budd, was paid £90,000 for running in just one race seems to have opened up the whole question of running payments. To start with, top athletes like Coe and Cram have been paid around ONLY £15,000 a race and the potential top prize for a UK athlete was £50,000 for breaking a world record in the UK

— this has not yet been won. Then of course there is the question of how the money was paid and who got their slice? Did the Amateur Athletic Association get their share of the action???



There is nothing directly wrong with payments to athletes and they should be entitled to their cash-in on their talent if that is what they want but what is immoral and

wrong is that people should pretend it doesn't happen and more importantly, how can the body that controls the sport and the management of the payments to athletes be called the Amateur Athletic Association. This body should now concentrate on the grass roots "Club Athletics" and leave the professional sport to a new controlling body. In the interest of the sport a reorganisation of athletics administration needs urgent attention.

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Postbag

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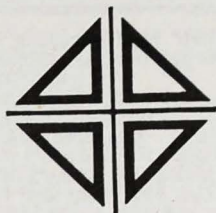
May I through your columns thank all those who in any way helped with putting the residents' case at the public inquiry into Hemdean Bottom. This includes all who distributed leaflets, collected signatures for the petition (4,700) attended the inquiry or the evening session, wrote to the Inspector or helped in any other way. Particular mention must be made of A. Perrin and W. Goodworth, of Emmer Green Residents' Association, who sat in for the whole of a long and often tedious inquiry, thereby being able to pick up points where local knowledge was invaluable, and

of Mrs Doris Thomas of our Association, who also sat through all the sessions, constantly updating her evidence, so that she was able to present a comprehensive and knowledgeable case when her turn came. For myself, whilst realising the dangers of counting chickens before they are hatched, I feel optimistic about the outcome, but it will be several months before we know.

Yours sincerely,

Molly Casey
Hon Secretary
Caversham and District Residents' Association
14 Albert Road
Caversham

THE CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY



THE Corrymeela Community has many supporters in Reading and Caversham and so the editors feel that the following contribution from the Corrymeela council will be of interest to our readers.

The Corrymeela Community, made up of Christians from all traditions, has sought to work for reconciliation in Northern Ireland for the past 20 years.

As we consider the implications of the Anglo-Irish agreement, we would first of all affirm that our primary loyalty is to the Lordship of Christ and that therefore all our other loyalties are subordinate to HIM.

From this perspective, we welcome the efforts of the British and Irish governments to promote conditions under which reconciliation of both traditions

We recognise the possibilities and hopes which have been opened up by the agreement but we are equally aware of grave responsibilities which go with them and the need for a fundamental change of hearts and minds if the agreement is to be given a chance to work.

The possibilities include:

1. Respect for the rights and freedoms of both traditions in Northern Ireland.
2. Acceptable policing which has the full support of both sections of the community and an end to support for violence.

3. Constructive co-operation with the institutions of society.

4. Increased job opportunities and justice for all.

5. Healing of deep wounds between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and within Northern Ireland.

However, these possibilities cannot be realised unless there is a marked change of attitudes, a new spirit of generosity and a willingness by all parties to accept or share responsibility. It will require of the

governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland a willingness to honour the terms of the agreement and a recognition of the rights of the majority as well as the minority in Northern Ireland.

In the days that lie ahead, let us refuse to be swayed by emotional appeals or to be led into actions which could be self-destructive for us all. Let us consider soberly and thoughtfully the options which lie

before us. Let us give priority to prayer, seeking the will of God for our society and the grace to be instruments of His peace. Let all who have opportunity offer constructive leadership and vision and let us seek to build a society based on mutual respect, the participation of all and the sharing and stewardship of our resources.

(Adopted by Council of the Corrymeela Community on Tuesday November 19, 1985).

The Reading and Berkshire Association of The Helping Hand

This Association was founded in 1955 for the purpose of selling handcrafts made by physically disabled people resident in Reading and Berkshire. It is a registered charity and works alongside the Red Cross.

Red Cross Handcraft officers visit and train the disabled people in their own homes; they collect the items made and at the same time provide a regular contact with the outside world. All money received from the sale of goods is passed to the individuals who made them, apart from a small deduction of eight per cent which is used by the Association towards the payment of rent, rates, lighting and heating of our premises.

For the past twenty-one years we have had a shop at 5 London Street, Reading, but, due to re-development, we have to vacate these premises in January 1986. We have been offered space at 12 Bridge

Street, Caversham, through the generosity of Mr and Mrs Pickersgill who operate Caversham Stationers there. Our goods will be on sale at Bridge Street from January 21, Tuesdays to Fridays between 10am and 4pm and on Saturdays between 10am and 2pm.

The items made by the handicapped people are many and varied, ranging through knitted garments for babies, children's cardigans and jumpers, soft toys, small fancy goods, dressed dolls, dolls' clothes, aprons, rugs, cushions, baskets, trays, stools, etc. All these goods are sold at remarkably low prices as we are a non-profit making Association.

We shall be happy to extend a welcome to anyone who can give help on a voluntary basis, either as individuals or clubs (who are willing to fill specific days on a roster basis at fortnightly/monthly intervals). Miss Barbara Hill

— telephone 693288 who organises the helpers' roster, or Mrs Sheila Churchill, Handicraft Department, Red Cross — telephone 871144 will be delighted to deal with any offers of help or provide further information.

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Caversham Afternoon TG

THE Annual General Meeting of Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild was held at Church House. The Chairman Mrs D. Smith, was re-elected for a further year with a supporting Committee. The Autumn Fair in October was opened by the Mayor of Reading and raised money for the Townswomen's Guild's National Charity for a nutritional unit in Bangladesh.

The death of Mrs Lovejoy, a past President and long-standing member was announced. She was ninety five.

Rosehill WI

THE November meeting was opened by Miss Vincent and one minute's silence was held in memory of Mrs Jenkins, a member who had died the previous week. A successful Jumble Sale took place on October 26. The speaker was Mrs J. Walker; her subject "Fabric Painting". She brought numerous examples of her art, which is done from tubes of paint, is washable, very col-

ourful and attractive and useful for Christmas presents. The competition "A decorated menu card for a special occasion" was won by Mrs Helen Withers.

St Peter's Wives' Group

ST PETER'S Wives Group held their Annual General Meeting on November 19 in Church with the Revd Peter Mullins in the Chair.

The Secretary reported a very rewarding year with excellent speakers, a successful Autumn Fair and a most enjoyable social evening at Chiltern Chase Lodge for dinner and cabaret. The Treasurer reported a very sound financial position and confirmed that the subscription could remain at £2 per annum. Three new committee members were elected and Jean Pugh, the Group's Chairman presented pot plants to the three retiring committee members and thanked

them for their hard work over the past two years.

It was decided that the money raised this year should be divided between five charities suggested by members. The business of the evening was formally brought to a close and after coffee the members were treated to a poetry reading by the multi-talented Edna Fitzeustace.

St Peter's Wives is an open group, which offers a welcome to any married, widowed, divorced or single lady of any age, who would enjoy socialising on the third Tuesday in the month at Church House. Please ring Jean Pugh (472949) or Dorothy Churcher (473353) if you would like more details.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

THE Club is sad to have to record the deaths of a previous leader and a former

ROUND THE CLUBS

treasurer during the last two months. Mrs Barbara Jackson was a well-loved and dynamic leader for over three years and will be sadly missed. Most of the Club members attended the Thanksgivng Service for Barbara's life and work at St Peter's Church on October 21. Mrs Dora Stockwell will be remembered for the efficient help she gave as treasurer and secretary of the Club during the late seventies.

A Harvest Auction was held in October and later in the month Mr Colin Ferguson delighted members with more of his own poems and hymns. Mr Wilton's talk and slides on Caversham Court Gardens were a great treat and very informative. The Brownies entertained members with campfire songs and some obtained their Hostess badges in providing tea and cakes. Members had excellent seats for the Sainsbury Singers' production of The Pyjama Game and the

show was very enjoyable. Mr Moss's talk on Old Reading in November was accompanied by some marvellous rare slides of the old town centre. We look forward to more of the same in the New Year. The Fir Tree Singers gave their usual high standard performance of singing and recitations at the end of November. The Club would like to thank all the above for their time and skills in entertaining us.

The Christmas Luncheon at the Three Swans, Hungerford and a visit to Cinderella Pantomime at the Apollo Theatre Oxford on January 29 are among our future events.

Caversham Community Association

ROSALIND Renshaw, well known for her articles in the local newspaper the Evening Post, visited the club on November 4 and gave an informa-

tive talk on the circulation of newspapers and the future of journalism. Questions from the audience were answered at the end of the evening.

The following week Bernard Moring, a club member, gave a slide film show. Mr Moring brought his latest photographs of Spalding Flower Festival and parade. Views of the beautiful gardens of tulips and other spring flowers at Springfield were admired. Local scenes of the Forbury Gardens and the Newbury Show were also enjoyed by everyone.

A games evening was arranged for November 18 when members competed at Scrabble, shove ha'penny and various card games.

The November meetings ended with a Mini-bazaar for the members. Fancy goods, Christmas stationery and the usual stalls were arranged with bargains plus a new feature at this bazaar — suitcase sales. Mem-

bers who wished to participate paid a fee to club funds and brought a suitcase filled with goods they wished to sell on their own behalf. This resulted in a fine selection of articles at reasonable prices.

Caversham WI

The Institute has recently welcomed several new members and there was a very good attendance at the October meeting. Viv Austin, Assistant Regional Donor Organiser of the National Blood Transfusion Service came along to show a film about the new methods of breaking down blood into various components, so that one donation can now be used for all manner of needs. Afterwards she answered questions on the subject. New donors were still needed and anyone between the ages of 18 and 65 who is not permanently on medication is welcome. People who have suffered from certain illnesses are also precluded; her advice

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

was if in doubt consult your own doctor.

Naturally among the many questions raised was one on the subject of AIDS. Vic assured members that all blood donations were now tested at the regional centre before being used and there was absolutely no risk to the donor at all. She hoped that those members not already blood donors would seriously consider becoming one.

Annual Bazaar

The annual bazaar which was held at St John's Hall on November 23 unfortunately coincided with several similar events in the area. Nevertheless over £130 was raised, some of which will be used to send Christmas gifts to elderly people in the district.

Chazey WI

CHAZEY WI welcomed Mrs Bates, shop manager of the London Street bookshop, as their guest speaker for November. As well as bringing along a variety of books for members to peruse and buy, Mrs Bates gave a very

interesting historical account of the bookshop illustrated by photographs, from its founding in 1832, on its present site, as a stationers and circulating library, through to the much wider role it plays today, including the opening of the new branch in the centre of town in 1984, and its new ownership by University Bookshops.

On November 12, the group organised a Fashion Show by Principles. There was a tremendous variety of clothes and accessories, all expertly modelled by members. After the interval during which refreshments were served (again professionally prepared by members), a delightful dancing display was given by the Shirley Dee dancers. A most enjoyable evening which raised £250, the proceeds of which are to go towards the Denman College appeal.

Caversham Heights TWG

AT CAVERSHAM Heights Towns-women's annual gene-

ral meeting in November the retiring Chairman, Mrs A. Denning, was presented with a voucher and the committee was thanked for its support. Officers elected were: Chairman, Mrs C. Lott; Vice-chairman, Mrs H. Richards; Secretary, Mrs E. Hawkins; Treasurer, Mrs N. Goodman. The programme during the year was varied ranging from a speaker from Marks and Spencer to a favourite speaker, Mr Malcolm Stansfield, making British farming understandable and interesting. £200 had been raised by the bazaar for Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Drama section needs more members. Leisure afternoons for arts and crafts continue and social studies have very successful meetings. A specially interesting outing to the Johnson Matthey research centre at Sonning Common was enjoyed. The annual dinner took place in November and members were invited to a coffee evening in aid of funds at Evelyn

Inwards. All were looking forward to the 25th year, although the financial balance will have to be kept up. New members are very welcome at the Guild's meeting at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Hall on the third Thursday in each month and to social studies in Highmoor Hall at 7.45pm on the last Monday in each month. At their meeting in November Mr J. Almgill spoke about his beekeeping activities started a long time ago, after receiving a lesson from his school caretaker. He explained how this work has served him in a therapeutic way since having a right-handed stroke. It seems that reasoning powers and the use of muscles were learnt earlier than the art of speech and he has discovered himself that the first two are more readily relearned. After the stroke he tried to become a town planner. Following some dramatic ups and downs he became an inspector of bees for the Civil Service. He stressed how important it is for

people who keep bees to make sure that they can care for them

Maplewood WI

THE president, Mrs Joy Le Mare, was in the chair at the November meeting and after the business Mrs Rose Painter demonstrated Christmas Crafts. Round and oblong containers for small gifts were made from last year's Christmas Cards and an evergreen arrangement for the front door and table decorations with holly and candles rapidly took shape under her expert fingers.

The Secretary Mrs Heather Baker reported on the Autumn Council Meeting and everyone was relieved to hear that Denman College is to be retained though much fund raising will be needed.

Members brought a colourful array of Christmas parcels which will be given to the Caversham Old People's Club and the flower of the month competition was won by Mrs G. New.

ABBEYFIELD (Reading) SOCIETY

AT A well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Society on November 22, the Chairman, Mr Morris, gave a very happy report of the Society's affairs. Financially it was in quite a healthy position and, with the good offices of Mr Garner of the firm of accountants, Main Garner & Co, Jim Pilgrim, the Treasurer, had been able to bring the accounts into line with the requirements of the Housing Corporation. On behalf of the Society Mr Morris thanked both gentlemen for all the hard work they had put in.

There were now two very happy Abbeyfield houses here; the one in St Peter's Avenue, under the care of Mrs Patenall, was now well established, while Mrs Potter, the housekeeper at the Maitland Road House was currently busy on schemes to make money for the building of a summer-house. It had not yet been possible to find somewhere suitable in Reading for the provision of an extra-care house, but there was now one at Newbury and efforts would continue to provide one

in Reading. It could not be stressed too much that people were living longer and that the average age of people entering Abbeyfield Houses had risen considerably since the Society was formed; consequently extra-care houses were going to be much in demand in the future.

Mr Morris paid tribute to the local doctors who gave considerable help in both houses and to those, often professional people, who had answered the call for help last year.

He then introduced the Mayor, Councillor Fowles and his wife who had kindly made time to come along. Mr Fowles, always a great supporter of the scheme, spoke of the Borough Council's appreciation of organisations which provide accommodation for the elderly. The value of property in Reading was rising rapidly and it would seem that the idea of joint ventures between the local authorities, the DHSS and the Society itself, would be the answer to a lot of problems. Pointing out that the County Council

owned large amounts of land and some buildings in the area, he suggested that the Society's officers should "badger" the Council officials for help in finding suitable properties.

Mr Moore proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Morris for his continued excellent work as Chairman and the meeting ended with a pleasant tea.

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 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)
 4.00pm 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)

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
Annual General Meeting
 7.45pm
 Thursday, January 23
 Caversham Baptist Church
 Speaker: **TONY CARSON** R.E.A.P.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
 January 18-25, 1986
UNITED EVENING SERVICE
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