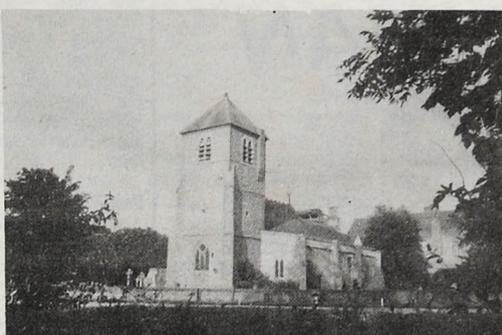


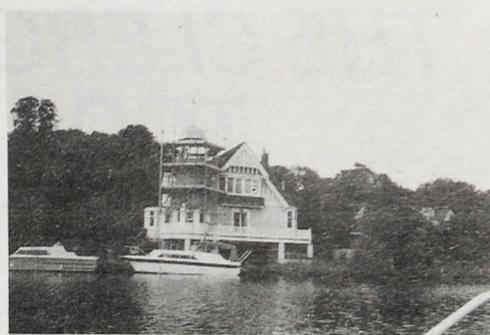
Cruising down the river . . .



With Mapledurham now in the parish, a start was made at the Mill, mentioned in the Domesday Book



and very close by is the church of St Margaret



Into Caversham now, and an attractive house undergoes a necessary repair



A look over to the other bank, catching the Caversham Bridge Hotel before it is demolished



Fry's Island where you need a ferry boat to transport you across



Some of the new residential buildings



and then on to the lock, where the new lock keeper is clearly keeping up the high standard of his predecessor



Elegant Edwardian houses beyond the old Caversham mill site



to the last house in Caversham? Dean's farm is a delight

A summer cruise along the parish boundary was the inspiration for these photographs by Patrick Bailly

D/EX 1758/23/9

TALKING POINT

WHAT ROLE FOR THE CLERGYMAN TODAY?

OVER the years we have regularly recorded the comings and goings of clergymen in Caversham. Last month was no exception with the news of the departure of one Methodist Minister, the naming of his successor and also the arrival of an additional Baptist Minister. To members of their respective congregations and to members of other church congregations such events are normal and give no cause for comments. However what do such events mean to the non-church goer? What is the role of clergymen in society today?

It is an accepted fact of life that all communities have, indeed need, their leaders. They give direction and purpose and fulfil ceremonial roles. Each country has its sovereign or president, each government its first or prime minister, each society its chairman. Every religious community needs its leader whether lay or ordained and in such communities that leader is identified in the person of the clergyman or minister or pastor.



The duties and responsibilities of a leader change from time to time just as a society's customs and mores change from generation to generation. The position and role of the clergyman has changed and continues to change as the role of the church evolves in Society.

In earlier years the Established Church (and to a lesser extent the Catholic and Free Churches) was part of the natural order of society and was a cohesive force for the maintenance of the existing pattern of life. In such a society the clergyman was a leader who would command respect by virtue of his position. He would be looked up to and his pronouncements carried no little weight in his community. The clergyman stood for the good order of things and set the moral tone. Life was also surrounded by much more mystery. Education was the prerogative of the few not the right of all and in such a society an educated Minister of religion was a person to be respected and revered.



So much of that way of life has been swept away. Society is much more fluid. Established order has largely broken down, particularly as the majority of people are now concentrated in urban anonymity. Education is available to all and much of the mystery of life has been stripped away by our more extensive knowledge. It is small wonder then that the position of the minister of religion in the community has lost its overall importance and his leadership has been confined to the members of his own community.

His role is seen as conducting public worship (which is regarded as only for the "initiated"). His main contact with the non-church goer is restricted conventionally to performing the customary rites at funerals, weddings and christenings. Some clergymen no doubt feel that public expectations of such services reduce their role in society to little more than "witch doctors". Others however see such activities as the opportunity to share in the joys and the pain experienced by the outsider and to show that the role of the church is to care for and minister to all — for each individual is a child of God.

The church today is not just a worshipping community. True worship leads to that community expressing its love for its God by serving the greater community around and about. The contemporary role of the clergyman is to foster and help express the caring nature of the Church.



Society which grows ever more self-centred, needs to be reminded of the need for moral values, of the need for a sense of purpose in life and of the need to look outwards from itself to perceive the need people have for each other. Individuals need someone they can share their problems with, someone who can meet their needs. Individuals with guilt feelings need to be told they can be forgiven. Individuals who are stuck or lost need to be shown how they can make a fresh start. Individuals need — so many things — but above all they need to know that their lives can be motivated by love and not by hatred and fear. This is the role of the caring church, to act out the love of Christ and the clergyman is the catalyst of his community, the one who sets the example to his flock. Both by his word and deed he can help make the everyday life of each member of the wider community much more worthwhile.

Yes, there still is an important role for the clergyman to play in society today.

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Nigel Wright, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703
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All contributions for the November issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, October 1.
 All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, September 26.

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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From Bangladesh — with love

IN THE June issue of the Caversham Bridge it was reported that £150 had been donated by the paper to HEED, the health, education and economic development wing of Tear Fund for whom Sally-Ann Ousley of Caversham works in Bangladesh. This gift was specifically to help those in the Bihari Refugee Camp in Dhaka following a serious fire which destroyed Tear Fund equipment and materials. We have received the following delightful letter dated June 19 from Sally-Ann.

ing for the Government to do something as they can not afford to start themselves. Many have been sick as a result of living in such awful conditions and now we must quickly see that their suffering is not prolonged. Jomilla (a native partner in HEED's activities — ED.) and her children are always ill in some form or another and we do our best to help them to eat properly, to keep dry and "warm" — sometimes it is a matter of keeping them dry and cool!

The hot weather is definitely here, we never see the temperature drop below 90 and it is often over 100. I hope that coming to England will not be too much of a shock to my system. God Bless and thank you again for all your caring and support.

Love Sally-Ann is currently in Caversham enjoying two months' well-earned furlough and expects to return to Dhaka mid-September.

Dear Friends,

How close I have been in my feelings for you at home as we work together in God's name here in Bangladesh. I was thrilled to learn of the response to the plight of the Bihari refugees, and it has been humbling to know how much folk are giving and giving in love in the service of God. I wanted to write and thank the Directors of the Caversham Bridge and through them the readers for their generosity. It was good that you felt able to give specifically and to know that the gift would not just disappear into a general relief fund — the money has been given for a definite purpose and it will be used for such.

The monsoon rains are just beginning and that make things even more difficult to sort out. A lot of the refugees have rebuilt their homes but others are wait-



SCF Quiz Aid

REMINDER — entries to be in by September 27 — and please, incomplete forms welcomed.

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
 June 1 Andrew Pearson
 June 29 Emily Allen
 Charlotte Salmon
 July 13 William Davis
 Paul Holmes
 July 20 James Fleming
 Charlotte Bonnet
 James Paxton

St Anne's
 July Alexandra Harper
 Jason Linthwaite
 Anne Harding
 Nicola Barnett

RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH

St Anne's
 July Helen Reed

MARRIED

St Peter's
 June 7 Philip Ball and Karen Taylor
 June 14 Andrew Jarvis and Victoria Lumley
 Michael Andrews and Sharon Lewis
 June 21 Phillip Sutherland and Sarah Chevallier
 June 28 Ian Willett and Michelle Taylor
 Neil Westmancoat and Dawne Norris
 July 12 Roger Smalley and Carole Harvey
 William Harmer and Alison Whybrow
 July 13 Simon Williams and Penelope Bodman
 July 26 Bryn Williams and Susan Goodwin

FUNERALS

St Anne's
 July Alan Alexander

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

DROP YOUR LITTER HERE

A PRIME ministerial eye glancing from a limousine on the way from Heathrow into London conveyed, with all the shock of a sudden revelation, to the prime ministerial mind, usually preoccupied with weighty matters of state, a fact that has been only too painfully obvious to us lesser mortals for only too long, namely that the sides of Britain's motorways are little more than disgusting refuse tips, which on the M4 in particular convey to the newly arrived visitor an impression of a national squalor that further acquaintance only serves to confirm. It is an unfortunate fact that Britain's streets, public places, beaches, and even stretches of countryside are the most litter strewn of any in Europe and North American and even of those in poverty stricken countries where there is less litter to scatter around.

There is no one answer to this problem because there is more than one cause for it. Individuals certainly drop the litter but simply scolding us all will not cure it. As local councils were quick to point out, a government

which has curbed public expenditure with the same righteous zeal as if it were some moral crusade against the devil and all his works can hardly complain when street cleaning is one of the first things to suffer. Dirty untidy surroundings beget dirty untidy habits. Who for instance, would dare to drop a coke can or crisp bag in Germany's tidy squares or Switzerland's tidy streets? A society which encourages the constant consumption of always available, over-packaged comestibles should either make provision for the reception of the resulting rubbish or ban bringing it into certain places. Bay Area Rapid Transport, which serves the heavily built-over area all around San Francisco, is in marked contrast to the general grubbiness of London's underground because food and drink are forbidden once passengers set foot inside a station.

None of this will produce miracles overnight but at least would gradually reduce the automatic discarding of litter by the thoughtless, if not deliberate destruction of the environment by the malevo-

lent. Caversham provides interesting sociological examples of this.

One of these is Caversham Court which is much tidier than most public places. It is regularly tidied up, and consequently also attracts less rubbish, because only the most insensitive scatter their litter around. Move off, though, to Christchurch Meadows on a summer weekend, and see the contrast. Plastic containers bob amongst the reeds and rushes, the banks are littered with cans, bottles, crisp bags, cigarette packets, ice cream wrappings, dog ordure; you name it, it's there. Most of this is the result of lack of thought and its perpetrators would be shocked if they were called vandals.

Counting Holes

Yet it is not a very big step that separates the two. Even if the person who discards a crisp bag would not break up the seats and headstones in St Peter's Churchyard, smash the masonry on Caversham Bridge or uproot the shrubs in the tubs in St Martin's Precinct, it is a certain thing that those who get a kick out of this sort of damage do not take their litter home with them.

If Mrs Thatcher is serious about tidying up Britain, she is going to find it needs more than appointing a dashing millionaire to take on the job. But if she cares enough to feel that this is something that does concern the government, she may have started a welcome trend.

A scruffy down-at-heel environment is caused by more than litter and vandalism. As has been said in this column more than once, broken road surfaces also contribute to it. A hole

that is left always grows larger and each winter adds to the deterioration. Caversham Residents' Association, in order to draw attention to the full extent of the problem, is carrying out a survey of the main roads and as many side roads as possible. The results should be ready towards the end of September. If you would like to help either telephone Reading 472864 for details or else do your own road under five headings: pothole in carriageway, rough surface in footway, rough surface in footway, broken kerb-stone. Identify each by referring to the number of the house nearest to which it occurs. The possibility that someone else has done your road will be outweighed by the increased number of roads that will be covered if a substantial number of people respond to this request. Send your list to 63, Cromwell Road, by the beginning of September.

Woods, Hills and Valleys

From unsightliness to natural beauty. The committee set up to persuade the Countryside Commission to change its mind about how far the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be extended has been hard at work and has produced a document setting out their reasons for supporting South Oxfordshire and Reading's original proposals. All the areas recommended, the document states, possess the criteria set out by the Countryside Commission itself, which are typical chalk escarpment scenery, with dry valleys and broad-leaved woodlands, predominantly beech. The Borough Council's proposal of Hemdean Valley

complies, as does the slope of the escarpment with the flat lands at its foot as far as the Thames in the Chazey Court-Fisheries area.

One should not be too influenced by the fact that both these areas are right next to urbanisation. Caversham's buildings, as the document says, end quite suddenly, with no straggling fringes. The housing above Bug's Bottom is barely visible from the valley floor. The Warren, it is true, has been overdeveloped in recent years with houses that lack the period charm of their Edwardian predecessors, several of them preferring instead a display of vulgar ostentation, yet nevertheless, once beyond the last house, rural beauty at once takes over. Anyone PYO-ing fruit at Chazey Court Farm this summer, with the grouping of ancient farm buildings seen against the backdrop of beech clad hills, could not fail to agree that this was already an AONB, regardless of designation.

In the face of this, the Countryside

Commission's grounds for refusal that the AONB would have to cross a local council boundary is irrelevant. Local authority boundaries are artificial nowadays. The

natural boundary would be the river, and Reading, lucky enough to have these sites within its boundaries, will have plenty of watchdogs ready to see the council does its duty by it.

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SOON the year celebrating the nine hundredth anniversary of the Domesday Book will be drawing to its close, so before this happens readers may be interested to know that both Mapledurham and Caversham are recorded in the most famous tome. Not only were there settlements in both these places nine hundred years ago (by the time the Survey was undertaken) but from written evidence in this great book it is clear that Saxon lords held manors there before the Conquest, Swein at Caversham and Wigod at Mapledurham and perhaps both these places have been in existence for almost a thousand years.

"More a Prince than a subject"

For Mapledurham there are two entries in the Domesday Survey because at that time (1086) there were already two separate manors in existence. Under Oxenefordshire there is the heading — "Land of William de Warene" and the entry proceeds "William de Warene holds Malpedreham of the King. There are seven hides there

Land for 12 ploughs And 16 villanes with eight bordars have 10 ploughs There is a mill worth 20 shillings and 10 acres of meadow It was worth 20 shillings in the time of King Edward and afterwards 8 pounds Now 12 pounds". You have to read the entries through very carefully to get the correct meaning as there is no punctuation. The capital letters do help to make sense of it all. King Edward was Edward the Confessor and between his death and the Norman Conquest there is a space of only a few months. He was king from 1042 and died on January 5, 1066, so any valuation dating from his reign could have been from 1042 onwards. The figures given seem very inflationary but it has to be remembered that the Normans employed a scorched earth policy as their army swept towards London having crossed the Thames at Wallingford so possibly this helped to account for the great difference in values.

William de Warene died in 1088, two years after the Domesday Commissioners surveyed his manor at Malpedreham. He was one of the most distinguished Norman Knights to come over with William the Conqueror. According to Rev A. H. Croke in his book *The Early History of Mapledurham*, published in 1925 "So extensive were the grants made to him — in Domesday he is credited with 145 manors — that his possessions resembled more the

dominions of a sovereign prince than the estates of a subject". De Warene held the high post of Justiciar in the King's Court, and it was he who was entrusted to plan the final attack on Hereward (the Wake) on the marshy Isle of Ely. His son, also William, was made Earl of Surrey.

Three pages on in the Domesday record is the second entry in connection with Mapledurham. It reads — "Land of Milo Crispin. The same holds Malpedreham. There are three hides there Land for five ploughs Now in the demesne two bondsman And 17 villanes with five bordars have three ploughs There are four acres of meadow It was worth 100 shillings Now seven pounds".

From the second entry it is clear that this manor was the smaller of the two and indeed it was once referred to as *Mapledurham Parva* (little). Later in its history it was to become a manor of the de Chauseys, hence the name Chazey. It is Chazey Court farm which is the site of this smaller manor. Later still the two manors were to become one when in 1582 the owner of the larger one obtained the smaller by purchase.

It is interesting to note that over the centuries there was never any marriage connection formed between the fami-

lies owning the separate manors although for their owners were on reasonable terms with each other.

It is worth mentioning that prior to the Domesday Survey the smaller manor was the one of several held by Wigod, a Saxon Lord of great standing in the reign of Edward the Confes-

sor. Wigod held the Honour of Wallingford and had attended the Court of William Duke of Normandy, before 1066. He was a supporter of the Duke's cause and it was he who allowed the Norman army to cross the Thames at Wallingford on its way to London. So one could say that the lord of the manor of Mapledurham Parva had a hand in the success of the Norman Conquest. M.K.

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

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drige. Tel: 4/5152.

The Rev Tony Dalton, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788

The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham Tel: 472070.

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The Editors and members of the Board of Directors of the "Caversham Bridge" extend Christian sympathy to Mr Bernard Miller, their Chairman, and to Mrs Beryl Miller on the tragic death in a road accident of their younger son, Paul.

100 YEARS AGO

FROM the St Peter's Caversham Magazine, September 1886 price three half-pence (1½d), come the following extracts.

Proposed Church for Lower Caversham
The Vicar, after explaining that the need for a new church arose from the rapid growth of the population, asked the Parishioners' Meeting if it was desirable to accept the offer of a piece of land near the Henley Road. This was respectfully declined on the grounds that it was not suffi-

ciently central. An alternate site was offered of a plot of land opposite Gosbrook Terrace forming part of Bryant's farm. Mr G. R. Butler's "handsome" offer was accepted unanimously and he then gave free permission to choose any part of the farm land on which to build. More than £1,300 had already been promised and the following resolution was carried, "That a permanent church be erected, capable of accommodating at

present not less than 250 persons, and admitting of future enlargement". The Vicar was left to appoint a building committee.

Caversham Parochial Schools

The Inspector's report on the Boys' School was excellent "ably and pleasantly conducted ... excellent discipline. Instruction intelligent, careful..." Discipline in the Girls' school was also

excellent and the instruction "would probably soon reach even a higher degree of merit if the staff were numerically stronger. As it is, the results are most creditable to the industry and discipline of the two teachers". In the Infants' School "the discipline is excellent in results, but somewhat stiff, perhaps, in method".

Choir Excursions
The choir boys, escorted by the

Vicar, left Reading by the 8.10 train, thence to the Zoo, where "an inspection was made of the many strange creatures inhabiting that noted resort, the monkeys, sea lion, snakes and hippopotamus coming in for the chief notice". Dinner, then Madame Tussauds, then a walk back to Praed Street for a quick journey home by 9.30 "being enlivened by the strains of an impromptu band composed of flutes, fiddles,

banjos, tambourines, etc." The following week the elder portion of the choir, by SWR, travelled to Portsmouth, where they arrived at 9.15. There were three weddings, and of Isle of Wight, some stayed at Southsea to bathe. The whole party met at Ryde for tea at the Soldiers' Institute and the weeks.

remainder of the day was spent listening to the Royal Marine Artillery Band, performing on Southsea Pier.

Records

Fourteen Baptisms were recorded, 11 of whom were boys. There were three weddings, and of the four deaths recorded, two were in their sixties, there was a boy of 11 and a baby of seven weeks.

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KATY GOES TO STONESFIELD

IT IS difficult to think of a village more suited to a flower festival of any kind than Stonesfield in Oxfordshire, the present home of our previous editor, John Grimwade, and his family.

Those of us who thought we were going to be able to take in the whole festival in

a few hours were, alas, disappointed, and many of us had to skip some of the most interesting items on the agenda, such as the History Exhibition, and pay but a cursory visit to the exhibition of beautiful embroidery put on display by members of Christ Church

Cathedral Embroidery Centre.

No doubt there will be more detailed reports of the festival elsewhere in the "Bridge", since Caversham people arrived in large numbers, the local Baptist Church organising a coach outing and some of our residents actually camping in the area for the whole weekend, or arranging to stay near enough to take in most of the events which included special services, a concert, special exhibitions and entertainments of various sorts. It was particularly nice for instance to meet Mr and Mrs Hargreaves who actually left Caversham sixteen years ago; they still keep in touch and take the "Bridge" every month.

The gardens themselves, at least fourteen in number, were beautiful and it was specially pleasing that the local inhabitants were so friendly and helpful, willing to betray their most closely guarded gardening secrets. Indeed, from the

friendly "Have a Nice Day" from the helpful young Scout who guided cars into the park, to the "Hope you enjoyed it" from the last inhabitant we spoke to, one felt that everyone in the village had literally pulled out all the stops to make visitors welcome.

Needless to say, a good many people had been roped in from surrounding areas and the beautiful decorations in the little Methodist Chapel and St James' Church were a tribute to the neighbouring groups who had worked so hard.

And at home...

As frequently happens, moving house came as something of a rush for Peggy Dainty and her husband Jack, and when they left 62 Westfield Road for 5 Unity Court, Grove Road, Emmer Green, in July they weren't able to let all their friends and neighbours know. Peggy, who lived in Westfield Road for many years, is particularly anxious

to say how much she enjoyed living there and making so many friends, and they would love to see anyone at their new home. That of course includes their old friends from St Peter's Church, which they still hope to visit occasionally but will be attending St Barnabas' Church most of the time. Their telephone number is 484434, so if old friends would care to ring and make arrangements, they'd love to see them.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

St Anne's News

THE new St Anne's has been unveiled: it is light, restrained and elegant. May the frivolous ring of the last word not be displeasing to the hearer: it is the writer's hope and contention that striving for elegance is a permissible minor virtue, though not alas one level with self-denial and asceticism. The building and decorating in St Anne's church have given rise to some conflicting opinions and feelings of guilt in recent months — not everyone approved and not everyone who would have liked to help financially was free to do so. But something had to be done about the building and has been done very well; let's hope all of us who benefit will continue to give however much or little we can towards paying off the bills.

Meanwhile, the parish

has been very grateful to the sisters for allowing all the extra use of their chapel, with the extra cleaning and maintenance it must have entailed. And we must also thank those who worked every weekend to make the church "habitable" for Sunday services while work was in progress.

And now — how lovely to be back to an improved normal!

ST PETER'S WIVES' GROUP

ST PETER'S Wives' Group were once again lucky with the weather when they left Caversham on a warm dry evening in July for their "Tipplers' Trip".

A veteran double decker, restored by Reading Transport, had been hired and was full by the time the last pick-ups had been made. Three stops were scheduled

ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION

MRS Ridley, the Representative of the Mothers' Union Overseas, was the guest speaker at the July afternoon meeting. All members were involved in short sketches and discussion on the difference between the lives of the people in parts of Africa and their own. Although numbers were smaller than

usual because of holidays, all present enjoyed the informality of the afternoon. As a result of missionary giving for the work of the Mothers' Union overseas the branch has been able to contribute over £80 for the year October 1985-July 1986 and all members are to be congratulated on the effort.

At the evening meeting members attempted to discuss "The relevance of the Ten Commandments" for today. After much discussion they came to the conclusion that it was basically a lack of discipline and the lowering of Christian and moral standards that found society in the dilemma of today.

bands and friends.

On September 16, Mrs Josie Patterson will be with the Group at 8pm in Church House to talk about the education of traveller children.

and a first drink was enjoyed in the gardens of The White Lion, Crays Pond. The next stop at The Black Horse, Checkendon was for a buffet supper and after a walk back to the bus, which could not negotiate the narrow lane to the pub, it was off again to Stoke Row with a choice of three hostleries, The Cherry Tree, Crooked Billet or Farmer's Inn for a last drink. A most successful evening enjoyed by members, hus-

PPS

By John Madeley

ON THE third Sunday of June and July a number of people met in St Peter's Lady Chapel for an hour of "prayer, praise and sharing". This new form (for us) of worship came as a result of discussions in the St Peter's worship group; it will continue and become a regular part of our activities if people feel a need for it.

In the Anglican church at least our

worship normally follows a set pattern; as such a pattern has developed over the years it seems to be what most people want. But even some of us who regularly attend "normal" types of service wonder whether they allow sufficient flexibility for the Holy Spirit to work in us and for us to praise the Lord with spontaneity and joy. Neither does the traditional type of service allow people to share with those around them the thoughts, feelings and concerns that are in their hearts and which they might feel a need to share.

PPS is an unstructured time together that, God willing, can allow us to pray, praise and share. We don't have any plans for it; what happens in the time we spend together depends on those who are there — and the Holy Spirit. PPS is ecumenical, open to people of all churches and no church. People who are not attracted to church, perhaps because of structures and services which they feel are too rigid, might find that PPS meets a need.

Join us if you would like to at the September PPS which will be on Sunday 28 at 8pm. Further details from John Madeley (476063) or Ros and Bob Rutherford (479081).

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

JULY brought two happy occasions for St Margaret's. The first, on July 5, was the marriage of Jane Martyn-Johns to Geoffrey Bowen. It was a very joyful event. The church was filled with a variety of flowers, with, unusually, foxgloves the most prominent, and Jane looked lovely.

This year St Mar-

garet's Day fell on a Sunday and it was decided to hold a shared picnic after the Festival Eucharist; an excellent idea for sometimes a change is a good thing. Thanks are due to Lord and Lady Thurlow who kindly allowed the use of the Old Vicarage garden for the event. In spite

of a cool, cloudy start the sun came out in time for the children to enjoy games on the great expanse of lawn. Once again St Margaret's were delighted to have the church filled to overflowing with many friends from other local churches and were pleased that several of them joined in the picnic.



— Hymor Photographers

Jane Martyn-Johns and Geoffrey Bowen after their marriage at St Margaret's



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Farewell to Ralph and Elsie Rogerson

Some two hundred and fifty people crowded into the Church premises on Friday evening, July 25, for a farewell supper and presentation to the Rev Ralph and Elsie Rogerson at the conclusion of their nine-year ministry at "The Heights". The gathering filled the hall, all the ancillary rooms and overflowed onto the patio at the rear. Joining members (and former members from as far afield as Jersey) were friends from Woodcote and Lower Caversham Methodist Churches and from the Polio Fellowship (which meets at the Church).

□□
□□

After supper all present adjourned to the Church which was filled for the formal part of the proceedings. John Sholl (who was Circuit Steward of the Reading Methodist Circuit when Ralph Rogerson was invited to come to Reading), Dudley Coates (from Woodley Methodist Church), David Knight (of the Polio Fellowship) and Valerie Keating (Senior Steward of the Church) all spoke appreciatively of the ministry of Ralph and Elsie during the past nine years. Particular reference was made to their deep caring, developing the pastoral ministry, to the encouragement of new ventures into counselling, to the participation of young people in worship. Thanks were expressed to Elsie particularly for her encouragement and leadership of the women's meetings and for her support of Ralph in so many different ways.

□□
□□

Valerie Keating mentioned that during his nine years Ralph had married one hundred and fifty couples and christ-

ened sixty-seven babies. The third eldest of those baptised, Clarissa Tyson presented Elsie with a bouquet and the grandfather of the most recent, Peter Springer, presented Ralph with a card signed by about fifty of those young children.

□□
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Presentations were made from the Polio Fellowship by David Knight and on behalf of the Church by Valerie Keating. Elsie was given a microwave oven, Ralph an electric typewriter and a cheque. Ralph and Elsie were also given an illuminated address, designed by Noel Postles, to mark their nine years in Caversham.

Ralph said he and



Presentations to Ralph and Elsie Rogerson made by the Senior Steward Valerie Keating.

— Peter Bean



Farewell Supper to Ralph and Elsie Rogerson. Part of the gathering in the Hall at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

— Peter Bean

Elsie were overwhelmed by the large number of people present and expressed their thanks to all who had come and had contributed to their presentation. The nine years they had spent in Caversham, representing over twenty-five per cent of their married ministry, was a most wonderful era in their life. He really did not

know where to start or where to end in expressing their thanks. He and Elsie had come to minister to the local congregation but they had received much support from so many in return. He was grateful for the overwhelming dedication to service from all who had served as stewards. It had been a joy and pleasure for him and Elsie to be associated

with the folk at the Heights. Their life had been enriched through their relationship with all the members of the congregation. He said in conclusion that their hearts and doors would always be open to their friends at 'the Heights'.

The evening concluded with lusty singing of one of Ralph's favourite hymns "Thou God of truth and love".

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Food irradiation in Britain — how safe is it really?

MEMBERS of the McCarrison Society held their annual Garden Meeting on June 28 at the residence of Drs Gordon and Barbara Latto. The subject discussed was "Food Irradiation" and the three speakers present were Tony Webb from the London Food Commission, Craig Sams from Whole Earth Foods and Sir Julian Rose of the Council of Soil Association.

What is food irradiation?

Basically irradiation of food is used to promote a longer shelf-life. In fruit, it delays the ripening and thus fruit can be transported longer distances. In vegetables, irradiation inhibits the growth of sprouts (as in onions and potatoes) and they keep longer.

In grains and spices irradiation eliminates insect pests, moulds and yeasts thus increasing their storage time.

Irradiation of chicken and fish reduces the number of micro-organisms leading to food spoiling, and meat can be completely sterilised by killing all bacteria and viruses. This would give meat products an indefinite shelf-life.

Although the process is currently banned in Britain (with the exception of sterile diets for transplant patients), it is permitted by some other countries and there are strong pressures for legalising it here also.

A report written by Tony Webb and published by the London Food Commission explains the process as well as the issues that concern consumers, workers in the food industry and people involved in food policy, public health and environmental protection.

Why is food irradiated?

It is a treatment involving large doses of ionising radiation to produce some desired changes in food in particular those allowing longer storage. Put simply, in Gamma-radiation of living material, a high energy radiation is emitted which smashes into the food and causes highly active particles to fly off. The whole molecular structure is upset and eventually death takes place because the molecules are no longer whole.

Is irradiated food radioactive?

If irradiation is properly monitored and controlled, food should not become radioactive.

Is food irradiation really safe?

The history of food irradiation stretches as far back as 1916, when the treatment was tested on strawberries in Sweden. In 1953, President Eisenhower of the US announced the "Atoms for Peace Programme" and there followed a decade of intensive research into food irradiation funded and supervised by the US Department of Defence.

Although in 1963 clearance was given in the US for the sterilisation of can-packed bacon and the inhibition of potato sprouting, the same clearance on bacon was withdrawn in 1968 after a review of the research found adverse effects and deficiencies in the conduct of the experiments.

Generally speaking, there are three dangers to consider:

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-
-

1. The destruction of vitamins. Vitamin B1 can suffer because it is very sensitive to radiation damage and foods

containing it can lose up to over 90 per cent. Vitamin E is not only destroyed, but is destroyed even if added as a supplement after irradiation. Since irradiated food with significant vitamin losses may still look fresh, it is extremely important that it is clearly labelled so that the consumer is not misled.

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2. Mutagenic chromosome-damaging effect of irradiated food. Polyploidy, a chromosome defect — has been observed in children, monkeys and rats fed irradiated wheat and in hamsters fed on an irradiated diet. Again, other studies on the feeding of irradiated wheat to rats have not found polyploidy; thus some uncertainty remains. It seems that the damage that leads to such chromosome defects decreases when the food is stored. A recent US report on the safety of irradiated chicken was published in 1984 and concludes that two of the studies had some possible adverse findings which will need careful consideration before the process can be declared safe. As in chemicals which cause cancer or genetic defects so with radiation any dose can cause the initial damage that develops into a cancer. Thus, even if a chemical change is small and can be decreased by appropriate techniques, it is merely reduced, not eliminated. The uncertainties about safety do not appear in the reports of British "experts" on irradiation.

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3. The formation of toxic substances in the food after irradiation is another danger to be considered. Hydrogen peroxide, for example, continues to develop after irradiation. Also there is a possibility of irradiation causing mutations in viruses, insects and bacteria in food and this leads to more resistant strains. Some strains of resistant salmonella have been developed by repeated irradiation under laboratory conditions. When considering the use of irradiation to reduce the risk of salmonella in chicken or fish one should look at the fact that irradiation could kill not only

the salmonella bacteria but also the yeasts and moulds which naturally combat botulinum, the bacterium which causes botulism food poisoning. Also killed are the organisms causing the putrid odour. But at the doses proposed the botulinum is not killed: it could multiply and become a health hazard without the consumer having any warning smell.

Who is primarily interested in marketing irradiated food?

On April 10, 1986, the Advisory Committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods (ACINF) published its report on "The Safety and Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods". It was in favour of allowing irradiation up to a dose of 10kGy, 10 times higher than permitted for general use in the USA.

It is noteworthy that the Government is allowing only three and a half months for public comment on the report — until the end of July 1986. The ACINF however had four years and greater resources.

Perhaps it is not surprising that one of the members of the Advisory Committee is also the managing director of a company called Isotron which is the company with a virtual monopoly position in the field of gamma irradiation facilities capable of handling food. Thus there is a huge economic advantage to be gained from the legalisation of food irradiation for this particular company and, of course for food manufacturers in general.

The consumer has the right to know what is contained in the food he eats. All irradiated food must be labelled including foods sold loose, in bulk and through catering outlets.

Although irradiation is not legal in Britain, many imported foods are irradiated. In fact foods imported from Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, Japan and South Africa, to name but a few of the 32 countries worldwide where it is legal, are almost all irradiated.

Thus consumers need precise information. They need to oppose the legalisation of irradiation until the issues of public health, monitoring and labelling have been satisfactorily dealt with. A petition against lifting the ban on irradiation is being circulated. The nuclear and food industries are well organised to lobby Parliament. But we must be free to choose what is done to our food. Support the petition.

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BERKSHIRE DRAMA WORKSHOPS

BERKSHIRE County Library, in association with the Berkshire Drama Committee, is holding a series of practical workshops at Reading Library this autumn on various aspects of play production. The workshops, which are funded by the Berkshire Arts Panel, are open to anyone who is involved in amateur drama or drama teaching. They include sessions on costume, make-up, directing, and an acting masterclass.

The workshops will be preceded by a special exhibition at the County Music and Drama Library on drama resources in Berkshire, which will include wardrobe, lighting, library and advisory services. The exhibition will run from August 18 to September 6, and a free booklet on Berkshire's drama resources and activities will be issued. A one-day book is also planned at the Library.

Further information and application forms for the workshops are available from Linda Barlow, County Music and Drama Library, Reading Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ. Phone Reading 509244.

Wednesday, October 1
**THE ACTOR'S
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Wednesday,
November 5

**DRESSING
THE PLAY**

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Wednesday,
December 3

**DIRECTING
THE PLAY**

Approaching the script; composition of the action; the rehearsal process. TOM WILDE, Head of Drama at Bulmershe College, feels that all these should contribute to the final choice of play, not be dictated by it. A lecture with practical illustrations. All four workshops will be held in the Abbey Room at Reading Library. They will begin at 7.30pm and last for approximately two hours. A charge of £1 per head (includes coffee) will be made for each one.

The workshops are open to all who take part in amateur drama, or teach it, but the places available are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

**DRAMA
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DECEMBER 1986**

Wednesday,
September 3

MAKING-UP

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Peter Allwood

PETER Allwood, one time Director of Music at Leighton Park School and organist and choir master at St Peter's, left the area to run Oundle School's music. This brilliant young man has now been appointed Director of Music at Christ's Hospital, and we wish him every success there. Peter improved the choir's standards at St Peter's and was responsible for the musical items at the Flower and Music Festival, where his "King's Singers", his orchestral and choral concert and his jazz band performances will not be forgotten. A nice touch — two of Richard Kingsbury's children are now at Christ's Hospital so the connection with St Peter's still stands!

Antiques Appreciation

THOSE who are interested in antiques may like to join the Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society, formed some 16 years ago. They meet usually on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May (excluding January), from 7.30 to 9.30pm to listen to a

first-class lecture, often illustrated, on different subjects appertaining to antiques. The theme for the 1986/87 season will be the eighteenth century, an in-depth study including such topics as silver and glass, furniture and interior design, costume and make-

up and ceramics. Membership is £5 per annum and if you would like further details please write to the Membership Secretary, CEAAS, c/o Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, near Reading, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

MR DICKSON, manager of the haberdashery department at Heelas, gave an interesting talk about his work to the ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild. He brought with him a large and varied selection of the goods sold. Haberdashery is one of the oldest trades in the country, going back to pedlars travelling between the great market towns in medieval times.

In the seventeenth century a certain John Lewis left his native Somerset to work for Peter Robinson. After a few years he set up a small silk shop of his own from which he has developed the present John Lewis chain. Mrs Hutson gave the vote of thanks.

Mrs Chamberlain gave a full account of the National Council meeting held in June at the Royal Albert Hall. The target of £750,000 to provide a health centre in Dacca has been reached thanks to the fund-raising efforts of guild members all over the British Isles. The President of the Townswomen's Guild, Princess Anne, sent a message of congratulation and thanks to the Guilds.

Although there is no meeting in August, visits to

Chiltern Open Air Museum and the Reading Chronicle offices have been arranged, three walks will take place and a garden party is to be held. The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday, September 9, at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green. Mr Clark will give a talk about birds which will be illustrated by a slide show. There will also be a harvest sales table. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome.

Caversham Ladies Club

CAVERSHAM Ladies Club opened their meeting with the usual welcome and news given by Mrs Harwood, the Chairman. This was then followed by Mrs Harwood introducing Mr and Mrs Stringer who had themselves been members of the Club prior to their move to Worthing. Mr Stringer had brought his projector and a large number of slides he had taken whilst on holiday with his wife in Venice. To make it even more interesting, during showing the slides Mr Stringer gave a commentary about the buildings etc and their history. Many of the Club members had themselves been on holiday in Venice on holiday but admitted they had seen very few of the places shown, September.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE speaker at Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild was Mr W. Ripper. The title "Bygones" invited all kinds of mementoes from the audience including a policeman's truncheon beautifully decorated and brought along by Mrs E. Mills, whose grandfather was a policeman in London at the time of William IV. The national meeting at the Albert Hall was

Maplewood WI

Maplewood WI members very much enjoyed a talk given by Mr C. P. Butler, a local pharmacist, tracing the history of his family firm over the past hundred years. He brought with him some of the earliest utensils for pill making and also old medicine bottle labels and advertisements. Afterwards members watched a film showing the part a present-day pharmacist plays in the life of the community.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs R. Painter.

and all said it had opened their eyes as to what they had missed. They enjoyed it very much.

An outing for a day at Bourne-mouth was very successful and happy, and they were lucky, the weather had been kind with sunshine all the day. An evening tour around the premises of Waitrose, in Church Street, Caversham, was much enjoyed by members. The Staff had contributed to the enjoyment by their happy and friendly manner and patience in answering a barrage of questions from the members.

The Club is not open during August. Mrs Harwood wished all members a happy time until the Club meets for Harvest Festival in September.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

CLUB members have enjoyed two outings since the last report. There was a somewhat wet start to our journey as we left Caversham for Bowood House in Wiltshire last May. However, the House was very interesting and an excellent afternoon tea was provided in the restaurant there. The sun appeared in time for us to look around the beautifully landscaped gardens and also made the journey home very pleasant. The weather was very kind for the July outing to Eastbourne on the 16th. A hot sunny day gave us a splendid time with lots to do at this typically English resort. A delicious high tea was provided on the pier before leaving for home.

Speakers during the last few months have been very varied including a return visit from Miss Tyler, with a

most entertaining account of her journey to Venice on the Orient Express. Mr Kent brought some marvellous puppets for us to see, and spoke of his many years of puppet making and in Puppet Theatre. Two voluntary helpers from the Samaritans Organisation gave us an insight into their wonderful caring work. Harold and Fred entertained us on the piano.

A party brought the Spring/Summer Session to a close on July 30 and the Club will re-open on Wednesday September 3 at 2pm at Church House.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent welcomed members to the July meeting on a very hot afternoon. After reporting the various activities, Mrs Weekes, the Delegate to the AGM at the Albert Hall, gave a comprehensive report. It's good to know that the WI is expanding with one hundred and fourteen new Institutes since last year.

Mrs B. Logan, from Sainsbury's Supermarkets, then gave a talk "Value for Money". This she illustrated with a table full of samples, showing how additives and colouring matter have been eliminated from their products. The competition for a "Suggestion for an improvement in Supermarkets" was won by Mrs Allwright.

The idea was that supermarkets should provide charts to show how weights and measures in metric compare with those in imperial.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild Walking, Singing and Cancer Relief

SUMMER is here so what is more appropriate than to think about walking? Mrs Pauline West reported that she and over 250 other people took part in the sponsored walk round Great Windsor Park in aid of Save the Whales and Friends of the Earth. What a good idea!

At the Guild's meeting in July in St Andrew's Hall the Director of the New Elizabethan Singers, Mr F. A. Terry, gave a history of the English ballad, which has survived for many hundreds of years. Accompanied at the piano by Mrs Marion Holmes, he and Mrs Freda Clarke sang a number of charming songs. A good example of a ballad written since 1920 is Roger Quilter's setting of Shakespeare's "O mistress mine where

are you roaming?"

At this meeting Mrs Lott reported from the Federation that the nutritional unit in Dacca is now established. Holidays, a wet evening and the Commonwealth Games combined to reduce numbers at social studies group of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild at the end of July, but an interesting talk about cancer relief by Mr Arthur Burton, chief pharmacist for many years at the Royal Berkshire County Hospital, was heard by those present. He affirmed that the story of cancer relief is a success story in spite of its being a shocking disease. The National Society for Cancer Relief with which he is associated was formed in 1911 by Douglas Macmillan so has reached its 75th anniversary. A charity in 1912, it became a benevolent society in 1924. From the small beginnings of financial aid and specialised nursing care much improvement has taken place. In 1967 the society helped towards the founding of the first hospice, St Christopher's Hospice, of which there are now 12 large and 7 smaller additions to hospitals. Domiciliary services have been developed. Macmillan nurses receive additional training facilities and opportunities. The society has a financial interest in the non-Macmillan Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed.

Chazey WI

MEMBERS of Chazey WI enjoyed a very entertaining opening for their July meeting when Mrs Sheila Stewart gave a talk on Tales and Treasures. An accomplished speaker, Mrs Stewart illustrated her talk with songs and verse, bringing to life some lovely antique items in her collection. Of special interest were some day-to-day household items, for example, a string beehive was yesterday's answer to sellotape. Members felt privileged to catch glimpses of the past through these personal "treasures", an enjoyed talking to Mrs Stewart afterwards.

It was a beautiful evening when the Health Club met for an exciting game of croquet in Marion Elliot's garden. The AGM followed and plans were made for next year's activities. The evening trip to Waterperry Gardens, near Oxford, was also a success, with the grounds at their best and the nursery very well stocked with a wide variety of plants. Unfortunately, the good weather did not last for the barbecue at Gallow's Hill Cricket Pavilion but all enjoyed the excellent food and congenial company. Other summer plans include a Garden Fete, a visit to Kintbury Health Farm and a Barge Trip from Newbury.

While all these seasonal activities continue, the new interest group, the Drama Club, is preparing Christmas entertainment. With no set meeting in August, it's still a busy period for the WI.

Caversham Community Association

AT THE Gypsy party on July 7 the members were asked to come dressed in traditional gypsy garb. Margaret Cameron received a prize as the best-dressed gypsy, George Feast received second prize. Entertainment was given by Freda Clarke and Frank Terry who sang, delightfully, extracts from light opera and musical operetta, Kathleen Robson accompanied them at the piano. The audience applauded enthusiastically and the singers were asked to pay a return visit. Vicki Scheel was in charge of the Nearly New stall, there were also books for sale.

A Bring and Buy sale was held on July 14. The proceeds were to be used to subsidise the forthcoming coach trip to Bournemouth.

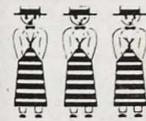
On July 21 a party to celebrate the marriage that week of Miss Sarah Ferguson to Prince Andrew was well attended. Many of the members arrived wearing their own arrangements for a wedding corsage. Everyone brought a contribution towards the refreshments which resulted in a good selection of food for the members. Some games were played with a "Royal Wedding" slant before

the break for refreshments. A musical entertainment then followed given by the Club's Drama Group and produced by May Plant. Songs tracing life's up and downs from schooldays to old age were given with Nancy Nelhams accompanying at the piano and Ted Howard as MC. The members were appreciative of all

the work done by Mrs Plant and all the performers in giving such an enjoyable show.

A whist drive took place on the last Monday in July with Doreen Crawley in charge of the proceedings. Gladys Chandler had the highest score and received first prize, Muriel Waite and Elsie Glanville were joint second prize winners.

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Caversham WI

The guest speaker at the July meeting was Mr Terry Warner, who was accompanied by his guide dog "Napp". Mr Warner told members how Guide Dogs for the Blind are trained and showed a film giving the various stages from birth until allocation to a blind person. There are about four

thousand guide dogs in this country and each costs about £4,000 to train, the money coming from donations, etc.

The next meeting will be on September 18, the subject being Antique Silver. Before that, during August, an outdoor meeting will be held in a member's garden.

WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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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)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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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 (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

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

Caversham Heights

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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St Martin's School

9.15am Mass

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CAVERSHAM DIARY

September 6 6pm. Induction Service for Rev Dr Philip Egglestone as associate minister at Caversham Baptist Free Church

September 9 7.30pm. Caversham Ladies Circle Fashion Show. Mapledurham Pavilion. Further information Tel: 474854.

September 20 8pm. Organ Recital, St Andrew's Church by Robert Barsby, Director of Music, Pangbourne College.

September 21 9.15am. Harvest Festival, St Andrew's

September 27 Harvest Supper, St Andrew's Hall

September 28 Caversham Heights Methodist Church Harvest Festival Celebrations

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