



OLD MAPLEDURHAM

Four photographs of Mapledurham taken by the well-known Oxford photographer Henry Taunt (1842-1922).

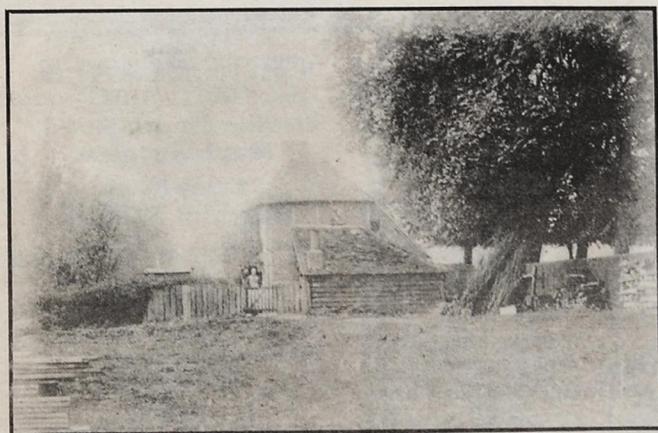
Henry Taunt was a great character and in spite of apparently having only limited schooling (he was working by the age of ten), he became a man of considerable interests, ability and skills. He was in fact a man of many parts, but above all a first class photographer. One of his delights was to put on shows with his magic lantern using slides he made himself. Besides owning a photographic business in Oxford he was also a writer, producing many of the fifty or so books himself. He also wrote a revised version of the National Anthem and played the organ. He belonged to the Foresters Friendly Society and the Ancient Order of Druids and even found time to become a keen naturalist and antiquarian. He gave many serious lectures but also enjoyed entertaining children who flocked in their hundreds to hear him at the Oxford Town Hall. Life can never have had a dull moment for Henry Taunt. A book about the man and his photography may interest readers. The England of Henry Taunt; Edited by Bryan Brown. Published by Rouledge and Kegan Paul, London.



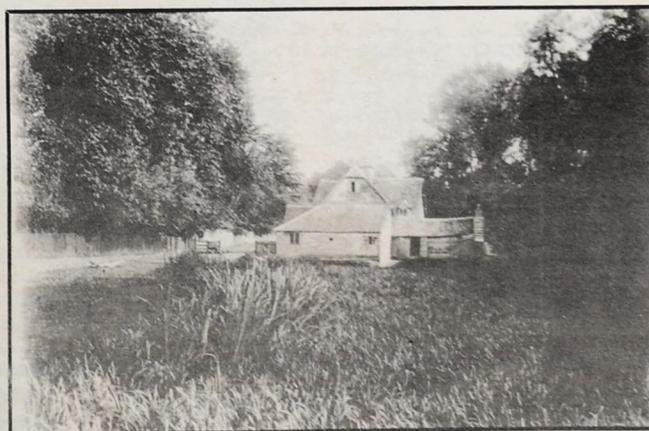
Along the Warren. The beautifully cared for bank on the right was kept regularly trimmed even into the early thirties by Mr Dutfield, a Mapledurham pensioner, who lived in one of the Almhouses. He took a great pride in keeping the Warren tidy and this bank was like an Austrian meadow, filled with flowers and always a joy to behold even to a little girl!



A tranquil and idyllic rural scene in the Thames Valley with the river overgrown with rushes but no doubt far less polluted.



Ferry Cottage once stood just beyond the mill on its Whitchurch side. On the left can be seen the end of a pile of planks, for a small sawmill once stood in the vicinity. The little dwelling place is sadly is no more.



The mill from the West. The part nearest to the camera was later destroyed by fire.

The above photographs have been taken from old sepia coloured prints

D/EX 1758/24/10

TALKING POINT

by The Rev Peter Mullins
Assistant Curate St Margaret's & St Peter's



PETER HAS A LOT TO LEARN

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Christ.' Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke clearly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Out of my sight Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the things of God but the things of men.'

(Mark 8.27-33)

You don't often get a Bible Study in this slot, but there is no reason why a passage from the Bible shouldn't be a 'talking point'! This one is the turning point in the middle of Mark.

Who do people say that I am?

The first half of this gospel has been full of non-humans saying things like 'We know who you are' (1.24) and humans saying things like 'Who can this be?' (2.7, 4.41). The humans' minds were shut (6.52). Now is the moment for a leap in understanding.

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You are the Christ.

Do you think Peter said this with the confidence we sometimes give the words when we read them in church? Or do you think he might have stammered it out? Christ (Greek) means Messiah (Hebrew) and 'the anointed one' (English). 'You are the promised expression of what God is.' It will become clear in a moment that what Peter thought this meant isn't adequate.

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone.

He is always doing this (1.34, 5.43)! Scholars can never agree why. Here is it a warning to us that 'Jesus is the Christ' isn't a

formula to bandy about but a mystery to explore? Jesus is about to tell them that the implication for him isn't what they expect. Recognising that there is something very special in this man isn't enough.

He then began to teach...

Began?! Isn't there anything in the first half of the gospel about this? There is one hint (3.6) but no teaching as such. It is as if there are two lessons. Lesson One is to recognise that this man represents far more than himself. We are about to get the story of the transfiguration (9.2). Peter has full marks for Lesson One. Lesson Two is what Jesus now begins to teach. It dominates the second half of the gospel.

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...that the Son of Man must suffer.

Must?! Not 'it looks as if he might do' but 'he must suffer.' That is Lesson Two. Why? I'm not sure that I really know. When God chose to be part of his creation he seemed to see the implication was that he had to be totally part of it. He didn't play at it. He faced the worst things in it. The word is 'must' even if we can't fully see why.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

And well he might! Wouldn't it be much more sensible to be 'the Christ' for the world in another more simple more expected way? Doesn't all this stuff about healing, forgiving and making a whole which has been going on in the gospel until now show that Jesus could act in this way if he liked?

You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.

What have we to preach as we struggle to understand the things of God with the minds of men? First that in the man Jesus of Nazareth there is shown to us the being of God. Secondly that God's way of dealing with the awfulness which is part of creation isn't to wave a magic wand over it but to be totally involved in it. Where individuals or communities are hurt that is what we have to offer as the beginning of our feeble understanding of the source of 'resurrection' (which is, of course, where the gospel story is heading).

PIRATES!



E.S. Archer

Last day of Children's Holiday Activities at Caversham Library — the "pirates" gather to hunt treasure — and drink orange squash!

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P.A.H. Bailey

The Baker and his boy — seen above Scotts Bakers Shop.

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All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday Oct 2.

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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BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE

NEVER since 1643 when warring Cavaliers and Roundheads managed to blow up part of the bridge has it been so difficult to walk between Caversham and Reading. Not even when the old bridge was demolished in 1868 was the pedestrian abandoned to his own devices, for a foot bridge was always kept open. Even in the thirteenth century "Poor people" who, unable to afford the toll, were ferried across the water by a (presumably) ill-paid boatman, fared better than today's pedestrians who are compelled to risk life and limb as they pick their way across a road surface that would have disgraced a medieval pack horse road.

It is quite intolerable that virtually no provision at all should be made for pedestrians whilst extensive road works are carried out. Demands for an explanation as to how this state of affairs came about merely produced from the County Council an explanation as to why the road works were being carried out (we knew that already) and an attempt to pin

the blame for the state of the paths on the Borough Council.

The Borough Council replied to the effect that whilst they realised the pedestrian routes were not always(!) ideal, every effort was made to keep a north/south route open. For heck, what are we expected to do on the occasions when every effort fails?

No one suggested taking any measures to remedy the situation. Even if a chap were sent along two or three times a day to see that pedestrians were getting a fair deal, it would at least show that someone thought they mattered. Even when the whole operation is completed it is far from clear what facilities there will be for crossing the road. If present attitudes are anything to go by, they are going to be something entirely unsatisfactory. Bring back the ferry.

POP, ROCK & JAZZ

To add to all these problems the Pop Festival made its customary Bank

Holiday appearance. Traffic came to a complete standstill and pop fans, littered across the pavements, merged with the existing muddle to produce a scene of complete chaos. At least the sun shone this year, so mud did not make matters even worse.

The rhythmic beat and sounds of what some would not regard as music floated across the river, and if you hated it you suffered, but if you could manage to turn your mind to something else, it was no worse than the sound of traffic and a great deal quieter than Concorde. Litter cleaning was again a problem. Clearing up teams operated with reasonable efficiency but no clearing up system can cope when too many fans simply drop their litter where they stand. In so doing, they are, as the gypsies before them, playing right into their opponents' hands. However, by Monday the site and all roads leading to it were as clean, if not cleaner, than they normally are.

SUMMER JOYS

After the clutter and confusion of the approaches to both bridges, what a joy it is to see the hanging baskets of flowers with their brilliant displays of colour, in dazzling contrast to the drab ugliness below them. Small wonder they contributed to Reading's near win in the Britain in Bloom competition, and it is certainly no shame to be beaten by Oxford, a city with

which Reading can scarcely compare, by only two marks.

Summer joys were also apparent in Christchurch Meadows where the new play area proved a huge success. The sand, the water and the exciting equipment, the grass with its picnic tables and the river with its abundant water fowl, including four of this year's cygnets, attracted families from far and wide. The whole atmosphere was more like the beach of a popular seaside resort than of everyday familiar Reading. Congratulations on both these counts to the far-sightedness of the Leisure Department. They brought pleasure to many.

SPRINGFIELD ST. LUKE

Springfield St. Luke has brought security and comfort to many elderly ladies when age and frailty have compelled them to give up their own homes. Other less elderly ladies have looked forward with confidence and without foreboding to their declining years because they had already booked place for when the time came in this happy Christian community.

Suddenly all this is shattered. The nuns of Springfield St. Luke are themselves getting too elderly to look after their charges and, a sad sign of the times, there are too few younger nuns at the community's mother house at Wantage to carry on their work. So the

whole property is to be sold, its present residents dispersed elsewhere, and its future residents finding their confidence replaced by anxiety.

To an outsider it certainly appears that insufficient effort has been made to find alternative ways of running the home, possibly for example, on an agency basis. The planning brief for the site, not in itself objectionable, nevertheless accepted unquestioningly its sale and development. Of course it is a valuable site; of course its present use is not maximising its value, but in terms of human happiness it was more than profitable. Is it too late to think again?

A MILLION FOR THE MANSION

The Prospect Park Mansion House is not in Caversham, but if plans to restore it as a community arts centre come to fruition it will be for the use of the whole of Reading (and even surrounding

areas) so as such it is of interest to us on this side of the river.

The Civic Society, whose proposals for its future use and restoration won the support of the Borough Council, have agreed (they must be mad) to try to raise the extra million pounds required for its restoration on top of the million the Borough Council has already set aside for the purpose. Much of this money must come from grants and business sponsorship but these sources can only be tapped

when it has been shown that Reading people themselves are behind the efforts being made to raise the money.

A fete and draw have started the ball rolling. A garden party and disco have made more money. Now the organisers want the public to join in with the usual, and unusual, ways of raising money. If you are interested, contact the Mansion House Appeal Office in the Museum and Art Gallery building of the Town Hall, which is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 2.15 and 4.30. Mrs. P. Lilley on Reading 872759 will also answer queries.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

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THE SPORTS COUNCIL IN CAVERSHAM — by Francis

I have been curious about the work of the Sports Council ever since the office opened next to Waitrose in Caversham over a year ago. The other day I went in and asked for information on the work done in the Caversham Office.

I was helpfully loaded with books, leaflets and information from which I have extracted what I hope are interesting and relevant facts to residents of Caversham.

In 1972 the Sports Council was established by Royal Charter to develop sport in this country. The Council is an independent body which has overall responsibility for British sports matters. There are separate Councils for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and all four work closely to ensure a consistent approach to common problems.

The office in Caversham is the headquarters of the Southern Region which takes in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Sports Council receives an annual grant from central government which it uses to develop sport. The Council aims to help more people gain a general understanding of the social importance and value of sport and it helps to provide the new facilities required to do this. It encourages wider participation in

sport as a means of enjoying leisure and it aims to raise the standards of performance.

The Sports Council has achieved a great deal in terms of making people aware of the need to take exercise, and enjoy it.

However, there are still some groups who are not participating as much as others, these include women, middle-aged and older men, the poor, the handicapped and the ethnic minority groups. The aim of the Council is to get one point seven million more men and three point nine million more women playing sport. This means that more leisure centres will have to be built, more courts and pitches created and more pools provided.

During the 80's the 'sport for all' campaigns have played a great part in the Council's efforts to stimulate participation. The disabled have been encouraged to take up sport and people over forty-five, who have up till now been loathe to participate have been encouraged with publicity campaigns.

In Caversham our own facilities to enjoy sport will improve enormously when the new leisure centre is opened on the south side of the river. It will be greatly appreciated by people on this side of town and hopefully the car parking facilities will be adequate to deal with the increasing number of cars around. As this article has been concerned

with exercise and fitness, I must add a personal point of view. The streets in Caversham are becoming more and more choked with cars every day. I know a lot of this is due to the vast areas of road that are constantly being dug up, but it could be eased by more people leaving their cars at home.

Many people on the roads are local people and surely it would make sense if more people either walked or cycled? I have cycled around Reading for years and apart from the odd close shaves with thoughtless drivers have found it much the best mode of transport.

To get off my hobby horse and back onto the subject of the Sports Council, a new scheme called the Reading Girls Rowing Scheme (REGIROS) was launched in May. With help from the Council, Reading Rowing Club and many other organisations, the scheme will provide the chance for women of all ages to become involved in rowing and to make the most of the facilities in the area. While the new Reading Rowing Club base is being built, a temporary site at Reading University Clubhouse is being used.

Work has already started on the new boathouse, situated at the lower end of the promenade adjacent to the existing riverside car

park. As well as being the new home for the Rowing Club, the facility will also be used by the Reading Schools which offer the sports as part of their curriculum. It will also be the venue for a variety of national and local rowing events.

The Sports Council in Caversham have details of all sports facilities and courses in the area and welcome any inquiries.

The office is next door to Waitrose on the left and the telephone number is Reading 483311.



Patrick Bailly

"Old Father Time," also known as Old Palm, looks down from the woods at Mapledurham.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT



E.S. Archer

Married at St Peter's — Glynis Francis with her daughter Helen and her new husband, Dr John Reay. Also in the picture is Mrs Mavis Vincent, Helen's godmother who travelled from New Zealand to be at the wedding. Mavis and Glynis met 27 years ago when they both worked at S.H. Ware & Co in Caversham House.

The light of the World

by Harold Hill

Probably the best known and loved verse in the Bible is from Revelations — "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and opens the door I will come to him, and will sup with him and he with me." This is also the verse which inspired one of the most famous pre-Raphaelite artists to paint one of the world's most

famous paintings.

For me it has very special significance; in my early teens I went to work for a restorer who had just started to clean and restore this beautiful painting, which had been stored away during the war years. As we worked on this picture, one thing that struck me was, that as the dirt was removed from the



cloak and face of Jesus, the brilliance of the colours shone out.

It was not until I became a born again Christian and gave my heart to Jesus that I realised that becoming a Christian is like cleaning an oil painting, in particular this one, "The Light of the World." As each layer of dirt is removed it is like shedding a skin and as we remove the dirt from the painting the beauty of Jesus shines through, so as Christians when we give our heart to Jesus it is like removing the dirt for the light of God to fill our life.

Painting the Picture

You may like to know how Holman Hunt came to paint this wonderful picture. He painted it at his home in Ewell in 1851 when he was 24. Each part of the painting has a meaning.

Meaning

The trees in the

background are apple trees; these he painted by the light of a candle in his Surrey farm house which he was sharing with John Millais, another famous artist. The rest of the picture he painted in his Chelsea studio in a makeshift tent of canvas and venetian blinds. He made a wooden dummy attached a secondhand lantern to it. Searching for the material to give the glow of the robe, he used a family heirloom, a richly embroidered tablecloth. Christ's face had to be full of Love and Understanding; Hunt used Elizabeth Siddal's lovely copper coloured hair and the face of Christina Rossetti. He then added a beard and a moustache. Now look at the meaning behind the painting.

There is no handle on the door because it is the door to the human heart that can only be opened from the inside. Every part of the painting is rich in symbolism. The closed door is the mind of man and woman obstinately shut to Christ. The creeping ivy shows that it has not been opened for a long time. The orchard is the garden of delectable fruits of

faith, ready to feast the soul. The lantern shows that truth is revealed in different ways.

Other copies

There are four paintings of various sizes on the same subject. The largest is in St Paul's, and after Hunt painted it, it went on a world tour and was seen by 7 million people. John Ruskin said of the copy which took two years to complete and now hangs in Keble College, Oxford, "One of the noblest works of sacred art ever to be produced in this or any other age."

Inspiration

While Holman Hunt confessed at the time of painting the original that he was not a Christian, no man could have created such a work unless he was blessed and inspired by Jesus. Of all the dozens of Victorian artists of the day, I believe God chose Holman Hunt to paint this picture which would be an inspiration to mankind forever. I know to me it is the most beautiful painting in the world and every time I look at the many prints I have of it, I realise, "What a friend we have in Jesus."

(Mr Hill restores and values fine paintings. He is an art critic and lecturer. Phone Reading 53053).

Postbag

Apropos to the Rector's article in September's Caversham Bridge, many years ago when living in my beloved Cornwall and able to walk to church on a weekday, a lady used to walk in with her large shopping bag, sit down beside her friend and have a good old chin wag. Seeing her in the town one day, I said Mrs XYZ could you please stop talking before the service begins as I find it so distracting." She looked at me blankly and said "Well, you see, my friend is deaf."

A nieces's husband, when he retired from the Army, got a very good job in Warwickshire on a large estate and read the lessons in church. One day he said to one of the farm hands "I haven't seen you in church Tom." "No sir" was his reply, "No one has ever asked me." "But Tom you don't have to wait to be asked to go to church."

Our darling old Gardener, who was digging in the garden, was suddenly accosted by some new "Do Gooders" in the village. "Have you found the Lord my good man?", they enquired. He promptly stopped digging, took off his battered old straw hat and replied, "No, have you lost Him?"

Mrs Nancy Banfield

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Caversham Good Neighbour scheme

The Committee of the Good Neighbour scheme would like to thank all kind friends of Caversham who gave such good quality jumble and bric-a-brac and so many books enabling them to have a most successful sale on 5th September. The net amount made was £249.50 and at the end of the day there was still much left. Nothing worthwhile will be wasted — Age Concern and Save the

Children being two of the Charities who will benefit.

Once again, thanks to all who gave the goods, friends who came to help the hard pressed committee on the day and of course, those who came to buy.

The AGM is on Tuesday, 19th January 1988, a long way ahead but we hope you will make a note for next year's diary — further details in the January edition of the Bridge.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST PETER'S NEWS

THERE is an individual form of madness which affects the leaders of church youth groups. One manifestation of this is rumoured to be contagious having been spread from a Methodist source in Clifton Park Road. On a Friday evening in the middle of August four adults and a dozen members of the St Peter's Youth Group left spare clothes, food and sleeping bags at Trench Green Hall. At 9.00pm they were then left at

Crowmarsh Gifford with the sole intention of walking back along footpaths to their starting point during the course of the night. The main party made it at about 4.00am

Nothing can beat the joy of being met by hot soup and drinks in a wood near Exlade Street sometime after midnight! Nothing can beat the despair of the leaders at finding that even all this had not exhausted the young people by the time they reached

their goal and that the intention was to make a minimum use of their sleeping bags! And in the end nobody minded too much that they could not cook their sausages for Breakfast because the gas in the Hall had run out. They simply went home for a morning in bed.

And the sausages were served on sticks for the St Peter's congregation with their coffee after the 9.15am service the following day.

LETTERS TO AND FROM

MATABELELAND

IN the month of Harvest Festivals and One World Week we need to keep looking outwards. 'The Caversham Bridge' does its best to remind us of this. During this year it has carried a front page report from John Madeley (a Reader at St Peter's and a freelance journalist) from Cameroon. There has also been news of how much the Chapel-on-the-Hill appreciated its link with Vijay Manandhar from Nepal and Caversham Baptist Free Church with Jean Sawyer in Tonga. There has been news of money being raised by St Margaret's and the Baptist Free Church for the work of Gillian Rose and Sally-Anne Ousley, both in Bangladesh. There has

been publicity for the Caversham 'Caring and Sharing' Group and for Christian Aid Week.

Would any young people (particularly girls) like to have a letter writing link with Matabeleland? Peter Mullins (from St Peter's and St Margaret's) visited an Anglican Girls' Secondary School in this remote part of Zimbabwe this spring. Several of the girls there would love to have a 'pen-pal' from England. It is an area badly effected by drought and bandits. It would be much more interesting than trying to write letters in French or German because the girls all speak and are taught in English! Send a note to 25 Ilkley Road if you are interested.

OBITUARIES

Mr Harry Barnett

IN a simple service on August 6th members of St Margaret's Mapledurham committed Harry Barnett, a senior member of their church, to God after many months of illness patiently and bravely borne. Everyone present has their special memory of Harry for a number of then had known his quiet gentleness for many years; the numerous little kindnesses he did; his readiness to be of assistance to all, the years of faithful worship in the village Church. In the nineteen sixties he served the then Parochial Church Council as church-warden and sidesman and he was a manager of the little

Church primary school.

Harry was a local man born and bred in Reading and he lived in Kidmore Road, Caversham for over fifty years. It was from here during the first years of his married life that he and his beloved wife Joan cycled each Sunday to worship at St Margarets.

We truly have good reason to be thankful and rejoice for his life and witness amongst us. He was an example to us all and we shall remember him with great affection.

To his wife Joan, and all his family we extend our loving thoughts and prayers in their great loss.

Mr Elmslie Perkins

IT was only in February last year that we said goodbye to Elmslie and Irene Perkins on their departure to Cornwall. Sadly Elmslie died suddenly on Tuesday September 1st whilst loading up the caravan preparatory to a holiday in France.

He had been a Reader since 1954 and had served in the Dioceses of Chichester, Rochester, Sheffield, Oxford and, finally Exeter. His son David, is an Anglican Priest and his

daughter Christine is a school teacher; they have four grandchildren.

During their stay in Caversham, Elmslie as a Reader greatly assisted the parish, taking services, counselling and comforting those who were bereaved, and helping in any way that was within his power.

Irene has the support of a devoted family and our prayers and sympathy go out to them, especially at this time.

St Andrew's Fellowship

A splendid outing was enjoyed by a large coachload of members and friends of St Andrew's Fellowship on August 13th. In spite of a gloomy forecast, the weather remained fine and even sunny at times, which made the drive to Alresford very pleasant. Lunch was taken on arrival, by some on the coach, by others at various hostels in the town, after which there was time to look at the in-

teresting shops. Then it was all aboard in a specially reserved coach for a trip on the Watercress Line, which was especially enjoyed by the youngest members of the party.

The coach went on to Alton where everybody rejoined it for the short trip to Jane Austen's house at Chawton. Half then went to enjoy a delicious cream tea while the rest of the party explored Jane's house after a short,

interesting talk given by one of the staff. Then it was teatime for them and house exploring time for the others!

Everyone was able to enjoy the sun in the beautiful garden of the famous house before setting off once more for Caversham. The outing was voted one of the best the Fellowship has had for a long time, and thanks were due to Ken Bond for organising it so well.

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

AT the September meeting held in the Hall Mrs Barolle and Mrs Dye spoke about the victims' Support Schemes set up in various parts of the country, including Reading. These are staffed by volunteers from the police, pro-

bation officers and social workers, as well as members of the medical and legal professions and exist to give practical help and counselling to victims of crime.

Members heard that there is a great need for more

volunteers with skill to offer and who are willing to be trained for this very necessary work.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be the Annual General Meeting on October 6th, preceded by a service in church at 2pm.

St Andrew's Hall

THIS August has seen a lot of activity in St Andrew's Hall, sanding and resurfacing the floor and making permanent the stage extension, this enabling storage space under the stage to be used by ingenious trolleys designed and made by David Cooper. Thus all the wide

range of equipment needed by the Play Group will be more readily available so freeing for us one of the Committee rooms. Contrary to rumours at present circulating, there is no intention of ousting the Play Group from using the Hall.

CHURCHPEOPLE'S LUNCHEON CLUB

Congratulations to Mr. Eric Smith, Parish Treasurer, who has taken over from Bill Vincent as Chairman of the Churchpeople's Luncheon Club. This meets on the first

Thursday of every month at St Lawrence's Hall, Abbey Square, Reading from 1-2pm. Enquiries to Philip Wickens, 467 Basingstoke Road, Reading RG2 0JG.



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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

The Rev Dr Philip Egglestone, 324B Hemdean Road. Tel: 470554.

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The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 All Hallows Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530

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AUTUMN EVENT AT ST ANDREW'S HALL

STOCK up your store cupboard, freezer, wardrobe, bookshelves and garden — do your Christmas shopping early — have some fun with the sideshows — or simply come for a home made lunch or tea. It's all there on October 17th at St Andrew's Playgroup's Autumn Fayre.

The Fayre will take place at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham between 11 am and 4 pm. All manner of produce and crafts, toys, books, garden plants, floral art, raffles, games and competitions will be offer, and there will also be charity stalls. And to keep the children busy while their parents browse, there will be a giant inflatable for them to bounce on.

St Andrew's Playgroup is noted in the local community for its fundraising events: not just for itself although it is entirely self supporting, but for charity and the church as well.

Playgroup Chairman Mrs Anne Pegrum will be asking local MP Sir Gerard Vaughan to open the Fayre. He is an old friend of the Playgroup and in September 1984 spent a whole morning joining in the play, readint stories to the children and finding out for himself how a playgroup works.

"We hope that he will be able to come and renew his friendship with us," Mrs Pegrum said. "And we are certainly hopeful of a bumper turnout from the local community."

Pre-school Playgroups in Caversham

There are eight playgroups in Caversham taking children from the age of three until they go to school at five. Playgroups are supervised by qualified and caring people and cater for the needs of young children. In many groups parents play an active part in the life of the playgroup.

Playgroups in Caversham can be found at:

1. **Caversham Heights.** Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Monday 9.30-11.30. Tues., Weds., Fri. 9.30-12 noon.

2. **Caversham Park.** Milestone Centre Mon-Fri 9-12 noon Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9.15-12.15

3. **Crawshay.** Queen-sway, C.P.V. Mon-Fri 9-12 noon Mon., Tues., Thurs. 1.30-3.30

4. **Mapledurham.** Mapledurham Playing Fields, Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9.30-12 noon.

5. **Micklands.** Mick-lands Primary School. Mon.-Fri. 8.45-11.45, 1-3.30.

6. **School Lane.** Baptist Church, South Street. Mon.-Fri. 9.15-12 noon.

7. **St Andrew's.** St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road. Mon.-Thurs. 9.15-12 noon.

8. **St Barnabas.** St Barnabas Hall, Grove Road. Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9.15-11.45.

TRAFFIC IN CAVERSHAM

Monday 19 October at Caversham Baptist Centre, Church Street at 8.00pm. Cllr A. Page, Chairman of the Borough Planning Committee will speak on Traffic in Caversham. He will answer questions afterwards. Put this date in your diary now.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

MY MISTAKE!

Come back all I said about road and pavement repairs in last month's edition — I've had cause to regret ever bothering the Council and think next time I find a pothole impeding my progress I'll get a bucket of cement and fill it in myself. Our road and those adjacent have certainly changed a little in contours in the last few weeks. But for the better? I doubt it — in fact I'm tempted to say they are worse. Time and space doesn't permit a detailed report of the state of play. In the past few weeks a couple of gentlemen have turned up from time to time, with or without machinery, made some alterations and disappeared. The pavement on one side of the road, including a stop cock, has been covered with a new kind of gunge and the kerb tidied up a little; on the other side holes have appeared that weren't there before, the entrance to our garage has been hazardous and now the workmen have removed the pieces of carpet, admittedly old, that we used to make the entrance over pieces of rock easier.

A very nice gentleman turned up from the Council some weeks ago, admitted that all was not as it should be and asked us to keep him informed; the last couple of weeks have failed to produce any contact with him at all. But then he did suggest

that the men doing the job were not under his direct control, so he can't be really blamed for hiding away.

The road itself, which wasn't too bad before, has now got lumps and bumps caused by the use, or misuse, of heavy machinery, and the whole thing is a mess. Many of the potholes and loose cobbles are still there.

So now what do we do — any suggestions? In the meantime we have a goodly batch of road cones scattered indiscriminately down the road — they might be of use to someone. Viewers of 'Bread' please note.

ROAD UP

But why am I moaning, since the whole of Reading seems to be nothing more than a collection of loose bricks, bits of machinery and so on. Does anyone have any control at all over road repairs; if so, why isn't one job finished before another pile of bricks and holes appears. Sunday morning found me stepping out to cross the lower end of Prospect Street only to be almost run down by a car sweeping round from Gosbrook Road on what I thought was the wrong side of the road. I'd failed to notice the workmen and their machines had put

the other half out of action. Asked what they thought they were doing, one workman grinned amiably and said 'Road Works.' Is this some kind of weird game or what?

HOME FROM HOME

I'm going to stick my neck out and ask if anyone can tell me just what has been going on about Springfield St Luke. Now please, before anyone accuses me of stirring up trouble, let me make it quite clear that I'm not blaming anyone and most certainly not the Sisters at Springfield who have been very upset about events and have tried their utmost to help the residents. But there must be something wrong when ladies of 95 and over are suddenly reduced to hawking themselves around the country looking for a new home especially when — if press reports are to be believed — there was some-body willing to take over the running of the home temporarily until proper arrangements could be made. According to these reports it might be a case of the Charity Commissioners insisting on the largest sum obtainable.

My main concern is that there has been so much secrecy over the

whole business. For heaven's sake, we had enough of this kind of thing over Balmore Hall; must we have it again?

And if anyone says it's not my business, well, they are quite right. True the waiting list on which my own name was included, has been torn up; but I'm far more concerned about the very elderly ladies who thought they could spend the rest of their lives there only to find themselves completely uprooted at a time when they might have hoped to be left in peace.

from most of our shop assistants these days. They tend to be rather young, which might have something to do with it. And I should give a special mention to the lads and lassies in the new grocers in Prospect Street. But if I had to award a prize I'd give it to the young lady weighing up the fruit and veg in Waitrose recently — turning to pick up my purchases I got the loveliest smile I've seen on anyone in a long time. Unfortunately I don't know who she is — do you?

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Having got that off my chest, just room for an outside bouquet. I've been increasingly aware of the very friendly and helpful service we've been getting

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Save The Children Fund

The results of the competition to guess the number of miles covered by the Rev. Derek Spears on his motor-bike trip to the Holy Land is as follows:
 1st D Hunt, Flat 5, 28 Granville Road, 4,220 miles
 2nd Mr and Mrs Ednay, 2 Circuit Lane 4,219.5 miles
 3rd Olive Plumridge, 18 Southcote Farm Lane 4,212 miles.
 The actual number of miles travelled was 4,220.5, so very well done to the prizewinners, whose estimates were in while Derek was still on his travels. And many thanks to Derek for suggesting this novel way of contributing to SCF.

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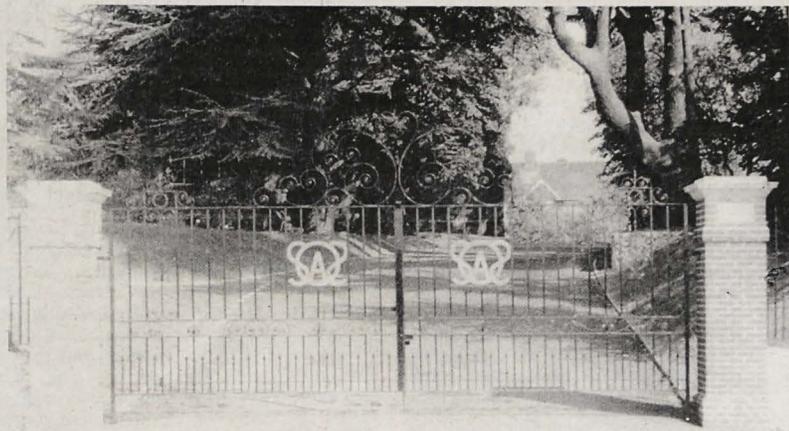
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ANY OLD IRON? NO WAY!

The parish as a whole is not short of interesting and sometimes beautiful ironwork, and three eye-catching gates are pictured here.



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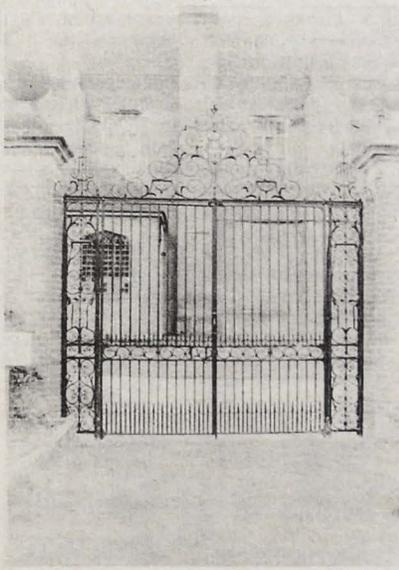
Queen Anne's School in the Henley Road



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Chiltern Nursery Training College in Peppard Road. Refurbishment of gates from their old house in The Rise.

The gates to the chapel at Mapledurham House — refurbished by Laurence Love.



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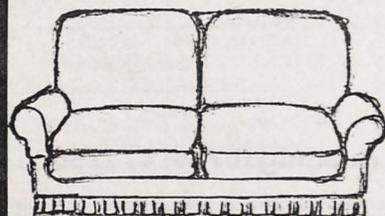
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FARE-THEE-WELL!

After many happy years in Caversham, Mrs Phyllis Pond moves to join her son and his family. Her new address is Home Farm, Padworth, Reading RG7 4NP (Burghfield Common 3251).

Phyllis will be greatly missed, for her tremendous contribution to church and community in Caversham, her lovely smile and warmth of friendship. We wish her well in her new home.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Rosehill WI

The September meeting was held on the 2nd of the month; after the August break members were welcomed by Mrs Weller. All the activities mentioned in the July report took place, and were successful and enjoyed. The proceeds will be put together and used for the W.I. House, etc. after a Coffee Morning on the 10th for ACWW at Mrs Weekes.

The talk was by Mrs Susan Leighton, Head of TVam News. She was very entertaining with her description of the programme background and planning, which goes on all day.

An exhibition of lovely photographs of "A Favourite Pet" was brought by members.

Blagrove WI

On a really warm day Mrs Ford the President welcomed members and two visitors. The garden party held in August had made a profit of over £40 in spite of the terrible weather and thanks were given to Mrs Mercer for the use of her

home. The speaker was Joan Farrell from the British Red Cross Society who gave plenty of useful information on dealing with accidents and injuries in the home. A calm approach seemed to be of prime importance though not always easy. The competition for a single rose was won by Mrs Ogden, Mrs Ford and Mrs Sawyer who also won the raffle.

St Peter's Wives Group

The August Raffle would appear to be catching on. The attendance was up by 100% on last year's reported numbers, there being 18 walkers and 2 dogs this year. As it proved to be a very pleasant evening, can we perhaps hope for even greater things next year? Our route took us along parts of the Thames and Kennet towpaths, making a convenient circular walk.

The Group's next meeting is on October 20, in Church House at 8pm, when Mr Richard Came of Sotheby's will give a talk on the work of this famous Auction House and impart to us some of his extensive knowledge of fine silver.

November 7th, 10.30am in Church House, the Group will be staging an Autumn Fair to raise money for a chosen charity. Tea and coffee will also be served during the morning, please give us your support.

Caversham Heights TG

At the meeting of the Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall in August those who had heard about crowds of people waiting in Gatwick airport to travel in cramped conditions in aeroplanes heard about an altogether more delightful way of travel with the Orient Express.

Once a journey by train to Istanbul and from there by steamer, alas the train now runs on a different route and only as far as Venice. Nevertheless Miss P Tyler, who gave the talk, described how she had made up her mind to make the trip with her friend from the Progress Theatre company a year after glimpsing the train at platform 8 at Victoria station in London.

The route was from Victoria to Folkstone, with lunch provided, then the lounge of the cross-channel ferry was reserved for the passengers from the train. The French train reached Lake Geneva and the Alps, then the Simplon tunnel took them into Italy. Music, food, wine and good company were enjoyed. There was lovely panelling in the lounge and flowers decorated the tables. Compartments were transformed into comfortable sleeping accommodation and breakfast rounded off the journey.

In view of the Minister of the Environment's intervention on behalf of developers wanting to build 500 houses in Hemdean Bottom, members were urged by the Chairman to write to the Minister and to join in the walk along the beauty spot on 6th September, to show how many people cared about its continued existence.

Caversham Community Association

There was a good attendance at the Old Tyme dancing evening on August 3rd. Many of the old favourites were danced with a few modern dances for variety. During the evening members had the chance to buy from two stalls. One was the usual "Bring and Buy" stall held on

the first Monday in the month, members giving 10% of the sale price to club funds. The other stall had gifts contributed by the members to be sold and the proceeds given to subsidise the coach trip arranged for the following week.

Good weather on the 10th August helped to make the trip around the countryside of the Chiltern hills most enjoyable. The informative coach driver pointed out the places of interest amidst some beautiful scenery during the ride of 120 miles. A stop was made for refreshments at Stokenchurch to complete a good outing.

Steven Bingham, who is blind, was the visiting speaker the next week. He brought his dog Mec, who had been trained by the Guide Dog Association, with him and described how Mec and other dogs were trained

to be good guide dogs for the blind. Firstly, a puppy was placed in a family home for a year and trained to be a good house dog. The puppy would then be returned to the training centre and taken for walks and checked on its behaviour in traffic etc. After 18 months to 2 years the dog would be ready to be matched to its future owner, who would also be given training and instructions on feeding and grooming his dog. Mec was obviously a much loved companion and stayed with Mr Bingham whilst he worked in an office during the day. The members enjoyed meeting them both and found the talk most enlightening.

A whistdrive was held on the 24th August with Doreen Crawley in charge. Daisy Heath and Dolly Usher had the highest points and were joint prizewinners.

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SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

A brief appearance to say thank you to the many supporters who enable this small group to function. Thank you again Alan Wilson, Tyrone Clarke, Linda Blackburn, Christine Shoemsmith, who ran the Reading Marathon for us, and to Alan and Tyrone who did the Great North Run in Newcastle. The group managed to make £75 during the Hill

School Easter Fair, £100 during Highdown Fair, both very wet occasions and £180 during the Summer Fair at Nettleded when they were again drenched by a thunderstorm. The group is now planning its October Annual All Sorts Fair on the 10th at Caversham Hall. All gifts of New and Nearly New most welcome. Contact Ann Deane 473798.

OVER THE BRIDGE



M. Kirt

All that remains of Goodmans on the Reading side of Caversham Bridge. Here barges were once built and very probably the inlet cut from the river and shown in the picture was where they were laid down. A white cruiser blocks the entrance to the Thames but the flats beside Caversham Bridge are clearly visible.

CHRISTIAN AID

The total collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham for Christian Aid Week 1987 was £4,010. This was an increase of nearly 17% on 1986. The total represents £3,700 from the house to house collection — the remainder coming from special events,

donations and a retiring collection. The special events this year were a Lenten Appeal (Tea Bags) and a Coffee morning.

The Caversham ward organiser, Keith Stephen-Evans, would like to than all church representatives, their helpers, and particularly the house to house collectors for this truly magnificent effort.

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WE RECORD



BAPTISED

St Peter's
July 12th Mark Tucker
July 19th Victoria Hawkins
James Thumwood
Susann Gardner
Rosemary McIlwee

St John's

May 31st Samantha Harvey
June 7th James Russell
July 15th Edward Lambourne
July 25th Natasha Eden
Aug 2nd Lee Archer

MARRIED

St Peter's
June 13th Simon Howard and Phillipa Bousfield
June 20th David Pickard and Christine Stiles
Martin Mures and Julie Andrews
June 27th David Holland and Abigail Stewart
Philip Rosier and Janet Richards
Grant Warren and Anita Baker
July 11th Colin Wilson and Alison Page
Julian Francis and Barbara Brindle
Keith Evans and Rosalind Maundrell
July 18th Julian Payne and Alison Wicks

St John's

May 30th Julian and Karen Summers
July 4th Andrew and Pauline Turner
July 25th Martin and Pauline Stroud

July 26th Shawn and Angela Webster
Aug 1st Frank and Sadie Osman
Robert and Meriel Gander
Gary and Samantha Huntley
Martin and Michaela Patten

FUNERALS

St Peter's
June 8th Ethel Mattingley
June 24th Dick Wilder
July 13th Betty Scott
St John's
April 27th Joan Clark
May 7th Ada Gregory
May 18th George Lyford
May 20th Annie Green
May 21st Emily Smith
May 22nd Ethel Minchin
June 5th Arthur Fay
June 8th Caroline Parker
June 22nd Gladys Bennett
Ronald Morris
July 1st Gladys Connolly
July 2nd John Paul
July 6th Miriam Jones
Reginald Patey
July 28th Thomas Elvin

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St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
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 and 6.30pm

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 (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

METHODIST
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St Anne's 9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)
Our Lady of Caversham 8.30 and 10.30am, 5pm Mass
St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road 11am and 6.30pm (2nd and 4th Sundays)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am.
Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm.
House study groups Sept — June Tel: 475783

CAVERSHAM DIARY

- October 3rd 8pm Auction in aid of St Peter's Organ Fund — St Andrew's Hall
- October 3rd 7pm London Emmanuel Choir — Caversham Baptist Church. Contact Sue Allum 478330 for tickets
- October 4th St Margaret's Harvest Festival
- October 10th All Sorts Fair for Sue Ryder Group, Caversham Hall
- October 11th St Peter's Harvest Festival
St Barnabas' Harvest Festival
Caversham Park Village Harvest Festival
- October 17th Playgroup Fayre, St Andrew's Hall 11am-4pm
- October 19th 8pm Caversham Baptist Centre. Cllr. A. Page — "Traffic in Caversham" organised by Caversham Residents' Association
- October 31st Caversham Heights Methodist Hall
RNLI Bazaar 1.30pm
- November 2nd 8pm St John's Church — Faure Requiem
St John's Choir augmented by Sainsbury Singers

Caversham Park Church House Communion

- Wednesdays 10.30am. (Children Welcome)
- October 7th 51 Galsworthy Drive (Clare Kenchington)
 - 14th 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews)
 - 21st 1 Elstowe Avenue (Mavis Davis)
 - 28th 2 Osterley Drive (Mildred Samuel)

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