



THE BISHOP OF OXFORD

GREETINGS FROM THE BISHOP OF OXFORD

Dear Friends of Caversham,

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending all readers of the Caversham Bridge my good wishes for Advent and Christmas. I really do congratulate the churches of the Caversham area in having such a newspaper. I always enjoy looking through it when it arrives on my desk in Oxford.

I believe that great opportunities lie before the churches in this country during the next decade. After the great shake-out in the 1960's and the re-ordering and renewing the church in the 1970's we are now poised to bring christian truth to those many people in our society without christian faith or a religious foundation to their lives. In our different ways and through our different vocations, we share in this task, at once both difficult and joyful, of bringing the good news of God's love to the people about us. May God bless us all in this great work, this Christmas time and in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,
† Richard

A JOYFUL CHRISTMASTIDE TO ALL OUR READERS

From Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"

"But soon the steeples called good people all, to church and chapel, and away they came, flocking through the streets in their best clothes, and with their gayest faces ... 'And how did little Tim behave?' asked Mrs Cratchit ... 'As good as gold', said Bob, 'and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see'."



The Christmas Crib in St Peter's

- E. S. Archer

D/EX 1758/24/12

TALKING POINT

by The Rev Dennis Weller

Caversham Baptist Church



KEEPING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HAVE you ever wondered why, in our age, we haven't more faith in the spirit of Christmas — that gloriously happy spirit, that cordial feeling of goodwill, which abounds in the atmosphere of the Christmas festival?

For two or three days in the year people make a bold attempt to fashion their relationships, one with the other, as they are intended to be all through the year. Why should this spirit of goodwill and friendliness, which gives so much joy and happiness and contentment be, in the main, the monopoly of two or three days in the year?

The answer is something like this, I think. At Christmas we have a holiday. We escape the normal routine; there is no "getting to work" and "getting home"; no financial targets to be bothered about, and for two or three days the food problem is solved and life is lived within the sanctuary of home and amongst those whom we love.



At Christmas when we would rather give than receive we enjoy a singular sense of happiness and satisfaction. Life is what it is intended to be. Well then, if we are as satisfied as we say we are, why is it we dispense so readily with the Christmas spirit when we turn from the festive season to the "busyness" of every-day life? It is just as if we turn our steps into another world.

Christians agree that so much of what is wrong with the world today is spiritual and moral. In other words the spirit of Christmas is absent. This spirit comes from God and it is bound up with the story of Shepherds, a Star, a Song, and most important — a Tiny Babe.

The shepherds on the hill slopes of

Galilee trusted the words of the heavenly messenger. For them, the message they heard was the true Word of God. "This very day in David's town your Saviour was born — Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11).

In all our celebrations have we grasped the fact of the Incarnation — the mighty all-embracing fact, that in the birth of Jesus God came to save the world? Do we believe, when we leave behind us once more the symbols of the Christmas Festival, that the Babe in the Manger is also the Christ of God upon the Cross, crucified for the sins of the world?



Manger and Cross and all that happened between are one. Christ came to redeem mankind and it is only as we give ourselves, in a simple act of faith, into His redemptive power during this Christmas time, that we are likely to be able to take the Christmas spirit with us into the New Year.

The story says the shepherds returned ... Where did they return? They went back to their sheep, back to their daily work after the Christmas celebrations at Bethlehem. How did they go? Were they sick at heart because their break was over, because they must go back to the old routine with its burdens, frustrations and worries? No! "They went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen." (Luke 2:20). The shepherds had heard the announcement from heaven that the Saviour was to be born, and they saw Him for themselves. No wonder they rejoiced. Will our experience of Christmas be anything like that? If it is, then we have great hopes for the future.

POST BAG

Dear Sirs,

I was very interested in your report of the project to provide co-ordinated care for cancer patients, between the Royal Berks Hospital and the Mac-Millan Fund. It will be a wonderful help and relief to all cancer sufferers and their families.

At the same time, I feel that money must also be found for cancer research to get rid of this dreadful illness.

I find that in Great Britain alone, fifteen thousand younger women will die every year from breast cancer, plus many more from related illnesses, depriving children of their mothers and breaking

up the family home. The Bland/Sutton Unit of the Histo/Pathology Department at the Middlesex Hospital in London is the one place I know where marvellous work is being done in this field, on a shoestring.

I do beg everyone who can to support them. They are desperately short of funds, and the only hope, for one in ten women who will develop breast cancer.

Yours etc.
Barbara Leatham
7 Highmoor Road,
Caversham.

Dear Sir,

Share-a-Care — now grant aided

This Christian Counselling Group established nearly three years ago, has no connection with the Caversham Caring and Sharing Group which was featured in your last issue. We are most grateful to the Reading Borough Council who have donated £350 from their Community Grants Committee. This will enable advertising the service more widely.

Those interested in improving their listening skills are asked to contact Share a Care Monday to Friday 7-8pm on 473189.

Yours etc
J. Nicholls
Chairman

23 Surley Row,
Caversham,
Reading RG4 8ND.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Don't forget that these are still available in aid of various charities at the Pop-in Centre in Church House.

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am 'til 12 noon

1st CAV HEIGHTS SCOUT GROUP

BOTH the 1st Caversham Heights Scout Troop and Cub Pack are looking for new leaders to start from January 1988. The present leaders, Roger and Tao Barry, have led the Cubs and Scouts for the past ten years and have now decided to retire from Scouting.

The group meets on Monday evenings at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road.

If new leaders are not found this thriving group is likely to be disbanded, which will be a great disappointment to the forty boys involved.

If you can possibly help or would like to know more please contact the Group Leader: Roger Barry, 33 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Tel. Reading 476148 or Chairman: Lynne Bond, 3 Highmoor Road, Caversham Tel. Reading 481098.

CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE

Church House, 59 Church Street

Office open Monday to Friday 9.30am-11.30am. T.N. 483466. Please ring, or call personally, if you need help or information from the many local charitable and caring organisations on the LINK GROUP files, or, if you need assistance from the CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME, who will:

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All contributions for Jan issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 2nd Dec.
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday 27th Nov.

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

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Bugs Bottom Suspense

As far as getting the Bugs Bottom Inquiry findings reviewed, the massive opposition which it provoked has been successful. As far as saving this beautiful valley from the developers, all that can be said whilst this is being written is that by the time it is read it will be known whether success or failure has been the final outcome. As I write, the valley is still its peaceful self; if the developers had had their way the bulldozers would already have moved in. At this stage further speculation would be fruitless. Will next month's issue of this paper carry news of a celebration or a wake?

The Other Inquiry

Understandably, the result of the other public inquiry was greeted triumphantly by the appellants. I refer of course to the new meeting rooms in St. Peter's churchyard. They will be well used and will add a new dimension to church life and those who still think they are in the wrong place can only accept the Inspector's findings.

In no way can they compare this to Bugs Bottom when opposition was total and massive. In the case of St. Peter's, opinion was divided, with both sides presenting a valid case with genuine conviction. Whatever the result, one side was going to be disappointed.

There is, however,

one area that should be causing serious misgiving, and it is to be found in the opening paragraph of last month's front page report on the new meeting rooms, which reads as follows. "St. Peter's appeal for full costs of the appeal against Reading Borough Council could not be considered, simply because the appropriate paragraph of 1986's Planning Act has 'not yet been brought into operation'."

This can only mean that planning authorities can be penalised if they lose their case at a public inquiry. In other words, decisions could be made not on planning grounds alone but on whether the rates could stand the costs if an appeal reversed the decision. Maybe some planning committees sometimes make ill-considered decisions. It can rarely be the case with an experienced committee like Reading's, which is under constant bombardment from a deluge of applications. Would it have been fair to apply that law in the case of Bugs Bottom? Would it be fair to have it applied in the case of those oversized and unwelcome developments that have plagued the centre of Reading and have only been given permission on appeal to the Department of the Environment after refusal by Reading Borough Council?

As far as St. Peter's application went, there was a genuine difference of opinion, and the Department of the Environment was rightly called on to judge, and they

upheld the appeal. But for the fact that the legislation is not yet operative, the Borough Council would, as a consequence, have been dunned for full costs simply because they have carried out their duty. This certainly bodes ill for the not very distant future.

New Conservation Area

Welcome news, however, is that the area around St. Peter's is to become a conservation area. It is an attractive but constantly vulnerable corner, and this will give some measure of protection. Perhaps some day it will lead to a grant to repair the old flint and brick walls of which time, vandalism and the occasional runaway lorry have taken such a toll.

Surley Row is also being considered, another oasis meriting protection. Is it too late to do anything about lower Caversham, which has as many listed buildings as either of these?

Hurricane Damage

The hurricane which roared across the South East of England during the night of 15-16th October, leaving destruction and devastation in its wake, did not fortunately drastically and irremediably alter the whole topography of Caversham and Reading as happened further south and east. There were some losses of trees along the river and many were damaged, but most survived relatively unscathed. In Caversham Park Village a house was severely damaged by a falling tree. Some gardens suffered, notably that of Doris Thomas who in the past months has been working as hard on Bugs Bottom as she does in her garden, and who woke (if that is what you do after a sleepless night) to find all those years of work had been devastated overnight. She deserved better.

Other Tree News

Albert Road and All Hallows Road have been removed

from the Borough Council's tree felling and replanting scheme, which surely must be being reviewed after the heavy tree loss Reading sustained in the winds. One of Albert Road's remaining few trees looks distinctively sick as the result of the battering it received on that savage night. It is not known whether it was one of these that had only just been reprieved from the chop.

The two magnificent copper beeches in the grounds of 40 Priest Hill survived the winds. Whether they will survive the attacks made on them in the course of the developments being carried out there is another matter. The Building firm which was summonsed before the magistrates' court charged with contravening Tree Preservation Orders pleaded not guilty and is to appear again on 1st December.

Slow Re-habilitation

Caversham and Reading Bridges are slowly getting cleared up. Motorists are now doing quite well at Caversham Bridge, but pedestrians still have a rough path to tread in many places.

Judgement must be reserved on how far this is an improvement, not just on conditions prevailing over the last months, but on what it was like before. On present counts it looks like: Caversham Bridge better for motorists, worse for pedestrians; Reading Bridge, doubtful for motorists, also worse for pedestrians.

From the Hot Seat

Cllr. A. Page, Chairman of the Borough Transport Committee and also of Reading Transport, speaking at a packed public meeting organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association, made no bones about the way pedestrians' needs had been virtually ignored by the contractors working on the bridges, nor the inef-

fective measures taken by the Borough to prevent it. He added that he hoped and thought lessons had been learnt for the future from it.

On another talking point, he described hopes for a third bridge as 'moonshine', as with all the works undertaken in the past year there was just not enough money in the kitty for such a major project. He also said that he found the cross town route via Caversham environmentally unacceptable in comparison with the relief it might bring. He favoured tidal flow.

Ultimately there is no way roads can keep up with an ever increasing number of cars. For straightforward journeys public transport has got to be the answer, but drivers will only abandon their cars when it becomes the more attractive option. Journey time then, being a major consideration, should one of the lanes in a tidal flow system be reserved as a bus lane only? Your views please to the local press or Cllr. Page.

The penetration of buses (possibly the mini-variety) into roads that do not at present have them, is another thought. More and better bus shelters are also under consideration. Bus users had plenty of ideas about how the service could be improved. Cllr. Page seemed willing to listen.

However, for those who do take their car into Reading (if only in the evening) Cllr. Page had news of car park improvements. Close circuit TV is to be installed in Borough owned car parks to reduce the danger of vandalism and assaults. The new Queen's Road car park is as well designed as such structures can be, and the Borough

Council's car parks continue to charge much less than NCP owned ones.

Cllr. Page, who seems undeterred by his occupancy of a dual hot seat, is returning to attend a Residents' committee meeting in the New Year, when matters for which there was insufficient time at the public meeting will be discussed with him.

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THE CAVERSHAM HOTEL APPOINTS A GENERAL MANAGER

ROBIN WINTER HAS BEEN APPOINTED
AS GENERAL MANAGER OF NORFOLK
CAPITAL'S NEWEST LUXURY HOTEL,
THE CAVERSHAM.

Before coming to Reading Robin Winter was the manager of the four star Royal Court Hotel in Sloane Square, where he had been for six years following the hotel's total refurbishment in 1981.

Prior to joining Norfolk Capital, he worked in a number of London's top hotels gaining experience in a variety of positions ranging from a Commis Chef at the Hyde Park Hotel, to Conference and Banqueting Manager at the London Intercontinental. According to Robin Winter, he is very excited about the opening of the hotel early in the new year and is very proud of the

variety of facilities the hotel will be able to offer its guests.

"The hotel will have one hundred luxury bedrooms, together with eight suites", Mr Winter commented, "in

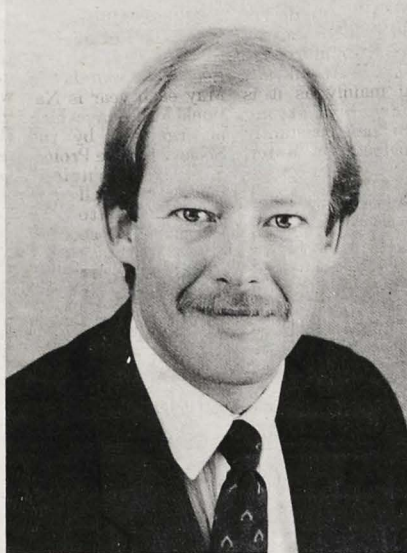
addition, we will have a riverside restaurant, conference and banqueting facilities for up to two hundred guests, a traditional real ale tavern, cocktail bar and lounge, all with panoramic

views of the river".

Although the hotel is a few months away from opening, the general administration and preparation have been under way for quite sometime. The Sales and Marketing office already has a base next to the hotel and Robin Winter commented that requests for con-

ferences, exhibitions and wedding receptions have been flooding in for quite some time.

The Caversham Hotel is situated next to Caversham Bridge on Richfield Avenue and can easily be reached by car from most surrounding areas. The hotel has private parking for over one hundred and seventy five cars.



Robin Winter

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!

ALL are welcome on Wednesday 2nd December at Emmer Green Y and C Centre, Grove Road, Emmer Green.

You are invited to come and hear (and taste) what the Health Education Look after Yourself course is all about. As part of our last session of the ten week course we have invited the newly set up Fitness Testing Team with all their monitoring equipment and latest video to teach us. There will be a

chance for some to be tested as to their physical fitness, which is a detailed twenty minute test.

You will also be able to see what the Look after Yourself

exercise, of a healthy diet and how to cope with stress. It is designed to help you make changes and motivate you towards "Better Health".

Feel free to come from 11am-2.30pm and see for yourself. A healthy snack will be available.

New courses are planned for 1988. Anyone wanting further information or wanting to enroll can contact Lis Rout on Reading 471738.



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MILDRED COOKSON —

The Miller of Mapledurham

by
Frances

MILDRED Cookson is the miller at the Mapledurham water mill and has the distinction of being one of only two lady millers in the country. She leads a fascinating life as I found out when I visited her at the mill.

to communicate her enthusiasm and enjoys giving talks to schools and Women's Institutes and anyone else who is interested. Anyone who would like her to talk to their school or organisation is welcome to contact her and arrange it.

Mildred's working life started in the DHSS in Blackpool where the first inkling of her later great interest was the sight of a windmill from her office window. Her husband's job moved to this area and Mildred became even more interested in mills after reading a book called 'Discovering Windmills'.

From then on all holidays were spent touring the country in search of wind and water mills. No two mills are the same so Mildred's interest grew. In 1982 she visited the mill at Mapledurham which was being run by David Nicholls.

A labour of love

The company David started had restored the mill and he was running the mill every Sunday. Mildred started as his assistant and then in 1983 she took over altogether. The hours that the mill is open to the public have increased and so has the amount of flour produced. The mill is working, though not open to the public, for at least two days a week and Mildred takes an increasing number of school parties round and explains the intricacies of milling to the children.

Mildred is very keen to communicate her

Mapledurham Mill — The Past

The mill is a beautiful old building, the original parts of which go back to the fifteenth century. These parts can be clearly identified in the wall timbers and roof trusses that still form the central part of the building. The mill was extended in the late seventeenth century to cope with the increased demand for flour. The great plague of 1665 had driven the wealthy people out of London and the royal court had been moved to Abingdon. These affluent customers desired fine white flour rather than the customary wholemeal flour and for this 'flour dressers' were required. These were cylindrical screens used to separate the fine white flour from the bran.

The mill continued to expand over the next century and in 1777 a new barn was built on the Upper Millpond to take advantage of the London trade for white flour, which was sent down river by barge. However, business declined rapidly from about 1850 onwards because of the competition from America.

Many mills fell into disrepair during this time and consequently there are very few left in reasonable working



The Mill at Mapledurham

— L. Cram

condition. Almost the whole of the mill machinery was originally made of wood, which was inclined to rot and decay with neglect. Oak was used mainly as it is remarkably strong when being constantly immersed in water. Elm was used for the large paddles on the water wheel that were continually getting

workings of the mill to anyone.

Mills & Millers — The Future

The first Sunday in May each year is National Mills Day which is organised by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. All the mills open to the public in the country

would be if a new barn could be built on the site of the old one and we could have a milling museum and exhibition area. Some catering facilities would be excellent too, to make some of the flour into refreshments for the visitors perhaps!

The mill is open all the year round. Between Easter and the end of September it is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12.30 to 5.00. Then from October until Easter the mill opens on Sundays only from 2.00 to 4.00. Flour is available from Mapledurham House and Mill and in Caversham at Woodcote Way Stores and J. L. Rankins. The High and Harvest Wholefoods in Reading also stock it.

For any enquiries please ring Reading 723350.



Mildred Cookson hard at it!

— L. Cram

wet and then drying out. Apple wood was the favourite for the cogs or teeth, of any cog wheel which was completely out of reach of the water.

do something and in 1988 Mildred hopes that there will be a steam rally and the Massey Shaw fireboat will be giving a display. It was one of the boats that helped in the evacuation of Dunkirk.

... The Present

It is a remarkable feeling to stand inside this old mill while it is working and feel the enormous strength of the power being generated by the water. The water wheel is twelve feet in diameter with twenty-four paddles and the strength of the water being directed onto it from just above the weir is tremendous.

As you go round the mill there are information boards regularly placed to explain the intricate workings of the wheels. There are also many of the old tools of the miller's trade in evidence. On Sunday afternoons there is also a guide who will explain the

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

THE ANNUAL PARISH CHOIR OUTING

OFF TO SEYCHELLES

BERT and Pearl Metcalfe who have lived in Caversham for the past fourteen years left for Seychelles on November 1st. They go to share in the work of the Far East Broadcasting Association to bring the Good News to the millions of people living in the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East and in East and Southern Africa. Bert and Pearl were previously with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship and spent part of their missionary years in broadcasting to countries of the Far East. Since returning to England they settled in Caversham, Bert as an engineer at BBC Monitoring Station (later at Bush House, London), and Pearl as a teacher at The Hill Primary School. They are members of Wycliffe Baptist Church, Reading.

Now in their retirement they have accepted the challenge of meeting an

urgent need for engineering help in Seychelles. Bert will be assigned to Frequency Management work until they return to Caversham in six months time. FEBA Seychelles started broadcasting in 1970 and now has programmes in twenty-six languages including English and a present estimated audience of two million listeners.

Although a paradise of islands for tourists, those who work at FEBA Seychelles for longer periods find the hot humid climate tiring, and the islands rather restrictive as they are reputed to be "a thousand miles from anywhere". The cost of living too is very high as most food and other goods have to be imported.

Even so all feel privileged to live and work in such a lovely place, and the Word of God has an open door to reach those who otherwise would not be reached with the Christian message.



Bert and Pearl Metcalfe

ON THE MOVE

CONGRATULATIONS to the Rev. Tony Dalton, at present at St. Andrew's, on his appointment as incumbent of St. Mary Magdalen, Accrington, Lancashire. He expects to move north early in the new year.

METHODIST ANNUAL COVENANT SERVICES

January 3rd Caversham Heights Church at 11am.

January 3rd at Gosbrook Road Church at 6.30pm.

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OFF-SALES LICENCE HELD.



THIS year's outing was on 12th September when trebles from the churches of St Peter, St Andrew and St Margaret were joined by those from St Anne's to visit Cheddar Caves and Wells Cathedral. Unfortunately the trip was shortened by a delay caused by yet another motorway pileup and there was not as much time for the visits as

has been planned.

The weather was true to form for this year (wet!) — at Cheddar the party was informed that the River Yeo which formed the caves millions of years ago now flows in another channel below them. However on emerging from Goff's Cave it seemed that the said river was running full pelt down the main road which was practically impassable

for a time. According to the commentary one of the caves will become sealed off again in a million years or so by the continual deposition of limestone, so anyone intending to visit them should take an early opportunity! Seriously, these caves are a remarkable formation and well worth a visit.

On then to Wells Cathedral where, after

a somewhat late lunch in the cloisters, the cathedral guides provided a conducted tour of one of the most beautiful examples of our heritage of architecture. It would need several days rather than a couple of hours to do justice to the stained glass windows, the tombs and chantries, the embroidery of the choir stalls, and much more. Perhaps the item of

greatest interest to many was the six hundred year old clock which in addition to the time shows the day of the lunar month. Every quarter, figures of armed horsemen are seen jousting, with one knight falling from his horse on each rotation.

Then home to the accompaniment of choral music from choristers on the back seats of the coach.

Harvest Supper at St Margaret's

ONCE again the harvest supper comes round — refreshments to organise, entertainment to plan and put on. At St Margaret's no social committee is needed to arrange it all. Indeed it would hardly be possible — most people are already involved with church activities anyway. Yet the evening is always a success, for everyone pulls together. The list

put up in the church for refreshments is not always fully signed up, but never fear, the wonderful plates of home cooking turn up just as always. As for the entertainment — where would we be without our local talent? Michael, Irene and Lorraine willingly volunteering to get on the stage and amuse

— and they did — together with a group of younger members from the church who are always ready to help out and join in. It was a good evening in spite of a smaller than usual gathering, and grateful thanks go to all who made it possible for sixty or so people to have such a great time.

St Andrew's Fellowship

A rather smaller than usual number, owing to autumn holidays, met for the first Fellowship evening of the new season. They were rewarded with a talk by Mr Gordon Spriggs about the history of Greyfriars church. Mr Spriggs, who has been organist at Greyfriars for forty years, has spent a lifetime gathering information about it, since he first spent holidays in Reading with his uncle and aunt who were members of the church. He had a wealth of fascinating information

and photographs to show his appreciative audience, the pictures of the old Vicarage, which was rebuilt in 1963, being particularly interesting.

Mr Spriggs traced the history of Greyfriars when it was founded by the Franciscans as a monastery, first on some unhealthy marshy ground, then in its present position, through its use as a prison, to dilapidation, and finally to its triumphant restoration to the church it is today.

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

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

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

OBITUARIES

C. G. C. FOWLER

We do sincerely apologise for the mistakes which crept in at the printing stage in the last issue and feel we can do no better than to reprint in its entirety.

WE regret to record the sudden death of Cyril ('Chick') Fowler on the 1st September last and with his passing Caversham has lost one of its greatly respected residents. The large congregation which assembled at St John's Church for the combined funeral and thanksgiving service on the 10th September bore witness to the great esteem in which Cyril Fowler was held.

'Chick' as he was affectionately known to his many friends and colleagues, was born in 1916 and during most of his adult life he gave unstinting voluntary service to the Scout Movement in Reading and Berkshire. From 1935 to 1961 he held positions as Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster and Rover Scout Leader of the 43rd Reading (1st

Whitley) Scout Group, apart from war service in England and Burma during the Second World War. Subsequently he was appointed Assistant District Commissioner for Reading in the days when the old County Borough of Reading was one very large Scout District and later Chick became Chairman of Reading Local Association of Scouts. In that capacity in 1972 he was of immense help to the then District Commissioner, Eric Hatch, in reorganising the town into four Scout 'Districts' — North, South, East and West.

With that task accomplished he became Chairman of the North District Local Association until 1975 when he became vice-chairman of the Berkshire County Scout Council, a position

from which he retired three years ago. In 1974 he was awarded the Silver Acorn, one of the highest awards in the gift of the Chief Scout, for his great services to Scouting.

Apart from his work for Scouting, Chick Fowler was also actively involved in the life of St John's Church, Caversham, right up to the day of his death. He was an admirable chairman of committees where his administrative abilities were always in demand. At the Thanksgiving Service tributes were paid to his friendliness, his quiet fun and happiness and, above all, his great integrity. He was, in the true sense of the word, a Christian gentleman and he will be sadly missed by many beyond his immediate family, his widow and two sons.

E.H.

JOHN WRIGHT

The Chapel at Reading Crematorium was full for the funeral of John Wright, who died on the 19th October. John and Janet had only been in Cromwell Road for a few years, but neighbours from all around joined John's family and many friends to pay tribute to his courage, his character and his friendship. As well as colleagues at Foster Wheeler, where John was a process design engineer, there were many friends from sports clubs. As a student, John had played soccer for the national universities squad. After college he played for various teams here and on the coast, as well as playing squash at club level.

John's courage and good humour through his illness helped and inspired everyone who knew him. Now we send our love and support to Janet and Nicholas, thankful for the many ways in which John always touched so many people's lives in a positive way.

JOIN US!

When? — Sunday, December 6th at 6.30 pm
Where? — Caversham Park Primary School
Why? — for a United Act of Worship for Bible Sunday, shared by all the churches in Caversham

THE LINK GROUP

The Link Group in Caversham has come into the winter season with the promise of an interesting future ahead. Having reviewed its past achievements at the September meeting and having been rather disappointed at the cancellation of the Mencap outing for unexpected technical reasons, Link members were pleased to gather on 23rd October under the leadership of their new Chairman, Mrs Suzie Robinson, to welcome new members and enjoy a general discussion in a pleasant social atmosphere.

Doreen Bennett gave a description

of the Link Group's history and general aims. It was agreed that in future months, for the benefit of members who have recently joined, there should be a series of meetings giving consideration to the various organisations supported by Link. During past years Link have welcomed speakers from many such organisations and have done their best to support them in financial and practical ways, and it was felt that it was time to explore new areas as well as reviewing the old.

From an ecumenical point of view, it was par-

ticulary pleasing that the new members have brought in representations from the different churches in Caversham. One of the major purposes of the Link Group has been to bring together Christians of all sources and give an oppor-

tunity for them to work together for a common purpose. The meeting on 23rd October gave a promise that the Link will continue to flourish and provide a happy meeting ground for all concerned.

TARGET BEATEN

Caversham Heights Methodist Church made over £1,400.00 at their Bazaar, and beat their aimed figure by well over

£200. The proceeds are going to the St. Luke's Dispensary in Uganda, to help to build an extension there.

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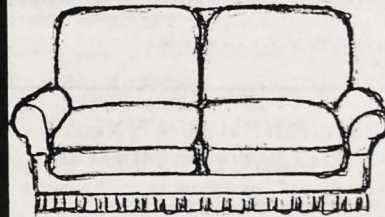
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I WOULDN'T have thought there was any resemblance between our garden and the famous ones at Kew, but it seems there is. For one thing, like Kew, our garden will never be quite the same again since the storm struck. But on the positive side, we mounted a tree rescue operation worthy of anything taking place elsewhere. Having been told by tree experts that there was a distinct possibility of rescuing a hawthorn tree which had been blown down, providing it could be done quickly enough, our neighbours rallied round and we all went into action one Sunday morning. By hauling from one side and pushing from another, the tree was eventually righted, propped and tied up and we now keep our fingers crossed till next year.

Meantime other neighbours supplied refreshments and even — knowing culinary activities were now taking second place to horticultural ones, puddings and pies. Isn't Caversham a grand neighbourly place to live in.

MORE ABOUT TREES

Fortunately before the storm we had already called in a tree expert in the shape of Mr. Levy of Arborco (414708) who advised on the state of all our trees, so we were able to call him back when

disaster struck. He's coming back when he's finished his emergency jobs, to do some more pruning and tidying up. In the meantime we are fortunate to have a friend who possesses wood-burning stoves and is a wizard with a chainsaw — kept, I should add, in good working order — so some semblance of order is coming back into the garden. But I would seriously suggest anyone with a wooded garden should call in a tree expert some time for advice and possibly save a lot of trouble in the future.

COUGHS AND SNEEZES

While handing out bouquets I should mention our local pharmacist who has been a great help when dealing with the usual crop of winter ailments. It can sometimes save a doctor's time to start at the chemists and a good pharmacist will always tell you — in no uncertain terms — if he or she thinks a visit to the doctors is necessary.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

With all this going on, preparations for Christmas have had to take a back seat, but happening to call at Allnutts, now in Donkin Hill, I felt I must remind readers of their enormously enlarged stock of cake-making material. Quite an Aladdin's cave and makes one almost eager to get down to cake making.

Meanwhile, forgive the timely reminder that there are Christmas bargains to be had here in Caversham, without always trailing into Reading. I don't think I've ever seen such a fascinating display of books as are in the local bookshop just now, while the antique shops have a collection of interesting, and not always expensive, items, suitable for gifts. I'm not sure I'm happy about the display of bayonets, swords etc. in Prospect Furnishings — perhaps a bit too near the current preoccupation with violence to make a happy collec-

tion. But they do have some lovely items, particularly in porcelain, which are well worth investigating, and like many other shops, only too welcoming to browsers.

TINOPENERS

I don't know if other readers have been having trouble with opening tins recently. Our three cats are great eaters of Whiskas (forgive the advertising, but it's true) and recently they have been getting increasingly impatient while I struggled with, and broke, tinopeners. In desperation I wrote to Pedigree Petfoods for information and help and have now received a letter saying that they have altered the composition of their cans, partly to offer better protection and partly to keep down costs. The letter goes on: "... it has been noted that certain can openers are not as efficient ... After testing most types of opener, the one that have proved most efficient are the RD Judge, the Brabantia and Leifheit." Now to find out if anyone in Caversham sells them.

HELP THE DEAF

Many of you will remember Liz Cheyney's mammoth effort a couple of years ago when she produced a recipe book in aid of the Bonnie Aylett Reye's Syndrome Research Fund. Can't give you all the details, but I know she raised a record sum. Now it seems she has thrown her talents into another cause — the Bulmershe Deaf Access Appeal — and with the help of the College and various profoundly deaf communities, has got together another recipe book which will shortly be on sale at the local bookshop, at 'Occasions' and the London Street Bookshop. Liz tells me she has once again been overwhelmed with the help she has received, particularly from Grosvenor Print (hope I've got that right) in Oxford Street; like Liz I never cease to be amazed at the fund of goodwill in this district, so I'm hoping you will support her in this venture.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham WI

Guest speaker at the October meeting was Mr J Maunsell, a member of the RAF Escaping Society. During the last war Mr

Maunsell was a navigator in a Lancaster bomber, who was shot down over Belgium in May 1944. He was told how bomber crews were issued with an escape kit, which consisted

of maps on silk, compass, matches, concentrated food, passport photograph and pep pills. After landing by parachute Mr Maunsell was found by a Belgian farmer, who fed him breakfast and passed him on to a 'safe house.' He stayed there in the cellar for six weeks, until it became too dangerous to stay there and, in turn went to another safe house. Eventually he met up with Canadian troops who had landed after D Day.

Members were extremely interested to hear that the RAF Escaping Society's aim has been to help those who helped them during the war, especially in Poland and Eastern Europe by providing food, clothing and money for education. Mr Maunsell had been back several times to see the farmer in Belgium who had helped him and had recently proposed the toast for the farmer's Golden Wedding.

Barnabas' Hall on Saturday 24th October.

The talk was by Mr Mel Williams, entitled 'Wild Life in the Garden', who showed slides of flowers, birds and creatures that do and could inhabit gardens if suitable plants were grown and nesting boxes for birds and bats were provided.

The competition for a collage of leaves was won by Mrs Gillings.

NOVEMBER

Mrs Weller welcomed members and visitors to the November meeting. After dates were given for the various activities held each month, members were told that the recent Jumble Sale had been successful and together with the proceeds of a coffee morning, the Institute will now be able to give a sum of money for the W.L. House.

One of the members attended a weekend course of music by Mozart at Denham College and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The speaker was Mr Partridge from Englefield Nurseries, talking about pot plants. He brought lots of plants with him, detailing the treatment of each one, also advising which compost to use and books to read. Most went home having learned much more about a very fascinating hobby.

Members brought plants grown from a cutting, making a very colourful exhibition.

Caversham Community Association

The meeting on October 5th was a 'Members' Evening' when club members are given the opportunity to entertain their fellow members with talks and readings etc. This time Dolly Usher and Nita Chandler gave an account of their holiday in South Australia. They visited Nita's relatives who live at Elizabeth, near Adelaide and had a very happy time. During their stay they went to many interesting places and brought souvenirs of the trip to illustrate their talk. Photograph albums of the places they visited were passed around for the members perusal. Olive Howard also contributed with an amusing monologue from Joyce Grenfell's writings.

The following week Diana Watts was welcomed to the club and gave an informative talk and slide show on her visit last year to Sri Lanka. Miss Watts stayed with married friends; the husband was the manager of a sugar plantation. The visit was before the present troubles erupted and Miss Watts gave a fascinating account of the people, the wildlife and vegetation in Sri Lanka. Pictures shown included those of the working elephants, the spotted deer, the monkeys, the banyan tree and the beautiful flowers of the frangipani. Places she visited included temples and markets at

the ancient cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kandy.

On the 19th October a group of the members visited Scholl's Shoe Shop in Friar Street, Reading. The Manageress welcomed them and gave a brief history of the firm. Products available included health sandals as well as other sandals and shoes, foot care items and Kosery. Two members enjoyed having a complete pedicure. Many useful hints on footcare were given during the visit.

There was a Halloween event on the 26th October when the members had a tasty supper of bread rolls filled with sausages and fried onions. For entertainment May Plant produced a lighthearted concert with the help of the club's Drama group. Songs, amusing sketches and musical items with the able accompaniment at the piano of Nancy Nelms were applauded by the members. Ted Howard was the M.C. and announced the numbers in verse. Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked Mrs Plant and everyone for all their work in making the evening a success.

The Autumn Bazaar held on the 31st October was well attended even though the weather was not good. The stallholders had a busy time at a variety of stalls including white elephant, books and toys, fancy goods, cakes, bottle and plants etc., whilst the competition stall did a thriving business. When the visitors finished their purchases they could relax with a cup of tea from the ladies at the refreshment counter.

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Emmer Green TG

There were a large number of members present at the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Turn to page 10

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Rosehill WI

OCTOBER

Mrs Weller welcomed members and two visitors to the October meeting on a very rainy afternoon. A coffee morning and afternoon with tea were held on 8th October at Mrs White's in aid of the Home Farm Trust. Scrabble afternoons commenced in October, with other activities already started. A Jumble Sale was held at St

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 9

evening meeting on Tuesday October 13th.

Miss Betty Brann in her report from the County Federation said there was great concern over the cuts in the Health Service, particularly in the number of wards which are to be closed in Berkshire Hospitals and there is to be a meeting at the Community Health Centre in Gun Street on November 1st to discuss these vital health matters, which concern everybody.

Mr Robinson was the speaker on "The Reading Ratepayers Association," he gave a comprehensive picture of what this association aims to do, which is to affect the reform of the rating system, and make sure people get good quality services from their rates money. In the early 1970s when rates increased dramatically, the Association, which is non-political, was formed.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr Robinson by Mrs Elsie Weaver.

A raffle in aid of The Royal Berkshire Hospital, in which the first prize was a large teddy bear, was run by Mrs Rose Wingrove, who also donated the prize. She collected £15.45 for the charity.

Mrs Mabel White collected £241 for 'Mencap' Home Farm when she held a coffee morning, and sale at her home on Thursday October 8th.

Caversham Ladies Club

Autumn Fare was the interest for this Thursday meeting and members were soon arriving with lots of contributions they gave to be sold.

Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanks for their gifts. There was firstly, though, a sad reminder of the death recently of a long standing member, Mrs Florrie Parker, who had been one of the original founders of the Club, and would be much missed. Members stood in silence in respect to her memory.

An outing to Bath had been much enjoyed by members. Thankfully it had been a fine

day and the beautiful flowers, Roman baths, Abbey, etc., much appreciated by all members.

It was time then for selling the autumn fare goods, plants, books, crafts and a lovely display of cakes and goodies, which were soon changing hands amidst light banter, and in a surprisingly short time tables were emptied. What a relief after all the hustle and bustle to see that welcome 'cuppa' arrive! The money taken was soon being counted and members were then told it had been so successful that the coach taking them to Chiltern Chase for their Christmas lunch would be free to members, and the remainder put into Club funds.

Members were then reminded that Mr Moss would be at their next meeting with his showing of slides, but it would not be known on what subject until the meeting. However, knowing how much his previous showing had been enjoyed members were sure it would still be keenly awaited.

After various items of news, the meeting drew to a close with a warm feeling of another enjoyable afternoon.

Caversham Heights TG

Sometimes, when the planned programme has to be changed and another speaker steps in at short notice, we are entertained well beyond our expectations, and the Guild's October meeting was a case in point.

Mr Parris, ex-Head of Creative Art at Highdown, stepped in to give the Guild a talk on the 'History of Glass.' Mr Parris spoke generally on the story of glass and concentrated in detail on the table glass of the 18th century. Glass was known 3,000 years ago by the Chinese and Egyptians. The Egyptians in fact made coloured opaque glass, mainly small objects, often in the shape of cones. Then came the Romans who experimented with many techniques. Glass could be made solid and cut out, like jewellery and then came glass blowing. The Venetians made an art of very fine glass. To be successful with their sand-based technique the makers had to work very fast, but they could then do very fine decoration. It was not possible to do that with the lead-based glass.

The English firm of Ravenscroft eventually discovered a technique for using lead successfully and virtually cornered the market with their very popular and fine glass. The virtue of lead-based glass is that it reflects light like 'crystal', which is why we get the term lead crystal. Of course this does not necessarily denote cut-glass but the technique of the glass making. Glass is usually, in the raw state, green or brown, but by adding purple one can get 'transparent' glass. Other colours can be added and if examined closely the glass can be

seen to give off tints, especially in the thicker parts - base and stem. In 1745 the Government put a very heavy tax on glass, which virtually decimated the industry. This lasted until 1845 when the tax was removed. Then the factories got going again and by the time of 1851 and the Great Exhibition had produced some very fine work.

Mr Parris gave great detail of how glass was worked and many hints on how to tell how old it was. Many of the time we have probably passed by some chunky, heavy glass objects without another thought, but we may have been ignoring some very fine 18th century examples.

The art of polishing in the old days was very laborious and time consuming. In 1921 a technique was discovered, whereby the polished effect could be attained by dipping the glass in a solution.

We shall be looking in jumble sales and car boot sales very closely at all the glass just in case we find, as Mr Parris often has, a real gem to add to a collection.

Blagrove W I

Many memories of things as they used to be were evoked by the slides showing the changing face of Reading collected by Mrs Peggy Thomas and shown to members at the November meeting.

Everyone was saddened to hear of the death of Miss Dorothy Reynolds who had been a member for many years, acting as Secretary for a long period.

Mrs Popplewell gave a report on the Autumn Council Meeting held at Newbury and Mrs Ogden told of her recent visit to Denman College.

St Peter's Wives Group

The October meeting of St Peter's Wives Group was well attended with Members, their husbands and friends when Mr Richard Came of Sotheby's gave a fascinating talk on the famous auction rooms.

Mr Came said that his speciality was antique silver and he spent some time discussing items brought along by members for assessment and valuation and also answered questions on the care of silver articles generally.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Mildred Hutchison who presented Mr Came with a cheque for the Sue Ryder Home.

The Christmas Party will be held in Church House on Tuesday 8th December and a group of members will be Carol singing on Tuesday 15th December. Please meet outside the shops in Hemdean Road at 7.30 pm. Anyone wishing to join in with the Carols will be welcome.

Chazey W I

'Any questions', was the subject for Chazey W.I.s October meeting. The panel were the Revd Richard Kingsbury, Mary Kift, Lyndsay, Mullaney and Alf Martyn-Johns. The questions were varied and sometimes provocative, but it resulted in an entertaining evening, chaired by Mrs Jean Pugh.

The harvest supper, held on September 19th, was attended by ninety-two people, who enjoyed a supper of shepherd's pie and salad, followed by apple pie and cream. Entertainment was

provided by Fran Oliver and the evening made a handsome profit.

On September 18th, twenty-seven members visited Burghetts Green for a 'cooker' demonstration. Four superb dishes were made and talked to lucky members to take home.

Chazey W.I. provided the winning tennis team at Northampton this year. Congratulations to Liz Holland, Marilyn, Paul, Jean Field and Shirley Adams.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

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

St John's

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

St Andrew's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Holy Communion (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 every Sunday, 6.30pm (2nd Sunday)

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 Park House Communions

Wednesday at 10.30am

December 2nd — 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews)
December 9th — 3 Almond Drive (Joan Allen)
December 16th — 4 Holyrood Close (Barbara Robinson)
December 23rd — 1 Elstow Avenue (Mavis Davis)
December 30th — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Clare Kenchington)

TO HIRE A HALL

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Telephone 473709

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Mrs J. Henwood
314 Gosbrook Road
Telephone 470175

CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

Secretary: Mrs W. A. Vincent, The
Parish Office, Caversham
Telephone 471703 (Mon-Thurs
9.30am-12.30pm)

MAPLEDURHAM PAVILION

Secretary:
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128c Woodcote Road
Telephone 481057

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ADVENT SUNDAY

There will be no evening service at St Peter's on November 29th. All are invited to St Andrew's Church at 6.30pm for the traditional Advent Ceremonies "From Darkness into Light".

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST PETER'S

December 13th 9.15am	Eucharist at which gifts of toys for children in need will be warmly accepted.
December 20th 6.30pm	Carol Service (a feast of traditional carols and Christmas readings).
Christmas Eve 4.00pm	Crib Service (for children and parents)
11.30pm	Midnight Mass and carols
Christmas Day 8.00am	Holy Communion (book of Common Prayer)
9.15am	Family Communion and carols
11.15am	Holy Communion
December 27th	Holy Communion 8am and 9.15am (sung)
11.15am	Morning Prayer
	No Evensong today

ST JOHN'S

December 20th 3.30pm	Christingle Service & Carols
6.00pm	Carol Service
December 22nd 8.00pm	Christmas Preparation Service
Christmas Eve 11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
10.00am	Family Eucharist



ST ANDREW'S

Christmas Eve 4.00pm	Crib Service (one hour for parents and especially children)
11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8.00am	Low Mass
9.15am	Family Mass
11.15am	Eucharist
St Stephen's Day (December 26th)	Mass

ST BARNABAS'

December 20th 8.00am	Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
4.00pm	Festival of lessons and carols and the ceremony of the Light of the Nativity
Christmas Eve 4.30pm	Crib Service for children and young families
11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8.00am	Eucharist of the dawn
9.30am	Sung Eucharist of the day

ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM

December 20th 11.00am	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve 2.30pm	Children's Service
11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 11.00am	Holy Communion



CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (in Caversham Primary School)

Saturday	
December 19th 6.30pm	Carol Service — music provided by Caversham Park Church orchestra
December 20th 11.00am	Morning Worship and Nativity Play
Christmas Eve 11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 11.00am	Morning Worship

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

December 13th 10.30am	Toy Service and Children's Nativity Play
December 20th 6.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Christmas Day 10.30-11.15am	Morning Worship

ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

(There is no URC in Caversham. The nearest is in York Road over Caversham Bridge).

December 13	11.00am	Parade and Toy Service
Friday		
December 18	7.30pm	Carol Concert
December 20	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Festival Service
December 31	11.30pm	Watchnight Service

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

December 20	10.30am	Christmas "Family Special" in the Hill Primary School
	6.30pm	Service in the Chapel
Christmas Day	10.30am	Service in the Chapel
December 27	10.30am	Service in the Chapel
	6.30pm	Service in the Chapel

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)		
(Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Reading)		
December 20	3.00pm	Christmas Carols and Tea
Christmas Day	10.45am	Meeting for Worship

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

December 6th 11.00am	Toy and Gift Service
Sat.	
December 12th 3.00pm	Polio Fellowship Annual Carol Service
December 20th 4.00pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve 11.15pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10.30am	Family Service
December 27th 11.00am	Service of lessons and carols

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

December 6th 11.00am	Toy Service and Parade Service
December 20th 6.30pm	Special Carol Service led by the young people
Christmas Day 10.30am	Family Service



ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST ANNE'S, South View Avenue	
Service of Penance with confessions — as announced	
December 20th 6.30pm	Service of Carols
Christmas Eve 10.00 am	Mass. Confessions as announced
11.30pm	Midnight Mass sung with carols
Christmas Day 9.00am	Mass (English)
11.00am	Mass (English)
No other services on Christmas Day	
St Stephen's Day (December 26th)	11.30am Mass

OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, Richmond Road

(Service of Penance with confessions and service of carols — please see details for St Anne's)

Christmas Eve 10.00am	Mass. Confessions as announced
11.30pm	Midnight Mass with carols
Christmas Day 8.30am	Mass
10.30am	Mass
(No other services on Christmas Day)	
St Stephen's Day (December 26th)	10.00am Mass