

# TWO ROYAL VISITS

## Queen Mother at Mapledurham

HER Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother paid a private visit to Mapledurham House on June 21, the day her great-grandson was born. Having restored her own Castle of Mey, she had shown an interest in seeing over Mapledurham House which had also undergone restoration. Her Majesty's interest in this field is well known as she is Patroness of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. She was accompanied by the Chairman of the SPAB, the Duke of Grafton, and the Duchess, also by Lady Hambleton and Sir Oliver Miller. Her Majesty drove to the front entrance where she was welcomed by the owner of the house, Mr J. J. Eyston, his wife, Lady Anne, and their three children, Edward, Katharine and Mary. Also present were Mr Eyston's mother, Lady Agnes Eyston, his brother, Mr T. M. Eyston and Lady Anne's mother, Lady Maitland.

### Tree planted

The Queen Mother made a tour of the house. She saw books and manuscripts in the library, shown to her by the Librarian, Mr R. Williams. (The Blount family, who built the house and from whom Mr Eyston is descended, had a close association with Alexander Pope and letters from him still exist, together with other family records). She was very impressed with the 200 year old patchwork quilt, as well as copes and other religious embroidery used in the family chapel.

Her Majesty then walked over the front lawn where staff together with their families and residents of Mapledurham village gave her an enthusiastic greeting. She made friends with a corgi belonging to one of the staff and was most affable in her acknowledgement of all around. She then planted one of a pair of Cedars of Lebanon, saying that she gave it "three spadefuls for luck".

Her Majesty then drove the short distance to the mill, now the only working flour mill on the Thames and itself fully restored within the last five years, and she showed great interest in the workings. Samples of bread, fruit loaves, scones and cakes had been baked from Mapledurham flour (ground from corn grown on the estate), and everyone present enjoyed a taste. Her Majesty spoke to many around her and clearly found the whole visit pleasurable, and said she felt a wonderful atmosphere of friendliness both inside and outside the house. As Mr Eyston said, the house becomes alive in the summer and he was most grateful that the Queen Mother was seeing it at its best.

Mapledurham House is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from Easter Day until the end of September from 2.30 to 5.30pm. The mill is open at these times and also on Sundays out of season from 2.30 to 5pm.

M.B.



## Duke opens new centre



The Duke of Gloucester visited Caversham Park to open the new youth and recreation centre. He unveiled a commemorative plaque and toured the building. He received an enthusiastic reception from schoolchildren. The Mayor of Reading and Mr Tony Durant MP were also present.

— E. S. ARCHER

## LINK GROUP

THE group had a meeting in June, when members were welcomed by the new chairman, Mrs Audrey Preston. Certain duties and responsibilities were handed over.

Donations are to be made to three local charities. Provisional date for the MENCAP outing is Saturday, September 18, 1982. The children will spend the day at the Wellington Country Park, and there will be a barbecue, games, etc. Members will be advised by letter about final arrangements.

Instead of Link's usual summer party, it was decided to visit Wisley Gardens on Saturday afternoon, October 2, 1982. Arrangements are in hand. Everyone loves gardens — Wisley especially — and it is hoped that as many members and friends as possible will be able to come. The next committee meeting is on Monday, September 27, 1982. Link group wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

### September Caversham Bridge

ALL material for inclusion in the next edition of the Caversham Bridge should reach the Parish office at Church House by noon on Wednesday, July 28.

## Clergy and Ministers of Caversham

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Canon John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel: 471703.  
The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.  
The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.  
The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.  
The Rev Derek Spears, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

### BAPTIST

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

### METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

### UNITED REFORMED

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

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.  
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# The Editor's Column

## A SEASON FOR JOY

WE are often very properly reminded in the columns of this newspaper about the needs of people less fortunate than ourselves whether in this country or the Third World. In trying to help others our aim must be to share more fully in the joy which is at the heart of the Christian Gospel. It is therefore only right that the Church should sometimes want to give expression to that joy through some specific undertaking. There is much in the Bible about rejoicing though St Paul does not let us forget that joy and sorrow can be intertwined, "Rejoice" he tells us "with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep".

### Flowers, Drama, Music

The festival which is reported in this month's Caversham Bridge was organised by the congregation of the parish church to celebrate the patronal festival and was designed as a festival of joy. It sought to give expression to this principally through flowers, drama and music as well as through the normal worship of the Church. I believe that it succeeded in doing what it set out to do and for this thanks are due to the Festival Committee who, under the chairmanship of Mrs Valerie Birtwhistle, worked so hard. But the Festival was also an evangelistic enterprise and it brought together different groups of people in our community. One particularly encouraging aspect was the way so many local schools responded to the invitation to take part. The week before the festival began many of the shopwindows in the centre of Caversham were displaying friezes made by children in our schools; these related to the subject of the Mystery Plays that were performed in Caversham Court. Three schools provided the music for the plays while children from Caversham Park Primary school were the splendid animals in Noah's Ark.

Seven local flower clubs arranged displays related to the plays covering themes ranging from the Garden of Eden to the Resurrection and together with members of the congregation who decorated the rest of the Church they produced a flower festival of an unusually high standard; the schools also contributed to this with imaginative arrangements of flowers on trays. While the large cast in the plays came for the most part from St Peter's congregation a few were members of St Andrew's and Christopher Garforth of Caversham Heights Methodist Church played the part of Christ with a quiet and impressive dignity which will long remain in the memory of all who saw his acting. During the four days of the festival great numbers of people streamed into St Peter's for many hours a day to worship, and to enjoy the concerts and the flowers; among these were several hundred children who came in school parties on the last two days.

### What next?

The final act of worship when the Bishop of Oxford preached and concelebrated the Eucharist on St Peter's day with the clergy of the parish saw Baptists, Methodists and Roman Catholics worshipping together with their Anglican friends in Caversham's ancient parish church which for four days seemed the focal point of the local community.

With memories of Mayday week 1970, Family Festival 1974, and the further festival of 1978 still in the minds of many people and with the Lent study groups having given a fresh surge to ecumenical thinking the Festival has left us with the question "What next?" There seem to be many stirrings in the life of the Church in Caversham. We must see that this impetus is not lost.

*John Grimwade*

### CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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### TWENTY FIVES YEARS ON SCHOOL JOURNEYS

ON June 8, Peter Shock completed 25 years of "bussing" the children from Mapledurham and surrounding areas to Kidmore End Church of England Primary school. Parents and friends decided to mark the occasion with a party and presentation. This was held at Rokeby Hall, Tokers Green. Past and present passengers together with parents sat down with Peter to a festive tea which mothers had produced. After tea Peter was presented with gifts in recognition of his services and cards and messages were read out from former passengers who were unable to attend. Then Peter in a speech of thanks recalled anecdotes of his twenty five years service, the occasion ended with the cutting of a celebration cake.



Photo: E. S. Archer

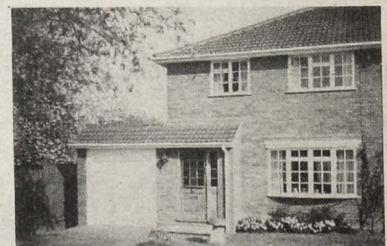
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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT BY WATCHDOG

## THE WATERHOUSE PUB

THE Waterhouse, did you say? That's a peculiar name for a pub. And so it is, until you realise that it is to be in part of Waterhouses's town hall in Reading when it has been refurbished with money from the sale of the late lamented old police station.

Scrubbed and cleaned on the outside and rejuvenated within, the Waterhouse section of the old town hall, which forms Phase I of the restoration plans, will then be seen in its original high Victorian glory of 1875. The pub will be at street level on the Blagrove Street frontage, entered through a remodelled porch and with a sitting-out area in front. The eighteenth century Small Town Hall, seen only in its truncated form since World War II, will return to its full length, which is more than twice what it now is, and will be a really elegant meeting hall with its beautiful windows and elaborately plastered ceiling.

Waterhouses's council chamber,

built and furnished by him to provide a meeting place befitting the dignity of the city fathers with their new and increasing powers and duties, is however the subject of more controversial treatment. To reduce its height and dispose of its acoustically impossible gallery, it is proposed to put in a mezzanine floor with an admittedly quite pleasing ribbed ceiling in place of the existing curved one, thus producing a modern meeting room which still retains some of the characteristics of the existing room. The top part of the room will then become another bar, with its windows being the top sections of the existing stained glass ones.

Many voices are asking whether this is what we really want, or whether we should not prefer to keep the room as much as possible in its present form. There are already adequate facilities for the serving of refreshments being planned, in addition to the pub, so an extra bar is not really needed. Newly decorated and with the gallery shut off, the Council Chamber could still be a useful meeting place whilst retaining its original lines.

### Elected to office

Although our present councillors bear little resemblance to their stern-faced predecessors shown in a painting of the newly opened Council Chamber which hangs in the Small Town Hall, they nevertheless carry on the tradition of public service which these bewhiskered, frock-coated and berobed gentlemen (not a lady among them) prided themselves on. At the meeting depicted, none of the councillors would have been from Caversham because it did not become part of the borough of Reading until 1911. Now over a hundred years later, Caversham provides many councillors, either representing its wards or living in Caversham but representing other wards. In picking out four members in this article it must be appreciated that these are only examples.

### George Robinson

George Robinson, Caversham born and bred, is this year's mayor, and attended

the community and ecumenical Mayor's Sunday service at St Peter's church in June. The underlying theme was that people matter and service to people may entail a complete change of outlook.

### Brian Fowles

Brian Fowles, as chairman of what is still referred to as the Planning Committee, is responsible for guiding through the Central Reading Plan, which should by now be available for public consultation. There has been an extension of the consultation period until the end of September as it was realised that a period from the middle of July till the end of August was going to cut many organisations out of the process. This is such an important document that all organisations, whatever their interests, should make a point of commenting on it, as it covers so many fields that its proposals will affect everyone in Reading to some degree or other.

### Fred Pugh

Fred Pugh, as chairman of the Transport Committee (incidentally why Transport with its connotations of being sent to the hulks before being shipped off to Australia?) will also be concerned with the Central Reading Plan as it contains far reaching proposals for pedestrianisation and for public and private transport. It was at Councillor Pugh's suggestion that the "disabled parking only" spaces appeared in the Chester Street car park, thus ensuring this group at least a reasonable chance of finding a place in this overcrowded car park as near as possible to the shops, and of course if they are not already occupied by the able-bodied.

### Graham Rush

Graham Rush is another Caversham born and bred councillor, though he does not represent a Caversham ward. Graham does not mince his words when it comes to what he considers anti-social behaviour, though some of his victims may not always agree with him. His present campaign against pavement parkers will have the support of everyone except the offenders themselves.

A question he recently put at question time during a council meeting has resulted in an instruction being sent to all departments forbidding pavement parking by council vehicles except in unavoidable circumstances. Never one to pussyfoot around, Councillor Rush also asked the Council to ascertain what police policy was about their vehicles, and one is forced to admit that police cars have been seen on the pavement in circumstances which do not justify it.

Just being a police car does not give carte blanche to break a law just because it happens to do so. Nobody is going to object on the few occasions when it is necessary.

Long may Caversham people continue to play a part not only in the life of Caversham, but in the life of the town.

## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

St John's: June 13th — Erica Holden.  
St Andrew's: June 6th — Joanna Tyrrell. June 13th — Eleanor Guy.  
St Margaret's: July 4th — David Thompson, Jane Thompson.  
St Anne's: May 1st — Matthew Ashcroft, May 23rd — Sean Corrigan, Holly Mallia. June 20th — Louise Crampton. June 27th — Christopher Leigh, Steven Flower.

Archer and Annette Butler. June 12th — Chesney Chichen and Pauline Barnbrook.  
St Andrew's: June 26th — Jeremy Wigmore and Karen Whiting.  
St Margaret's: June 12th — Philip House and Anne Farmer.  
Caversham Methodist Church: June 19th — Paul Bishop and Claire Brookes.  
St Anne's: Rodney Savidge and Rosemary Kramers, Michael O'Brien and Wendy Munday.

### MARRIED

St Peter's: June 12th — Jeremy Phillips and Angela Hiscock. Raymond Smith and Sonia Czornij, June 19th — Melvyn Lloyd and Deborah Button. Robin Thorne and Linda Roberts. July 3rd — Graham Ashton and Alison Jackson.  
St John's: June 5th — Martin

FUNERALS  
St Peter's: July 1st — Thomas Lanaghan.  
Caversham Heights Methodist Church: June 25th — Frank Masterman.  
Caversham Methodist Church: June 11th — David Robinson.  
St Anne's: Vera McErlean.

## ROUND THE CLUBS

will be included in the September edition of the Caversham Bridge with other features omitted this month.

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TALKING POINT BY REV T. MEAGHER

# The Holy Father's visit

## (2) In Retrospect

ANY attempt to include, in a short space, the vast number of thoughts from one person, let alone the general view, is a virtual impossibility. All that one can do is to paint some sort of impression with a few dabs of the brush.

A recorder of this extraordinary "happening" is hampered by not having to hand the actual words of the Holy Father, and, as I feared, being unable to see or hear substantial sections of his visit.

First of all, the Catholic community should thank God for the tremendous reception given to him. Doubts expressed about the wisdom of the visit seemed to have been swept away by the sheer magnitude of Pope John Paul's personality.

A difficulty could arise from this. The

Pope is so much the living embodiment of what he says, and word and deed are so integrated in him, that there is a real danger of forgetting what he actually said in the warmth of his obvious love of God.

Those who claimed that he "watered down" in some way the traditional Catholic teaching on family life were obviously not listening; those who think that there is any short cut to Christian unity were reminded that this is a long process. We must continue to pray for it. To this writer the setting up of yet another Commission may seem a little freakish, but its purpose of examining the differences seems to show the right approach.

While I cannot wait to read the full texts of his sermons and talks, there is a danger that the usual "experts" could tailor

the words to suit the audience. In this age of mass communications, paradoxically the communication itself often becomes distorted.

The Pope actually spelled out all the main doctrines of our faith and most of its moral teachings, via the plan of the seven Sacraments which was his scheme in the Masses. He stressed the importance of the Sacrifice of the Mass, of frequent Confession, of Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady. He reminded our Parents and Teachers that they must be the educators of our youth in the love of Christ and in the deposit of faith, and reminded our Bishops of their duty to sanctify and govern.

### Some criticisms

The occasions of the largest gatherings were saved from being mere "jam-

borees" or "get-togethers" by the dignity with which the Pope celebrated Mass, and the seriousness of his messages.

Since this is a personal appraisal, I feel that I am at liberty to make some criticisms, which, oddly enough, served to highlight, rather than dim the message of the Pope.

(1) Apart from the honourable exception of Westminster Cathedral the music during the visit was, to say the least variable. What I heard would be dismissed by most people as banal. Its poor quality was not obscured (was that the intention?) by the constant bellowing of "Alleluias". Not Catholic tradition. Surely it was a glaring blunder to leave aside the finest Plainchant Mass of the year "Spiritus domini..." on the Feast of Pentecost, a timely reminder that the universal music of the Church,

like its universal language, is being neglected for the trivial.

(2) Since Church music as a whole was avoided, then surely the hymns chosen would be familiar in this age of so-called sharing in the Liturgy; but no, most of the hymns were partly or totally unknown. How sad.

(3) I failed to understand why all available priests were not used for the administration of Holy Com-

munion at the larger gatherings. This was one of the reasons for their ordination, and is preferred by most Catholics, if not all.

All that having been said, the organisation of the visit was remarkable.

It also remains true that so much good was done by the visit that a deal of work must be done to build on the foundations. The Bishops' duty to sanctify and govern will be carried out not merely

by their example, but by the stress they lay on traditional Catholic means of sanctity, like the Mass, the Sacraments and Prayer, and they will govern by teaching us the truth of Christ, and not allowing a free-for-all.

Come what may, we priests must do what our Holy Father tells us. All our people must use the visit to grow in holiness, which is the certain way to Christian unity.



The Friends of Caversham Park School summer fete took place at the school on Saturday, June 12. Heavy rain did not disrupt proceedings; willing helpers moved the stalls under cover and not even the enthusiasm was dampened. — E. S. Archer

# WEST ONE SHOPPING CENTRE LONDON

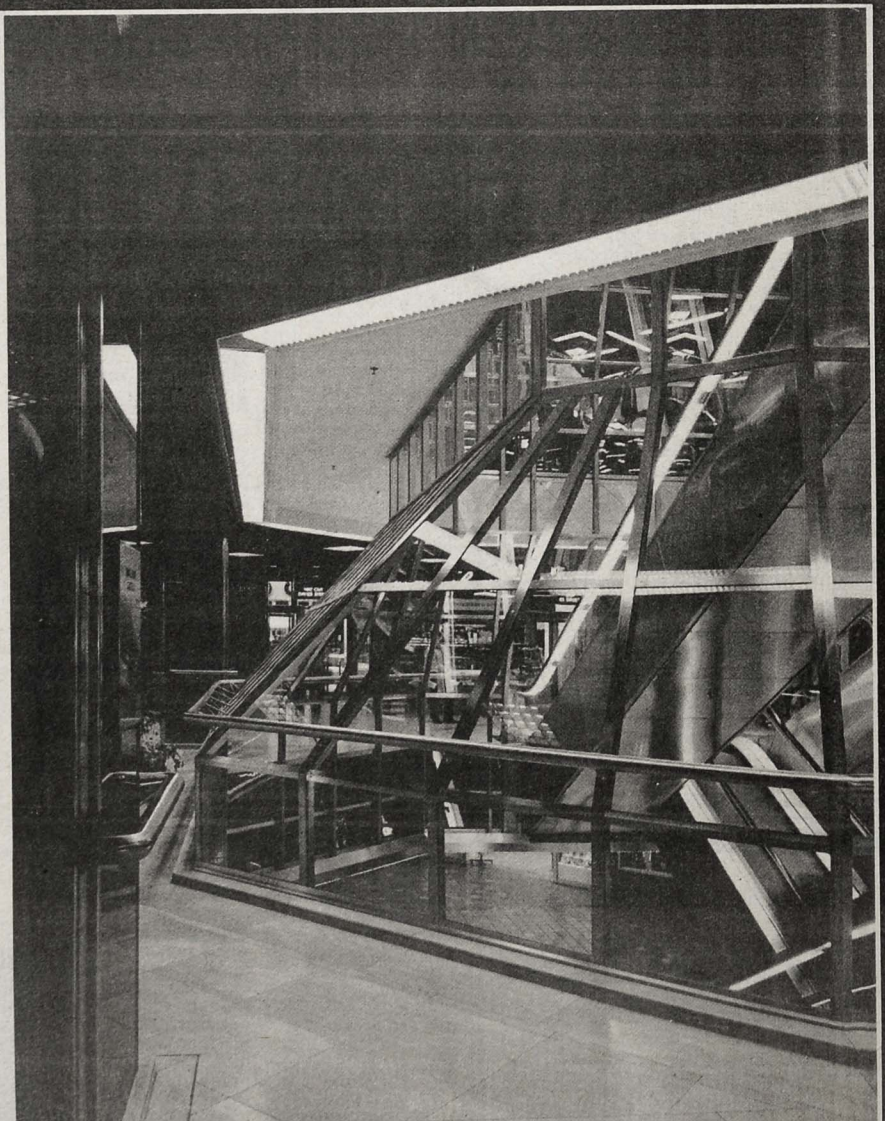
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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

First I'd better clear up a misunderstanding which has arisen following the publication of last month's column. It is difficult for one person to get around the whole of Caversham and now that it has been possible to recruit help from other areas, there is more than one Katy. So, for those of you who know me, don't be alarmed, I've not taken up cycling in my old age. In fact the last time I was on a bike was about 40 years ago when an uncomfortable passage through a quick-set hedge taught me that I'd best consider other forms of transportation. But I'm really glad that somebody else is cycling around Caversham gleaming news and

hope this will encourage other readers to send in odd items of news which will fit into this column.

## 'The Polish challenge'

When I visited Kevin Ruane in April, just before he left to take up his new post as BBC correspondent in Poland, he talked of the book he had just put together, shortly to be launched by the BBC. Now that I've had the chance to read it, I can see what a very unusual book this is, and I can think of no better person to have undertaken the mammoth task of linking together extracts from the many radio reports which have, over the last few years reached the Caversham BBC Monitoring

Station from Poland. Kevin, whose reporting from Moscow some while ago showed what a very objective person he is, has not tried to prove any particular theory but has simply let the reports tell their own story. And a very remarkable one it is too, for here are all the vagaries of human nature, all the complexities of modern government; starting with genuine grass-roots attempts to restore democracy to the trade union movement in Poland, we are led through a labyrinth of reactions from the man-in-the-street, politicians and governments. And all written exactly as it happened, when it happened.

Kevin has wisely limited his own contributions to a minimum, though his interest in the subject is far from academic — indeed his first assignment in Poland coincided with the start of the troubles in the summer of 1980. I can see now why he was at such pains to point out that, in his opinion, it would be unwise to treat all Communist bloc countries on the basis of preconceived ideas. Anything could happen and, he said, it is not an area where change could be entirely ruled out.

A copy of the book has been sent to the Pope; it may never be a best seller to a public more accustomed to sensational stories than hard facts, but to

anyone interested in Poland, or merely in human nature, it makes fascinating reading.

## Safety first

Do you ever leave the back door unlocked because you are only just popping across the road for a second? Well don't; in that second a thief can easily remove quite a lot of valuable items.

This was the message of the Crime Prevention squad when an officer recently talked to some of the residents of Caversham Heights and district at the Grosvenor Hotel recently. For the record it seems this area has the highest record of robberies in the Thames Valley.

The talk, a film showing just how easy burglaries often are, and displays of alarm systems, locks, bolts and bars, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, etc, provided a most informative evening. It isn't possible to give details of all suggestions made for safeguarding homes but both the Crime Prevention officer and representatives of the firms supplying equipment stressed that they would be very happy to give personal advice to any household who got in touch with them.

I see one such firm actually advertises in the "Bridge"; others are well known. But it's doubtful whether our readers would know where to go to follow one piece of advice and have expensive items of property properly photographed for identification pur-

poses — such items move across the country so rapidly and change hands so often that the police frequently have difficulty in finding homes for stolen property. One would have to be careful about calling in somebody to do the photographing, which in some cases, demands a special approach, so I pass on the name of a friend I met at the meeting who is now in business of this kind. Mr Sarafyan of 7 Tower Close, Emmer Green (474011) will be happy to call on anyone who needs advice.

His firm suggests items of £500 or more should be photographed and the brochure I have lists all the safeguards the firm gives to ensure complete confidentiality.

## Caversham Horticultural Society

On a happier note I've been asked by a reader who just happened to call in, to express appreciation for the very good show this Society put on in St Andrew's Hall in June. It was, I'm told, an enjoyable show by any standard and not just for the enthusiastic gardener.

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## Postbag



Dear sir,  
Tony Durant's article, *The Falklands, What Next, did little more than ask what happened, rather than asking why it happened. There has been more newspaper given to the "what" than to any other subject in modern times over a comparable period.*

For several years these islands have become increasingly economically unviable as far as Britain was concerned. They have in fact been dependent on Argentina for many of their needs. Certainly if they had been an industry at home employing far more people than the total population of the Falklands they would have been closed down without any of the much vaunted need for consultation which has been insisted on in this case.

If Argentina had not had an exceptionally unpleasant fascist government, it would have seemed sense to have worked out some form of joint control, for ancient claims to possession hold little water these days. Instead the discovery of Argentina's repressive form of government came rather late in the day, for this and previous governments were only too glad to sell them the weapons which they used against us during the weeks of the Falklands conflict. World opinion agreed that Argentina should not have invaded and by using this and taking the dispute to the United Nations, vast sums of money and many lives could have been saved. Instead, with no more than a perfunctory notification in the UN, a task force was sent with

alacrity, which set the inevitable train of events in motion.

Neither, of course, is this the end. Huge sums of money will be required to safeguard the islands which a year ago we would never have dreamed of pumping into them. Each family on the islands could have been in the millionaire class on what it has cost and will cost. Yet this sum of money was produced without batting an eyelid, at the same time that the Royal Marsden Hospital was having to close wards, our public services were being drained of essential resources, and in the third world starvation continued to confront hundreds of thousands.

When the Pope said war was an unacceptable way of settling disputes in the modern world, he was not spouting pacifist claptrap, but speaking plain common sense, albeit Christian common sense. Tony Durant said we must make the United Nations a more effective force, and the best way of doing that is by using it, not by bleating about how weak it is. Here is our opportunity, for if ever an issue was suitable for UN mediation, it is the Falklands dispute.

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# ST PETER'S FLOW

THERE have been several flower festivals at St Peter's Church in recent years but it is doubtful whether any of them have drawn so many people back for a second, and even a third, time — people from all over Reading and Caversham and even further afield. The comments one heard as visitors left the church would have gladdened the hearts of the flower arrangers. "Magnificent", "delightful", "However did they think of it" — just some of them.

### Interpretation

It was probably interpretation as much as the actual arranging which drew so much admiration in the case of some pieces. "Abraham and Isaac" very imaginatively and attractively produced by students of the Reading Technical College, and "The Woman taken in Adultery", with its beautiful contrast of deep red and purest white, arranged by the Sonning Floral Arrangement Society, were particular examples — neither of these themes could have been easy to interpret. Probably the "Crucifixion" by the Henley Flower Arrangement Club, and "Resurrection" by the Reading Flower Club, were easier, but the portrayal was so beautifully carried out that visitors returned time and again to admire. The cross with its crown of thorns and blood red flowers was in complete contrast to the sheer rejoicing of the resurrection pinnacle, soaring heavenwards in yellow and white.

The Thames Valley Flower Arrangement Club who produced "The Garden of Eden" had resisted the temptation to produce a pretty-pretty effect and opted instead for a dramatic but beautiful portrayal of the garden as it could well have been, while "Noah's Flood" by the Goring Gap Floral Arrangement Society produced, with an unusual mass of rippling colours, a striking resemblance to masses of water. "The Annunciation" by the Chiltern Edge Flower Arranging Club was beautifully but simply handled and visitors tended to linger a long while in this corner. Here, as elsewhere, the use of artefacts to portray people kneeling, was a wonderful, and by no means incongruous addition to the flowers themselves.

### St Peter's on efforts

The green and white window arrangements, the pretty posies round the font and the pillars, in front of the choir stalls and other places, plus the very striking arrangement in front of the altar and at the sides, provided a quiet and pleasant contrast to the bigger displays, while the children's competition trays displayed remarkable ingenuity and were very well carried out. They drew a lot of attention, not just from fond parents.

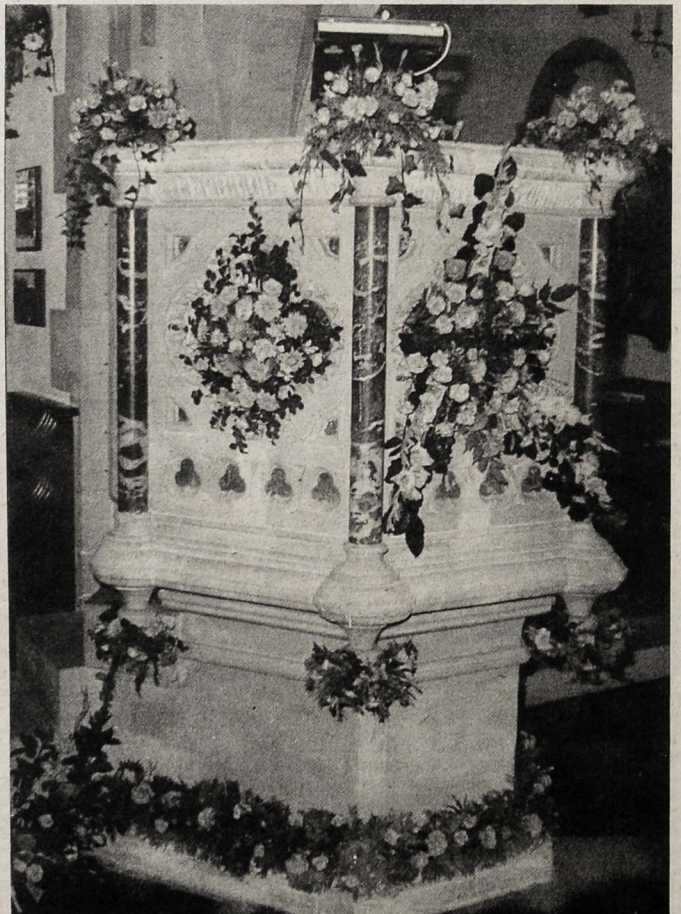
Visitors leaving the church also had the opportunity of purchasing tea-towels of a kind not hitherto seen here — pictures of the various buildings in this area, designed by Edna Fitzeustace. Such attractive souvenirs as these were eagerly purchased by visitors from other districts, many of whom went away asking when there would be another flower festival.



■ The Annunciation — as depicted by the Chiltern Edge Flower Arranging Club.



■ The Crucifixion — Henley Flower Arrangement Club.



■ The pulpit, decorated by members of St Peter's wives group.

ALL  
FESTIVA  
PICTURE  
BY  
E. S. ARCH

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# FLOWER FESTIVAL

ALL  
FESTIVAL  
PICTURES  
BY  
S. ARCHER



■ Mrs Edna Fitzeustace giving a finishing touch to the display of the Thames Valley Flower Arrangement Club whose subject was the Garden of Eden.



■ Jean Fry (left) and Marion Croft (right) decorating the standard candlesticks.

## FESTIVAL MUSIC by John Dussek

THERE were two concerts in the course of the Festival. On the Saturday evening the Reading Phoenix Choir gave a magnificent performance of a very varied choral programme, ranging from a Jannequin chanson to Coleman's The Rhythm of Life and from a movement of Bach's B minor Mass to negro spirituals. Every note (and word) of the evening was sung from memory and, as usual with this choir, the presentation was particularly impressive. The singers entered singing a welcome song and were soon advancing from all corners of the church; thus the audience was warmed by the impression that the singing was coming from its own numbers. The groups which followed, sacred, madrigal, 20th century and Spirituals were each delivered with exhilarating confidence in which each singer proved to have not only a beautiful and well-projected voice, but also a fine sensitivity to English (the chief of the five languages used).

The choir was making history in singing for the first time without its regular conductor and Musical

Director, Norman Morris, sadly in hospital at the time. A different deputy took over for each group and the basic security attained by Mr Morris over the years was not in any way affected.

The soloists were, in the first half, Stella Cooke (oboe) and in the second, Rosemary Davis (soprano). Miss Cooke played l'Etoile, a piece specially written for her by Charles Camilleri which showed off many sides of Miss Cooke's playing, but was quite demanding on the listener. Miss Davis sang Faure's Pie Jesu and Charpentier's Depuis le jour with a beautiful bell-like sound almost free from the dreaded vibrato.

### The Arion Orchestra

The second concert was given on the Monday evening by the Arion orchestra directed from the leader's desk by Brien Stait with Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet).

If the Reading Phoenix Choir is among the predominant choral groups in our area, the Arion might be said to be its counterpart in the instrumental world. This concert showed why. The attention to — especially rhythmic — detail and the quality of sound achieved

partly because the players regularly play together and match each other were just two of the more obvious factors.

The programme ranged from Locke (incidental music to the Tempest) to Elgar (Serenade for Strings). In the former the slow movement called the Tempest was particularly dramatic and impressive and could hold its place with other more famous musical storms. In the latter, the slow movement was for me one of the high spots in a pretty elevated evening.

Mr Steele-Perkins joined the orchestra for Scarlatti's The Garden of Love and Handel's Suite for Trumpet and Strings, as well as the famous Purcell Trumpet Tune and Air. His brilliant sound and equally brilliant technique made these exciting items on the programme.

After the interval Rossini and Mozart were represented, the former by Sonata 1 in G and the latter by Divertimento K 136, both early works by the respective composers giving fascinating foretaste of the operatic ensembles in which each was later to excel.

## OBITUARY

### FRANK MASTERMAN

FRANK Masterman of 9 Richmond Road, Caversham, died on Tuesday, June 22 at the Royal Berkshire Hospital after a collapse the previous day. His wife Agnes and a large company of friends, including former business associates and church members, attended a service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church followed by cremation at the Borough Cemetery, on Friday, June 25.

Frank was widely known, loved and respected. He worked for the BBC for forty-three years — over thirty of which were served with the Monitoring Unit at Caversham Park. "The best boss we ever had," said one of his former colleagues, summing up the esteem in which he was held by them.

He was a member of the Albert Road Bowling Club — winning a trophy on two occasions. No mean amateur artist, his paintings were warmly appreciated and he was a keen and effective gardener. The Scouting Movement in the District benefited from his wide experience and interest. He served on the District Warrants Committee and was the recipient of a



"Thanks Badge".

The whole life and service of Frank Masterman was motivated by his strong Christian faith expressed through the Methodist Church. For more than thirty years he served the Caversham Heights Methodist Church, the Circuit and the District with great faithfulness and competence. He assumed the Superintendency of the Sunday School in 1949, when only nine scholars attended, and through hard work built the school into a major feature of the life of the church. With Agnes, who supported him completely in all his many activities, he ran a Youth Club for six years, with the essential component of the same, a Sunday Evening Youth Fellowship of a devotional nature. He sang in the Church Choir for twenty years, was

Church Steward for a term and held the office of Confidential Covenant and Envelope Secretary up to his death.

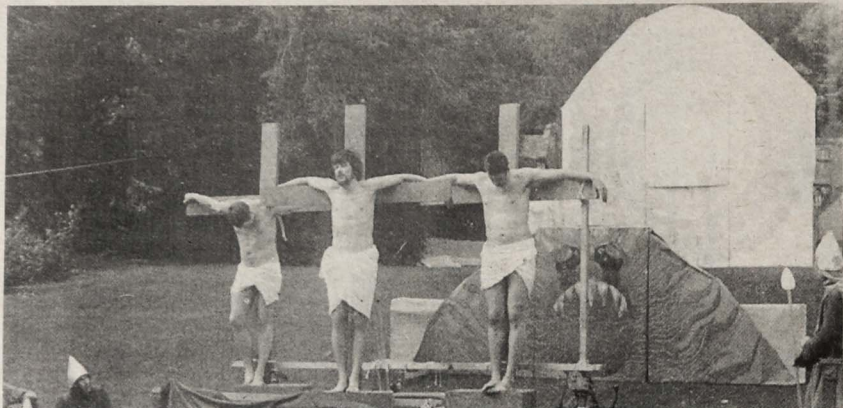
During part of the sixties he held the highest lay position in a Methodist Circuit — that of Circuit Steward, and the work of Frank and Agnes in this role was deeply appreciated by ministerial and lay people alike.

He was District Overseas Missions Secretary for a time and continued to serve on the District Overseas Missions Committee. Frank and his wife were twice officially elected members of the Methodist Conference. He served his Lord faithfully through the Church, throughout his life.

Frank was beloved of all, from the youngest to the oldest, and all who knew him treasured his friendship, wise counsel, and genuine concern and love for all he met.

Agnes and his closest relatives are assured of our love and sympathy at this time, our joy in the greatness of his life and our certainty that his great faith is abundantly vindicated in the immediate presence of Our Lord.

# MORE FESTIVAL



■ The Crucifixion scene.



Children from Micklands Primary School with the winning entry in the competition for Flower trays from local schools. The second prize was divided between Hemdean House and Caversham Park Primary school. Thameside School was highly commended.

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### Medieval Mystery Plays

CAVERSHAM Court has been the scene of many events over recent years and various dramatic efforts have been staged there, but it is doubtful whether any of them have been as ambitious as the cycle of mystery plays produced three times as part of St Peter's Festival.

With a cast of so many, all doing their best to overcome the vagaries of the weather, it would be difficult to pick out anyone for special mention, though one might be forgiven for

suggesting that Ken Bennett (Mr Noah) must have had friends in High Places since nothing could have been more appropriate than the storm clouds which gathered as he tried to persuade his wife to come on board the ark.

### The cast

If the plays can be said to have principal actors then, leaving aside the magnificent voice of Bob Gamble as God, it could probably be said that Christ and Satan, good and evil, filled these roles. Chris Garforth was a most fortunate choice as Christ, since his appearances, so dignified, calm and quiet, were in sharp contrast to the dramatic gyrations of Derek Spears as Satan, behaving something like a petulant school-child. As to the children, they not only added to our entertainment but obviously enjoyed their parts, particularly as the assorted animals in the ark.

And we mustn't forget the music provided by the pupils of Caversham Primary School, Emmer Green Primary School and Queen Anne's School Senior Choir.

### The production

But, of course, first honours must go to the producer, Barbara Justham, who with her excellent production team, including Pat Morrison as stage manager, put on such a truly remarkable performance. The scenery designers, Jane Kane and Jill Richardson, aided by Leslie Coward as general handyman, did a magnificent job and the costumes — which in some cases must have presented considerable problems — were excellently done by Marion Thwaite and her assistants. It was obvious



The Very Rev Alan Webster, the Dean of St Paul's seen talking to Mr L. Hunt of Blenheim Road after preaching at St Peter's at Evensong on Sunday, June 27 during the Festival. The Dean wore the special cape that was made for him for the Royal wedding in St Paul's last summer.

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Continued on page 9



# PICTURES

that a lot of thought had gone into all this and a lot of work, so there are many who should be thanked for their behind-the-scenes contribution but who are too numerous to mention.

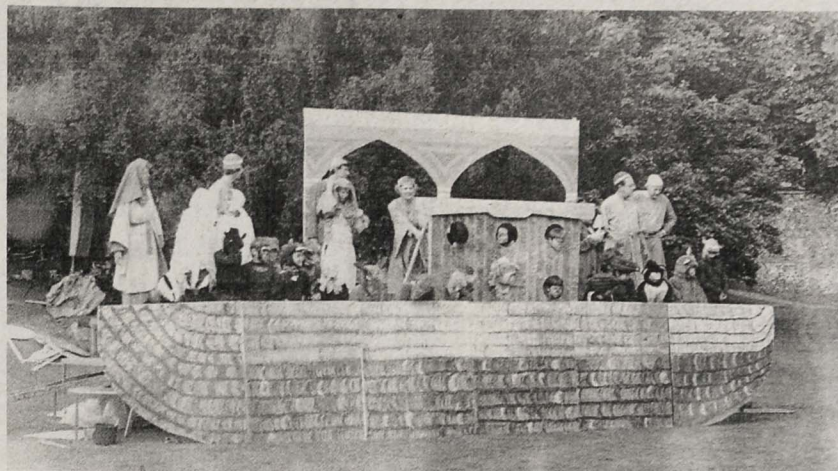
### The plays

These plays, depicting scenes from the

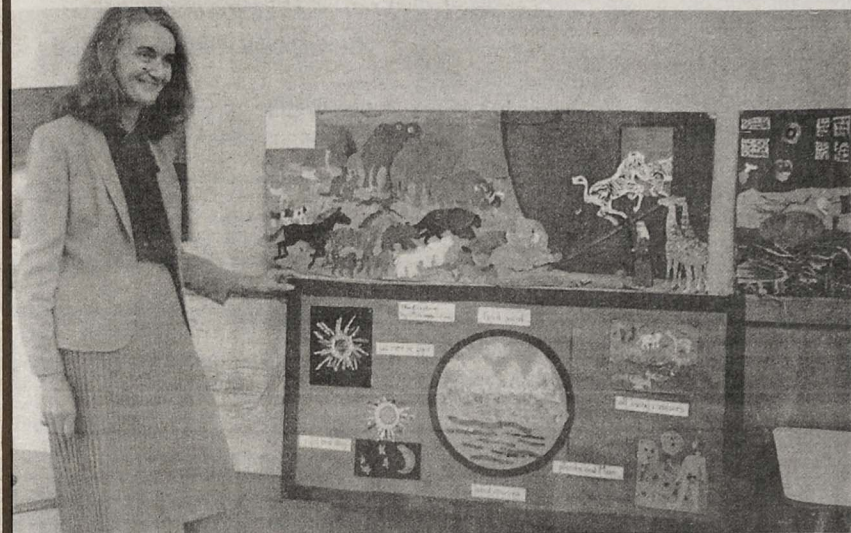
Old and New Testaments, and probably seeming a bit archaic and odd to the uninitiated, were seen by well over 600 people and despite the weather, and the difficulty of hearing once the wind started to carvort through the trees, the audience remained glued to

their seats throughout the entire performances. Though the usual cries for the cast and the producer would have seemed inappropriate, it was obvious from comments made by visitors, that they had nothing but admiration for this production.

Mrs Audrey Durant judged the competition for collages and awarded first prize to Caversham Primary School. Hemdean House and Micklands Primary School were equal second and a special award was made by Mrs Durant to Queen Anne's School. The collages were all related to the subjects of the Mystery plays performed in Caversham Court.



Noah's Ark.



## SAINT PETER'S FESTIVAL

THE Festival Committee wish to thank most sincerely the very large number of people who helped with one or other of the many aspects of the Festival which proved such an enjoyable and worthwhile undertaking. Although it was not conceived of as a fund raising event a considerable profit was made; contributions are being sent to the Denys Birwhistle Fund for the extension of St Peter's, the Caversham Methodist Church Restoration Fund, and Link Group Charities. In addition the collection at the Eucharist on St Peter's Day amounted to £164 and this has been sent to Christian Aid's special appeal for refugees and homeless people in the Lebanon.

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Adam (Kenneth Etherington) and Eve (Sheila Hodson).



Abraham (Allan Bliss) and Isaac (Ian Orpwood).

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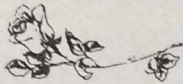
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# METHODIST NEWS

## STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

By Guy Williams

STEWARDSHIP is not a "once-and-for-always" exercise, with permanent achievement as its reward. In as little as a couple of years substantial changes can crack the nice pattern which has evolved from a campaign. Children become young adults in that space of time while "young marrieds" start families and older adults become "senior citizens". Individual incomes rise and fall; energies increase and diminish; people come and people go.

The needs and the challenges within the church community change too — a sobering thought when you're "cock-a-hoop" with the elation of a successful campaign!

So, at Caversham Heights Methodists we have found the need (as most churches do) to sort ourselves out with a renewal campaign about every second year. This time we have departed somewhat from the "professional" line which we had previously followed, but our purpose was the same — to stimulate our church family in its spiritual life and in the practical expression of that life.

In these days of inflation it becomes necessary to look regularly at the needs of our work in terms of finance, and to check up on our personal contributions towards them. As Methodists we have to be entirely self-financing with regard to the stipends and costs of our ministry and of our church work and premises, and also contribute to the wider needs of our circuit and national undertakings. So this had to have our attention.

Another important consideration was the quest for more people who would give time and talents to the ever-increasing work and witness of our church. But above all, we needed to remind ourselves that we have a special purpose and responsibility as Christians to represent our Lord and Saviour in our own neighbourhood, and in the wider world.

So, instead of the more traditional plan of individual visiting, we met in groups to seek the spiritual meaning of our christianity and its practical outreach. As we talked in these groups the way was pointed to a number of needs and of valuable possibilities for new ventures and the stimulation of existing activities. It was quite an inspiration to share in the positive thinking of those who met in companies of ten or a dozen in a companionable "house" atmosphere.

Instead of the set meal, we opted for a buffet, and a hall full of our folk shared a time of real inspired fellowship.

which definitely helped to draw us closer together. On four Sundays we had speakers with an "inside" knowledge of social problems, especially in less favoured communities in our land, which gave us much food for thought — and hopefully for subsequent action.

We presented a very practical report to our Church Council, and with its help and blessing, are set to follow up several projects for the coming months. Not all our goals are achieved — but they are still clear before us.

### Bulmershe Music Society Concert

The programme presented at Caversham Heights Methodist Church by the Bulmershe College of Higher Education Music Society at the end of April contained those two essential elements of every enjoyable musical event — variety and a feeling at the end that more should follow. The variety came not only in the music chosen but also the various ensembles presenting the music; choir, orchestra and organ in varying combinations. What a feast was laid before us — full blooded Handel, delicate Bach and Mozart, frantic Liszt and a good mixture or well known and relatively unknown pieces. The choir and string orchestra were supplemented by the delicate flute tones of the organ in Handel's "Coronation Anthem — Let Thy Hand be Strengthened" under Gwyn Parry-Jones. After a rather hesitant entry by the choir the ensemble soon settled down and the balance between voices and instruments was nicely controlled to ensure that all the words came through the complex sound patterns. The slow movement "Let justice and judgement" was particularly beautiful — light and delicate with controlled variations of volume and choir colour.

Soloists Alison Perkis and Carol Dodgson succeeded in overcoming the difficulty of producing a distinctive tone against string accompaniment in Bach's Concerto in D minor. The counterpoint in the famous slow movement came across particularly well and the mellow tone of the violas added richness in their accompaniment to the repeating chords of the soloists in the last movement.

The Madrigal choir gave a superb performance of "Alleluia" by the American composer Randall Thompson. A quiet, gentle piece which ebbed and flowed and didn't rise above mezzo forte until the last few bars — a complete contrast to the Alleluia of the Handel anthem.

As the church organist, Ralph Lascelles, mentioned in his closing remarks, one of the objectives of the organ renovation and improvements was to enable the church to be used as a centre of music in the area, and David Stannard made his contribution to the evening in the form of a splendid performance of the Liszt prelude and fugue on B.A.C.H. Fireworks there were aplenty. It would simply not have been possible to obtain such a spectacular sound before the organ was rebuilt. Full use was made of the specially reset pistons to provide rapid changes of tonal quality without interrupting the hectic rush of notes, and the new trombone pedal was well in evidence.

The ever popular "Ave Verum Corpus" of Mozart preceded the final piece for choir and organ — Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens". A fine performance to round off an excellent evening of music. Proceeds were in aid of the Gosbrook Road rebuilding fund.

The evening of Sunday, June 20 saw the Heights Methodist Church with almost a capacity audience for a concert given by the South Chiltern Choral Society and The Con Amore Choir from Bennekom in Holland. Gwyn Arch conducted the South Chiltern Choir in a spirited and encouraging opening song by Rutter "O Clap your Hands", full of mixed rhythms and unexpected harmonies. Then followed "The Missa Brevis" by Zoltan Kodaly. It is a beautiful but demanding setting of the Mass for the choir and particularly for the small solo parts. The performers met this challenge and performed with great feeling.

David Stannard then played the "Prelude and Fugue on B.A.C.H." by Franz Liszt which displayed both his talent and the recently refurbished organ to its full extent.

The first half ended with Balfour Gardiner's fulsome setting of the "Evening Hymn".

Gerard Rietveld then led the Hervormd Zangkoor "Con Amore", through a mixed programme of 17th and 20th Century sacred songs by Distler, Hassler, Eddard, Bons and Neubert and two short cantatas by Buxtehude and a twentieth century composer Friedrich Zipp. These were interspersed with instrumental items on clarinet, flute, trumpet, organ and basset horn.

It was altogether an entertaining evening's programme with wide variety in style and interpretation.

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# STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



**Reading on the run**  
 AT last Reading is to have its own mass participant running event. The date — March 13, 1983. The event will be a half marathon, or to be more accurate, 13.1 miles.

The Reading Borough Leisure Department and everyone interested in running have been looking at the possibilities of staging such a run for some time but to stage such an event successfully requires a lot of money and a great deal of planning. The finance for the event will come from local industry

and commerce and in particular from the main sponsor Digital Equipment Limited. With this financial backing it is hoped to make the run one of the biggest and most successful outside of London and it will certainly be one of the earliest running events in the 1983 calendar and as it is only six weeks before the London Marathon it will be a convenient build-up for anyone running in that event. It will be very much a community event and it is expected that upwards of 5,000 people will take part and that many more will turn out to watch the run which will

start and finish at Reading University, Whiteknights Park.

The half marathon will be run under AAA rules which means that only over 18s can run but there will be a team race so that factories, banks, pubs, clubs, etc can run as a team and there will be special categories for male and female veteran runners.

The entry forms will be available in September and as in the interests of safety there will be a limited entry you will therefore need to enter quickly.

If you want to take part in Reading's biggest ever participant sporting event NOW is the time to start training.

### Soaring to the top

Marianne Green of the Albatross Diving Club, who lives in Caversham, is having a tremendous season. In June, just before her 15th birthday, she took part in the 8th Youth International Diving Competition in Renens, Switzerland. She represented England and competed against eight other nations in the competition for the under 20's. She was the highest placed English representative finishing in 7th place in Highboard and 12th place in the Springboard events whilst in the combination of both events she finished 7th overall. Shortly after this she went to Crystal Palace and won two more Southern Counties titles and even finished 4th in the senior category. Her coach, her mother Anne, has always had her sights on the 1988 Olympics but with the progress she is now making 1984 could be on the cards for Marianne.

Caversham could well be in line for two Olympians as Katie Fairbrass of Reading A.C. is making the same sort of progress as Marianne but on the running track. Katie aged 17 years and a former pupil of Highdown School is having a great athletic season and in Sweden has represented Britain in a 1,500 metre run against Sweden and Japan. Her name will soon be as familiar to the spectators of athletics as Reading's other well known female athletes Bev Callender and Kathy Smallwood.

## CAVERSHAM CENTENARIAN



Mrs Anne Whitehead, a resident at the Arthur Clark Home is seen here cutting her birthday cake on her 100th birthday which she celebrated on June 29. Earlier in the day Mrs Whitehead fulfilled a long standing ambition and had her first flight, an hour long trip over London and Berkshire.

—E. S. Archer

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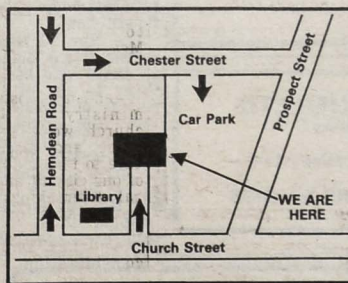
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# CHURCH NEWS

## St Anne's News

JUNE is the month traditionally set aside for devotion to the Sacred Heart and this was manifested in the Evening Devotions by the recitation of the Litany and the singing of hymns such as "To Jesus Heart all burning" and "Sweet Heart of Jesus".

The two great spiritual events this month were the First Holy Communion and the Corpus Christi Procession at Mapledurham. The rain managed to keep off during the evening of the 10th except for a few isolated drops during the actual procession. The journey to Mapledurham was made by boat from Caversham promenade and the large crowd managed to squeeze on to the one boat. This journey at a most leisurely pace offered plenty of time for sociability plus breathtakingly beautiful scenes of the Thames on a summer's evening, graced moreover with the presence of Bishop Leo McCartie throughout. The altar festooned with candles and flowers had been erected in the lawn in front of the house as well as a loud speaker system, and the congregation led by the combined choirs of St Anne's, the Heights and Sonning Common sang the Missa De Angelis plus suitable hymns to the Blessed Sacrament. The actual procession followed, Bishop McCartie bearing the monstrance, around the lawn whilst the choir led the singing of well loved hymns from their place by the microphone. A Solemn Latin Benediction brought this memorable occasion to a close and a very happy and satisfied crowd of people returned home by a now floodlit boat.

The Rev T. Meagher writes: "Many thanks to all those who had anything to do with the recent celebration of First Holy Communion. The full Church showed the necessity of having the Mass on Saturday 19 rather than the Sunday and the transferred day enabled us to concentrate exclusively on the

great event. The happy combination of keeping the children as a group and yet also involving them with their families seems to be the right mix."

There was no shortage of social events this month. The Barn Dance held on the 12th was most enjoyable although there was a small crowd present, bringing the season to a close. The next season of dances will begin in October.

The barbecue held in the Presbytery garden on the 19th was a great success bringing together people from all areas of the mother church and the garden reverberated with the hum of happy conversation. Again the weather was kind.

Not so kind were the elements on the afternoon of the 26th for the Garden Fete, so all the stalls had to be erected in the hall and part of the school. This however did not deter a large crowd from turning up and eagerly purchasing items as various as plants to necklaces, from draw tickets to items held up for auction. A classroom was set aside for a children's film show and another for very welcome "refreshments". A profit of £1,500 was made.

### ST PETER'S WIVES

At the May meeting of St Peter's Wives members welcomed Mrs Duckworth from the RNLI who gave an illustrated talk and film. Also in May the Wives held a Barn Dance at Mapledurham Hall. Supper was served during the evening.

In June a speaker from the Berkshire College of Agriculture talked about houseplants and gave information about watering, feeding and their general care.

### CAVERSHAM MOTHERS' UNION

In June the joint Mothers' Unions entertained the housebound to tea in the Rectory Garden. About twenty-five guests were able to get there, and were served tea by the members of the Mothers' Unions, who chatted with their guests. It was a beautiful afternoon, and very warm, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

### ST JOHN'S NOTES

ONCE again a lot of care and hard work went into the preparations for St John's Day. Volunteers worked all the Saturday before, tidying the flower beds, cutting the hedge, and mowing the lawn. The church cleaners all made the effort to do their particular jobs in that week. Friends were asked for flowers and greenery. (Someone sent a big bag of roses with two inch stems. Oh! the grief!) The Mothers' Union organised the tea, cut sandwiches and made dozens and dozens of cakes... This year there was an extra cause for celebration. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Graham Lynch-Watson's and David Milling's ordina-

tion. So a large fruit cake was made and decorated in icing, with a cross, a chalice and greetings. It was a pleasant summer evening, and bees flew between the sweet scented bowls of flowers — as always, beautifully arranged.

The church was full for the Parish Communion, and Canon Douglas Rhymes, Graham's first vicar, preached the forward looking sermon. Afterwards the congregation were able to chat to old friends who had made a special journey to be there, including John and Alice Sumner. People had taken care to make sure older and frailer members could be there that evening.

Graham and David were each presented with a crystal bowl from the parish. Those who were washing up very much admired Graham's when he brought it into the kitchen especially to show them.

### BAPTIST NEWS

#### Silence is golden

BUT you would hardly believe it if you visited the Mother and Toddler Group on a Thursday afternoon for this seems to be the highlight of the week for many mothers. For two hours they can try to relax as they sit and talk and enjoy a cup of tea while their children play, under supervision, with a range of toys. These vary from soft squeaky ones for the babies to prams, tricycles and the ever popular climbing frame and slide. The noise escalates as the numbers grow and the afternoon progresses — you could say that a competitive element enters into the activities — and the hub-bub does not subside even when the children are served with squash. Perhaps the mothers fail to realise that their offspring have fallen silent and they continue to compete with a non-existent racket. For some of the babies the din provides a soothing lullaby.

The children's characters vary from the timid to the mischievous, for whose supervision eyes in the back of the head are an excellent attribute. The Group was re-established last October following an enforced recess while the building was being redeveloped and since Easter it has really caught on with mothers arriving in droves. Hopefully in time the Sunday School and Church will benefit from this form of outreach.

#### Big Game - Big Deal

Wot — no antlers or stags' heads? Out with those bows and arrows and get shooting. RHOJO, the Church's Antiques Organisation, is moving into the field of big game for it appears that such bizarre objects are marketable in aid of the Building Fund. Bowers and Top-hats are also being sought. Is it then that RHOJO is being used as a "front" by the more fashion conscious gentlemen of the Church who wish to be a fair

match for the Minister when he returns from Canada wearing a ten-gallon stetson? The ladies are being exhorted to part with their finery and even grandma's old chemise is no longer sacred — they are categorised with demask table linen. Anything and everything seems to be needed or collected by someone and to date nearly £4,500 has been raised. The operation could be described as a redistribution of wealth. Good hunting.

### CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

Wednesdays at 10.30am  
August 4 — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Jane Lynch-Watson).  
August 11 — 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews).  
August 18 — 5 Jordan Close (Hilary Outwaite).  
August 25 — 18 Montpelier Drive (Ann Wiggett).  
September 1 — 8 Kirkham Close (Ros Elvin).

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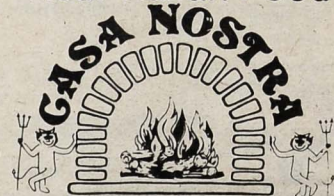
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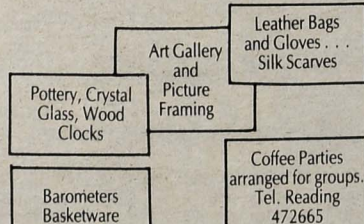
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