

METHODISTS EXPAND

For some months now Caversham Heights Methodists and their friends have been benefitting from the extensions to their premises in Highmoor Road. A new room giving an extra 400 sq ft of floor space has been added for the work of Christian education and for the encouragement of Christian Fellowship. In addition new cloakrooms have been provided within an extension which links the Church with the Hall and gives a new entrance from Highmoor Road. The photographs show some of the Primary Department using the new room and an exterior view which includes the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Dennis Tutty

DONATIONS

The official opening of the extensions last October marked the culmination of the efforts of the Society over the previous two years during which the bulk of the £5000 needed for the building works and re-decoration had been raised by donations from Church members and various fund raising activities by the Sunday

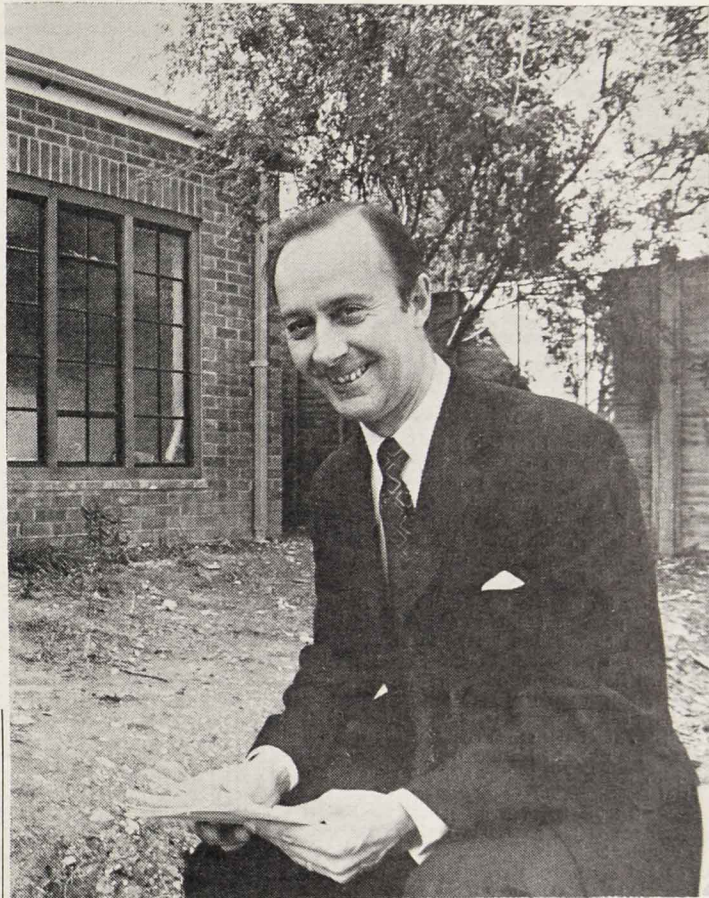
School and other Church organisations. The balance of the money will be raised during 1975.

PLANS

The plans for the extension were prepared by one of the members of the Church, Mr. Geoff Ward, and the scheme was made possible by a keen fixed-price quotation for the work from Mr. Cyril F. Taylor.

MANSE

Development of the Highmoor Road/Woodcote Road site has been completed recently by the construction of a Manse which is now occupied by the Minister, the Reverend Leslie J. Griffiths, MA, his wife Margaret and their two children, Timothy and Jonathan and the provision of car parking spaces.



SOCIAL SERVICE CUTS IMMINENT

Stringent economy measures are compelling severe cuts to be made in a wide range of social services throughout Berkshire in 1975. The inevitable consequence of this is that as many social workers are not replaced when they leave the service, there will be growing demands made upon the Bridge Scheme of Social Service.

It is anticipated that a great many more volunteers will be needed to cope with the flood of requests for help likely to be made on voluntary workers. The Emmer Green Youth Club is already closed three nights a week because finances do not permit the appointment of more staff. Help is also being sought because financial restrictions are making it difficult to provide transport so that old people can attend luncheon clubs.

Please come to the Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service to be held in the Methodist Hall, Ardler Road, on Thursday, January 23rd at 7.30 p.m. when you will hear what the Bridge Scheme has done in 1974 and what it hopes to do — with your help — in 1975.

Miss Esme Few, area nursing officer for Berkshire and a well-known Caversham resident, will address the meeting.



Photographs—EVENING POST

The Editor's Column

IS CHRISTMAS EVER OVER?

If we take Christmas seriously its message of peace and goodwill cannot be confined to one day of the year. Christmas, like Easter, is concerned with how God restores man to the right relationship which sin has spoilt. We get the clue as to the purpose of Christ's birth in the words of the angel to Joseph "He shall save his people from their sins". Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel, and the Church has never needed to preach this message more than it needs to do so to-day.

NOT JUST NATURAL

The news in the press and on television tells of man's inhumanity to man, of acts of terrorism and of vicious bomb attacks: the disasters in Guildford, Birmingham and many other places will not easily be forgotten. We naturally hear expressions of hatred, and it is tempting to re-echo them. Yet the collect that millions of us prayed on Christmas Day reminds us that Jesus took our nature, and that we become God's children by adoption and grace. So we are changed from the natural to the super-natural state, and consequently it is possible for the natural state of hatred to be re-placed by the super-natural state of forgiveness. But we cannot receive God's forgiveness if we are not ourselves willing to forgive. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" is what our Lord taught us to pray. This is not to suppose that forgiveness is a weak or sentimental thing. Forgiveness does not necessarily nor automatically exclude punishment, and punishment has always had a place in Christian tradition.

FORGIVENESS

In that wonderful novel "Cry the beloved Country" Alan Paton puts into the mouth of the old African priest a remark which has stuck in my mind from reading it some twenty years ago. "My fear" he says "is that by the time the white man has turned to loving, my people will have turned to hating". The fear to-day is that this may prove true of us in our dealings with the terrorists, the members of the I.R.A. and the like.

Writing his letter to the Romans St. Paul says "Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them". In saying this he re-echoes the words of Jesus "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" A most wonderful example of this happened during the Korean war. A young Korean was shot by a Communist who was court-martialled and condemned to death. He was to be shot two days later. The father of the murdered boy was a Christian; he asked the Court for a favour: he begged the life of the murderer and offered to take him into his own home as a son of the family. The Court was amazed but granted the request. But the father, knowing what the loss of a son would mean to the parents of the repressed man offered his daughter to them. She, in the name of Christ, was willing to go and live with the parents of her brother's murderer in order to give them the help they needed.

Now this may not be easy for us to accept. But it is the gospel which the Bishop of Birmingham preached recently to families bereaved after the Birmingham bomb disaster as he reminded them of our Lord's prayer on the cross on behalf of his enemies "Father, forgive them." And we Anglicans have lost something in our modern versions of Holy Communion when we no longer hear the words that remind us, that if we are to receive the Sacrament, we must be in love and charity with our neighbour (and we know that Jesus attached the widest possible meaning to the word "neighbour").

Of course we must pray for those who suffer as a result of these terrible bomb attacks. But we must also pray that the love of God may touch the hearts of those who do these ghastly things. We must do this because prayer is the biggest power for change that exists.

It is obviously easier for us who do not know what it is to experience someone dear to us being killed or maimed for life. But it has been my privilege to minister to those who have seen a loved one dying slowly from the hand of a murderer, and standing by them over anxious weeks to rejoice because by God's grace their hearts have not been filled with hatred.

The Gospel of Christmas is the Gospel for all seasons. We shall never solve the problems of Arab and Jew and the people of Ireland unless the Gospel of God's forgiveness is lived and preached, not just on Christmas Day, but on all the other 364 days of the year. And to do this, however hard it may seem, we have to follow our Lord's instructions when he said "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be the son of your father who is in heaven".

John Grimdald

POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

I have read your column "Picking up the Threads" with great interest. MANY of us in Caversham are aware of the splendid work of the hospitals and doctors we are so fortunate to have in Reading. I have also paid tribute to Battle hospital and my local doctor in whom I have great confidence.

As a panel patient, I have been visiting the hospital for two-and-a-half years for treatment. A month ago the consultant told me (much to my delight) I was fit and well and he had 'finished' with me. I immediately wrote to all concerned at the hospital to shew my appreciation. I have now received a letter from the Consultant Physician thanking me for my letter. In these very busy times for all consultants, I shall treasure this letter very much.

I feel you should know that there are very few who take our doctors, hospitals (and may I say rectors and clergy of the church and our many friends of the church) for granted as we realise how valuable they are and what a grand job of work they all do.

Yours etc.

Barbara Sidford (one of the "Old uns")

24 Morecambe Avenue,
Caversham.

TO HIRE A HALL

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Secretary: Mr. N. S. Ide, 3 Ibstone Avenue.
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SIR RICKMAN GODLEE FUND

Due to increased costs and difficulties in distribution, it has been decided to discontinue the custom of gifts of coal this Christmas time. It has been brought to our notice that the provision of a ripple bed for nursing the chronically sick of this area, would be desirable and it is proposed to use our Funds to buy such a bed.

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K. Cotton (Chairman)
R. Hives (Secretary)

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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ACCOMMODATION... CAN YOU HELP?

"I am sorry to bother you, but could you possibly help me to find some lodgings? "Perhaps this question is asked of the clergy more often than any one other question.

Sometimes it is possible to help, more often a series of phone calls to those people who are known to be willing to take in lodgers, supply bed and breakfast or let a room with simple cooking facilities, produces the reply "No vacancy at the moment". If you have any accommodation of this kind available please notify the Parish Secretary at Church House—Tel. 471703, where a register is being compiled in the hope that the clergy may be able to provide information to those who enquire of them.

WEEK OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

Sunday January 19th, 6.30 p.m.
UNITED SERVICE

at
CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Thursday January 23rd, 7.30 p.m.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of
BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

at
Methodist Hall, Ardler Road
Speaker

MISS ESME FEW
(Area Nursing Officer for Berkshire)

Saturday January 25th, 4 p.m.
at
CAVERSHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
UNITED EUCHARIST
(Tea will be served after the service.)

APOLOGY

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that the feature about Mr. and Mrs. Good in our November issue omitted to mention that they are regular worshippers at St. Anne's Church. We apologise for this omission.

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Saturdays 24th MAY to 31st MAY, 1975
BY COACH FROM READING

(Spring Holiday Week)

A VICTORIAN HOUSE IN CAVERSHAM

Like so many town outskirts, Caversham has its fair share of large Victorian homes set in extensive grounds. One such dwelling is Balmore House, which still stands in a large garden, but has now lost much of the land which surrounded it early in the nineteen hundreds. At the turn of the century Balmore House belonged to Lt. Gen. Parker Radcliffe, RA, who lived there with his two daughters, one, who seems to be best remembered, was known as Mill Rose.

STAFF

This large square Victorian dwelling, adorned with a glass and iron framed verandah, was set in several acres of ground and steps led from the house onto a spacious rear lawn. The garden was cared for by four gardeners: there was also a cowman, coachman and under coachman on the outside staff. The indoor domestic household consisted of a butler, footman, under footman, houseman, housekeeper and about another nine servants. As was the custom, staff prayers were held in the hall. Every night and morning the household assembled to sing hymns accompanied by Miss Rose playing a discreetly hidden organ, and to hear prayers read by the General.

SHARP AT 7 a.m.

Each day and throughout the year the children and old folk in Caversham could come to the backdoor and get a quart of skimmed milk. They had to be there by 7 a.m. sharp. If they arrived

three minutes late a very autocratic housekeeper said "Too late". And it was!!

Until 1911 when Caversham library with its clock was built most people in the locality told the time by the chimes of Balmore House clock.

Great excitement must have been created in the village in 1912 for the coachman up at the General's suddenly became a chauffeur and began driving a Napier 6-seater 1912 model car. Probably the first in Caversham, who knows? Anyway it gave everyone plenty to talk about.

RECRUITS

The General, a churchwarden at St. Peter's, was also a J.P. and all recruits for the Army had to go to Balmore House to be sworn in. No doubt they were duly impressed by everything they glimpsed during their few minutes at the big house, especially the heated conservatory filled with tropical plants. School treats and the

annual flower show were held in the grounds, the latter accompanied by the Caversham Brass Band which provided music for the dancing.

PRINCE OF WALES

In those days there were no other dwellings nearby except for the Prince of Wales public house and a few older houses at Surley Row. The two cottages at the corner of Rotherfield Way were lived in by the head gardener and cowman and the lodge stood on the present site of the lamp keep left in the middle of Peppard Road.

Many people may not realise that Miss Rose had Balmore Hall built for the use of the local community. She also bought a bier for the use of Caversham villagers, and this was kept in a shed beside the Hall. It is also recorded that many people were buried beside Balmore Hall, but this is hard to believe. Perhaps someone may know the correct answer to this piece of information.

M.K.

WEDDING



Hymor Photographers

David Hutchinson, for many years a server of the Church and Sally Baker, formerly in the choir, were married at St. Peter's on November 2nd by the Rev. Peter Atkinson. The Hutchinsons are now living at 45 Arley Hill, Cotham, Bristol.

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OBITUARY

IVOR BAIN

William Ivor (Jimmy) Bain was educated at Cambridge University and St. Thomas' Hospital. He was house physician at the Royal Berks. Hospital and became the fourth partner in the group practice in Priory Avenue.

During the second world war he served with the R.A.M.C. in North Africa. After his return he became Secretary and then Chairman of the local branch of the B.M.A.

With his family he attended St. Margaret's Church, Mapledurham for many years. Shortly after moving to Stoke Row in 1965 Mrs. Bain died, after a long illness.

Dr. Bain retired in 1969. His daughter and grand daughter living at Stoke Row were a great comfort to him during his last years.

THE RESIDENTIAL WAY

During the October half term over fifty young Christians from Caversham took part in two residential courses at Kelston Park near Bath. The theme of the course was vocation and service. The starting point was the BBC film on Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The course also involved an excursion to Bath, group discussions and a film of Terry Scott talking about himself. Each course finished with the Eucharist. The house is run by the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs and has very good facilities including a large lounge with a record player, games room and coffee bar.

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TALKING POINT

by PETER ATKINSON

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

A Suffolk town was in the news two or three years ago. Some of the town's residents successfully protested against a nativity scene in a car showroom window. The centrepiece of the scene was a Ford Escort. Round the car were three wise men — only they were dressed as mechanics. And to cap it all there was a star of Bethlehem, but instead of just being a star it had the Ford symbol on it.

WINTER FESTIVAL

Just the thing to get Christians hot under the collar. "Put Christ back into Christmas" they say. But why should our society put Christ back into Christmas? That nativity scene in the car showroom may represent fairly accurately the scale of values of great numbers of people. If people have rejected Christ's other claims why should they take much notice of this one? If they want a good time the modern Christmas gives it to them and why should anyone complain? The tradition of having a winter festival to brighten up this time of year goes back much further than Christianity. As a matter of fact, for the first four hundred years of the church's life there was no Christmas Day. It seems nobody felt the need to fix a date in order to celebrate the birth of Christ. The fact is that the church believed it was celebrating Christmas, the death and the Resurrection every time it met for the Eucharist — throughout the year!

DON'T SWITCH OFF

Don't misunderstand me. I like parties and Christmas as much as anyone. Jesus also seems to have liked parties. Some people said he drank too much. The point is simply this. Its no good celebrating the birth of Christ if you don't celebrate the whole of his life and death and Resurrection as well. The beautiful Christmas story is no more than a beautiful story and means nothing very much without the rest of the story of Christ's claims, his

actions, his death and his disciples. To stick at Christmas is like walking out of the cinema after the first reel or switching off the television set when the first lot of adverts come up. In other words you can't have Christianity on the cheap — you can't have cheap grace.

GROW UP

At this time of year the church focusses its attention on a baby. Nice little things babies — until you have to live with them. They make demands on you. In fact a baby causes a revolution in your life. Your life has to revolve round it; the whole of your life. But it is also true to say that most people find their lives enriched by the experience and they do all they can for the child because they love it.

Its the same with this Christmas baby. Jesus comes into your world — all of it. Not just the world of family and friends, but the world of work, the world of insecurity, the world of unemployment and the world of violence and injustice. More than that, Christians believe he is at the centre of it all — Lord of it all and that your lives and mine are meant to revolve round him. But this can't happen if Christmas is just a sentimental wallow in nos-

talgia. Babies have a habit of growing up. We have to let Christ grow up in our lives as well. And that's not easy. Growing children make demands and sometimes a lot of heart searching. Letting Christ grow into every part of your life, or growing into Christ also means a lot of heart searching, and a critical look at yourself. Any kind of genuine love makes you do this anyway. Because really loving somebody can bring not only joy but also pain, often the result of knowing yourself better.

The idea of Jesus as a kind of threat to your way of life and possessions may seem out of place in the midst of Christmas festivity. But, as someone has said, perhaps Christmas has to be received as a judgement before you can truly celebrate it as a festival. After all St. John's Gospel tells us that Jesus "came unto his own, and his own received him not."

The question is, are you ready to receive him; not just now, but also next week, next year and the years after that? Are you ready to celebrate his life as well as his birth? Are you ready to become part of the story of his life and be concerned not with the standard of living, but with the standard of loving?

CYCLES FOR CAVERSHAM

Two enterprising young men, Colin Godson and Kevin Good, 'set up shop' in Caversham last October as the Woodley Cycle Co. and are now providing a much needed service for the Community, that of cycle sales and repairs in addition to the sale of all cycle accessories. This, their first business venture, has got off to a fair start; both Colin and Kevin are optimistic of the future. An optimism well founded

Both Colin Godson and Kevin Good are mechanics by training, Kevin having served his apprenticeship in the motor trade, and are quite prepared to tackle any repair job involving cycles and prams.

If plans mature and

suitable premises can be obtained it is hoped to expand the business to cover the sale and repair of 'Mopeds'.

The 'Bridge' welcomes this venture and bids them every good wish for the future.

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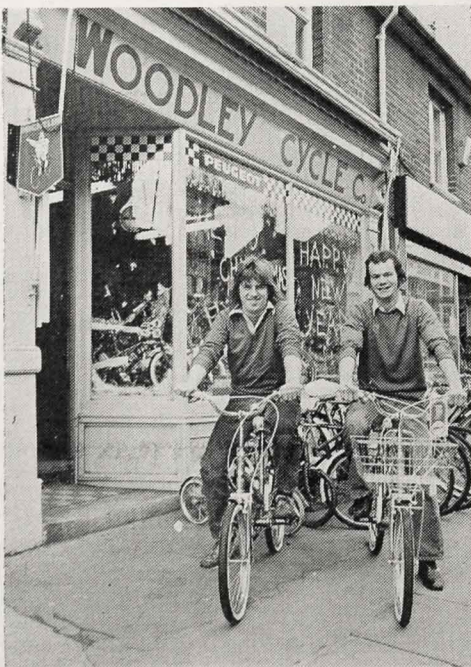
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PEOPLE LIKE RON

by J. JAMES

NESTLING IN BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE NEAR CANTERBURY, KENT, IS A SMALLHOLDING WHICH IS "HOME" TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE who for many years have wandered aimlessly from town to town — wanted by nobody, rejected and rejecting, homeless and rootless. People like Ron, an ex-Merchant Navy seaman plying the sea between England and the U.S.A. who for many years was a circus clown. In his youth religion played a big part in his life. Today he is a wino — a man addicted to cheap wine. Ron was found sleeping rough on the beach at Hastings. He had been without a home for a long, long time, but earned his way in life by doing some part-time gardening in local homes (before the wine took its full affect.) He was then drinking five or six bottles of wine a day. Now he has one a week. When visitors come he tells them

stories of bygone days. But the wine has affected his brain cells. He finds it difficult to recall events only minutes after they happen.

RESTING PLACE

Then there is Jim, a recluse who lives in one of the outbuildings. There he makes superb ornaments for table and wall with his hand-made chisels and hammers. He will not allow his handiwork to be sold. His "home" is a treasure chest of talent. For him carpentry is an occupational therapy. Others, too, live on the smallholding — Ted, Ambrose, Fred... This is Simonwell Farm, run by the Simon Community Trust.

Away from the cottage is a chapel — a place to pray, to find quiet. A few yards away is the cigarette-eating goat, chickens and geese, plus a rotund pig. To this family of people has gone the £715 raised for the Simon Community during the Caversham Family Festival. It will not be used immediately. The founder, Anton Wallich-Clifford, is moving there from St. Leonards-on-Sea in the near future to extend the work so that, within its one acre-and-a-half, Simonwell will slowly become a "village" of care and concern for those people who have been on and off the road, in and out of hostels for many years and now need

a final, long term resting place to see them through their twilight years. It will be a place where they can grow vegetables, be involved in horticulture, feed the animals (there are also cats in the house) and rest away from the human misery they have suffered. The money from Caversham will be used to provide additional amenities at Simonwell.

SIGN AND SYMPTOM

In his book "No Fixed Abode", just published by Macmillan, Anton writes: "To those of us who profess a belief in the sign of the cross (every homeless social misfit must be seen as yet another thorn driven

deeper into the head of the crowned and suffering Christ; to those of us who profess no such belief, as a symptom of our failure create a caring community." Later in the book he mentions a visit by the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Heenan, to a Simon house in East London which no longer exists. His Eminence asked Simon's founder, an ex-probation officer, about a man skulking in the corner of the room. "Oh, you mean the Preacher, your Eminence. That's what the boys call him, because he's always quoting the Gospel." "Yes — he's one of mine," replied the Cardinal, a priest — I lost him some years ago."



Anton Wallich-Clifford talking to a friend

GROWING SUPPORT FOR FESTIVAL CHARITIES

THE AMOUNT OF WORK AT PRESENT BEING UNDERTAKEN IN CAVERSHAM TO HELP THE FOUR CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FAMILY FESTIVAL suggests that the feeling of community and caring stimulated by the Festival is very much alive. Collecting points have been established for clothes, particularly men's, sheets and blankets. Already, following a large response, the first van load has been sent to the Simon Community. The committee responsible is anxious that readers should throw nothing away. They will arrange to collect it. Used postage stamps are also being collected and can be taken to Church House, 59 Church Street. There is also a rota of people who have offered transport plus a list of accommodation for Simon workers to rest up. Mrs. B. Lewis is organising a working party, drawn mainly from W.I.s and T.W.G.s, making pillow cases from old sheets and unravelling old woolies amongst other things.

In addition there are now a number of volunteers willing to help in the nursery, playgroup and youth club run by the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. Offers of help with any of these projects should be made to your church representative or to Mrs. D. Bennett (473096).

So far there has been a tremendous response but there is scope for doing much more. In the new year the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children is hoping to open a short-stay hostel for handicapped children and the Reading Council of Churches' Housing Trust will be opening its first house. Both will be in Caversham, and both will need furnishings, curtains and bedding — and helpers. Mr. J. James of the Simon Community says that grateful though they are for help for their London and Thanet centres the greatest thing that people in Caversham can do is to work with the Department of Social Services for the setting up of a centre in Reading. All these projects will be discussed at the next meeting of the planning committee on 27th January.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CURATE

Mr. Martin Loveless, at present training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford will be joining the staff of Caversham as replacement to the Rev. Bernard Metcalfe next June. Before beginning his theological course Martin Loveless was a music teacher. His wife read music at St. Hugh's College, Oxford and is also a music teacher. They have one small daughter Judith just a year old.

Put yourself in
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JOHN JAMES OF THE SIMON COMMUNITY WRITES "I would like to express our thanks to all those involved in the remarkable fund-raising effort at Caversham. To us, despite inflation, £715 is a small fortune. I would also like to thank those at the follow up meeting who showed interest in our work and warmth in their welcome. We do not claim to have the answers. We do not claim to be always right; indeed, some of the decisions we take seem odd to say the least. But the people at Simonwell Farm epitomise our work — a place where long term care can be achieved without any rush. Success is a word which does not enter the Simon language.

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ROUGH WEATHER AT SEA

FOR TWO YEARS now the parish of Caversham has been sponsoring young people from Caversham so that they can have a fortnight at sea with one of the Sail Training Association Schooners. Hitherto all those who have gone have been young men. This month we print the account of her experiences after Mandy Vincent was the first girl to go from Caversham.

"Stand by to gybe!" "Pull in on the halyards, come on now!" "Brace the yards to starboard side" "2-6 heave, 2-6 heave, get ready to come up, right COME UP!"

I got thoroughly used to all these phrases and numerous others after living on S.T.S. Malcolm Miller for a fortnight.

Soon after arrival, I had to sit on deck and peel a sack of potatoes, much to the amusement of all the bystanders, several of whom took quite a few close-ups!

After learning half-a-dozen knots, and generally getting used to the idea of the manning of the ship, we set off in a howling force 8 gale. Within half-an-hour the majority of trainees had become full members of the lee rail club. If you felt compelled to join you had to wear a harness and clip it on so that you didn't fall overboard when you were feeling really groggy. This was very essential as one girl passed out. Obviously, everybody wasn't out of action, as five people had to be on watch, two look-

outs, one helmsman, one messenger, and one notebook keeper. There should also be a standby watch, as if anything should suddenly need doing, like pulling down a badly split sail in a force 8 gale, there would be someone to do it.

Meals became rather erratic in such conditions as life in the galley became quite exciting. Nothing must be left lying around, such as a plate or bottle in such conditions, it must be put away immediately. We found this out after leaving a bottle of tomato sauce on the draining board. It suddenly got swept onto the floor and tomato sauce was everywhere. Plates weren't used — instead we had metal troughs. These stopped the food from going everywhere and also cut down on breakages.

Having had a sail split we had to motor across to our destination, which started off as being St. Malo, but ended up as Boulogne. We arrived at 10.30 p.m. on the same day. After arriving we all sat down to a roast beef dinner! At 12.00 a.m. I

was on anchor watch. After spending several days in Boulogne waiting for terrific storms to abate we set off again in much lighter wind, this time for Weymouth as we were needing fresh water.

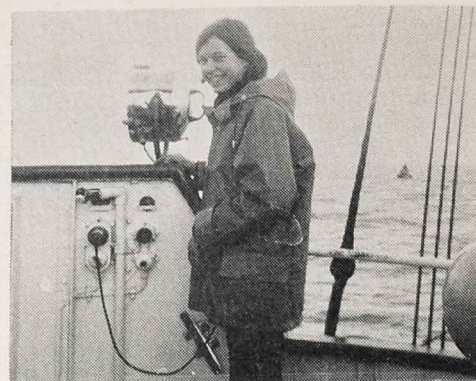
Every morning we would have a "Happy hour". Of course this wasn't the literal meaning — it meant a glorious clear out. If anything was left lying around on the floor, dangling on pipes or just left on bunks, all oddments would find themselves dumped into one big locker. Everybody had separate cleaning stations. I was in charge of the bosun's stores. This was great fun as I had to go down a little hole in the half deck and tidy up a gloriously untidy store, the only thing was that the bosun liked it kept untidy so that he could find things easily!! At the end of every happy hour I had to tidy up a locker containing dozens of brooms, buckets, mops, rags, everything. That wasn't such fun. After each happy hour, the chief officer would come down to inspect. All odds and ends were hastily removed and hidden behind backs. Then there was a sigh of relief as he grunted and walked away.

Every so often we had to be a day worker. If you were a galley day worker then you had to be up at 6.00 a.m. and prepare for breakfast. Each meal took two sittings, so there was a mad rush to get the plates and cutlery washed up ready for the next sitting as there were only sufficient knives and forks for one sitting.

From Weymouth we went to Cherbourg. Coming out of Weymouth we

were surrounded literally by huge naval warships. Again it was quite warm, and really sunny with light winds, so we had several sails up, one right at the top of the mast. In order to get this down some carefree people had to climb up the rigging (wearing a safety harness) and out onto the upper yards to untie the salties and make sure the sail didn't get all tangled up in various ropes. If you were silly enough to go up onto the yards to let a sail down or take it in you had to stand on a thickish metal wire and hold on to a metal rail attached to the yard. The secret was to stand almost on your toes and lean forward so you would be almost dangling over the other side. While you were doing that you had to fold up the sail. Fortunately the topmost square sail wasn't very heavy. These sails always had to be taken up just before it got dark, as if the wind blew up in the night, not many people would care to go up onto the yards in the dark.

Having spent a day in Cherbourg, we set out heading for Cowes or Alderney, but the main idea was to meet up with the Sir Winston Churchill, the other Sail Training Ship. It was blowing a force 8 gale again, but everybody was so busy with happy hour that nobody had time to join the leerrail club. During happy hour we sighted the Sir Winston Churchill leaning terribly to one side. Instantly happy hour was abandoned and the entire crew were standing poised with binoculars, cameras, brushes, mops and dustpans in hand, gazing into the distance. Within a quarter of



an hour we had fully caught up with her, doing roughly 10 knots with wind alone. We easily passed her. Everybody on board was feeling remarkably triumphant as the Sir Winston Churchill was being manned by a crew of seasick boys! After sailing in front of them we split up and headed for Cowes. Off Cowes we met up with the Royalist — the Naval Sail Training ship for cadets.

On the last Thursday night we had a special show. This included songs, made up by several trainees, accompanied by guitars. There was also a Miss Malcolm Miller contest. A Miss Chain Locker came first, then a Miss Baggy Winkle in second place. Incidentally a "baggy winkle" is a long furry rope which stops the sail from being rubbed away

when it is up.

Coming into Gosport, ten trainees had to man the yards. This involved people all wearing the same oilskin tops with jeans and sailing shoes. Two people at a time went up the rigging and climbed onto the upper yards, then two more and so on until all had climbed onto the yards. We had to stand with straight legs and feet together, standing absolutely upright and spaced evenly along the yard. One felt a tremendous feeling of pride and dignity standing up there, but coming down wasn't such fun.

As soon as we had docked we had to set to and clean the brass so the ship would be clean for the next cruise.

That was the end of my sail training fortnight. We all said a tearful farewell on the Saturday morning.

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£7,223 CONTRIBUTION TO DIOCESE

The parish of Caversham, whose contribution to the Oxford diocesan budget in 1974 was £4,664 (a larger amount than that paid by any other parish) is being asked to contribute £7,223 in 1975. Most parishes are being asked to contribute 40% more than in 1974, but because of the financial difficulties of many Reading parishes who are unable to meet such an increase, the amount asked from Caversham is more than 50% more than in 1974.

Most of the money is needed in order to give pay rises to the clergy. The Church Commissioners income which has been the main source of money for clergy stipends can only in-

crease marginally because of the limitation on the increase of dividends, so the parishes must find the money. It is not generally known that a junior curate after five years training receives less than £21 weekly. While £7,223 may seem a lot of money Caversham does in fact receive very large grants back from the diocese towards the payment of its staff, which is the largest in the diocese.

In addition to finding this extra money for the diocese the parish needs a further extra £1,500 in 1975 to combat rising costs. As reported elsewhere in this issue Caversham with Mapledurham will be holding a Stewardship Renewal Campaign in October.

Nicholas

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BISHOP SEES A HOPEFUL FUTURE

ON ADVENT SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER, A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF OXFORD WAS READ IN ALL CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE. HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THAT LETTER WITH EXTRACTS FROM IT.

THE LETTER BEGINS WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HOW THE CHURCH NOT ONLY SURVIVED BUT FLOURISHED DURING EARLY ATTACKS ON ITS EXISTENCE BY THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT. Even after the pressures caused by the break up of the Roman Empire and the ensuing clash with an alien culture and religion the church "emerged with the toughness and resilience given to those whose lives are sustained by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The church must draw on the resurrection faith of these early Christians though the crisis facing the church today is of a different order. Only the church of the old world is in a state of decline — in Africa and Indonesia it is growing and flourishing.

PATTERN

"Throughout its history there has been a kind of rhythm or pattern in the Church's life, as in the life of every Christian, of sin and forgiveness, of failure and restoration, of dying and rising. At the end of a period of comfortable ease, the disturbing power of the Holy Spirit has driven Christians to their knees in penitence, purged them of reliance on material wealth and liberated them from the false securities which inhibit the enjoyment of simplicity of life in Christ. For example the influential Church of England to which our senior members look back with pride and affection was the result of a vigorous, and sometimes rigorous reform of a moribund Church by the Evangelical and Catholic Movements of the nineteenth century. But both of those movements failed to find a successful solution to the problem of commending the gospel to the working people whom poverty had brought physically closer to Christ than the affluent can ever hope to be.

In consequence we in the twentieth century Church are now confronted with the results of that failure at a time when the problem of poverty has been largely overcome. The lesson of history is that the failure can and must be overcome by the grace of God.

SHIFT OF POWER

I must insist that our present difficulties be seen as God's way of liberating us to serve him more effectively, and for that reason they should be carefully studied. For although the nation is all but obsessed with economic problems, the Church's troubles are not primarily economic, nor, I venture to suggest are the world's. What we are witnessing in the world is the beginning of one of those periods of intense cultural change, in which power shifts dramatically and sometimes quite suddenly from one structure to another. It is passing from Parliament to organised labour, from white people to black people, from countries which made their fortunes a hundred years ago in coal and iron, to countries which are making them now in oil, from nations to multi-national companies. I have no doubt that Lord Acton was right when he said: 'Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely'. But I am equally inclined to think that sudden loss of

power also has a corrupting influence. For in this country the failure of the Trade Union movement to find ways of exercising its power responsibly in the national interest has been no less disturbing than the failure of the politicians to come to terms with a situation in which they are no longer able to exercise power."

The Bishop believes this changing situation has contributed to a sense of frustration among individuals in society with a consequent upsurge in violence. There is a crisis of community and identity to which he is convinced the Christian faith is uniquely relevant. Remaining hopeful he urges Christians, in words from 1 Thess. 5.9-11 to encourage one another, not by huddling together "in the shelter of a church against the cold blasts of change in the world. Those first Christian martyrs came together, not for shelter, but to arm themselves for what they knew would be a tiresome battle . . . If you wish to fortify one another, you must attend to the priorities of the Gospel, strengthen your faith by worship, by study and above all by sharing it with those who lack it, however inexpert an evangelist you may think yourself to be."

EXPLORATION

While the image of the soldier has been a popular metaphor for Christian discipleship, the Bishop prefers the image of the explorer. A friend had pointed out that an explorer has to be ready to die — grateful too for the reminder that if that exploration requires a readiness to be lost and to die — grateful too for the reminder that if the Church is to rise to new opportunities it must in a sense die in the form that it has inherited from the past."

Quoting an open letter from the Taizé Council of Youth which states that the churches are losing support and credibility because of their reluctance to make real changes and rediscover the joy and simplicity the early church found in sharing all it had, the Bishop continues: "The question before us today is whether we are ready to die like explorers, offering ourselves voluntarily to Christ in the search for new life, and ready to be changed into more perfect instruments of his will. The alternative is just to die — to wither and fade away because we are unwilling to be converted. Either way death is inevitable, but surely the Christian must believe in dying to rise again. Surely he must yearn to be recognised for his life of joyful, simple prayer."

RESPONSIBILITY

The Bishop concludes: "I have chosen to write to you about the central tenet of our faith — the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our participation in it. I have not said anything about manpower and money, the two problems which are generally reckoned to keep a bishop awake at nights. But I have never had a moment's anxiety on either score. I believe that God will recruit as many men and women as he needs to preach his gospel, and the signs are that we are

about to receive a substantial increase in the number of men he has chosen for the ordained ministry — 23% since last February. If they are as devoted and hard working as the clergy of this diocese, I doubt not that they will enable the people of God to grow and flourish and to draw more young men and women into the service of Christ. And as for money, I have said before and I now say again that the principle by which we work in this diocese is that we are responsible to God for the use we make of ourselves and all our resources. One of the more beneficial effects of the economic crisis will, in my judgement, be that we shall be obliged to assume much greater responsibility for the support and maintenance of the ministry, and I do not believe we shall shirk it. I close with a reference to one of our Anglican heroes, F. W. Robertson, who wrote 125 years ago:

'The hardest, the severest, the last lesson which man has to learn upon this earth, is submission to the will of God. It is the hardest lesson, because to our blinded eye-sight it often seems a cruel will. It is a severe lesson, because it can only be taught by the blighting of much that has been most dear. It is the last lesson, because when a man has learned that, he is fit to be transplanted from a world of wilfulness to a world in which one Will alone is loved, and only one is done.'

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RETIREMENT AT SPRINGFIELD

After thirty two years as Cook at Springfield St. Luke, Mabel Chapman retired on November 29th, the day after her 65th birthday. Before joining the staff at Springfield Mabel worked in various Branch Houses of the Sisters from the age of 14. She has thus served the community for fifty one years. It is difficult to express how much her loving, loyal and faithful service has been appreciated not only at Springfield but in the many Branch Houses.



Matron, seen seated, with a member of the Community, and other members of the staff, reproduced from the Caversham Bridge of March, 1966.

Mabel is retiring to an attractive Flat in Tilehurst, which she is sharing with Winnie Halsey who has been on the staff for 13 years. Winnie, who also retired on November 29th, had also worked in several of the Branch Houses and has given of her best.

The Sisters and residents of Springfield have said how they shall miss both of these friends and that Springfield will not be quite the same without them.

The Caversham Bridge wishes them a happy retirement and readers prayers will go with them.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

AT PRESENT THE WORLD IS FACING THE WORST FAMINE FOR THIRTY YEARS. A series of natural disasters have come at a time when the world stocks of grain are already low. Jesus said "The man with two shirts must share with him who has none and anyone with food must do the same." (Luke 3, 10-11.) He also said "When you give a party ask the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, and so find happiness." (Luke 14.13-14.) Christmas has become the season of parties; of giving when we expect to be repaid—with just a little charity to salve our consciences.

WHO CARES?

Christians should be leaven in the world; the catalysts of social change; champions of the underprivileged. However, too often we are content with far less than Jesus demanded. We feel impotent. We feel our little sacrifices will achieve so little that we are defeated be-

fore we begin. But we forget God. Jesus fed several thousands with a few loaves and fishes. He also promised "If you ask anything in my name I will do it." What we lack is the will to ask. The problem is not insoluble. Even in the present crisis we have enough food to

by HEATHER PAGET

keep everyone alive. We only need the will to share; the determination to raise money for the purchase and distribution of food. Do we care enough?

We have been indoctrinated with the idea that meat is essential for our well-being and that if we are to forgo meat it should be replaced by other protein foods like fish, cheese and eggs. But this is not so. If we ate whole grain products, whole rice instead of polished rice, we would need very little meat. Only a hundred years ago the ordinary people of

England survived on a diet of bread and tea. Many of the richer people thought the drinking of tea a disgraceful extravagance and thought the poor should make do with bread and water. Whole populations have survived eating very little more than potatoes. We do not have to be reduced to these levels in order to feed the starving. We have a rich variety of foods open to us — nuts, whole grains, whole rice, peas, beans and lentils.

CONSCIENCE

Christians should be ashamed to be overweight. When we eat meat — especially beef and poultry — we are wasting the world's grains. To feed a call and fatten it up for the butcher takes many pounds of grain for every resulting pound of meat. Every pound of grain thus consumed by animals cannot be eaten by a human being. At least one starving person will die this year for every animal we keep alive — unless some very drastic action is taken.

During this time of rapid inflation many fear the arrival of rate demands and fuel bills. It would help all of us if instead of feeling sorry for ourselves we were to look at every pound we spend and ask whether Christians should spend it in that particular way when so many of God's children die of starvation. To do this even once or twice should begin to generate the desire to help — a willingness to give up some gastronomic delights — a twinge of conscience.

Despite inflation there are ways of putting aside money for the hungry. Twenty years ago patched clothes were a commonplace. Now garments are thrown away long before they are worn out. When buying a new piece of equipment ask yourself — can you do without it? Can you make things last a little longer?

BODY AND SOUL

Many people feel that the U.S.A. is mal-developed, but Britain is also becoming a throw away society. Most of us spend as much on keeping ourselves and our belongings clean as some families have to spend on food. Cleanliness may be next to Godliness, but surely Godliness is preferable. Christians should set an example in frugal living. We are God's stewards. Would Jesus really spend his money the way we do on his behalf? He said "One thing you lack; go and sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have riches in heaven." It may not be practicable for everyone to sell their possessions but even the poorest among us is rich by world standards, and can afford to give something.

Jesus gave many warnings about the dangers inherent in the possession of money. "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." Most of us accept that "You cannot serve God and money" but when you look at how we actually live we are perhaps more like Lazarus' master. Our Lazarus may live in the third world but he is as near to us as Lazarus was to his master. We cannot afford to wait and hope that someone else will solve the problem. If Christian love means anything it must stir us to action, now.

"Lord when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and did nothing for you?" And he will answer, "I tell you this; anything you did not do for one of these, however humble, you did not do for me."

How important is the life of a starving person to you?

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

DISGRACEFUL DECISION

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO PERMIT THE EXTRACTION OF GRAVEL ON 113 ACRES OF FARMLAND on the borders of Caversham is an astounding one, as astounding as the public feeling in their justification for this that the 'only' objections received were from Heading Borough Council and South Oxon District Council. With these two authorities representing hundreds of thousands of the electorate, how many more objections do they require before taking some heed? Yet against that, the planning officer appears to suggest, if he is reported correctly, that if the occupants of the comparatively few houses overlooking the site had objected, this might have made a difference. He should surely know by now that individuals frequently do not object to schemes, either from apathy or from a disillusioned feeling of 'what's the use?' And anyhow, with such a large site and a matter of public concern, surely the decision to proceed or not should not be dependent on the reaction of those who happen at the time to live close to the site in question?

Caversham Residents' Association have asked for it to be made clear that they sent in an objection, but channelled it through the Reading Borough Council, in what turns out to be the mistaken hope that it would strengthen the Council's arm. Instead, Oxfordshire County Council appear to have telescoped the two and then dismissed both as being unimportant.

With memories of the Emmer Green supermarket fresh in mind, it is surprising that Oxfordshire County Council's planning department is regarded with extreme distrust in this area? They seem to regard their territory on the outskirts of Reading as some distant outpost where the troublesome natives need putting firmly in their place. The natives could do worse than to send up smoke signals to the Department of the Environment to the effect that they regard this preposterous dismissal of public opinion with the gravest concern.

HEMDEAN VALLEY . . AGAIN

On another major planning issue for Caversham, it is encouraging to know that the Borough Council Planning Committee is opposed to building in Hemdean Valley and is not likely to give permission for what can only be described as fifty four sub-standard houses to be built there. However, a complication is that part of the site for which application was made was given permission for housing on appeal to the then Ministry of Town Planning and Local Government in 1967, on the grounds that it is immediately adjacent to the built-up area of Hemdean Road. If this should prove an insuperable object, there must be insistence that any housing should be of a high standard, of various types and limited density, and confined to the area for which permission has already been granted. At the same time, there is no doubt that most people would prefer

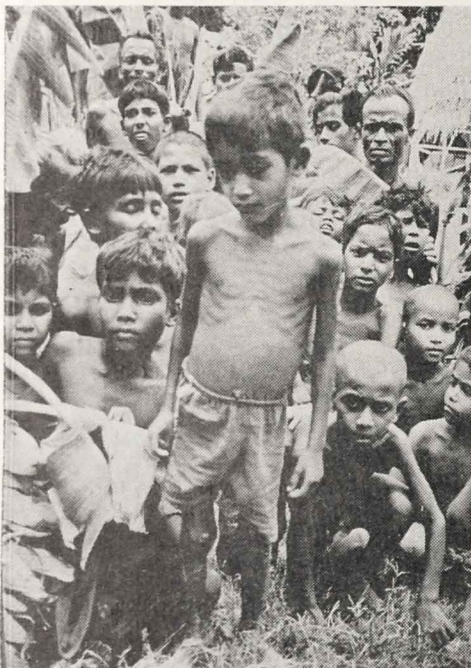
to see no further building at all there.

POP FESTIVAL

Apologies to the correspondent in Grass Hill who felt slightly at being described as elderly and bigoted. Actually 'elderly in mind' was the expression used, an attitude not necessarily related to the number of years one has lived. Since writing that comment, it has been apparent that there was a small section in the vicinity of The Warren which received the full blast of the Pop Festival. It was a considerable achievement on the part of the organisers that no other area was seriously affected and I understand that the Borough Council have told the organisers that even this cannot be regarded as acceptable.

HEALTH

Put this date in your nice new diaries straight away. On February 10th at 8 p.m. Mr. G. Holmes, M.S.E.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., the Environmental Officer of Health, a new position under local government re-organisation, will be speaking at Church House about his work and its relation to Caversham. Mr. Holmes has been responsible for uncovering the extremely undesirable conditions prevailing in too many of the town's restaurants, but apart from such headline-hitting revelations, his daily work is concerned with seeing that the surroundings we live in are conducive to the maintenance of good health. So come to hear him, ask your questions and make your complaints.



ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

A LONG AND IMPORTANT MEETING of the Church Council was held on 20th November. The Rector, aware that only three of the present members of the Council were serving on it when he came to the parish in 1962 outlined some of the developments which had taken place in the past twelve years. These included the building of 3,000 houses, including the development at Caversham Park, and also responsibility for the parish of Mapledurham with a further 800 houses. Stewardship campaigns had been held in 1963, 1966 and 1971; after a year's planning a teaching mission, Key Fortnight had been held throughout the parish in 1967; then followed Mayday Week in 1970 and Family Festival in 1974. The Rector explained that perhaps Family Festival would be seen as an end of an era in the life of the parish, as since July three factors had emerged which made it seem that it would be unlikely that projects of that kind could be easily undertaken in the future.

NEW FACTORS

There, was, said the Rector, the economic crisis which affected the life of the nation and of the Church. The parish owned or had the use of a great many buildings. Maintenance costs were rising steeply and some rationalization of buildings was inevitable.

There was the report "Deployment of the clergy" produced by a Working Group set up by the Diocesan Bishops. It would seem from this that the diocese of Oxford would be likely to have to reduce its clergy from the present number of 557 to 437 by 1980.

There was thirdly the fact that the Rev. D. F. Shaylor was now 68; he was a voluntary curate, would inevitably be doing less in future and would never be replaced; in addition the Rector was aware that as a result of his illness he would himself be unable to work at the same pressure as hitherto.

It was therefore agreed to appoint a Working Party to look at the resources available to the parish in men, money and buildings.

Faced with the knowledge that about £4000 extra money would be needed in 1975 to meet existing liabilities the report of the Stewardship Committee which was presented by Mr. T. D. Birtwhistle was accepted, and the principle of subsequent renewal campaigns at annual intervals was adopted. The Committee was asked to make arrangements for the campaign which will start on Sunday, 5th October.

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CHURCH NEWS

ST ANDREW'S

On November 15th nearly 50 members of St. Andrew's congregation attended the induction of the former priest-in-charge, the Reverend Michael Atkinson, as first vicar of the newly formed parish of North Woolwich. Travelling by coach the party was welcomed with soup before the service started at 8 p.m. The Epistle was read by Mr. W. O. Nicholls, who recently moved from Caversham to work as a youth leader at St. John's, North Woolwich. In his sermon the Bishop of Barking challenged the congregation to do some radical rethinking and not sit back and leave everything to the clergy.

MEN'S GROUP

At a meeting held in St. Andrew's Hall on Friday, 25th October the 'Men of St. Andrew's' was formally reformed after a lapse of some years. The idea of revival was first discussed in May and during the summer months a representative committee discussed the possible form the group could take and the activity programme that would satisfy the group from a devotional and social and entertainment point of view.

The first tentative engagement before the group was formally restarted was to organise a Wine and Cheese Party to raise money for the Family Festival Combined Fete. £30 was raised apart from all attending having a very pleasant social evening.

The first devotional activity of the Group was a special Evensong held at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday, 8th December to which all men of the District were invited.

Those present at the inaugural meeting also pledged themselves to support the "working weekend" held in November to carry out much

needed work to the church and hall.

For the winter season the Men of St. Andrew's agreed to take complete responsibility for the Epiphany party to be held on Saturday, 4th January.

The Spring quarter will commence with an open meeting on Friday, 10th January at 8.15 p.m., followed by coffee when the Spring programme will be presented and discussed. All men will be welcome.

WOMEN'S GROUP

At the last meeting of 1974 on 28th November the Group began to get into the mood of Christmas with a demonstration on Christmas decorations given by Mrs. Bowie. Mrs. Bowie teaches Flower Arrangement at an evening class and most of the materials she used were natural ones, dried flowers, fir cones etc. with some purchased decorations, candles and ribbons to augment the effect. Given a pilchard can or piece of polystyrene, a few simple objects, a tin of spray paint and lots of skill, the result was quite amazing for only a few pence cost. Some of the decorations were raffled.

The spirit of Christmas was furthered by the serving of delicious hot mince pies with coffee kindly organised by Mrs. Marion Stratfordway.

On Thursday, 23rd January, 1975 Pickfords will show some Holiday Films — a good subject to enliven the winter gloom.

ST. BARNABAS'

A special Family Service was held on 24th November to which over 80 people came. The Post Confirmation Group continues every month with the help of Derek Cookson. The last meeting of the Youth Fellowship was a birthday party for Rowena and Sarah Phillips at which hospitality was provided by Isabel

Risius and food by Lorna and Judy Matthews.

The Coffee Pot A.G.M. elected Audrey Preston and the other officers to remain in office for another year. An any questions session was held after the business meeting.

The December meeting was the annual Christmas Party to which husbands were invited, and thanks go to the Nash's in Wetherby Close for their hospitality.

For the past two months Miss Fisher and Mrs. Davies have been serving coffee in the Church Hall on Tuesday afternoons.

COFFEE POT

(A club for young wives of all ages!)

There has been a stirring in the undergrowth of Emmer Green as far as Coffee Pot has been concerned during the past few months. Removal vans seemed to have descended en masse to remove many members to far-flung parts of the country during 1974. A depleted gathering met in September to re-establish the aims of Coffee Pot and confirm our affiliation to St. Barnabas Church, in the hall of which we meet on the first Monday of each month. Since then many ladies have been visited and the prospects of a lively membership for the new year look good.

Autumn meetings included a talk on books by Miss Doreen Barrel of the St. Mary's Centre. The A.G.M. was followed by 'Any Questions'. The panel dealt with questions on charities, marriage and hypnosis, all of which sparked off lively discussions which might well be continued at the 'chat-nights', which take place on the 3rd Monday of the month at members' addresses. At the last of these Mrs. Denn gave some advice on Christmas decorations, which was put into practice for the party on 2nd December — husbands were invited to this event, and it proved a very happy occasion.

There is a warm welcome waiting for any ladies who would like to join the Coffee Pot. (tel. Reading 477815).

ST. PETER'S

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Seven years ago the congregation said goodbye to the Fry family when Peter and Jean and their three children, Sarah, Jonathan and Caroline moved to Woodstock. Jean had been one of the founder members of St. Peter's Wives. It has been good to welcome them back again as they have returned to make their home in Peppard Road. After an all too brief time John and Andrea Irvine have left for Sussex: John was elected to the Church Council last March and he had taught in the Sunday School and he and Andrea had been hosts for one of the Bible groups. Congratulations to David Daggart and Margaret Lawson who were married from Margaret's Staffordshire home on 17th December. After a visit to India to David's parents they will be living in the Irvine's former home in Chester Street. And best wishes to another member of the Church Council, Charles Hubbard whose wedding to Kate Smith, daughter of the chaplain of Queen Anne's School will be in St. Peter's on New Year's Day at noon — taken of course by the bride's father. The Hubbards will be living in the Rectory flat. Congratulations also to Jennie South on the birth of Rebecca.

CAROLS

St. Peter's carol service takes place on Sunday, 5th January at 6.30 p.m. As this is also the eve of the Epiphany the service will in its carols emphasise the coming of the Magi. It is hoped

that the head teachers of different schools in the parish will be the lesson readers. Come along and join in the singing.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Monday, 6th January

The Parish Communion will be sung at 8 p.m. Since Caversham Court Stables are not available that night for use by the congregation, coffee and mince pies will be served in church, and members of the congregation will have an opportunity to see colour transparencies taken at the time of the Flower Festival, and depicting also other Family Festival events, and Embley Park holiday scenes.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

Members and their families enjoyed an entertaining and lively evening at the Barn Dance held in Balmore Hall on 2nd November. A fish and chip supper was provided and dancing to records and an excellent caller, Mr. Justin Gillespie from Woodley, made the evening a great success.

Mr. David Oliphant kindly stepped in at the last minute and gave a talk to the meeting on 19th November, on 'Publishing'. He showed various new methods of presentation and some newly published books. The Group welcomed seven new members.

The New Year starts with Mrs. Molly Casey who will give a talk on the History of Caversham on the 21st January, which should prove of interest to all.

ST. JOHN'S

Virtually two hundred pounds was raised by St. John's church at its annual Autumn Bazaar in November. The entire proceeds will go to further the mission of the church overseas. This sum was an improvement on the previous year's figure. But apart from being such a financial success the bazaar proved to be the usual enjoyable social occasion. A lot of work had gone into making

and providing a wide variety of goods for sale and a group of young people provided musical entertainment. It was also good to welcome the Revd. Leslie Griffiths from the Methodist Churches in Caversham who opened the proceedings. St. John's is grateful to all who organised and helped on the day especially the Mothers' Union and the Wednesday Group.

ST. PETER'S & ST. BARNABAS MOTHERS' UNION

The Annual General Meeting was well attended on 12th November. The same committee was elected, excepting for Mrs. M. Page, who wished to retire. A resume of the year's activities was given by Mrs. Hutson. The Reverend L. Burn was in the chair and answered various questions from members.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church, as part of its educational work, recently devoted a Sunday to considering Missionary Work. The day began with breakfast of coffee, cereals, hot rolls and marmalade, following which the gathering was addressed by Mrs. Beatty who

reminded on her experiences as a missionary in Morocco. Mrs. Beatty spoke of the obstacles presented to Christian witness including medical work, with which she was closely associated, and of intrigue by wealthy natives at the expense of those less fortunate — a truly difficult field in which to present the claims of Christ. The evening service was mainly devoted to the showing of an excellent film depicting the work of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society in the Middle East — a work which, in contrast to that with which Mrs. Beatty was associated, is richly blessed by a well equipped hospital at Nazareth staffed by Christians of many nationalities and greatly appreciated by the native population.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

On Sunday, 3rd November, 1974 three young ladies of the Baptist Church, Janet Pellow, Diane Rose and Janice Watts, were baptised by the Minister, the Revd. Laurence Stevens, and were subsequently received into full membership of the Church at the Communion Service.

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Not 3rd Sunday).

St. John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
4.00 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday).

St. Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
(4th Sunday, Matins)
10.00 Family Service (2nd Sunday).

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.15 a.m. Family Service
FAMILY COMMUNION (4th Sunday).

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights

11.00 a.m. Morning Service
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

Caversham

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.

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The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.

The Rev. Brian Gardiner, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.

The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.

The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas' House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.

The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.

The Rev. Michael Kitchener, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Leslie Griffiths, 17 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

The Rev. Plunkett Shannon, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

CAVERSHAM PARK

WEDNESDAY HOUSE COMMUNIONS

at 10.30 a.m.

January 1st. Rosemary Maybury; 116 Lowfield Rd.
January 8th. Penny Christison; 2 Mallory Avenue.

January 15th. Margaret Bullock; 84 Galsworthy Drive.

January 22nd. Barbara Robinson; 4 Holyrood Cls.

January 29th. Paula Andrews; 5 Gifford Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

January 5th

Family Service with bread-and-cheese lunch.

January 12th & 19th

Family service with Sunday circle for children.

January 26th

Holy Communion with Sunday Circle.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

There is no United Reformed Church in Caversham. The nearest is at York Road, Reading.

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Minister: The Rev. Stephen Haine,
41 Highmoor Road. Tel. 477490.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

WHOM TO CONTACT

Central Organiser:

Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close. Tel. 472374.

Area Organisers:

Mrs. A. M. Russell, 31 Brooklynd Drive. Tel. 472934.

Mrs. M. Coombs (South Caversham), 5 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472689.

Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham), 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.

Mrs. R. Edwards (West Caversham), 4 Harrogate Road. Tel. 476893.

Mrs. G. Thompson (Mapledurham), 205 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471328.

Mrs. S. Bould (Caversham Park Village), 11 Holyrood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 478906.

CAVERSHAM PLAYGROUPS

Caversham Heights Methodist Playgroup.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church,
Highmoor Road, Caversham

Sessions

Tues., Wed & Fri. 9.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Mothers & Toddlers 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Wed Afternoon

Contact

Mrs. Bates (Committee), 77 Kidmore Road,
Reading 471715.

Caversham Hall Playgroup, St. John's Road, Caversham

Sessions

Tues., Wed & Thurs. 9.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

Contact

Mrs. McQueen, (Supervisor), 2 Wolsey Road,
Caversham. Reading 475445.

Caversham Park, Village Playgroup, The Reading Athletic Club, Kiln Road, Emmer Green.

Sessions

Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
Mothers & Toddlers 2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Tues. and Thurs.

Contact

Mrs. C. Hill (Supervisor),
10 Abingdon Drive. Reading 477223.

Crayshaw Playgroup, Caversham Park County Primary School, Queensway, Caversham Park Village

Sessions

Mon. to Fri. inclusive 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Hawthorn Playgroup, 24 Hawthorn Road, Caversham

Sessions

Mon. to Fri. inclusive 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Contact

Mrs. George, Reading 477021.

Memorial Hall Playgroup, Upper Woodcote Road, Mapledurham.

Sessions

Mon. to Fri. inclusive 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Contact

Mrs. Fell, Reading 475081.

St. Andrew's Playgroup, St. Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham

Sessions

Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9.15 a.m. - 11.45 p.m.
Mothers & Toddlers 2.15 p.m. - 4 p.m. Every other Thurs.

Contact

Mrs. Fowles, 67 Chazey Road, Caversham.
Reading 473988.

St. Barnabas Playgroup, St. Barnabas' Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green

Sessions

Mon. to Fri. inclusive 9.15 a.m. - 11.40 a.m.

Contact

Mrs. Potter (Committee), 24 Marshland Square,
Emmer Green. Reading 475260.

St. Peter's Wives Playgroup, Balmore Hall, Hemdean Road, Caversham

Sessions

Mon., Tues & Thurs. 9.30 a.m. 12 noon.

Contact

Mrs. Pugh (Supervisor), 16 Berrylands Road,
Caversham. Reading 472949.

School Lane Playgroup, West Memorial Hall, Gosbrook Road, Caversham

Sessions

Mon. to Fri. inclusive 8.45 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Mothers & Toddlers 2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Thursday afternoon.

Contact

Mrs. P. Jenkins (Supervisor), 17 South Street,
Caversham. Reading 478502.

Highdown Playgroup, Youth Centre, Emmer Green Highdown School 475022

Sessions

Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9.15 a.m. - 12 noon.

Contact

Enquiries to the Playgroup.

ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS' TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the Annual General Meeting of the Guild, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Mrs. C. Griffiths, Vice-Chairman: Mrs. M. Kitcher, Secretary: Mrs. A. Denning, Treasurer: Mrs. V. Blunt.

The retiring Secretary, Mrs. Joyce Gosling, gave her report for the year in which she reminded members of the many interesting meetings which had been held, including those on Crime Prevention, Petticoat Lane and Fashions from 1900 Onwards. Social Studies had had a variety of speakers on such subjects as the Law, Books and Wine and Food. There will be no specific theme for next year but matters of general interest had again been arranged. No special Arts and Crafts classes had been arranged during the year although many

meetings had been held in members' houses when work had been done for the very successful Bazaar and the Family Festival shop.

In her report for the year the retiring Treasurer, Mrs. Pauline West, reminded members that costs had risen last year and the Estimated Budget showed an even steeper rise for the coming year. Despite our Bazaar which had raised over £300 we would only just be able to make ends meet during 1974/75, therefore it had been decided to hold another Bazaar next December. Mrs. West explained that by the time affiliation fees had been paid to the Federation and National Union of Townswomen's Guilds from the subscriptions only 6p per member was left to pay the rest of the expenses such as the hire of the hall, speakers, stationery, etc., etc.

In her remarks the Chairman thanked her Committee for their support during the past year and had great pleasure in making presentations to Mrs. Gosling (an entree dish) and Mrs. West (flan dish) as tokens of the Guild's appreciation for their work during the past years. Mrs. Griffiths then welcomed the new officers and members on to the committee and thanked all Guild members for their tremendous efforts towards last year's Bazaar. With regard to the balance of Miss Coles' legacy it was suggested that the Guild should purchase a portable typewriter for the use of current Secretaries, this together with the urn already bought would make a fitting and lasting memory of Miss Coles and her kindness to the Guild.

The informal half hour took the form of 'Just a Minute

Please' when volunteers had to speak impromptu on subjects ranging from 'False Teeth', 'The Backseat Driver' and 'A Girl's Best Friend', for just a minute, please.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the Annual General Meeting held on 12th November Miss D. Sidford was elected to be President for the coming year. The Officers were all re-elected with four new members of Committee. After the business the Drama section entertained by playing Password.

The new Presidents' first duty was to open the Christmas Fayre on Saturday. This was very successful and part of the proceeds are being sent to Cancer Relief.

ROSEHILL EMMER GREEN W.I.

Mrs. Ellingham presided over a special committee for the Christmas meeting. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent. The room had been tastefully decorated by the committee, who provided the excellent tea. Mrs. Rowton Lee gave an interesting demonstration of 'Flower arranging for Christmas'. Two arrangements were later drawn for. The competition for a homemade Santa Claus was won by Mrs. Davies. Toys were collected for distribution at Christmas.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

The November meeting held in St. Andrew's Hall was well attended. Mrs. B. Osborn the President introduced Mrs. Dodd, a voluntary advisor with The Citizens Advice Bureau, who gave an informative talk about this helpful service to the public. Among the interesting items, she said that the Reading branch had been open since 1939, and there were 630 branches in the British Isles.

Mrs. Le Mare, our delegate to the Autumn Council Meeting, held in Reading Town Hall gave an excellent report and Mrs. E. Matthew's coffee morning raised £15 towards

Caversham Court Gazebo Trust Fund.

Mrs. B. Lewis told members that four charities were in receipt of £715 each, which was raised during the Family Festival held in July; she also asked members who could give their support to the Simon Community or Mencap, the Society for Handicapped Children, to get in touch with her.

Interesting suggestions were made by members during Programme Planning for 1975. The competition for a decorated Christmas parcel was well supported, and they will be given to the O.A.P. Luncheon Club.

ROSEHILL W.I.

Two coffee mornings and a coffee evening have been held, hostesses Mesdames Sansum, James and Green, to whom thanks were accorded. The proceeds were for the branch charities of the year. A successful Jumble Sale was also held. Members spend an interesting afternoon at Richmond touring the British Legion Poppy factory. This month's speaker was Mrs. B. Justham, who drawing on her own experiences, gave an interesting talk on 'An operative career'. Competition: A col-

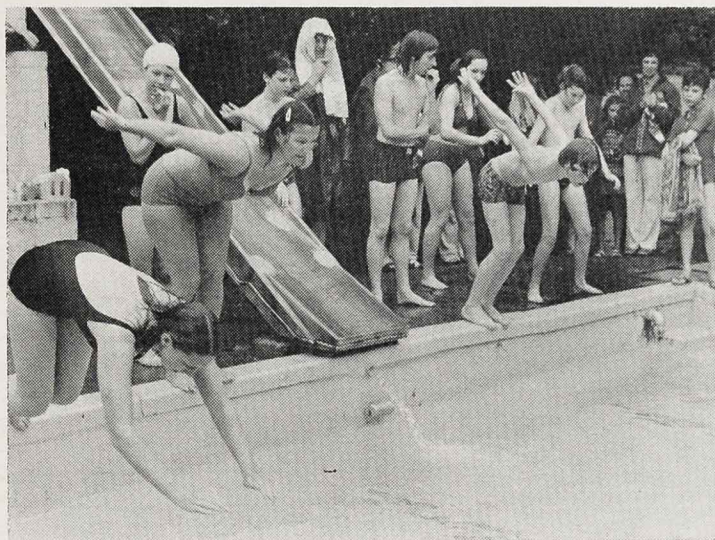
lage. The winner was Mrs. Montague.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

During the last few weeks Blagrove W.I. have had a very busy and enjoyable time.

The Annual Jumble Sale, held in aid of Institute Funds was well supported and over £25 was raised. At the Harvest Supper, to which husbands and friends were invited, the guest speaker was Mrs. Casey who gave a most interesting talk on the History of Caversham. The Buffet Supper provided by Members was both attractive to look at and delightful to eat, and the plants and fruit on the Produce Stall sold out very quickly.

At the monthly meeting Mrs. Hens gave a demonstration on how to make baskets from material gathered from the hedgerows and gave advice on how to prepare and choose the best types of branches to use and it was amazing to see what marvellous results could be achieved for absolutely no cost! Arrangements were discussed for the Theatre Outing to Windsor and the Competition for the best plant grown from a cutting was won by Mrs. H. Phillips.



— Peter Handford

Taking the waters — an action photo on Caversham's Parish holiday

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Ninety people, aged between six weeks and eighty five years enjoyed a wonderful holiday last summer at Caversham's Parish Holiday held at Embley Park School near Romsey, Hants. This year's holiday will be from 19th to 26th July. It is still a wonderful bargain. First class food and no extras. Registration forms from Church House. Avoid disappointment by booking early as once again numbers are limited to ninety.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by PETER SHOCK

DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS ST. ATHAN BOYS' VILLAGE has been a regular haunt for the Caversham West and Lowfield Boys' Clubs. But the week-end of 15th-17th November was a particularly special occasion. Ten members travelled to this popular South Wales Centre to present two oil paintings, the work of the clubs' two distinguished young artists. David Douglas, aged 17, a Caversham West member of Priory Avenue produced a fine example of a rural scene at sunset, and 15-years old Stephen Hunter, Lowfield's prodigy, of Holyrood Close, portrayed a colourful replica of the Ford GT 40 Sports Racing Coupé, the best-performance car in the 1969/70 Le Mans racing season.

The presentation ceremony took place on the Sunday morning, the Conference Room being filled to capacity with representatives of the Management Committee, and delegates from a number of Welsh youth clubs who were in residence at the village for the launching of a new Youth Clubs' communication scheme for the area. Mr. David Harris, Chairman of the Boys' Village House Committee received the paintings from Malcolm Gray and Peter Natham, representing Caversham West and Lowfield Boys' Clubs respectively. The rest of the members who attended were William Harris and Martin Mures of Caversham West, and Malcolm Macken, Kevin Morton, Alan Russell, Graeme and Brian Turton of Lowfield. Stephen Hunter was unable to attend owing to the imminence of his mock 'O' level exams.

The Boys' Village has been in existence for nearly 50 years, and as a residential centre it provides educational and recreational facilities for many hundreds of young people each year. There is a large gymnasium,

sports field, games room, theatre, and an open-air swimming pool. Perhaps the least-frequented building in the complex is the beautifully constructed chapel. It was built entirely by the skills of 110 young men and boys from eight boys' clubs from the Welsh valleys. The construction took three years and was completed in 1937. It stands as a tribute to those who gave their labour in the love of God.

THE TREE-FELLERS are on the rampage again! The latest victim is the spinney called the "Swilleys" in Hemdean Road, opposite the Primary School. I could not witness the demise of this haven of nostalgia without making a murmur. The "Swilleys" has always been a favourite spot for playing, until building development took its toll. In the thirties the copse was quite thick with trees, which in places used to straggle up the hill-side at the back. Hemdean Road was largely bordered by green fields, and this was partly the reason why my father decided in 1931 to move from a terraced-house in Briants Avenue to live in the 'country'. He felt he was doing well in his job and earning £3 per week. So he could just afford the money for us to live in a larger house.

In all there must have been about a couple of dozen of us kids living in Hemdean Road and Queen Street, and a further half-dozen in Rotherfield Way (which disappeared into a sort of overgrown wilderness near Surley Row). Our loyalties lay with either one of two gangs which met in the "Swilleys". There was the 'Monkey Climbers' — it took its name from the Monkey tree which once existed there, and its territory extended from the gravel slope northwards; the other gang, the 'Tiny Toilers' controlled the remaining area from the slope southwards. I think I was a founder-member of the Monkey Climbers as I recall having plenty of say in the running of its affairs. The Tiny Toilers was commanded by a little girl with long pig-tails named Peggy Portsmouth. There was generally friendly rivalry between the two factions, and we did not indulge in violence. In fact, sometimes on Saturdays and in the School holidays we would combine and walk to Peppard Common for a joint picnic — then walk home again. We could not afford the fourpenny return bus fare — that was two weeks' pocket money! Occasionally the Oxford Street gang would invade the "Swilleys". It was ruled by a tough guy called Johnny Knight. We were a bit scared of him, and our defence tactics being rather vulnerable, we found it safer to go off and hide till the coast was clear.

We used to enjoy climbing the trees and swinging on the branches, but one day a dramatic incident occurred when one of the Monkey Climbers Evelyn Fowler, fell from a branch and broke her leg. I rushed home to fetch dad's old wheelbarrow, bundled Evelyn inside and wheeled her home to her mum.

So, farewell to the "Swilleys". My only hope is that the plantation will be re-landscaped. Otherwise gone for ever — another slice of England's once green and pleasant land.

BROWNIES CELEBRATE THEIR DIAMOND JUBILEE

THE BROWNIES of the Caversham West District recently celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Brownie Movement with a party held at St. Andrew's Hall. The Brownies were pleased to welcome as their guests Mrs. Barroll and Mrs. Nutt (District and Assistant District Commissioners) and Mrs. Cooper.

The party opened with an appropriate dance "The Act of Diamonds", which was followed by each of the packs entertaining the others. The 1st Caversham bourine routine, the 2nd Caversham had everyone guessing while they performed a charade and the 4th and 11th Packs presented group and individual items which included singing, recorder playing, magic and a poem written and recited especially for the occasion by one of the Brownies.

After refreshments the Brownies were enthralled by a firework display presented by members of the Local Association.

During the evening Mrs. Barroll presented a medal to Mrs. Cooper in appreciation of all her hard work during the many years when she supported the Guides and Brownies as a member of the Local Association.

89th (MILESTONE WOOD) READING SCOUT GROUP

THE ANNUAL Parents' Evening took place at Emmer Green Primary School in late November and was well supported by parents and friends of the Group. It featured films of this summer camps.

Numerous Scout awards were presented by District Commissioner, C. Wort. A presentation on behalf of the Group, including parents and friends, was made to former Group Scout Leader Dennis Smith, who is leaving the area. He has been succeeded by Colin Gamble.

Net income in 1974 from newspaper totalled £900, which is being used to help run the Group. The scheme will continue throughout 1975. Many thanks to readers for their wonderful support in this worthwhile scheme, and the "89th" wishes them a Happy New Year.

The next event in the 89th calendar will be the Rummage Sale on 15th March 1975 at 2.15 p.m. at Emmer Green Primary School.

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St. Andrew's November 3rd	Daniel Stevens
November 17th	Matthew Gilkerson
St. Barnabas' November 24th	Adam Waters Andrew Bolt Beryl Bolt

Caversham Park
November 3rd

Samantha Barnes
Timothy Morgan
Craig Bapty
Nathan Smith
Neil Coleman

St. Margaret's
November 3rd

Paula Moodie

Caversham Free Baptist Church
November 3rd

Janet Pellew
Diane Rose
Janice Watts

WEDDINGS

St. Barnabas'
November 23rd

Nicholas Ayres and Pamela Waller

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