

ATKINSON FAMILY GOING NORTH

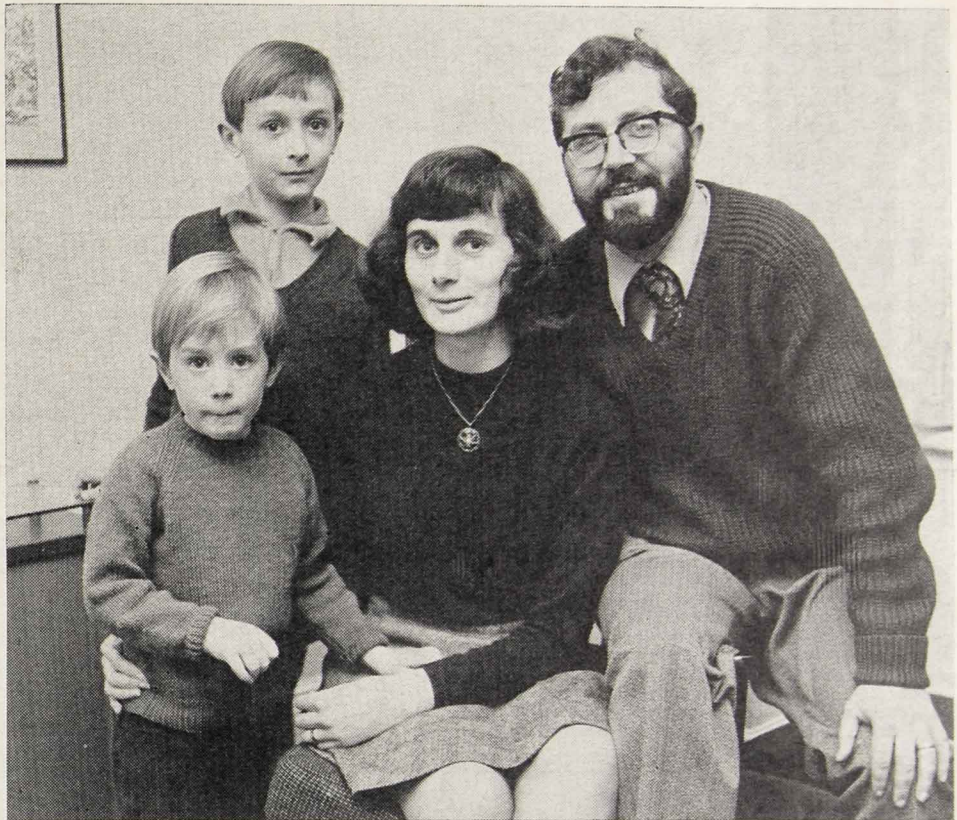
AFTER two years as second in command of the Caversham Bridge and five years as priest-in-charge of St. John's church, Peter Atkinson leaves the parish on 3rd February. With his wife Anne and their two boys, Richard and Stephen, they are moving to Sunderland, just across the river Wear from John and Jo Stevinson and about half an hour's walk away.

It is quite a coincidence that Peter took over in Caversham from John and within a year of the Stevinsons moving to Sunderland, Peter will be priest-in-charge of St. Marks, Millfield, fairly close to the centre of this same town.

ENJOYED THE POP FESTIVALS

Whilst in Caversham Peter and Anne did part time chaplaincy at the cork manufacturing factory at Mill Green and he will be able to carry on with similar duties at Millfield. He also put in quite a lot of hospital visiting, especially at the Royal Berks. Another duty which came his way during the last few summers, and which he always looked forward to was his involvement with the Reading Pop Festival.

Both Peter and Anne have enjoyed tremendously living in their part of Caversham, for as he said "there is a relative stability of population. It tends to be an old community and still has a bit of a Victorian flavour. Many elderly people have lived there all their lives and a wonderful spirit is in the neighbourhood". Both he and Anne will be extremely sad to go. Anne has been a very active member of the Mothers' Union, and although Peter would say little else she was probably kept busy in the district in many ways, as most wives of the clergy are. Parishioners have watched both the boys growing up. Stephen was born in July 1970, just six months after they had settled in at 9 South View Avenue. Richard, now seven, has been attending Thameside School, where his father has been a manager for the last few months.



The Atkinson Family

— Walton Adams

BACK TO HOME GROUND

For Peter it will be returning to his home county. He actually worked in Sunderland for a year in 1962 before he was ordained. There are many clergy around there that he knew when he was a lad.

The Vicarage, which is to be the Atkinsons' new home, has a huge garden surrounded by a wall, an oasis among the buildings. Millfield is one of the older parts of Sunderland. There are no highrise buildings in the area, and the parish runs down to the river where there is a shipyard. Joblings, makers of Pyrex, also have a factory close by.

Peter and Anne say they are very sad to go; we are very sad too. They will be greatly missed. Many of their friends may like their new address so that they can keep in touch:

St. Mark's Vicarage,
Hylton Road,
Millfield, Sunderland.

We send our very best wishes for the future, and we also thank them most sincerely for all they have contributed to the life of Caversham during their five years with us. The Editor and Board of Caversham Bridge are most grateful for all the hard work Peter has put in on behalf of the paper, not least his ingenuity in often providing witty and unusual titles to articles in this paper.

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The Editor's Column

THINK AGAIN MR. DURANT

IT IS ALWAYS A TEMPTATION AT TIMES OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY TO LOOK AROUND FOR FRESH WAYS OF RAISING MONEY, and it is very easy to be enthusiastic about such ways without stopping to consider the consequences. I say this because it is disturbing to find that Mr. Durant, M.P. for North Reading, is endeavouring to secure the passage through Parliament of a Local Lotteries Bill. And when the Church of God is also faced with financial problems we need to look carefully at methods of increasing our income.

Almost every day we hear of claims for increased salaries and wages: the increases that are demanded get greater and greater, and are now beginning to be based not so much on present needs but on the expectation of future inflation. We are being constantly told that as a nation we are heading for economic disaster as we seek a higher and higher standard of living. We have all got to be prepared to work harder for what we want, and any method of money raising which holds out the chance of getting rich without effort is tempting people to seek wealth, and is also encouraging more gambling in the hope of some big prize.

THE CHURCH SPEAKS OUT

Christian teaching sees money as held in trust from God. At the 1948 Lambeth Conference the Anglican Bishops drew attention to the grave moral and social evils that have arisen in many lands through the prevalence of gambling on a vast scale. They went on to say "In view of these evils we urge that no Church organization should make money by gambling. We deprecate the raising of money by the State or by any organization through sweepstakes and similar methods, however good maybe the object for which the money is raised, and we warn men and women of the danger of acquiring the habit of gambling".

THE POSITIVE VIEW

Ten years later at the next Lambeth Conference the Bishops went on to urge the practice of Christian stewardship. "Stewardship" they said "is the regarding of ourselves and our possessions as a trust from God to be utilised in his service according to his will. A parish without a sense of stewardship has within it the seeds of decay. A man who refuses to be a steward of his time, talents and money is unworthy of being in the Father's House. Therefore it is primary that all clergy and lay readers practice and teach stewardship as an integral part of Christian life and worship".

These are plain and blunt statements which it is well to remind ourselves of because the Church like the State and other organizations is often tempted to raise money by lotteries and raffles. It would be foolish to suggest that many homes have been wrecked because of the money spent on raffle tickets, but if we are serious about Christian stewardship a little reflection will make us realise that raffles are an unworthy way for the Church to raise money.

STEWARDSHIP IN PRACTICE

Anglicans in Caversham know that for many years the parish has been able to maintain a large staff of clergy, undertake many projects and support the work of the wider church because Christian stewardship has been taught and practised. But whereas a decade ago it was possible to ask church members to make a pledge to give a certain sum weekly, monthly or annually for a period of several years, inflation now demands that this sum shall be reviewed annually. The parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham held their last stewardship campaign in 1971; they are planning a renewal campaign in October of this year but so long as inflation continues it will be necessary to hold some form of annual renewal.

Christians have a special duty at this time of national economic crisis not only to practice stewardship in the affairs of the Church, but also to decline to participate when the secular community seeks to raise money through lotteries and similar methods. These methods undermine the virtues of thrift and hardwork: they are a sign of a decadent society that wants wealth without effort. If Britain is to recover from its present economic crisis it needs to learn to work for what it wants. I am sure that Mr. Durant wishes this, and I hope that he will have the moral courage to withdraw a bill, which if passed would encourage yet more people to think that hard work is no longer a virtue which anyone needs to practice.

John Grimwad

ROOMS AT THE TOP

HELP THE AGED BELIEVES THAT THE ELDERLY SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT. YET SECURE IN THEIR YEARS OF RETIREMENT. To achieve this in Britain, the charity gives top priority to the building of sheltered housing schemes — blocks of flats where old people can have the dignity and freedom of their own flat, at the same time feeling safe in the knowledge that there is a warden on call and a neighbour next door for companionship. The focal point of these schemes is the common room where residents' meetings, entertainments or just informal chats take place. £450 of the donation from last year's Family Festival will enable Caversham to name the common room in the scheme planned in Kiln Road, Newbury. The money will provide curtains, carpets, coffee tables, a special geriatric chair and kitchen equipment for the small adjoining kitchen.

The flats, on three storeys, will house 72 pensioners, some of whom will occupy specially adapted flats for the disabled on the ground floor. There will also be accommodation for two wardens so that effective 24 hour care can be maintained. In addition the plans include two guest rooms and a laundry — not forgetting the plaque bearing whatever name Caversham decides to give to the common room.

EMERGENCY AID

The balance of Caversham's gift will be spent overseas, where the old are often the last in the queue for any kind of aid. They are not productive units in the eyes of developing nations. They simply cannot make the long journeys necessary to reach aid posts or refugee camps in time of disaster. Help the Aged has no field workers of its own, but through accredited agencies in 77 countries it can finance projects like the establishment of a small

handicraft scheme for a group of old Tibetan refugees, the building of a small home for widows in the Cameroon and the provision of an ambulance for an old people's home in Buenos Aires. In time of crisis, such as the recent floods in Bangladesh or the Turkish-Cypriot war, the charity can send immediate cash aid to the needy aged.

Help the Aged is grateful that it was chosen as one of the charitable appeals during Family Festival and wishes to thank all involved in running it.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

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FEBRUARY 12th

HOLY COMMUNION

7.00 a.m. St. Peter's
St. Andrew's

9.30 a.m. St. Peter's
St. Andrew's

10.00 a.m. St. Barnabas

SUNG EUCHARIST

8.00 p.m. All Churches

WE RECORD . . .

BAPTISED

St. Peter's
December 22nd
Andrew Lewis

St. Margaret's
December 29th
Caroline Evans

WEDDINGS

St. Peter's
January 1st
Charles Hubbard and Katherine Smith

St. Barnabas
December 8th
Christopher Cox and Caroline Brill

December 11th
John Garner and Mary Parratt

St. Margaret's
December 21st
Henry Gage and Diana Beatty

FUNERALS

St. Peter's
December 11th
Stanley Osborne

January 8th
Agnes Whyte

St. John's
December 31st
Horace Wynn

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MONDAY, 17th MARCH at 8 p.m.

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FOOD OR FAMINE?

By JOHN MADELEY

The serious food crisis that exists in the world today was highlighted by the World Food Conference which took place at Rome in November last year. At the end of the Conference it was estimated that unless massive international help is forthcoming, between 40 and 50 million people could die from starvation in the next 8 months.

But although the countries that met in Rome were all agreed about the seriousness of the situation they were much less forthcoming when it came to announcing plans to do anything about overcoming it. Few of them were prepared to put their hands into their pockets. For example, the Conference was told that 10 million tons of grain are needed NOW if the famine is not to escalate into an unparalleled catastrophe. With the exception of Canada who offered 1 million tons of grain and Australia who offered a ½ million tons, no further offers were made and yet the EEC countries have at this moment in time a combined stock of 7 million tons. Sadly they made no commitment, action did not follow the fine words of concern which they had expressed.

TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS

What then happens now and what can we ordinary people in Britain do about it? The World Food Crisis is made up of two problems: firstly there is the immediate short term problem, i.e. 10 million tons of grain needs to be available very soon; secondly the longer term problem, which is how to ensure that 'no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread.' (Closing words of the

Rome Conference about what should be the case). At the moment the world community is a long way short of achieving that dream and yet it could be done. Experts are agreed that the technical resources to feed everyone in the world are available—what is lacking is the foresight and the determination of all countries to use precious resources in such a way that ensures everyone has enough food to eat.

At the moment, we in the West do not use resources in anything like a responsible manner. Take for example livestock production. On average, for a cow to produce 1 lb of beef it will have to be fed 8 lbs of grain; with certain types of livestock the figure is in fact 20 lbs of grain needed to produce 1 lb of beef. And yet livestock do not have to be fed valuable grain. Certain stock produce beef just as efficiently by eating grass and grass-based concentrates. Surely in a hungry world, we as Christians have a responsibility to press for a pattern of agricultural production in Britain which is socially and morally responsible—one that does not use precious grain in an inefficient manner.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

In practice what can we do? There are three specific and

positive actions that we can take immediately:

1. We can write to our M.P. and/or Minister of Overseas Development (House of Commons, London, S.W.1 will find them), expressing our horror at the desperate food situation in the world and urging that the British Government press the EEC to make available a substantial amount of grain in order to meet the immediate need. 7 million tons are in stock. In view of the concern they expressed in Rome a contribution of 2½ million tons is surely reasonable.
2. We can write to the Minister of Agriculture (same address as above), urging the Government to embark on a national campaign to encourage agriculture in the U.K. to switch from grain fed to grass fed livestock. Some farmers are already starting to do this and not only is it cheaper for the farmer, it also helps Britain's balance of payments situation. It would mean that Britain imported less grain from abroad and therefore more would be available to meet urgent needs. A further advantage would be that lower demand by Britain for grain would result in lower grain prices, a situation to the

benefit of both the Third World and Britain.

3. We can question our own eating habits. It is estimated that on average British people eat 14% too much protein. Many of us could eat one less meat dish a week without its doing us any harm. This would help conserve grain and we could send the money we save to a Voluntary Agency such as Oxfam or Christian Aid.
- We could of course decide to do nothing—we could sit back and hope that someone else would write a letter or examine their eating habits. But the fact we cannot ignore is that we are all in this together. If the world continues to carry on as at present then we in Britain may well find ourselves increasingly caught up in food shortages. If we sit back and watch millions starve on our T.V. sets could not the question be asked of us which was asked by the writer of the first letter of John, 'How dwells the Love of God in us?'

John Madeley is an Economist, currently working for the World Development Movement—a Movement which campaigned throughout 1974 to increase public knowledge of the world food crisis.



Photo—OXFAM

GALLERY VIEWPOINT

A recent Gallup poll has stated that 64% of the people in this country think that 1975 will be a worse year than 1974.

Writing on the first day of January, it is a bit difficult to greet the New Year with a proper show of confidence that our economic trouble will be surmounted in 1975. Yet a way must be found, and a will to put it into practice. It is too simple a solution to suggest that our political masters should stop bumbling about the difficulty of keeping our standards at the present level and tell us frankly that what is needed is an all round cut by 5% in wages, salaries and dividends, extending from the shop floor to the managing

director, combined with restrictions on all unnecessary imports, a heavy surcharge on luxury goods and swinging penalties for tax dodgers? It will be said that this can be more easily done through the normal process of taxation, but if the position is as serious as we are told, then a compulsory belt-tightening operation which quickly affects everyone might be the clarion that would be heard, understood and heeded.

★ ★

Gazing down at the

Council Chamber, Old Moore Zoilus peers anxiously through his crystal ball and tries to see what Reading Borough Council will be up to in 1975. As with all political manifestations, the images are murky and obscure, but one clear sign is that the local rate will go up by almost 25% and this increase will only cover the extra cost of inflation. Many desirable schemes will be postponed, including improvements to the riverside, a leisure centre in south Reading, the Caversham relief road south of Church Street (do we hear signs of relief from certain quarters?), improvements in the Newtown and Great Knollis Street areas, and a new car for the Mayor.

The proposed cultural building in the Butts Centre will be axed, although this could be a blessing in granting a reprieve to the present Town Hall, which eventually will be adapted for such a use, and work on the Inner Distribution Road will be postponed. This will cause a heated debate when councillors will prove to be almost

equally divided on the advisability of abandoning the road scheme altogether, but in the end it will be left in estimate for a future year, as all traffic management plans have been made on the assumption that the road will be completed.

Bus fares will go up, and so will fees for allotments, playing pitches and crematoriums. Local Authority housing will be in danger of severe cuts, as will some social services. Councillors on all sides will be generally vilified, as always, and most townspeople will decide they could do a much better job themselves. Not many will offer their services, however.

Now it may be the crystal ball used by Old Moore Zoilus is suffering from myopia, boll weevil and general perversity, so no responsibility is taken for its prophecies. Indeed, perhaps all the prophets of gloom will be confounded, and at the end of 1975 we may say "Ah, well — it wasn't such a bad old year after all". We can all hope, can't we?

by
ZOILUS

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TALKING POINT

by MICHAEL KITCHENER

Postbag

PUNISHMENT

THE VIOLENT EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS, IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IN ENGLAND, have (I suspect) left many of us feeling quite at a loss to know how we can possibly respond to such things. And for some weeks, many have been saying it is time to bring back the death penalty for terrorists, either as a deterrent to others or as a sheer expression of our own hatred for those who commit such acts.

I believe that before we can begin to think about this, we need to ask a more general question, about punishment itself in a Christian context. On what understanding is it ever right for Christians to punish? What is punishment, for Christians?

Certainly not sheer revenge; the Gospel is about love for everyone; loving the victims of crimes certainly, but also loving the criminals.

Nor is punishment the same thing as deterrence, or keeping an offender out of the way for a while, or even treating or curing an

offender so as to make him a "better" member of society. All these may be necessary, but they are not the same as punishment.

Many liberal-minded people would like to reduce punishment to cure or to deterrence, or else to do away with it altogether. But as Christians we should face up to the fact that punishment—including the terrible idea of hell—is very deep-seated in the Christian tradition.

For a Christian, even punishment must somehow be seen as the expression of God's love. We can see punishment in this light, if

we take the hint from St Paul (Romans 1.18-32) and see "Divine retribution" not as some special act of leaving us to suffer the consequences of our own decisions.

God could, I suppose, protect us from the results of our mistakes. We know he doesn't; and anyone who has anything to do with children also knows that always to be protecting a person from themselves is no way to let them learn—it is no way to love them.

God's punishment, then, is a matter of saying to a person, "You are responsible for your actions, and you must reap the results." And I suggest that human society punishes because nature doesn't always show us the full results of our own actions; man as

steward of creation supplements nature's own punishment by devising some act by which we say to an offender, "Society disapproves of your action, and holds you responsible for it."

So it isn't surprising if some psychologists and others, believing we aren't responsible for many of our own actions, want to do away with punishment and substitute treatment and cure. That may seem humane; but really, punishment is more humane, because only punishment treats a criminal as fully human, as responsible for his own decisions as the judge and jury who convict and sentence him.

I end with two questions which we should ask about the problem of capital punishment and terrorism:

1. To what possible sort of act is executing a man the appropriate response, the proper consequence for him of his action, which will express to him society's view of his responsibility?
2. What sort of consequence and response is appropriate to the acts of a terrorist who seeks not merely to kill individuals but to upturn by violence a whole society (if that is what terrorists are doing)?

We shall be faced with many other questions about bringing peace in our troubled world; but I suggest that in forming our own opinions and our prayers for those who have to make concrete decisions, these two questions about punishment as such should not be forgotten.

Dear Sir,

Through the kindness of my sister, I frequently receive a copy of "Caversham Bridge" and I was very interested to read your article about Bill Good.

If this is the Bill Good that I once knew we both lived in Westfield Road, and both went to St. Peter's School, until we graduated to a scholarship elsewhere.

I think that I can claim to be a native of Caversham; my parents were married at St. Peter's, I was born in Queens Road, baptised at St. John's, and confirmed at St. Peter's, and also lived in Westfield Road until my marriage in 1940.

I cannot recollect much reference in your paper to St. Peter's School, but even at this distant date I still feel that the school had more than its share of scholarship boys (and girls), largely due to one of nature's gentlemen, Mr. R. P. Lunn, Headmaster, and Scout Master of 2nd Reading (St. Peter's Troop).

Mr. Lunn was formerly Headmaster of Chalgrove School (Oxon) and we Scouts had no difficulty in fixing our annual camp at Chalgrove, where the big event of the week (strangely enough), was not the trip to Oxford, but a 9-mile march via Stadhampton and Watlington. The big event was the "last night" Fancy Dress Barn Dance.

Several Caversham families come to mind in connection with the Scout Troop: best known was Hector Prince (Fippance), Assistant Scoutmaster, a good type you don't seem to meet in these days.

Other names which come to mind are Hurst, Sutton, Pigg, Bright, Beard. There were always plenty of boys willing to join, as well as the Cubs who graduated from the Pack run by Miss Cassie Lunn.

I feel very happy at the thought of your paper trying to give Caversham a separate identity. I feel that for far too long it has only been a dormitory suburb of Reading.

Yours etc.,
R. J. Dawson,
Eureka,
49 Ryeish Green,
Spencers Wood, Reading.

M.K.

LOCAL FIELD NAMES

Hanging on the wall in Mapledurham Estate Office is a very attractive and accurate map showing, among other things, the names of several local fields.

Under the map is written "performed and fynished in 1587 by Mr. John Blagrave Gent." This worthy gentleman lived at Blagrave farm and his family also gave their name to the lane which connects the country end of the Upper Warren Avenue to Woodcote Road. He was also an ancestor of another farmer Blagrave who was attacked and murdered early in 1793 and whose story has already appeared in the Caversham Bridge. Field names interest a number of people, but many all too easily become forgotten, which is a pity for they are often attractive and ought to be brought back into use in some form or another.

Hillup field can be found on the way down to Mapledurham Village. It is the last field on the left before reaching Lilley Farm. Glebe feyldes lie behind the farm and below the buildings is a long meadow sweeping right down the valley and known in 1587 as the lye feylde. The ancient track, joining Rose and Lilley farms is marked Pond Lane, but the pond seems to have vanished. Two common fields are shown on the map, one is Gallowe feylde or Galley feylde, now covered by Woodcote Way, the other the Rydge feylde, which ran from one end to the other along the top of the Warren Bank and perhaps gave its name to Ridge Hall. The area around Knowle Close was known as the Lys and land behind Gravel Hill Cottages was marked as the Ham.

In Historical Notices of

Caversham written by M. T. Pearman M.A., and published by the Oxfordshire Archeological Society in 1874 several Caversham field names are mentioned, but there are no means of placing many of them. However, they sound most attractive and are worth mentioning:— La Mersche, Dysshemed, Horsengle, Hardynghmede, Forchhyve, and Thatchmede. Other sources tell of fields named Gayers, Sewardmeade, Heathcroft, Horsecroft, Reyley Fielde and of course Balmers Fielde on which fighting took place during the Battle for Caversham Bridge in 1643 and which is mentioned in an old local saying "Balmers (Balmore's) fielde ran blood".

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WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

IN THE ABSENCE OF WHAT IS KNOWN IN THE TRADE AS 'HARD NEWS', IT REALLY IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO WRITE SOMETHING OF BOXING DAY THAT WILL SEEM RELEVANT WHEN YOU READ IT IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE PUNDITS ARE RIGHT AND WE ARE BY THEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A VERY BLEAK MIDWINTER, PERHAPS MY CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS WILL PROVE TO BE NOT SO IRRELEVANT AFTER ALL.

I refer, of course, to this question of gift-giving. Returning from a hectic two hours' Christmas shopping in town recently, I could not help recalling with nostalgia the fun we had in contriving gifts during the war, when our imagination had to work overtime to make up for the lack of 'gifts' in the shops. I'm sure many of you will recall the feeling of triumph as we handed over tray cloths and table mats made out of an old sheet, face flannels laboriously made from torn towels, old tins cunningly disguised with greenery as table displays. I know of one child who was deliriously happy at the gift of a home-made stencil outfit in the days when they were unobtainable in any store.

It was with these thoughts that I returned to work and ran into Jan Campion carrying two of the most beautiful wall decorations I've ever seen — dried grasses and flowers carefully arranged on a cork backing. Jan, who lives in Caversham Park Village and works at BBC, tells me she has never had lessons on what I believe is called 'collage', but is entirely self-taught. The flowers, she tells me, are

obtainable from the Yard shop, or from Flower Corner in Caversham Road; it so happened that I was calling at Flower Corner that day and was agreeably surprised to find they stock all the ingredients for wall decorations, dried flower basket arrangements or flowers pressed into picture frames.

Then, of course, there is Vera Fletcher in Prospect Street who stocks everything one needs for embroidery or tapestry and runs lace-making classes — a great success these were too! She will also give you all the advice you need on knitting or embroidery; and Caversham Fabrics on the corner of Prospect Street will advise on dressmakers, patterns, and so on.

So if we really are having an enforced stay indoors due to bad weather, and if we are so hard-pressed financially that we are considering abandoning gift-giving altogether, how about spending the winter evenings giving some thought to what our friends and relatives would really like for Christmas and birthdays and getting to work on making them ourselves, instead of spending large amounts we can ill afford

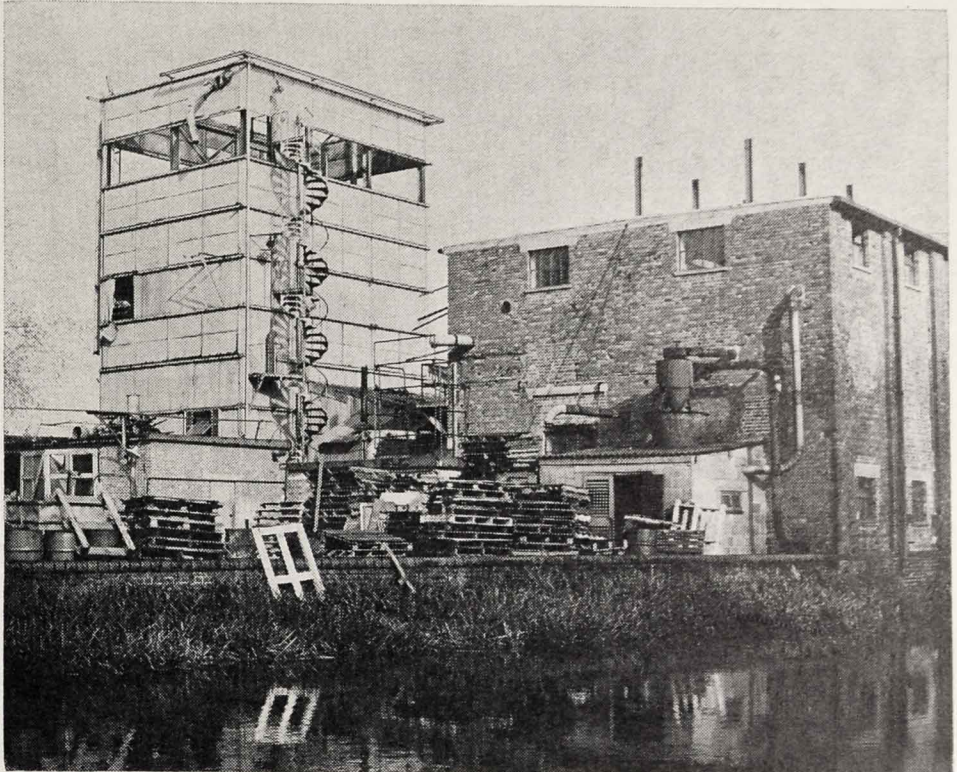
HONOURS FOR CAVERSHAM RESIDENTS

Two Caversham residents and readers of the Caversham Bridge figured in the New Year's Honours List.

Mr. I. Maddock who has lived at 13 Darell Road for several years receives a knighthood. Mr. Maddock is a fellow of the Royal Society and Chief Scientist at the Department of Industry. Mr. Ralph Lascelles, who received the M.B.E., is well known as organist and choirmaster of Caversham Heights Methodist Church. He is an active member of Reading Rotary Club, and has given much time to voluntary social work in Reading. He lives at 37 Conisboro Avenue.

DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM

This river side land mark, the property of Cork Manufacturing in Mill Green, was dismantled at the end of last year. For twenty-four years the mill was a familiar part of the Lower Caversham sky line. Production began in August 1952 and continued with ever increasing output until the end of 1967 when all cork operations were transferred to the Langite works at Chingford. It stood unused, apart from the ground floor section which became a storage area, until the late summer of 1974 when its decaying condition made demolition necessary.



— DENYS WILLIAMSON

on — often unwanted — shop bought 'gifts'. It really does make me laugh the way people say "Oh well, it's the thought that counts" while hastily wrapping up the hankies Auntie Mary sent last Christmas to give to a friend we had overlooked in the rush of Christmas preparations. Rubbish and fiddle-faddle — thought is the last thing that goes into that kind of giving. Thought goes into trying to discover what a person would really like — and, you know, very often on Christmas or birthdays what is most wanted, particularly by the lonely or house-bound, is just a

lovely newsy letter. And as far as I know there's no shortage of writing paper and envelopes in Caversham shops.

So here's wishing you a happy 1975, a year in which we resolve to stop thinking about inflation and think of the good things we still have for virtually nothing. I honestly think the nicest gift we received this year was a mere handful of late roses carefully inserted into a block of Oasis and placed in a silver-paper covered tin — beautiful and more so since thought and care had gone into the making of it.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

CRYSTAL BALLS

For years traffic has been one of the major pre-occupations of Caversham. Could it be that the ever soaring price of petrol is going to solve the problem for us? It is too early to say at the moment, just as it is too early to predict where the present financial stringencies are leading. But it would be an act of rash over-confidence to continue to carry out plans on an assumption that motorised traffic was going to continue to grow at the same rate it has for the last ten years.

It would certainly be unwise, indeed it would be wrong, to destroy at this time much needed homes to cater for unpredictable traffic flows. It would be a retrograde step to tear out the characteristic features of a community to cater for traffic which may never be there.

Where does a third river crossing fit into this? Of all proposed schemes, the most widely canvassed of a bridge to the east of the borough boundary, is not only the least environmentally destructive,

by
WATCHDOG

but would be the most useful if the use of the private car and the transport of goods by road are drastically curtailed. Other proposed schemes would be merely expensive white elephants. If we are going to accept that there must be a freeze on all public works, this one alone should survive the cold storage stage as being a positive contribution to a saner transport than we have experienced in the past.

The inherent difficulties of predicting the future also preoccupy the team handling the public participation exercise being carried out in connection with the Central Berks structure plan. The first report on the results of the preliminary survey of public opinion has now been published and the biggest area of concern was found to be a reluctance to accept that population increase and move-

ment on which the study was originally based was in fact correct.

This reluctance finds support in the latest figures, which whilst giving no room for complacency whatever, could indicate that the massive urban development visualised between Aldershot, Wokingham, Reading and Basingstoke (Area 8) may not be necessary. Will the project therefore be re-examined, or will it be continued with, on the grounds that once the machinery starts being put into operation it cannot be reversed?

DATES AHEAD

However, it seems safe to look ahead for a few weeks, and let us hope these are not famous last words. So here are a few dates for your diaries. As announced in the last issue, the Chief Environmental Officer of Health for Reading will be coming to speak about his work. This is a public meeting organised by the Residents' Association. On Monday, 17th March, this body will be holding its annual meeting, to be followed with a speaker on a subject of local importance. Both meetings will be held at 8 pm in Church House.

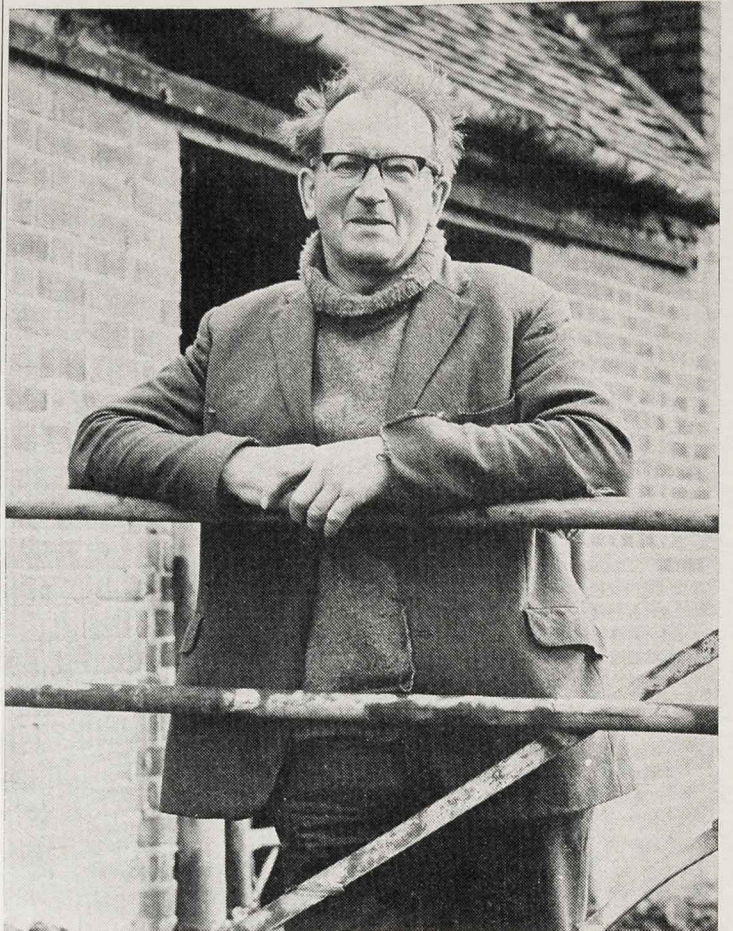
GRAVEL

It is encouraging to know that the Borough Council have no intention of taking lying down the decision of Oxfordshire County Council to allow the extension of gravel workings between Sonning and Caversham. They are prepared to fight the decision at all levels and Mr. A. Durant M.P. has stated that he is prepared to take the matter up with the Secretary of State for Environment. Caversham Residents' Association is fully behind them in this matter.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

- Sun., March 2nd, 12 noon**
Caversham Park Church at Caversham Park School.
- Mon., March 3rd, 8 p.m.**
St. Barnabas District at St. Barnabas Hall.
- Tue., March 4th, 8 p.m.**
St. Andrew's District at St. Andrew's Hall.
- Wed., March 5th, 8 p.m.**
St. John's District at St. John's Hall.
- Thur., March 6th, 8 p.m.**
St. Peter's District at Balmore Hall.
- Wed., March 12th, 7.30 p.m.**
Annual Parochial Meeting at Balmore Hall.

DEAN'S FARM



CAVERSHAM'S FARMER —Walton Adams

SOMEHOW WE TEND TO HEAR ABOUT THE FARMS ON THE MAPLEDURHAM SIDE OF CAVERSHAM, Greendene where so many people get their eggs and Lilley Farm with the amusing baby pigs which can often be seen in the fields, but away on the East side of the Parish, bordering the Thames and opposite Reading lies Dean's Farm. Once part of Caversham Park, it was sold off as a separate entity when the Crawshays put the

Estate up for auction just after the First World War. In the nineteen forties John Lucas took over as tenant farmer and he has been there ever since. He runs three hundred and seventy acres minus the gravel pits which cover almost another hundred. Here on the large expanses of water which now fill some of the excavation, Canada geese, pochard, teal and widgeon can be seen and snipe are found in the water meadows. Wheat, barley and potatoes are all grown, and Friesians and beef cattle graze the fields. John is a real hard worker and puts a great deal of time and energy into caring for his land. He also manages to help the Young Farmers of the Future too. In 1974 he was president of the Reading Young Farmers Club and for many years was the Club leader.

Three little cowstalls thatched not exceeding £50
A large stable brick and tiled and a cart house £80
And horses and implements therein not exceeding £120
£1200

farm buildings have never been flooded since John came there, although they are only one field away from the Thames. This is probably because they stand on a slight rise which almost certainly was made as there are signs of brick and other hard rubble in this water meadow. Some land may have been the open fields of Caversham and were possibly enclosed during the Crawshay's ownership from 1840 until 1920. M.K.

A family called Deane lived at the farm some time before Henry Benwell and almost certainly gave their name to the place, but it has now lost the final 'e'. The house and

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CHURCH NEWS

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Saying Farewell

On Sunday, 2nd February members of the parish will have an opportunity to say Thank You to the Rev. Peter Atkinson, Ann and the children, for their contribution to the life of the parish during the past five years. As reported on another page they leave for Sunderland on 3rd February. Evensong will be sung in St. John's at 4 p.m. on 2nd February, and after the service tea will be served at the west end of the church and a presentation made to the Atkinsons. Contributions can be given to the district wardens of any district of the parish.

Two retired priests

It is many years since any retired priest has lived in Caversham. Many will remember the Rev. A. S. Jeffrey, who helped in the parish at one time but who moved to Exmouth many years ago. Now within a few weeks of each other two incumbents from other parts of the diocese have chosen Caversham for their retirement home. The first to arrive was Canon Basil Clarke, Canon and Mrs. Clarke living at 220 Henley Road. They were for thirty years at Knowl Hill. Canon Clarke will

be continuing his work as secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee which advises the diocesan chancellor regarding the granting of faculties for alterations and improvements to churches.

The Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Carr are living at 150 Kidmore Road, Vicar of Shiplake since 1967. Mr. Carr has spent much of his ministry as a Church Missionary Society missionary in West Africa. They will naturally get many calls to help in nearby parishes when there is illness or a vacancy but hope also to help from time to time in Caversham where they will receive a warm welcome.

Christmas services

Congregations at Christmas showed an increase over last year, and communicants numbered 1,383 on Christmas day, the largest total since 1966 when there were 1,484. The principal increase was at St. Barnabas, with slight increases also at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's. It is necessary when comparing figures with 1966 to remember that about 2,000 houses have been built in the parish in the past eight years. At St. Peter's the collection of £204 was divided between Christian Aid and the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel: at St. Andrew's £82 was received for the work of the Church of

England Children's Society.

Parish Confirmation

This will take place in the parish church on Tuesday, 6th May at 7.30 p.m. Over seventy candidates are being prepared — the largest number for several years.

* * *

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

Owing to the illness of the arranged speaker, Mrs. Green of Swallowfield, at short notice, gave a talk on Christmas saints.

Members are asked to knit 6" squares for blankets and collect used stamps for the various needy societies.

* * *

BAPTIST CHURCH

Instead of the usual Christmas party the Ladies' Group from Caversham Baptist Free Church provided a party for over thirty senior citizens. If the requests for a repeat performance are anything to go by it was a very successful evening. After games and food, musical entertainment was provided by Joan and Duncan Reece—Duncan sings in the chorus at Covent Garden. A happy evening closed with a sing-song, a film strip on the Nativity theme and carols.

* * *

ST. PETER'S

Bell ringer's death

We regret to record the death of Stan Osborne, who collapsed after ringing the bells on Sunday, 24th November and was taken straight from the tower to hospital by his daughter. After making good progress, and looking forward to resuming ringing he had a further heart attack and died on 13th December. Representatives of many bands of ringers attended the funeral service in St. Peter's. Son of a ringer, the Osborne family have long been connected with the St. Peter's band of which his daughter Ann is secretary. When the bells were re-hung in 1973 Stan Osborne gave up part of his holiday to help with the work, and so reduce the cost. The Caversham Bridge extends sympathy to all members of his family.

The Churchyard

A great many people have commented on the great improvement of the churchyard. As burials no longer take place in it, the maintenance is the responsibility of the local authority; the new Parks Superintendent, Mr. Almond, is to be congratulated on the recent work: more daffodils have been donated and planted on the corner of the Warren and St. Peter's Hill. It is also worth recording that with the weather so mild snowdrops and aconites were in blossom before the end of the year.

* * *

ST. PETER'S WIVES

Seasonal enjoyment in the form of Carol singing raised cash for the Avenue School again. The fine evening brought out a good number of voices to sing the well-known Christmas carols.

Looking ahead to brighter times, Mr. Barry Martin of Caversham, will be giving a talk on "Seven days in Butlinland" at the meeting on 18th February.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WEDDING



— Hymor Photographers

CHARLES HUBBARD OF KELMSCOTT CLOSE, A MEMBER OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, AND WELL KNOWN AMONG ST. PETER'S CONGREGATION WAS MARRIED TO KATHERINE SMITH OF HILLSIDE, HENLEY ROAD IN ST. PETER'S ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. The service was conducted by the bride's father, the Rev. H. N. Smith, who is chaplain of Queen Anne's School, assisted by the Rector and Canon A. G. Duckett. Charles and Kate Hubbard are now living at the Rectory Flat, 20 Church Road, Caversham.

LENT LECTURES

THURSDAY EVENINGS, at 8 p.m.

MAKERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

February 13th Church House

General Introduction

The Rev. L. Griffiths and the Rev. M. Kitchener.

February 20th West Memorial Hall

The Ministry stories of Jesus. Canon Grimwade.

February 27th Church House

The Passion stories of Jesus. The Rev. M. Kitchener.

March 6th Church House

Paul. The Rev. L. Griffiths.

March 13th Church House

John. The Rev. L. Stevens.

March 20th West Memorial Hall

The Book of Revelation. The Rev. L. L. Burn.

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TALK ABOUT THE RATES!

Delving into Mapledurham Parish Chest recently I came across following :

A Rate made by John Allaway, Church Warden of Mapledurham from Easter 1855 to Easter 1856 at three half pence in the pound.

Rentals		£	s.	d.
£150.0	Michael Henry Blount Esq.: Mansion, Garden, Lawn etc.	18	9	
£207.0	Ditto Park Farm	1	5	11
£ 5.0	Ditto Lock			8
£ 12.0	Ditto Underwoods	1	6	
£ 6.0	Ditto Malthouse Pightle			9
£ 10.0	Ditto Fishery	1	3	
£ 11.7.6	Noah Fisher House & shop	1	6	
£ 12.0	Charles Tidman House	1	6	
£245.10	Timothy Tyrrell Bottom Farm	1	10	8
£104.10	John Litten Wittals & Stirrups Farms	13	1	
£362.0	Thomas Snelling Lilly, Mill & Pithouse Farms	2	5	3
£542.10	Thomas N. Harrison Blagraves, Greendean & Hodmore Farms	3	7	11
£472.10	William Studley Chawsey Farm	2	19	2
£352.0	John Allaway New Farm	2	4	0
£298.0	Edward Collier Rose & Nokend Farm	1	17	3
£ 80.0	Stephen Smith Mill, land & Malthouse	10	0	
£ 25.0	W. H. Vanderstegen Esq.: Land	3	2	
£ 24.0	Thomas Cottrell land	3	0	
£ 44.0	Robert Holloway Fishing & Eyots	5	6	
£ 22.10	Joseph Hammerton House	2	11	
£ 61.0	Elizabeth Jenner House & land	7	9	
£ 12.0	Thomas Webb House & shop	1	6	
£ 10.0	John Hall House	1	3	
£3069.7.6	Amount of Rate	£19	4	3

STRANDED!



-DENYS WILLIAMSON

ANNE JONES OF QUEENS ROAD FOUND HERSELF STRANDED DURING A BREAK FROM HER WORK AT CORK MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN MILL GREEN WHEN THE RIVER RECENTLY BURST ITS BANKS.

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Apart from being quite fascinated by the rates levied in Mapledurham one hundred years ago, it is possible to use this entry in the old Parish records to note some other quite interesting information. To begin with this is the first time any reference had been made to a couple of shops in the village, and one wonders just what Noah Fisher and Thomas Webb sold. For the sake of the rural community one hopes that at least one was a general store as the journey to Caversham or Reading would have been almost impossible with all the week pretty well spent at work and folk too tired to tramp the several miles after a hard day's labour. There is mention of a cobbler, so perhaps in one shop they sold or mended shoes, another important item for country people with plenty of walking to do. Anyway there was a shoemaker named Squires Irving in Mapledurham a few years later in 1871. Noah Fisher was living at Chazey Heath in 1862, so perhaps his shop was in that part of the Parish.

Then there seem to have been several more small farms on the Estate in 1855. Pithouse is no longer a farm in its own right, nor is Nokend. At Pithouses, as it is now known, there was an old barn close to the three cottages. This was burnt down some twelve years ago. Noke

End had a cluster of small wattle and daub cottages most of which are now in ruins or have vanished.

Robert Holloway paid rates for the finishing and the eyots. Eyot or ait is the word used in the Thames valley for an island covered with willow or withy which was cut yearly and used for hurdles, basket work and other uses. M.K.

SUNDAY SERVICES at 11.15 in the School Hall

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- Feb 9 & 16 Family Service with Sunday Circle for children.
- Feb 23 Holy Communion with Sunday Circle for children.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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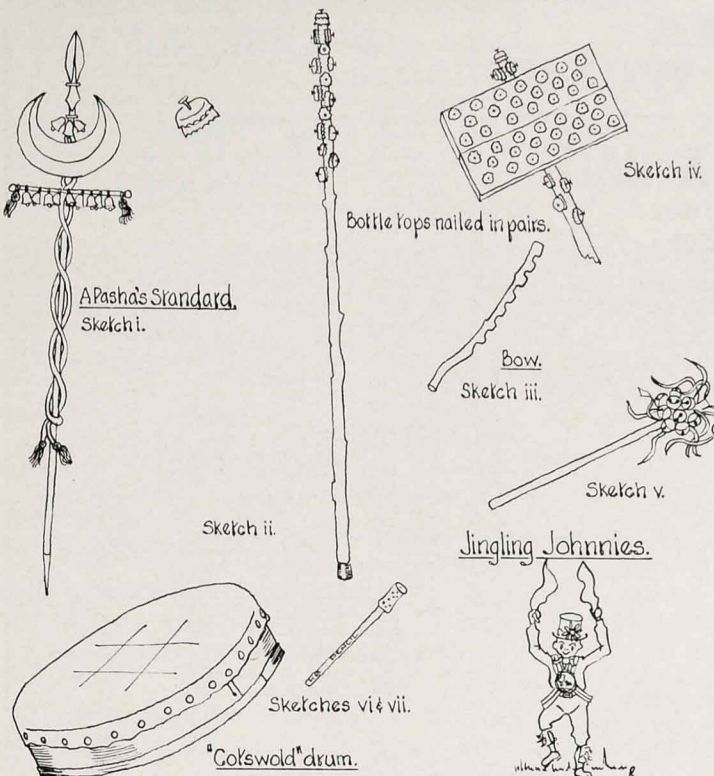
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JINGLING JOHNNIES



IN DECEMBER WE FEATURED AN ARTICLE ABOUT MORRIS DANCING. THIS MONTH RICHARD WRIGHT OF ST. JOHN'S ROAD AND FORMER SQUIRE OF THE KENNET MORRIS MEN WRITES ABOUT SOME OLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS THAT YOU CAN MAKE FOR YOURSELF.

Do you know what a Jingling Johnny is? Some sort of rich man perhaps? No. But if you said some sort of musical instrument you'd be right. Jingling Johnnies were first introduced to Western Europe from Turkey in the late eighteenth century. Played in military bands along with other percussive instruments and decorated with little bells and other ornaments, they were carried as a Pasha's standard and formed a rallying point in battle (see sketch i).

stick, about 4ft. long and about 1in. diameter. Then the jingling bit — crown cork bottle tops, as many as you can get. Eighty will make a very fine jingle. The next step is to extract the cork inserts (plastic these days I'm afraid) from the bottle tops and nail them, in pairs, at one end of the stick. Be sure to nail a pair right on the end at the top. Nail them loosely and the resulting jingle is the noise we're after (see sketch ii).

can be made by fitting a rubber walking stick stop on the end to be thumped on the ground. A different, and louder, jingle can be made by nailing the bottle tops onto a board about 18in. x 12in. x 3/4in. thick (see sketch iv). Incidentally they are easier to nail that way. If you prefer a more delicate music, use a smaller stick and instead of bottle tops use "morris" bells. (see sketch v).

DO IT YOURSELF DRUM

A suitable additional rhythm instrument that goes very nicely with the Jingling Johnny is the "Cotswold" Drum. A little more skill and patience is required, but the resulting instrument makes it all worthwhile. The body of the drum is already made for you if you can get hold of a forgotten garden sieve. Remove the sieve wires but leave the bracing wires. These wires hold the drum in a nice circular shape and give the percussionist something to hold. If a sieve is not to hand a strip of 3-ply wood 4in. to 6in. wide and as long as you want the drum round, will do. Build the plywood into a loop, overlap and nail or screw the ends together. Using fencing wire, fix the braces into place.

The drum skin, a length of light shade vellum would do if the pocket doesn't run to a proper drum skin, is nailed over one side of the drum only. Overlap the edge by about an inch. The best nails to use are probably large headed carpet nails. A single drum stick is used to play the instrument and is best made from an ordinary pencil with a cork fixed on one end. (see sketches vi and vii).

If the drum is not tuned you will get a very dull thud but if it is tuned you will get a grand boom. To tune your new instrument just hold it to some sort of heat, even a light bulb, until the thud booms to your liking. If you play it untuned, the skin is more likely to be damaged.

You now have all that is required to form the rhythm section of your band, or just to accompany the radio or records. Happy thumping!

EASILY MADE

Today you will find Jingling Johnnies in many a folk band alongside the tambourine, their re-birth helped along, no doubt, by Rolf Harris and his "Bush Lager-Jones" and the fact that they are easy to make.

First the shaft. An old broom handle, or any old

You play the instrument by shaking, bowing and thumping on the ground, all at once and in time to the music — very simple after a little practice. The bow, of course, is a little different from the violin variety. You can make one from a stick about 18in. long and 1/2in. in diameter. Leaving one end to hold, cut a line of notches along the length. (see sketch iii). A better thump

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ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS' TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

St. Andrew's Hall was transformed for the Guild's Christmas Party, shining trees and tinsel with pretty floral and candle arrangements on the tables, lots of food, delicious hot punch brewed so well by the Chairman, Mrs. C. Griffith, helped everyone feel very festive. Mrs. A. L. Ridley, in her own amusing style, recalled some Christmas customs and superstitions. Preparations for the season seem to be long enough now, but in olden times they usually started on St. Thomas' Day, 21st December, and lasted twelve whole days with people going from one house to another for parties, each trying to improve on the day before. Widow ladies, in medieval times, went a-Thomasing, or mumping as it was called, dressed in red cloaks, hoping to have their baskets and glasses filled by generous people in the parish. They must have been very merry ladies after they had finished all their calls! Charles Dickens seems to have revived the Christmas spirit in early Victorian times when all festivities seemed to be dying out. Members were told of odd superstitions, such as young ladies peeling onions and putting them under their pillows before retiring, hoping to dream of their future husbands. It was considered very unlucky indeed to decorate the tree before Christmas Eve, and all decorations had to be taken down before Twelfth Night.

Games were played and prizes won by Mrs. D. Moore and Mrs. K. Manning.

An enjoyable evening ended with Mrs. E. Hardy on the piano leading the carol singing.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The Chairman for the December meeting was Mrs. Barrow. She outlined some of the activities for 1975. Miss Baker, Treasurer, gave the

financial statement. The Committee for the following year took up their duties.

Mrs. Reely gave a very interesting talk on "Holland in the Spring", illustrated by very colourful slides. Tea was served, and the meeting closed with the singing of carols arranged by Mrs. Stratford, members joining in.

CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

The November meeting was well attended and final arrangements were made for the Autumn Bazaar which was held on 23rd November. Reports were received from members who had attended the Autumn Council meeting and other Institutes' parties.

The speaker, Mrs. Watson, shared her family experience of an 8 month sailing trip to the Mediterranean, illustrated with slides and mementoes. "Getting away from it all" was a happy experience but equally happy was their return to "this green and pleasant land."

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

Maplewood's W.I. Christmas party held in St. Andrew's Hall was most enjoyable. The President, Mrs. B. Osborn, welcomed members' guests and introduced Mr. N. Townsend and Mr. B. Lewis who entertained with readings and poems, whilst coloured slides were shown of the Lake District; the background music added to the charm of this programme which was arranged by Mrs. J. Townsend. After refreshments the Maplewood choir sang carols; included in their repertoire was the Maplewood carol written and arranged by Mrs. H. Charters who also conducted the choir. The audience then joined in singing the old favourite carols and the evening ended with the evergreen "We wish you a merry Christmas", with Mrs. P. Duckworth in suitable costume bringing in the pudding complete with a sprig of holly.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the combined Birthday and Christmas Party of Blagrove W.I. Mrs. Wilkie welcomed members and friends from neighbouring Institutes. The Hall was decorated with greenery and holly, and the afternoon started with a parade of decorated hats; the one worn by Mrs. Bartlett was judged to be the most attractive and original. The second competition of the afternoon was for a Christmas Table Decoration and this was won by Mrs. Messent, and the decorations were then used on the tea-tables. A short Beetle-drive was held and this was won by Mrs. Maddox who later played the piano for carol-singing.

The tea was provided by the Committee and all enjoyed the home-made cakes, bread and scones which appeared in spite of sugar and bread shortages. The birthday cake was made by Mrs. Wright and iced by Mrs. Wilkie, and the afternoon closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

THE JUBILEE CLUB, MAPLEDURHAM

Towards the end of last year the Club held a most successful Jumble Sale raising over fifty pounds which enabled members to have a very happy afternoon in Oxford and see Peter Pan at the New Theatre. South Chiltern Lions also entertained most of the Club one evening at Whitchurch. These little treats make such an event in the life of the more elderly, and thanks are owed to all who make it possible, including two new helpers with transport who have recently offered their services getting people to and from the monthly meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, entertained members at the usual happy Christmas Party and a group of handbell ringers have also come along and revived memories of bygone days when handbells were rung much more frequently in Mapledurham.

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

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

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.

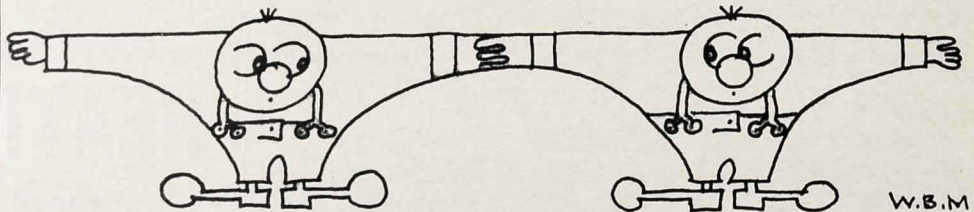
ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

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

Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

WHOM TO CONTACT HOW TO HELP

Central Organiser :

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

Area Organisers :

Mrs. A. M. Russell, (North Caversham), 31 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green. Tel. 472934.

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

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

Mrs. P. 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.

Please tick the appropriate space if you can help in any of the following ways :

1. Visit the sick, lonely and disabled
2. Provide transport for elderly or disabled
3. Look after children
4. Assist in the home

Fill in your name and address and post this slip to Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close, Caversham Telephone 472374.

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CAN YOU HELP US?

Girls of all ages still come forward in numbers to join the GUIDE MOVEMENT. (To become a Brownie a girl's name needs to be put down at birth!)

But our children's confidence may be shaken. It is becoming increa-

singly difficult to find women to run units, or to assist the present Guiders, and already one Guide Company has had to close for want of help.

We live in perplexing times, and need to reassess our values. Guiding offers a challenge — oppor-

tunities for Service — and FUN! Please help us keep it going.

All you need is an interest in young people and time! We provide training and the support of the organisation. You would not be alone.

Even if you cannot help with a unit you could still work "behind the scenes" as a member of the Local Association which exists to support the District in its various projects, financial and practical.

If you are someone who could help, please contact Mrs. A. E. Barroll, 1 Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham. Tel. 473052.

GUIDING IN CAVERSHAM WEST DISTRICT

UNIT	MEETING	GUIDER	ASST. GUIDER
Rangers	Fri.: 6.45 p.m. 52 Matlock Rd.	Mrs. V. Wilkinson	None
GUIDES			
5th Caversham (St. Peter's)	Wed.: 6.30 p.m. Balmore Hall	Mrs. J. Stanbrook	None
11th Caversham	Thurs.: 6.15 p.m. West Memorial Hall	Miss J. Sawyer	None
12th Caversham	Fri.: 6.30 p.m.	Miss C. Morgan	None
BROWNIES			
1st Caversham	Thurs.: 6 p.m. Balmore Hall	Mrs. Cherrington	Mrs. Knight
2nd Caversham	Fri.: 5.30 p.m. Memorial Hall	Mrs. Garrett	None
4th Caversham	Wed.: 5.45 p.m. St. Andrew's Hall	Mrs. Nichol	None
5th Caversham (St. Peter's)	Tues.: 6 p.m. Balmore Hall	Mrs. Jackson	None
11th Caversham	Tues.: 6 p.m. West Memorial Hall	Mrs. Ault	None
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER:		Mrs. A. E. Barroll	
DISTRICT ASSISTANT:		Mrs. M. Nutt	



Brownies of the 1st Caversham Pack

— Walton Adams

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 5th December, 1974. Mr. E. J. Sell, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

As the result of enquiries the Parish Council have been making regarding improvements to the Reading-Woodcote Road a letter was submitted from the Oxfordshire CC stating that it is hoped to include an upgrading scheme in a transportation programme in the near future, but largely due to the present financial restrictions it is

not possible to indicate when any construction work is likely to commence. Although preliminary survey work has been carried out between 'The Pack Horse' and Reading no firm proposals are available.

The Parish Council were informed that the County Council are considering the installation of street lighting in Upper Woodcote Road between the Reading Borough boundary and Shepherd's Lane sometime next year. The Parish Council expressed concern that such a scheme should be considered at a time when local government finances

are so acutely short, and also bearing in mind that a large proportion of the local residents affected are totally opposed to street lighting. The Council have therefore informed the County Council that they do not consider there is a need for street lighting at the present time, and that the money allocated for street lighting should be diverted to some other service, or to improve the standard of roads, as the Parish Council have been often informed by the Oxfordshire CC that insufficient funds are available to maintain them at a proper standard.

The Council discussed at length arrangements for the future running of the new pavilion on the Playing Fields. It was agreed that the pavilion should be known as 'The Mapledurham Pavilion' — the building should be available for use early in the new year.

THINK AGAIN
MR. DURANT . . .
. . . See Page 2.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

SCROOGE proved a popular choice for the Caversham Park Theatre Group's production at the Kenton Theatre, Henley, this past Christmas. A number of evening and matinee performances were staged between 12th and 21st December and all were well patronised. I was delighted to see so many Caversham boys and girls in the cast including a number of familiar faces in the choruses of Street Urchins, Pedlars, Carol Singers and just "Passers-by". The accompanying orchestra was conducted by the able musician Stuart Barham.

The Caversham Park Theatre Group was formed in 1967, and has performed a number of modern classics and plays since its beginnings. It has taken part in local festivals and joint productions,

and has a tradition of presenting a Christmas Show suitable for children each year. The company is always on the look-out for

by
PETER SHOCK

young talent. If you have a flair for the stage, then ring up the Secretary, Mrs. Carole Hill, Reading 477223.

In my toddling days I had a funny ha! ha! uncle who tried to convince me I had the makings of a top-class jockey. Blessed with a small rounded body and handsome bow-shaped legs that you could kick a football through, at that tender age I already had much of the essential

material. But alas, the nearest I ever got to Aintree, was perched on the back of a donkey on Littlehampton beach!

Now on the Friday after Christmas, when many folk were slowly recovering from their festive indulgences, I quietly slipped away for a long weekend in Sunny Spain. As the sun dawned on the third morning, a coach pulled up outside the hotel entrance and the courier invited visitors to journey to the country for a donkey-trek. I thought this would be great fun. I had heard a lot about pony-trekking — but donkeys, the stubborn things, they would really be a challenge! After about an hour's trip, the party of equestrian novices arrived at the stables. Kevin Douglas from Priory Ave. came with me for moral support. We chose our donkeys, nervously mounted and there was a crack of the ring-master's whip. Olé, we were away! "Gee-up", I said, but my four-legged friend knew no English. He kept lagging behind the rest. I bent forward and discovered the reason. He was too pre-occupied in nibbling at my chicken sandwiches! And obviously enjoying the unexpected free meal. In crocodile — or should I say, donkey fashion we plodded on through the beautiful Catalonian countryside with the blue Montseny mountain range in the distance. I and my donkey had at last come to terms with the peace of the surrounding countryside. Apart from my aching legs I could have survived this pastoral euphoria for a week. But next day, that Boeing 737 was scheduled at the airport runway to whisk us back to cold and cloudy England.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

When related to the population, there are probably more Football leagues and teams in the Reading area than in any part of the country. There are both Saturday and Sunday leagues and even a Friendly league for teams who have not yet been able to get into one of the recognised leagues. Also, we have a very old established football league club in the Reading Football Club who have not had the best of success in recent years. There are, of course, many reasons for the lack of success but it could be that with all the enthusiasm for football in the Town, one important group of footballers do not have an organised competitive league of their own. This is the all important Under 14 years age group.

Well-organised Berkshire

Throughout the County football is well organised for youngsters of all ages in the various leagues including the North Berks. Boys, Bracknell Junior Boys, South Chiltern and Newbury Junior Leagues. They cater for all ages from the Under 9's to the Under 17's, but in Reading itself, there is only the Reading Youth League for the Under 15's and Under 17's. As a result of this, Reading based teams have to seek election in leagues outside their immediate area with the problem and expense of travelling some distance to play fixtures. There is now increased opposition to some of the Reading clubs joining these other leagues because the other teams have to make the long journey to Reading to fulfill fixtures. So it would seem the time is now right for the major local leagues to introduce some league competitions for the very good junior sides around the town.

Mapledurham Junior F.C.

This very successful Junior team was formed seven years ago and offers good organised football for boys from the Caversham area. They enjoy the facilities of the Mapledurham Playing Fields and this year are running three teams for Under 12's, 13's and 14's. The two younger teams playing the North Berks. League and the Under 14's in the Bracknell Junior.

The youngest team contains many of last year's very successful Reading Primary School Team and is managed by Mike Edwards, whose son Stephen is now Captain of this year's Reading Primary Team. The Team, which includes the following six who are in the Reading Primary or Under 12's squads — David Barnett, Patrick Hogan, Mark Froud, Timothy Hogan, Michael Horne and Colin Rackley — are currently heading their section of the League having won eight of their nine games, as well as the Buffy Balcombe Challenge Trophy at Didcot in August.

Caversham boy, Mark Stenning heads the goalscorers with 20 goals in the Under 13 side which is managed by Tom Dodds. This Team has reached the Semi Finals of the North Berks. Cup Competition and have won seven of their games.

The senior team, the Under 14's managed by Roy Bangs, is also having a very good season and at the moment is in third place in the Bracknell League having

held Easthampstead — one of the best teams in the Bracknell area — to a 3-3 draw. They had a slight setback when they suffered their first home defeat for two years at the hands of a Wokingham team, however, they hope to avenge this defeat when they meet again in a Cup Match later this month. The side includes two Caversham boys currently in the Reading Schools Under 14 Team, Richard Mundy and Kevin Sheppard.

The Club has a total playing strength of 45 to 50 boys and has splendid parental support. There are more supporters at their Mapledurham games than will be seen at any local amateur game.

The cost of running the Club will exceed £200 this season and all the money is found by the boys themselves and from various fund raising efforts during the season.

Coach needed

The Club, with its abundance of willing helpers, lacks only one thing at the present time and that is a qualified football coach. Over the past few years they were ably coached by Bob Millard who has now moved from the area. The Club would therefore like to hear from anyone with the necessary qualifications who would be prepared to give up some spare time to do this rewarding job for the youngsters of Caversham.

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"CAVERSHAM BRIDGE" PUBLICATION DATES

We regret that owing to an unexpected change in printers our January issue was late in appearing. The present number is for the two months of February and March. The April edition will be published on March 22nd, and we hope that subsequent issues will follow our usual timetable. We apologise for the inconvenience that has been caused.

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