

CAVERSHAM

BRIDGE

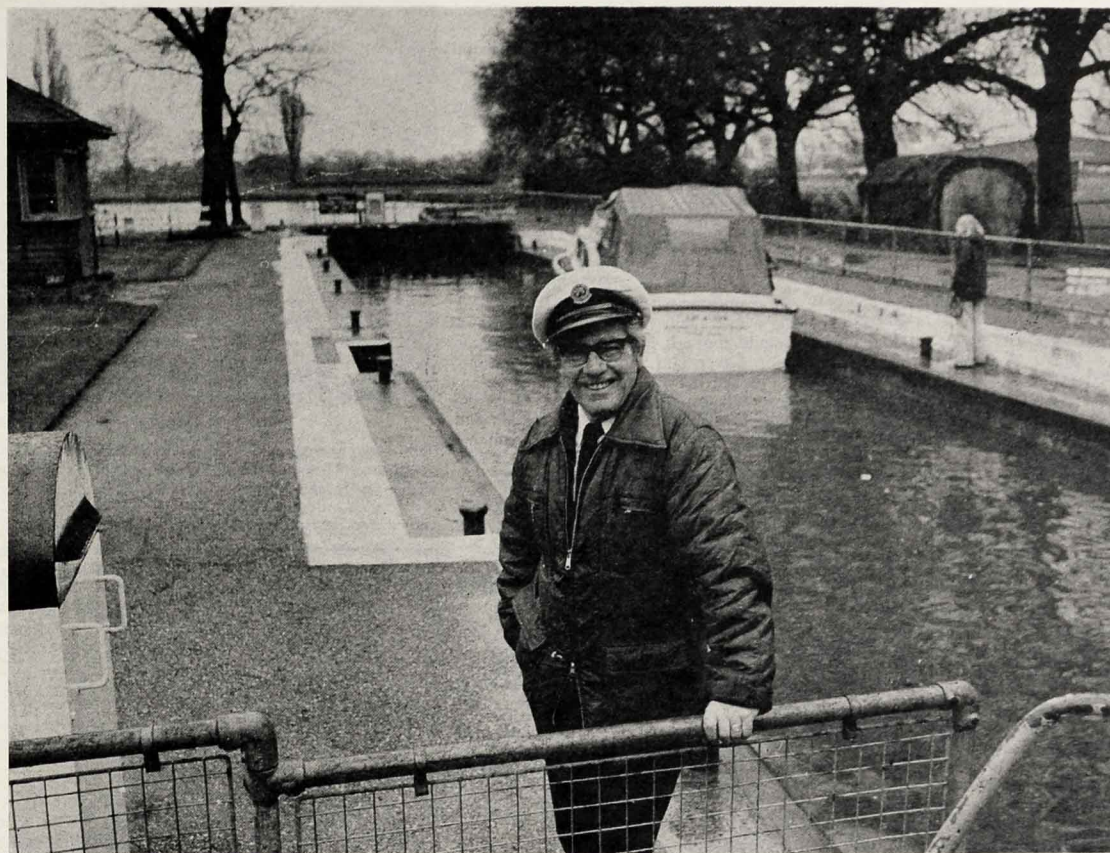
MAY, 1975

No. 127 Price 5p

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CAVERSHAM'S LOCK KEEPER

**MAY
18th.
WHAT'S
SPECIAL
ABOUT
THAT
DAY?
TURN
TO
PAGE 8**



— WALTON ADAMS

IT WAS IN MARCH 1957 THAT DICK KNIGHTLEY CAME AS LOCK KEEPER TO CAVERSHAM. Any lock keeper holds a very responsible position, but the more so if his lock happens to be in such close proximity to large built-up areas such as Caversham and Reading. There are always plenty of people around fishing, watching boats or just fascinated by the river. Inevitably during holidays and the long, warm days of summer there are a number of youngsters about. Dick Knightley is always on the alert, for as he said to me, "There are far too many young children of six and under wandering around the banks unattended. The grown-ups' attitude seems to be— it won't happen to mine — but it might." The public could help far more than they do, he thinks. They tend to feel it is no concern of theirs if they see young children wandering around close to the bank or the weir. If they could just point out the danger in a firm friendly and quiet way it might help.

SWAN UPPING

When Dick first came to Caversham he can remember otters, but it is well over ten years since he saw his last pair. He told me how cruel swans can be to each other, attacking one another at times to the point of death. The swans on the Thames belong to the Queen and to the Vintners' and Dyers' Companies. There are three Swan Masters and one duty they perform each year is the Swan Upping or marking. Birds of a certain age, not marked, are claimed by the Crown and known as "clear billed". As far back as 1473 in the reign of Edward IV, if not before, the Vintners' and Dyers' Companies held grants to mark swans, but in 1878 these identifications were changed to omit at last half the number of cuts. Now only two slight nicks are made on either side of the upper mandible on birds belonging to the Vintners' Company and one nick cut on the right side of birds belonging to the Dyers. The two nicks on the former gave rise to the well known tavern sign "The Swan with two Necks" or nicks. Royal birds ceased to be marked around 1910. Swan Upping takes place with

much ceremony in July, when the Keepers of the three owners take count of all swans in the river between Blackfriars and Henley.

Soon Caversham Lock will once again be a scene of great activity as the summer approaches. In one day alone from the log-book of 1973 the lock was opened 166 times. Thursday afternoon and evening are the busy times at the height of the season when queues of hired craft form at the lock entrance all heading Londonwards to be handed over on the Saturday when yet another boating holiday on the Thames comes to an end.

LIVE AND LEARN

Until I went to see Mr. Knightley and Mr. Overy at Mapledurham Lock, I knew little about the Thames although I had been born and bred beside its banks. However in the course of our interesting conversations I learnt many things. Probably lots of people know that the length of the river channel from its source at Thames' Head to Teddington Lock is 147 miles, but how many realise that in this length there is a total fall in height of 355 feet. It has been said that the tail gate at Caversham Lock are level with the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. An interesting thought. The tail gates of a lock are the down stream end and the head gates of a lock are the upstream end and in case you have forgotten, down stream is going to London and upstream is going to Oxford. There are probably many people in Caversham who can still remember seeing barges pulled by a tow horse, but the old horse towing paths were based on far older tracks when barges were towed by teams of men.

By 1852 railways had begun to reduce the amount of goods transported by river and economies were having to be made by the Thames Conservancy Commissioners. It was decided to cut lock keepers' salaries. At Abingdon the lock keeper received thirty three pounds per annum instead of his usual thirty six, and at Cookham, which was by far the highest paid on the river for some unknown reason, the lock keeper had his pay reduced to a yearly one hundred and eight pounds.

Since April 1974 the Thames Conservancy has become the Thames Water Authority (Thames Conservancy Div.), with new offices along Vastern Road, bordering the Thames. Here if you are lucky you may see one of the three tugs based on the Reading area, the Churn, the Cherwell or the Ock. Here too is based a tow path ranger, who is a boating carpenter, inspecting fences and gates etc., along the banks and repairing them if they are the property of the Thames Water Authority. There are also divers ready for emergencies. Perhaps we tend to take the care and upkeep of our great river too much for granted. During the past winter I have seen official boats out on the Thames in pretty nasty weather. There is a lot that goes on without our knowing and we should be grateful to those who man the locks and continue to care for our great waterway, part of which is our local heritage.

M.K.

Put yourself in
**MILWARDS
SHOES**

★
Church Street, Caversham

The Editor's Column

SAYING THANK YOU

GRATITUDE ought always to be found among Christians, and this should be particularly evident at this season of Easter. Both the Old and New Testaments have a lot to tell us in this respect. Repeatedly in the Psalms we find such remarks as "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms" — "Go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise". In the Gospels we find our Lord constantly giving thanks to the Father; at the feeding of the 5,000 he took the loaves and gave thanks; he gave thanks as he raised Lazarus from the dead; he gave thanks as he took the bread and the cup at the Last Supper, and the Holy Communion is commonly called the Eucharist, which means Thanksgiving. St. Paul also tells us a lot about giving thanks; he usually began his letters by thanking God for the Christians to whom he was writing, and he tells us that our requests to God are to be surrounded with our thanks. So as we read the Bible we cannot escape from the fact that a mark of a Christian is that he is a person who shows gratitude. And when we say Thank you something happens to us. Only one of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed came back to thank him, but the one who did so got something that the others all denied themselves — he alone had a personal experience of our Lord. So we have to remember that it is not so much a question of God needing our thanks but of our needing to say Thank you.

THANKS FOR WHAT ?

What are we to say Thank you for? Here again St. Paul has something to say. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving" he tells us. Nor can we escape that difficult remark of his "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God". It may be comparatively easy to thank God for the obvious blessings, but that remark means that we are to thank him for our difficulties; and when we do this they have a way of ceasing to be difficulties and become occasions for glorifying God. When the disciples asked our Lord about the man born blind they started from the assumption that his blindness was due to sin on someone's part. The reply of Jesus was that it was there for a purpose, namely that the glory of God might be manifested through him. So any consideration of thanksgiving is related to the problem of suffering. When one night I was feeling tired after a long and difficult day, it occurred to me that I ought to be thankful that I was tired, because being tired meant I had had the opportunity to do a great many things in the course of that day, and few things are more soul destroying than having no work to do.

PICK OUT THREE THINGS

It is a very good thing to look over each day and pick out three things for which we ought to thank God. These may fall into quite different categories. One might be some particular personal pleasure, a nice dish or the enjoyment of some music or scenery; a second might be thanksgiving for some piece of news we have heard on radio or read in the papers, and the third because some difficult task turned out much better than we had dared to hope. Nor should we forget to give thanks for some of those things we take for granted — for the good health which is the normal lot of so many of us, for the security of our homes and for the fact that generally speaking the basic services of water and light are available.

A widow who died some years ago and lived in very humble circumstances remarked once that she said the General Thanksgiving every day. By worldly standards she did not appear to have much for which to be thankful, but it is a fact that often those who seem to have least are the most thankful. They can teach us a lesson. And the General Thanksgiving is an important prayer because it focuses our attention on the great acts of God, for our creation preservation and all the blessings of this life, but above all for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. It reminds us that the heart of our thanksgiving is a realisation that our baptism has made us privileged to share in the benefits of Christ's great act of redemption. And of course the climax is reached in the service of Holy Communion where we are reminded that it is our bounden duty at all times and in all places to give God thanks. So the Christian has to be marked out as the person who can give thanks for every situation. As we learn to do this we shall show to a joyless world something of the real meaning of Christian joy.

John Grimdall

FAREWELL TO THE KENDALLS

LIKE MOST CARETAKERS, MRS. KENDALL — BETTER KNOWN TO HER FRIENDS AS NELLIE — HAS OFTEN BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED. But that in itself, as Nellie with her fund of common sense and her sense of humour would be the first to agree, is a compliment in itself, for it is a sad but true reflection on human nature that while we take things for granted when all is well, we are the first to grumble and protest if faced with dirty meeting rooms, locked doors and arguments about bookings.

Now that Mrs. Kendall and her husband, Horace, are retiring, many of us are aware, perhaps for the first time, that Church House will not be the same without her. We shall miss the friendly smile with which she always greeted us, even when some three years ago her husband lay desperately ill in a local hospital. It is because of Mr. Kendall's ill health, which caused him to retire as head groundsman of Prospect Park after 39 years, that they are retiring and going to live in Tilehurst.

Mrs. Kendall, who has been caretaker at Church House for 22 years, is a Londoner by birth; she met her future husband when on holiday in Margate after the war in which he served as a Guardsman and she herself served with the A.T.S. They were married at St. Mary's Church in the Butts and, in spite of illnesses and the difficulties of living in accommodation 'on top of the job' and liable to be called on at any time, she says it has been a very happy time for them both. With her husband's brothers and their families and the many friends she has made through her work, she has been able to enjoy life in Caversham and is, as her husband, very reluctant to be leaving it. It is fortunate for us that they do not intend to lose their contacts here and we shall, we hope, be seeing them frequently. And if anyone wants to call on them at their new home, 3 Spey Road, Tilehurst, once they are settled in, they will be sure of a friendly welcome.

It only remains for us to thank them both for their long service and for all they have done to keep things



— WALTON ADAMS

ticking over in spite of many changes in the occupation of Church House, and to offer our very sincere good wishes for their retirement.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

Anglicans have recently had a succession of District and Parish Meetings and have received the news of the financial and material state of our churches. It is once again the case that we must obtain more money for the upkeep of the parish and I would expect that our Free Church Brethren are in the same situation as presumably the Methodist and Baptist pound.

One way that was not discussed at the meetings to alleviate the situation is to increase our membership. Although in recent years we have had numerous social activities both singly and ecumenically we have not had a mission in Caversham for some years.

As one who was a Sunday Christian only four years ago it seems to me that there are many in Caversham who are in the position I was in then and was not aware of the saving grace of Jesus Christ and of the way he could affect my normal daily life. In Carl Jung's *Modern Man in Search of a Soul* appears the following lines:

'During the past thirty years people from all civilised countries of the earth have consulted me. I have treated hundreds of patients, among all my patients of the second half of life, that is, over thirty five, there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life'.

This was my situation and it was not until I had the personal witness of a very good Caversham Christian that I realised the truth of the 'Good News'. For one who is seeking a spiritual meaning to his or her life attendance at church does not necessarily result in revelation. The meaning of a man that died in the first Century AD has to be explained in the terms of 1975 and this should be the mission of both clergy and the laity in Caversham. We are all I suspect somewhat shy of witnessing the effect of the power of Christ in our lives but the Jews of Palestine were not ready to hear the good news in our Lord's day as witness the crucifix. We who believe must speak out and we must ask for power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to do this.

A small boy had five loaves and three fishes and with these Christ fed five thousand. The point is that the child gave all he had and it was multiplied. Likewise we can give all we have and Christ will multiply it.

I would therefore suggest that the clergy and the Council of Churches should discuss mission as a matter of urgency and enable both the clergy, the church officials and the laity in our churches in Caversham to partake of this great work of spreading the good news and ask that the power of God will enable us to meet both his spiritual needs and our material needs in 1975.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Trevor Beabey.

17 Albert Road,
Caversham.

OUR JUNE EDITION

All contributions for the June edition of the Caversham Bridge must be sent to Church House by **Tuesday, 29th April.**

ASCENSION DAY. THURSDAY MAY 18th IN THE PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

HOLY COMMUNION

- 6.30am St. Andrew's.
- 7.00am St. Peter's.
- 9.30am St. Peter's.
- 10.00am St. John's.

SUNG EUCHARIST

- 7.30pm St. John's, St. Andrew's and St. Barnabas.
- 8.00pm St. Peter's and Caversham Park

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CAVERSHAM'S UNIQUE GAZEBO

The residents of Caversham justly love and are proud of the gardens of Caversham Court. The lawns and terrace and the noble yew hedges are beautifully kept, and with the poplar trees and the glimpses of the River Thames make this one of the loveliest spots in Reading. This was at one time the garden of the Old Rectory of Caversham.

EVENTS OF HISTORY

After the Restoration of King Charles II the Old Rectory was leased to Thomas Loveday, citizen and goldsmith, of London, and many later generations of the Loveday family owned and lived there. The most celebrated was John Loveday, philosopher and antiquary, who collected a famous library in the house which was later removed to another home of the family at Williamscoote. In his will Thomas Loveday, who died in 1681 left the house to his wife Mary, describing it as a "College Lease". For many years Christ Church Oxford, were the lessors.

A GARDEN HOUSE

The garden house or gazebo dates from just before the time of Thomas Loveday; a descendant of the family, searching through family diaries has found a reference to it having had a windvane dated 1663. It stood at first clear of trees, for the sake of the views of the river. If the trees surrounding it were cut back the interest and purpose of the builder would be more clear.

The Corporation of Reading owned the building for almost forty years during which time they were many times urged to repair it. The late Mr. C. B. Willcocks, the Berkshire Archaeological Society, Reading Civic Society and the Garden Historical Society were all involved. But finally the Council bound themselves by a resolution to do nothing to repair the building.

NOW, A POSSIBLE RESTORATION ?

In October 1973 a Trust was established with representatives of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, Reading District Council (the successors of the Corporation) and Reading Civic Society. The Trust plans to raise money for the repair of the building and to open it for public use. A scheme for improving the landscaping is to be prepared and it is to be useful and ornamental as it was originally intended to be. The lower room could be used for serving refreshments, and the upper as a lookout over the river.

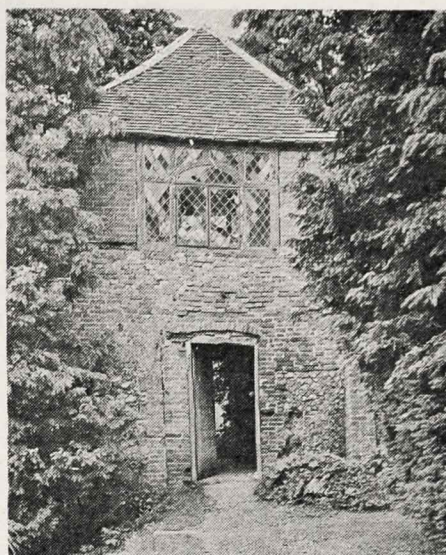
An appeal is being made locally and also to trusts and societies for help in raising this money. The estimated cost in 1971 when the Civic Society representatives first met the Corporation officers and members was under £4,000. It is now £6,000; with ever-rising costs the Trustees think it essential to ensure that the greater part of the money is in hand before work starts.

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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK YOU TODAY: "WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?", WHAT WOULD YOU REPLY? I venture to suggest that, in spite of being familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan, you would reply "Mrs. Jones" or "Mr. and Mrs. Brown", or you might ask: "Which side?"

I suppose I would have done the same a few years ago. Today, after years of family illnesses culminating in two recent deaths, I would give a very different answer. My neighbour is the friend who whipped up all the household laundry and took it home to do, she is the lady who visited my mother at least once a week for nearly a year, she is the nurse who, at the beginning of a heavy day's schedule, still found time for a cup of coffee and a friendly chat. My neighbour is the lady who overcame great shyness to make the odd visit; she is the friend who came unexpectedly to sit up all night with an invalid so that we could have a good night's rest, she is the colleague who arrived with a beautiful plant sent by members of her office to cheer us up after my mother's funeral. My neighbour is the lady who frequently sent flowers and offered nursing help, the social worker who quickly arrived bearing useful items for nursing.

My neighbours are the kind people who brought a meal in to us the day my mother died, thinking quite rightly, that we would not feel able to bother cooking ourselves; they are the dear friends who at a moment's notice were prepared to travel nearly 30 miles to sit with my sister in the hospital where her husband was dying. My neighbour is the young girl who prepared refreshments for nearly 50 people travelling from long distances for funerals. She is the friend 3,000 miles away who, in her own church, offered prayers continually and cheered us up with letters and cards.

My neighbours are the many Christian friends who offered help and who constantly held us in their prayers; they are the atheistic and agnostic friends who offered to do shopping or sit with invalids for a few hours. And there are many, many more — some I omit because they would not wish to be thanked or identified.

Oh yes, I know very well who my neighbours are, and it has nothing to do with where they live. They cared, they loved — they loved so much that funerals became events of deep thankfulness, not only for the lives of those who had died, but for the friendship and love revealed by them.

And now, returning to the Good Samaritan, I do well to remind myself of the final words of the parable: "Go and do thou likewise".

X.Y.Z.

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WHICH ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION?

When members of the parish of Caversham were consulted recently about which order of Holy Communion they felt should be used, over 200 replies were received. In a preamble to the questionnaire they were informed that the General Synod of the Church of England will shortly be considering some further revisions, and that therefore any change made by the parish now might have to be re-considered before long in the light of decisions by General Synod. From remarks made this helped to account for the fact that a majority (103) of those who replied were in favour of continuing to have both the Series 2 and Series 3 order of service used. Of the 99 who favoured one order only 44 stated a preference for Series 2, 34 for Series 3 and 21 did not specify which. A number of replies were also received from those who worship at times other than 9.15 am on Sundays.

The Church Council felt that the evidence was in favour of the continuance of the present arrangements until fresh options are made available by General Synod. This means that during 1975 Series 2 and Series 3 will be used on an equal number of Sundays in each district. At the other Sunday services and on weekdays the Prayer Book order or Series 2 will be used as at present.

We print below some of the comments made by members of the parish in sending in their replies to the questionnaire.

GENERAL COMMENTS

I have always preferred Series 3 because it is much easier to understand.

I have come to prefer Series 3 because the modern language tends to relate the service to today's problems and life in general.

Series 3 is a bit like soap powder adverts with its spiritual resonance. New series are too literal.

There is a considerable body of opinion, some of it outside the Church, which looks to the Church as a force of stability in a changing world. To such people the fact that a service has been unchanged for generations is not a sign that it is no longer valid, but a further evidence of the permanence of the church, and is to be welcomed.

The modern language of Series 3 should be continued at all costs to indicate the Church is a modern living institution to appear to the coming generations.

I feel an occasional variation is useful in preventing the service becoming a meaningless ritual.

I am rather doubtful about the present versions of the Lord's Prayer in Series 3 (several times).

I don't think I like either service more, but possibly as each has become familiar I dislike them less. They are both so disjointed and scrappy.

The use of Series 3 at the Church's great festivals must inevitably antagonise many of those who attend on these special occasions.

I cannot agree to the Creed being "We believe". On balance I prefer Series 2 but would prefer it updated to "you" and "your".

I feel that the form of service is to some extent irrelevant, being merely a vehicle for the act of communion.

I dislike Series 3 but Series 2 is a continuing joy.

I would like the language of Series 2 in the structure of Series 3.

Change is good — keeps people with it (Several times).

I like Series 2 more and Series 3 less — the attempts at modern English seem less relevant as time passes.

I have been told the services have to be changed because young people do not like these services in the Prayer Book, but my grandchildren (four of them) do not like the new services, especially Series 3 ("Do they think we are nitwits and cannot understand Medieval English?")

I would welcome a period of complete silence.

The modern words inserted in Series 3 have no religious significance. They might have sociological significance but I like to believe that my religion transcends mere sociology.

I find I like Series 3 more now. I particularly like the additions to the Thanksgiving "The Lord is here" "Christ has died" etc.

In Series 3 the confession is more meaningful.

The use of Series 3 has made me appreciate Series 2 the more though I think the intercessions in Series 3 are much better arranged.

I have come to like Series 3 more and to feel that Series 2 is an awkward compromise between the old and new. I think modern usage makes the service of Holy Communion very much more part of one's life and less a formal expression of faith.

Decide on one and stick to it — constant change is confusing.

As forms of service are still under discussion it seems sensible to use both.

Series 3 pleases. It is more likely to be of use to new young Christians and to people who are feeling their way to faith.

Why did we have to change. We were all very happy with Series 2?

Being elderly I cannot say "you" instead of "thee". I know it means the same thing, but why change it. I wonder if it will help younger people. I don't think it would have helped me when younger.

Series 3. The Lord's Prayer so helpful and what I want to pray.

I very much dislike making of religion "a thing apart". 17th century language does this all too easily. Better by far to grope for 20th century language in which to adore, confess, thank and intercede. I think it would be most unwise to commit ourselves to using only one of the forms available. Perhaps we might be reminded that to be able to attend a weekly Communion service with no danger to our liberty is a great blessing in itself.

COMMENTS ON THE MUSIC

One reservation about Series 3. The settings for Gloria and Creed etc. of the old service should not, in my opinion, be allowed to fall out of use.

Sing the Creed (several times).

The Gloria lacks harmony — it should be said.

I find the music of Series 3 more attractive, particularly the Gloria which is both bright and tuneful.

I find it extremely difficult to participate in the singing of Series 3, and from my observations, all but the most regular members of the congregation have also to resort to 'going through the motions' of miming.

Series 2 music is much better than Series 3 (several times).

If Series 2 and 3 are to alternate can we have the same setting for the whole month?

Neither arrangements for Series 3 fit the words.

The form of music in Series 3 seems too jazzed up.

I do hate having to 'tuck in' the words to fit the music.

Merbecke has a quality which modern versions lack.

I like all the music used and think we should continue to use a variety of settings.

Not impressed with the music for Series 3.

In the past music was composed to suit the words — now it seems the words must come second to the music.

I feel that if we continue with Series 3 the music could be better organized with the Creed set to music.

Although I think Series 3 should be discontinued I would regret the disappearance of Mr. Rowe's splendid setting to this.

The music for Series 3 was written I feel with only the choir in mind.

I prefer the music for Series 3 and find it easier to join in than that for Series 2 which seems to depend heavily on the choir.

It is adequate but not very inspired.

The music is beautiful at both services.

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March 9th Helen Richmond

Caversham Park Rebecca Coombs

March 2nd

WEDDINGS

St. Peter's

March 22nd Martin Dixon and Gillian Ball

St. John's

March 8th Peter Mouring and Brenda Millard

St. Andrew's

March 1st Peter Inswell and Judith Lloyd

St. Barnabas

March 22nd Clive Gritten and Felicity Roderick

FUNERALS

St. Peter's

March 27th Alice Hammond

April 4th Thomas Clifton

April 9th Harold Briggs

St. John's

March 13th William Reeley

April 9th William Castell

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AN AUTHORITY ON ARMY VEHICLES

AS A CHILD DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR MICHAEL CONNIFORD, NOW LIVING IN CAVERSHAM, often cycled from his home in Bedford to see the Army convoys passing along the Great North Road, and, as he watched, he noticed that every make of vehicle seemed to have numerous variations to its body work. Photographing was of course forbidden but this intensely interested lad sketched all that he saw, and on returning home translated his drawings into models. Then Dinky toys came on to the market and he collected Army models until he had as many as six hundred. By this time his youthful hobby had become much more than that; it was an insatiable quest for more and more knowledge on the subject.

SERVICE OVERSEAS

From 1953-1956 Michael Conniford was serving in the Army as an intelligence officer in Malaya and Northern Rhodesia with the Royal Berkshire Regiment, but having, strangely enough no connection with the mechanised side of this service. Around this time most war time Army vehicles had been replaced, and so this extended his whole range of interest and he increased his collection of reference books and amassed over 4,000 photographs. By 1968 the hobby had almost become an obsession until his wife, very wisely, suggested that he shared the vast amount of knowledge he had acquired with others. So he began to write down the mass of information he had discovered. Around that time a number of people were writing books on tanks, and he had to convince his publisher that books on Army lorries were 'a must'. Since then he has published twenty four books on the subject, primarily for modelling people. After the first two books had appeared Mr. Conniford began to do scale drawings to go with the information.

Looking around his study, where everything is neatly catalogued, it is amazing to see how much there is published on this one subject, but then Mr. Conniford manages to get almost everything that is available. By being persistent with companies that produce the vehicles, and also with foreign military attachées, he has acquired an extensive library of reference books. His next publication is already underway. There is nothing like a hobby, especially if, as Mr. Conniford says "I have one that finances itself."



Michael Conniford at work on his hobby

— WALTON ADAMS

OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The parish of Caversham needs to increase its income by £9,000 and Mapledurham by £1,500. These are the bald facts which inflation has brought to light. This year St. Peter's district expects to overspend by £2,000, St. Andrew's by about £1,440 and St. John's and St. Barnabas by about £150 each. The budget for Mapledurham shows an estimated deficit of £415. This means that there is likely to be a combined excess of expenditure over estimated income of about £4,000. To replace this money and allow for further inflation in 1976 it will be seen that the combined income of the two parishes needs to increase by at least £10,000, or else it will be necessary to reduce the number of clergy and close some of the buildings in a parish where new building is causing a steady increase in the population.

AUTUMN PLANS

The last stewardship campaign, which proved very successful was held in 1971. The campaign now being planned opens on Sunday, 5th October. The vicar and churchwardens of St. Giles have made that large church available for the Caversham campaign, and a special service will be held there on Sunday evening 5th October. The Bishop of Oxford will commission the visitors and members of the parish will be explaining to the congregation, which is expected to number several hundred, the financial needs of the parish and diocese. In anticipation of a sacrificial response the Bishop of Reading will be celebrating and preaching at a Eucharist of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, 28th October in St. Peter's Church, and at this service he will receive all the pledges that will have been made.

A training weekend for the members of the congregations who are to act as canvassers is being held in Oxford 20-21st September.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

EDUCATION

"BEST IN THE COUNTY, IF NOT THE COUNTRY"

FLU LAID LOW MR. A. A. ASHTON, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR BERKSHIRE, WHO WAS TO HAVE SPOKEN AT CAVERSHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. However, he sent along instead Mr. Peter Coles to deputise for him, and this he most ably did. Mr. Coles is the Science adviser to Berkshire Education Committee, so that although he gave his audience a run down on the administration of education under local government re-organisation, particularly stimulating was the presentation of some of his ideas on the philosophy and aims of education.

These are some of the points he made. The idea of education as a cure all has now been seen to be a failure. Schools cannot work effectively without the co-operation of society, and this includes parents and children. A school is as good as it is expected to be; and the reverse also holds true. The rule 'Ask and ye shall receive' is never truer than in schools, where improvements are in proportion to parental insistence. The idea that manual labour is no less worthy than brain work is only just beginning to be appreciated but once grasped, could transfigure education. Mr. Coles declared himself a firm believer in the principle of comprehensive schools, but not at any price. This would appear still to leave open for debate the future of Reading and Kendrick schools, but on Highdown School he was specific,

describing it as "the best of its kind in the county, if not the country." Discussion following Mr. Cole's talk was lively and showed a keen interest in educational matters, and indeed, with the county education budget running at £60M, people want to know that the money is being well spent if they are not to begrudge such a sum.

LIVELY SCHOOLS

Caversham is indeed fortunate in its schools. Its primary schools, not all of them perhaps in ideal buildings, are lively and enthusiastic places, where teachers, parents, children and managers all seem to pull their weight. Highdown is a school situated in Caversham rather than a Caversham school in the sense of being a neighbourhood school, but nevertheless a large proportion of its children come from Caversham and it makes its mark on Caversham life. Its newsletter, 'The Lowdown' gives a fascinating glimpse of the wide range of activities and interests of members of the school. Not surprisingly with their splendid facilities, sport plays a large part.

At the other end of the scale, Caversham has two of those commodities that are nationally in short supply, namely nursery schools. To complete the picture, there are two independent schools, Queen Anne's, which being a boarding school has few local pupils although it joins in local activities, and Hemdean House, a small flourishing day school, with close links with Caversham since the middle of the last century. And if that does not contain what the Caversham parent wants, the schools the other side of the river also accept Caversham children.

SWEET THAMES

The Rivers and Waterways group which has been working under the auspices of the Borough Council, produced their report in February and a very wide ranging and comprehensive document it was. Not surprisingly the chief conclusion to come out of it was that Reading's waterways are for the most part neglected

and in many places spoilt: and let us be honest about this. The nineteenth century was not the only guilty party: our own times have perpetrated their share of horrors. The section of the report dealing with the Thames stresses the importance of public access and draws particular attention to those sites along its banks now coming up for development. In Caversham the sites between the two bridges immediately behind the promenade come in for particular mention and also, not actually in Caversham but closely related to it, the land along Richfield Avenue. More closely in control of the Borough Council is the unsightly, neglected, but potentially attractive Hill's Meadow. Financial stringencies permitting, we should shortly see some improvements there.

BELFORD REGIS FROM CAWSAM

Congratulations to Reading Public Libraries on the charming folio of prints of old Reading in the time of Mary Mitford, that they have produced. It can be purchased from the Central Reference Library for £1.50 and is recommended as a delightful present, perhaps to oneself. The view of distant Reading from Caversham, just after the building of the railway (in many ways more of a barrier than the river) is a reminder of how separate these two were for most of their history. Caversham Road was a track across wet low lying land, criss crossed by streams and often impassable. A reminder of these days was the sight of the large culvert which was recently in danger of collapse, necessitating the road works at the Vastern Road junction. Caversham itself possessed many such streams, most of which are now culverted.

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AN AGEING CHRISTIAN'S
PRAYER

Lord thou knowest better than I myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips of my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by; I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint — some of them are so hard to live with — but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected people; and give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN.

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CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

READING'S CONTRIBUTION

Last year the Reading Area Christian Aid Committee raised £10,197 (exclusive of the money raised from the Sponsored Walk) and this year the Committee feel that they should aim at not less than £11,000. CAN THIS TARGET BE MET?

UNITED SERVICE

The East Central Reading Group of Churches have arranged for a united service to be held on Sunday, 18th May at 6.30 p.m. in Wesley Church, Queens Road and the preacher will be Rosamund Essex. Readers of the Bridge who will not have heard her preach that morning on St. Peter's will be very welcome.

SPONSORED WALK

The Walk this year will take place on Saturday, 7th May. The route to be used again this year is the route over the Chilterns. The start and finish are at Henley. Last year the number of walkers, drawn from the Reading, Bracknell, Henley, Marlow, South Chiltern and Wokingham areas was over seven hundred and the total amount raised was £4,700 of which £2,780 came from the Reading area.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 18th — 25th

ROSAMUND ESSEX TO PREACH IN CAVERSHAM

Prevented by illness from coming in Christian Aid Week 1972, Miss Rosamund Essex will be preaching at the Parish Communion at St. Peter's on Sunday, 18th May at 9.15 a.m. A former editor of the Church Times she has been closely connected with the work of Christian Aid for many years, having seen much of the work of this great movement at first hand: she will be able to speak from personal experience of the terrible plight of the pavement dwellers of Indian cities.

One of Oxford's early women students (and a keen oarswoman) Miss Essex, now aged seventy four, travels all over England to preach and lecture on behalf of Christian Aid. Caversham is indeed privileged to be receiving a visit from her, and the presence in the parish church at the start of Christian Aid Week of this inveterate champion of the underprivileged will give many people a chance to learn more of the needs facing Christian Aid, and of how it is tackling a number of enormous tasks in different continents.



A scene in the Sahel

DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL

THE READING CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE THIS YEAR is continuing to support the work which Christian Aid is undertaking in face of the devastation caused by the seven year drought in the Sahelian Region of West Africa. Last summer the drought was broken in many parts of this region by good to fair seasonal rains and this has helped Christian Aid to concentrate its resources on helping forward the measures of rehabilitation which are essential to the long-term solution for the people in this region.

DAMAGE TO PASTURE LANDS

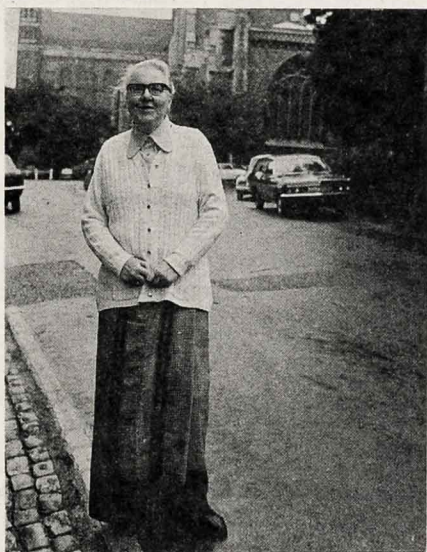
Celia Williams, Christian Aid's Project Officer, visited the Sahel in December and writes "The long years of drought have done tremendous damage to pasture-lands and have started processes of erosion and desertification which still continue. Thousands of families, formerly dependent on camels and cattle for their livelihood are still destitute. The wells in countless villages have dried up.

It is therefore more than one season of good rains which is needed in the Sahel. There has to be a long-term plan to fight erosion, to win back pasture-lands from the advancing desert and to re-plant trees which will bring shade and moisture to the soil. The nomadic families must be enabled to start their herds of cattle and camels again. Irrigation schemes must be started along the banks of the great River Niger so that sedentary peasants can earn a livelihood from irrigated farming and market gardening. Quick growing varieties of rice, millet and sorghum must be introduced."

SUPPORTIVE PILOT PROJECTS

"Such long-term plans are primarily the responsibility of the government of the Sahel, backed by the financial resources and expertise of the United Nations agencies and Western governments. The important way in which Christian Aid participates in these plans is by supporting small pilot projects which are showing the way forward, by encouraging and supporting groups of people in the Sahel who are working for their own future."

The recent grant of £35,000 to ten such projects brings the total Christian Aid commitment to the Sahel countries to £352,256 over two years and to this the Reading Committee have undertaken to contribute a further £5,000 this year.



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"WIDER STILL AND WIDER"

— by ZOILUS —

RUDYARD KIPLING WAS AN EDWARDIAN WHO LIVED UNTIL 1936 and whose philosophy was based on the 19th Century mystique of the Great White Queen and her Empire. "Wider still and wider — shall thy bounds be set. God who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet" was part of his hymn of empire, and set to the music of Elgar it became our second national anthem. His stories and his poems immortalised an age of overseas achievement, from Mr. Commissioner Sanders to the perennial squaddy of "Boots".

A fascinating figure was Rudyard Kipling and it is a familiar pattern of literary fame that, as his beloved Empire disappears into the mists of history, appreciation of his works is growing once again. Indeed, the race of empire builders is returning to England in a much more parochial form with the re-alignment of County boundaries, and producing a crop of modern Robert Clive's and Cecil Rhodes, eager to bring the advantages of urban living to the benighted inhabitants of the rural hinterland, in spite of the opposition of numerous village Hampdens.

At the end of March the Boundary Commission set themselves up in the Caversham Bridge Hotel to hear objections to the provisional boundary line they have drawn between Reading and South Oxon and Berkshire. According to the County that line is drawn far too tightly, they want the area within it to include Whitechurch, Peppard and Shiplake. Reading would be content to take over only Caversham Park and the nearer parts of Mapledurham and Tokers Green. But the

majority of the residents in these areas want none of this. Oxon they now are and in Oxon they want to stay and Sir Edmund Compton and his Commission were left in no doubt of their views.

Although there is certainly planning logic in bringing Caversham Park Village and the Upper Woodcote Road into Reading — for the first is already a suburb of the town to all appearances, and the second as much part of Caversham Heights as is Kidmore Road — one can sympathise with the folk who want to live "in the country" and fear any closer connection with the giant supermarket — office block complex that Reading has become since the war. Honeyed promises that there is no intention to allow an urban sprawl into the countryside and that Berks' record in rural preservation has always been good (and considerably better than Oxon's, it might be added) did not mollify those who thought the rot had started in 1911, when Reading took over Caversham.

Perhaps the whole argument is based on conflicting views of the theory "little is good, big is bad". At one time, growth in anything from human stature to national aspirations was thought commendable. Nowadays there is a swing to the opposite, whether in the size of families or the expansion of towns, and many want to prevent Britain becoming a little island of big cities, but until the conservationists are given a chance to practice what they preach we shall still be trying to put the proverbial quart in a pint pot.

"No annexation without representation" was the cry of the delegates from Caversham Park, who at present have nine councillors to help run their manor. They would rather be big fish in their own little pond than just another sprat among the perch and pike of the Reading aquarium. But if they do come into the borough they would have the consolation of a central voice in affairs and be able to help in establishing a restrictive planning policy for the outer areas which is the only way to preserve our rural amenities, and is the duty of whichever authority eventually takes control.

GUIDING IN EAST CAVERSHAM AND EMMER GREEN

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Meeting Place Caversham Park, C.P. School
Time Tuesday, 7 - 8.30 p.m.

3rd Caversham

Captain Mrs. Turner, 41 Southview Avenue Caversham. Tel. 477781.
Meeting Place Temporarily St. Anne's Hall, Caversham.
Time Wednesday 7 - 8.30 p.m.

6th Caversham St. Anne's R.C.

Captain Mrs. R. Hunt, 38 St. John's Road, Caversham. Meeting Place St. Anne's Hall, Caversham.
Time Friday 7 - 9 p.m.

1st Emmer Green

Captain Mrs. V. Grainger, 7 Phillimore Road, Emmer Green. Tel. 473263.
Meeting Place St. Barnabas Hall, Grove Road.
Time Thursday 7.15 - 9 p.m.

2nd Emmer Green

Captain Mrs. H. Holloway, 3 Penn Close, Emmer Green. Tel. 472636.
Meeting Place St. Barnabas Hall, Grove Road.
Time Wednesday 7 - 8.30 p.m.

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Brown Owl Mrs. J. Vardy, 152 Lowfield Road, Caversham Park. Tel. 479332.
Meeting Place Caversham Park, C.P. School.
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3rd Caversham St. John's

Brown Owl Mrs. J. Nicholls, 181 Henley Road, Caversham. Meeting Place Temporarily, St. Anne's Hall.
Time Thursday 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.

6th Caversham St. Anne's R.C.

Brown Owl Mrs. Mansfield, 14 South Street, Caversham. Meeting Place St. Anne's Hall.
Time Thursday 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.

1st Emmer Green

Brown Owl Mrs. Hicks, 14 Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green. Tel. 474402.
Meeting Place St. Barnabas Hall, Grove Road.
Time Thursday 5.30 - 7 p.m.

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Brown Owl Mrs. Evans, 174 Peppard Road, Tel. 472314.
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MAY 18th IS WHITSUNDAY

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MILESTONE WOOD SCOUT GROUP

MR. F. KNIGHT HAS SUCCEEDED MR. HORSLEY as chairman of the Milestone Wood Scout Group. Mr. Knight was responsible for founding the group in 1951 and was Group Scout Leader until his retirement in 1971.

The Group has so far raised £300 this year from the sale of newspapers and periodicals. £1,500 is needed for improvements to the headquarters. The Annual Fete takes place on 7th June.

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CHURCH NEWS

CAVERSHAM'S ANNUAL MEETINGS

ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS was very similar to last year — about two hundred people attended district meetings and a further seventy the parochial meeting on 12th March.

Church warden retires

Mr. Gordon Page retired from the office of Churchwarden, and tributes were paid to him by his colleague Mr. F. C. Moore who was re-elected, and the Rector. At the annual parochial meeting Mr. Page was presented with a pair of binoculars and two books and Mrs. Page with a bouquet. Mr. Page replying spoke of the privilege of having been able to serve first as a district warden at St. Barnabas and then as churchwarden. Mr. W. A. Vincent was elected as churchwarden in place of Mr. Page, and Mr. Vincent's successor as district warden of St. Andrew's is Mr. D. Cooper.

Church Council elections

The following were elected to serve on the Church Council (the names include those who continue to serve on the deanery synod for a further year).

St. Peter's — Messrs K. Bennett and T. D. Birtwhistle (wardens) Mr. H. Burton, Mrs. P. Coome, Mrs. L. Cropp, Mr. D. A. Doggett, Mr. C. Hubbard, Mr. E. M. Smith, Mr. P. South, Mr. R. J. Stratford. *St. John's* — Messrs. S. Holmwood and P. Tipton (wardens). Mr. C. Badger, Mr. K. Deane, Mrs. D. Gillett, Miss K. Harris, Mr. K. J. Nicholls, Mrs. A. Yates.

St. Andrew's — Messrs A. Burton and D. Cooper (wardens). Mrs. P. Beabey, Mr. L. Hardy, Mr. R. Ho-

garth, Mr. P. Marsh, Mrs. V. Parmenter, Mr. J. Tomlin.

St. Barnabas' — Messrs D. Miles and O. Jewiss (wardens). Mr. R. Barnes, Mr. G. Davies, Mrs. D. E. Gillings, Mr. M. Matthews, Mr. C. G. C. Page, Mrs. M. Russell.

Caversham Park — Mr. G. Goldsmith, Mr. J. Wilson.

Treasurer's report

The parochial treasurer, Mr. E. M. Smith, in presenting the annual accounts spoke of the most encouraging response there had been to the emergency appeal in the spring of 1974. As a result of this it had been possible to meet the expected deficit of about £3,000 and also to make a small increase in the very slender reserves of the parish. It was however apparent that all districts were budgeting for deficits in the present year, and it was impossible, because of the forthcoming stewardship campaign, to make a further appeal until then. It was therefore vital that the autumn campaign should bring the parish a big increase in income as from November.

The year reviewed

The Rector, in his report, reviewed the work of the Church in the parish: Family Festival had undoubtedly been the outstanding event of 1974. He thanked his colleagues and the Readers for their help and support, the parish secretary and the Rev. H. N. Smith, chaplain of Queen Anne's School. He also welcomed to the parish two recently retired priests Canon Basil Clarke and the Rev. John Carr. Speaking of the growth of church life at Caversham Park he said "I am sure we are seeing now the wisdom of

not spending thousands of pounds on bricks and mortar; we have built a church in the New Testament sense with a capital C and not a small c; people are more important than buildings and in the words of our new archbishop we have to choose between mission and maintenance—my vote will go every time for mission". The Rector went on to speak of the difficulties facing St. John's district and of his personal disappointment that Caversham Methodist Church had rejected the proposals for the two congregations to share one building. He pointed out that he was able to devote very little time to pastoral work among members of St. Peter's congregation, because of time taken up on work generally in the parish, and questioned whether it was healthy for the parish as a whole that St. Peter's should be finding so large a share of the parish expenses — 47% as at present.

During the year the parish had given up the use of St. John's Hall and was withdrawing on 31st March from the Old Stables at Caversham Court; the alterations to St. Peter's would make it possible for the west end of the nave to house many of the meetings at present held in Church House. The Rector went on to explain that the number of clergy in the diocese was to be reduced from the present figure of 557 to 437 by the end of 1980; he was unable to say at present what effect this would have on Caversham.

SAINT PETER'S NEWS

Congratulations to Denys and Valerie Birtwhistle who will be celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, 27th April.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

Some interesting ideas were given to members on 18th March when Mrs. Welsh spoke about Libbys foods: no doubt many husbands subsequently enjoyed some changes of menu. May brings the welcome return of Mrs. Barbara Justham who will be talking on "Singing for pleasure".

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

The Rector's interesting talk on the Gospels and the author of each was much appreciated.

Blankets were made by Mrs. Hutson and Mrs. Cropp and squares were knitted by other members. Any oddments of wool will be welcome.

The annual outing will be to Chichester on 8th May.



— L. L. BURN

The presentation being made to Mr. G. Page on his retirement as Churchwarden.

JUNE FAIR AT CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The Annual June Fair will be held on 7th June 1975.

The Guests of Honour for the afternoon will be the Reverend and Mrs. Stephen Bartlett of Caversham Park Church. The afternoon will include stalls, sideshows teas, competitions and an entertainment. The June Fair will commence at 3 p.m. and will be held in the church grounds. All are welcome to come and join in the fun.

JOINT EVENING SERVICES TO END

For over four years Anglicans and Methodists in Caversham have worshipped together on the third Sunday evening of the month — six times a year the Anglicans have cancelled Evensong and six times a year members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church have cancelled their evening service. When this was first done in 1970 a considerable number of the different congregations did visit each other on the third Sundays, but recently many Anglicans and Methodists seem to have been thinking "Oh, the third Sunday of the month — that is the week I stay at home in the evening". So it has been decided that it will be more realistic to bring this "experiment" to an end. It is however hoped that on special occasions well attended united services will be held.

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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. 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, 72 Highmoor 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. Peter's—Balmore Hall: 11 a.m. (not 3rd Sunday of the month).
Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Tel. 476494.

St. Andrew's—St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m. Age four years and upwards.

St. Barnabas—Church Hall, 9.15 a.m.

METHODIST

Caversham Heights—in Church, 11 a.m. Age three years and upwards.

Superintendent: Mr. D. Tutty, 5 Carlton Road. Tel. 477384.

BAPTIST

11 a.m. Age 3 years and upwards.

Secretary: Miss I. Marshall, 16 Albert Road. Tel. 474478.

East Caversham—Age three to seven, Caversham Hall, 11 a.m. to noon. Enquiries to Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent, Tel. 472084, or Mrs. S. Holley, 41 Briants Avenue. Tel. 477142.
Age seven upwards, Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11 a.m. to noon (in Methodist Church for first 15 minutes). Enquiries to Mrs. J. Trevis, 40 All Hallows Road.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

EDITOR: The Rev. Canon J. G. Grimwade
59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel. 471703.

ASST. EDITOR: The Rev. B. Gardiner,
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Caversham. Tel. 472788.

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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.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.45 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.15 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.30 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.
6.30 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, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
10.30 a.m. 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.

Caversham

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

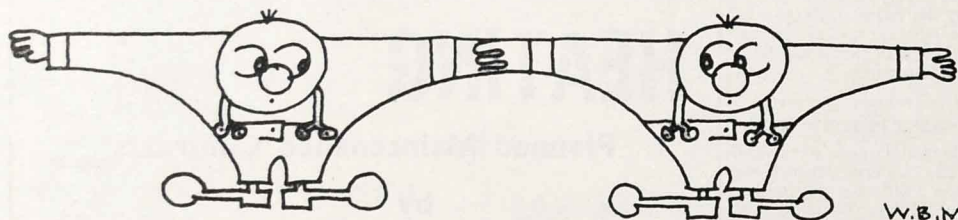
ROMAN CATHOLIC

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.



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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 :

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3. Look after children ☐
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WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mr. N. S. Ide, 3 Ibstone Avenue. Tel. 477007.

ROUND THE CLUBS

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

The retiring President, Mrs. B. Osborn, presided over the Annual General Meeting of Maplewood W.I. Mrs. P. Turner, the Treasurer, read her statement for the past year, and Mrs. B. Lawford gave her report on the past year's activities. Mrs. Haig, our delegate to Autumn Council Meeting was indisposed; her report was read by Mrs. B. Belfield-Smith. The President's address followed, and a new committee voted for. Mrs. K. 'Bubb' was elected President.

On display were varied handicrafts made by members, and a cookery section of homemade bread, scones and jam tarts.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

The Annual General Meeting of Blagrove W.I. was presided over by Mrs. Wilkie who welcomed members and friends and introduced the Speaker, Mrs. Hill V.C.O., who gave a most interesting and helpful talk on Programme Planning and made some very constructive suggestions for the future.

The Annual Reports were read and adopted, and Mrs. Wilkie thanked the Committee and other members for their help and support over the past year. The Financial Statement was particularly gratifying as it showed an increased Ba-

lance-in-Hand achieved in areas in all seasons; the spite of inflation and a beauty of the trees in blossom, fields of waving corn, Mapledurham Pavilion the river in full spate with Committee towards the threatening black clouds cost of curtains for the new above, and snow scenes reminiscent of Christmas cards were all included. As well as the artistic and witty commentary Mr. Carter also gave practical information as to the whereabouts of the local beauty spots, and as an added bonus the nearest car parks and picnic areas.

Mrs. Wilkie was re-elected President and a vote of thanks was given to her for all her work and efforts over the past year. Arrangements were finalized for the Theatre Outing to Swindon and the Competition for the best bowl of flowering bulbs was won by Mrs. Menary.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The meeting was held on Thursday, 20th March. Mrs. Barrow Presided. Miss Baker gave the financial statement. An interesting talk was given by Mr. Van Zonaran from Basingstoke on plants and flowers. Hav-

slides showing the River Thames and surrounding Holland, he also judged a

flower arrangement competition won by Mrs. Smith.

Pillow cases made from old sheets by members were collected for children's homes.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

A beautiful selection of house plants decorated the tables when Mr. J. K. Burras, from the Botanical Gardens at Oxford gave us a very informative talk on their care.

The tremendous range of house plants in shops and garden centres come from every corner of the world, and we buy a plant for its looks, instead of considering the care it requires. Mr. Burras advised us to think of the situation in the room before we purchase a plant, considering light and temperature, and be guided by the grower's instructions on watering and feeding. He also demonstrated how and when a plant needs repotting. Members were very pleased with all the expert advice.

The bring and buy sale was in aid of the British Sailors Society. A competition for a miniature or other flower arrangement was won by Mrs. B. Morgan and Mrs. P. Steward.

"DO WE CARE ENOUGH?"

SUNDAY 11th MAY, 4.30 - 7 p.m.

at

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

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Speakers:

Mr. TONY DURANT, M.P. for Reading North
and
The Rev. MICHAEL GROWTHER-GREEN
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MAPLEDURHAM'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual parochial meeting for St. Margaret's was poorly attended. Apart from the Rector and the Rev. Michael Kitchener only eleven members of the electoral roll were present. Mr. B. A. Martyn-Johns and Mr. W. J. A. Thomas were re-elected as Churchwardens and thanked warmly by the Rector for the tremendous amount of hard work put in by them both. Others who were elected to the Church Council were Miss J. Banks, Mr. E. Foster, Miss M. Kift, Mr. H. Matthews, Mrs. H. Solloway and Mrs. J. Wright. Mr. Thomas, in presenting the accounts mentioned the heavy expenditure during the last year, which resulted in substantial over-spending; this was largely due to the damage caused to the Church tower by a gale, and the re-decoration of Mapledurham Church House. The budget for 1975 also showed an expected deficit of £415. Plans however are in hand for holding a stewardship campaign in October. Sunday worship was discussed and it was agreed that the Family Service should start at 10.30 a.m. rather than at 10 a.m. and that on the fourth Sunday of the month Matins would be combined with the Parish Communion.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by



— Walton Adams

PETER SHOCK

IF YOU DARE TO ASK YOUR PARENTS HOW THEY ENJOYED THEIR LEISURE HOURS IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE 'TELLY' EPIDEMIC SET IN, they may relate to you the hilarious times they spent around the Snakes and Ladders board. It is amazing how those all-square pastimes have been the source of amusement and meditation through the centuries. Among the most popular of the present-day diversities is 'Scrabble', the famous word-game that swept America in the 1950's. Unlike many innovations from the other side of the Atlantic, it took a few years to reach us on the rolling tide. The idea was the invention of an American, James Brunot, who came from Newtown, Connecticut. Like 'Patience' it was originally intended as a solo game for lonely hearts, but it was soon adapted for participation by up to four contestants. 'Scrabble' is now so popular in Britain, and quite important competitions are held in many parts of the country. My first attempt at the game was at a Christmas party in 1973 and since then I have found it a most stimulating activity. This year we introduced it into the Boys' Clubs' Tournament, the worthy champions being Peter Nathan of Lowfield, and Kevin Douglas of Caversham West.

It is always a good plan to have a comprehensive dictionary on hand — or better still, obtain a copy of the Scrabble Word Guide, as you could well be forgiven for not knowing that 'dhobi', 'gecko', 'palpi' and 'sybo' are all symbolisms of the Queen's English!

* * * * *

Anyone with fund-raising problems? Reader's Digest have recently come out with a scheme to help Organisations to keep afloat. They call it their 'Community Service Programme', and provide quality goods such as LP's, confectionery and colourful hand-made candles for club members to sell to their relatives, friends, and people in their own circle of influence. They will provide free of charge, promotional aids, posters and window displays, and you can't lose, as they take back what is not sold. The area Field Manager, who will be pleased to come and

discuss the plan is Gordon Hall, 17 Ferncroft Avenue, Eastcote, Middlesex, HA4 9JE, Tel. 01-868 6514.

Also I have just received Thompson & Creighton's latest catalogue of fund-raising items suitable for your Garden Fete or Club Sale event, and which includes diaries and calendars for 1976, if you want to get your orders in early! To receive a copy of the firm's catalogue, write to Thompson & Creighton Ltd., North Tyne Industrial Estate, Whitley Road, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9SN.

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A GOOD DAY'S TRADING

The Nearly New Shop held in Church House on Saturday, 12th April took £250. The money is to be divided between two of last year's Family Festival Charities — the Simon Community and the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

SPORTS COLUMN

by



— Walton Adams

STAN ELDON

TO COMPETE OR NOT TO COMPETE

If we do not win the World Cup in Soccer or any Olympic Medals in the next twenty years or so, it can be blamed on the present attitude towards sport in many schools. It seems that the 'in' thinking is not to introduce real competition between youngsters at school as there has to be a loser, and this, so some people think, is bad for them. What has ever been achieved in this world without competition of one sort or another ? ? ? ?

NO CONTEST

A good example of this attitude is the following incident which actually happened, not in Caversham, but only a few miles away and if not yet typical of all schools it is certainly occurring far too frequently.

A football match was arranged between two primary schools to decide which one went through to the next round of an inter-school competition. The match was played in very bad conditions, pouring rain and very muddy but both teams played their hearts out to win the match, watched by a band of equally enthusiastic parents. The match ended in a draw and after several days a couple

of the boys from one of the teams asked the master responsible about the replay to be told "There won't be one if I have anything to do with it." Which is where it finished as two days later when the boys enquired again, they were told the school had given the match to the opposing team because "We would get beaten in the next round anyway!"

It may be old fashioned but I prefer the days when every achievement of a school or one of its members was shouted from the rooftops and that enthusiasm was shared by the Headmaster, Staff and all the school.

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