

OUR RESIDENT M.P.

by Margaret Hill

When the editor asked me to interview our local Member of Parliament, Mr. Tony Durant, I was flattered enough to accept without a second thought, but on the appointed Sunday morning as I stood on the doorstep of his home in Surley Row wondering if the bell I had pushed actually worked (it didn't!), I was in fear and trepidation.

I need not have worried. The family who ushered me into the checkered-floored hall where the plates on an old dresser looked as if they had been glinting for years was warm and welcoming, and perhaps just a little bit apprehensive about meeting me. Karen, the pretty nearly-sixteen-year-old daughter of the house, opened the door, closely attended by twin brother Nicholas and nine-year-old Marcus. Their parents, Audrey and Tony Durant were just showing the Bridge photographer out of their living-room, and I felt an immediate liking for them as they greeted me, making me feel I was a wanted guest and not just another nuisance intruding on their family Sunday morning.

Living in the constituency

Tony Durant appears to be Reading's first Member of Parliament to reside in his Constituency since a Liberal M.P. lived in the Borough at the turn of the century, and Reading North electors are lucky to have a Member of Parliament who actually hopes to represent them long enough to make his home here.

Only two weeks since the family had moved in and yet there was already a feeling that people really lived in and were getting to love this old house built in 1800, its thick white walls picked out in shining black paint and Wisteria hanging thickly round the back door. Slim and attractive Audrey Durant told me two of her hobbies were gardening and upholstery and already the garden showed signs of her hard work.

We sat in the living-room where white walls were broken only by a huge fireplace and shelves of books, and where the deep-set windows had a charm of their own even without the curtains Mrs. Durant told me she was making herself. I had been told that Mr. Durant's hobbies included Golf and Boating and although he said he had loved the latter since his days in the Royal Navy, and hoped to pursue this hobby locally, my question about the former provoked family merriment and cries of "When did you last find time to play?" Certainly a Member of Parliament's life is a full one, but one hopes that we are not asking so much from people in public life that they cannot occasionally enjoy their favourite recreations like the rest of us.

Commuter M.P.

Living in a commuter area such as Caversham also means a good deal of time spent travelling, and knowing that Reading has a strong pressure group in the Reading and District Passengers' Association at present lobbying M.P.s regarding tax relief for the cost of travel between home and work, I asked Mr. Durant for his views on this. His reply was to give me a Notice of Amendment to the



Walton Adams

Finance (No. 2) Bill which on his own initiative he is bringing before the House which proposes that employed earners be granted tax relief on amounts exceeding £100 but not greater than £500, spent on travelling to their place of employment. Considerable interest has been taken in this Amendment, to the extent that many other Members have asked to be associated with it and have expressed the view that the costs of getting to work are now so great for so many people that some kind of tax relief does seem necessary. Caversham commuters will certainly be behind Mr. Durant in this.

Born in 1928 and educated at Bryanston School, Tony Durant has worked at all levels of political activity, from Chairman of his local Young Conservatives to Constituency Agent and National Organiser of the Young Conservative Movement. Elected for Reading North in the March and October elections last year, he is now Joint Secretary of the Conservative Back Bench, and among his other Parliamentary posts is Co-ordinator of the Conservative Parliamentary Environment Group. In his business life he is a Director of Audio Visual Aids Company dealing with Industrial Training and Education, but in spite of all these calls upon his time he is obviously very much a family man.

The Family

Nicholas, in appearance a striking replica of his father, is a keen Young Conservative and member of a debating Society, and has already been allowed to take his 'O' levels at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, where he is now starting on an 'A' level course. Thanks to the help of friends with whom they are staying in term-time, both he and his sister are remaining at the school where Karen is now taking 'O' level examinations. Marcus, for whom the family move has meant changing schools, is starting at Crosfields, and his parents hope that he may be able to go on to Reading School in due course.

All the children helped enthusiastically in their father's election campaign, and Audrey Durant told me that she enjoys being part of the working team and felt that she had made many friends here even before coming to live in Caversham. She has herself been taking a Philosophy and Politics Course at Brooklands Technical College with a City and Guild Course to 'O' level on Food and Family, progressing now to a study of pure Sociology, and her deep interest in these subjects must certainly help her in her role as an M.P.'s wife.

Readers of the Caversham Bridge of all political persuasions will, I am sure, welcome this talented family in their midst and wish them happiness in their new home.

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The Editor's Column

NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY

The varied contents of this edition of the Caversham Bridge suggest once again that we are very fortunate in having a strong community sense in Caversham and Mapledurham. But no community can ever afford to be complacent, and when, as is the case in Caversham, there is a rapid change of population it is continually necessary to find new people to take on voluntary work in our community. The existence of this newspaper, for example, depends upon about 240 distributors who take it to some 4,000 homes each month. Each year about thirty of these have to be re-placed and the total number increased so that it can reach the occupants of the new houses that are continually being built. The Bridge Scheme of Social Service is always short of helpers, especially car drivers, and if you could help in any way please fill up the form on page 10. The Scout and Guide movements and other youth organisations are constantly on the search for leaders, and the Reading Samaritans need fifty helpers annually to replace those who retire or move away, Caversham can fairly be expected to find several of these.

New problems

A community however can never be static and new problems and opportunities for service will constantly be appearing. The problem of alcoholism, especially among young people, is one to which we should be directing our attention. The leader of the Emmer Green Youth Club, has been aware of this for some time, and the ready availability of alcohol must give us all cause for concern. The growth of off-licences at super-markets needs questioning. Is it a fact that it is all too easy for quite young children to buy cyder and other alocholic drinks? What steps are being taken to enforce the law?

Some months ago a hope was being expressed that it would be possible for a church organisation to establish a home in Caversham for single parent families. It seemed that such a home would be a real practical expression of the thinking and work behind last year's Family Festival. It still seems that this is a real possibility and through the good offices of the Reading Council of Churches Housing Association and the money made available from Family Festival I hope we shall before too long be able to report in these columns that such a house has been established. The concern expressed over the delay in launching this scheme is itself some evidence of the support for the idea that is apparent in the local community.

The role of the Church

The Christian Church can rightly claim to be playing its part in creating this sense of community in Caversham. Clearly any community which takes seriously its claim to be Christian must be concerned to reveal the compassion of Christ. But we cannot for long keep the second commandment if we neglect the first one, the loving of God. Roots may not be visible but they are vital: the roots of a Christian community depend on a whole hearted devotion to our Lord, and that devotion is fed through prayer and Bible reading and the Christian Sacraments. If we are honest those of us who claim to follow Christ must admit that in these matters we are poor disciples. We no longer know our Bibles as did an earlier generation and an earlier generation would be at a loss to understand how it is that so many people think to-day in terms of fortnightly worship, a practice with no justification in Scripture. They would be equally astonished to find that amid the riches of Caversham life the Church's work is so often hampered by lack of money. I cannot speak for other branches of the Christian Church but it is a grave reflection on the Church of England that with thousands of people in Caversham claiming to be its members, it expects to overspend by £4,000 this year. As I said last month, unless the stewardship campaign in October increases income by £9,000 annually (to recover this year's loss and in a time of inflation to make ends meet in 1976) we shall find that the structure which has made possible the creation of our community life has to be sacrificed. Hundreds of people look to the church to provide halls for community purposes: what they do not know is that these halls have cost the church congregations many thousands of pounds over recent years. Others take for granted the existence of a parish office: they look to the clergy both to serve them personally in time of need as well as to give leadership in the life of the community. But halls and a parish office and clergy cost money. The time has now come when anyone who claims to be 'C of E' must recognise that pennies do not drop from heaven, and that to-day it is pounds rather than pence that must be provided by God's people for God's work. So though in the past newcomers to Caversham and Mapledurham have frequently expressed delight in finding what seems to them a welcoming and vigorous community, we have to accept the blunt truth that this can only be maintained of roots of two different kinds are strengthened-on the one hand there must be a far deeper devotion to the person of Christ, on the other a willingness to be realistic about our financial obligations.

John Grimdale

Martin and Philippa Loveless



MARTIN AND PHILIPPA LOVELESS who arrive on St. Peter's Day (Martin will have been ordained deacon that morning at Slough) will bring more musical talent to the parish of Caversham. Martin himself taught music before he started his theological training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Philippa read music at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and it looks as though between them they can play most instruments in a symphony orchestra. Together with their small daughter Judith they take up residence at 25 Ilkley Road in succession to Bernard, Penny and Emily Metcalfe.

Notice

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for the Caversham Bridge and material for the August Edition must be submitted by Tuesday July 1st. It will be appreciated that space sometimes does not permit all material to be published, and preference is naturally given to news items relating to events in Caversham and Mapledurham rather than elsewhere.

SCOUTING NEWS

Mr. Chick Fowler of Grosvenor Road, Caversham, has recently received one of Scouting's highest awards. He was presented with the Silver Acorn by the Chief Scout at a Rally on 11th May for Scouts and Cubs at Greenham Common, for distinguished service to scouting.

Chick was a Scout Leader for many years, then Assistant District Commissioner for Reading and now devotes his time to the administrative field. He was former Chairman of the Reading and District Scout Council, and is now Vice Chairman for the County of Berkshire.

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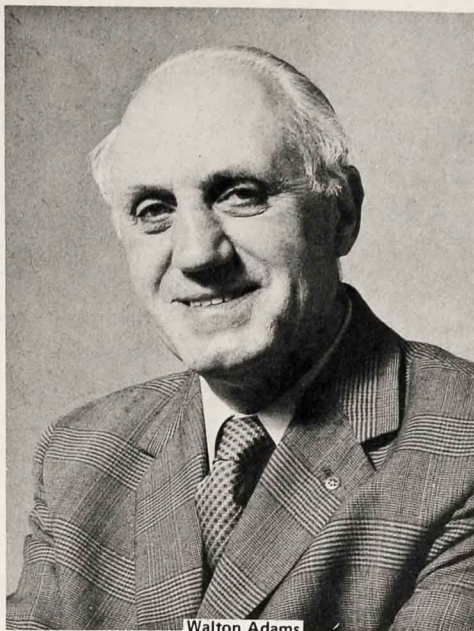
A further article in the series on local Organists and choir-masters: **RALPH LASCELLES** organist at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

For Ralph Lascelles to become a church organist was a natural outcome of having an organist father and a choir mistress mother, both serving Tilehurst Methodist Church, a church at which Ralph himself was later to become Organist.

Born in Tilehurst of a family indigenous in Reading for some three generations, Mr Lascelles started music lessons at the age of twelve and began his career as a church organist in 1924 at Trash Green Methodist Church, Burghfield. With the closure of that Church Ralph became organist of Caversham Methodist Church for a short while before 'returning home' to Tilehurst Methodist Church, where he stayed until enlisting in the forces in 1940.

SILVER JUBILEE

Following a spell abroad including two years as organist to St. John's Cairo Mr Lascelles returned to England and accepted the post as organist to Theale Congregational Church, remaining there until 1950 when he became organist to Caversham Heights Methodist Church. In April of this year Ralph Lascelles' Silver Jubilee as organist to the 'Heights' Methodist



Walton Adams

Church was marked by a weekend of music presented by choir and organists. The celebrations included a splendid supper on the Saturday evening. During the course of the celebrations Mr Lascelles was presented with a Parker Pen and Pencil set in an engraved presentation case.

THE OTHER RALPH

Spanning almost a lifetime we have here the work of a man devoting his time to church music. Mr Lascelles does not regard

himself as a 'recitalist in the organ loft' in any sense, but rather as a leader of congregational singing, taking pains to play a hymn as it is phrased, and with expression, which is so important. Mr Lascelles is all for change and progression in music, if it is an aid to worship and not gimmicky.

As to be expected Ralph Lascelles is very interested in organ constructions and in particular displays a righteous pride in his own instrument, which is one of the largest organs in Caversham, a legacy from Trinity Congregational Church and which will be a hundred years old in 1978.

Mr Lascelles is a very busy man indeed, living a crowded life. The list of activities is seemingly endless. A little gardening and 'Do it yourself' for relaxation, followed by Tribunal work as a stimulant and having, also, a very active interest in medicine. He is Vice Chairman of the Berkshire Family Practitioner Committee which deals with the administrative side of medicine.

Mr Lascelles is well known in business circles of the district having been Managing Director of Herbert & Lascelles, the firm of electrical contractors, from 1946 until his retirement. He was also a pioneer of television in the late 1930s.

Earlier this year, accompanied by members of his family, Ralph Lascelles went to Buckingham Palace to receive his M.B.E. from Her Majesty the Queen. A just reward for a man who has contributed so much for his fellowmen.

Dear Sir,

I should be grateful to be allowed to comment on your leading article concerning Ecumenical activities in Caversham. As secretary of last year's Family Festival, and Chairman of the follow-up Link Group, I am demonstrably interested in this whole field of work. As, however, I hope to hand over the latter office shortly, I have no personal axe to grind!

I feel that combined ventures such as Family Festival, far from being an irrelevant gimmick as has been suggested, are an essential part of Christianity if it is to have any meaning in the world today. Unless people of all Churches are SEEN to be worshipping together, working together, and working as a body with non-church organisations, we can hardly expect to be taken seriously when we claim that we have a common objective in the reconciliation of the world with God through Jesus Christ.

Joint activities, where we look outside our own needs to those of others, as in the Bridge Scheme and the Link Group, are, in a small way, jointly acknowledging Christ's second commandment, to love our neighbour. I do not think that these things are just sidelines, or an additional luxury if we have manpower to spare. They should be an integral part of Christianity.

I do not agree that Family Festival took away work from the Co-ordinating Committee. There is more than enough for everyone to do. But I do think that more Co-ordination would be helpful.

If the Bridge Scheme, the Link Group, and any other active interdenominational organisation, could have representation on the Co-ordinating Committee, the work of all of them could be complementary, instead of either overlapping or leaving gaps. If the names of the C.C.C.C. representatives could be publicized in their own Churches and in the Bridge, anyone

with any ideas would know who to contact, without having to take up the time of one of the Clergy. (I do not think I am alone in not knowing who the representatives are - indeed for the year in which I worked almost full-time for Family Festival, I did not know that there WAS a Co-ordinating committee!)

In this way, a useful and lively Forum of ideas could be established, and perhaps a balance struck between ecumenism with the full use of all Church buildings, manpower, and resources; and the security and feeling of belonging which many people seem to experience only by being part of one particular congregation.

I should finally like to say that, without the support of the Caversham Bridge, none of these activities would have been possible, and it certainly deserves our gratitude.

Yours etc,

Doreen Bennett
157 Upper Woodcote Road,
Caversham.

CHRISTIANS FOR EUROPE

Dear Sir,

I was disappointed to see your front page headline in June's issue, 'Christians for Europe', as it was less than unbiased on an issue on which there is sincere difference of opinion. Although the article did concede that Christians were not necessarily committed to membership of the E.E.C., the whole weight was given to reasons why Christians should support entry.

In the debates leading up to the referendum, it was clear that Christians, as much as adherents of different political parties, were divided on this issue and it would have seemed only fair to have given equal prominence to the other point of view.

The referendum is now gone and past, but what surely matters, whatever the result, is that membership or non-membership should be used as an opportunity to further the greater good of mankind. It is at this stage that the reasons for voting as one did, rather than the way one voted, become important. Christians or non-Christians, and members of political parties can with equal sincerity be for or against the E.E.C.

Yours, Molly Casey (Mrs)

The announcement published in the June edition of the Caversham Bridge on this subject was sent to the editor: no Christian group opposing entry sent any contribution: nor indeed was any group opposing entry known to be in existence. A great many Church leaders throughout the country, including the Bishop of Oxford, made known their own support for Britain remaining in Europe.

M.M.O/C

Editor.

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TALKING POINT**FOOD RATIONING
COULD IT... SHOULD IT... HAPPEN AGAIN?**by **LAURENCE STEVENS**

I AM JUST OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER standing in a very long queue at the Food Office, holding my mother's coat tails, waiting for the issue of emergency ration cards when we went to stay with relatives. It was my first knowledge of rationing. A few years later, after the war, I well remember the joy, something akin to that at the celebrated relief of Mafeking, when we children heard that sweet rationing was abolished, and we were able to purchase such sweets as pocket-money (and their availability) would allow.

Having thus revealed these formative and traumatic experiences, I wish to make it clear that I am no lover of rationing, or a believer in rationing for rationing's sake. Yet recently, I have found myself wondering whether it should be seriously considered again.

It was only recently that I learned that bread rationing was introduced for the first time after the war, not so much for the sake of fair shares in this country only, but to prevent starvation in other parts of the world. It was Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin who "practically chivvied President Truman into creating the grain reserve which in the desperate winter of 1946-7 prevented starvation in Europe and India" (Barbara Ward). Even though the British people had become accustomed to food rationing by that time, it must still have taken immense courage to introduce further rationing. Bread was rationed. The fat ration was cut by one ounce so that babies in India wouldn't die. That was in 1946.

Is the time ripe to do something similar again? The

world shortage of food has pushed up our own domestic food prices in the last couple of years far more than any other factor, such as membership of the European Common Market. We all felt the effect of the failure of the Russian harvest, when they bought up nearly all of the American grain surplus. The problems were much worse for the less affluent nations. The problem could possibly become more dangerous for Britain unless action is taken, for we produce only 60%-75% of the food we need. It is in everybody's interest that food shortage problems should begin to be tackled now.

Lifeboat theory

One immediately meets the objection that what we need is not more food, but fewer people. The argument goes that only so many can clamber onto the lifeboat, and if we help too many aboard, the whole craft will founder, so we must ignore the problem of the starving and let them die.

Common humanity, let alone a Christian conscience which remembers the parable of Jesus about the Rich Man (Dives) and the Poor Man (Lazarus), cannot stomach such a solution. The plain facts are that it is still possible to feed humanity, using new and old techniques, backing the small farmer. The Chinese proverb, "Don't give a man a fish. Teach him to be a fisherman himself", is still possible and practical. Yet short-term solutions are needed as well.

Fewer children?

The fear in many people's minds is that the more one feeds the hungry, the more their number will grow. The facts do not seem to support that. One of the reasons for the almost panic production of children in the overpopulated areas of the world is the feeling that most of them are going to die. When food supplies become more certain, then parents can say "I don't

really have to have 15 to keep three!" There is a real connection between food supply and stabilised families. Food is an essential element in any population policy.

Would food rationing help? Probably it would be too unpopular, unless a real flood-tide of public opinion demanded that something more be done about the immense world food problems. Alan Booth, the Director of Christian Aid, said recently that he felt that our political leaders were underestimating the mood of the public. "Stories of strikes and constant money-grabbing misrepresent the spirit of the nation. 'Alongside these negative and dangerous symptoms there evidently runs a quite different mood - one of quick growing concern for the world outside, and of silent and unremitting generosity'. It is a mood which our political leaders need to discern and articulate.

It would be a good thing if MPs did get letters from their constituents asking them to think about food rationing, or at least, to give their full-scale support to getting a world food agricultural plan off the ground, and to the re-establishment of grain reserves. Then too, anyone could decide to cut down his meat by half-a-pound a week, and send the money saved to Christian Aid, to help immediately with malnutrition problems.

All too vast and complicated? These economic problems are beyond us all? The real problem is not economic at all. It is moral. It is to get the rich nations to see that they have a responsibility for their poorer brothers. The first step is to awaken our consciences, and then to get those who can do something - maybe a concerted effort by the rich nations to concentrate their energies together on this problem for the next 25 years - to do it.

Someone, some nation, needs to give a moral lead. As Barbara Ward said recently, "You never can tell whether you are a moral leader, until you try to be moral".

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TRANSPORT OF DELIGHT.by **RAY SMITH**

PERHAPS A TRIP TO BRIGHTON ON A TWENTY YEAR OLD READING TRANSPORT DOUBLE DECK BUS isn't everybody's idea of a comfortable day out, but at Brighton on Sunday 4th May old vehicles were the order of the day, when the Historic Commercial Vehicle Club held their fourteenth London to Brighton Commercial Vehicle run. In a joint venture with the Reading Area Group of the British Trolleybus Society, St. Andrew's Young People set out from Harrogate Road early on the Sunday morning of 4th May, in Reading Transport's 100 (LDP 947) a 1955 A.E.C. Regent 3 with Park Royal bodywork.

The four hour journey took us through Bracknell, Guildford, Dorking, Redhill and past Gatwick airport. The glorious weather conditions were in some ways a mixed blessing as motorists descended on Brighton in their thousands causing traffic jams on the Brighton Road, and delaying many vintage vehicles that had actually started from Battersea Park early that morning.

VICTORIANA AND THE WOMBLES

On the sea front at Brighton were many vintage vans, lorries, fire engines and buses, resplendent after months of sweat, toil and sometimes tears; vehicles that were discovered rotting on farmyards or in scrapyards, all lovingly restored to their former glory by small groups of enthusiasts.

For those in our party who were uninspired by the sight of the odd Model T van or an open top bus of the 1920s, there were plenty of other amusements in Brighton, the Pier, the Victorian Volks Railway along the seaford, Brighton Pavilion or even the beach. The Wombles were also in Brighton for the occasion, on an old Thames Valley open top bus, complete with Police escort. But alas all good things must come to an end, and we had to leave Brighton at 6.00, closely following another Reading bus that had been hired for the occasion, by the Bulmershe Transport Society. The journey home was fairly uneventful apart from a very tight turn in a small Sussex village which required some skilful manoeuvres by our driver to get the bus round the corner. And so at 10.00 on Sunday night we returned to Caversham, a little more tired than when we started, but we will be returning next year. Finally it just remains to apologise to the Hymn writer for the title of this article.



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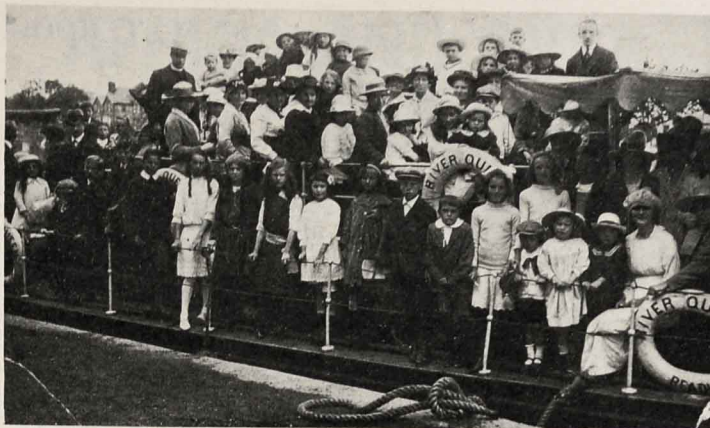
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Sunday School takes to the water



St Barnabas Church at the turn of the century

EMMER GREEN

EMMER GREEN'S PAST DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN MUCH SPACE IN THE BRIDGE NEWS-PAPER compared with Caversham and Mapledurham, so with the invaluable help of Miss Fisher, a member of an old and wellknown family in Emmer Green and the surrounding district, I propose to try to rectify this.

To begin with, although I often had several most enjoyable walks and picnics in the wide fields behind the dip in Surley Row and walked around the pond many times before the last World War, I had never given a great deal of thought to this area. Yet when you come to think of it, Emmer Green is an extremely interesting place and for me there are several unanswered questions about its past. Until the late nineteen thirties it seemed to be almost a village on its own, probably local people will say it was. Before all the building commenced it seemed in many ways separate from Caversham, with its own pond and some relatively old buildings, but there was no ancient church and really no central cluster of houses, which usually form a community. Everything of any age was spread out. There was, and still is, the interesting group of dwellings at Surley Row, several cottages around the Gardener's Arms, Old Grove House and Grove House with its ancient barn now converted and an attractive row of terrace houses near the entrance to Caversham Park. Then if you go towards Dunsden you will come across Brickwall House. I realise I have not mentioned all the older dwelling places in Emmer Green, but it does give an idea of how scattered these habitations are and few of them show signs of being built before the mid sixteen hundreds. Have older buildings long since gone?

Going back to this business of there being no ancient church it is worth noting that there was also none, as far as I know, in Kidmore End or Sonning Common. Perhaps this part of the Chilterns was so closely clothed in dense beech woods in medieval times that the small clearings which began these villages were too remote and too far from the beaten track to warrant one, though a place of worship for a group of twenty to thirty houses was not uncommon in those days. Anyway, taking the whole area, it is a pretty sizeable piece of country side without an ancient church. One wonders if there was ever one at Emmer Green, and if it too has since disappeared. In the last century the first St Barnabas' church was erected and in the nineteen twenties the present one came into being, but there was never a church yard. Within living memory it was the custom for six pall bearers to carry the coffin on their shoulders all the way from Emmer Green to St Peter's Church,

into being when chalk was quarried for agriculture, but according to a Geologist at Reading University, there was a whiting mine in this vicinity so they could have been connected with that.

In spite of so many local springs around Surley Row, some of them medicinal, a local laundry in the mid eighteen hundreds had to have water brought twice daily from the Thames.

But life was not all work and no play. Sunday School outings were looked forward to with great anticipation. Miss Fisher can remember going to Balmore Park several times on such occasions and now and again, as in 1920 and 1922, there were even more exciting trips to Marlow and Wallingford respectively by steamer.

Emmer Green had its own band, already mentioned earlier this year, and a team of handbell ringers. It also had its share of acting

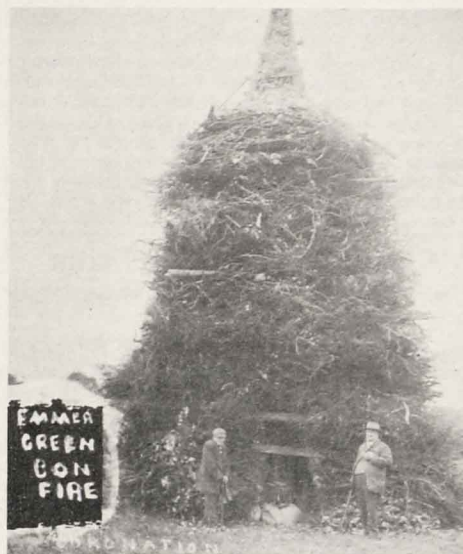
Caversham, with a change of pall bearers half way. Old survey maps show a right of way from the pond, across the fields already mentioned, which were known as King's Meadows, down to the junction of Rotherfield Way and Hemdean Road. These ancient fields are now covered with houses in the Peppard and Dunsden Roads by Brickwall House. One Bank Holiday evening in the eighteen seventies there was the usual holiday dance. Afterwards every one went home, little knowing that next day the hall would have vanished overnight. A large subsidence took place and the hall

literally sank into a huge hole! These phenomena at Emmer Green about sometime occur in chalk 1654, on land known as Homer's Field under the subterranean streams wear-ing away the land below have given more work local-ly and probably caused the need for extra housing in the area. Brickwall cottages were originally the office and stables for the horses used on the brickfield. During the last war the Reading Archives stored all their documents in large underground caves near by extending from the old brick kiln under Kiln Road and beneath woods on the other side. The caves are supposed to have come work. Mr Fisher took a

great pride in the ones he organised for Emmer Green as can be seen by the photo. This one was to blaze on the evening of a coronation. We are not told whether it was for Edward VII or George V, but the former is the more probable. As some folk were as mischievous then as they are today, a fire watcher had to be on duty day and night until the bonfire was due to burn, and Mr Fisher made sure there was a comfortable little room at the bottom of the pyre for the man on duty to sit in!

In a future article, among other topics, I hope to write a little about some of the older houses in Emmer Green. Meanwhile, if anyone has more of interest to tell me about this part of the parish, I should be delighted to hear from them.

M.K.



Mr Fisher senior on the right of one of his bonfires. Note the 'room' at the base.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

SAVE OUR HERITAGE

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR, if not exactly causing a spectacular splash in Reading, has at least brought about a renewed interest in the list of graded buildings compiled by the Department of the Environment. Caversham possesses a reasonable number of such buildings, although the list in its present form is in need of revision to comply with the Department's new scale of grading. It is also, alas, in need of revision because some of the houses appearing on it have been demolished, such as for instance, Willow Cottage, in whose place now stands the unfinished and empty blocks of flats at Caversham Bridge. So grading does not automatically confer protection, but it does ensure that special permission must be sought before a graded building can be demolished or altered. Let us hope that one result of Architectural Heritage Year will be that this will be less freely given than it has been in the past. Reading must be near to holding the record for the number of graded buildings that have been destroyed.

For anyone who is interested, here is the list as it stands at present, excluding those buildings that although featuring on it, have already been destroyed.

It would seem appropriate at this point to comment on some of the buildings appearing on this list. The Director of Technical Services for Reading has told the Residents' Association that he shares their concern that the Caversham Court stables should be kept in a good

GRADE II

Buckside Cottage
Caversham Court Stable Block
Caversham Court Summer House (The Gazebo)
Banksfoot, St. Peter's Hill
St. Peter's Tower
393, Gosbrook Road
The Old Cottage, Lower Henley Road
Hill House, Peppard Road
91, Peppard Road
37, 39, 46, Surley Row
Old Grove House and Barn
Cottages in Church Road - Church Street (Oakeshotts)

Supplementary List

The Granary, Darrell Road
St. Agnes, Grove Hill
Woodlands Cottage, Lower Henley Road (Luscombe Close)
Red Cow, Star Road
80, Star Road (could be a mistake for 82)
78, Star Road
White Cottage, 2, Surley Row
Farm Cottage, 23, Surley Row
Caversham Grove and Barn, Surley Row
(part of Highdown School)
Worton House, Mill Green
2, 4, 6, 8, Paddock Road, including burial vaults at No. 4
Caversham Rise, Peppard Road
St. Anne's Well, Priest Hill

state of repair and put to good community use, so that it does not share the fate of its close neighbour, the Caversham Court Gazebo. The Trust that has been set up to restore this interesting little building is holding an open day in the Court Gardens on Saturday, 30 August. Caversham people in particular should support this effort by turning up and if possible, offering help.

The Civic Society, which has recently been instrumental in getting a number of buildings added to the Department's list, was responsible for the up-grading of the cottage in Church Road - Church Street, comprising Oakshotts' property, here the weakness of the grading system is revealed, as it does not confer any obligation on the owners to keep their property in good repair. It is sad to note that since up-grading, even more windows have been broken and a much loved feature of Caversham is slowly being brought to a state beyond repair.

The Residents' Association hopes that readers will keep a watch on buildings on this list and let them know if they are threatened. Most of them are reasonably safe as long as they are in occupation of their present owners. Danger threatens when they are up for sale, standing empty or in the path of so-called improvements. The Residents' Association would also like to receive suggestions for additions to the list. Caversham possesses many other buildings which are good examples of their period and have links with its past, which do not feature on the list.

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HE SERVES US WELL by Zoilus

MOST OF US FIND THERE ARE SOME ACTIVITIES WE CAN THINK UP A PRETTY GOOD EXCUSE for avoiding, and one of them might well be service to the community, particularly if it is unpaid. Mind you, there is usually a sensible reason for this lukewarm attitude — business is too hectic, family responsibilities too pressing, the garden takes up all the free time, the boys at the local need cheering up — the list can be endless and usually includes the trump card "Oh, well, there's plenty of people who like doing that sort of thing!"

There may not be so very many folk who are prepared to give up large slabs of their time for public service, though Caversham Bridge readers may well be able to name several who make up for our general indolence by taking on a multitude of social tasks that would daunt most ordinary mortals. Such a one is Charles Edward Buck J.P. who lives in Blenheim Road and has been known to most of us for many years, in one or other of his many capacities.

To make a list of the many activities in which Charlie Buck is, or has been, involved would go a fair way to filling this page. He came to Reading, in 1934 and worked at the Co-op. But before long he became a supplies officer at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and stayed there until his retirement in 1970. But it is his outside interests that have marked his impact on the life of the town, and Caversham in particular. And all these interests are based on his desire to be an active Christian, expressed through his work as a Methodist lay preacher and his involvement with those activities that will help him achieve that ambition.

On his arrival in Reading, Charlie didn't take long to make his presence felt. He joined Caversham Heights Methodist Church and was soon in great demand on the circuit as a preacher. He was also an enthusiastic Scouter and formed and ran a troop which was one of his main interests until after the war — which he spent in the hospital service — when he concentrated on his work for Methodism and a growing concern for local politics, which led him to a seat on the Town Council where he became a prominent figure in the Labour group, specialising in Education and Town Planning. Later he accepted an invitation to become a magistrate and on the Bench he takes a special interest in remedial sentences, being an advocate of the policy of directing offenders into community service.

Whether as a governor of Highdown School, chairman of the Caversham Residents' Association, helper of several charitable organisations, or a member of the editorial board of this newspaper, or any other of his numerous local duties, it is unlikely that many Caversham people have not come under his influence at some time or another. He even finds spare time to be a regular supporter of Reading Football Club (there's Christian Charity for you!) and does quite a lot of cycling, a form of transport he recommends both on the grounds of health and convenience. Very keen on the preservation of those rural amenities still left in Caversham he



WALTON ADAMS

is a forthright opponent of any further building in Bug's Bottom. In fact, when the fight is won and we know that the valley will be preserved as an open space, it might well be re-named "Buck's Bottom"!

I asked Charlie what he regarded as his most important interest today. After pondering a bit, he said that it might be the Churches Housing Association, whose aim is to secure a local house as a home for single parent families. So if anyone knows of a suitable residence going at a reasonable price, they will be giving a helping hand to Charles Buck, Esq. who has spent most of his life giving a helping hand to other people.

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AFRICA AND INDIA MISSIONARY PROJECTS

by
**Gertrude
Whitehill**

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS ST. ANDREW'S MAIN OVERSEAS PROJECT has been St. Mary's Mission, Ovamboland in the Diocese of Damaraland in S.W. Africa. This Mission consisted of Schools, Hospitals and Clinics, with multi-racial staff, priests, doctors, nurses and devoted Bishops. A wonderful Christian tradition was built up but in recent years under South African administration the Bishop, Colin Winter, was expelled because of his sympathy with native workers and there ensued a period of harassment to such an extent the staffs of Hospitals and Schools had to be withdrawn and the African Archdeacon and other Christians were badly beaten up.

The deputy-Bishop, Richards Wood, stationed at Windlock was not allowed access to the Ovambos. He appealed to supporters of the Mission to continue their financial help. He wrote that though S. Mary's Hospital was closed the work of the outstations would continue with the help of the Finnish Lutheran Mission.



Men's work? Joan Barker, the bricklayer.

Copyright USPG

Bishop Wood writes "I promise to 'freeze' any gifts here until we can re-start or use some of the money for the chronic sick in Oshandi." In a later letter he says "We are not going out of business! We need your prayers that we may live and work within the will of God, that our weaknesses may be overcome and that we may have the wisdom to know what can and must be changed and the courage to make these changes." The following extract from 'Partners' the paper of the South African Railway Mission proves that these prayers have been answered.

"Bishop Wood is not allowed by the South African Administration to visit his people in Ovamboland but last December he was allowed by the Portuguese authorities to make an episcopal visitation in the Southern part of Angola. The Ovambos crossed the border fence to meet him and within a few days he had confirmed five hundred Candidates, licensed a Catechist and ministered to over a thousand Communicants."

BITS AND PIECES

LOOKING THROUGH MY EVER-GROWING COLLECTION OF NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF OUR LOCALITY, I find I have many that are just small jottings — a few lines gathered from someone else, which although very interesting, will not fit into a long piece of writing. Because they may entertain readers I have decided to gather them together into a "mixed bag".

Two little pieces about the Thames. "A Mr. Hedges and later a Mr. Knight made baskets on the withy islands by the Clappers". I wonder if any relatives of these two gentlemen still reside in Caversham. I imagine they must have lived and worked in the last century and perhaps Mr. Knight may have worked at his trade early in this one.

"J. Chandler's father attended the hanging of Mrs. Dyer and still has a length of

rope used". No other information, just this bare statement. If any member of the family has a piece of rope carefully preserved in their house, that's what it may be. Mrs. Dyer was, of course, the notorious foster mother who took in babies and disposed of them in the Thames at the Clappers. You can see her waxwork at Madame Tussauds.

The writer Mary Russell-Mitford wrote Recollections of a Literary Life "There is not such another flowering bank in Oxfordshire as Caversham Warren." The bank in the Warren is still quite a nature reserve for birds and beasts. Badgers live there quite happily.

According to the Victoria County Histories, bricks were made in Caversham around 1700 and afterwards. They were a peculiar shape, being

22 inches long and 6 inches broad. Has anyone seen any old bricks like this in Caversham?

The old police station in Caversham was erected in 1884 and stood where a large office block now stands, almost opposite the Griffin. It was the Sessions House and had a residence for a sergeant and one constable. There was also a stable and two cells and a large lamp stood in front of the courtyard.

In an old map of Caversham dated 1881 a parchment factory is marked. It is sited on this map where the allotments are, at the back of the University boathouse.

Ashcroft farm was near the Grosvenor Hotel, Kidmore Road — hence Ashcroft Close. Cooper's farm was also in Kidmore Road. Conisboro Avenue was a lane on this farm, and Kidmore Road was then known as Tokers Green Lane.

Also from the Victoria County Histories — in a letter to Hearne the historian dated April 15th 1727 and written by Mr J. Loveday of Caversham Rectory (Caversham Court) he says "There was, in the memory of man, a large ancient oak just beside the well which was also held in great veneration".

M.K.

DYNAMITE AND A SCHOOL

In Lent during the last three years the congregation of St. Andrew's and the Sunday School children have undertaken to help the U.S.P.G. Project 'Joan Barker'. This project is in Maranghada in the Diocese of Chota Nagpur in a very poor part of North India.

Joan Barker felt the need to help the girls of the poor villages in Maranghada. Starting from scratch Joan cleared the ground and with the help of local people and a few girls she built a Hostel which now houses seventy girls. She made bricks, blasted rocks with dynamite at the same time acting as nurse and adviser. She and the girls slept on the concrete floor of the hostel before the windows and doors were in. Joan saw the girls were very undernourished and appealed to her supporters to help provide at least one protein meal a fortnight. She later kept pigs. (Sunday School children helped to provide some of these).

Now the hostel is finished and she has built a school (this Lent St. Andrew's Lent Project raised £72.23 towards equipment). Joan Barker has earned the love and respect of the local people and her work is deserving of all the help and prayers we can give.

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Walton Adams

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ST.MARGARET'S WEDDING



Walton Adams

Mr Pemble and Miss Lomer seen after their marriage at St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, 22nd May, 1975. As this was the Annual Meeting of the Council, Mr. B.A. Fowles was appointed Chairman of the Council, and Mr. B.A. Martyn-Johns, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

The Council considered the

problems relating to the proposed installation of main drainage in the Chazey Road/Upper Warren Ave. area. It appears that the prospect of the scheme being implemented in the immediate future is quite remote. Whereas until the Re-organisation of Local Government last year, real progress had been made by the former Henley RDC, with the merger of the local authorities, coupled with the re-organisation of the Water Authorities, the scheme does not look likely to take place for some time. The Parish Council are to ask the District Council and the Water Board to inform the Council reasons for the delay in implementation of the scheme.

The Council were also informed that the District Council propose to charge £5 a load for emptying cesspools in South Oxfordshire. This is a much greater charge than was made by the former authorities, and the Parish Council are to take this up with the appropriate authorities informing them of the objections, which coupled with the charges made for the sewerage rate, when many households are not connect-

ed to the main drainage, is felt to be a harsh imposition.

Arising from questions raised at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding the cost of the District Planning Dept., the Council has been informed that they are not considered excessive, although it is accepted that there is little information available to compare with other authorities.

It has been suggested by the Boundary Commission that a revision of electoral

arrangements is to be made for dividing Districts into wards for the election of District Councillors, however, this is unlikely to take place in this immediate area until the boundary issue in the vicinity of Reading has been resolved.

The Council were informed that the proposed erection of three houses on land at 'Tree Tops' off Upper Warren Avenue, as indicated in a recent planning application has been rejected by the District Council.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Varied agenda. The members of the Church Council, when they met on June 6th, were confronted with a varied agenda. In addition to receiving reports on the deanery synod and stewardship campaign plans Mr. H. Burton warmly commended the parish week-end retreat which he and some other members of the Council had attended and the Rev. Leonard Burn gave a description of the two youth courses held at Dorney after Easter (These were reported in last month's Caversham Bridge). The Council voted unanimously to seek permission for Mr. Peter Holbrook, a Reader, who had recently come to the parish, to help with the administration of the chalice. The two longest discussions concerned the use of the new Series 3 Funeral service and the intention of General Synod to make major changes in the patronage system by means of which incumbents are appointed. While there were felt to be some improvements in the new funeral service, it was also felt that the changing of the familiar text of the Lord's Prayer and 23rd psalm in a service at which the congregation often consists almost entirely of people who seldom attend church would have real disadvantages. The Council felt that on present information they could not support proposals which might lead to the abolition of the present system of patronage, and the Churchwardens were requested to write accordingly and inform the Secretary of the General Synod and Mr. A. Durant M.P. of this. Both these last two matters are to be discussed more fully at the September meeting of the Council.

New address. The new address of the Rev. and Mrs. W.B. Metcalfe is 10 Palmer Avenue and they will always welcome visitors from Caversham.

ST. PETERS & ST. BARNABAS M.U.

AT THE MAY MEETING the Reverend Stephen Bartlett and Mrs. Doreen Bennett talked about the aftermath of the Family Festival, and what was being done. It is hoped members will still continue knitting squares and saving postage stamps for these charities.

The early morning did not look too promising for the annual outing, but although there was no sun, there was no rain either. After leaving St. Peter's church, the first stop was Hindhead for coffee. The lovely spring greenery and masses of golden gorse were beautiful. The coach driver

was a Sussex man who knew the county well, and so he avoided the main roads.

Members visited Chichester Cathedral, a lovely building, but it seemed to be in the throes of spring cleaning. A wonderful tapestry reredos, designed by John Piper, was the reason for both admiration and criticism.

Journeying on to Bognor, everyone enjoyed the bracing sea air; the sea was so calm, quite surprising after the weather that had gone before.

A delicious high tea was arranged at a restaurant quite near the sea. Thanks are due to Mrs. Doreen Bennett for planning such a successful day.

ST. PETER'S NEWS

THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN SADDENED BY a number of recent deaths. Harold Briggs who died after a long illness which he bore with great courage came to Caversham with the Water Resources Board in 1965. He had served on the Church Council and had also been manager of Balmore Hall. Tony Griffiths, who moved here in 1967, died suddenly from heart failure. He had been a sidesman for several years but his work with British Railways took him away from home a great deal and he was unable to take the active part in local life that is possible for those men who are not away so much. Both of them leave a widow and three children to whom Bridge readers will wish to extend sympathy.

Eleanor Howes who had been living at Blagrove Farm House died on May 31 at the age of 91 years. She had for many years been a member of the Mother's Union.

It was good to be able to bring the new kitchens into use and serve coffee at the west end of the Church for the first time on Whitsunday after Miss Rosamund Essex had preached a most memorable sermon on behalf of Christian Aid. The same evening the congregation was able to listen to a splendid recital by the University Singers which produced £46 in the retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Mr. Bentley of 12 Auburn Court (Tel. 478237) is now responsible for arranging car lifts to church for those who need them. He would be pleased to hear of more car drivers who could offer lifts either regularly or occasionally, especially for Matins. Grateful thanks to Mrs. Cheyney who undertook this work for a number of years before handing over to Mr. Bentley.

The memorial to Cyril Burnside, a beautiful oak cupboard which forms part of the alterations to the church will be formally presented and dedicated at the Parish Communion on St. Peter's Day, June 29th.

'LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS'

RECENTLY there has appeared in the pages of this paper several excellent articles on the life and architecture of old Caversham. It is certainly a very interesting pastime delving into old records and one profitable source for information of this kind is the Parish Magazine.

St. Andrew's Church has recently been rewired and so out of sheer curiosity the writer delved into long forgotten copies of the Caversham Parish Magazine in an attempt to discover when electricity first appeared in that particular church. This great event happened in fact forty one years ago. The various priests in charge made many comments on the subject spread over a period of six years. Bright lights took their time in arriving. Space would not allow for all the comments to be reproduced but those that have been serve not only to underline rising costs but the interesting change in grammatical style.

May 1928: 'The present lighting system of our church has one serious drawback. From anywhere towards the Western end of the building the hanging pendants spoil both the East window, and the remarkably fine Chancel arch. At the last meeting of the Church Officers I raised the question of the possibility of having the Church lit by electricity in such a manner that while ensuring ample illumination the actual lights should be as unobtrusive as possible. After some discussion it was agreed that enquiries should be made as to cost etc.'

January 1933: 'The existing system of gas lighting in the church is worn out, and is constantly failing and needs replacing. Last year, without any charge upon our general funds, we were able to have a bell fixed to the church. Will someone carry on this same kind of good work by raising funds to instal electric light during the present year. Many are willing to help but a leader is required.'

February 1933: 'The Flag Whist Drive was from all points of view, and in spite of the heavy roll which "flu" and its fears are holding, a great success. Over 130 had hoped to be present, actually 80 were.

Its object was to start a fund to instal electric light in the church, the present system of gas lighting is antiquated, and very often smelly, many lights often refusing to function, and it should have been replaced years ago.

PATIENCE REWARDED

October 1934: 'It was a great pleasure to St. Andrew's folk to witness the dedication of the Electric Light by the Archdeacon of Berkshire, on Sunday, 16th September, and to hear that all the money needed has been received.'

Then in the same article the following note appeared — which goes to show that people are never satisfied.

'Will someone help to complete our beautiful church by providing the means to build a Lady Chapel? This is an improvement long overdue. The Church architect tells me it would cost about £500-£600.

However long did it take to raise £500 if it took six years to raise the £131.17.8 for the electric lighting? The installation was carried out by Bob Christie, for many years a server and member of the choir of St. Andrew's.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

BARBARA JUSTHAM LED THE GROUP VERBALLY and Justham proved to be lively and entertaining speaker.

A social evening has been arranged in the Rectory Gardens on Friday 4th July, if wet in Church House.

The July meeting (15th) will take the form of a Ramble, when it is hoped that members will enjoy a pleasant walk through the countryside.

ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP

Members welcomed to their May meeting a large number of friends and members of local women's groups to see a demonstration on the use of Cream in cooking, given by the Milk Marketing Board. A variety of tempting dishes were cooked showing that cream can be used to enhance the flavour of many dishes. Main courses, sweets, party dips and gâteaux are all improved in flavour by adding relatively small amounts of cream.

A competition was held during the course of the evening with two lucky ladies receiving prizes.

Future meetings; June 26th The work of a Store Detective. July 24th Jewellery and how it is made.



St. Andrew's in the Twenties.

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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. Martin Loveless, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

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

The Rev. John Sumner, St. John's House, 9 Southview Avenue. Tel. 471814.

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

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

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

CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

WEDNESDAYS AT 10.30 a.m.

2nd July; Lynne Livesy, 82 Lowfield Road.

9th July; Penny Peirce, 7 Earlsfield Close.

16th July; Rosemary Maybury, 116 Lowfield Rd.

23rd July; Vera Wilson, 63 Kingsway.

30th July; Barbara Robinson, 4 Holyrood Close.

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

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 (not 3rd Sunday).

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 (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

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

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
10.30 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
5.30 p.m. Evensong (3rd 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).
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (2nd 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.

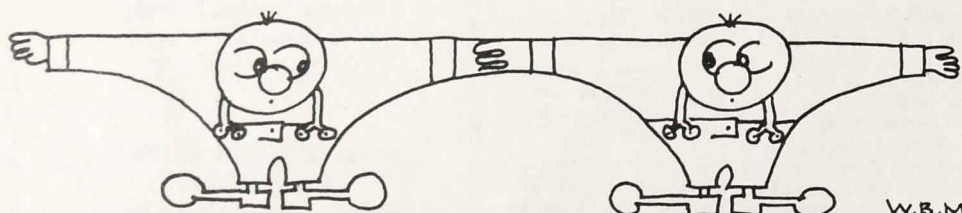
ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

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. C. Pynn, (Mapledurham), 42 Geoffreyson Road. Tel. 476065.

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

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2. Provide transport for elderly or disabled ☐
3. Look after children ☐
4. Assist in the home ☐

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Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

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,
St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road,
Caversham. Tel. 472788.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs. E. Maule
18 Albert Road, Caversham RG4 7PE.
Tel. 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr. R. Kitcher
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ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday May 15th in Church House, Caversham. Mrs. Barrow presided and outlined activities: Mrs. Gray gave a financial statement. The speaker was Mr. Christopher Adcock from London. His subject was Britain and the Common Market. A vote of thanks was given by Miss Hopgood. Mrs. Barrow was chosen as delegate to the Albert Hall Annual Meeting in London.

Federations from England, Scotland and Wales and Ireland recently submitted an itinerary for two foreign ladies to visit their own district during international week 1975. Two Danish ladies were the guests chosen to visit this Federation, and after luncheon at Newbury and a visit to a nearby factory, Mrs. Chris Mitchell, Federation Vice Chairman and late President of Caversham Afternoon, offered them homely hospitality. She presented them with silver spoons with the Guild badge on the handles. Mrs. Phyllis Tiffin, who lives in

Peppard Road, and is Assistant Secretary for Caversham Afternoon, was also hostess to the ladies. She took them to the Royal Berkshire New Maternity Block and then to the University, thus giving them an enjoyable time in Reading.

READING CAVERSHAM HEIGHT'S TOWNS WOMEN'S GUILD.

It is hard to believe the population of Caversham in the 1800's was just over 1000, which included Cane End, Kidmore End and Gallowstree Common.

Mr. J.F. Malpas took members back in time, and explained how Caversham was a very self-sufficient village. It had plenty of employment, a brick and lime kiln, also a parchment factory. There were many little shops and three inns; The Crown on the bridge, the Griffin on the main Oxford to Reading Road and one at the top of Peppard Road where many a weary traveller rested.

By the 1900's the population had increased to 7000, the open fields north of the village had a few large dwellings of the upper classes; Caversham Park, Rosehill and the Grove were amongst them.

About 1860 some farms sold part of their land; Gosbrook Road and Hemdean Road was the beginning of the development, which has continued until

today. Mrs. V. Kitcher thanked Mr. Malpas for an excellent and enlightening talk.

The Social Studies Group are visiting the Wyvern Theatre at Swindon in June, and the Arts and Crafts Section are still very busy with work for the Christmas Bazaar.

EMMER GREEN TOWNS WOMEN'S GUILD

At the May meeting, members were both entertained and educated by Mrs. B. Smith's talk entitled "Four Seasons in my Garden." Mrs. Smith gave a graphic description of the problems encountered when she and her husband took over a semi-derelict house set in 1 1/4 acres of land and transformed them over a period of fifteen years to a comfortable home and beautiful garden. Mrs. Smith also gave helpful advice on the planting, cultivation and display of the flowers and shrubs shown in the colourful slides which so vividly illustrated the title of her talk.

Since the last meeting, the members of the Guild have visited the Mermaid Theatre and Richesse Furs at

Chichester.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

The President, Mrs. K. Bubb, welcomed three new members. The silver cup won by Maplewood for the 2nd consecutive year in the Group cooking competition at Grazeley was displayed. Mrs. Miranda Mayne came to discuss the resolutions to be submitted to the Albert Hall A.G.M. in June when Mrs. B. Osborne was the delegate. Mrs. P. Duckworth thanked Mrs. Mayne for her guidance. Mrs. E. Walker gave the Treasurer's report. There was a marvelous display of pressed flower work, given by Mrs. P. Duckworth and members of the class which she held recently.

CAVERSHAM PARK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A meeting of the Caversham Park W.I. was held recently at which the resolutions for the Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall were discussed. An entertaining programme then followed given by the Summerdown Singers. The competition for a hat decorated to represent a Song

Title was won jointly by Mrs. C. Harris (President) and Mrs. Holloway.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the May Meeting of Blagrove W.I. Mrs. Wilkie welcomed two visitors and introduced the Speaker, Mrs. Ingram, who had come to guide the discussion on the Resolutions for the A.G.M. to be held in June, and Mrs. Wright, as delegate, was advised on the how to vote on the Institute's behalf.

A delightful Tea was date for everyone, and generously given by Mrs. Wilkie and Miss Reynolds to celebrate the winning of the Group Cup by Blagrove W.I.

The entry, which was a live picture based on the painting by Jan Vermeer of "The Cook" gained maximum marks and Mrs. Price and Mrs. Day were thanked for all the hard work they had so successfully put into the Competition, and they re-staged the entry at the meeting for members to see who had been unable to go to the Group Meeting.

The proposed country walk was postponed for the present because of the difficulty of finding a suitable

date for everyone, and arrangements were finalized for the outing of members to see the "Trooping of the Colour".

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BAPTISED

St. Peter's

May 11th

Emma King
Louise Stanbrook
Sarah Green

June 8th

St. John's

May 18th

Rebecca Park
Michelle Porter

St. Barnabas

May 11th

James Williams
Janice Love
Julie Ashmore

May 25th

Caversham Park

May 4th

Tristram Dickson
Gavin Collins
Daryl Corps
Caroline Wood

WEDDINGS

St. Andrew's

26th April

Adrian Andrews and
Christine Havard

St. Barnabas

May 3rd

David Allen and Ana
Costa-e-Silva
Anthony Loder and Pamela
Brown
Christopher Chapman and
Christine Watson

May 17th

May 24th

FUNERALS

St. Peter's

May 19th

May 29th

Henry Wooldridge
Ada Heather

St. John's

May 23rd

Edward Targett

St. Andrew's

May 14th

May 19th

May 30th

May 30th

Mabel Stile
Elizabeth Olley
Aubrey Grinstead
Elsie Maule

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by



PETER SHOCK

MY NEIGHBOURS, kind and sympathetic, will tell you of an award that I am never likely to win. The prize for the best-kept garden. It may have been my fate not to have been born with green fingers, and when it comes to gardening, I haven't much enthusiasm for black ones, either! But I love to see the flowers a-bloom in the Spring tra-la, and during the Spring Bank Holiday week I went bicycle-touring in East Holstein, the Flower Garden of Germany. As a companion, Paul Mackrory, eldest member of the Lowfield Boys' Club, volunteered to share the joys of continental cycling, and a keen cyclist he is too. We took the bikes in the minibus to Harwich on the Sunday, and boarded the "Dana Sirena" for the 22-hours trip to Hamburg. Being the only ones on board with cycles we attracted much curiosity. One motorist even suggested, at 7.0 o'clock in the morning, that we do a couple of laps round the boat, as a bit of practice. After docking at Hamburg, we made our way through the busy streets to the station, some two miles distant, to join the train for Neustadt, our starting-point for the cycle-tour. Neustadt is the last outpost before entering an almost forgotten land. We survived four days without encountering a soul from our own native land, and the English language is about as rare as a Chinese cat. Once, when in conversation with an elderly inhabitant, he enquired: "Do you come from Holland?" (He had notions that cycling was the 'norm' there). "No", I said, "from England!" "Gott sei Dank!", he retorted, "you come by bicycle all the way from England?" "Well, not exactly, there is that drop of ocean between", I smilingly assured him.

Our travels took us through many delightful old-fashioned villages; neatly thatched cottages, their gardens bedecked in a blaze of colourful blooms; many containing model wind-mills with their blades rotating in the soft breeze: there were cheeky gnomes squatting sedately among the dignified tulips and the fussy little potted pansies, (I can tell the difference, you know). Between the hedgerows were frequent glimpses of the

deep-blue Baltic ocean and its silvery, sandy beaches, not yet discovered by the Package tours. We descend upon Neukirchen, a small market-town in the heart of no-where. Not a soul around; they must all be taking a well-earned siesta away from the mid-day sun, or word had reached them that Englanders were close at hand! Nothing doing in the shape of a meal, so we pressed on through the narrow country lanes when a distinctly familiar "toot-toot" was heard from behind. Paul yelled — "It's the — um — yes, the School Bus!" As the big orange beast eased past us, giggling juvenile faces peered through the windows, but thoughts of home had little effect on us; it was still only Tuesday.

Our objective for the next day was the highest point of East Holstein some twenty miles away. The province has no mountains, and surprisingly its highest altitude is only a mere 500 feet. In brilliant sunshine we set off in a westerly direction and in about 1½ hours reached the village of Schonwalde, where we tarried to eat ice-creams on wooden sticks. Schonwalde lies at the foot of the Bungsberg and the steep climb penetrated delightful woodland scenery. From the top of the tower at the summit it is possible to see the whole of the province of East Holstein.

Each evening we returned to our little wooden chalet set in a nature park. The Oldenburger Stream rippled past the front door

and not far distant in the other direction lay the sand-dunes of the Baltic coast. Wildlife was in evidence everywhere, and two pairs of swallows would sit on a wire fence at dusk and watch the two of us pecking at our supper through the open door.

On the morning of our departure we breakfasted early, and hit the road at 6.0 a.m. to reach Neustadt station 17 miles away, to catch the 7.50 a.m. train to Hamburg. With loaded rucksacks on our backs and bulging saddle-bags we just made it with about ten minutes to spare.

Our total cycling distance

was 140 miles, and to enable us to see as much of East Holstein's flora and fauna as possible we limited our daily mileages to between 25 and 40.

As we changed trains at Lubeck, we had just time to say, "Auf Wiedersehen, East Holstein!"

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



IN THE SWIM

Over the last few years the sport of Synchronised Swimming has become well established in this country, as indeed it has throughout the World, and may soon be included in the Olympic Games programme. It has developed no less rapidly in the Reading area where we have the Reading Synchronised Swimming Club who have already more than made their mark in this country and in trips to Continental competitions, both as a team and with individual stars.

For those who have not heard about this speciality swimming it is best described as gymnastics or ballet in water, having all the grace, poise and artistic movement of these activities and being marked in a similar fashion. At least once a year the Reading 'Royals' put on a spectacular display at the Central Pool where the girls train at least twice a week. The shows are always superbly presented and are well worth seeing.

SWIMMING TO SUCCESS

One successful member of the Club is young Catherine Waltham of 252 Peppard Road, Caversham, who recently took part with the team in the Southern Counties Synchronised Swimming Age Group Championships at the West Ham Baths in London. Although they had a very early start to a very long day Catherine's team won the Under 14's Gold Medals with their team routine. A week later she successfully took her A.S.A. Synchronised Grade 4 Award at the Central Pool and she is now working very hard for her top Grade 5 Award. Well done Catherine, keep it up!

LOCAL DERBY

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of watching two of our local Boys Football Teams play against each other in the North Berks. Boys Under 13 Cup Final at Cholsey. The game between Caversham Boys Mapledurham was played on a pleasant evening (one of the very few we have had) with a good crowd of Supporters for both sides encouraging their respective teams vocally and by displaying their respective team rosettes. An exciting and very good game was eventually won by Caversham with a score of 3 - 0, their goals being scored by Parkes, Bunting and Jeffrey. These two popular and successful local Boys Teams deserve all the support they get and are a credit to those who organise and train them.

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