

## A GROWING NEED

### CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

*The "Bridge Scheme", which is now in its twelfth year, exists to provide help in varying degrees for the sick, elderly and housebound of Caversham. The scheme came into being as a direct result of the 1963 Anglican Stewardship Campaign, but from its inception has been seen very much as an ecumenical venture. Members of Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Church congregations working together in a visible unity.*

#### ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

It was soon evident to the large number of people who attended the Annual Meeting of the Bridge Scheme, held during Unity Week, that those involved in the scheme have been kept exceptionally busy during the past year and that there was an increasing number of calls upon their time and energy and sometimes their ingenuity.

Mrs K. P. Besley, the indefatigable Central Organiser, was unfortunately not able to be at the meeting but she made it abundantly clear in her report, given in her absence by Dr J. Rothwell, that a service such as provided by the Bridge Scheme is desperately needed in Caversham and the need for the service will become more pressing as time goes on. The report contained many interesting facts and figures which in themselves were encouraging. Also, it was evident from Mrs Besley's remarks that many more helpers are needed if the scheme is to continue as a viable proposition, comprehensive and efficient, especially as the Social Security departments are withdrawing many help facilities.

#### DRIVERS AND THE CAR SERVICE

The work of the Bridge Scheme falls into three main groups; transport, visiting and other practical help. During the year under review a considerable number of people have been driven to hospitals including the Royal Berks, Battle and Peppard as well as to clinics, dentists and chiropodists. In addition several elderly people were taken to visit sick relatives either in their homes or in hospital. A rota of drivers was organised for a month during the

ambulance drivers strike to take a patient each day to a Psychiatric Day Centre. Mapledurham area also provided transport for sixteen meals on wheels throughout the year. **DRIVERS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE DAY, ARE ALWAYS NEEDED** — can you help?

#### THE REWARDS OF VISITING

Visiting either on a regular basis or in cases of emergency forms a large part of the work undertaken by the Bridge Scheme. Visits are made generally to the elderly and housebound. It is in visiting that helpers have their various skills and inventiveness put to the test. A housebound person much enjoys playing Scrabble, so a Scrabble fan was found to help out. Another person was fond of cultivating indoor pot plants, again a visitor was found who could help and advise. A local artist undertook to help a person suffering from muscular dystrophy with their desire to paint.

#### CONTACTS MADE

Very often contacts made through visiting or transporting develop into firm friendships. Visiting is a most valuable therapy for the chronically sick or housebound. **MORE PEOPLE ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THIS PART OF THE SCHEME'S WORK — ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?**

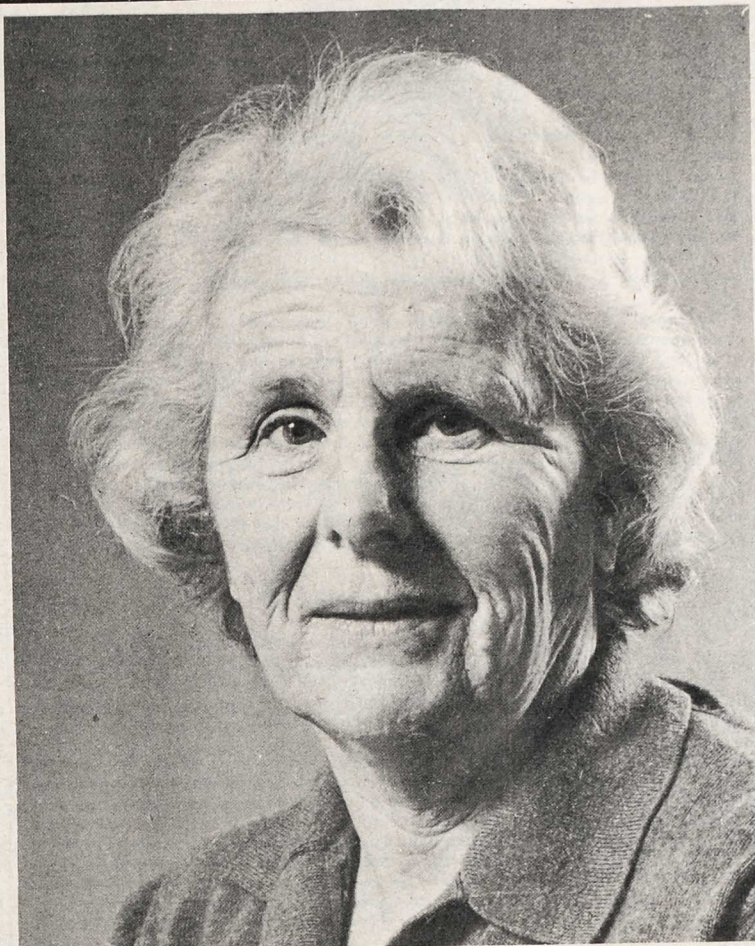
#### YOUTH AND THE BRIDGE SCHEME

Yet another field of work undertaken is to encourage Caversham Charities and local schools to play a part in local social work. Not only local schools are encouraged but Reading School has in the past year sponsored boys to help in the work. Some members of the St Andrew's Youth Group

spent two weeks of their summer holiday decorating a bedroom and kitchen of a lady living in Lower Caversham, they even cooked some of her meals.

Calls on the services of the Bridge Scheme come not only from the clergy and friends but also from local doctors, Health Visitors and Social Workers.

Mrs Besley's report concluded with thanks for the tireless efforts of all concerned. She herself deserves the gratitude of not only those helped by the Bridge Scheme but of all the churches involved.



■ Mrs Kate Besley

— Walton Adams

W.B.M

## 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 D. Davies (Caversham Park), 81 Galsworthy Drive. Tel. 476181

### HOW TO HELP

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

1 Visit the sick, lonely and disabled

2 Provide transport for elderly or disabled

3 Look after children

4 Assist in the home

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

Name .....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone.....

## The Editor's Column

# "A" ROADS

HOW GOOD IT WAS TO SEE CAVERSHAM PARK SCHOOL HALL SO CROWDED that many of the congregation had to stand, when Christians of different traditions came together on January 25th, the last day of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. And how good also that we should come together for the purpose that we did — to commission twelve people from our different churches to begin the visitation that is planned to take place to the 10,000 or more homes in Caversham and Mapledurham in the next two years.

It is as well that we should understand that the reason why we seek unity is that our Lord prayed that his Church should be united; and he prayed that this should be so because, as he told the Father, unity was needed in order that the world might believe that the Father had sent Him.

### UNITY AND MISSION GO TOGETHER

The week of prayer for Christian unity was therefore clearly an appropriate occasion for the Churches of Caversham to embark together on a piece of united evangelism. The visiting of 10,000 homes may not seem a very spectacular undertaking, but it is certainly an undertaking for which there is good scriptural authority. And it is an undertaking that laymen and laywomen have volunteered to do as the clergy and ministers cannot possibly do this work unaided. My hope is of course that the visiting team will report to the clergy that many people do desire a visit from one of us and we shall do our best to make such visits. But the fact that it is the laity who have undertaken this work is in itself an important piece of evangelism and will serve to show to many people that the Church consists almost entirely of ordinary men and women who are willing to give of their time in this way.

### PILOT SCHEME

The scheme that was inaugurated on January 25th is merely a pilot one. At present visits are being made only to those who live in roads beginning with the letter "A". These roads are scattered over the different parts of Caversham; early in April the visitors will meet to report progress and we hope then, in the light of their experience, to recruit a much larger team, and to accelerate the work. The purpose of the visiting is very simple. The visitors are concerned to give and to get information — to say to those on whom they call what it is that the Church is doing, and what perhaps it has to offer them, and secondly to find out whether those on whom they call have any needs which the Church can fulfil for them. It is as simple as that. In the meantime one thing that all Church members can and must do is to uphold daily in prayer those who, in Christ's name, have undertaken to do this work of visiting — and then to be prepared to join in this visiting when late this spring more visitors are needed to press on with this work.

*John Grimwade*

**P.S. A correction.** One of our readers has rightly taken me to task for writing in my January editorial that our Lord laid aside his godhead when he took human flesh. What I should have said was that he laid aside his majesty, and I am glad to be able to make this correction. Interesting also that the correction came from a layman and not from any of our episcopal or clerical readers.

### DO YOU LIVE IN ONE OF THESE ROADS?

Abingdon Drive, Albert Road, Aldeburgh Close, Aldenham Close, Almond Drive, Amersham Road, Angle Field Road, Ardler Road, Ashcroft Close, Auburn Court, Autumn Close.

If you do, you may shortly expect to receive a visit from a pair of Caversham Christians, one an Anglican and the other a member of a Free Church. They come to bring you information about the life of the Church in Caversham and to find out if there is any way in which the Church can help you. Please welcome them.

## 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  
8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7AW. Tel. 472660.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. J. Pilgrim  
64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel. 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mr H. Hitchman  
153 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, RG4 7JR. Tel. 472542.

## POST BAG

Dear Sir,

Can I use your columns to appeal for help in the educational work we are trying to do. The function of all Centres that are part of the Berkshire County Council Youth and Community service, is to be involved in the process of educating young people, but due to the financial stringencies of the times this means that we do not have the necessary staff to carry out the work that we would like to. Cut backs have already hit us, and we are struggling to even keep open.

We are in need of voluntary helpers on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and some Saturday evenings. If anyone has up to three hours to spare on any one of these evenings, then offers of help would be gratefully appreciated. We need helpers just to serve behind the coffee bar, but more desperately we need helpers to be involved in the practical work of social education. This can involve talking and doing activities with groups of up to eight people aged 14 to 18 years, or talking and supporting a lone individual in a more counselling role. Training will be provided and will be an expectation of any volunteers. Anyone interested can ring Reading 476794, and ask for me.

J. T. M. JENKINS

Emmer Green Youth Centre,  
Grove Road, Emmer Green.

Dear Sir,

Although the Editor is right in his assertion that Christians should wholeheartedly endorse the social gospel, I think the clergy have been too closely involved with this commitment to the detriment of their primary mission, which is to preach and teach the good news of salvation, Acts Chapter 6, verses 1-4. In addition of course they have their mission of counselling and healing and also the day-to-

day running of their church. They surely do not have the time to become as involved with the aspects of community life in the local church that they would wish to.

At the higher levels of church organisation, this involvement may not be quite so evident but at the local level the lack of teaching and preaching can account

**The Editor regrets that owing to shortage of space, it has been impossible to publish all the letters that have been received.**

in no small way to the disenchantment with the church by many people who are influenced by the pressures of modern living and who know of no way out.

A solution is that the laity should take a greater share of the load in spreading the social gospel and showing Christian concern in local politics and community life. I would therefore suggest that the local associations, i.e. the ratepayers, Caversham Residents, Parent Teachers Association, Rotary Club, Simon Trust, etc. should be asked to nominate one of their committee to be responsible for representing the Christian view in their association, and also to report back to the Parochial Church Council matters where it is felt that the Christian Witness or Christian action can be effective at the community level.

It is hoped by this method that there will be effective communication between the needs of the community as represented by the various associations and action by Christians at the level of the local churches. In this respect this would leave the clergy in an advisory or supervisory capacity enabling them to apply their co-ordinating role to a greater effect.

TREVOR BEABEY

17, Albert Road,  
Caversham

Dear Sir,

I would like to appeal through your columns

for volunteers to join us in expanding our local "Contact" group.

Contact is a national organisation which has the one simple and direct aim: To give the old and lonely a continuing link with others living in their own area by taking them out together in private cars on one Sunday afternoon each month.

Contact is divided into independent groups each consisting of up to 12 old people and 12 volunteers (six drivers with their own cars and six passenger helpers) plus up to a dozen hostesses. One Sunday each month the 12 volunteers collect the same old people and drive out to tea at the home of a hostess; to avoid tiring the elderly the outing last about three hours or so. The volunteers take out the same old people each month so that contact is continually renewed and personal friendships established not only between the volunteers and their old folk but between the latter themselves.

We have in Reading only one Contact group at present, comprising five drivers and about the same number of hostesses. In spite of our small number we have been operating almost a year, catering for eight old ladies — clearly we need more helpers; in spite of the number of charitable organisations in the locality there is no shortage of old and lonely people who could benefit from this simple but effective help — but we can only take on more if we have more helpers, drivers and hostesses especially.

We would very much like to hear of anyone with a car who is prepared to devote one Sunday afternoon a month to this work, or anyone who is willing to provide tea for up to a dozen old people once a year. Our own experience is that the pleasure that these outings give is quite out of proportion to the amount of time and effort involved in arranging them.

B. C. E. JONES

8 Crispin Close  
Caversham, Reading

## AMETHYST HOLIDAYS

### 1976

REALLY FRIENDLY TOURS BY COACH FROM READING

All prices are inclusive of travel, full board and excursions. Very slight increases may be necessary due to inflation

Isle of Man (Coach/Air)	10 Days June	£94
Paris (Coach/Air)	5 Days May	£75
Wales (Aberystwyth)	8 Days July	£69
Luxembourg — Clervaux (Coach/Ferry)	8 Days May/June	£79
Scotland (Alloa)	11 Days June	£71
Scotland (Stirling)	9 Days June/July	£89
Scotland (Stirling)	9 Days Aug/Sept	£89

BROCHURE — AMETHYST OF READING  
207 LONDON ROAD, READING RG1 3NT  
(TELEPHONE 663339)

# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

—By Watchdog

## RIVERSIDE HOMES

THE FORMER site of Elliotts, off Wolsey Road, has been the subject of planning applications for so long that it almost seemed as if it would be empty for ever. Approval has, however, now been given to an application to build a mixed development of houses and flats there.

This is a major development on an important site, being as it is so close to that priceless, but too often in the past, under-valued asset, the River Thames. Ideally the site should have been turned into an open space to provide for the growing demand for leisure use of the river. But harsh economic facts rule that out, now and for any foreseeable future. The days of the wealthy benefactor who was prepared to give large tracts of land for public use have gone, though in passing it might be noted that Reading has benefitted to a not inconsiderable extent in this way in the past.

This being the case, it is obviously better for the site to be put to residential use rather than its former industrial use. Moreover, housing in or near the centre of the town is more socially desirable than extending the outer suburbs. Even the flats by Caversham Bridge would have been more welcome had they been less overpowering. What is important is that the development should be in keeping with its surroundings and conform to the high standards its site merits.

It is therefore encouraging to know that the Borough Planning Committee in granting permission, has required that certain conditions be fulfilled. These will ensure, among other things, that landscaping schemes and samples of the building materials used are submitted to the Planning Committee for approval and that they are also shown the detailed design of the balustrating facing the Thames. In addition, firm arrangements must be made for the management and maintenance of communal

open space. Too often initially attractive schemes degenerate rapidly through lack of care so that weeds, overgrown grass and litter contribute to produce an air of squalor. Perhaps even more important in a development whose density is somewhat masked by skilful siting, and which is near the river, provision must be made for a children's play space.

The plan as submitted has already been modified by advice from the planning department, so it could be that here a building development could enhance an empty site rather than disfigure it.

### HEMDEAN VALLEY

The same cannot be said of the application awaiting approval for a site in Hemdean Valley. Unfortunately outline consent for this site was given a long time ago so it is not possible to object to development of this kind. Not surprisingly the original plan for fifty-two "dwelling units" with garages and approach roads was dismissed. The new scheme is only for thirty-two houses, plenty for a site that size but a considerable reduction. Although the site is not in the rural part of the valley but is more in the nature of "in-filling," it will hardly enhance the gently sloping valley side with its splendid background of beech trees. Fortunately the Planning Committee is well aware of the importance of the site so will be scrutinising the plans carefully.

### THE WILD WOOD

One of the great joys of living in

Caversham is to be able, within a short distance, to walk in beech woods along age-old tracks lined with ancient elms. Alas, I should have said "was." The elms, victims of disease, have already been felled, and now the path through the woods has been concreted from the bridle path near Mapledurham village to Three Chimney Cottage. No doubt this was considered necessary for efficient estate management but the quiet beauty of an age-old track worn down beneath its mossy banks over past centuries has now disappeared forever. Perhaps it is just urban sentiment to moan its passing, and the true country worker and dweller would welcome it. But ... what would Toad, Rat and Mole have thought?

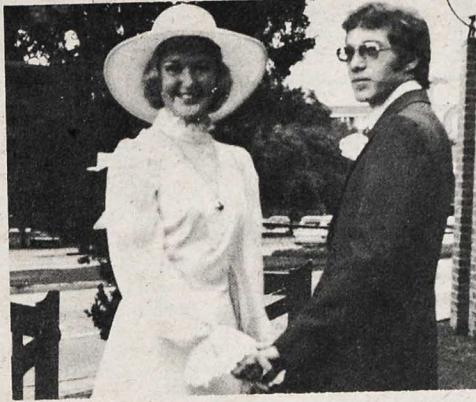
N.B. Annual General Meeting of Caversham Residents' Association on Wednesday, March 24, at Church House at 8pm, with a film dealing with an important environmental issue.

### Maplewood W.I.

Mrs K. Bubb welcomed ten visitors from other institutes to the birthday tea party at the January meeting. The youngest member, Mrs Thwaite, cut the cake.

The speaker was Mrs Mates, who gave a fascinating account of how her mother trained and qualified as a doctor in Victorian times. She married and had four daughters and then continued to work for many years before she died, aged 91. Mrs Carden gave an interesting vote of thanks, mentioning that her mother had also been a doctor in the same era.

## JO'BURG WEDDING



Married on January 17th at Christ Church Hill-brow, Johannesburg, by the Rt Rev E. D. Douglas, Bishop of Transvaal and Rhodesia, Sue Turton, former member of St Andrew's to Edward Larose from Canada.

## THE LINK GROUP

About 70 people gathered recently in Mapledurham Parish Hall for an evening of entertainment given by Mr Andrew Martyn-Johns who showed magnificent slides of his recent international tour. The photography was superb and his narration was most interesting and amusing.

The organisers wish to thank all concerned who helped in any way. A sum in excess of £40 was raised for the autistic children cared for at Smiths Hospital.

## ... AND A SYDNEY ONE

Maureen, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Strong of 53 Chazey Road was married recently to Richard Wilkinson who formerly lived in Albert Road. Maureen trained as a nursery nurse at the Chiltern Nursery Training College. Shortly after qualifying in 1974 she was involved in a traffic accident, and while recovering from this met her future husband who was then planning an overland trip to Australia. After taking up a post in Montreal Maureen joined him in Australia and they were married in Sydney. Their present address is 37/102 Young Street, Cremorne, New South Wales.



## ABBAY NATIONAL Caversham

# The money minders

16 BRIDGE STREET

### HENLEY TYPEWRITER CO LTD

D. PICKERSGILL

Typewriters — Adding Machines — Cash Registers  
Repairs — Office Supplies and Stationery

12 BRIDGE STREET, CAVERSHAM  
Telephone 473077



# ST PETER'S VICTORIAN CHANGES

(cont'd)

by Canon Basil Clarke

IN 1857 IT WAS AGREED TO BUILD A VESTRY FOR ST PETER'S ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NORTH CHAPEL. Mr Vanderstegen the owner of the chapel agreed, provided he was safeguarded against any responsibility for damage that might arise from the alterations. The congregation was growing and in 1878 a faculty was obtained for rebuilding the tower and otherwise restoring and enlarging the church. This was the major operation which gave the body of the church the appearance that it has now. The south aisle and porch were added, the old north arcade was destroyed and a new arcade was built to match the new one on the south, the chancel arch was taken down, and a solid tower was built in place of the wooden one. This was intended to have a gabled top, which would have been more interesting: but a parapet and low cap were substituted for it. The builders were Messrs Wheeler of Reading, and the architects were Morris and Stallwood.

## TIME MELLOWS

What can be said about the new work at St Peter's? It is obviously old-fashioned for its date, but without any particular conviction. The windows tend to have an early French proportion, but the arcades have none of the Vigour and Go that the young Stallwood had given to his arcade at St Peter's, Folkestone; they are in general English, but with the most lifeless capitals, such as no 13th century mason would have produced. The old church with its white-painted wooden tower, and its long south wall with an assortment of medieval windows had been a picturesque object; now all that could be seen, at any rate from the south, was a mediocre modern building. The Norman doorway had been kept, but nothing else. But the passing of 100 years makes all the difference, and work that seemed regrettable at the time loses its rawness with the passing of years, and in its turn fits in.

## THE NEXT STAGE

On May 18, 1905 there was a meeting to discuss the further enlargement of the church. A committee was appointed to consult with an architect who would supply plans for extending the south aisle in line with the north; and if the consent of Major Simonds, the lay rector could be obtained, adding the chancel to the nave and building a new chancel. Nothing came of this. Then in 1916 the rectorial rights were bought by Mr and Mrs A. W. Carter, and conveyed to the parish. Until then the chancel had held the seats of the lay rector and his family; now the Carters gave clergy stalls, choir stalls and a screen to the Vanderstegen Chapel, of black oak with linenfold panels. These were begun in 1917 and installed in 1918. The architect was John Ninian Comper

(to be continued)

# MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, January 29, 1976. Mr B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

Considerable concern was expressed at the proposals to designate the A.4074 (Reading-Woodcote Road), as a major lorry route for heavy vehicles between Reading and Oxford. Apart from the vastly increased volume of traffic this would generate, it was also considered that the southern end of the route was most unsuitable for these particular vehicles, especially having regard to the very narrow road conditions at Greendene Bottom, as well as other sections between Woodcote and Caversham. The Parish Council are to make strong representations to

Oxfordshire County Council deprecating these proposals, and strongly oppose the County Council's plans to designate the road in this manner.

The Council are also alarmed at the number of heavy vehicles currently using the road due to the weight restrictions on the railway bridge at Cholsey. As a result of these restrictions many heavy lorries are using the A.4074 and the Parish Council are to ask the County Council how long the diversion is likely to last, as well as information about the placing of diversion signs.

The Council are still continuing to press for the development of main drainage in The Warren/Upper Warren Ave are, and are

anxious to obtain any information about possible health hazards in that area that could be used for evidence to hasten the installation of main drainage.

As a result of information received of a sewage discharge on the south of the Upper Woodcote Road, near Blagrove Farm, a letter has been sent to the Environmental Health Officer of the District Council drawing his attention to this matter and requesting action to be taken to check this problem.

A letter is to be sent to the County Highways department drawing attention to the mud and leaf mould that has collected on the road between Trench Green and Mapledurham Village.

# Elliott's apprentices



Left to right Andrew Martin, Noel Thomas, Nicholas Harrison. — Walton Adams

IN THE AREA COVERED BY THE READING AND DISTRICT LOCAL JOINT TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE FOR THE BUILDING INDUSTRY THERE are 300 apprentices and each year the Committee award six prizes to apprentices for outstanding work and progress during the year. In the last training year three of the six prizes have been gained by apprentices of Samuel Elliott & Sons Limited, the Caversham firm who specialise in high-class joinery and shopfitting.

Nicholas Harrison of Elm Road, Reading, who started as a Joiner Apprentice at Elliotts in August 1972, as well as the local prize, has been awarded a further prize by the National Joint Training Committee, one of three prizes to be given to apprentices in the Reading area.

Andrew Martin of Sheridan Avenue, Caversham, who also started in 1972 as a Joiner apprentice, has gained a further prize awarded for the best all round apprentice in any year and in any craft in this area.

Both Nicholas and Andrew have attended the Reading College of Technology.

Noel Thomas, who is a

Sheet Metalworker apprentice, lives in Norton Road, Reading and started in 1974. He had his first year's training at the South Oxfordshire Technical College, Henley and gained one of the six local prizes.

There are currently thirty apprentices employed at Elliotts and whilst there have been prize-winners most years, to gain five prizes including three out of the six local committee prizes is a record.

## CAVERSHAM CARPET CENTRE LTD.

23 CHURCH STREET

Telephone Reading 476820

LET CAVERSHAM CARPETS QUOTE YOU FOR YOUR NEXT CARPETING REQUIREMENTS

We can supply any make of carpet, and offer you no gimmicks but a genuine first-class job

There is a Large Range of Broadlooms in stock and FITTING IS COMPLETELY FREE

Our representative will arrange to call day or evening to suit you, and estimates can be supplied on the spot

LET US GIVE YOU THAT  
SECOND ESTIMATE

## HILLTOP HAIRDRESSING

70 Kidmore Road, Caversham  
(above Hilltop Stores)

Manageress: Doreen  
Assistants: Pauline and Marie

O.A.P. days Tuesday and Wednesday 82p  
Also trimming, re-styles and blow-wave for men and boys  
An appointment is not always necessary.

Telephone Reading 472569

## Cyril Allwright

Cyril Arthur Johnson Allwright who died on January 8 after a short illness was born in 1889, married in St Peter's Church to Hilda Caroline Belcher, and lived in Caversham from 1932 until his death. He was a sidesman at St Peter's for thirty three years and assisted the Parish Treasurer with the Church Charity Accounts for many years under the Reverend H. Wood and Canon Nash. Until his last illness he was a regular attendant at the Parish 8 o'clock Communion service at St Peter's. Many in Caversham will miss his unobtrusive help and his cheerful friendship.

Cyril's Father, Frederick William Allwright lived in Caversham and was a sidesman at St Peter's also and was Mayor of Reading in 1934. Cyril is survived by his daughter Jean, his son Alan having been killed in 1943 while serving in the Middle East with the RAF. We offer our sincere sympathy to Jean and her family and to Cyril's many friends in Caversham.

# A FARMER'S WIFE

## Who takes it all in her stride

THERE CANNOT BE ANYONE IN THE RURAL PART OF MAPLEDURHAM who does not know Mrs Joyce Beacroft of Lilley Farm, and there must be a good few people in Caversham and the surrounding district who have also met her one way or another, for she is a very active member of the local community.

When she left school, Joyce took a two year course with the National Adoption Society; then, during the War did a spell in the Women's Land Army.

Always connected with farming, her parents farmed at Kelmscott in Oxfordshire, she and her husband Bob first had their own farm for 3 years in Sussex,

before coming to Lilley Farm in 1950 with their young son John.

Since then life has become more and more involved. There were — and still are — farm students to look after and many farming visitors to welcome. Baby Susan arrived on the scene a few years after they came to Mapledurham. So Joyce had a busy life.

### The Bull's in the garden again!

Living on a farm you certainly learn to cope with the unexpected. I well remember Joyce fetching me from Caversham one day, and as we walked into her kitchen, being greeted with — "the bull's been in the garden again!" We hurried to survey the scene. Great pieces of turf were lying all over the lawn where several hundred-weight of bully beef had tramped around trying to find a way into the adjoining field filled with attractive females. The path was strewn with recently planted wallflowers and altogether there was rather a mess. Me — I would have blown my top and been really mad — but Joyce took it all pretty calmly, and how I admired her. It was just part of life on the farm.

Reading Junior Young Farmers have always interested Joyce and for many years she was on their Advisory Committee. Recently she has been made their vice-president.

Like most farmers' wives, Joyce has a connection with the local Women's Institute and was a founder member of the Jubilee Club for local over sixties, which was started by the W.I. to commemorate their Jubilee year. She is still a very active committee member of this club and among other things, arranges all the transport.

As Mapledurham's representative for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, Joyce, after quite a struggle, got Meals on Wheels moving in the district in 1970 and now up to 36 meals are delivered each week in



— Walton Adams



■ Mrs Joyce Beacroft

— Walton Adams

Also chairman of the Parish Hall Committee, Joyce, by various efforts has raised a considerable amount of money to keep the village hall going.

A member of St Margaret's church, Mrs Beacroft is in charge of church flowers, and was at one time on the P.C.C.

Probably many people will have first met Joyce when she was the leading light behind the Family Festival Shop in 1974. She, as organiser, put untold effort and time into the project and as a result £1,350 was sheer profit at the end of six days. It was an unqualified success, but Joyce had worked herself so hard that she ended up seriously ill in hospital. However, all is now well and we have been delighted to have her back among us again fit and well — though we have to be a little firm at times to stop her being quite so

energetic.

There is no doubt Mapledurham is fortunate to have such a generous person in

Joyce Beacroft both with her time and effort and in many other ways besides.

M.K.

Open Monday to Saturday 9am - 5.30pm  
Excepting Wednesday, when we close at 1pm  
Telephone Reading 471766

## BELLE BOUTIQUE

Fashion  
Millinery and Accessories  
Alterations and Tailoring  
Costume Jewellery

8 CHURCH ROAD, CAVERSHAM

Proprietor: Mrs J. Bushnell

ACCESS AND BARCLAYCARD WELCOME  
FASHION SHOW

AT St Andrew's Hall, Caversham  
on Monday, March 29, at 8pm

For Action Research for the Crippled Child  
Tickets available from BELLE BOUTIQUE

## VAN — J

FOR

DRY CLEANING

TAILORING ALTERATIONS

HABERDASHERY

Ladies' and Children's Wear

47 DONKIN HILL, CAVERSHAM  
Telephone Reading 473224

## CHILTERN MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING SOCIETY

20 PEPPARD ROAD  
CAVERSHAM, READING

Long or short stay residential nursery facilities offered for the care of babies and young children up to the age of seven years. Also Day Care Centre and Nursery School in pleasant surroundings with qualified staff.

Further details from

20 PEPPARD ROAD, CAVERSHAM  
Or telephone Reading 471847 or 471131

## BARBARA LADIES HAIRDRESSER

30 Church Street, Caversham Tel. 473564

Reduced prices for senior citizens Tuesday and Wednesday. Late nights Thursday and Friday

## Colebrook (Meat) Ltd.

3 PROSPECT STREET  
CAVERSHAM  
Telephone Reading 471584

High Street, Goring  
Telephone 2526

69 Lynchford Road, Farnborough  
Telephone 41491

TOP QUALITY MEAT, POULTRY AND FISH

DELIVERIES TWICE WEEKLY

MEAT SUPPLIED FOR HOME FREEZERS

## Walton Adams & Son Limited

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Telephone Reading 477904

1 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM

PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

**TALKING POINT**

by **LEONARD BURN**

# POP THE QUESTION

THERE ARE LARGE AREAS OF LIFE WHICH ARE OPEN TO MISUNDERSTANDING AND A FEW WHICH ARE OPEN TO GROSS MISUNDERSTANDING. The principal victim over centuries has been religion. All Christians are only too aware of the sweeping generalisations which are spread abroad. "All people who go to Church are hypocrites", and "religion causes more trouble in the world than anything else" are popular examples. However, in recent years religion has been joined by another principal victim, namely Pop. Pop and Pop artists are now the key targets for sweeping generalisations often made without any foundation of fact. "They're all drug addicts" people say of the artists, "it's just a load of commercial rubbish" people say of the music, and it is often implied that the whole scene is damaging to

everything from aural health to moral values. Whether one likes the particular sound of a pop group or not is a matter of personal choice, but to ignore the whole world of pop or actively work against it is a dangerous activity for the underlying principles of the pop scene are as old as the cave painting at Lascaux, namely people communicating their reactions about themselves and their environment. Having said this one is faced with an immediate problem; there is good and bad pop just as there is good and bad religion. There is a great deal of jingle and meaningless psychedelic wallpaper sound broadcast, just as there is a great deal of hollow sentimentality and paganism existing under various guises of popular religion. It is even more difficult to thread one's way through the pop world as it is so bound up with

commercial enterprises and rival business interests that it is often difficult to know whether a record has reached the top of the charts purely on its own merit as something which says something, or whether other influences have been present.

**POSITIVE VALUES**

Given the difficulties and faults what is the positive value of the pop world? It is an expression in sound of the way people see our world and society. As such pop music is not new. Pop music did not start with Bill Haley or the Beatles, the good pop musicians of today stand in a line with Haydn, Beethoven, Berlioz, Wagner and many others. The difference is that whereas the musicians of former times who survive today generally reflect the attitudes of a relatively small section of society, the pop musicians of today reflect the feel-

ings of a mass of total society. The very sound of certain brands of pop music and the way in which it is produced reflect the way we live. It requires technology and it is produced electronically. It is vibrant and violent and as such reflects much of what we take for granted—electricity is a vibrant force and the internal combustion engine is basically a violent instrument. The music of gifted bands such as Led Zeppelin or The Who does not just start—it erupts into life. The sound which they, and many others in the "heavy rock" section of pop reflects the unease and turmoil which is present in many nations and institutions around our world. The sound which these people make reflects and communicates in a way that the so called serious musicians such as Stockhausen Berio and other rather obscure

twentieth century composers does not.

**SONG CONTENT**

The other main important feature of pop music is the content of the songs. It is true to say that pop music reflects the attitudes of the rising generations, and it is also true to say that social conscience and concern for the true and authentic meaning of life seem to be more dominant issues with the younger generation than with their forefathers. This is again reflected in pop music. It is true that the self centred, pleasure seeking Victorian ballad has its modern sentimental counterpart, but there is a great deal more than this. Classic artists such as Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton and many others from the world of folk music have infused the pop world with such issues as freedom, war, the dangers of uncontrolled technology and so on so that reflections on such issues comes from big chart selling names like Elton John and Queen.

In the shadow of the really big names of the moment are many dedicated groups like 10cc, Strawbs and Deep Purple who are concerned to unite these two strands together and concentrate on making words and sound act together to reflect their philosophy. For the Christian who wants to discover the issues confronting him, Top of the Pops and more especially, The Old Grey Whistle Test are often more rewarding than the so called current affairs programmes.

**Percy C. Beech**  
Electricity Contractor  
2 CHESTER STREET  
CAVERSHAM  
Tel. Reading 472247

**L. W. YEATES LIMITED**  
Central Heating and Plumbing  
Complete systems designed and installed by Qualified Engineers  
21 Star Road  
Caversham, Reading  
Tel. Reading 471016



— L. L. Burn



**GOOD KING WENCESLAS**  
Young members of the parish gave a modern interpretation of a well known carol when they presented it in dramatic form. The first performance took place in St Peter's after the Parish Communion on the night of the Epiphany, and the second performance in St Barnabas Hall after Evensong on Sunday January 11.

**APRIL EDITION**  
All news items for the April Edition must be received by Wednesday, March 3.

Follow the trend to **THE YARD**  
PROSPECT STREET  
CAVERSHAM  
Open each weekday except Wednesday for Used Furniture, Victoriana, Pictures, China, Bygones and Antiques WE BUY - WE SELL  
Saturday is Open Market Day

**STAN ELDON SPORTS LTD.**

for all Summer Sports Clothing and Equipment

**NEW 1976 TENNIS RACKETS**

Dunlop up to £45  
Slazenger — the most expensive racket made + £100 +  
and the new Adidas rackets  
Also new and exciting Tennis Clothing at all prices  
Access and Barclaycard welcome

St Martins Centre  
Caversham  
Tel: Reading 473588

Meadway Precinct  
Tilehurst  
Tel: Reading 581722

CURTAINS FITTED CARPETS PELMETS LOOSE COVERS

**John Kitcher & Son Ltd.**

Carpets Cleaned on Site by the latest Foam Method, also Protasil Protected

5a CHURCH ROAD, CAVERSHAM  
Telephone 472306

**Hart + Seary**

ESTATE AGENTS — SURVEYORS — AUCTIONEERS — VALUERS

39 CASTLE STREET,  
READING  
Telephone 55564  
Out of Business Hours: 477670

and at  
96 QUEEN STREET, MAIDENHEAD Tel. 21166  
60 HIGH STREET, WARGRAVE Tel. 2326

# THE HORSE, THE SMOKE MACHINE — AND A WORLD WIDE REPUTATION

by  
**ZOILUS**

AT THE TIME OF THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE SOME YEARS AGO there were nearly 100 employees with over thirty years service and the list of Elliott workers reads like a roll call of well known Caversham families.

It was pretty obvious that there must be a host of interesting facts in the story of a firm that has been part of our village life for nearly three quarters of a century, and a chat with Mr Bernard Miller, Director and Company Secretary, who has made a study of the company's history from the time it was a small woodworking business in Newbury confirmed that this was so. It was in 1860 that Samuel Elliott took over the firm from his grandfather and started to build it up into one of the leading joinery manufacturers in the country. But it was not easy going at first. As well as being an expert in woodwork, old Sam was an inventor and a bit of an entrepreneur too. One of his brain waves was a "smoke machine" to dispel foul air and fumes from buildings. He was sure it was going to make his fortune; indeed it probably was a forerunner of the clean air devices now so much a part of factory legislation, but in those days people were not quite so hygienically minded. It cost him £40,000 and

Although Caversham has always been the home of a number of industries — at the beginning of the century there were brickmakers, boat builders, basket makers, cycle manufacturers and saddlers amongst the small businesses operating in the village — it is Samuel Elliott and Sons Ltd who have the best claim to be Caversham's premier industrial concern.

in 1895 he became bankrupt. But Sam must have had quite a way with him, for in 1902 we find him sitting down with his son and the redoubtable "Colonel" Charles Fidler (a great Salvationist and the builder of Queen Victoria Street, and many of our more notable buildings — but that's another story) to make an agreement to transfer his works from Newbury to a new jam factory Mr Fidler had built in Gosbrook Road. Astute Charles Fidler had decided there was more jam in joinery.

## THE HORSE

By now Samuel's son, Bert, or A.S.J. as he had become known, had arrived on the scene and together with his brother Cecil, took over much of the control. The company minutes for the early years of the century, recorded in immaculate copy plate, make engrossing reading. A recurring theme is the saga of the Horse. Between 1905 and 1909 there are some 27 entries devoted to this celebrated animal. Apparently it did not always enjoy the best of health; its forelegs were a mat-

ter of some concern and there were frequent visits by the vet, who usually prescribed a holiday in the country. It was then packed off to a farm at Britwell-cum-Sotwell, from whence it would return restored to health and resume its labours, the nature of which were not specified. But the days of the Horse were numbered and eventually there is an entry noting some further equine malady with the Chairman's rather sour comment "The Horse should be made well again and then we'll see what we can get for it if we sell it". In 1908 there is the ominous recording of the hire of a "motor trolley" and thereafter the saga of the Horse comes to an end.

## THE SMOKE MACHINE

But the pride of Samuel Elliott's heart, the Smoke Machine returns to the scene. It seems the old gentleman would not give up, and a few years after the turn of the century he is still extolling its virtues and prophesying that if it is put into production it would make the

company a quarter of a million pounds. Perhaps it would have done.

## WORLD WIDE REPUTATION

Now the scope of the firm is increasing. During both the wars Elliott's completed many government contracts, for aircraft fuselage, lorry bodies etc in the Great War and numerous productions from 1939-1945 including wings for Spitfires, landing craft, pontoons, mobile workshops and specialised joinery for the Royal Navy. In fact for many years Caversham-made joinery has gone all over the world, on land, sea and air. The great Queen liners had interior fittings by Elliotts, as have many world famous hotels and department stores. The National Theatre on South Bank, the library of Lincoln College Oxford and the Theatre Royal in Edinburgh, home of the Scottish Opera Company, where an

old theatre was restored to its original Victoria decor, are among recent contracts. The Houses of Parliament in Baghdad was another of Elliott's internationally famous operations, but it has a sad place in the company's history as it was here that the last of the Elliotts to head the firm, A.S.J.'s son Lionel, was killed in an industrial accident in 1959.

Soon after this the business became part of the McAlpine combine, and its reputation for high class joinery and woodwork engineering has grown with the years, and the many Caversham people who are both in the factory and on the executive testify that the famous firm is an important part of our way of life. There are many other interesting tales to be told of the company and perhaps one day Mr Miller will be able to draw on his immense stock of information and write the definitive history of the firm.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 5  
8pm  
Service at  
Caversham Free Baptist Church

## PARISH OF CAVERSHAM ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Thursday, March 4  
7.30pm  
BALMORE HALL

## ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 3

HOLY COMMUNION  
7am: St Peter's  
St Andrew's  
9.30am: St Peter's  
St Andrew's  
10am: St Barnabas'  
Sung Eucharist  
8pm: St Peter's  
St Andrew's  
St Barnabas'

**Peter Shock**  
Motor Coaches  
131 Hemdean Road  
Caversham,  
Reading  
Tel. Reading 473793

**TIEN-TIEN HOUSE**  
Chinese food to take away  
Fish and Chips  
27 PROSPECT STREET  
CAVERSHAM  
Phoned orders welcome  
TEL. READING 472565  
Mon-Fri mid-day until 2.30pm  
5pm until midnight  
Saturday 11.30am until 1am  
Sunday 5.30pm to 12

**VANDERPUMP & WELLBELOVE**  
(and Wellesley-Smith & Co)  
Auctioneers, Land and Estate Agents, Surveyors and Valuers  
40 PROSPECT STREET  
CAVERSHAM  
Telephone 479715/6  
Also at Reading, Woodley and Wallingford, Berks

Your Pet Shop in  
**CAVERSHAM**  
**Gee Gee Pets and Aquaria**  
29 PROSPECT STREET  
Reading 472422  
For your pets ACCESSORIES AND FOODS  
Late Night Friday 8pm

## HOLLOWAY'S

HENLEY ROAD — CAVERSHAM — READING

Telephone Reading 472766/7

AGENTS FOR MORRIS, MG, WOLSELEY  
LEYCARE SERVICING UNIPART CENTRE

SELF-DRIVE HIRE CARS

AA and RAC APPOINTED

Invest and save regularly with

## Portman

Building Society

The 'Portman', who have had an office in Reading for nearly 20 years, offer a courteous, friendly and efficient investment service

Call and discuss the particular investment account you require with your local Branch Manager, Mr A. J. SILK, or write or telephone for

full investment details  
READING 52804/56260

£7.25% Capital sums  
£8.50% Regular savings

We now have an office at

41 BELL STREET, HENLEY-on-THAMES

Telephone Henley-on-Thames 6826/7

Branch Manager: Mr J. K. CORNWELL  
Regional Manager: Mr B. B. HAZELL



**Portman**  
Building Society

25 KING STREET  
READING RG1 2HE

Authorised for Investment by Trustees  
Member of the Building Societies Association

# CAVERSHAM SHOPPING BASKET

The list below contains twenty essential items of shopping and compares the prices at which they were available in three Caversham supermarkets — Liptons, Oakeshotts and the Co-op — on February 2, 1976.

Item	Co-op**	Liptons	Oakeshotts*
Large white sliced loaf	15½p	17p	17p
1lb Anchor butter	32p	34p	36p
1lb lard	19p	19p	23p
1lb cheapest Cheddar	44p	50p	48p
1 dozen standard eggs	19p	19p	19p
Packet of 10 fish fingers	36p	36p	36p
15½oz tin of Heinz baked beans	12p	13p	12½p
15½oz tin of Heinz soup	14p	11½p	15p
1lb 13oz tin of fruit	30p	30p	35½p
5lbs potatoes	56p	63p	70p
1lb frozen peas	26p	25p	26½p
3lb bag of self-raising flour	17½p	17p	18½p
1lb currants	23p	25p	24p
¼lb cheapest tea	9½p	9½p	11½p
4oz jar of Nescafe	51p	46p	45p (Fine Blend)
2lbs granulated sugar	23p	23p	23½p
500gms Kelloggs cornflakes	25½p	24½p	26½p
¾lb packet of McVities rich tea biscuits	19p	18½p	16p
1lb own brand marmalade	18½p	21p	21p
Double pack of Andrej toilet paper	21½p	23p	24p
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5.12</b>	<b>£5.25</b>	<b>£5.48½</b>

\* Oakeshotts gives Green Shield Stamps.

\*\* Co-op gives to members a 1¼% discount in form of dividend.

## STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

### OLYMPIC GAMES OR FARCE!

THE PROBLEMS THAT THE CANADIANS ARE NOW HAVING IN GETTING THE STADIUMS AND ACCOMMODATION READY FOR THE 1976 Olympics highlights the difficulties in staging the vast modern Olympiad. With many more countries now independent, the number of competing countries has greatly increased and although not all can afford to send full teams, many of them quite rightly try to send their outstanding sportsmen and women to compete in at least some events. Along with this the actual number of events is constantly increasing; for example in Athletics the females are now allowed to compete in more field events and longer races than ever before so that the total number of Women's events has greatly increased. All this means that hardly any country is equipped to stage the Olympics using existing facilities so has to embark on a long and expensive development programme for the enormous and special complex which has to be built for and paid for. If some good is to come out of the current Olympic preparation difficulties, it may well be that the Olympics as we know them may either disappear or be greatly streamlined and modernised.

There are several ways in which the Games could be streamlined; for example, sports with their own World Championships held on a regular basis every one, two or four years, need not have a place in the Olympics. This could also apply to the basically professional sports such as Riding where there are more than enough championship events around the world to prove their champions. Then there are the artistic activities such as Gymnastics which, although good to watch, are very special events judged on merit and are not direct physical competitions where the winner can be clearly seen by everyone and not just the experts. Team games could be excluded and then finally the remaining sports, probably including swimming and athletics, where the number of events are becoming too numerous, could very easily be trimmed.

In the event of this happening the Olympics would benefit by returning to a manageable size and could be held in practically any country in the world instead of a limited five or six as is now the case.

However, with the murder of the Israelis at Munich and the banning of teams for political objectives, the Games

have in recent years been used by many as a political weapon. Added to this the fact that there are now virtually no real amateur sportsmen and women at the top level, there may well be a stronger case for the complete winding up of the Olympic Games.

#### Football, Football, Football

Malcolm Macdonald and Newcastle United are the favourites of 11 years old footballer Gary Clark of Hemdean Road, Caversham who plays three or four matches a week. He started playing football about two years ago for Mapledurham Under 12's and still plays regularly for them on Sundays. He also plays for his school Caversham Primary, and through the school had a trial last term for the Reading Primary School Team and has been a regular player for them this season, scoring one goal in a 7-3 win over Wokingham Schools recently. If, after his games on a Sunday, mid-week and Saturday morning, Gary feels like more football — he plays for West Caversham Boys on a Saturday afternoon.



**WANTED** Cross Country Runners, especially between 15 and 17 years old, would be welcome by Reading Athletic Club. If you would like to have a go contact Les Masters at Reading 471120 or myself.

#### GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES

We are glad to have been able to put a number of readers in touch with each other in a scheme for linking up those who have large gardens which they cannot cultivate themselves with those who have little or no garden and would be glad to take over part of a garden from someone else. We shall be glad to hear from any more readers in either category.

We are also glad to learn that following on negotiations with the local authorities the allotment holders at Caversham Court have been given fresh agreements which operate on an annual basis and it now seems unlikely, in view of the financial situation facing local authorities, that the land at present used for allotments will be taken over for an enlargement of the gardens at Caversham Court, at any rate for several years.

#### ST JOHN'S GOSPEL

Five evenings of devotional Bible study led by the Rector in Church House at 8pm

Wednesday, March 10  
Wednesday, March 17  
Thursday, March 25  
Wednesday, March 31  
Thursday, April 8

All welcome — Bring a Bible

Put yourself in

## MILWARDS SHOES

★  
Church Street, Caversham

### J. STRONG & SONS

Builders and Contractors

We shall be pleased to build Guildway Bungalows on your own land Guildway Approved Builders

32 ARDLER ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING RG4 0AO

Telephone Reading 473177 and 472881

### WANTED COINS AND MEDALS

Top prices for British and Foreign Coins and Medals

Also required — Gold, Silver, Jewellery and Militaria, and any Books on Berkshire, Oxfordshire or Hampshire

Houses cleared

MARK MYHILL

Post Office, Eversley Street

Telephone Reading 732309

(EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS IF POSSIBLE)

I will be pleased to call at your home at your convenience if required

Craftsmen Butchers since 1824

**H. R. STEVENS & SON**  
177 CAVERSHAM ROAD, READING  
Telephone 52595

TOP QUALITY ENGLISH MEATS AND POULTRY

BACON AND COOKED MEATS

## HEATING

Planned Maintenance Contracts by

# GOODMAN

Telephone 55811 (20 lines)

or write to

**H. C. GOODMAN LIMITED**  
Freepost, Reading, RG1 1BR

(NO STAMP)

Radio Controlled Service Means a Better Service

### W. T. NICHOLLS

59 GROVE ROAD, EMMER GREEN

Opposite Primary School

Reading 472758

GREENGROCERY and CONFECTIONERY

# ROUND THE CLUBS

## Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Chairman, Mrs C. Mitchell, presided at the monthly meeting of the Guild on Thursday, January 15. She welcomed a new member. Mrs Grey informed the Guild of the outings for the coming year; there is much to look forward to.

The afternoon guest was Mr Richard Snailham, who gave a very interesting talk illustrated by many colourful slides, entitled "Down the Blue Nile in boats". He was a member of a 65 strong expedition, which included many professionals, scientists and an archaeologist, and followed the course of the Blue Nile from its source at Lake Tana to its entry to the great Plateau. They had many hair raising experiences. As days turned into months, they were confronted by bandits, who caught them in crossfire before they could escape further down the Nile. On another occasion, they

approached a tribe which was somewhat dubious, not having seen a white man since the Italians left during the war. The explorers at one time were baffled as to how the women's earrings and bangles came to be made of aluminium; they later learned that it came from one of the planes which came down nearby during the war, and the tribe had made full use of the salvage.

Further on in the expedition, the Nile was hazardous, and their boats capsized. They sadly lost one of their colleagues by drowning, which lowered the expedition's morale, but they had to carry on to achieve their aim.

At the end of the expedition they were generously entertained by the Emperor Haile Selassie at his palace, who warmly welcomed each member of the expedition.

A vote of thanks to Mr R. Snailham was proposed by Miss E. Baker.

The meeting concluded with a display of members' handicrafts, which were of an outstanding quality.

## Mapledurham W.I.

Mapledurham Women's Institute held its January meeting at its new venue, the Memorial Hall in Mapledurham Playing Field. The afternoon was a very happy one, during which the President, Mrs Dorothy Griffith, welcomed several new members.

The speaker, Mr Tattersfield, gave very interesting information and advice on the growing of house plants, illustrating his talk with specimens and coloured slides. He was warmly thanked by Mrs Joyce Beacroft.

Future meetings of the Institute will be regularly held on the second Friday afternoon of the month at the Mapledurham Memorial Hall, and new members will be welcome.

## Caversham Heights T. G.

Mr P. Walsh, Area Appeals Organiser for the National Institute of the Blind in Berkshire, was the speaker at the January Guild meeting.

There are 120,000 registered blind people, and 12,000 more losing their sight each year, these were the startling figures given by Mr Walsh in his talk. 71% of these are in the over 65 age group. The rehabilitation centre in Torquay offers a great variety of activities. Classes range from pottery and gardening to seafishing, and cookery. Self-reliance is the theme throughout.

Mr Walsh demonstrated some of the aids he had brought along, such as, the Tape Talking Book machine, a Braille typewriter, a rain-warning device for the blind housewife, which lets her know when to bring in the washing. A ball with a high pitch-whistle must give inestimable joy to the young blind child. Tape Talking books on many subjects are available for blind students

over 16 years of age. It was enlightening to learn about the tremendous job being done at the residential schools for blind children.

Although the subject was a serious one, the speaker, a blind person himself, nevertheless managed to inject some humour into his talk. Mr Walsh said, "if we can laugh at our mistakes we are halfway towards overcoming our disability."

Mrs A. Denning gave the vote of thanks, and the chairman, Mrs M. Kitcher presented Mr. Walsh with a donation of £15 on behalf of the members.

On January 26, the Social Studies group had an illustrated talk on the National Trust.



— Walton Adams  
 ■ Mr Arthur Ferreira and Miss Valerie Chandler who were married in St Peter's in January.

## THE LINK GROUP

# "GOOD AS NEW" SALE

on  
 Saturday, April 3

10.30am — 3.30pm

in Church House.

Refreshments available.

★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any items which you would be prepared to donate, including home produce, please contact:

Mrs C. Pynn. Tel. Reading 476065 (42 Geoffreyson Road)

Mrs C. Kitchener. Tel. Reading 471605 (222 Upper Woodcote Road)

★ ★ ★ ★

The Sale is in aid of the charities supported by the Link Group.

## Nicholas

Auctioneers, Surveyors, Valuers, Land and Estate Agents

R. J. WADE, FRICS  
 B. P. COLSTON, B.Sc, FRICS  
 P. J. MITCHELL, FRICS, FIAS, FRVA  
 W. J. DULBOROUGH, FRICS  
 C. M. S. CROMBIE, FSVA  
 G. H. KING, FSVA

13 BRIDGE STREET, CAVERSHAM

Reading 479665

Head Office at 147 FRIAR STREET, READING — 56511  
 Also at Woodley, Wokingham, Twyford, Newbury and London, W.1

## W. N. & E. FISHER LTD.

Building Contractors

Renovations in all Trades Decorations

EMMER GREEN, READING Tel. 471595

## METAP SERVICES LTD.

We are able to offer the following business services at

METAP SERVICES LTD.  
 39 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM, READING  
 Telephone Reading 470022

**Telex Services**  
**Photocopying**

**Telephone Answering Service**  
**Typing — Letter and Manuscript**  
**Accommodation Address**

A confidential and efficient business service, especially for the small business and self-employed

Please ring Reading 470022 or call at  
 39 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM, READING, BERKS

## Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

"New Products" was the title of a talk given by Mrs Welsh, a Home Economist from Libby, McNeil and Libby Ltd at the January meeting. Mrs Welsh explained that the firm of Libby's was started in 1868 when corned beef was first put into tins and sold in Chicago, but was not exported to Great Britain until 1903. Since that time Libby's had started to can other foods and now a vast range of fruit, meat products and vegetables were sold all over the world. Recipes, tips on presentation and samples of the foods and fruit juices on display were gratefully accepted by members who are always ready to try something different in order to vary the regular menus served up to the family. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Jones.

The Arts and Crafts, Social Studies and Drama Groups all held programme planning meetings in January and new members were urged by the Chairman to join one or two of the Groups in order to meet people, take up new skills, and perhaps revive old ones.

## Chiltern Sports Supplies

16 CHURCH STREET, CAVERSHAM  
 Reading 477122

Visit our North Reading  
 SPORTS AND HOBBIES CENTRE  
 for

Rugby — Squash — Hockey — Football — Tennis —  
 Cricket — Badminton — Chess — Darts — Hiking —  
 Canoes — Rifles — Bowls — Table Tennis — Aero-  
 modelling Kits — Engines — Radio Control Units —  
 Model Boats — Military A.F.C.s — Rio and Solido

## PLATTS HOME COOKED HAM

WORTH FINDING  
 at 49 Donkin Hill, Caversham  
 ORDERS TAKEN AND DELIVERED  
 Our Phone 472175

## THE FLOWER CORNER

(Mary Hooper and Patricia Collins)

★  
**FLORAL EXPERTS**  
**FOR EVERY OCCASION**

Members of Interflora

★  
 139 CAVERSHAM ROAD  
 READING, BERKS  
 Telephone Reading 52856

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday, January 25, saw the culmination of some months of planning and preparation for the use of one of the vestries in Caversham Baptist Church as a meeting place for the Sunday Morning Young People's Group.

The Young People, ages ranging from 11 to 18, had been given freedom by the Church Fellowship to choose their own colour scheme and to make the room attractive. On some occasions as many as twelve of them could be seen wielding paint brushes (some for the first time) with most of the paint finishing up in the right place. The result is a transformation, effected by using a warm colour scheme, covered foam cushions, curtains, carpet and increased lighting.

The group share the room with the choir, and other Church Groups, enjoying the encouragement and friendship of the Fellowship. They hope to make more effective our contribution to the work, worship and witness of their Church in the Caversham area.

A compelling feature of the room is a large mural, painted in oils by Martin Beek, an active member of the Group. Martin, who

shows considerable artistic skill, has used any available spare moments over the past months to create this scene, with Christ teaching the crowds by Galilee. He looks forward to his course at the Berkshire College of Art and Design next September.

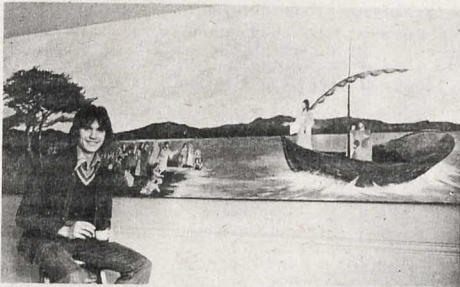
**PARISH NEWS**

Congratulations to Adrian Keetch who has been awarded a testimonial by the Royal Humane Society. Last August he jumped fully clothed into the Thames to help rescue a three year old boy.

In addition to Mr Dussek Mr David Butler, organist at St John's and Mr Hugh Rowe until recently organist at St Andrew's have both been on the sick list and in hospital. A number of deputies have been standing in including Mr Reg Brind who retired from St Peter's in 1974.

**St John's News**

**Epiphany Party** — St John's Epiphany Supper was held after the evening celebration of Holy Communion and was followed by a "Fact and Faith" film called "Dust or Destiny?", which showed the complicated workings of human organs such as the ear and heart and some of the wonders of nature, and invited the audience to think beyond these towards the ultimate Source of all life.



Martin Beek

Walton Adams

**YOUNG CAVERSHAM**

**KNOCKING THE PUBLIC SERVICE** is sometimes regarded as a national pastime these days. In fact, I have to admit having indulged in it myself occasionally when things have not gone the way I have wanted. Recently however, I have had good cause to applaud two of these corporate institutions in the manner they have carried

out their obligations as statutory "obedient servants."

First, I commend the Post Office. A letter posted in London, NW1 addressed to Mr P. D. V. Shock, Chazey Boys' Club, Berkshire, found its recipient just a fortnight later. Not bad I thought, considering the lack of information on the buff-coloured envelope,

although it had collected an abundance of blue-pencilled cyphering on its journey. The Chazey Boys' Club has been extinct for about 7 years when it merged with the West Caversham Club. Under the circumstances, I think we can say, "Didn't they do well?" Thank you, Mr Postman.

My other "thumbs up" goes to British Rail. I arranged to take a group of ten 9-11 year-olds on a visit to Bournemouth, having managed to get tickets for Ked Dodd's pantomime at the Winter Gardens Theatre. The rail tickets I ordered at British Rail Travel Centre, where they told me special seats would be allocated to the party on the train. It was a two-day visit, as the performance ended too late to catch the last train back to Reading. The second day could be employed in looking around the interesting museums — apart from the one-armed bandit kind! Within a few minutes of setting off on our outward journey, along trotted the ticket inspector. "Everything all right, sir? Enough seats for you?" (There were about ten in excess of our needs, which I politely pointed out to him). "Ah," he replied, "we just thought you might all be big fat men". I thanked him most courteously and thought — what first-class attendance for second-class ticket-holders! We enjoyed our short stay in Bournemouth, along with all the titled gentry folk who escaped to the Costa

del Dorset in the grey winter months. As the time came to return home, the group gathered at the station; the loud-speaker hailed — "Special Announcement. Mr Shock and his party will find their seats on the ninth coach of the train about to arrive at this platform!" Well, true to its word, the train took the strain!

★ ★ ★

The January 1976 edition of "LINK", the journal of the Chiltern Edge School Association has come to hand. It is something more than just a School Mag, and concerns the whole complex of the Chiltern Edge community. Apart from the school buildings, there is a spacious centre for youth and recreational activities, and many organisations are affiliated to the establishment. A great deal of the contents in "Link" is of course connected directly with the school and its 1,000 plus pupils. I was particularly impressed to read the remarks of the Headmaster Mr E. M. Martin, that almost 100% of the school's students turn up regularly in school uniform, an accomplishment which to my mind, raises the tone of the school. I hope I shall have an opportunity to visit the new Resources Centre in the near future. This is a new development Oxfordshire Education Committee is promoting.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**Mothers' Union** — The St John's Branch of the Mothers' Union held their New Year party on January 13, when they entertained a number of the senior citizens of Caversham to tea and were themselves entertained by Mrs Nash and her Singers from Redlands and Newtown.

January 27 marked the end of Mrs Godwin's first year of office as Enrolling Member, when the Rector took the chair at the Branch AGM. Members look forward to yet another very successful year.

**Church Decoration** — Members of the congregation are busy cleaning down pillars and windows in the church in preparation for redecoration in the spring. The vestries were cleaned and repainted before Christmas.

**May Fair** — Plans are now well under way for a fair to be held on May 8 to raise money towards much-needed repairs to the church organ. Mrs Margaret Horne (Reading 473782) will welcome offers of help.

**St Peter's Invalids**

Mr John Dussek is still a patient at the Battle Hospital but is making excellent progress from his long illness. Mrs Phyllis Pond has made an excellent recovery from her operation. Mrs Eves is still unable to get out but is always glad to see visitors at her home. Miss May Turner has been transferred from the Battle Hospital to Prospect Park Hospital, her sister who has just kept her 91st birthday is still at Blagrove Farm House.

**St Peter's and St Barnabas Mothers' Union**

The January meeting was made most interesting. No one could be bored listening to Inspector Eden talking of her work, and members really felt they now knew quite a lot about police procedure.

**House Communions at Caversham Park**

- March 3rd, 63, Kingsway (Vera Wilson)
- 10th, 82, Lowfield Road (Lynne Livesey)
- 17th, 20, Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)
- 24th, 4, Holyrood Close (Barbara Robinson)
- 31st, 17, Odiham Avenue (Liz Beckett)

**St Barnabas News**

All people with prams or children at school will be relieved to see that the plan for widening the footpath by the Church is now being put into operation. It is good that the path goes round the trees, instead of removing them as was originally planned.

Mrs Knight, a regular member of St Barnabas for many years, has moved from Caversham back into Emmer Green.

The Darby and Joan Club closed at the end of last year, following the retirement of Mrs Sherman after many years of dedicated work. It is hoped that a new club for senior citizens will be opened in the not too distant future.

**St Peter's Wives**

At their January meeting, St Peter's Wives Group were privileged to hear about the valuable work of the Samaritans. The Wives learned of the history of the organisation from its inception in London, in 1953, to its present day level of 150 branches throughout the UK. In 1974, the Samaritans received 192,284 calls from people making contact for the first time. Ready 24 hours each day to be caring, confidential listeners to suicidal, despairing and lonely people, they provide a most necessary help in these days of tension and stress

for young and old alike.

Last year over 500 new callers rang Reading Samaritans phone number, Reading 54845, to share their problems with another human being at a time of crisis. The two speakers, who were representatives of the 120 volunteers in Reading who devote their spare time to helping others in this way, were sincerely thanked by the Wives who had spent a most thought-provoking evening.

March 6 the Playgroup Bazaar is at 2.15 in Balmore Hall and on March 16 there is a demonstration by Kakebrand.

**THE FAMILY OF ST ANDREW'S AT PLAY!**



Photographs taken during the Sunday School Party, when the children were entertained by Mr Norman Kent and a film show.

**Caversham Fabrics Ltd.**

4 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM  
Telephone Reading 475169

Come and see our range of  
SPRING FABRICS AND  
CHILDREN'S WEAR

★  
CURTAINS and ROLLER BLINDS  
a SPECIALITY

★  
VENETIAN BLINDS LESS 33-1/3%

YOUR CAVERSHAM AGENTS FOR 44 YEARS

**Martin & Pole**

CHARTERED SURVEYORS  
CHARTERED AUCTIONEERS & ESTATE AGENTS

4 BRIDGE STREET, CAVERSHAM  
Tel: Reading 472877 and 477561

Also at Reading (Head Office), Earley, Pangbourne, Goring and Thatcham  
Associated Offices: Wokingham and High Wycombe

Could you have a

**HORSE or PONY**

if only you had somewhere to keep it?

**COLLINS END RIDING CENTRE**

provides expert care, jumps, saddlery and lovely hacking

Come and stay all day

HARDWICK ESTATE  
WHITCHURCH, READING, RG8 7RB

**GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICES**

6 BANBURY GARDENS, CAVERSHAM  
READING 473308

Sales and Service Agents for  
FLYMO  
MOUNTFIELD  
HAYTER  
ATCO, etc.

Always large stock of  
NEW AND RECONDITIONED MACHINES  
FREE ESTIMATES

KNITTING WOOLS, UNDERWEAR,  
LINGERIE, STOCKINGS and TIGHTS

**VERA FLETCHER**

5 Prospect Street, Caversham  
Tel. Reading 472414

Have your skirts and slacks MADE TO MEASURE by

**SPIRELLA**

PASSPORT SERVICE  
YOUR WEDDING OR PORTRAIT IN COLOUR

**HYMOR Photographers**

43 PROSPECT STREET,  
CAVERSHAM  
Tel. Reading 475656 and 479450

# WHO, WHEN, WHERE

## Clergy and Ministers of Caversham

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Canon John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.  
 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 Michael Kitchener, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.  
 The Rev John Sumner, St John's House, 9 Southview Avenue. Tel. 471814.  
 The Rev Martin Loveless, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

### 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, 11am (not 3rd Sunday of month). Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Tel. 476494  
**St Andrew's** — St Andrew's Hall, 11am (9.15 1st Sunday of month). Superintendent: Mr J. Tomlin, 32 Kidmore Road. Tel. 473809.  
**St Barnabas'** — Church Hall, 9.15am

### CAVERSHAM PARK

The School, 11am.  
 Superintendent: Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close. Tel. 478430

### METHODIST

**Caversham Heights** — In Church, 11am  
 Superintendent: Mrs P. Court, 3 Woburn Close. Tel. 471445.

### COMBINED CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND METHODIST

**East Caversham** — Caversham Hall, 11am (aged three to seven)  
 Superintendents: Mrs J. Stephens, 24 Carlton Road. Tel. 477030. Mrs S. Holley. Tel. 477142; Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11am (seven upwards).  
 Superintendents: Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent. Tel. 472084 and Mrs J. Trevis, 40 All Hallows Road.

### BAPTIST

**West Memorial Hall** — 11am, aged three years and upwards.  
 Secretary: Miss I. Marshall, 16 Albert Road. Tel. 474478.

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

Sunday Worship: 11am and 6.30pm

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

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION  
 10.45 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday)  
 11.00 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  
 4.00 pm. Evensong (1st Sunday)

#### St Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST  
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
 6.30 p.m. Evensong

#### St Barnabas'

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

#### St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION  
 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)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sunday)  
 FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)  
 7.30 pm Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)

### METHODIST CHURCHES

#### Caversham

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

#### Caversham Heights

11.00 a.m. Morning Service  
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service (in Church Hall)

### 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

## Parkers

auctioneers & estate agents

15

associated offices at Reading, Caversham, Tilehurst, Woodley, Wokingham, Crowthorne, Fleet, Cheltenham, Hucclecote and Stroud

LOCALISED EXPERT ATTENTION  
 1 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM  
 Telephone Reading 478478

### R. R. Clark & Partners

PROSPECT HOUSE, PROSPECT STREET  
 CAVERSHAM  
 Telephone Reading 479349

LOCAL OFFICES  
 READING — Telephone Reading 55455  
 TILEHURST — Telephone Reading 22112  
 WOODLEY — Telephone Reading 693999

## CYRIL H. LOVEGROVE LTD.

Funeral Directors :: Monumental Masons

114/116 OXFORD ROAD, READING  
 Telephone 52016 (Day or Night)

Branch Offices at  
 4/5 Town Square, Bracknell. Tel. 21949

FUNERALS AND CREMATIONS  
**A. B. WALKER AND SON LTD.**  
 36 ELDON ROAD  
 READING, BERKS

Telephones: Day — Reading 53650. Night — Reading 53763 & 61539  
 Private Chapels of Rest

### A. H. WHITE (N.A.F.D.)

New Offices and Private Chapel

15 BOULT STREET (Rear 11 The Grove)  
 READING

Telephone 54334  
 Late: 63921

## W. R. BOURTON & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

1 PRINCES STREET, READING  
 Tel. 53825 Night 63917 and 39-4283

### TOMALIN & SON

(N.A.F.D.)

Funeral Directors  
 48 New Street  
 Henley-on-Thames  
 Tel. 3370 Day and Night

### A.F. JONES

MASTER MASONS

Craftsmen in Stone

BEDFORD ROAD  
 READING  
 TELEPHONE 53537

## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

#### ST PETER'S

January 11: Timothy Brewer, Alexandra Thwaite

#### ST ANDREW'S

January 25: Tina Waters

### MARRIED

#### ST BARNABAS'

January 10: Derek Davies, Esme McLean, Gordon Mahoney and Karen Dew  
 January 17: John Crooks and Jane Pearce

### FUNERALS

#### ST PETER'S

January 8: Ethel Joyce  
 January 14: Cyril Allwright

## TO HIRE A HALL

### BALMORE HALL

Secretary: Mr D. F. Osbourn, 15 Ilkley Road  
 Tel. 472953

### CAVERSHAM HALL

Secretary: Mrs C. H. Jordan, 7 St John's Road  
 Tel. 478538

### EMMER GREEN YOUTH CLUB HALL

Secretary: Mr J. Jenkins, The Youth Club, Emmer Green. Tel. 476794

### MAPLEDURHAM MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mrs L. F. T. Bartlett, 143 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471863

### ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mr J. Tomlin, 32 Kidmore Road  
 Tel. 473809

### ST. BARNABAS HALL

Secretary: Mrs G. F. Davies, 11 Eric Avenue  
 Tel. 471334

### TRENCH GREEN HALL

Secretary: Mr Martyn-Johns, Greendene Farm, Mapledurham. Kidmore End 2198

### WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mr K. Shield, 27 Albert Road.  
 Tel. 473709

### CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

Secretary: Mr R. E. Vanderpump, 6 Station Road,  
 Reading Tel. 53211

## READING OXFAM GROUP

are holding an Exhibition of an

## ETHIOPIAN WELL DIGGING PROJECT

in

THE BUTTS CENTRE, READING  
 MARCH 8 - 13, 1976

The Oxfam project concerned is being run in Ethiopia by a Reading man and the Reading Group aim to raise funds for this project