

YOUTH ACTIVE IN CAVERSHAM CHURCHES

PROPHETS OF GLOOM CONFOUNDED

In recent months the Caversham Bridge has given considerable space to the work being done by the churches of Caversham among the younger generation. This month we are glad to publish further reports of a variety of activities in which young Church members are involved, many of the reports being written by members of the younger

generation.

In addition to the uniformed organisations, Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade, all of which attract large numbers there are a variety of smaller and less formal groups. The presence of so many teenagers in Caversham Churches on Sunday mornings is an excellent answer to the

Jeremiahs who think that Christianity is doomed.

This month we include a report from St Peter's Scouts, accounts of the half-term conference at Legge House, a visit to Coventry, the choir visit to Tewkesbury and further news of the visit to the French Reformed Community at Taize this summer.

HALF TERM AT LEGGE HOUSE



■ Time off for a walk across Wiltshire fields

On October 25 the best part of a tidy few of the combined post confirmation youth groups in Caversham set off for Legge House youth conference centre near Swindon. Despite getting lost only once on the way we arrived unscathed and were all ready to start our few days away from home on the right foot.

We all thought our selves very fortunate because the warden was away on holiday when we arrived; this meant we could have our tape recorders and audio equipment turned up as loud as was required to create the correct atmosphere in the dormitories for a good rest before starting the more serious matters of the conference. The warden's flat, a new addition to the original school building, as were the dormitories, was above the dormitories, so during the times his family were in residence above us a quiet atmosphere was a little more than encouraged.

The idea of the few days away from home was firstly to escape from the humdrum of school life, and secondly

by
**Christopher
Birtwhistle**

to spend some time together as a group discussing the subject of poverty in the world today. I think I ought to stress that they are not in order of importance. The outstanding example brought to mind by the cellulose strip was Mother Theresa. A lot of us had come across Mother Theresa's work in Calcutta two years before when we had a few days away at the same time of the year at Kelston Park near Bristol. During our days away this year, as we did two years ago, we focused our attention on the subject of poverty in the area of Calcutta and the wonderful work Mother Theresa is doing for the poor, dying and leperous. Her sisters all make a vow of poverty which became one of our main talking points during the conference. Another film about the slums of Glasgow struck home the meaning of the word poverty.

Leonard Burn made the long trip down from Birmingham especially to see us and tell us about his new job as a hospital chaplain in context with the subject matter we had come across during our discussions. It was great to see him again and I am sure we would like to thank him for coming down to see us.

As well as talking and watching films we appreciated the normal joys which are part of such a conference. I refer of course to the cooking. Who said "You can't possibly burn water"! We managed it all right. Despite the number of males in the kitchen most of the food was edible, giving us the energy required to partake in such pastimes as singing, walking, table football, painting, table tennis, snooker, drama in the rounded form of "Pooh plays," listening

to music and last, but not least, some people got the chance to watch the bell ringing at the church.

We all had a great time and I am sure we would all like to say a very big thankyou to John Sumner and Martin Loveless for "looking after" us, and organising the activities. It must have taken a long time to do. Thanks also to all parishioners who helped to subsidise us, and finally thanks to all who came for making it such a success.



■ Rehearsing Pooh plays at Legge House

PUT
CHRIST
INTO
CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP HIM
ON
CHRISTMAS
DAY

The Editor's Column

NO CHRISTMAS FOR THOUSANDS?

SCANDALOUS SITUATION LIKELY IN CAVERSHAM

Present indications are that as many as 20,000 people in Caversham and Mapledurham, including large numbers of readers of this paper will not be having any Christmas this year. This amazing state of affairs in the year of Our Lord 1976 in what most people regard as a Christian country is not due to poverty or any form of hardship. Quite the contrary, for it is highly likely that more money than ever will be spent this year in Reading shops in the next few weeks. The thousands who have no Christmas are expected to do a great deal of eating and drinking in the second half of December; they are likely to go to many parties and to give and receive presents, many of which will be very expensive.

THE REASON WHY

The reason why so many thousands will not be having any Christmas is that these people will be completely ignoring the Person whose Birthday is kept on December 25. Keeping someone's birthday means taking recognition of the person who is having a birthday. Keeping Christmas means making some acknowledgment that it is the birthday of Jesus Christ. It means doing what shepherds and kings did at the time that Jesus was born and joining in the worship of the King of Kings.

PLACE FOR ENJOYMENT

Of course there is a place for enjoyment at Christmas. Of course it is right that we should want to spend such a season with our families and give presents to those we love, if for no other reason than that Christianity has a lot to say about home and family life. But if this is the only thing that Christmas is about then the real meaning is missed.

In addition to the details given in this edition of the Caversham Bridge about times of Christmas worship in local churches it is planned to deliver a leaflet to every home in Caversham and Mapledurham so that the 6,000 homes which do not receive this paper may also know the times. Last year the churches of Caversham and Mapledurham were full at this great festival. But although they were full it is no exaggeration to say that 20,000 people stayed away — that means that the majority of people kept Yuletide but did not keep Christmas. This year if Christmas is really going to be kept our churches must be more than full — they must be crammed to overflowing.

WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?

How are you observing December 25? As Yuletide, or as the Birthday of your Saviour, Jesus Christ?

My hope is that this year you will experience what it is to have a joyous Christmas.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to see the three Sunday School Patronal Festival photographs in the October edition of the 'Bridge' and very pleased too. You ask certain questions about them. I am sorry I cannot identify myself among the children, but I can recall the young lady, a friend of my sister's, holding the ribbon on the banner in the foreground of the top photograph as Miss Hilda Walters, who lived in Westfield Road.

The gentleman in the straw hat looking to the rear was A. M. Cooke, the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

The lower photograph shows the arrival of the procession at Balmore Park, off Hemdean Road, before Balmore Hall was built. I believe the Misses Elsie and Rose Radcliffe, who were staunch supporters of St Peter's and St John's churches lived at 'Balmore'.

The gentleman carrying the Cross I think Mr Argyle, a lovely man,

a Sunday School teacher, who also lived in Westfield Road. The Reading Temperance prize band attended and I well remember the gentlemen in the centre of the photograph on the left with the moustaches, but names escape me.

Thanks for publishing them and I hope they will not be the last.

Yours etc.

George F. Mander
2 Grove Hill,
Caversham.

NO, MR THORSEN

LETTERS FROM 10 DOWNING STREET AND THE HOME OFFICE

IN THE OCTOBER EDITION of the Caversham Bridge readers were urged by the Editor to make their views about Mr Thorsen's proposed film of the life of Jesus Christ known to their Members of Parliament. As a result both Mr A. Durant and Mr M. Heseltine made strong representations and Mr Durant wrote to the editor to say he was "knee deep in letters." We publish this month the replies that he received from the Prime Minister and the Home Office and are grateful to both Members of Parliament for the way they have expressed the very strong feelings of their constituents to members of the Government.

Thank you for your letter of September 28 to Merlyn Rees about the film on the life of Jesus Christ which has been proposed by Mr Jens Jorgen Thorsen.

The Home Secretary fully understands and shares the strong feelings that many people have expressed about the proposed film. You may find it helpful to have the following explanation of the extent to which the Government has any powers in the matter.

Mr Thorsen, a Danish film maker, has for some time had plans for a film dealing with the supposed sex life of Jesus Christ. Recent reports have raised the possibility that part of the film might be made in Britain. Some reports have suggested that the making of the film has been banned in Sweden and Denmark, but it is understood that this is not so: all that has happened in those countries is that an application for financial assistance from public funds has been refused.

A person wishing to produce a film in this country does not need the permission of the Government, and the question of the Government's giving any kind of approval to the project does not arise. There has therefore never been any question of the Home Secretary giving permission for a film of the kind which Mr Thorsen has in mind to be made in Britain, since the Home Secretary has no powers to control the making of films in this country, whether to prevent production or to interfere with the content of films while they are being made. If the making of a film involves the commission of a criminal offence, it is for the prosecuting authorities (e.g. the police) to decide what action should be taken.

Although the public exhibition of films is subject to censorship controls, this also is not a matter in which the Home Secretary has any power to intervene and the final decision on the showing of any particular film rests with the local cinema licensing authority.

As to the question of Mr Thorsen's possible

Dear Mr Durant,

Thank you for your letter of September 28 about the film which Mr Thorsen proposes to make about the life of Jesus Christ.

As you will know, I have made it quite clear that Mr Thorsen would be a most unwelcome and undesirable visitor to this country, and I very much hope that he will not seek to come here. The powers of

entry to the United Kingdom, this is subject to the law of the country. There is a power to refuse entry to an E.E.C. national on issues relating to public order, public security or public health. The Home Secretary will make a formal decision if and when the need arises.

Michael R. D. Heseltine, Esq., MP

refusal for entry contained in our law are a matter for the Home Secretary. He will make a formal decision on whether they should be exercised if and when Mr Thorsen, should he decide to ignore the strong feelings that have been expressed about his proposal to come here, arrives at a port or airport.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Callaghan

10 Downing Street

JANUARY EDITION

All contributions for the January Edition should be sent to Church House by Wednesday, December 1.

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Quiet Weekend

What were twelve men from St Andrew's doing for a whole weekend in October? They were attending a weekend Retreat at Cowley, Oxford, the Community House of the Society of St John the Evangelist.

We joined the Community in the recital of their daily offices in chapel and the Eucharist in Church. We kept silence in the house and at meal times heard readings from scripture, and from the lives of Christians, both past and present.

WAITING UPON GOD

As we heard in the first address we were waiting upon God: "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31). The theme of God waiting, waiting for us to turn to Him was to be the focal point of our reflections for the Retreat.

God has made us as individuals; we must renew our sense of

H. E. Boulding

wonder that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made," and made in the image of God. His care and compassion for us lead us to think of His love in terms of parental love for us. That love is supremely expressed in Christ's death on the Cross. Such love calls for our response. Each of us must learn that God accepts "me as I am" in order to give "me" the power to become what He wants "me" to be.

Christ spared himself nothing — He accepted the "here and now" of life — "How generous our Lord Jesus Christ has been; he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich." (NEB 2 Cor. 8:9) As He accepted the Cross so He calls us to accept it too. To be a follower of Christ "he must take up his cross and follow me."

We must accept the discipline of daily life with all its trials and

problems; to accept the challenge of the situation in which we are placed. St Paul in his letter to the Phillipians sums it up when he says "All I care for is to know Christ, and to experience the power of his resurrection, and to share his sufferings in growing conformity with his death, if only I may finally arrive at the resurrection from the dead."

This is not only a future hope but "that I may know him" is in the present tense our present experience of the Risen Christ in our lives it must have a daily impact on our day to day life here. In the Eucharist we receive the Risen Christ and we pray that he will "keep you in eternal life," but it is in the present life.

THE RISEN CHRIST

The Risen Christ still bears His wounds — Resurrection means Victory but through the Cross. Darkness and frustration CAN lead to new life if only we are ready to accept Christ's way of suffering.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN THE SPORTING WHITELEYS

Its Sport . . . Sport . . . and more Sport at the Whiteley household in Kidmore Road, Caversham.

The youngest member of the family quartet is ten year old Andrew who attends Caversham Primary School. He has recently won the Reading Judo Club Under 12's Championship for the second successive year and was presented with his splendid trophy by Keith Remfrey, who was an Olympic Silver Medallist in Montreal earlier this year. Andrew started Judo three years ago after seeing a poster advertising Judo at the Town Hall; he took a look and immediately became an enthusiast, progressing through to an Orange Belt. On the way he has had to fight boys considerably older and larger than his own 35 Kilos, but he has found that thinking and adjusting quickly to a situation can help him to overcome his larger opposition.

Judo is not Andrew's only sport. He plays football two or three times a week including games for the School, and has reached the final trials for the Reading Primary School Team this year. He has also attended specialist Tennis coaching courses but his second main sport is Badminton, which he plays every Saturday morning at Alfred Sutton School, and already has his Hearts of Oak Bronze Award.

Sport in the Whiteley



thirteen, helps with the training and showing of the dogs. In fact, as brother Andrew puts it, "Karen is the coach and Mother the worker." Karen, who attends the Abbey School, hopes to become a Vet. She is also another Badminton player and rides horses, as do all the other members of the family.

Not to be outdone by the others, Dad, Nick Whiteley, has played and still continues with his share of sporting activities. In his younger days he participated in Cross Country Running and Track Race Walking with the Civil Service sports clubs. According to his wife Dorrie, he had the real "Walkers' wiggle." He was a Founder Member of Wallingford Rowing Club and rowed for them for a number of years. At the same time he played hockey for the Wallingford Hockey Club, followed by thirteen to fourteen years with Reading Hockey Club. However, Nick considers that perhaps his most rewarding sporting contribution was his ten years as chairman of Mapledurham Cricket Club, a post he relinquished only last year although his playing days are not yet over.

The whole Whiteley family are real sports enthusiasts and agree that they enjoy their sport, not just because of the sport itself, but because of the people with whom they meet and associate.

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

ADOLF HITLER, to my recollection, never achieved his vowed aim, to tread the English soil. Future historians though, when delving into 20th century archives may find ample evidence of his exploits in Britain's stately homes, museums, hotels and boarding houses; even our age-old parish churches. The credit is attributable to the "funny-people" of our present time, whose non-deplume inscriptions decorate the pages of the voluntary register of wayfarers — The Visitors' Book.

Recently, when visiting an ancient church a few miles from the Welsh border, I pondered awhile to scrutinize the identity of its past visitors. Apart from the Bully-boy of Berlin, its pilgrims numbered ex-Chinese Chairman Mao, Ted Heath, and Me — me — me (nationality unknown). Aliases are very amusing to some people, but quite offending to others. The great majority I would think, consider the practice a

by Peter Shock

desecration of recorded facts. Equally deplorable are the graffiti fans who scribble, scratch or spray their distorted messages on castle walls, public toilets, or on the backs of bus seats. As visitors we have to remember we are guests of the host, whether he is the hotel proprietor, the country landlord, or Our Lord Himself, and it matters not if we are paying-guests or otherwise. Of course, by far the greater number of contributors in that little church's Visitors' register inscribed their true names and addresses, and I was surprised and delighted to discover that a Young Caversham family had passed this way a couple of years previously.

WELCOME

Pursuing this Host-Guest relationship, such a theme could end once and for all the hooligan-

ism associated with soccer matches, and even cricket fixtures as we have seen frequently in the summer months. If all the 'away' team supporters regarded themselves as specially invited guests and behaved as such, there would be no deplorable incidents and little need for innocent people to receive protection by the law. On the few occasions in my boyhood days when I visited Elm Park football ground, the main role of the police force was to control the exorbitant amount of bicycle traffic converging on the area. The friendly householders in the neighbourhood would allow you to leave your cycles in their front gardens. Now they have to barricade their windows. A thought for the host town, too, might be the erecting of boards or banners announcing "Welcomes . . . XXX." It may create an anti-agro sentiment with the visiting supporters.

Would it really work, or am I too optimistic in my faith in human nature?

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WE WENT TO TAIZE

by Rowena and Sarah Phillips

Our journey to Taize was a gruelling one: an evening drive to Southampton, a long, cold night-crossing to Le Havre, and then a day's travelling in the heat of the French sun, with few stops, to make sure of our arrival at the Community in time for the evening meal, which thankfully we did.

When we did arrive, our feeling was generally that of apprehension — none of us really knowing what to expect. However, having pitched our tents, we had time to talk with some of the people we would be living and working with during the following week. On arrival at Taize, people are asked to which group or "district" they would like to belong, for the time they will be there. Three members of the Caversham party joined the district of silence; three entered the discussion group, and the remaining seven chose the district of practical work and welcome,

where we were allotted various jobs, ranging from watering flowers to operating the outgoing telephone system!

We were all deeply impressed by the marvellous atmosphere within the community — over 1,000 young people, from all over the world, with similar Christian feeling and commitment, were gathered together, and there was an overwhelming sense of friendship. To pass the time, in the lengthy queue for meals, we would regularly invite others to join in with a rendering of "Knees up Mother Brown" or "Land of Hope and

Glory," and in return we learnt songs from other countries.

The Brothers of Taize led the services, held three times a day in the Church of the Reconciliation, and these were of simplicity and relevance. Prayers and readings were delivered in appropriate languages. Silence was an important part of the services. Also music — it was very impressive to hear Brother Thomas sing the tunes of a chant for the four voice parts, and then over 1,000 people join in perfectly, for the first time. The Communion was dealt



■ One of the many groups at Taize taking part in informal discussion

— John Williamson

with simply — a few brothers moved among us, sharing bread and wine. The church is very large, and plain with a number of small beautiful stained glass windows, depicting festivals such as Easter and Pentecost.

Taize — as a self-contained community is run very smoothly by the brothers and permanent

workers. The Council of Youth is always changing as people come and go — gathering youth from every land on account of Christ and the Gospel. Those who are there continue the running of the Community for those who will come after them.

What we found in Taize is not easily

explained, its very essence can be found in a letter to the People of God, issued at the opening of the Council in September 1974, part of which reads:

"At the heart of the Council of Youth is the risen Christ. We celebrate Him, present in the Eucharist, alive in the Church, hidden in man our brother."

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

OUR VISIT TO TEWKESBURY ABBEY

On Saturday October 9 the combined choirs of Caversham set off for Tewkesbury Abbey where they were going to sing Evensong. We went by coach which took about 2½ hours to get to Tewkesbury. When we got there we all had a cup of tea and biscuits. Then we had a practice lasting for an hour, followed by half an hour's rest until the service started. Robing at about 5.20 we lined up and walked a little way along the path where we had some photographs taken. Then on into the Abbey. In the Abbey were people from all the different congregations of the parish of Caversham. We sang the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to the setting of Stanford in 'C', and "O thou Central Orb" by Wood.

We all had great fun on the journey there because you could see for miles around. It was also fun singing Evensong with such a large choir.

After the service we loaded the coach up and set off for home,

by Jackie Gardiner



■ The nave at Tewkesbury Abbey

arriving back at 9.30pm. On the way home we stopped for refreshments.

We enjoyed the outing to Tewkesbury very much and hope we can go to different places more often. The Abbey is a lovely old building and very large. We think that it was well worth the visit and would like to go again some time. We believe that the congregation enjoyed the outing and service very

much. We would like to thank Mr Allwood for taking us and

teaching us the music. Thank you everybody.

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YOUTH GROUPS LINK UP AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

by Christine Brown

On Sunday, October 24, following the Parish Communion service in St Peter's, eighteen members of the "Genesis" youth group set off in a mini-bus, driven by John Williamson and a car, ably controlled by Graham Aisbitt, on an outing to Coventry Cathedral. We stopped for lunch at Kenilworth Castle, where we joined forces with the "Sphere" youth group from St Leonard's Church, Wollaton, Nottingham. After our picnic lunch together we journeyed on to Coventry, arriving at the Cathedral at 3pm.

We were given a guided tour, during which we learned much about the history of the

old and the new cathedrals. Most of us were greatly impressed with the design of the new cathedral, but there were mixed feelings over Graham Sutherland's tapestry.

Following the main guided tour which lasted one hour, several members from both groups went on a special tour of the museum in the cathedral crypt. At this point we seemed to lose several members of each party, but, after a quick search we all came together again for our picnic tea in the warmth of the cathedral refectory. This room was specially opened to us by the cathedral staff, to whom we were most

grateful. When the last of the sandwiches, crisps and cake were devoured we left the refectory to take our seats for Evensong in the cathedral. While most of us agreed that the cathedral choir sang beautifully, we were somewhat disappointed that we, the congregation, were not able to participate more in the service.

At 6.30pm, following Evensong, we said our "Goodbyes" and then set off on our separate journeys home. Tired, but happy, the Genesis group arrived back in Caversham at 9.15pm. We all agreed that our day in Coventry had been a very pleasant one.



■ At Coventry

— John Williamson



■ Picnic stop at Kenilworth

— John Williamson

GALLERY VIEWPOINT

With Zoilus in the Council Chamber

It seemed about time that Zoilus took another look at our local legislators so he was present at the meeting of the Leisure Committee at the end of October. This body deals with the Museum, libraries, concerts, the parks and all recreational services including the newly completed Hexagon. One of the cosier of the Council committees, it usually manages to conduct its business in a civilised manner and avoid the agro and political infighting that sometimes features in the meetings of Housing and Transport.

True, the last meeting provided a little more excitement than usual with the resumption of the Battle of Prospect Park. In the last issue of "Caversham Bridge" Stan Eldon set out the pros and cons of this proposal of a local businessman to establish a dry ski slope in the wooded area at the north end of the park, and the previous meeting of the committee endorsed this by just one vote. But in this case one vote wasn't enough, and it had to come back again to the October Meeting, so once again we heard the conflicting arguments.

A petition was presented by Mr D. Abbott which was signed by several thousands from all over the area in favour of the project with strong support not only from the sporting fraternity but from school-

children who benefited from educational skiing trips organised by the schools. Mr Phil Vokes brought another petition signed by many nearby householders protesting against the scheme as an unwelcome intrusion and a disturbance to the residents near the park, and by those who thought the park should remain a place of peace and quiet. And, remarked Mr Vokes in an acid aside, his petition was signed by responsible adults and not children.

Once again the councilors seemed pretty evenly divided on the topic. Liberal Terry Francis felt the park was quite the wrong site for such a venture, the Tories were in favour of the proposal, George Robinson saying that if a private individual was ready to risk his money to provide Reading with a needed addition to the sporting facilities, we should accept the offer gratefully. But on the Labour side Bill Mander claimed it would be wrong to let commercial interests take over in such a place and the character of the park would be spoilt. The two co-opted members, Robin Sharp of the Sports Council and Howard Green representing the Reading Council of the Arts, were in favour of the project, but on the vote there was a reversal of the previous decision to recommend the scheme and it was rejected, again

by one vote. So the battle goes on to the third round at the next full Council.

From the heady excitements of skiing to the committee returned to level ground and the discussion of more routine matters. The Museum director told of various additions to the gallery's collections, which included a photograph of Woodley Boys Brigade, circa 1900, an African drum and stick from the Volta region of Ghana, and a rat from Spencers Wood! The director of the Hexagon told us that the Arts Association of Great Britain was contributing the princely sum of £30,000 towards the costs of that prestigious building, an announcement received with pleasure and some degree of relief by the members, and the Borough Librarian disclosed that during the past year there had been a steady increase in the number of books and gramophone records issued. It looks as if the bleak financial climate is keeping more people at home with their reading and listening, no bad thing perhaps. It must also be encouraging the pursuit of knowledge because enquiries at the Reference Library have increased by a dramatic 28 per cent.

There was a suggestion that a charge should be made for the use of the slipway on Thames Side Promenade. This was initiated by the Thames Water Authority who are understandably peeved by the number of people who tow a boat down to the river, launch it from the slipway and proceed to enjoy the amenities of the Thames without paying the annual licence which is due to the Authority. It was thought that the erection of a barrier with an attendant to take a charge of £1 for each craft and check the boat for a licence would be to the advantage of both the TWA and the Council. But the general feeling of the com-

mittee was that collection costs would outweigh any financial gain and the Thames Water Authority will be told "Sorry, but we can't oblige."

The same answer will probably have to be given to those footballers who play on the pitches at

Christchurch and Kings Meadows. Now that hire charges have gone up they think it unreasonable that they should also have to pay increased charges in the nearby car parks as well. Whilst many members of the committee felt sympathetic, it is unlikely that

parking fees can be waived owing to legal difficulties.

So ended an entertaining, instructive and remembering the Arts Council's handsome hand-out, a profitable evening. Which is unusual for Reading Borough Council Committees.

DONALD FINDLAY — Why so glum?

MONDAY — Monday is always a bad day — disaster at every turn

TUESDAY — Burnt a hole in my new suit — must stop smoking

WEDNESDAY — Lost the cord out of my pyjamas

THURSDAY — Cynthia Lightbody said "No" (Twice)

FRIDAY — Paying my wages into the Abbey National today. If that big busty girl isn't on the cash desk, I think I'll kill myself

Action cut to Abbey National Local Office, Caversham

MANAGER: Hislop — Mr Findlay's coming; get out the inflatables

MISS HISLOP: Oh not again Sir — it's so humiliating...

MANAGER: It's all in a good cause Hislop

MOTTO: Do like Donald and put your money in the Abbey National. One day the balloon may go up!

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CHURCH INTRO' 76

More than eighty new arrivals to the parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham accepted an invitation to Church Intro' 76 which was held in St Andrew's Hall on Friday, October 22. The aim of the evening was to show something of the many aspects of church life in Caversham to those who had moved here since the Stewardship Campaign in October 1975.

In addition to stalls arranged by the six districts fourteen other stands had been devised. These explained the Play Groups, Young Wives, Mother's Unions, Youth groups, Scouts, Guides, Bell ringers, Choirs, Parish Holiday, Christian Aid, Link Group, Christian Stewardship, Bridge Scheme of Social service and Caversham Bridge Newspaper. During the course of the evening some brief talks outlined how the parish works and those present were asked to face up to the implications of all aspects of Christian stewardship — time, talents and money.

It is hoped that as so much hard work had gone into the preparations for the evening it can be made more generally available after Christmas.

GEORGE AND ROSALIND MEDD, newcomers to the Parish, give their impression of Church Intro.

We moved to Caversham in July this year, and since we are living in the Rectory flat we were more fortunate than most newcomers. Neverthe-



■ Some of those who attended Church Intro' 76.



■ The stalls arranged by St John's and St Andrew's

less, the "Church Intro" held on October 22 was a valuable and enjoyable experience for us.

Two things surprised us: firstly the size and vigour of the parish and its members, and secondly the number of friendly people whom we met. Representatives of all the churches and their group activities had arranged displays of photographs and information, and were available to discuss their work in an informal manner. All the "newcomers" we spoke to showed surprise at how much was going on and we, ourselves, felt that we were seeing more than just a parish but a lively Christian community.

Ken Bennett talked frankly about the church's finances explaining briefly and clearly the principles of christian stewardship. He talked not about charity but of the church's acute financial need and of the responsibility this places on everyone of us in whatever church.

Our thanks go to those who catered (in every sense of the word!) for the needs of those new to Caversham, providing new friends and making us part of the parish in which we have come to live

OPEN EVENING

by Christopher Lewis

On Monday, November 1, the 3rd Reading (St Peter's, Caversham) Scout Group held an Open Evening for parents and friends at their Headquarters in Grove Hill, Caversham.

The main entertainment of the evening was to present a number of awards and to show colour slides of various activities undertaken by the sections of the Group during the summer. These included Cub Scout Trolley Racing, at Caversham Primary School, the Scout Troop Camp at Porlock in Exmoor and a set of slides entered for a National Venture Scout Competition taken by Chris Lewis, a member of the Venture Unit.

These were of a Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Hike in the North Yorkshire Moors

which Chris completed with Bryan Harris.

Bill Vincent, the County Commissioner and Chris Wort, District Commissioner for Reading North presented Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's gold Awards to Graham Ashton and David Harris of the Venture Unit.

Peter Batley, the Venture Scout Leader was presented with his Wood Badge Leader Training Award and Long Service Decoration and Dr Peter Asquith his permit as Group Scout Leader.

Finally, David Harris, the outgoing Chairman of the Venture Unit, who is shortly to join the RAF presented Chris Longstaffe with his Venture Award.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments and a very pleasant time was had by all.

*Greetings for Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

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ST PETER'S CAVERSHAM
Sunday, November 28, 6.30pm
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

The lessons will be read by those who write regularly for the Caversham Bridge or serve on the editorial board.

ST ANDREW'S CAVERSHAM
St Andrew's Day
Tuesday, November 30, 7.30pm
PARISH COMMUNION

Preacher
Canon A. C. Boulton
(Vicar of St Giles and Rural Dean of Reading)
Refreshments after the service in St Andrew's Hall

ST JOHN'S CAVERSHAM
Sunday, December 5, 6.30pm
PARISH EVENSONG

on completion of the cleaning of the organ
Preacher
The Rev Roger Packer
(Rector of Sandhurst: formerly Priest-in-charge of St Andrew's)
The combined choirs of the parish will sing

ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM
Saturday, December 4, 2.30pm
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ST PETER'S WIVES

On October 19 the Rev Canon J. Grimwade chaired the Annual General Meeting of the St Peter's Wives Group. The Rector was pleased to see such a good attendance at the meeting. The Secretary gave her report which was of a very full and happy year with many new members. There had been a variety of meetings which had been lively and on the whole well attended. The two clothing exchanges had been successful and other activities had included visits and a Dinner Dance.

The Treasurer's report showed a healthy balance in these days of inflation. The Playgroup also reported a good year, helped by the morning in St Martin's Precinct during National Playgroup Week. New recruits are still welcome (3-5 year olds, three mornings each week in Balmore Hall. Details from Ann Hopkins, 8 Queen Street).

Dorothy Churcher the retiring chairman was congratulated on, and thanked for her hard work during the past year. Jean Pugh was ratified as the new chairman. Three new members were elected to the committee and retiring members were thanked.

After coffee, members were invited to offer suggestions for the 1977 Programme and many interesting ideas were put forward.

The dates to remember for December are the Dinner Dance on the 3rd, a talk on Christmas Decorations on December 7 and Carol Singing on the 16th.

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

A most interesting talk on her training and work as a District Nurse was given at the October meeting by Mrs Sallie Wall, a member of the Mothers' Union, and a new resident in Caversham.

**ST PETER'S NEWS**

GOING, GOING, GONE. A number of familiar faces will soon be missing from the congregation. Norah Allden and Gladys Harvey having now both retired move early in December from their home at 5 St Peter's Avenue to make a new home together at 3 Springfield, Cerne Abbas, Dorset. Norah Allden was a familiar figure in Reading schools because of her work as physical education adviser, while many must be grateful to Gladys Harvey for what she taught them in domestic science lessons. Their home in St Peter's Avenue will be occupied by Dr and Mrs Evans from Grosvenor Road. Betty Evans has been area manager for the Bridge scheme for East Caversham but is giving this up because of her move westward. Almost opposite No 5 are the six members of the French family, who move to St Alban's as Derek has been transferred to a St Alban's branch of Midland Bank. Their stay here has been short and they are sorry to leave a congregation where they had quickly made so many friends. Mr and Mrs Gillard have already left to go and live with their married daughter at Chase End, Dalston near Carlisle where their son-in-law is treasurer of the Church Council. Mrs Gillard was for many years a Mothers' Union member, and has suffered much in recent years from arthritis having undergone a number of operations.

Congratulations to Barbara and Doris Sidford who on October 29 celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their sharing a home together. The Caversham Bridge often records Golden Weddings; it is good to record a Jubilee for these two sisters. They celebrated the occasion with a family gathering in London. Their many friends at St Peter's will wish them well for many further years at 24 Morecambe Avenue.

**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME**

by R. Eagleman

Many people in Caversham give quite generously when the door to door collection is made each autumn. It is quite a daunting task but helpers always feel well rewarded by the cheerful interest and generous support for such a good cause. This October a special service of thanksgiving took place at Guildford Cathedral, and what an evening! The elements seemed to be right against us but even so we achieved our destination and what was equally important we got back home safely in spite of torrential rain and a hurricane wind — Noah and his Ark had nothing on us!

The coach was very kindly loaned to us by the Boys Brigade and with the weather conditions as they were it was not surprising that there was a leak or two. At least one lady could be seen sitting with her umbrella up. No words can express the deep admiration we felt for the driver Mr Derek Isaacs.

The service itself was most inspiring in that very lovely setting. The Cathedral was nearly full of friends of the National Children's Home. They came from all parts of the South of England. Much of the work of the Homes is carried out in partnership with Churches of all denominations and with departments of central and local government. The congregation at this service was representative of this partnership.

The address was given by The Reverend Barritt, Principal of the Homes and he emphasised how much your support and interest was appreciated especially in these worrying times. We felt we had spent a very interesting and worthwhile evening.

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CHURCH NEWS**NEW MISSIONARY PROJECT AT ST MARGARET'S**

On Sunday, October 10, over 60 people signed a pledge to commit themselves to support Sister Gillian Rose with her work at Khulna in Bangladesh. This was then offered up at the altar and will in due course be sent to Khulna so that at least Gillian Rose will know by name some of the Christians in Mapledurham who are praying and working for her.

For several weeks leading up to this act of commitment the members of St Margaret's church had gradually learned through a display of pictures and bulletins about this remarkable nurse and her missionary work in running a dispensary at Khulna and its surrounding district. So when members of the missionary committee took the first part of the Parish Communion many of the congregation began to feel they almost knew Gillian Rose personally and shared her joys, sorrows and frustration as she worked in often appalling conditions.

To help towards the £75 promised to the dispensary the missionary committee are having a Christmas Fair at the Parish Hall, Trench Green on the afternoon of Saturday, December 4. Please do come along and help with this very worthwhile cause.

**ST JOHN'S NEWS**

Mothers' Union. Three new members — Mrs L. Castell, Mrs D. Masterman and Mrs M. Horne — were enrolled at an Admission Service in September.

Two further garden meetings were held in the summer — one at 191 Henley Road, and the other at St John's House — and these not only proved most enjoyable but also raised the sum of £20 for the fund for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Additional efforts have been a Beetle Drive and a Whist Drive which produced a further £20 for the Organ Fund, and a Jumble Sale which realised £30 for M.U. funds.

East Caversham Sunday School. Some of St John's congregation were in the audience at the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church's Gift Day concert on October 30. Besides "being neighbourly" they had come to be entertained by the combined Sunday School. For the first item on the programme, the Beginners sang several action songs: wide-eyed with excitement they banged drums and clashed tambourines in songs about sun, rain, stars and wind, and quite obviously enjoyed themselves as much as the audience did!

The older children, arrayed in towels, curtains and scarves, and armed with tinfoil spears and breading plates, turned the stage into Ancient Babylon whilst they mimed the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as it was spoken in verse; and "bowed down" before a truly ferocious "idol" at the sound of a real trumpet.

The whole evening was a very happy "Do-it-Yourself" occasion, and everyone enjoyed it immensely.

MARRIED AT ST JOHN'S

■ Miss Elaine Rowe was married to Mr David Clifford at St John's Church on October 16th — WALTON ADAMS

CAVERSHAM PARISH NEWS

Further north. The Rev John Crowe, who left Caversham in 1970 to be vicar of Hampton, Evesham, has now moved to the parish of St Edward's, Leek. The Crowe family's new address is St Edward's Vicarage, Leek, Staffs. Telephone Leek 382515. They will always be glad to have visitors from Caversham.

Bishop's Council. The Rector has been elected to serve on the Bishop's Council for a three-year term until 1979. Three clerical and four lay members are elected from each archdeaconry and others elected from Berkshire include Canon A. C. Boulton and Mr A. L. Redgrove. The Council is the standing committee of the Diocesan Synod; it determines what the agenda of the synod shall be and deals with many matters referred to it by the synod and diocesan committees.

St John's Organ. In anticipation that work on the organ will be completed by December 5, there will be a combined parish Evensong in St John's on that Sunday with the united choirs of the parish. The Rev Roger Packer who left Caversham in 1970, to be rector of Sandhurst, will preach on Music's role in worship.

**ST ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP**

The members of St Andrew's Women's Group at their October meeting were presented with an extremely interesting illustrated talk by the local Veterinary Surgeon, Mr C. A. Berry. His subject being Family Pets. Mr Berry's talk was humorous but this in no way undermined the genuine concern which he has for all animals. Members of the Group were able to follow through the varied types of injuries and problems with which a Veterinary Surgeon has to cope with in a days work.

The Chairman, Mrs V. M. Gardiner, accorded the usual expression of thanks to Mr Berry for a most enjoyable evening.

The January meeting will be held at St Andrew's Hall on Thursday 24 at 8.00pm when Mrs Millson will give a talk entitled "Country Tales of Berkshire."

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Caversham Shopping Basket

ITEM	Co-op	Liptons	Sabre*
Large white sliced loaf	18	20	16½
1 lb cheapest butter	44	43	53
1 lb lard	19	18	22
1 lb cheapest Cheddar	44	46	39
1 dozen standard eggs	42	43	42
1 lb cheapest bacon	82	70	68
1 lb cheapest sausages	35½	34	45
Packet of 10 Fish Fingers	42	38	42
15 oz tin baked beans	11½	13	11
15 oz tin soup	12	14	12½
1 lb frozen peas	29	27½	29
3 lb self-raising flour	19½	19	15
1 lb dried fruit	25	22	24
¼ lb cheapest tea	10½	13	13
4 oz jar coffee	54	47	52
Kilo granulated sugar	25½	25	23
500 gms cornflakes	23	22½	25
¾ lb biscuits	21	19½	21
1 lb cheapest marmalade	21	21	23
Double pack toilet paper	18	22	20
TOTAL	5.96½	5.77½	5.96
compared to last month's totals	(increase) 3%	/same	2%

* Sabre gives Green Shield Stamps.

■ Co-op gives members 1¼ per cent discount in form of dividend.

The three local supermarkets listed here were visited on October 29. Shoppers might be interested to know how the price of bread has risen since the Shopping Basket began nearly a year ago. In November 1975, a large white sliced loaf cost 16p, in April 1976 this rose to 18p, and in

September to 20p — a rise of 25 per cent! Sabre and the Co-op are to be congratulated on having kept the price of their loaves below the maximum by as much as 4½p and 3p respectively.

This month Liptons' total has remained steady, while the totals of the Co-op and Sabre have risen slightly.

Shoppers should note that the Co-op only sells prepacked bacon, cheese, ham etc., which is why these products are usually comparatively expensive in this store.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

In 1875 a Public Health Act was passed requiring all towns to connect their houses to a water supply and the sewage system and to clean, pave and light the streets. Contemporary reports of what the streets of towns were like prior to that are enough to turn the strongest stomach. Anyone who has not read such reports only needs to use his imagination. It was no good condemning the people who allowed their streets to get like that. They had little choice.

Today, Fido and Rover might complain that they have little choice, but just as we look back with horror to conditions prevailing in the first part of the nineteenth century, so a future generation is likely to re-act to conditions in our streets. The tonnage and gallage deposited on them by man's best friend could be mistaken for the statistics relating to the annual output of coal and North Sea oil.

Even when Fido always goes out on a lead and has been trained to use the gutter, it is not particularly pleasant; but irresponsible owners who let their dogs out on their own are a public nuisance. Stray dogs are also a source of trouble, but dogs under the supervision of their owners are often allowed to choose their own site to relieve themselves. Some Caversham roads are notorious as dog walking roads, and it is advisable to walk along them with downcast eyes. The state of playing fields and parks has brought complaints from mothers of children playing in them and gardeners who have to mow them. London's Hampstead Heath is virtually unusable as a recreation area.

DELINQUENT DOGS

It was complaints of this nature that caused the Borough Environmental Health Officer to produce a report on the dog nuisance. In addition to polluting the pavements, dogs were also responsible for attacking people, and not only postmen, causing road accidents, making a noise and spreading disease. In fact man's best friend appears to be well in the running for being man's worst enemy.

However, take heart, all dog lovers. The report more or less exonerates the well-trained, well-cared-for pooch. It is, as usual, the undisciplined minority who is to blame. Better control and education is the answer, and to further this the Borough Council has agreed in principle to appoint a dog warden.

Whether one man can cope with the problem is another matter. At present no one seems responsible. The police appear to have neither the time nor the inclination to do anything about it, so at least there will be someone responsible to whom complaints can be made. If he is to be effective the warden is going to have his work cut out, for the public will not be prepared to accept a whole hierarchy of dog wardens. However, if the dog licence is raised to £5.00, this should pay for the service and could also bring about a reduction in the number of unwanted dogs.

LORRIES

Oxfordshire County Council, in a letter to Caversham Residents' Association, the organisers of October's public meeting, states:

"As regards the A423/A4074 Oxford to Reading route, which was shown in the Council's Consultation Document as a possible lorry route, the Committee decided that the route should be designated a Major Through Route for local traffic between the two towns (thereby ensuring a high priority for by-passes on the route) but that the route should not be designated as a lorry route until by-passes for, Dorchester, Crowmarsh and Cane End have been built."

Clearly this is unacceptable. Not only does this leave the status quo, but it also means that long-distance lorries will use this road in increasing numbers as, with the A329 barred to them, the present system of sign posting channels them on to the A4074. Moreover even if by-passing does take place, Caversham's problems will remain.

Reading Borough Council has now resolved to seek the approval of the Department of the Environment to apply a weight restriction on the road at the point where it enters the Borough boundary. This should bring matters to a head, as Oxfordshire will either have to post advance warning notices or else appeal to the Department, and according to its present policy, the Department will not be on Oxfordshire's side.

MRS DORIS FRANCIS

We announce with regret the death on October 26 at her home in Sheepwalk of Mrs Doris Francis, well known to so many people in Caversham. We extend sympathy from our readers to her husband, who has acted for many years as one of our honorary auditors, and to all the members of her family. We print below a tribute from Dr E. V. Beale and the text of the address given by the Rector at her funeral service in St Peter's on October 29.

Doris Francis, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert McFarland, was educated at Wilton House School in Reading. She married Oswald Francis in 1921 at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, but was then confirmed and they both became regular worshippers at St Peter's, Col. Francis later becoming Parish Warden and Treasurer.

Doris was occupied for some years in building a home for her three daughters, and this resulted in a singularly united and devoted family which now includes six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

During the second world war Doris took care of successive waves of evacuees and also helped at a hospital and a canteen. She was a very skilled worker in embroidery and tapestry, fond of reading and always ready for a laugh, and this made her a great favourite with children.

Latterly her health deteriorated, but she still managed to visit one or two elderly neighbours. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

The funeral service was held at St Peter's Church, which many friends attended, followed by cremation.

E.V.B.



When I think of Doris Francis I am reminded of the closing verses in the Book of Proverbs where the writer says "A good wife who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels; the heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack of gain." And the passage goes on to describe her skill as a needlewoman; many of us when we visited her home must have seen Doris doing needlework or embroidery, often in the last few years in spite of the handicap of cataract. And then says the writer of Proverbs "She looks well to the ways of her household; her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praises her."

So we have all come here this afternoon to give thanks for the Christian life of one who with her husband has for more than half a century of happily married life been the centre of a Christian home, and of a family that has grown as the generations have gone on increasing. And I always think, if I may say so, in terms of the Francis Family — and the value of the Christian family is ones that does so need stressing today. We have come therefore to commend her into God's keeping and we give Him thanks for all that Doris, with her husband, has been as one of the key figures of that family unit. Perhaps the prayer in the marriage service may seem a little archaic in our ears today but may we not say that in her case it has been well fulfilled — I mean the prayer which says "that this woman may be loving and aimable and faithful to her husband and in all quietness sobriety and peace be a follower of holy and godly matrons." So we re-echo the closing words of that prayer "O Lord bless them both and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

J.G.G.

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Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At their meeting on October 21, Guild members were transported back in time when Miss Lois Hibbard opened her talk on the "History of Ladies Sporting Costumes" dressed in a stunning Georgian riding habit of Forest Green, complete with shiny top hat, and riding switch. An added interest to the costume, was a padded-peplum which was useful (when riding in the rain) for protecting the skirt.

Miss Hibbard then proved to be a quick change artist when, in less than an hour she modelled eight other costumes showing what the ladies of the Georgian, Edwardian, and Victorian eras wore for sports, such as croquet, bicycling, archery, skating, motoring, and tennis. We were told that the overarm-serve in tennis was introduced by ladies simply

because they were hampered by their long skirts.

Although she had a collection of original costumes, Miss Hibbard also showed she was a very clever needle-woman with clothes she had copied herself from portraits of the period, using modern materials. A good example was the Victorian bicycling-outfit made in black and red plaid, with leg o' mutton sleeves, each requiring one square yard of material, and a good deal of ingenuity. Mrs Clarice Lott gave the vote of thanks.

Mrs Marion Kitcher, Chairman, introduced members to the new procedure for electing committee members at the AGM in November.

Mr Brian Wall gave a talk to the Social Studies group on October 25 about the history and formation of Walls' Carnival Stores.

Maplewood W.I.

The Vice-President, Mrs B. Bellfield-Smith, took the chair at the October meeting. There was a large attendance to enjoy Mrs Mann's demonstration of interesting dishes under the title "Cooking for one or two." She then judged the shortbread competition and awarded the prizes to Mrs Oldland and Mrs Wooldrige. Mrs B. Osborne gave a heartfelt vote of thanks.

Many members enjoyed the Autumn Council Meeting in the Town Hall, and some worked hard to provide coffee and refreshments. Mrs P. Duckworth gave a lively account of the event and reported the planned increase in membership fee.

The Berkshire String Orchestra played at the Group Meeting at Swallowfield and pleased us all. Maplewood devised the social time.

Eleven members had a

memorable Theatre Day in London and came to know Sir Bernard Miles personally. Many members enjoyed the International Day on Sri Lanka in Reading. "Pennies for Friendship" raised £3.95 for the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

AN APPEAL

Would "Jack and his wife" who regularly stopped at Crossways Petrol Station, Ipsden on their way to lunch at Wallingford please contact Mrs O. Harris, Reading 475541 who has a message for them. Jack drives a dark blue Morris Traveller Estate car.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The monthly meeting was chaired by Mrs Mitchell, who had pleasure in introducing Mrs Major, the president of the Federation, as the guest. It was a well attended meeting, with fourteen new members, for whom the committee had organised a get-together during the summer in the delightful garden of the secretary, Mrs Tiffen.

After the official business, including the nomination of the officers for the coming year, Mrs Mitchell introduced Mrs Walton, who shared with the guild, her interest in collecting over the years. Some of her items were antiques, but not all, though just as valued for their uniqueness. One of her collections was of jugs, from the minute, to the large patterned blue and white. Another was cheese dishes, which were twentieth century, but in time will be valuable. She emphasised that anyone could take up a particular collection, suggesting one could collect odd wine

glasses from different parts, which always starts off a good conversation when guests are being entertained for dinner. Buckles were another item; one dating 1892 was from an old dress bought at a jumble sale for a few pence, which when polished was found to be real silver. Silver tea spoons and puzzle jugs, egg cups, these ideas gave food for thought to many.

Mrs Spall gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Walton for such an interesting talk and said how sad so many of us were no doubt responsible for throwing out things belonging to our grandparents.

Mrs Edna Fitzeustace, a member of our guild, was congratulated by the chairman on having had the pleasure of reading one of her own poems "On treating a reluctant vine" on the local Thames Valley radio. The Guild was then able to listen to Mrs Fitzeustace's latest poem.

Mapledurham W.I.

After welcoming the members to the October meeting, birthday buttholes were presented to Mrs Moodie, Mrs Skinner and Mrs Stacey by the President, Mrs Hayward.

A report on the group meeting at South Stoke, which was much enjoyed by those who attended, was given by Mrs Bramwell and Mrs Butler reported on the Ipsden birthday party.

Miss M. Hodges then gave a demonstration of flower arranging, which she called "Autumn Flowers" and four lucky members who had won the arrangements in the raffle went home very pleased.

The monthly competition, a miniature arrangement, which was judged by Miss Hodges, was won by Mrs D. Deacon.

CHURCH NEWS — Baptist

September was the month of Safari for the Baptists, and by contrast in October the visitors came to Caversham.

The 104th Church Anniversary was celebrated on October 10 and the services were conducted by Dr Morris West. His visit to Caversham held special interest for he is now Principal of Bristol Baptist College, where one of the younger members of the Church, Steve Harvie, is studying in preparation for the ministry. Dr West is also a Baptist representative on the Churches' Unity Commission, and as much time has been spent in recent Church Meetings considering the Ten Propositions on Visible Unity prepared by the Commission, the chance to hear Dr West was very welcome. His theme for the day was "The People of God" and his direct and telling messages helped the large congregations to see that the things which divide the Christian Church are small compared with the things which unite God's people. The service included the annual covenant renewal by members and many stayed on after the evening service to share coffee and conversation in the Church.

On the following Sunday the young peoples group conducted evening worship. Their theme was "Creation and the teachings of Jesus" and they portrayed through dramatic scenes familiar and loved passages of the Bible, and contributed several musical items. The service was very well supported and created a deep impression on those present.

October 24 saw the return to Caversham of Rev Lyn Lewis, a former and well loved Minister, and his wife Jean. His ministry at both services was welcomed by many friends, both old and new. On the final Sunday evening in October there was a pulpit exchange amongst the local Baptist Churches and worship at Caversham was led by David Wilson, a past president of the Berks Baptist Association.

This account has told of six different services, but it should be added that all the other services during the month were led by the Minister The Rev Laurence Stevens, and welcome as the special services have been, the Church is sustained by the faithful and inspiring leadership of the regular Ministry, for which the members are deeply grateful.

Blagrave W.I.

The Harvest Supper held by Blagrave W.I. for members and friends was a great success. The hall was decorated with autumn flowers and leaves, and the long buffet table was laden with most attractive supper dishes, and the home-made punch was very popular! The entertainment was provided by Mrs Joyce Price who ran a most amusing musical quiz and whose delightful playing of the piano was one of the highlights of the evening.

At the monthly meeting the guest speaker was the Rev D. T. W. Salt and his fascinating talk on sea shells and the display of his own marvellous collection were very much enjoyed by all.

The country walk which had had to be postponed from August was held and several members had a thoroughly good day and were very lucky with the weather.

The competition for a plate of home-grown vegetables was won by Mrs Wilkie, and Miss Wellstead gave a very comprehensive report on the autumn council meeting.

Caversham Park W.I.

Leisure and Pleasure in the Thames Countryside was the theme of the talk given by Mr P. Carter at the October meeting. Mr Carter showed colourful slides of the beauty of the countryside and the seasonal change on the river as it winds its way through the Thames Valley.

The competition "A picnic box for one" was won by Mrs Doris Gillett, with Mrs

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At the October meeting Mrs B. Justham gave a talk, interspersed with musical anecdotes, entitled "Opera." Mrs Justham said that she came from a very musical family, all of whom played various musical instruments and sang for their own amusement, but it was not then regarded as suitable for a young lady to make the stage her career. After serving in the WAAF, Mrs Justham spent some time in Milan, learning opera scores and stagecraft, before coming home to England to tour around the provinces; she joined the company at Covent Garden in 1951 as a mezzo soprano, where she stayed for the next 10 years. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs G. Williams.



The Arts and Crafts group greatly enjoyed a cookery demonstration entitled "Souffles, hot and cold" and the Social Studies group had a talk on the life of a vet, from Mrs J. Barnett.

Morris second and Mrs Greswell third.

At a recent Jumble Sale £26 was raised, this money will go towards Christmas grocery vouchers for the needy, aged and housebound in the Caversham Park area.

On December 9, after the agenda, the meeting will take the form of a Christmas Party.

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WHO, WHEN, WHERE

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
Oct 17 Stephen Philips
Christopher Dooley

St John's
Oct 3 Catherine Carman
Lesa Kalus

St Andrew's
Oct 10 Melissa Slate
Stuart Holden
Oct 24 Adam Knowles
Oct 31 Claire Caesar

St Barnabas
Sept 26 Steven Lewis

MARRIED

St Peter's
Oct 9 David Chuter and Kimie Takamoto
Oct 23 Philip Gladman and Mary Clark

St John's
Oct 16 David Clifford and Elaine Rowe

St Barnabas
Oct 2 Graham Powell and Susan Jenkinson
Oct 16 Leslie Surman and Marian Argent

St Margaret's
Oct 16 John Davis and Shirley Durrant
Nov 6 Tim Deaton and Julie Durrant

FUNERALS

St Peter's
Oct 29 Doris Francis
Nov 3 Nancy Fordred

HOUSE COMMUNIONS — Wednesdays at 10.30am

Dec 1 13 Kingsway (Wendy Rowland)
Dec 8 8 Launceston Ave (Diane Etherington)
Dec 15 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews)
Dec 22 2 Blackwater Close (Betty Bartlett)
Dec 29 62 Kingsway (Margaret Lauder)

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Road. Tel. 471703.

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

The Rev Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Black-
water Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.

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.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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 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.

Mrs J. R. Holmwood (East Caversham)
81 Queens Road. Tel. 478253

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

CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

Secretary: Mrs W. A. Vincent, The Parish Office, Read-
ing. Tel. 471703 (Mon-Thurs 9.30am-3.30pm)

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, Map-
ledurham. Kidmore End 2198

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Mr E. A. Perkins of 22 Fernbrook Road, to whom all
payments should be made.

Mr John Tomlin continues to act as Hall Manager and
enquiries regarding bookings should be made to him.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
11.45pm Midnight Eucharist
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.00am Holy Communion

St John's
11.45pm Midnight Eucharist
8.00 Holy Communion
10.00 Family Eucharist

St Andrew's
11.45pm Midnight Eucharist
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion

St Barnabas'
11.45pm Midnight Eucharist
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist

St Margaret's
11.45pm Midnight Eucharist
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion

The clergy would be glad to know of any sick or
housebound communicants who wish to receive the Sac-
rament in their homes in the days following Christmas.

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am Family Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

10.30pm Holy Communion (Christmas Eve)
11.00am Family Service

METHODIST CHURCH (Caversham Heights)

10.30am Christmas Service
(Gosbrook Road)
10.30am Christmas Service

OTHER SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CHRISTMAS EVE — Friday, December 24

St Peter's

4.00pm Children's Gift Service with blessing of crib and
lighting of Christmas tree. (Special decorations this year
being made by the children of Caversham Primary
School.)

St Andrew's

5.30pm Solemn Evensong with blessing of crib.

METHODIST CHURCH (Caversham Heights)

11.15pm Christmas Communion
(To be joined by Gosbrook Road Congregational)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 — ST STEPHEN'S DAY

St Peter's

8.30am Holy Communion.
9.45am PARISH COMMUNION.
11.00am Matins.
6.30pm Evensong.

St John's

9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST.
6.00pm Christmas Carol Service

St Andrew's

8.30am Holy Communion.
9.45am FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15am Holy Communion.
4.00pm Family Carols.

St Barnabas'

9.45am FAMILY EUCHARIST.

St Margaret's

9.15am PARISH COMMUNION.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd

Normal times for services on Sunday morning in all
churches.

6.30pm St Peter's. St Barnabas. St Margaret's.
SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

11.00am Family Toy Service
6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

11.00am Family Service.
6.30pm In Celebration of Christ-words and music.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION.
4.30pm Christmas Carol Service.

ST PAUL'S, YORK ROAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

11.00am Family Service.
6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

11.00am Short Christmas morning service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

11.00am Morning worship.
Minister: The Rev Stephen Haine, 41 Highmoor Road.
Tel. 477490.