

## A WINDSOR VICTORIAN 1876-1976



■ Mrs Wilcox in her bungalow garden at Chazey Close, Mapledurham.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS WILCOX, WHO WAS 100 ON DECEMBER 4. Until spring, 1975, Mrs Wilcox lived in her bungalow at Chazey Close, Mapledurham. She is now the life and much-loved soul of Chilterns End, Grey Road, Henley.

When I saw her a few days before her 100th birthday she was just the same as ever. Full of laughter, very grateful for her long, active life, and especially for all the consideration given to her by the staff at Chilterns End, and much concerned with helping other people in this Oxfordshire home where she now lives. Probably these are some of the reasons why she is so alert. She told me she could remember her complete life. That her childhood had been filled with happiness, likewise her marriage. She certainly deserves the great party held for her on December 4 when the Mayor of Henley and the head of Oxfordshire Social Services join members of her family and the staff and residents of Chilterns End to offer her their heartiest congratulations.

### TOAST

I had not been chatting to her long when she said: "Would you like a little sherry? You'll find the bottle in the cupboard." So I toasted her with a wee drop. Then I had to see a copy of her birth certificate which, of course, had been to Buckingham Palace, ready for the longed-for telegram from the Queen.

Born in New Windsor, where her father was a coach-maker, she well remembers our present monarch's great, great-grandmother. As a young girl Mrs Wilcox loved to hear the royal bands playing on the Terrace at Windsor Castle. The public were allowed on the North Terrace whilst her Majesty, a small, stout figure, listened on the East Terrace. Mrs Wilcox does not know if her

father actually made or repaired any of the royal coaches, but he used to work for all the gentry in and around Windsor.

When he retired he bought a local tobacconists shop in Victoria Street. Everyone knew when the Queen was coming along in her carriage for an outrider always went in front. Then the girls came out and curtsied, as they had been taught in school and the boys took off their caps, cheering and throwing them up in the air.

### A CHARACTER

In the course of our conversation I am almost certain that Mrs Wilcox told me her father was 99 when he died, but I did not get this down in my notes. At any rate he was a very active 90-year-old. He died from shock after trying to rescue someone in a fire next-door. He, too, must have been a wonderful character.

### BUTTER AND JAM

Mrs Wilcox and her husband came to Chazey Heath about 20 years ago when Mr Wilcox retired, having been farm manager to Sir Eric Palmer of Shinfield Grange and later to Lady Moon of Braziers Park, Ipsden. Mrs Wilcox told me she had made thousands of pounds of butter in her day. She has also made thousands of pounds of jam, too, I'm sure. For when she belonged to the Jubilee Club, Mapledurham, and I used to visit her at Chazey Heath she once told me she made jam every month of the year except January and February, when it was marmalade. In winter months she used dried apricots.

Mrs Wilcox, congratulations from all your many friends in Mapledurham. We hope to visit you at Chilterns End for many years to come.

M.K.

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 7.45pm  
UNITED SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

at  
CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 7.30pm  
ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

SPEAKER  
DR PATRICK ANDERSON

at  
Caversham Park Primary School

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 9.15am  
FREE CHURCH PREACHERS IN ANGLICAN CHURCHES  
11am

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## The Editor's Column

# REVEREND MADAM?

ON DECEMBER 1 SIX WOMEN WERE ORDAINED AS PRIESTS by Anglican bishops in different Canadian dioceses. Next year the Anglican Church in New Zealand intends to take a similar step. Recently 15 women were ordained in the United States of America but the legality of their ordination has been challenged, though it is expected that others will be ordained shortly and that the regularity of this will then be accepted. In England the General Synod has recognised that there is no fundamental objection to the ordination of women while in a typically English way deciding to take no further action at present. Some Free Churches have had women ministers for many years, and it is understood that the Methodist Church proposes to ordain some shortly.

### UNILATERAL DECISION?

An argument of substance that is commonly advanced against the ordination of women is that it is a matter which is too important to be decided by one Christian communion on its own as the ministry is no merely domestic matter. Certainly when I was ordained priest 25 years ago I knew I was being ordained as a priest of the Church of God and not just the Church of England: the Anglican ordination service makes that perfectly plain. It is this argument that undoubtedly influenced the General Synod in not going forward with the ordination of women at present for one clearly has to be careful not to make a change in matters of such importance if it savours of sectarianism. But this argument can also be used simply as a way of stopping any change from being made, and it is difficult to define what are matters which are merely domestic to one particular church.

If we look back over the centuries we will, however, realise that many reforms brought about by the Church of England for example in the 16th century have in the last 25 years or so been adopted by the Roman Catholic Church, and it may well be that progress is often best made when one part of the Church of God does have the courage to act on its own.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC THINKING

It was reported recently that the majority of the members of a commission set up by the Papacy have stated that there is no Biblical objection to the ordination of women. More recently a Roman Catholic report "A time for building" has been published with the approval of the English Roman Catholic Bishops Conference. The working party which drew up the report was under the chairmanship of Mgr Victor Guazzelli, auxiliary bishop of Westminster. "We feel", they say, "acceptance of the value of celibacy does not necessarily exclude the possibility that the divine call to the priesthood may also now be given to some who are married". The report also says that consideration should be given to the theological possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate. The Roman Catholic Church in this country has recently started ordaining married men as deacons and with the way Roman Catholic thinking is going it is not surprising that some people are suggesting that we shall see women priests in the Church of Rome before we see them in the Church of England. Thinking is moving much faster than a lot of people are willing to acknowledge, and it is also necessary to realise that a great deal of informal discussion takes place between theologians of different Christian communions; members of all church feel the influence of this. This informal consultation may be more important than any formal consultation might be on the matter of the ordination of women. Past statements made about the ministry have in some cases become an embarrassment to the theologians of the churches who made them, and are in striking contrast to the tone of the statement by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission on the Doctrine of the Ministry which appeared in 1973.

Furthermore, no longer do we find that all Free Churchmen take one view, all Anglicans another and all Roman Catholics another — thinking in such matters as the ordination of women cuts right across denominational boundaries. This makes it all the more important for us to be careful about hasty condemnations of viewpoints which may seem to us fundamentally wrong. Such condemnations come most readily from the frightened who are unsure of their own position. We have all got to be prepared to wait on the Holy Spirit and learn what He is telling us.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A few days ago I was privileged to be in Westminster Abbey for Bishop Barry's Memorial Service. As Bishop of Southwell for many years Frank Barry never perhaps captured the headlines, yet his thinking has had a greater influence than is commonly realised. During the service an extract was read from his autobiography, part of which I quote as it seems relevant to us today.

"I have had to travel a long theological journey, on a continuous ever-renewed quest. Neither for the Church nor for the individual Christian is there any 'final' theology in this world, and while life lasts I hope to continue to learn. Faith has had many an hour of doubt and darkness but the darkness has not overcome it. What supports the individual Christian is the faith and experience of the Church, and within the Church I hold fast to the Christian faith. I believe in God and in man through Jesus Christ. Therefore I am able to believe under God in a future for man and the victory of good over evil. And though the Church may now seem to be in decline, yet because I am able to hold to the Easter faith, I believe it will rise again in power and glory".

When we approach our problems in the spirit of Bishop Barry then I believe that God the Holy Spirit will lead us forward to a solution of them which at present may seem beyond our comprehension.

*John Grimwad*

## POSTBAG

### YOUNGER GENERATION

You may have readers who would like to make friends amongst the younger generation and help them with their growing up but who for some reason or another have never had a suitable opportunity.

Most of them will know that organisations which cater for our young neighbours, e.g. the Scouts, Guides and other uniformed bodies, Sunday Schools and well-run youth groups are usually anxious to have more helpers.

However, not all youngsters, by any means, belong to any of these organisations. Perhaps they have never come within the magnetic field, perhaps they lack the self-confidence or the parental push to make the necessary commitment, but whatever the reason they do miss out on the excellent up-bringing that these bodies provide and can thus become in effect the spiritually underprivileged of the future.

It is just conceivable that one or two of your readers feel drawn towards these don't-want-to-be-organised; to the crag-scaling, snook-cocking mountain goats rather than the pastured, hurdled sheep. Well, there is in Caversham a place where goats can gather and where, if you know how to approach them, or are willing to find out, you may get some of them feeding out of your hand.

This is tremendously rewarding. Jane and I have made many, many friends there both of the youngsters and (very special friends) of the marvellous people who have taught, inspired and helped us to run the Balmore Club.

On Friday evenings at Balmore Hall young people aged between 11 and about 17 who have nothing better to do, chase each other around, play somewhat desultory table-tennis

or chess or just sit and smoke and snog.

Our aim is that we should all learn and practice to love one another (in the true sense of the word, of course, which does not necessitate but need not preclude the snogging) or, as that is beyond us most of the time, to try to practice putting up with and making allowances for one another.

As the youngsters have more mundane objectives and are by no means a captive audience and as we have had no special training and have limited ideas, abilities and resources we don't "do" very much towards our aims, we just try to "be" there regularly and be friends. I believe, however, that we now have the experience and the reputation to be able to provide a relaxed atmosphere where friendships can be made and people can be influenced.

Our clientele varies as groups arrive, grow up and out-grow the delights we have to offer. At present most of the 25-30 regulars are 14 and 15-year-old boys, in the second or third year with us, but there is a useful leavening of girls and of other ages. Thus there is at present a particular opportunity for making real relationships.

Unfortunately, however, we now have only one helper — our elder son John — and him only when his other commitments allow, so that there is too little time for talk. In any case I am getting too deaf to hear what they say amid the tumult.

If there were more of us we could unlock the kitchen and make coffee and unlock the ladies' room and make conversation. We could even "do" things, occasionally, like going skating or to the seaside as we

did with their elder brothers and sisters.

Do you think, Sir, that any of your sympathetic, unshockable, mature but preferably youngish readers (e.g. engaged or young - married couples) would like to know about this opportunity?

Or would one of your magisterial readers, please, sentence a suitable offender to help us hump the equipment about at 7.30 and 10.00 on Fridays.

Yours etc.,  
Peter Handy  
43 Highmoor Road  
Caversham, Reading

### MIX-UP!

Dear Editor,

We don't really mind being mistaken for each other; in fact we're getting used to it! But it's coming to something when the "Bridge" mixes our churches up. We are, as it happens, perfectly happy with our own churches, and don't really want to change over, thank you. It was, of course, St Margaret's stall next to St Andrew's at "Church Intro", and not St John's (see December "Bridge", Page 8).

Yours etc.  
Michael Kitchener,  
John Sumner

NB: A separate photograph of St John's stall was sent to the printers. But space did not allow it to be reproduced (Editor).

### THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

Over 30 people from Mapledurham who had in different ways been connected with the making of the film "The Eagle Has Landed" travelled by coach to the Leicester Square Cinema, London, on December 3, for a special performance of the film. Much of the film was shot in Mapledurham village during the summer of 1976. It is expected that it will be made available for general release in the spring of 1977.

## FEBRUARY EDITION

All contributions for the February Edition should be sent to Church House by Wednesday, December 29.

## 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. Grimwad  
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.

# Residents' viewpoint

## FLOWERS ALL THE WAY

Just occasionally on going into Caversham Court one finds the gardener looking rather worried because he has just cleared a flower bed and the new plants have not arrived for replacement. Usually however there is, throughout the growing season, an unbroken display of bedding plants under the terrace wall and in the beds on the eastern side. Do visitors to the garden ever stop to wonder where these plants come from?

Reading is well supplied with flowers both in the streets and in the parks and public gardens. At civic functions the cut flowers and potted plants are always much admired. The stage and staircase of the Old Town Hall lend themselves to a splendid display on special occasions.

Twice a year the council invites the public to visit its nurseries to see where the flowers all come from. These are situated at Coley, in what used to be part of the Old Manor of Coley. Here, in a large walled

## by WATCHDOG

garden, all manner of flowers and plants can be seen. The spring time opening is naturally very popular, but in November, that gloomy month of "no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds", visitors are invited to walk through the glasshouses and enjoy the wealth of colour and hundreds of cyclamen, of chrysanthemums, African violets, and begonias, as well as many lesser-known flowers. Other plants possess attractive and coloured foliage, and just to show that even in November Reading can do it, a lemon tree proudly displays its fruit.

"I don't mind my rates being spent on this," a woman was heard to say and to judge from the delighted expressions on those around her, neither did the other visitors. With the massive cut in the rate support grant, it is to be hoped that the council remembers that flowers are a great morale raiser. It is at the small and personal level that local government oper-

ates best. This is particularly true of district councils. It is those councils who have succumbed to megalomania who have produced grumbles about overspending. Reading has, alas, plenty of examples of the latter. Fortunately it still has examples of the former, of which flowers are one.

## URBAN VILLAGE

We in Caversham often congratulate ourselves on being a recognisable community in an urban setting. Coley, where the nurseries are situated, was also, till recently, a recognisable area, and still retains some of its characteristics. Mrs Phoebe Cusden, that distinguished and indefatigable citizen of Reading, on whom the years sit so lightly, has written a book "Coley — Portrait of an Urban Village" in which she gives an account of the history of Coley, and fascinating reading it is. It is to be published in the New Year by WEA at a price still to be announced.

Who would like to do the same for Caversham?

# Hot and cold evenings



— Photos: John Williamson



— John Williamson

## THE BALES DEPARTMENT OF U.S.P.G.

### An Appreciation and a Farewell

For many years gifts of various kinds for hospitals and schools have been sent to Mission Stations overseas. Children's clothes and toys, knitted quilts, cot covers, scarves and so on have been sent by various parishes including St Andrew's and St John's of Caversham. Housebound people have done their share. One old lady of over 90 of Holy Trinity, Reading, has knitted numberless strips which have been made up into quilts and scarves by St

Andrew's Working Party. These gifts have been sorted and beautifully packed by devoted workers in the Bales Department of U.S.P.G. This packing has taken place in the basement of 19 Dartmouth Street, Westminster.

The society has long been anxious about the continuation of this work; owing to increasing costs, difficulties of obtaining visas and nationalisation of many hospitals and schools — has caused U.S.P.G. to

reluctantly close down Bales Department.

U.S.P.G. have sent a note of grateful thanks to St Andrew's for the numerous parcels that have been sent for so many years. Thanks are due also to Mr Trevor Beabey who for several years has conveyed the parcels to Westminster from both St Andrew's and St John's, saving much expense.

— Gertrude Whitehill

## CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

The November meeting opened with members standing for one minute's silence in memory of the late Mrs Frances Powell, a gracious lady, and mother of Rosemary, our secretary.

Mrs Olive Harris, the president, welcomed three new members.

Mrs Pamela Ridley gave a descriptive talk on the architecture and interior of old churches, all illustrated with coloured slides.

The competition, "An Amusing Epitaph", was won by Mrs Phyllis Coley, second was Mrs Mary Cadwalader, and Mrs Angela Brown was third.

At the meeting on January 20, Mrs A. Mates will speak about A Victorian Lady Doctor. The competition will be — "A Piece of Victoriana".

Ice-skating at Richmond and a Bonfire Party along the Warren on November 5 were just two of the many events recently arranged by Caversham Parish Youth Groups.

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# THE GNOMES OF MILLBANK?

Myths grow up around people who hold purse-strings — of a nation or an institution.

It's a wonder that before now no one has dubbed the Church Commissioners the Gnomes of Millbank (that's where they have their headquarters). For comparatively few people know quite what the Commissioners are, what they do and what they can't do.

Ask around and you'll find this to be so. Some people think the Commissioners hoard untold millions of pounds which they dole out sparingly, others will say that they have something to do with the Government or will vaguely recall criticism of investment policy or property holdings. These illusions are dangerous. The misty feeling that somewhere there is a store of money which, with better management or a different policy, could solve the Church's financial problems obscures the need for realistic giving by Church members.

So it is time for some facts about the Commissioners:

- The Church Commissioners were set up in 1948 to manage the "historic endowments" of the Church of England.
- These endowments, left to the Church by past generations, consist of invest-

ments on the Stock Exchange and in property.

- The sole income of the Commissioners is provided by these investments. No money is received from the Government.
- The Commissioners' prime object is to pay and house some 12,000 Church of England clergymen and to provide pensions for more than 8,000 retired clergy and widows. Nearly all the Commissioners' income goes to this purpose.
- **The Commissioners provide, on average, about two-thirds of an incumbent's stipend. The rest comes from church people in the parishes. It costs nearly £750,000 to give each clergyman £1 a week more.**
- The Commissioners also carry out a wide range of administrative work for the Church of England, including helping with reorganising and amalgamating parishes, and taking final decisions on what to do with churches that have become redundant.

- The Commissioners are not allowed by law to spend their capital as income. And even if they could it would only mean that less and less income would be available in future years.

- Nor can they contribute to the Church Overseas, clergy training, maintaining church worship, repairing and improving churches, churchyards or the pay of parish officers.
- This is how their income of £37.5 million went last year:

	£m	%
Clergy pay.....	23.5	62.6
Clergy and widows' pensions.....	5.5	14.8
Clergy houses.....	4.0	10.6
Sub-total.....	33.0	88.0
New church buildings.....	0.7	1.8
Administrative functions of Commissioners (including parish reorganisation).....	2.8	7.4
Administrative costs of Church of England Pensions Board and Advisory Board for Redundant Churches.....	0.3	0.7
Awaiting allocation.....	0.7	2.1
	<u>£37.5</u>	<u>100.0</u>

It seems like big money. But the Commissioners' income meets *only two-fifths* of the Church of England's total annual spending. The rest must be found by all of us. . . .



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# A VANISHED THAME-SSIDE INDUSTRY

UP UNTIL WORLD WAR I THE PART PLAYED BY THE RIVER THAMES in the life of the people living along its banks was vastly different from what it was in the years after hostilities ceased. Take Reading and Caversham for instance. Until 1914 there was still a thriving barge and boat building industry in this area, as there was in many other places beside the Thames, even in small river-side communities such as Pangbourne. But after 1918 things gradually changed with the advent of the lorry and increasing number of freight trains.

At Caversham Bridge Wharf on the Reading bank, where Salters steamers now have their moorings, R. Talbot and Sons had a large timber and barge building business. Various types of boats were built on the Caversham side of the river, too. Barges may also have been manufactured, though I have no confirmation of this. Perhaps someone in Caversham could tell me if they were.

## CRAFTSMEN—MADE

Built of seasoned oak by skilled craftsmen, who had worked up to seven years as appren-

tices to the industry, the timbers for the stern and bows were bent by hand with the aid of a steam kiln. At least four boat-builders worked on each barge with their assistants who were almost certainly serving their apprenticeship in most cases. When a barge was finally launched there was always a celebration, often in the form of a tea party and no doubt a crowd of locals, who had watched its completion with interest, stood on the banks and bridge to see the new vessel begin its first journey to the great city; for these craft were based on the Pool of London.

Their cargo was loaded on to them from sea-going ships which could proceed no further up the Thames. Coal, timber and other commodities were taken on board to be transported to Reading. Barges going further up stream to Oxford and beyond were smaller in size as the locks became narrow. Often barge owners of London-based vessels came to Talbots to request the building of a new boat. It was between Reading and London that the giants plied their trade.

For several hundred years there had been great movement of

goods by barge along the Thames. In the early 18th century when Defoe made a history of the country, he kept a diary of Reading; he wrote: "They send from hence to London, by barges, very great quantities of malt, timber and meal. Some barges are so large that I was told they bring 1,000 or 1,200 quarts of malt at a time, from 100 to 120 tons dead weight."

## 140 TONS

Returning from London the cargo included coal, salt, tobacco, oil and groceries. In fact around 1800 some large barges had up to 140 tons capacity and the cost of transporting goods by them at that time cost £1 a ton for there were the wages for a crew of around six men and the hire of the towing horses. Of course, there was always the temptation to over-load a barge by the barge masters to increase their profits.

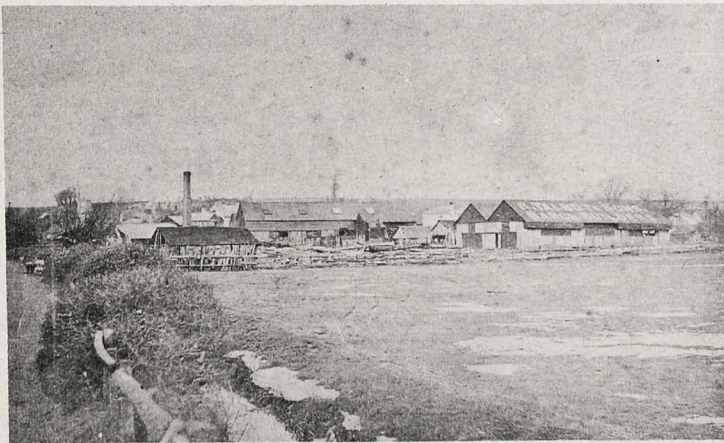
The average draught permitted was about 3ft 8in, but it is clear that the maximum was often exceeded from the numerous references to be found about over-loaded barges, being sunk or grounded. In 1812 Messrs Deane and Freebody of Caversham each had one barge on



■ Caversham Bridge Ferry. On the right of the picture is the waterman's cottage on Piper's Island.



■ One of the giant barges built by R. Talbot and Sons.



■ Caversham Bridge Wharf, Reading. R. Talbot and Sons, Timber Merchants and Barge Builders.

three apprentices at a time learning the trade.

## SMALL CRAFT

Even 40 years ago I can remember the rows and rows of small craft, all hand-made and demanding great skill, gently bobbing up and down at their moorings with their brightly coloured cushions and polished wood, waiting for the weekend crowds to come along and hire them for a few hours of pleasure on the then unspoilt Thames. The motor boat and launch had not yet taken over. Leisurely travel was still with us.

No doubt riverside folk of the past had special names for the little boats they built for use on the Thames and the names varied from district to district according to the type of craft and its use. It would be interesting to know more about this subject.

One such boat was called a "flat" and it was used on the Thames to carry the bundles of withy or willow used in basket work and for hurdles. These punt-like craft can often be seen in old river prints of the 18th and 19th century.

By 1860 steamboats were a well-established form of transport. These, too, must have helped in the decline of the barge. But power-driven craft are perhaps another story in the history of Old Father Thames.

M.K.

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the Thames. Reading owners were a Mr Law who had three, Richard Mills who owned two and Messrs Blandy, Williams and Bristowe, who each had one.

In the 19th century, as people began to seek the pleasure of boating on the Thames, skiffs, punts and rowing boats appeared in large numbers. In the early 1900 a skilled craftsman, living in the Caversham Road, had a boat - building business where he built skiffs for the Army and Navy Stores in London. Their boats were of top quality and the owner of the business often had

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# UNHOLY BEDROCK

A CAVERSHAM conversation overheard in October, 1986? "My dear, I haven't seen you for ages — not since last year when you were married to Cedric. How are you both?" Well dear, frankly we are bored to tears — so Cedric and I have decided enough is enough and have come back here to get divorced. After all there's a tradition for us here, both my parents were divorced at Reading and, of course, I was both married and divorced here the first time. The staff at Reading are so kind and helpful and deal with all the tax problems for us.

Now how about you and Peregrine — don't tell me you're still together after all these years — why it must be nearly five years now — time goes so quickly. But, of course, in your case it's the children that force you to stay together. Really? You've been able to put both of them into care — well that is smart of you. Of course, when those ghastly people lecture me about "the emotional strains imposed on young growing lives" and all that lark, I always reply that parents have to think of their children's future and as they, too, will one day grow up and get married and divorced, it's as well that they had some experience early on.

So I suppose that I'll be getting married again — but I thought of waiting to the spring, then there will be the new models to choose from! I thought of trying an Italian this next time — they're so musical. Well I must dash and get the week's tranquillisers — I couldn't exist without them. Be seeing you, Angie — bye.

## ONE IN THREE

One could go on and on with such a conversation. Is it so very false? Is that the way that we are moving? In this age of New Models all Super with built-in obsolescence and guaranteed to fall apart within three years, it's not beyond the bounds of possibility that by 1986, that conversation will seem normal. I noted the other day that there is now an expectation of one in every three marriages ending in divorce in the United States. Our society lags behind at the moment, but the last English divorce figures show about 125,000 petitions for divorce filed in this country in one year. The annual total has been rising and now that the parties have only to satisfy the court that there has been an irretrievable breakdown in the marriage — provided both sides agree — proceedings are a mere formality and difficulties minimal. "Yer pays yer money, files yer forms, an Bob's no longer yer 'usband."

Why should human relationships be thought of as permanent when plastic or sheet metal are far less fragile but bust after a year or so of wear? Is it such a bad thing if marriage is to be entered into on a temporary basis — say for a three-year period and after that renewable from year to year but with six months' notice to terminate on either side? What do you think? Of course, compared with the rest of

creation, the human race has been in existence for a very brief moment of time. Now during that time, however, it has evolved through the means of the "Family" — that is to say by means of male and female parents entering upon a permanent relationship in the form of a status recognised by the society in which they live, and producing and caring for their young until these become adult and leave home to begin their own families.

Basically the Family is held together by love. Love of the parents for one another — parental love for their progeny who reciprocate — it is this love which helps the "stickability" of the family through all the stresses and strains imposed on the individuals who make up the Family. Are we reaching Bedrock with this increase in the divorces? Will the Family as a unit begin to disintegrate? Are we becoming an unloving society through the damage caused to the emotions of the children, damaged or stunted as a result of parental marriage breakdown? I believe it's time that all serious minded people thought about the dangers facing marriage and began to plan ways and means to make marriage more permanent, not divorce more easy.

## HORRIFYING BOOK

I have just read a horrifying book called "The Mountain People" by Colin Turnbull, an anthropologist who lived with a small Ugandan tribe for two years to study the society and habits of this people. The tribe, a hunting and gathering people, lived in a small mountain area in Uganda on the borders of the Sudan and Kenya. Disaster overtook it when the Government designated its area as a Game Park for Animals and forbade the people to hunt or gather in the park area and tried to make them an agricultural society growing vegetables in a rocky environment with little rainfall.

Hunger to the point of starvation and the fight for food and survival so dominate the lives of the members, that there is a total breakdown of the Family system and no leadership, for all, men, women and children, young and old are engaged in the daily battle to sustain life. Children after the age of three are turned out to fend for themselves or die.

A society emerges that is without love — selfishness is the only virtue by which survival is possible whereby the stronger individual laughs in triumph as a morsel of food is literally snatched out of the mouth of a weaker who will die from starvation and who may be mother, father, brother, sister or child of the stronger. The tribe heads for self-destruction and may even now be beyond any point of return to normal life. It reached Bedrock when Turnbull studied it. I ask myself and you — is our society becoming less loving, is the Family unit breaking down? Are we getting down towards unholy bedrock?

## TALKING POINT by Bindi Shaylor

# MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, November 25, 1976. Mr B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The council were formally advised of the Department of the Environment's decision to implement the Boundary Commissions proposals regarding changes to parish boundaries. It will have the effect that all properties in the built-up area of Mapledurham will be transferred into Berkshire / Reading. The rural parts of the parish will continue to be administered by Oxfordshire. The date of the proposed change is due to take place on April 1, 1977. The Parish Council have on varying occasions made their objections to the proposals, but the matter now appears to be irreversible.

The council again considered matters relating to the A4074, Reading-Crowmarsh road, and its constant use by heavy vehicles. The Parish Council will continue its campaign for a reduction in the number of these vehicles that use the road,

especially vehicles over 16 tons. With the knowledge that Reading Borough Council does not favour the use of the road by these lorries, the Parish Council have written to Reading BC supporting any proposal made to impose a weight restriction on the A4074 road. Concerning the County Council's proposals for the road to be made a major through route, the Parish Council have been advised that the County Council has for the time being deferred the strategy of lorry routes in the county.

An Ad Hoc meeting has been held with representatives of local organisations concerning ways of celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Several suggestions have been put forward, the principle being that any local celebrations should be centred on the playing fields, where a variety of activities could take place.

Improvements are to be carried out in the area in front of the playing fields pavilion, but because of financial restrictions they will be far less than was at first envisaged.

## HOLLOWAY'S

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## COCO COLA TROPHY



—Walton Adams

At a ceremony in St Andrew's Hall on November 22 Mr Chris Odell, Assistant District Commissioner for Reading North District (right), presented the 69th Reading Scouts with the Coco Cola Trophy. Eight groups in the District had taken part in a cycle rally which involved the finding of clues placed in Coco Cola tins. From left to right are Stewart Eggleton, Paul Thomas, Paul Head, Paul Wanerill, Tony Spence, Philip Russell.

## 24 HOURS OF TABLE TENNIS



—Walton Adams

### St Peter's Church Sunday, January 2, 6.30pm A service of Christmas Carols and Readings

★ ★ ★  
**Thursday, January 6  
Feast of the Epiphany**

**9.30 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Parish Communion**

followed by  
Refreshments and Entertainment by members of the  
Youth Group

Come and see the Christmas Decorations for St Peter's  
made by children of Caversham Primary School.

The decorations will remain in the church until Monday,  
January 10.

## A LAKELAND EVENING

On a gloomy Saturday in November a large audience in St Andrew's Hall was transported to the Lake District. A series of slides of great beauty and technological skill showing Lakeland as it was in Wordsworth's time and still is today was shown against a background of Vaughan Williams' music and interposed with readings from Wordsworth's poetry and Dorothy Wordsworth's journal. The audience both heard and saw how the familiar and well-loved Daffodils came to be written, and also heard the less familiar account of a 20-mile walk across the frozen fells in January, undertaken not for adventure's sake, but because walking was the only means of transport available.

Slides of present day Lakeland followed, again to the accompaniment of music and poetry, some of it perhaps less elevated than in the first-half, although the lines about a sex-obsessed ram, with a picture of one of these formidably horned beasts glowering balefully from the screen, seemed no less appreciated.

Ted and Betty Lewis and Nigel and Joan Townshend arranged and gave the entertainment which was followed by wine and light refreshments. The proceeds went to the Caversham Court Gazebo Trust, raising its funds to a point where it should be feasible to start salvaging operations.  
M.C.



## READING BRAY LIBRARY

The Bray libraries are theological circulating libraries, which were set up and still are supported by the will of Dr Bray, the founder of S.P.C.K. in the 18th century, by about £20 each year.

Membership of the Reading Bray Library is open to clergy and laypeople of all churches and at present the annual subscription is £1.50.

The members choose the books they wish to see included in the annual selection; borrow those they wish to read; and at the end of each year (in our case, September) the year's books are auctioned to members at a starting price of 50 per cent of the published price.

The 1976/77 year has just started and there are vacancies for a few new members. For details, please contact the Librarian, St Mary's Centre, Chain Street, Reading RG1 2HX. Tel. Reading 51057.

How to do what you most like doing and raise money at the same time! It sounds like a formula for success, doesn't it? Yet it's what the members of the 1st Caversham Company of the Boys' Brigade were aiming at in their recent 24-hour sponsored Table Tennis Marathon. Dozens of boys, under the eagle eye of their officers, propelled the plastic spheroid across the net hundreds of thousands of times. Each member played a total of 23 set matches. This paradise of perpetual ping-pong raised a substantial

amount for company funds. In addition, many parents and friends came to a Beetle Drive whose beginning coincided with the spin-off of the Marathon.

Undeterred by lack of sleep, or other side-effects of the table tennis listings, the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church was full almost to capacity on Sunday evening, November 28, for the Annual Enrolment Service for the members and officers of the Girls' and Boys' Brigade. En avant la jeunesse!

### THE LINK GROUP

The group held their meeting at 157 Upper Woodcote Road on November 22. The chairman welcomed several visitors. The treasurer reported on finances and the secretary on literature received from the "Help the Aged" society. The plant sale at Mrs Preston's house raised approximately £26 which will be sent to the Berkshire Women's Aid Group.

The next meeting is on January 24.

After the evening's business was concluded the chairman introduced Mrs Mary Yeomans, who is secretary of the Berkshire branch of the Partially Sighted Society. The society was founded in 1973, and its aims and objects are to provide and promote educational and recreational needs of all partially-sighted children and adults and to represent their interests to all levels of the community. The members found this a most instructive talk and agreed to support the society when possible, the proceeds of their carol singing being the first opportunity.

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# SCHOOLING BY CALOR GAS

THE CONVERSATION OF MARY KIFT, retired head teacher of Mapledurham School who has a deep interest in local history, is full of colourful anecdotes from Caversham's past. Born and brought up in Reading, of a long-established local family, she remembers a time when herds of shaggy, fearsome-looking Scottish cattle were driven down St Peter's Hill to market, and she would take refuge behind the nearest garden gate! Not such a very far cry, perhaps, from the threat presented by the giant lorries that nowadays thunder down the same road!

## The Kift Family

The unusual name of Kift has been traced by its present holder to Gloucestershire, where there is a Kiftsgate Manor and record of the Kiftsgate "Hundred". The Kiftsgate stone, where the "Hundred" court used to meet, is no longer visible though the site is recorded on the Ordinance Survey map of the area. What the name means is still in doubt, though an



uncle of the family believed the name belonged, romantically, to a family of Welsh

gypsies. The Kift family settled in 1905, in their present house in Darell Road.

Their lofty fireplaces and the original picture rails bear witness to the attentions of "one careful owner"! Miss Kift recalls that the inhabitants of Darell Road (named after Darell Blount of the Mapledurham Estate), had the right to use a piece of land on the Warren for swimming from. It is perhaps a pity they did not assert this right during the past hot summer!

Educated at St Peter's School (now pulled down) and at the Abbey, Mary Kift taught locally until the war, when she went into the land army. This experience prepared her for her teacher's training course at the Froebel College at Offley, Hertfordshire, where the students were expected to do P.E. in the farmyard under the startled gaze of the animals.

## Mapledurham School

Once qualified, she went back to the village school at Checkendon, and then moved to a bigger school at Wallingford. In 1959, however, she had the chance to

return to a village school, the one at Mapledurham. As she points out, the village school practised the educational method of "family grouping" naturally, long before the theorists came up with the idea. Her pupils, taught all together, were aged five to nine, and later five to eight. In the early days all lighting was provided by Calor gas. In assembly, unaccompanied singing was bearable, she recalls, except for "All Things Bright and Beautiful" which, as anyone who has attended Sunday School will verify, can easily be pitched too high — with disastrous results!

Mapledurham School had been endowed by an illegitimate son of William IV, the Hon Augustus Fitzclarence, vicar of Mapledurham. A plaque commemorating this can still be seen in Mapledurham Church. Mary Kift, a polymath by nature, has taken an increasing interest in local anecdote such as this since her appointment to the Board of "Caversham Bridge" in about 1967. Contact with

local residents with long memories and fascinating collections of postcards commemorating local events has led her to become quite knowledgeable on local history. It is she who provides the delightful and informative historical notes for this newspaper.

If anyone wishes to study local history in depth, Mary Kift is a mine of information on how to set about it. Her own researches have led her to the records of the Reading Mercury, which in the late 18th century served a vastly wider area than it does today, and to the notes of earlier local historians like Mr Wing, Mr Rampton and Mrs Tate. Most fascinating of all, it leads to the homes of those residents whose personal recollections go back, even now, to the end of the last century. The contemporary habit of making postcards, for the benefit of all those who did not have cameras, provides a vivid and detailed pictorial record of those times. We look forward to seeing more examples of the photographer's art in Mary Kift's articles in forthcoming issues of this paper.

I.P.

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## Caversham Shopping Basket

Item	Co-op★★	Liptons	Sabre★	Budgens★
Large white sliced loaf .....	18	19	17	20
1lb cheapest butter .....	47	45	55	46½
1lb lard .....	19	18	18	23½
1lb cheapest Cheddar .....	42	48	42	44
1 dozen standard eggs .....	48	47	47	48
1lb cheapest bacon .....	84	68	70	75
1lb cheapest sausages .....	42½	41½	40	39
Packet of 10 Fish Fingers .....	42	42	34	42
15oz tin baked beans .....	11½	14	12½	13
15oz tin soup .....	12	11½	14	14
1lb frozen peas .....	30	29	20	29
3lb self-raising flour .....	19½	21	19	19
1lb dried fruit .....	29	24	24	27
¼lb cheapest tea .....	12½	13	13	16
4oz coffee .....	52	47	66	54
Kilo granulated sugar .....	25½	25	25	25
500gms cornflakes .....	24	24	25	28
¾lb packet biscuits .....	21	19½	21	21
1lb cheapest marmalade .....	21	21	23	25
Double pack toilet rolls .....	18	19	20	19½
TOTAL .....	6.18½	5.96½	6.05½	6.28½
Compared to last month's totals .....	+4%	+3%	+1½%	+4% (two months)

The four supermarkets listed here were visited on Friday, November 19, 1976. The Shopping Basket has now been in existence for a whole year. Readers will be interested to learn that the following rises have been recorded on the total cost of the 18 goods in the list which were also priced on November 27, 1975: Co-op 14%; Liptons 15%; Sabre 11% (new management). This approximately reflects the rate of inflation nationally over the past 12 months.

Although the Co-op began by being cheapest, Liptons took the lead halfway through the year, and this month Sabre moves into second place.

Certain commodities have risen far more sharply than others. Nationally the price of bread has increased by 20% but the Co-op, Liptons and Sabre have kept their prices fairly consistently below this level. The price of tea, coffee and butter has risen dramatically, while the price of Cheddar cheese and tinned goods has stayed constant.

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**ST BARNABAS NEWS**

**Overseas Sale**

A wet Saturday afternoon on November 6 did not deter the great throng which filled St Barnabas's Hall for the Annual Christmas Fair. Thanks to the efforts of those who for months past had worked at various handicrafts, collected bric-a-bracs, books, bottles and other desiderata, to those who manned the stalls, and to the munificence of those who came to purchase, over £312 was raised for the mission hospitals St Barnabas supports in the Transkei. This represented an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year; a very creditable effort during a time of continuous high inflation.

For some years now the proceeds of the Overseas Sale have been sent to support the rehabilitation work of the leather workshops at St Lucy's Hospital in the Transkei through our links with Dr Guy Daynes, the Medical Superintendent, and his wife, Jan. Less well known will be the fact that earlier this year they moved elsewhere in the Transkei to Umsimkulu. There they are establishing a new psychiatric hospital from a complex of old and new buildings on a site previously destined to become a prison, and from an Anglican mission hospital. This year the proceeds of the Overseas Sale and other fund-raising efforts for overseas will be divided between a continuing interest at St Lucy's and a new interest at the new mission mental hospital.

**Remembrance Sunday**

So crowded was St Barnabas's Church for the Remembrance Day Service that the 300-strong congregation overflowed, not only on to additional seats at the back and front of the nave, but among the choir in their stalls and almost on to the organist's bench!

The Emmer Green branch of the Royal British Legion, Brownies and Guides from the four Emmer Green Packs and Companies, and Cubs and Scouts from the 89th Reading (Milestone Wood) Group were all on parade, supported by parents, friends and those of the normal congregation who could squeeze in. The Rector preached on the Scriptural meaning

of remembrance, talked about the cause of war, and reminded those assembled that Remembrance Sunday and Easter Sunday were linked; as far as the Christian was concerned every Sunday was a remembrance of Easter Day and he made it so through his presence at Holy Communion.

It was heartening to see such a congregation and such support by the youth of the area.

**ST JOHN'S NEWS**

**Autumn Bazaar** — Caversham Hall was crowded when Martin Loveless (and Judith) opened the annual missionary effort on November 6 and urged everyone to spend; and spend they did — to the tune of £311. Although there were so many people present there seemed to be more room than usual to move around; due, no doubt, to the efficient planning and organisation of Phyllis Colley, Betty Fowler and Yvonne Milne.

After the opening, people hurried to try to get hold of the bargains they had marked down when they first arrived. The Home Produce, Cake and Needlework and Knitting stalls, in particular, were soon besieged by customers anxious to take advantage of good value at very reasonable prices, and Christmas shopping was soon in full swing.

All the stalls did a brisk trade and soon began to look rather like the shelves of a supermarket at the end of a "Late Night"; and customers were able to relax and chat with old and new friends over cups of tea or try their hand at locating Granny's false teeth, or to look for bargains on the White Heffalump stall; or even fish Dracula's teeth out of the Brownies' Bran Tub (it is understood that one of the youngest customers mislaid these and only found them when they bit him during the night!)

As usual, the bazaar proved to be a real social occasion, and it was good to see many new faces among both customers and stallholders, as well as all the old friends who loyally turn up year after year. Thanks are due to the band of willing people without whose hard work during the year and help on the day itself such a splendid result could not have been achieved. The proceeds are being

**CHURCH NEWS**

divided between St John's Hospital, Panch Howd, Poona, and St James's Hospital, Mantsanyane, Lesotho.

**Visit to Springfield St Luke** — The Primary and Junior Departments of East Caversham Sunday School travelled to Springfield St Luke in the Boys' Brigade bus on November 21. From the moment they trooped into the warm hall and were welcomed by the Sisters they enjoyed themselves immensely. The Sisters and ladies showed them the kitchen, where they had a chance to stir the huge bowl of Christmas pudding mixture (and someone offered collection money to go in it!); the laundry, the drying room and bathrooms; and — a really appreciated privilege — some of the ladies' own private rooms. These were fascinating for the children and teachers because they were full of souvenirs of lives spent in service to others overseas. They also, of course, visited the chapel, and exclaimed: "Oh, lovely," when they saw the statue of the Madonna.

One seven-year-old said she wanted to live at Springfield St Luke when she was 90, and everyone wanted to go back next week!

On the return journey the bus was loud with appreciation and everyone saying: "Oh! We have enjoyed ourselves." Thank you, everyone at Springfield St Luke, for a very happy morning.

**ST MARGARET'S NEWS**

Another new project started with a bang at Mapledurham on November 27. For several years, St Margaret's has had no separate Sunday School or equivalent of its own; and since the school at Trench Green closed three years ago, the only Christian education specially for children in Mapledurham has been the monthly Family Service. But several people were reluctant to start a traditional Sunday School in today's new climate of thought about educational methods; and in any case, such a thing would have been almost impossible in Mapledurham because of the distances involved and the lack of a hall next to the church in which to hold it.

So an experiment was tried instead: "Family Workshop," once a month on a Saturday, taking a particular theme every time for a whole two hours at a stretch. The accent was to be on "learning through doing", and it was to be for all children and young people from three to 15 years old.

To judge from the first session, the experiment looks as though it is going to be a great suc-

cess. Twenty-one children and teenagers were there, and that number represented nearly all of those who had so far been told about it. The aim in future months will be to spread the net wider, publicising it among families who have no church connection at all yet. The theme was "Getting ready for Christmas", and that was explored in many ways, from painting, and making an Advent Ring and Calendar, a Christmas frieze and Christmas bells (all of which appeared one by one in church as the weeks of Advent went by) to composing a new carol. Part of the aim had been to involve parents as well, and that, too, began well, with a few parents who stayed to help with all or part of the morning.

The next Family Workshop will be on Saturday, January 29, from 10am till 12 noon at 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Anyone of the right age living in Mapledurham or connected with St Margaret's Church will be very welcome.

**ST PETER'S NEWS**

**Rector's Round-up.** Under this title there was an evening of light-hearted entertainment in Balmore Hall on November 23 when the Social Committee gathered together an excellent team. After an opening number from Sarah and Jonathon Fry and singing by the Scott sisters, Edna Fitzzeustance recited a number of her own poems. The guest artiste was Phyllis Colley from St John's congregation and Nigel Stanbrook and Charles Hubbard gave what they seemed to suppose was a cookery demonstration. Madrigal and recorder groups sang and played and Keith Churcher brought the evening to a close by holding everyone spellbound with his conjuring. The whole evening

was ably and wittily compered by John Williamson and Peter Fry. **Elbow grease.** A lot of willing helpers put in a hard morning's work on Saturday, November 27, cleaning the church after work to the redecoration of the ceilings has been completed. Volunteers are now needed to help with the redecoration of the walls and those who would like to help are asked to attend an explanatory meeting in the church on Friday, February 4, at 8pm. It is hoped to complete the work by St Peter's Day, June 29.

**ST ANDREW'S NEWS**

The evening of November 21 was a truly memorable one for the congregation of St Andrew's when they took part in a "Festival of Thanksgiving". This event marked the completion of four years' work to the church building; work carried out included such major items as installing a new central heating system, rewiring, painting the exterior, re-ordering the porchway and completely redecorating the interior. It was possible to use voluntary labour for a good deal of the work involved. An example of stewardship of time, talents and money.

The act of thanksgiving also acknowledged the various gifts given during the four years; a new carpet for the Lady Chapel and a green frontal for the High Altar.

The large congregation enjoyed a feast of music of all types including two pieces by Hugh Rowe, a former organist of the church. The choir, augmented by members of the choirs of St John's and St Barnabas, was directed by Mr John Simpson, organist and choirmaster of St Andrew's.

As part of the Festival there was an exhibition mounted in church covering the 65 years of St Andrew's existence.

**Ordination**

Inglis Mayo, a lifelong member of the congregation, is now in his final year of training for the Ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and he has recently been offered and accepted the post as assistant curate to the parish of The Ascension with All Hallows, Bitterne Park, Southampton. He hopes to be made Deacon in Winchester towards the end of June next year. The good wishes of readers are offered to him.

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# YOUNG CAVERSHAM

By  
Peter Shock

"THE 'CAVERSHAM BRIDGE' is going to be restyled next month," declared the Reverend Editor as he way-laid me outside the old Toc H building, one dark evening in December, 1972. "Wonderful!" I replied. "And," he added, "you will be writing the Young Caversham column." Well! There seemed no option and here I am four years later still tapping out the monthly copy on my ever-faithful "Imperial".

Curiously enough, I fell into journalism at the start of my working life, having been engaged as an office junior with a local newspaper company. By misfortune, my efficiency as tea-boy was called to question, and I was subsequently dismissed by the manager for putting tea in his desk instead of on it! An untimely demise of my hopes of becoming a professional journalist. So, at the command of the Caversham Bridge editorial, and no irksome teacup interferences, the world became my oyster. What an adventure it has been!

## ROAMINGS

In the style of word-pictures you lucky readers have been my guests, visiting lots of exciting far-away places. You will recall, I expect, the priceless treasures of the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, the magnificent splendour of the Blue Mosque, bargaining with the traders in the Grand Bazaar, and swallowing swordfish in the waterside cafe beside the Bosphorus. Then, in Spain, there was the precarious ride on that demented donkey in the foothills of Catalonia; the pedal-biking escapade through the crazy streets of Hamburg and on to the more leisurely shores of East Holstein.

Ah yes, and that unforgettable bus journey from London to Cologne with those two characters, Arthur and Bernard. In Bonn, when visiting Beethoven's house, the unexpected invitation to play a few bars of the Pastorale on the composer's very own piano. The crowd thought it was the cat. Lastly in August this year, our roamings took us to Vienna, where we dined on goulasch and cevapicci to the strains of Strauss waltzes and gypsy melodies of Franz Lehar.

## THE YOUNG

Back in our homeland we have trailed the young people on their adventures to Wales, the West Country, Isle of Wight, the Forest of Dean, Yorkshire, Kirkcudbright, Glasgow (that afternoon looking round Rangers' Football Club) and at Edinburgh we watched the Royal Tattoo, one of Scot-

land's most colourful spectacles. The great day, too, in June, 1973, when I was admitted into the jollifications of the Brownie Revels at Wokefield Park.

Drama-wise, too, the stage lights have beamed on Caversham Park Theatre's production "Scrooge":

## ELIZA AND GEORGIE



Jo Baily as Eliza advises Caroline Fry as Georgie about mending the bucket — a scene from Rector's Round-up. —John Williamson

## STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

### Mid-season Round-up

The soccer season is now reaching towards half-way and the teams in and around Caversham are having mixed success.

Emmer Green and Mapledurham are placed together in the middle of their division of the Reading and District League but with quite a few games in hand over the teams above them, they should move up between now and April. The Emmer Green Reserves are holding their own in the first three of their division of the same league.

Peppard look like having a unique double this year. They have their first-team at the top of the Premier Division making them the top team in the whole Reading area but their team in the Sunday League equivalent is resting on the bottom and at the time of going to print, have not gained a single point.

In the Reading Combination League, Clifton Athletic are faring much better this year and are on top of Division One, which could well mean promotion back to the Premier League again.

Football is having a tough season with the weather, at the start many games could not be played because of the drought whilst more recently games have been postponed because of waterlogged pitches. It is to be hoped we don't have heavy snow or frost after Christmas or some of the teams will be trying to clear their fixtures well into the summer.

### HELP WANTED

Reading Athletic Club, who have their headquarters at Kiln Road, Emmer Green, would like to hear from people interested in athletics — ex-athletes, parents of athletes, etc. — who can find a little time to help the club. An athletic club needs a lot of support to run successfully so if you think you can help by holding a stopwatch, moving athletic equipment, recording, coaching, or general organisation, please contact Derek Bradfield on Reading 475661. The club have a lot of talent, including Beverley Goddard who went to the Montreal Olympics, and they are striving to get back into the top group of athletic clubs in the country.

### JOGGING

For anyone interested in some exercise during the winter the joggers are still meeting every week and a good number still turn out regularly in all weathers. We now meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 o'clock, not in Prospect Park but in the car park at the Meadway Shopping Precinct. So enthusiastic are some of these joggers, they also meet at about 10.30am in Prospect Park on Sunday mornings.

May I take this opportunity to extend wishes to all sportsmen and women for good health, enjoyment and success in 1977.

1st Caversham Brownies "Jonah-man-Jazz" and a mid-summer pantomime — Cinderella, performed by the Free Church Brownies. Wind and blast from the Boys' Brigade Band shook us out of our Town Hall seats, and one of my most enjoyable evenings was being entertained by the Sonning Common Primary School Choir in their delightful production "Lost in Wonderland".

We have visited youth clubs and talked to some boys and girls who have received their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and attended the presentation of two paintings, the work of artistic members of the Boys' Clubs to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the St Athan Boys' Village.

## THE FUTURE

These are just a few of the events recorded in the "Young Caversham" columns over the past four years. In that time something like 25,000 words have been written, and it has been great fun having you all as regular readers. What is in store for the future, I do not know myself. Caversham is such an enterprising parish; something exciting is happening somewhere or to someone all the time.

The tiniest incident can lead to an absorbing story. I only hope, as the years advance, I am not getting too decrepit to write for Young Caversham. As Bernard Baruch, a prominent American economist once said: "To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am."

## ST ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP

A capacity audience, filled St Andrew's Hall for the Group's November meeting. The speaker was Miss Gillian Thomas, a representative of Birds Eye Foods, whose talk covered the whole aspect of Deep Freezing, and the accompanying film gave many hints and ideas. There were a good number of visitors from various women's organisations and they were welcomed by the

Chairman, Mrs Valerie Gardiner. Mrs Pam Matthews proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker for a most enjoyable and informative evening which concluded with coffee and biscuits.

The group next meets on Thursday, January 24, at 7.45pm, in St Andrew's Church Hall, when Mrs Millson is to give a talk on "Country Tales of Berkshire".

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**CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

Business was the main topic when Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild met in Church House on November 18 for their annual general meeting. The election of officers and executive committee was held under the supervision of the returning officer, Mrs M. Major, the Federation President.

The four officers were returned for a further period, i.e. Chairman, Mrs C. Mitchell; Vice-chairman, Mrs E. Smith; Hon Treasurer, Miss E. Baker, and Secretary, Mrs P. Tiffen. Four new committee members were required and Mrs Grey was re-elected, together with Miss A. Goodyear, Mrs L. Smith and Mrs J. Spall. Mrs Lovejoy happily accepted the invitation to continue as President.

Annual reports of business and activities showed the Guild to be prospering with 68 members, 51 of whom were present, and were reminded briefly of local rules and Standing Orders.

The committee then entertained members and guests to tea and cakes, after which Major Cashley of the Salvation Army was given a large number of blankets and children's clothing made by the Chiltern Group during the year. He expressed his thanks especially as the group is now forcibly ending, and

hoped to arrange for Guild members to visit the elderly residents of the Army's home.

The meeting ended with a slide show by Mrs R. Noyes demonstrating the nationwide work of the Guild.

**MAPLEWOOD W.I.**

The President, Mrs K. Bubb, welcomed the speaker, Mrs Susan Grace, to a well-attended meeting. Mrs Grace spoke about her former career as an air stewardess. She started with a small charter firm in Blackpool doing day trips to the Isle of Man, then she worked with various charter lines with varied passenger loads, and finally worked with BOAC on the big planes all round the world. She told serious and amusing tales of her training and travels, with a light touch which delighted the audience. Mrs J. Le Mare expressed the thanks of the meeting for such an enjoyable talk.

Forty-five decorated Christmas parcels were brought by members and displayed. Those made by Mrs Heaward and Mrs M. Clarke were voted the prettiest. The parcels will be given to the Caversham Luncheon Club.

One new member was welcomed, and the good news was received of Mrs Thwaite's new baby.

**ROUND THE CLUBS**

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

At the annual general meeting on November 18, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs M. Kitcher; Vice-chairman, Mrs C. Lott; Secretary, Mrs A. Denning; Treasurer, Mrs V. Blunt.

The secretary gave her report, reminding members of the interesting speakers, and varied programme which has been enjoyed during the year. The talks were on such subjects as, An Operatic Career, Life in China Today, Work as a JP, The History of Ladies' Sporting Costumes, and the National Institute for the Blind.

The Arts and Crafts section has been a hive of industry preparing for the Christmas Bazaar, which was held at the above meeting. It proved to be a great success financially; the stall looked very attractive with a wide selection of dolls, cushions, tea-cosies, lots of different animals, and Christmas decorations.

Social Studies also had an interesting varied programme, with talks on subjects such as The National Trust, South Africa, Vegetarian Dishes, Portugal, Cacti and Succulent Plants, and Ethiopia. The evening outing to Milton Manor, near Abingdon, was most interesting, and enjoyable. The Drama Group entered their play, "The

Showdown", by Anthony Booth, in all the local festivals. Although they did not have any successes in winning a cup, their reward is in enjoyment of the rehearsals, and performing of the play.

Many members have enjoyed visits to the theatres at Windsor, Swindon and Newbury. The Guild celebrated its 15th birthday this year, with a special party, taking "Roses" as its theme throughout. The Guild have had coffee evenings, or mornings, once a month for special efforts such as Guild Funds, or Special Charities. Mrs M. Kitcher, chairman, thanked all her committee for their hard work, and unstinting support during the past year.

Mrs Margaret Hill, the speaker for the evening, gave an interesting talk on the "retail business". Members were taken behind the scenes of a busy fashionable ladies' shop in Oxford, and told some interesting facts about the manufacturing of clothes, shoplifting, customers' rights, and not forgetting, the rights of the retailer. The evening ended with a draw for the raffle.

The Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Hall, and new members are always welcome.

**BLAGRAVE W.I.**

The Autumn Meeting of the Pangbourne Group was held at the Mapledurham Pavilion and the hall was filled to capacity. Blagrave WI were the Tea Hostesses and the speaker, Mrs Pike, gave a most interesting talk on "The Three Women in Her Life", one of whom was Elizabeth Fry. The standard of entries for the competition was a very high one and the cup was won for the third year running by Whitechurch Hill. Mrs Mann and Mrs Knight, who were the judges, gave most helpful adjudications.

At the monthly meeting the proposed increase of the annual subscription was discussed and the speaker, Mr Partridge from Englefield, gave a very helpful talk on the growing and care of indoor plants, and the competition for the best plant grown by a member from a cutting was won by Mrs Rawlinson.

The Jumble Sale held in November in aid of Institute Funds was a great success and trade was particularly brisk at the White Elephant Stall where some excellent bargains were quickly snapped up.

**EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

At the annual general meeting held in November, the following officers were returned unopposed:

Chairman, Mrs E. Caddy; Vice-chairman, Mrs E. Risius; Treasurer, Mrs M. White; Secretary, Mrs J. Perrin.

The four new members of the committee who were elected were: Mesdames E. Fuller, B. Jepson, O. Pearson and J. Pakenham-Walsh. A most successful bazaar was held on November 13, part of the proceeds of which will be sent to the Guild Charity for the year — Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

**MAPLEDURHAM W.I.**

Mapledurham WI members were very pleased to welcome the speaker, Mrs A. Mates, to their November meeting, having enjoyed her previous talk. This time her subject was Show Boats and Show Business.

Mrs Skinner reported on the outing to London and the Savoy Theatre, to see the hilarious farce, Banana Ridge, which was enjoyed by all who went, and Mrs Hayward gave an account of the Danish cookery demonstration held at Woodcote.

The competition for an arrangement of berries and foliage was won by Mrs D. Deacon.

**BAPTIST NEWS**

Two very different pictures of missionary work were shared by Baptists in Caversham on November 21. The day started with a Missionary Breakfast, when 80 friends gathered together to enjoy cereal, home-made rolls and marmalade. After the meal Mr Jim Brewer who, with his wife Con-

nie, has recently joined the Caversham Church, told of the work in Trinidad of his son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Sheila.

Some seven years ago, after serving as a Minister in his country, Peter and his wife accepted a call from the Baptist Missionary Society, and they are now in their second

spell in the West Indies. In contrast to some other mission fields, they have no language problem, since English, with a dialect, is spoken. The work in which they are engaged includes helping with the organisation of the local churches, education, and the preparation of Bible Study notes and, of course, they have many opportunities for pastoral care.

The evening service included a film of B.M.S. work in Bangladesh, where by contrast much of the work is done in clinics and hospitals by nurses and doctors, and by agriculturalists helping to improve crop yields, as well as by missionaries teaching and preaching the gospel.

Coffee followed the evening service, and many stayed on for a second showing of a film strip with sound commentary, which had been used earlier in the day by the Sunday School. In the commentary Cliff Richard described the work sponsored by "Tear" Fund in Bangladesh, and showed pictures of his visit, with emphasis on the medical work.

It was a very full day, full of information on two very different fields of missionary activity, and it showed that even in the very changed circumstances of today there is much vital work to be carried out.

**ST ANNE'S NEWS**

There seems to be a lot of confusion — both in the media and in people's minds — about the Mass in Latin.

Mass is said in Latin at St Anne's every Saturday at 12 o'clock. The Church has never forbidden Mass to be said in Latin occasionally providing it is the new and simpler version approved by the Second Vatican Council in 1963, and not the old version approved by the Council of Trent in the 16th century (known as the Tridentine Mass). The essence of the Mass is not changed — cannot be changed. The changes are purely to do with the liturgy.

There is nothing sacrosanct about the use of Latin. Christ spoke Aramaic so the very first Mass — the Last Supper — was in Aramaic. In the early Church Greek was the predominant language. Latin was adopted because it is a dead language and therefore not liable to alter its meaning as living languages do. Many people miss the beauty of the Latin but welcome the closer involvement which Mass in our own language brings.

Archbishop Lefebvre — who is a sincere and holy man — and his followers are objecting to these liturgical changes. Christians should pray for him that he will be able to reconcile his objections to his promised obedience to the Pope and a stop should be put to the idea that there is a chasm in the Church where no chasm exists.

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

The Rev Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.

The Rev 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.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Peter's — Balmore Hall, 11am (not 3rd Sunday of month).

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). Superintendent: Mr P. Stephens, 24 Carlton Road. Tel. 477030. Secretary: Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent. Tel. 472084.

### BAPTIST

West Memorial Hall — 11am, aged three years and upwards.

Secretaries: Mr and Mrs L. Tyler, 162 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park. Tel. 476214

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

Sunday Worship: 11am and 6.30pm

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## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

St Peter's  
November 7: Matthew Jackman

St John's  
November 7: Jayne Hookway  
Victoria Griffin  
Robert Cripps  
November 21: Jonathan Andrews  
Simon Andrews  
Kathryn Sumner

St Andrew's  
November 21: Rebecca Hough

Caversham Park  
October 24: Hazy English  
Susannah Heaver  
Elizabeth Hodson

St Anne's  
November 7: Tracy Davidson  
Mark Davidson  
November 14: Gregory Gianni  
November 21: Victoria Sears  
Nigel Boyer  
David Bristow

### MARRIED

St John's  
November 6: Vincent Hill and Jacqueline Leach

St Margaret's  
November 27: Donald McMillan and Heather Dade

### FUNERALS

St Andrew's  
December 2: Emily Gamble

St Margaret's  
November 3: Nancy Fordred

## CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION  
11.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st and 5th Sundays)  
11.00 a.m. Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
11.30 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday — Carols)

#### St John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST

#### 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 (Except 1st Sunday)

#### St Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday) Carols (1st 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)  
6.30 p.m. Carols (1st 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 a.m. Morning Worship (2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday)  
FAMILY COMMUNION  
(1st and 3rd Sundays)  
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (2nd, 4th and 5th 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

### 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

#### St Martin's School

9.30am Mass

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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

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