

OUR NEXT MAYOR



■ Bill and Margaret Mander

—Walton Adams

A CAVERSHAM RESIDENT

It seems that life has always been a full one for Councillor Bill Mander, of Grove Hill, Caversham. Now the next twelve months promise to be even more involved, for on May 17 he becomes the new Mayor of Reading.

Coming from a well-known local family, he has always been deeply interested in civic affairs as has his father, Mr George Mander, who was a councillor for twenty-one years and then became an alderman in 1969. When his father retired from the Reading council, Bill Mander himself became a councillor. His brother, Geoff, is also a member.

Bill Mander, like his father and brother, has been deeply involved in sport and recreational activities and when appointed to his office by the Labour group, he was designated as a spokesman for leisure and was chairman of this committee from 1970 to 1976. He was concerned with the original concept of the Hexagon, which will be the entertainment centre for Reading and a surrounding radius of 25 miles. Closely linked with this is a great interest in youth work. As a councillor, Mr Mander is chairman of the youth sub-committee and also chairman of the Central Club.

MUSICAL FAMILY

Born in Blenheim Road, he studied art at Reading University where he met his future wife, Margaret. When he married in 1954 he left Caversham for a while and taught in Abingdon and later at Slough. Now he is head of creative arts at Easthampstead Park Educational Centre. During the coming year he will continue to run his department, taking on the responsibilities of Mayor with the support of his colleagues and Berkshire Education Authority.

His wife, Margaret, teaches mathematics at Maiden Erleigh School, where she is also involved in pastoral work, being deputy head of the Middle School.

The Manders have two children, John, 21, is at Birmingham Polytechnic training to be a music teacher. As a keen trumpet player he has performed with the Reading Youth Orchestra. Karen, 18, left school last July and is spending a year doing voluntary work before probably going to Cardiff University to read social administration for a career in social work.

In spite of such busy lives, Mr and Mrs Mander find time to enjoy singing. Both belong to the Phoenix Choir in Reading which has won many national and international honours. Hopefully they will be able to find some time to carry on with their choral activities in spite of a very hectic year ahead of them.

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The Editor's Column

A SURPRISING OMISSION

A few weeks ago the Reading Chronicle published a series of articles covering the work of undertakers, cemetery staff and others whose business is concerned with death. These articles fulfilled a useful purpose in uncovering the mystery that is so often thrown around the process of dying. But I looked in vain for a final article on how to set about arranging the details of the funeral service and on the most important aspect of the subject, the question of what lies beyond the grave. It is a pity that an otherwise good series was incomplete in this way. But as this number of the Caversham Bridge prints on another page the times of Easter Day services it seems appropriate that I should write this month about the Christian approach to death.

JOYFUL OCCASION

I have often been told by those who have attended a funeral service that very much to their surprise it was a joyful occasion. And so of course, if it is the funeral of a Christian, it should be. The only sad funerals can be those where there is no belief in a future life and indeed when there is no such belief one is left asking what is the real point of any form of Christian service. In contrast the funeral of any Christian should be primarily an occasion for thanking God for the victory of Christ over death and for his making known to us that death is not the end; it is therefore an occasion when we re-assert our own belief in the Resurrection, a fact which the Church proclaims not just on Easter Day but on every Sunday in the year. Secondly, we want to give thanks for the life of the Christian who has died and thirdly, commend him into the hands of a loving and merciful Father, while also praying that God will comfort and strengthen those who mourn. There is a natural place for sadness, and merely to try to suppress grief can often do harm; but we need to distinguish between personal sadness at being separated for a time from a loved one and the sort of sorrow which if are not careful can amount to a denial of the Christian hope of resurrection.

ARRANGING THE SERVICE

The first person to be told of a death should be the priest or minister of the family so that he can come and see them and discuss with them arrangements for the funeral. Only after he has been notified should the undertaker be called in. The ordering of the funeral service is something that needs to be carefully considered. The Church of England has recently approved a new form of service, and this should encourage the revival of the older practice in this country of having a celebration of Holy Communion as part of the funeral service. Even if this is not to be so then the clergy are always glad to arrange a service of Holy Communion for the family earlier in the day of the funeral. The question of music needs thought. An evening hymn like Abide With Me strikes quite the wrong note. On the other hand, an Easter hymn will serve to emphasise our belief in the victory of Christ; the choice of organ music is also important and unless only a few very people are expected to attend it will usually be preferable to have the service in a Church building and not a cemetery or crematorium chapel. If it is to be a cremation thought will also need to be given to the reverent disposal of the ashes. Obviously not all these things will be decided on a first visit from one of the clergy but they are matters for discussion between the family and clergy and then the undertaker can be informed what has been decided. The undertakers' job is a limited one — to see to the disposal of the body but the clergy are concerned to minister to the bereaved and to help them accept the real meaning of death and to minister to the family in the weeks and months that follow, helping perhaps a widow or widower to adjust to a new approach to daily living.

In his poem East Coker, T. S. Eliot starts by saying "In my beginning is my end." He finishes by saying "In my end is my beginning." In those two simple but very profound little statements the whole Christian teaching of life and death is summed up. When we have really grasped what T. S. Eliot is saying we shall realise that the funeral of a Christian is indeed an occasion for joy as one more Christian embarks on a new and fuller life with Christ.

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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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG WHOSE CONVENIENCE?

If you give £24,000 for a house in a desirable position, you do not expect a public lavatory and sanitary station to be included in the view. At least, that is how the developers of the former Elliot's site argue, though the residents of Riverside Court, the luxury flats at Caversham Bridge, do not seem to object to looking across to some public loos, but perhaps that is considered all right because they are a Victorian wrought ironwork affair, and Victoriana is all the vogue. Be that as it may, New Ideal Homes Ltd have decided that to avoid offending the susceptibility of prospective purchasers enticed by a picturesque advertisement for luxurious riverside homes in Caversham meadows, the lavatories and sanitary station at the end of Wolsey Road must be moved, and have offered to pay for their demolition and rebuilding on another site.

In itself there may be little to object to in this, but where do we find that these offices are to go? The loos themselves, and the first aid station, are to be moved further east along the north boundary of Christchurch Meadows. Further east is all right, in fact probably an improvement as Christchurch Meadows is a popular resort in the summer for parents and children; but along the northern boundary is much too far away, and certainly too far from the river for the first aid post. The lavatory must be sited where it is needed if it is to be moved from its present site, to suit the convenience of a company who bought the nearby land in the full knowledge that it was there. Moreover, the old buildings must not be demolished before the new ones are ready for use.

When it comes to the sanitary station, this is to be removed south of the river adjacent to the Victorian loos. Now if this building constitutes an eyesore to the occupiers of the new houses, why should it not do the same for the residents of Riverside Court? Even more important, why should visitors to the riverside at Caversham Bridge, coming perhaps from less attractive parts of the town, be expected to accept what the more privileged find objectionable? A landscaping scheme prepared some years ago for this site by one of the Civic Society's architect members was awarded a Civic Trust prize, but the council never took it up because they were not prepared to make the sum up to the full amount required. However, they have said that one day this scheme, or one like it, will be put into effect, but how far will it be marred by the site of cabin cruisers emptying their waste in the sanitary station? The Wolsey Road buildings are in a far more discreet position. In addition, the moorings at Caversham Bridge are usually all occupied during the boating season, so there could be an even longer queue of boats waiting to use the sanitary station. Wolsey Road, however, has additional nearby mooring sites.

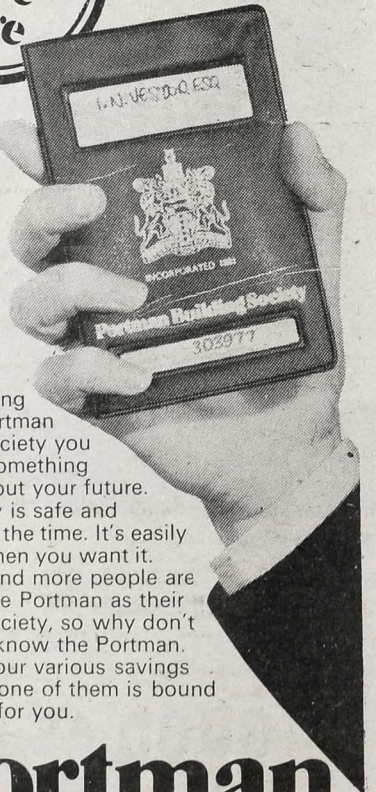
No: If this firm wants

to re-site these buildings, it must be in a place that suits the convenience of citizens of the town and regular river users, whose rights deserve as much consideration as those of the firm's potential customers.

TIGHT SQUEEZE

The site is, of course, now being developed, as anyone venturing through the mud and damp can see. There is now a planning applica-

tion in for the second phase. This is for nearly a hundred "dwelling units." Such high density, reminiscent of the conditions in which battery hens live, would, one would have thought, been even less attractive to the purchasers of the first set of homes than the presence of a nearby loo. This application has met with strong opposition, and if anything of the character of the riverside in that area is to be preserved, must be refused.



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CAVERSHAM'S CIVIC

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It has been likened to all sorts of things, some of them hardly complimentary. A stalkless toadstool, a saucepan lid, something out of space fiction — or an exciting example of contemporary architecture. Enthusiasm, horror and plain bewilderment are among the emotions aroused by our new entertainment centre, the Hexagon. But at least it isn't ignored and opinion as to whether it will grow into an expensive white elephant or become a dramatic boost to Reading's cultural life is pretty evenly divided.

One person who is determined that in the late autumn when the commissioning period starts, no effort will have been spared to provide the town with a centre that can present a varied selection of shows in a building that embodies the latest facilities for an audience that could range from a couple of hundred to well over a thousand is Robert Corder, one time actor, producer, television executive and enthusiast - extraordinary for the concept of Reading as a borough that will attract the very best in entertainment because the people demand and appreciate it.

MAGIC

MUSHROOM

It's hardly possible to write about Bob Corder and not start with the Hexagon because the two are almost synonymous. Mention the word and his eyes glisten while he pours out a stream of facts, figures, ideas and hopes. If enthusiasm and expertise are any guide, the concrete toadstool must be a magic mushroom, about to change into a glittering palace of dreams come true.

But although most of the hours of Bob's day are spent in translating this imaginative concept into a reality, the other important side of his life is his home on Caversham Heights, his wife Daphne and family of three sons (one of whom, a keen amateur

photographer, took our photograph of his dad) and daughter Rachel, a member of the choir of St Andrew's and soon to be confirmed. His leisure pastime is walking and he has found already that living where he does means he can soon get out into the real countryside off the Woodcote Road and discover the delights of Mapledurham and Chazey Heath.

FROM STAGE TO TV

Born in Nottingham and now in his forties, Bob Corder was educated at Rossall, served in the Navy and then went through the most thorough of stage apprenticeships playing in repertory up and down the country. He remembers having digs in Caversham Road when he was appearing at the Rainbow Hall in the fifties, but doesn't recall much of the town except that it was always regarded as a bit of a dump, theatrically speaking. That's one thing he's out to change. He is a friend of Kevin Barry who we remember for his brave attempt to make the Everyman Theatre in London Street a home for professional drama.

But like so many other actors he switched to television in the sixties and became an executive producer for Yorkshire Television, being responsible for many well known series. "Emmerdale Farm" and the children's feature "Dominic," which is now being re-shown on ITV, are among his productions.

By no means the unworldly artist, living in a world of make-believe, Bob appreciates the importance of the business side of "show biz" and knows that although it is unlikely that the Hexagon can become a purely commercial proposition for many years, with the initial building costs creating heavy debt charges, it is his job to cut the loss element to the lowest practical figure. He has a wide know-



ledge of the "nuts and bolts" side of the entertainment business and is a theatre technician as well as an impressario.

With his ambition to sweep away Reading's reputation of being one of the wastelands of the cultural and entertainment world, he is aghast that since the closure of the Palace in 1961 there hasn't been a regular venue for professional entertainment in the town — in fact, since the Royal County was burnt down in the thirties there has been no permanent home for legitimate theatre. "It is sad that there are thousands of children in the area who have never seen a pantomime, and to whom Shakespeare is only musty lines in a text book," he says. But he's confident that with a flexible approach and a range of attractions such as Morecambe and Wise, pop groups, jazz, symphony, West End drama productions and lectures by notable experts like Chris Bonnington and Lord Clark, Reading will be back in business with the Hexagon as a magnet to draw talent, and audiences from a wide area. Let's hope he's right and "there's no business like showbusiness" — and that the customers do come.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

In the week immediately after Easter the North Caversham Baptist Church at the top of Kidmore Road will be running another Holiday Bible Club for children. Each day from Tuesday

to Friday the leaders will meet to pray at 9.30am and then the activities will begin at 10am. In the first half of each morning Mr Chris Baker, of the Open-Air Mission, will lead the children in

chorus singing, quizzes, Bible stories and games. Then comes a quarter of an hour of refreshments with a snack bar, after which the children divide up into groups for the handwork of their choice, until noon.

In the afternoon they will meet again for organised games in Mapledurham Playing Fields, followed by an epilogue.

The climax of the week comes at the weekend following, with a parents' afternoon on the Saturday and at the Sunday services at 10.45 and 6.30pm when items will be included by the children.

At a similar event last year numbers topped the 60 mark, so handwork time in particular needs some organising. The sorts of handwork offered will be different from last year, but one item that help is needed with is the fretwork. Please has anybody any unwanted fretsaws and accompanying small clamps and V-notch plates which they would be kind enough to give or lend. Blades will be supplied by the organisers. Any such offers or indeed coping saws would be gratefully received by Mrs Sylvia Chumbley, who would be delighted to call for them: Telephone 470762.

Children, aged six to 14, are invited to come to the Holiday Bible Club, starting on Tuesday, April 12, at 10am, at North Caversham Baptist Church. This is open to all children, whether or not they already go to church or Sunday School. The aim is to introduce them to Jesus as a living Saviour, to build up those who already love Him, and also to give them some interesting and creative activities during their holiday.

Wedding at St Andrew's



■ Mr Christopher Tuckwell and Miss Susan Madges, of Conisboro Avenue were married at St Andrew's Church on February 19.

— Walton Adams

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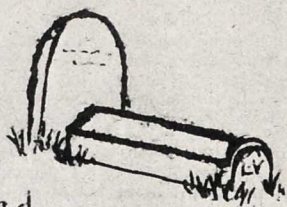
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Tombstones in Mapledurham

It was a glorious, sunny day in the middle of last year's rather wet September, for the drought had finally broken, so I got out the bicycle and started off to Mapledurham. Just the afternoon to spend among the graves. Having recently acquired a booklet on how to record graveyards, I thought I would try my hand at it. For an amateur the information I read up was pretty involved, but I did make out a form which I could fill in and at the end perhaps find some interesting facts about my records.

Once there I became very engrossed at the north side of the churchyard. First I discovered some of the tombs to Mr Charlie Allwright's relatives. Mr Allwright is farm manager for Mapledurham Estate. Although he has not lived more than fifteen years in the parish, members of his family were yeoman farmers who came to the village in the early seventeenth century. The memorials I found



head
foot and
body stone

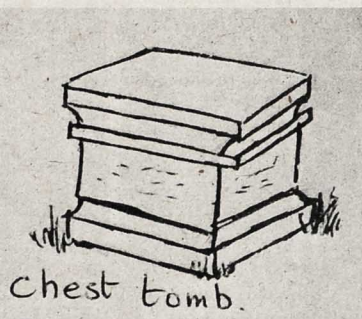
were early nineteenth century and had head and foot stones, very solid and plain, the former with a flourishing "sacred" written on each with the initials of the deceased carved on the latter. Two husbands and two wives all had identical monuments. Between the head and footstones had once been body stones, but they had been removed and a path to the churchyard tap now traversed each grave. Close by I discovered several stones belonging to a family called Pearman of about the same date. Here again, the husbands and wives had identical memorials with head, body and footstones. Having read all the wording, with a little difficulty, I discovered that the Pearmans and the Allwrights were related by marriage. Still on the north side I found another early Victorian family grouping with the name Hearn. One — Hannah Hearn, died in 1908, so perhaps some older Map-

ledurham folk remember her. Martha Hearn died in 1898 aged 76.

Over in the far north corner was a twin gravehead, joined at the centre of the headstone, with a body and footstone, erected to the memory of two little girls, Rhoda and Elizabeth Ann, aged two and six respectively. They were daughters of Thomas and Elizabeth Stevens. The children died in 1829 and 1830. Poor parents. It seemed strange to see skulls intertwined with ferns decorating the gravestones of these little girls.

DIED FROM A CARBUNCLE

Two Victorian vicars of St Margaret's lie at rest on the north side of the churchyard. There is the simple bodystone, once surrounded by massive iron railings, of the famous Reverend Lord Augustus FitzClarence, who held the living from 1829 to 1854 and was the fifth son of William the fourth (then Duke of Clarence) by Mrs Jordan, the actress. You will find the grave under a yew tree. He died from the effects of blood poisoning caused by a carbuncle. The other cleric is the Rev Francis St John Thackeray, vicar from 1883-1919, and his memorial is even more simple, and a bit out of line with the rest — for he faces north east! From a recent course of lectures connected with archaeol-



Chest tomb.

ogy I learned that in all Christian burials the head should face east, except for the Bishop, he faces his flock, so looks west!

It was whilst looking at graves near the vestry door that I came across Noah Fisher. Now through reading various records I know a little about him, so I really felt I'd met an old friend! According to a rate return made in 1855 by John Allaway, churchwarden of Mapledurham, Noah had a shop and house at Chazey Heath. According to a tithe appor-

The Youth and Community Centre Emmer Green

AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY STAFF THAT ARE NOW URGENTLY REQUIRED IF THE WORK OF THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE IS TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND

John Jenkins, the Youth and Community Worker responsible for the Centre at Emmer Green, has asked that we publish this appeal for voluntary workers at the Centre. Without the help of volunteers the work of the centre would soon come to a halt, let alone expand. So please read the list printed below and ask yourselves if there is any way in which you may be able to help the Centre to help the youth of Caversham.

1. Coffee bar workers; Thursdays and Fridays, 7.30-10.30pm.

2. Youth workers; Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and possibly one or two weekends a year. There must be an ability to listen sympathetically and to chat easily. To show a genuine concern for the young people.

3. People with individual skills; to talk about ones own job and possibly to instruct.

4. Junior Club; a desperate need here for male helpers on Tuesdays between 7pm and 10pm. Age of children 11-14 years.

5. Local OAPs are keen to start a club on a Friday afternoon, but need an organiser. Despite appeals through the press no one has yet volunteered.

6. Gymnastic Club; Thursday evenings; need of help to catch children when landing from the apparatus. It is not necessary to be able to undertake the gymnastics oneself.

7. Emmer Green entertainments; a committee who organise regular Saturday evening entertainment need female committee members for the catering and secretarial side.

Training will be provided in the various skills needed, and staff are expected to attend the Centre once a week plus an additional monthly staff meeting at which training takes place. Any volunteer who comes forward will go through a selection interview and move on to a month of induction training one night a week in the practical atmosphere of the Youth Club.

tion map dated 1841, he was not mentioned on the accompanying lists of all the householders on the estate, so was not there at that time. He died in 1867 but how old he was, where he came from before coming to Chazey Heath and where he actually lived when he did arrive there I have yet to discover — if I ever do! I wonder what he sold, probably he had a Victorian village store of sorts. It served a very scattered community but must have been most useful to folk who had to walk into Reading or Caversham for shopping.

M. K.

(To be continued)

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WHAT'S COOKING IN THE BB?

It is the ambition of the 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade to set up their own camp in 1978. Normally the camp is held at a camp site already set up by another Boys' Brigade Company who hire it to us and others. Next year it is planned that they will hire all tentage, provide the equipment, erect the camp and then hire it out for six to eight weeks to other companies. This makes for a cheaper camp for the boys but more hard work for the officers and helpers. All this is a long winded way of saying can you help them? If you can keep your eyes open for camp equipment going begging or cheaply. They have already acquired plenty of plates and dishes from the RAF. What is now needed is pots, pans and cutlery. If you can help in any way please ring Tony Champion, 474034 or Les Cooper, 478607, after 6pm.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

The Rev Michael Kitchener, who came to Caversham in 1974 as priest-in-charge of Mapledurham and has also been executive secretary of the Reading Council of Churches, has been appointed lecturer in doctrine at the theological College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire. He will be leaving Caversham towards the end of the summer to take up his new appointment.

Mr John Simpson is resigning from the post of organist and choirmaster at St Andrew's Church at Easter. He will be succeeded by Mr Christopher Griffiths. Mr Griffiths is at present assistant organist at St Giles Church and teaches at Carmel College and Alfred Sutton Boys School.

Inglis Mayo, a well known member of St Andrew's Congregation who has been preparing for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, will be made deacon on Sunday, June 26, at 10.30am in Winchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Winchester.

Annual District Meetings. The annual meetings of the different districts were held in the week beginning February 28. Attendance at all of them was similar to last year. All the District Wardens continue in office for a further year but six new members were elected to the Church Council — viz Mrs D. Doggett and Mr J. Williamson (St Peter's), Mrs Y. Milne and Miss N. Wheeler (St John's), Mr C. Shayler and Mr R. Westwell (St Barnabas). The representation at St Andrew's is unchanged. The number on the electoral roll has risen to 1,014; the effect of the Stewardship Campaign held in the autumn of 1975 was shown in the finances of the different districts but caution was expressed about the future outlook. As a result of the cleaning of St John's organ and redecoration work done in St Peter's, St John's and St Andrew's, reserve funds are smaller than a year ago. The diocesan budget has not been increased for the current year but it is expected that there will be a very substantial increase in 1978 and the need to build up reserves this year in anticipation of this was emphasised.

A report of the annual Parochial Meeting will appear in the next edition of the Caversham Bridge.

Good Friday Pilgrimage. There will be another Good Friday pilgrimage for young people this year. It will take the form of a walk from Church Knob, on Blewbury Down, to Dorchester, along the route supposed to have been taken by St Birinus and King Cynegils of Wessex. The story is that St Birinus preached to the king on Church Knob and then they walked to Dorchester where the king was baptized. The party will leave Caversham about 3pm by coach and walk from Church Knob to Dorchester, finishing at the shrine of St Birinus in the Abbey. After supper they will take part in the Good Friday Liturgy with the Abbey congregation, and should be home by 10 o'clock. Further details can be obtained from the clergy.

CHURCH NEWS

ST JOHN'S NEWS

Mothers' Union. The St John's branch held their annual general meeting on January 25, with the Rector in the chair. Members were able to look back on a very successful year and forward to an equally good one in 1977.

On February 8, members attended a joint meeting at Gosbrook Road with the Methodist Women's Fellowship, when the speaker was Mrs Davidson, from the Baptist Church; a truly ecumenical "happening."

At the February meeting Mrs Doreen Bennett gave a talk on the Link Group.

Nomads. The teenage and young adult members of St John's have not been idle whilst other groups were meeting and arranging their programmes. They have now formed a group — Nomads — which meets fortnightly, on Saturdays, at St John's House.

Their varied programme so far has included talks on Taize and a talk by Miss Angela Butler on her work in Birmingham; walks, and table tennis at Church House. They hope to visit the Franciscan Friary in Dorset in the future.

In addition to these activities they are giving careful thought to the ways in which they can serve the community and, from the long list of projects displayed on the church notice board, they are not short of ideas.

ST PETER'S AND ST BARNABAS MOTHERS' UNION

The monthly meeting heard a talk by the Baptist Minister, the Reverend Laurence Stevens. The Baptists were another group of Christians who broke away from the Anglican Church during the seventeenth century. One of the differences between the two churches is that Baptists do not believe in the baptism of infants, but immersion in water when boys and girls can speak for themselves. Mr Stevens said they had no set prayers and responses. Years ago they were teetotal and led a very strict existence.

The annual party for Borocourt patients was held in February at St Barnabas Hall. It was a very happy occasion and patients and helpers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As usual, it was Mrs Goodworth at the piano that made it all so jolly. Passing the parcel caused great fun and excitement. Thanks

are due to all the ladies of the Mothers' Union who provided refreshments and the many little gifts which were so appreciated. The pretty bags and buttonholes were another source of pleasure.

After tea and more games the coach came at 4.30 and many thanks and happy faces were well worth all the trouble.

ST BARNABAS NEWS

Overseas Mission

During 1976 events organised by the Overseas Group raised a record £360. £210 of this was sent to Dr Guy Daynes to support his new psychiatric hospital at Umzimkulu in the Transkei, details of which were mentioned in the January issue. The remaining £150 plus a further £100 from church income, was sent to nearby St Lucy's Hospital, which we have supported for several years.

Dr Daynes has been succeeded as Medical Superintendent at St Lucy's by Dr Richard Devonshire, who gave up the chance of a professorship at the Middlesex Hospital to take up this post. He has asked if our latest donations could be used for the education of children, which is a great need; this was readily agreed.

In 1976 St Barnabas gave a total of £760 for overseas work; this included £200 to the USPG and £100 for our scholarship pupil at St Michael's Blind School at Ranchi in India.

The Overseas Group will again run a stall for St Lucy's at the Scout Fete on May 28. Prizes, such as sweets and

groceries, would be gratefully received by Mrs Matthews or Mr Anderson.

Girl Guides at Westminster Abbey

Guides from the 2nd Emmer Green (St Barnabas) Company, together with friends from other companies, formed part of the 5,000-strong congregation in Westminster Abbey on Saturday, February 19, for the annual Thinking Day and Founder's Day Service. They learned from the Dean that they had the distinction of being part of the largest congregation to be present in the Abbey since the Queen's coronation.

Not only are the founders of Scouting and Guiding remembered on Thinking Day, but also Guides throughout the world. To get a clearer idea of life in other countries the St Barnabas' Guides spent the afternoon in the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington where among other things there was a special fashion parade of commonwealth costumes.

The following day our Guides were again on parade at their local Thinking Day Service in Caversham Park School.

ST PETER'S NEWS

St Peter's Wives

The meeting in April will be an informal social evening to which new members will receive a warm welcome. More details are available from the Group Chairman, Mrs Jean Pugh, Reading 472949, who will willingly supply programme details.

An entertaining evening was provided at the well attended February meeting. Mr Hawkins, of Strand Glass Fibre, demonstrated the many uses of glass fibre and clear-cast resin and showed attractive examples. This was followed by a short film.

UNUSUAL PET



■ Mrs Hazel Dilly is seen showing her pet iguana to some of the Genesis Group at a recent meeting.

— John Williamson

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

A new church warden was elected at the annual parochial meeting which was held on March 4. Mr Thomas, who has recently recovered from a long illness, has felt it necessary to retire and Mr A. Martyn-Johns continues in office as the other church warden. Mrs G.

Fowles was elected to the church council in place of Mr Matthews who is shortly moving to Herefordshire. The meeting heard reports on different aspects of the life of the parish; the congregation is increasing and as a result of the Stewardship campaign in 1975 the financial situation has improved.

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TALKING POINT

VOLUNTARY or STATUTORY?

by Michael Kitchener

Something in last month's "Bridge" troubled me: "It is not the intention of the Bridge Scheme (of social service) to compete with any of the statutory bodies, but rather to co-operate and complement them." Not that I want to see rivalry; far from it. But it's troubling that anyone needs to make such a comment at all. And if it comes to complementing each other, isn't it the statutory bodies that should complement the (so called) voluntary schemes, and not vice-versa?

THE PROFESSIONALS

What are the social services, whether voluntary or statutory? Aren't they just ways of helping people who aren't completely able to help themselves? But helping others surely starts with neighbourliness, it doesn't end with it as a kind of final reserve.

Sometimes, some centralised authorities seem to want a society where nearly everything is done by highly efficient, organised, specialised, professional statutory agencies, and there are very few "holes" left in the system to be filled by "unskilled amateurs." Even nowadays (when the statutory social services are more aware of the value of voluntary work) I still find some professional social workers naturally thinking in these terms. Caring for those in need is primarily their job, the "experts" job, and the general public may be invited to help in various ways.

I want to live in a society where it's the other way round. I want to affirm that we begin with you and me helping each other; and when we can't do it by ourselves we form schemes like the Bridge Scheme; and when we still can't cope, we ask the statutory bodies to help and advise, or even take over from us. I want to see the professional social services supporting the community in its caring, and not setting up as the monopoly-holders in care, which other people are allowed to assist sometimes.

COUNTRY AND URBAN NEEDS

I spend a lot of my time in a country community; perhaps that makes me naive. For it's curious that even the Bridge Scheme isn't used much in the country part of Mapledurham. It doesn't need to be. It's common knowledge that people are close enough in the country to know and help each other more directly. And it's pretty obvious that most of

us don't live in the country. But in our urban, industrial society, have we really begun to discover how to take what's really worthwhile in the old country life, and adapt it to our altered circumstances? Isn't it possible, even in an industrial society, for people to meet and know and care for each other, as people? Perhaps that's what the Bridge Scheme, and other voluntary schemes, and the statutory bodies too, are all about: helping us to find ways of living humanly in a modern, mechanised world. I hope so.

PEOPLE FIRST

For what's the alternative? The alternative is that we leave more and more of the caring, the helping, the dealing with difficult situations, to "experts," "the caring professions." And that would be a disaster for everybody. It would be a disaster for the statutory social services, who are notoriously overburdened. For when you are overworked, it's generally the harder things that you drop first; and in this case, that means that what may get forgotten is the demanding and time-consuming job of really learning to care for people and to meet them as people, not just as problems. I fear that if we load too much on to the statutory social services, then despite all the goodwill in the world we shall end up with mechanical, impersonal, finally uncaring social services.

And it would be a disaster for the rest of us too. People thrive on caring, but do we dare to care any more? Are we getting too frightened of doing something wrong, too worried about treading on some official toes? I hate to think of a world where all except the "caring professions" were reduced to earning our wages and enjoying our leisure time; that isn't being human at all.

So let's not be defensive about our caring for each other. By all means, we must accept our need of specialist guidance sometimes. By all means, we must accept that we sometimes have to call in others where we as friends, neighbours, relatives, can do no more. By all means, we must be far more ready than we are to ask the statutory social services for advice. But people come first. Good neighbours are in the front line of caring, and all the expert social services in the world are only there to help us.

THE LINK GROUP

The Link Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month, and on February 28 heard reports from two separate organisations.

Mr Charles Buck and two colleagues from the local Council of Churches, who legally are the landlords of the Priest Hill Project, came to report progress. They appealed to the group to nominate two members to link with the Friends of Priest Hill and help in the organisation when it welcomes single parent families later in the year. Dr John Banks, who has had recent experience of a similar project in Liverpool, outlined the difficulties. It was agreed to investigate this request.

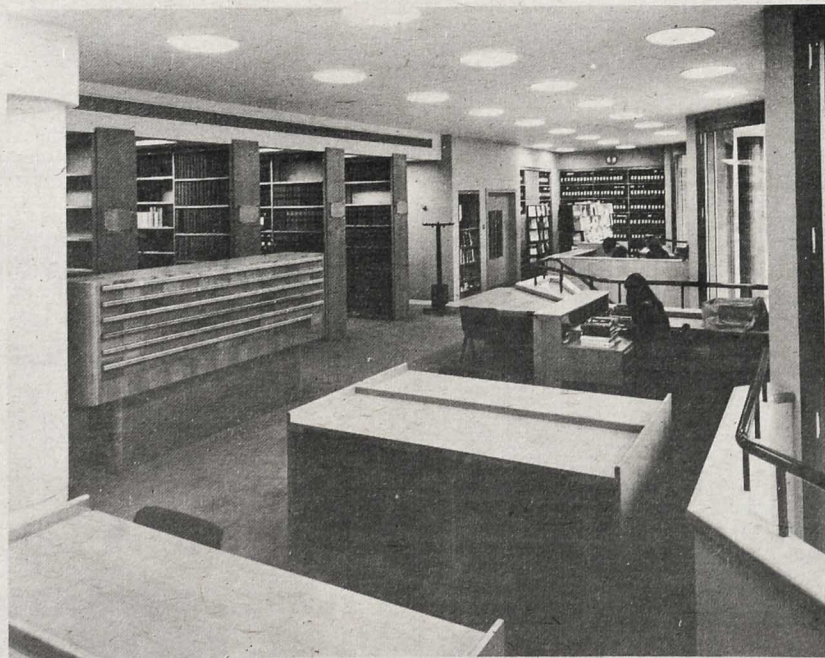
Some time was spent on planning for the "Good as New Sale" on April 2, at St Anne's Hall, and then the second visitor, Mrs Ann Varma, was welcomed. She explained what Corrymeela was, and drew attention to the Link based in Reading (PO Box 118 for further details), and a smaller group in Caversham. Everyone was most impressed by the efforts made to establish common ground in troubled Ulster.

OBITUARY
MOTHER
AGATHA

Sister Christina Fleming, better known as Mother Agatha, was born in Ireland in 1900 and joined the Sisters of the Visitation, Bridport, in 1926. She commenced teaching at St Anne's School in 1935. She was transferred to Bridport to take charge of the Preparatory School there in 1949. She returned to St Anne's as Head Teacher till she retired in 1966. After a short period as Reverend Mother at the Convent in Cheadle, she returned once more to Caversham as Sister in Charge till she was forced to relinquish the responsibility due to ill health in 1975. She died peacefully on February 16, and after Concelebrated Requiem Mass she was laid to rest at Henley Road on Friday, February 22.

During her life she made a lasting impression on everyone who knew her or worked with her. Her past pupils love to relish the many incidents of motherly care of her pupils in school. Members of the staff who worked with her remember her with affection. The atmosphere of love between staff and pupils impressed everyone. She was never known to lose her gentle composure.

Her support of the parish was always there. W. O'M



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WEST CAVERSHAM GIRL GUIDES

The Think Day Service for the Guides and Brownies of West Caversham was conducted by the Rev Laurence Stevens in Caversham Free Baptist Church. Our photographs show the service in progress and some of the Guides leaving the Church afterwards.

—Photos: John Williamson



Caversham East District Girl Guides Association

Thinking Day, February 22, was the 120th anniversary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting and the 88th anniversary of the birth of his wife, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, who is World Chief Guide. Each year, Brownies, Guides and Rangers commemorate the double anniversary by special services and events, by remembering Guides throughout the world, and by raising money for those less fortunate than themselves. 1977 also marked the 50th anniversary of the first Thinking Day.

This year, members of the seven Brownie Packs

and five Guide Companies that comprise the Caversham East District, crowded into the Hall of Caversham Park School on the afternoon of Sunday, February 20, for their annual Thinking Day Service. This was conducted by the Rev Stephen Bartlett, representative Brownies and Guides led the Thanksgiving and the District Commissioner, Mrs A. Sanford, led the Dedication. All the Brownies and Guides renewed their promises to do their best, to do their duty to God, to serve the Queen, to help other people, and to keep the laws of the movement. The music during the singing of one hymn was supplemented by a combined Brownie and Guide recorder group.

During the service, Mrs Sanford made a presentation to Mrs R. Hunt, of the 6th Caversham (St Anne's) Company, to mark the occasion of her retirement at the end of February as Guider-in-Charge and as a gesture of thanks to her after 19 years of devoted service in this role.

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

We print this month the Bishop's Pastoral letter that was read in churches throughout the diocese of Oxford on February 20

Jesus' friends were known as disciples, or learners. In other words they were men and women who were committed to searching for truth — God's truth, as they encountered it in Jesus, in the world and in themselves. They were a representative crowd: Shepherds and scholars, fishermen and tax-inspectors, learned men like St Paul, professional men like St Luke, but mostly family men and women like Peter, Martha and Mary. Jesus' gospel was and always will be for everybody. But the astonishing thing about the New Testament is the profound wisdom which these very ordinary disciples were able to attain and put on record in response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. No other religion in the world matches theirs, and ours, in depth and simplicity. This is the reason why the Church survived the early years of suffering and persecution; its members were so deeply convinced of the truth into which they found themselves driven by the Spirit that their faith was unshakable.

By comparison, the Church of today,

although far greater in size and extent, is far less robust and vigorous. Its convictions are less profound, its faith wavers and its mission is blunted. I believe therefore that the time has come for the Church's mission to be restored. This means that we must renew our discipleship and commit ourselves afresh to that exploration of God's truth which the first friends of Jesus initiated. As a start the January issue of the ODM has published a series of study-outlines which I hope will be widely used.

ONLY A BEGINNING

But that is only a beginning. I have proposed, with the enthusiastic approval of the Diocesan Synod, that we should aim to spend the last three years of this decade in a concerted effort to renew our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each parish will naturally want to find its own ways and means of doing so. But here are some suggestions which I hope you may find helpful.

In the first place, I don't think we shall get anywhere unless we attend to God and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. So I hope that our first priority in 1977 will be an exploration into prayer and the Spiritual life; into how we may deepen the relationship between ourselves and God, corporately and individually. In this, we should draw on what the Charismatic renewal has to teach the Church, and on what seems to be an increasing interest in meditation and contemplation. We should aim at a deeper understanding of spirituality for today: The year in which the nation celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the Queen, would thus become for us who are Christians, a year in which to celebrate, with Her Majesty, the simple but profound faith which God has given us. And we shall best do that by seeking quietly to go deeper into His truth in prayer and worship.

In 1978 I think we should make progress by endeavouring to listen to each other and share with each other the working out of our common responsibility for the mission and ministry of the Church. 1978 will be the year in which Anglican Bishops from all over the world will meet to listen to each other at the Lambeth Conference. Could we not also make it a year in which we determine to listen to another parish or to another part of the world? And could we not make this the time to explore a wider sharing of Christian ministry, ordained or lay? This would be a further way in which our mission could be renewed.

Financial stringency is making it essential for us to establish priorities. I believe that if we agree and declare our primary objectives, the recovery of our mission will be greatly assisted. After two years of listening and learning we shall be in a much better position to determine precisely what these objectives are. 1979 is the year of my second Visitation of the Diocese. I propose to invite you to tell me what you have learned so that together we may take fresh initiative in the recovery of our mission in the eighties.

With love and prayers,
Kenneth Oxon.

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Young Caversham

WHEN ALISON JACKSON joined the 11th Caversham Guide Company four years ago from the St Peter's Brownie Pack, she set herself a challenge: To pass her Queen's Guide Badge before her fourteenth birthday!

by Peter Shock



Alison Jackson

— John Williamson

With determination and hard work she achieved her goal — with almost two months to spare. At an open evening given by her Guide company in December, her proud moment arrived when the District Commissioner presented her with the Queen's Badge of Merit. Like all candidates for the Queen's Guide Certificate, Alison had to work for a total of seventeen badges, including the essential Camper, First Aid, Firefighter and Observer badges. She had to pass some unusual tests such as entertainer, toymaker, minstrel and bee-keeper, and had to undertake a period of practical work to obtain her Service Flash. This involves giving service outside the sphere of the Guide company. Alison's duties consisted of helping at the Chiltern Day Nursery in Peppard Road, where she spent each Saturday morning and much of her school holidays. She also returned to her old Brownie Pack and helped as Pack Leader. Shortly after her presentation, Alison transferred to the 3rd Caversham (St John's) Guide Company, and is now working for her Patrol Camp Permit, which will entitle her to take a patrol of Guides to camp.

Alison lives in South View Avenue, Caversham. She has two grown-up sisters, and a young brother of twelve, Simon, who is a Sea Scout. Her mother is the Brown Owl of St Peter's Brownies.

WILLKOMMEN, WIENERKNABEN! Or simply, "Welcome to the Vienna boys." The Lowfield and Caversham West Boys' Clubs are to be hosts to the Klosterneuburger Sportsverein in August this year. Last summer, a group from the two Caversham clubs were guests of the Viennese boys' sports association, and now a reciprocal invitation to England has been arranged. The Austrian boys will be staying for about a week in the homes of Caversham families. An interesting programme has already been drawn up which includes football matches and similar sporting activities. Several local firms have shown immense interest in the visit, and through their generosity it will be possible to arrange sightseeing trips to London, Windsor and a South Coast resort. Last year, the Klosterneuburger organisation celebrated its 60th anniversary. The Caversham clubs have still a long way to go to reach that ripe old age. However, as 1977 is Britain's Jubilee Year, what a golden opportunity presents itself to unite the Red, White and Blue with the Red - White - Red!

Jubilee Merrymaking in Mapledurham

Part of Mapledurham may have come into the Borough of Reading by June 6, but on that Monday there should be a real village atmosphere when a grand Silver Jubilee Fete opens at 2.15 in the Memorial Playing Fields. Everyone will have a chance to take part for there will be something for all including football and cricket matches, children's races and fancy dress parade, local Morris dancers and guessing the weight of a pig. Teas and other refreshments will be available and the day finishes with a dance in the Memorial Hall. Entrance and car parking will be free and any profit from the day's events, which is not primarily a money making effort, will probably be used to replace the row of elms cut down on the Playing Fields last year and for more park seats.

Anyone wishing for more information or with offers of help please get in touch with Mrs Dell, 121 Woodcote Road, Mapledurham (Tel. 479367). Volunteers include the Brownies, Scouts, Guides and Tennis Club, not forgetting the invaluable help from Blagrove Farm House Nursing Home where the ladies are busy making all the bunting. So come along and enjoy yourself on Monday afternoon, June 6.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



THE SWITCHBACK OF FOOTBALL

THIS TIME LAST YEAR READING FOOTBALL CLUB and the rest of the town were eagerly watching the team's progress in the Fourth Division of the Football League. Gradually, as the season came to its close, everyone had to admit that perhaps Reading could at last be promoted back to the Third Division. Finally, of course, they made it almost in an atmosphere of Cup fever. The enthusiasm for this modest performance was almost overpowering, not least of all through the local news media who could not have given more coverage if Reading Football Club had won the Cup or the First Division Championship. Many people, though, had reservations about the club's chances in the higher division and as this season has progressed they have been proved correct. The frustration of the club showed in the dismissing of their manager, Charlie Hurlley, only two weeks after a vote of confidence by the board. Who would be a football club manager? Feted by the town and club in April and out in disgrace by the following February.

Time for Change

At the time of going to print Reading are nestling near the bottom of the Third Division with what appears to be little chance of escaping relegation back to the Fourth Division. Their short-lived dreams have been shattered and like many other clubs in recent years, they are back where they started only twelve months ago. Before they start to worry about getting out of the Fourth Division this time, they ought to really take a look at the club and its organisation. In particular, instead of worrying about buying players they should look to local talent and try to build a team from the promising youngsters in the area, there are plenty to choose from. There are local lads on the books of Watford, Chelsea, QPR, Arsenal and many other clubs. If they think Reading has some football talent and come here to find it, then surely the local club should be able to find and sign up these promising players first. It will take time, but the town and club should be patient and be prepared to see a really strong team develop over a period of years. A second change could be from a full-time pro club to a semi pro club with perhaps more players to choose from.

There are many things that could be done and if the club is to survive they will have to take a very long serious look at themselves and their organisation.

Looking Forward to Cricket

Congratulations to John Murray, ex-England and Middlesex wicket-keeper, on his appointment as an England Test Selector. A few days earlier, local cricketers had the opportunity to meet him when he attended a Cricket Evening at the Caversham Bridge Hotel.

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THE MAGIC LAMP

AS SOMEONE SOMEWHERE ONCE SAID: "There are two sides to acting, the enjoyment the audience receive and the joy the actors receive." This was so true of the production of Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp by the 1st Caversham Boys and Girls Brigade Drama Group recently.

If I cared to, I could criticise many aspects of the pantomime, the singing was pretty awful and sometimes the lines were sticky. But it didn't matter to the audience because it didn't matter to the cast. On the night I went the Herald didn't appear at the point he should, but the actors on stage ad-libbed looking slightly baffled and the audience cheered when the flustered and overdue Herald arrived. This kind of happy approach sets a smile on the face in the same way that an adult looks at the naivety of a child's drawing and smiles at its sheer delight in life.

The sight of boys who have never been on the stage in their lives, being panto characters, not only surprised us because we couldn't believe they ever would, but possibly surprised them too. The producer, Derek Richings, should be congratulated not only for his production but for his endurance in getting teenage boys who would normally laugh at the word "acting" to play quite large roles.

What of the actors? It's hardly fair to select any from the rest but I must mention the only adult in the cast, Brian Bosier, who played the part of Widow Twanky. Brian has many attributes but I doubt if even he saw himself as a pantomime dame.

However, he entered into the part with tremendous and infectious enthusiasm carrying the audience with him. He danced, he skipped, he entered from the back of the hall, he was chased by a dragon. We were nearly worn out, goodness knows how he felt. It was all in all a most enjoyable performance. The other parts were all played well. Jackie Clark made a fine Aladdin speaking clearly and moving gracefully. Ebenezer was played by Martin Cooper, who made him suitably evil (but not too evil). The Emperor was David Farrell and a very amusing one too, he was royally aloof: "Oh cut off his head," he snapped, but with a common touch; I liked his performance. Andrew Tackly played the Chief Minister with a sense of humour too and he made an ideal foil for the Emperor.

The Princess was played by Caroline Herbert, a bossy princess at first but who soon melted to love Aladdin; her maid Dittany was Claire Ault and one of the most appealing scenes in the panto was when these two talked of the problems of being a princess. They looked and sounded delightful. Genies are normally played by fellows but the genie in this panto was small, green and feminine. Linda Farrell played the part, at short notice and spoke clearly and well.

There are others who should be mentioned but unfortunately space doesn't allow; all did well and I look forward to next year's production now.

The newspapers are always full of the doings, mostly wrong doings of our youngsters and part of the problem seems to lie in the need for something for them to do. So once again I should like to congratulate Derek Richings and his helpers in having the fortitude and vision to produce this pantomime. I have the feeling that if there were more men and women like this in Great Britain, the papers would have less to publish on teenage waywardness.

Edward Bradley



■ A scene from the production

— Walton Adams

Mapledurham Parish Council

A meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, February 10, 1977. Mr B. A. Fowles, chairman of the council, presided at the meeting.

Much of the meeting was devoted to matters relating to the proposed boundary changes. The Council was very concerned that with little more than a month to go, they had little or no information how the change would affect the Parish. The Council are particularly concerned how it will affect the use of the Playing Fields and Pavilion, and they are seeking an urgent meeting with the National Playing Fields Association, because of their close interest in the Fields, and also the Charity Commission, who are also much involved.

The Council are most anxious that the freedom of facilities available to local residents are not lost when the boundary changes, due on April 1, take place. It is hoped that a meeting will shortly take place with Reading Borough Council representatives, and it is hoped that the Parish Council will have an answer to most of their problems to enable them to report to the annual parish meeting on March 17.

A Silver Jubilee Committee is arranging a variety of events on the Playing Fields on June 6. Publicity will be given to the programme arranged nearer the time, but it was evident that much

thought has been given in providing the Parish with some form of celebration to mark the occasion.

In connection with the Silver Jubilee, the Council were informed of a meeting recently held at the offices of the South Oxon DC. In the South Oxon area the Oxfordshire County Committee organising the event in Oxfordshire are suggesting that a sum of £20,000 should be collected towards Oxfordshire's goal of around £77,000. It was suggested that any money collected in connection with the national appeal from local sources, a proportion should be earmarked to go to the credit of the County Fund's Appeal.

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SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION

Hundreds of people came to Church House on Saturday, February 19, to see the exhibition arranged by the Anglican parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham. The exhibition had first been held in St Andrew's Hall last October to introduce newcomers to the two parishes. It was felt it should be shown to a wider public and so it was re-mounted, with some additional material. Visitors were able to learn something of the wide reaching nature of the work of the Church among people of all ages. Our photographs show some of the stalls.



— Walton Adams



— John Williamson



— John Williamson



— Walton Adams

1907-1976

Among the many exhibits at the Church Exhibition which was visited by so many people when it was held in Church House on Saturday, February 19, was the register of services for St Peter's for the years 1907-1914, and there were few moments when someone was not browsing in it. It is interesting to compare Church-going habits of today with those of 1907. One has, of course, to remember that the population then was about one-fifth of what it is today and also that St Andrew's and St Barnabas' Churches had not been built.

SUNDAY SERVICES

In 1907, Holy Communion was celebrated every Sunday in St Peter's at 7am and 8am, and after Matins on the first Sunday of the month. Matins was sung at 11am and judging from the collection was the best attended service of the day. Evensong, as now, was at 6.30pm. On Easter Day, 1907, there were 474 communicants — 102 at 6am, 173 at 7am, 149 at 8.15am and 50 after Matins. The collections for the day (six services) amounted to £27 12s 9d and of this, £12 15s 9d was received at Matins. In 1976 there were 351 Communicants on Easter Day of whom 228 were at the Parish Communion. If Easter Communicants show a decline this is in very large measure due to the practice of so many regular communicants being away on holiday now at Easter. On the other hand the increase in Christmas communicants is probably due to the popularity of the midnight service. On Christmas Day, 1907, communicants numbered 323 (6am — 61, 7am — 101, 8.15am — 127, 12.15pm — 34). In 1976 there were 515. Collections on Christmas Day, 1907, were given to the Waifs and Strays Society (now the Church of England's Childrens Society) and they averaged about 6d per head for each communicant. In 1976 the Christmas collection was about £200.

On Ascension Day, 1907, there were 86 communicants divided between services at 6.30am (41), 8am (24) and 11am (21). In 1976, with services at 7am, 9.30am and 8pm, there were 209 communicants, this increase being entirely because of the evening Eucharist at which the newly confirmed receive Holy Communion for the first time. On Whit Sunday, 1907, and 1976, communicants were exactly the same — 229. On St Peter's Day, 1907, there were celebrations of Holy Communion at 6.30am and 8am with 37 communicants and Evensong at 8pm. Now a congregation of some 250 is usually present and last year, with the ordination service, there were actually 354 communicants, considerably more than is normal. The idea of any evening celebration of Holy Communion was in 1907 totally unknown except in some churches of an extremely evangelical tradition.

THE COLLECTIONS

The collections each week in 1907, long before the days of Planned Giving or Christian Stewardship, were given to a specific fund such as General Purposes of Church Expenses. But what precisely was the difference between these two? It was also often for the Assistant Clergy Fund and sometimes for the Sunday School. One week it was for the Choir Excursion and another for Hospitals, a regular feature of parish life in the Church of England until the introduction of the National Health Service.

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Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The activity groups of the Guild started the New Year off by reporting on some extremely interesting programmes. The Arts and Crafts group hope to cover a wide field, ranging from flower arranging to a musical evening. Their most recent meeting, "Family Favourite Recipes," invited members to bring along samples of their own favourite recipes. The Ramblers group now meet twice a month, on a Wednesday and a Thursday, for walks which range over the locality. The Drama Group, meeting weekly, have still not decided on their full programme yet but members are enjoying reading old favourites as well as new plays. The Social Studies Group, at their most recent meeting, showed slides, borrowed from Federation of the "Townswomen at Trentham" exhibition and they also listened to a speaker from the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Members were most impressed by the work done by this body and it was decided that the charity for the year would be the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The speaker for February was Mr Reay, who very kindly stepped in at short notice. He brought slides and gave a talk about some of the most common house plants and how to care for them. His talk was much enjoyed by members who were most grateful for certain useful tips he passed on. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Cooper.

Caversham Park WI

Mr's O. Harris, the president, welcomed two visitors to the February meeting. After the business, members enjoyed a light-hearted game of "20 Questions," presented by Mrs P. Colley. The panel consisted of Mrs Olive Harris, Mrs Doreen Mann, Mrs Angela Brown and Mrs Elsie Morris.

The competition — A Home-made Greetings Card — was won by Mrs Moira Smith; second was Mrs Betty Atherton and Mrs Phyllis Colley was third.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Guild members have wasted little time this last month. Between meetings twenty members visited Metal Box headquarters and enjoyed their educational hospitality. Celebration of the Guild's fifteenth birthday was held traditionally and over 80 friends enjoyed the Barbershop Singers. A Silver Jubilee flavour was introduced by the birthday cake, made by Mrs L. Grey and iced with a Union Jack motif by Miss A. Goodyear.

Education was continued by 11 members who attended a Study Day to decide "20th Century — Triumph or Disaster," at which the social studies

group, presented ably by Mrs C. Mitchell, discussed the family life pattern over the last century.

Heraldry was amusingly and informatively described by Lt-Col J. F. Willcocks at the February meeting. The talk was illustrated by slides and many myths dispelled. Heraldry concerns identification and not "Blue-blooded" class distinction!

The Jubilee Club Mapledurham

Looking back over the winter months, everyone seems to have had some happy times at the monthly meetings in Trench Green Hall. In the autumn a most successful Jumble Sale was held, followed in November by an open meeting with its bring and buy stall. At Christmas, members were entertained by young friends from Goring Heath Endowed Church Primary School and all enjoyed a most magnificent cake made and given by Mrs Collins' daughter. It seemed a shame to cut it but the inside was as gorgeous as the outside.

A visit to the pantomime at Oxford and two film shows rounded off the winter entertainments. The club is delighted to have some new members, especially from Dysons Wood Home for the Elderly. Mr Dick Nettleton, secretary to Age Concern, Oxfordshire, was welcomed to the February meeting.

Maplewood WI

Mrs V. Scott acted as president during the members' meeting. She welcomed the speaker, Mr Algas Reid, the Southern Region representative of the United Nations Association. He spoke about the role of the United Nations in the post-war world and its effectiveness in the developing countries through its organisations for World Health, International Labour, Refugees, Food and Agriculture, World Bank, etc. International conferences are held such as those of The Law of the Sea, Habitat and Trade and Development. Mrs M. Idenden thanked Mr Reid and gave him a cheque for the UNA.

The competition for 1lb of marmalade was won by Mrs Criswick and Mrs Woodridge was second. Mrs B. Belfield-Smith spoke enthusiastically about her recent course at Denman College, for which she had a bursary from the Institute.

The Bring and Buy stall in aid of the National Appeal brought in £8.20. Plans were discussed for making handicrafts to be sold for the Prince of Wales Silver Jubilee Appeal, in October.

Blagrove WI

Members at the February meeting were welcomed by Miss Chapman who presented the Birthday Posies. Miss Wellstead gave a most

interesting report on a Handicraft Day which she had attended at Watlington House on basket work. Nominations were received for the ballot for the committee to be held at the AGM in March for the forthcoming year.

Mr G. Langsbury, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, was the guest speaker and his fascinating and informative talk on "The Birds Around Us" was illustrated by some particularly fine slides including several of young birds feeding which must have taken tremendous patience to obtain. The competition for a winter hedgerow arrangement was won by Miss D. Chapman and the tea hostesses were Mrs Childs and Mrs Wilkie.

Mapledurham WI

Mr Bernard Tattersfield spoke at the February meeting on "All about pruning," illustrating his talk with a practical demonstration on pieces of rose bushes, apple branches and various other shrubs and plants. He judged the competition for a bowl of three pink hyacinths and awarded first to Mrs Gale, with Mrs Hayward second and Mrs Stacey third.

The coffee morning, held by Mrs M. Palmer in aid of Cancer Research, realised £35.

Members were reminded that the April meeting will be on April 15, as the second Friday in the month will be Good Friday.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

"Showboat and Show-Business" was the subject of the February meeting. Annette Mates, the speaker, recounted her experiences as a drama teacher before, and during the war. She had a love and enthusiasm for the theatre from an early age, through the encouragement of her father. The school she was involved with was eventually evacuated to a Devonshire fishing village. Although times were hard and difficult, the change, and new challenge was a very rewarding experience for the children. Water had to be pumped from a well, and the children were to learn they just could not cut the willow-sticks to make bows and arrows. These were precious materials used by the fishermen to make lobster pots.

Another interesting phase was a move with the children to Herefordshire. After the war, Mrs Mates went to America to take up a teaching post, money and supplies were plentiful in contrast to war-torn Britain. However, children are the same the world over, and Mrs Mates obviously transmitted a great joy of acting, and love of theatre to them wherever she was.

Two memorable events on her travels in America were the "Showboat," moored on the Mississippi, and a visit she made to see an open-air "Opera" in Santa-Fey, New Mexico, under a black, star-studded sky.

Mrs O. Zuanic gave the vote of thanks.

Caversham Shopping Basket

Item	Co-op**	Liptons	Sabre*	Budgens*
Large white sliced loaf	17	17	18	19
1lb cheapest butter	53	50	52	53
1lb lard	22	23	23	22½
1lb cheapest Cheddar	51	59	44	56
1 dozen standard eggs	48	50	48	53
1lb cheapest bacon	86	50	70	75
1lb cheapest sausages	35½	41½	40½	37½
Packet of 10 Fish Fingers	47	40	40	40
15oz tin baked beans	13	14½	12	13
15oz tin soup	13	15	14	14
1lb frozen peas	24	27	25	30
3lb self-raising flour	21½	19	17½	22½
1lb dried fruit	44	29	50	45
¼lb cheapest tea	15½	15	15	16
4oz instant coffee	62	74	97	69
Kilo granulated sugar	25½	25	24½	26
500gms cornflakes	25	24½	27½	29
¾lb packet biscuits	19	21½	19	23
1lb cheapest marmalade	23	23½	24	25
Double pack toilet rolls	18½	22	16½	23
TOTAL	£6.63½	£6.40½	£6.77½	£6.91½
Compared to November's totals	+7%	+7%	+12%	+10% (Oct)

* Sabre and Budgens give Green Shield Stamps.

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

The four supermarkets listed here were visited on Friday, February 18, 1977.

Since the last Shopping Basket, on November 19, 1976, the annual rate of inflation has again risen, to 16½%. Prices rose 2½% in January alone — the biggest rise in one month for two years. Dearer food is the chief culprit. Nationally, bread, butter and cheese are all up because of the phasing out of food subsidies. Our shopping basket also shows other rises — the most dramatic being the prices of dried fruit and coffee.

CHURCH NOTES ST ANDREW'S NEWS

The Women's Group

At the February meeting of the Group, members were given a most entertaining and informative talk on the history and modern day functions of the Customs and Excise Service. The talk was given by a Customs Officer who is now based at their training establishment.

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday, April 28. It is important that each member should make a special effort to be there for the meeting. Following the special business Mr D. Bowie will give a talk on

gardening — entitled "Mistakes I have made."

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The March meeting began with the first of the Lenten Services for Women, in St Andrew's Church at 2.45pm led by the Rev B. Gardiner. The last meeting is on April 5, also in church.

Mrs Betty Stevens, organiser and hostess of the MU cheese and wine party, thanks all those people who made it possible to raise £43.68 towards the new Lady Chapel curtains.

SHOPPING BASKET

1897

6lb granulated sugar	1s 1½d
1lb caster sugar	3d
Dozen boxes matches	7½d
1lb rice	3d
A tongue	4s 0d
Pint of vinegar	5d
	6s 8d
	(33½p)

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St John's
January
30 Maria Brunsten
Adrian Ford

St Andrew's

February
20 Sarah Small
27 Gemma Thorne

Caversham Park

January
30 Sarah Stacey

February
20 Claire Giddings
Daniel Coombes

St Anne's

February
6 Joanna Raman
Diego Tapsell
13 Laura Jennings
20 Clare Davis

MARRIED

St Andrew's

February
19 Christopher
Tuckwell and
Susan Madges

St Anne's

February
26 John Eccleston
and Rosalia
Scilluna

FUNERALS

St Peter's
February
24 Dorothy Clamp

St Anne's

February
22 Sister Christine
Fleming

MAY EDITION

All material for inclusion in the May edition must be received by Wednesday, March 30

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

UNITED ACTS OF WORSHIP

FOR ALL CHURCHES

Tuesday, April 5, 7.45pm
Broad Street United Reformed Church
Reading Council of Churches Holy Week Service.
Preacher: The Rev John Huxtable

Wednesday, April 6, 8pm
St John's Church. Stainer's Crucifixion sung by the combined Anglican and Free Church Choirs of Caversham

FOR THE FREE CHURCHES

Good Friday, April 8, 10.30am
Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Service conducted by the Rev Leslie Griffiths. Preacher: The Rev Laurence Stevens

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 3
11am Family Service and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Service
Easter Day, April 10
11am Family Service and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Service (Communion)

METHODIST CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, April 3
11am Young hosannas. The Rev L. J. Griffiths
Easter Day, April 10
9.30am Holy Communion. The Rev L. J. Griffiths
6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

Palm Sunday, April 3
11am Morning Service. The Rev Dr Gordon Rupp Dixie, Professor at the University of Cambridge
6.30pm Evening Service. The Rev Dr G. Rupp
Easter Day, April 10
8am Holy Communion
11am Family Communion. The Rev L. G. Griffiths
6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Maundy Thursday, April 7
8am Mass at Our Lady of Caversham
7pm Mass with Procession to the Altar of Repose and Watching till Midnight — St Anne's

Good Friday, April 8
10am Stations of the Cross — St Anne's
3pm Liturgy of the Passion, Reading of the Lessons, Unveiling and Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion — St Anne's

Holy Saturday, April 9
8pm Easter Vigil — St Anne's
Easter Day, April 10 — Mass
8am, 9.30am, 11am, 7pm — St Anne's
8.30am, 10.30am — Our Lady of Caversham
9.30am — St Martin's School
Confessions at St Anne's
Holy Thursday 6pm-8pm
Good Friday — After the Service
Holy Saturday 11am-12am, 3pm-4pm, 5pm-8pm
Confessions at Our Lady of Caversham 4pm-5pm on Holy Saturday

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

(The School)

Palm Sunday, April 3
11am Family Eucharist and Palm procession
Maundy Thursday, April 7
8.30pm The Eucharist
Good Friday, April 8
11am The Liturgy
Easter Day, April 10
11am Family Eucharist and Public Baptism

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

There is no Meeting House in Caversham but a Meeting for Worship is held every Sunday at 10.45am at Church Street, Reading. Further information can be obtained from Constance Lee, 6 Woodcote Way.

CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

April 6: 7 Pendennis Avenue (Judith Wood)
13: 13 Kingsway (Wendy Rowland)
20: 2 Blackwater Close (Betty Bartlett)
27: 10 Netley Close (Joy Abel)

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, April 3
8am Holy Communion (all churches)
9.15am Family Eucharist with distribution of palms (all churches)
11am Holy Communion (St Peter's)
11.15am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
6.30pm Evensong (St Peter's, St John's, St Andrew's)

Monday, April 4
8pm Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

Tuesday, April 5
7.30am Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

Wednesday, April 6
7.30am Holy Communion (St Peter's)
9.30am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
10am Holy Communion (St Barnabas)

Maundy Thursday, April 7
6.30am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
9.30am Holy Communion (St Peter's)
10am Holy Communion (St John's)
7.45pm Sung Eucharist (St John's)
8pm Sung Eucharist (St Andrew's and St Barnabas)
8.30pm Sung Eucharist (St Peter's)

Good Friday, April 8
9.30am Morning Service (St John's and St Andrew's)
10am Morning Service (St Barnabas)
11am Children's Service (St John's)
12-3pm The Three Hours Devotion (St Peter's). Conducted by the Rev Peter Nott, Rector of Beaconsfield
6pm Evening Prayer (St Peter's)
8pm Compline and address (St Andrew's)

Holy Saturday, April 9
6pm Evening Prayer and preparation for Easter Communion (St Peter's)
8pm The Easter Ceremonies (St Andrew's)

Easter Day, April 10
7am Holy Communion (St Peter's and St Andrew's)
8am Holy Communion (all churches)
9.15am Family Eucharist (all churches except St John's)
9.30am Family Eucharist (St John's)
11am Holy Communion (St Peter's)
11.15am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
6.30pm Festal Evensong (all churches)
Times when the clergy will be available to hear confessions will be published in the notices on Passion and Palm Sundays

ST MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Palm Sunday, April 3
9.15am Parish Communion with distribution of palms
Good Friday, April 8
9.15am Morning Service
Easter Day, April 10
8am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion

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