

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1977  
(May 16-21)

## WINDMILLS FOR THE WORLD

A GENTLE breeze and slowly the sails begin to turn; the turret adjusts and re-adjusts itself, to obtain maximum frontal exposure; the grinding wheels turn, or the pumps issue forth their first dose of water, and once again man had harnessed the forces of nature to his benefit. How picturesque the squat tower with its revolving blades look against the English countryside, but as pieces of practical machinery they lie around out-dated by modern scientific progress.

But not in Ethiopia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ghana or the Sudan to name but a few countries. These places cry out, on headed notepaper, for the opportunity to conduct field trials of prototype windmills developed by the Intermediate Technology Development Group; work which is being financed by Christian Aid. Take Ghulam Kibria for an example. For three years he has toyed with the idea of using wind-power in Pakistan to assist the urgent irrigation programme. As Director of the Pakistan Appropriate Technology Department, he has used his country's engineering resources to construct a suitable machine, but, like so many schemes, he has come up against difficult problems, and seeks advice and consultations with other experts in this field.

The Engineering department at Reading University has several experts in Windmill Technology, amongst them Peter Fraenkel, who, sponsored by Christian Aid, will be



**Peter Fraenkel with the windpump he designed and unveiled at a solar energy exhibition in Reading on September 14, 1976.**

flying out this May to assist Ghulam Kibria. Peter will take with him drawing board sketches but most important of all a wealth of scientific experience. Construction materials and man-power will be made available in Pakistan and field trials will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

Peter knows that there are alternatives such as diesel power, which are well tried in this country, they are not only expensive but have a short working life compared to that of a windmill. In practical terms the windmill, constructed from modern materials, can be expected to have a working life in excess of 20 years, during which time a gentle breeze of six mph can operate a pump lifting 700 gallons of water per hour a height of 20 feet; or a strong breeze of 26mph will lift 18,000 gallons 20 feet per hour, demanding no fuel or involved maintenance.

Reading Christian Aid Committee believes that this research programme fully justifies local support and has therefore promised £10,000 of this year's collected money, to back field trials in six overseas countries. We are confident that the scientists will make a dramatic breakthrough producing windmills for as little as £600 each and thereby not only serving world energy resources, but providing power and water in difficult terrain. This then is our project, please support and encourage this work by efforts in your neighbourhood during Christian Aid week.

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## The Editor's Column

# COMMITMENT

THE CHRISTIAN has constantly to remember that the truth is often to be found in our being able to hold together two things which at first sight may appear to be opposites. The most important example of this is of course to be found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Within the Church there are those who stress the corporate nature of Christianity and those who stress the relationship of the individual to Christ. In the last century the emphasis tended to lay on the latter aspect while more recently it is the former which has been apparent. As a result we may have fallen into the trap of what has been called "the danger of running away from me under cover of us."

### PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS

Today there is a growing reluctance on the part of so many people to enter into any form of permanent relationship. The fact that all branches of the Church are faced with a decline in candidates for their ministry, especially young candidates, is partly due to this. Anyone contemplating ordination knows that having been ordained it is a very serious step if he subsequently renounces his orders. Marriage however is entered upon in many cases more lightly. The tragic collapse of so many marriages is again indicative of so many people feeling unable to continue a relationship which they knew quite well at the time of their marriage was intended to be lifelong.

### PROMISES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

It is very important that the Church, while stressing the importance of a promise, should also stress that in essence a promise is a voluntary obligation. No-one, for example, has to have a child baptized: No-one has to be confirmed. These are voluntary acts: But, if a child is to be baptized, or someone who has reached years of discretion wishes to be confirmed, then there must be a clear understanding about the nature of the commitment which is being entered upon. But along with that goes also commitment to the Church: The two have to be held together for one of the Devil's cleverest lies is to suggest that we can be a Christian without being a member of the Church and without joining in Christian worship. Moreover this commitment to the Church must be expressed through membership of a particularly local congregation. This is why it is so extremely important where baptisms and confirmations take place. Preparation for confirmation invariably takes place within the framework of the local parish where the candidate is already worshipping. The exception is that in the case of a boy or girl at boarding school, who being away from home cannot receive preparation in their home parish. But even then it is the responsibility of the school chaplain to be absolutely certain that those confirmed at school have already established habits of worship in their parish church during holiday times.

### WHERE ?

When it comes to arranging a baptism it is parents who themselves have really no church links anywhere who too often think that the baptism should be where they were married some years previously. This reveals a grave misunderstanding about baptism. Baptism involves becoming a member of the Church. It is a public and not a private act and though we are baptized into the whole Church of God and not into the Church of England, Methodist, Roman Catholic or any other church, yet that membership has to be expressed by the involvement of the child's parents in the life of the local congregation where the family is living. It makes little sense for a congregation fifty or more miles away to say they welcome the newly baptized as a fellow member when all present know they are most unlikely ever to see that particular fellow member among them again. Of course people move from one town to another a great deal today, but unless we learn to be involved in the life of the church where we are living, even if only for two or three years, we are most unlikely to get involved in the life of any church anywhere. Commitment to Christ begins at Baptism. It is not a commitment to be undertaken lightly and to be real there must be commitment by the parents to the life of the local church. That is why it is so important where the Baptism is held. Baptism, the start of the Christian life has to be the occasion when we hold together both aspects of Christian commitment — to the person of Christ on the one hand, and on the other hand to the Church which is Christ's Body expressed through active participation in the life and worship of our local congregation.

*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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## A LOCAL AUTHOR

READERS of the Caversham Bridge will naturally be attracted to a book written by one of the Editorial Board: Personal Prayers by Helen Thomas will not disappoint them. This is a collection of prayers and short meditations by the author, interspersed with bible passages and a few extracts by famous writers. The book is divided into sections covering varied aspects of everyday life and experience through which we all pass, from Thanksgiving to Despair, from Birth to Death. Thus Helen Thomas reminds us that there is no situation, whether good or bad, that cannot

" Personal Prayers "

by Helen Thomas  
(Sheed and Ward  
£1.75)

be used as an occasion for praying. Each subject is handled sensitively with insight and compassion: This book comes from the heart in deep faith. It would however be preferable if the prayers which assess human problems so well gave us a clearer picture of the God to whom they are addressed, avoiding the tendency to tell him how to help us: Also the book would be easier to

read if the bible passages had been printed in a distinguishing type. Nonetheless this is a stimulating book to use when one's own prayers have become set in a rut, or to give to a friend who thinks that religion has nothing to do with real life.

A. A. G.

## YOU AND YOUR GARDEN

THE Caversham Bridge was able more than a year ago to put a number of people with too large a garden in touch with others who wanted to grow vegetables but had insufficient garden of their own for this purpose. We have been asked to give fresh publicity to this scheme and will be glad to help.

If therefore, you are one of those people who have more garden than you can manage and would be willing for someone to take part or all of it over so that they can grow vegetables, perhaps also supplying you with some of what they grow, write and tell us. And if you are looking for an allotment and would be glad to take over part of someone else's garden, then write and tell us also. In this way we hope to be of service by putting readers with too much and too little garden in touch with each other.

## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

All material for inclusion in the June edition of the Caversham Bridge must be received by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27.

The Editor wishes to point out that a growing number of requests are being received to publicise societies and organisations that are Reading rather than Caversham based, and space frequently prevents their being included, though such announcements, if sent to the Advertisement Manager would be accepted at normal advertising rates.

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# WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

## Our Man in Moscow

MANY readers will by now have seen a familiar face on television; I refer of course to Kevin Ruane, the new BBC correspondent in Moscow. Kevin, who has lived in Caversham for many years, had the good sense to marry a Caversham girl, and his wife, Beryl, together with their children, Vincent and Francis, are familiar figures in the district. They are all members of the local Roman Catholic Church and the children attend local schools. When Vincent has taken his "A" levels shortly, they will all be off to join Kevin in Moscow. In a sense people in such a position cannot help being seen as ambassadors of our country, and it is difficult to think of a family better suited to the role. Quiet and unassuming, they are nevertheless friendly and helpful and should have no difficulty in fitting into their new surroundings. It is,

of course, a splendid opportunity for the children, who are both studying other languages. We wish them well, look forward to seeing and hearing Kevin from time to time on the media, and to their eventual return to our local community.

## Are You Being Served?

"I'm glad we've given up the shop; some customers made me feel positively evil." What a comment on Caversham shoppers! Not all, of course. Yesterday some local traders were telling me how much they enjoyed most of their customers. I refer to the local pet shop which, in a comparatively short time, has become one of the friendliest meeting places in the district. The owners have now extended their premises to contain an "Animal Room," ideal for young people browsing among birds, hamsters, etc.,

their purchasing money clutched in hot little hands — incidentally, animals are never sold to children here without parents' permission, for our young traders are too fond of animals to risk them being thrown on the streets. At the other end of the scale, special attention is given to old people, prices are kept as low as possible and any request for small amounts is happily met.

But what of that earlier remark, made unexpectedly by a very friendly lady. Unjustified you think? Well, here's another remark overheard in a Caversham shop: "I can get cotton a penny cheaper in town." I regret to say if I'd been serving I'd have retrieved the cotton and told the customer sharply that if she felt like that she could pay the necessary bus fare and go into town. Naturally everyone has to shop as cheaply as possible, but local small

traders often give much better service for an extra copper or two. I've said it before and I'll say it again; one day if we aren't careful we shall wake up to find we have to go into town for all our purchases. Go into town by all means for large purchases or cheap offer forays, but do have some consideration for your local traders if you want them to be there when you're too busy or too old to keep going into town.

As a firm supporter of corner shops, I was pleased to see the one in Westfield Road had reopened. Our corner shops give us tremendous service and often stay open till late in the evenings. I refer particularly (since I shop in this district) to the one on the corner of Oxford Street and Hemdean Road and to the one on the corner of Washington Road. Do give them a try for your day-to-day shopping.

## Caversham cut in half

But a bigger threat to our community has once again reared its ugly head — the proposed new road. Many will say "Oh that — they've been on about it for years." I wouldn't be too sure that it'll never come to anything. One day we just might wake up to find Caversham cut in half by an enormous road complex which nobody wants and which will do no more than bring yet larger lorries thundering through our village. In the meantime, it's a sad fact for house-owners in the area that every time this proposal makes the headlines in local papers the value of their houses immediately takes a tumble. Nobody wants to buy a house that might be pulled down in a few years.

## Malcolm and Anne Dalton

Living in a largely mobile society, it's a welcome change to find young people carrying on a tradition. When Malcolm Dalton and Anne Dyczek recently celebrated nuptial mass at the Church of Our Lady and St Anne, they were carrying on family tradi-

tion as both parents had been married in the same church. Malcolm, who was educated at St Anne's and Hugh Faringdon, followed by training at Brooklands Technical College, Weybridge, and became a qualified dental technician several years



ago. He will be well known for his voluntary work at the Emmer Green Youth Centre. Anne, who was educated at St Joseph's Convent and went on to Birmingham University to take a B.Sc honours degree, now works as a scientific officer at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. They met at a local youth club; now they live at Southcote, and I am sure all who know them will wish to enjoy in offering our very sincere wishes for a long and happy married life.

It is always good to see one of the empty shops in Prospect Street once again occupied, and on Monday, March 14, Mrs Pat Taylor and her assistants were as welcome as the spring flowers they were selling when they opened their second flower shop in the area, for they already have one at Sonning Common. At the moment they are not an Interflora or Teleflower shop, but hopefully when established, this will come, as it has in their Sonning business. As well as selling flowers and plants, they will be catering for weddings, parties and funeral arrangements. We wish them every success in their Caversham

venture. Just back in Caversham again are Mr and Mrs Scott who have opened up what I am sure will be a very successful general stores at 117 Kings Road. The Scotts in fact are not really newcomers to Caversham but had been in Southampton for about two years until their return. With their children Tracy and Darren they will be welcomed back by many friends in Caversham — and incidentally how good it is to see that they are NOT opening the shop on Sundays. I hope readers will have made a note of which of our local shops kept Good Friday as a Holiday Day and will make a special point of saying to them "Thank you for not opening."

## OFF TO NEWBURY

THE Rev Laurence Stevens is seen here with his wife Vivienne and their three sons, Simon, James and Jonathan. Laurence Stevens last official Sunday as minister of Caversham Free Baptist Church is on May 1 as he has been appointed Head of Religious Education and Chaplain of St Bartholomew's Comprehensive School, Newbury. The Stevens family expect however to be living in Caversham for a few more months and during that time he will be available for occasional Sunday duty. An account of the farewell presentation that is being made to him on April 30 will be given in next month's edition.



■ The Stevens Family

— Walton Adams

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# MORE ABOUT TOMBSTONES IN MAPLEDURHAM

ON THE north side of St Margaret's churchyard there is the massive chest tomb to Edward Butler Senior, who died in 1746 aged 73, Charles Butler who died 1725 and Elizabeth his wife who departed this life in 1711 aged 77. Edward came from Basildon; why he and some of his family crossed the river and were buried in Mapledurham is another mystery.

Nearby is a grave to Richard Tayler and his wife. Both died in 1776. He was 82 and she was 89. He was a wealthy carpenter in Reading in 1749 and probably rented one of the farms. With the 1841 map are the parchment lists I mentioned in my previous article, and on them is a Taylor who paid rent for a house near the Fisheries (in the Warren) 8 withy islands and 2 ozier beds. Was he a relative? Had the "e" in Tayler changed to an "o"? Did the Tayler (Taylor) carpentering business make furniture? If so did they need cane for chair seats and the like? Perhaps I am just making up a story. . . .

I moved round to the East of the church yard and there I found more "old friends." All the Allaway family for generations. Remember John Allaway? (Mentioned in the previous article). He and his brother farmed New Farm in 1841 and their father leased Chazey Farm. This family first came on the scene in Mapledurham in 1397, sometimes called Allway or Aleway. By the sixteen and seventeen hundreds they were substantial yeoman farmers. There they all were. Sadder of all Richard who died at the young age of 29 in 1793, Alice his wife who died in 1796 and Maria their daughter who was laid to rest in 1799 aged five. There's a tragedy. Whatever happened? Another story to imagine? Under the great holly tree nearby are the Victorian Allaways and beside Richard, Alice and Maria are some more family grave stones, even older which I have yet to try to decipher.

Now round to the South of the church, and here is

a simple stone. On it is written "Ah Chiang Sai. Died August 12, 1938: A loyal and true friend." Sai, as he was known, was a personal servant to a Mr Playne who lived at the Fisheries, close to Chazey Farm. He and his wife with their small boy came from the Far East and settled in Mapledurham just after the First World War. Mr Playne had possibly some connection with the Indian Army and he brought Sai with him when he returned to England. Ah Chiang Sai was Chinese and devoted to his master. He had his own chalet home in the ground and kept it spotless. Never idle he was most versatile and could turn his hand to most jobs doing fine mending and sewing for Mrs Playne, ironing, washing and even taking the car to pieces and putting it to rights in no time at all. In his spare time he went out on his bicycle or stayed in his chalet. That he was lonely needs little imagination. He spoke English perfectly and was always ready to help anyone. His pleasures were few, sometimes the head gardener would take him out for a drink but he seemed to have had no real friends. How do I know all this? Quite by chance I heard of Mrs Frost, now living at Helen Court on the Bath Road. She had been cook in the Playne household whilst Sai was there so to find out about him I went to see her. She told me how trustworthy he was, looking after the house whilst the family were away. Once she remembers when the whole household was taken to the Reading Theatre, then in Friar Street. Sai was so excited he tried to stand on the seat. One last thing she remembered was his love of Stilton cheese, which appeared complete on the table each Christmas with port in it. So there he rests beside the Thames, a little known Chinese of middle age who died far from his native land.

Of course there are interesting tombstones inside St Margaret's church as well. Like the one in the bell tower. On a huge grey slab in the floor is written "Upon the ashes of Mrs Elizabeth Collins the relict of Daniel Collins is laid this marble by her sorrowful sonne Samuel Collins July 9, 1656." It is not, as one might imagine, that poor Mrs Collins was burnt in some terrible accident, but probably

the phrasing has some connection with words of the burial service. . . "ashes to ashes." Daniel Collins was chaplain to King Charles the first and "Prebend of the Chappell of St George within the Castle of Windsor." He was Vicar of Mapledurham for one year from 1636-1637. Below the above grave inscription is another but far more worn. It is just possible to make out the words " . . . died May 1652." More than likely Daniel Collins died first in 1652 and his widow Elizabeth was buried in the same tomb in 1656.

On the North wall of the choir stalls is a small brass plaque; on it written: "To the glory of God and to the dear memory of John Henry Dudley. Born Oct. 21, 1843. Rector of Purley, Berkshire, for thirteen years. He lost his life crossing the Thames after doing an act of kindness taking an evening service at Mapledurham on Dec. 20th 1914. When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee."

In the Bardolph Aisle is a wall tablet which tells rather a sad tale. "To the memory of Mary, Lady Haggerston late wife of Sir Thomas Haggerston, Baronet. She was the daughter of George Silvertop Esq of Minsteracres in Northumberland and died at Reading on her road from Bristol to the South of France. Died May 14th 1773 aged 33 years." The Haggerstons can be traced back to a Northumberland family in the thirteenth century.

By the time I came out of the church the sun had moved to the west and was losing its warmth. It was time to go. Just a quick look at a massive slab set in the grass outside the main entrance to St Margaret's to Thomas Fielder, Alice his wife and their son who all died between 1769 and 1787. Could it be a distant relative to our Mr Fielder who had a milk round in Caversham during the nineteen twenties? In all probability yes.

I quickly gathered a scarf full of mushrooms from around Noah Fisher's grave. I'm sure he would have approved! Wished my "old friends" well, got on the bicycle and was soon heading home along the Warren having had a very rewarding afternoon in more ways than one! M.K.

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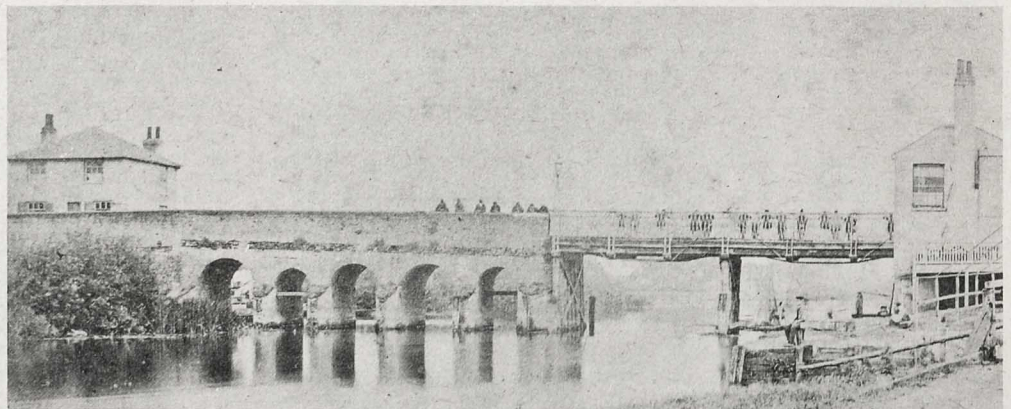
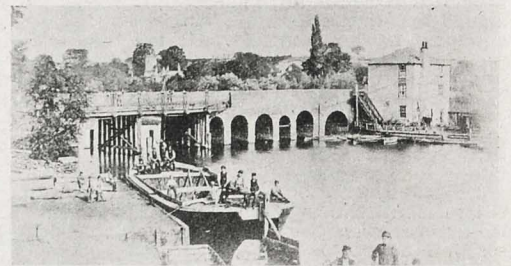
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## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS



■ Above, looking North West with Caversham Bridge Wharf on the left, and the waterman's cottage (on Piper's Island) to the right. This habitation was moved en masse, the family and furniture of Waterman Piper remaining inside throughout the operation, when the second bridge was erected. The Cottage weighed 150 tons and was moved to a new site 25 feet away on January 29, 1869.

■ Top, view looking East of Caversham's first bridge built around 1230 and pulled down in 1868. Note the bare hill on the sky line with only a simple tree.

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## CIVIC PRIDE

WHEN members of Caversham Residents' Association went on a conducted tour of the new Civic Offices, they were trying to find answers to the questions: "Was this just a plushy extravagance or was it an efficient administrative centre befitting an important town?"

The answer would seem to be "yes" on both counts, though perhaps a qualified "yes" to the second question, as many of the visitors were looking distinctly drowsy and not feeling their brightest by the time the tour was ended because the heating was too high, making the atmosphere close. It would not however be fair to swipe at the heating system as, if this can be adjusted to work correctly, it will reduce the demand on scarce resources.

The furniture and fittings of the buildings are all designed to increase efficiency. Modern German furniture is about the best (and the most expensive) that can be found and if quality means long life it could be argued that this is the cheapest in the long run. However, it did not pass unnoticed that whereas the black wooden surfaces in the area used by the public still retained their pristine freshness, in those areas used by the councillors, scratches and rings from cups or glasses were already to be seen.

It was a pity that it was not possible to see the controversial printing department whose run-

ning costs rocketed by an incredible 5,000 per cent when it moved from its former premises to the new offices. Of course everyone knows this is only a paper figure, but it is presumably on paper figures that our rates are calculated. It was a pity also that the Council Chamber, that focal point of local democracy, was not on show, but a Committee meeting was taking place there and it seems churlish to ask why it could not have used one of the Committee rooms provided presumably for that purpose. It would also have served to remove doubts if it had been permitted to see what luxuries lurked within the Chief Executive's Suite but that also was locked, barred and bolted.

**Opulence**

It is indeed difficult to deny a charge of extravagance. Perhaps this would have been less noticeable in the opulent years we have now left behind, but in days when belts are being tightened and essential services pruned, the luxury of the Civic Offices is embarrassingly conspicuous. That carpet, not just wall to wall but up the wall; those ashtrays (did they really cost £25 each or is that just a malicious rumour?); those armchairs, voluptuously waiting to embrace within their sumptuous depths the exhausted bodies of our hardworking Councillors (were they really £400 each?)

and that positive Chelsea flower show array of potted plants that must easily rival the £4,000-worth in the neighbouring police station, make a bitter contrast to the cuts and reductions in the living standards that the providers of these goodies are asked to endure.

We know this spacious building was planned in the days when Reading was a borough council and that it has now, through no fault of its own, lost many of its committees to the County or some larger authority. This however is of little consolation to the overburdened ratepayer who is now being asked to pay his contribution towards another palace at Shinfield to house those other committees and the rest of the County's departments. Surely some more commonsensical solution can be reached, or is there some truth in the indignantly denied charge of empire building?

**Noise**

If all the foregoing sounds like knocking local government, that was not the intention. Particularly at district council level it can and frequently does work well. The aid section in the Civic Offices is an example, with a constant flow of people seeking help at what they feel to be the hub of local affairs.

One sphere in which district councils function particularly well is that of environmental

health. In Reading, Mr Geoffrey Holmes and his helpers allow little to escape their searching eye and do not hesitate to act in whatever way the law allows in cases where community health is at risk. Mr Holmes spoke to Caversham Residents' Association, of which he is a member, after their annual meeting, about noise, which is not always recognised as a form of pollution. It can be physically damaging, though fortunately in Caversham no noise is continuous enough to reach that level. However, if Concorde kept on going over or there was an unending flow of lorries up St Peter's Hill the position could be reached. There is a prior need for aircraft designers to produce a quieter plane; not a bigger one or a faster one, but a quieter one. Lorries also do not need to be so noisy, but the 40-tonne ones must be resisted. Our thanks are due to Mr Holmes for his patient and dispassionate work to reduce unnecessary noise.

**Future dates**

Look out for the Residents' Association meeting to examine the resurrected plan for a new road leading to a widened Reading Bridge instead of a third bridge outside Reading.

A meeting will also be taking place soon to decide what if any policy the Residents' Association should adopt about the retention or demolition of the Old Town Hall.

## Wedding at St Peter's



Mr A. Bowers and Miss D. Maslen were married at St Peter's Church on Saturday, March 19

—Walton Adams

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## PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Don't say you were not told — put these dates in your diary NOW

**Sunday, May 1**

9.15am St Barnabas. The Rev Peter Sear begins his ministry in the parish  
6.30pm St Peter's. Easter Carols with the choirs of St Peter's and Queen Anne's Schools

**Monday, May 16**

7.30pm St Peter's. Parish Confirmation. The Bishop of Reading

**Thursday, May 19**

Ascension Day Services

**Friday, May 20-Sunday, May 22**

Weekend retreat for members of the parish. Catherington House, Horndean, Portsmouth. Conductor Bishop Evered Lunt

**Saturday, May 28**

2.30pm St John's Summer Fair

**Saturday, June 11**

St Barnabas Day. 4.30pm Tea at St Barnabas. 5.30pm Festal Evensong. Preacher The Rev Raymond Hutchinson (priest-in-charge 1965-7)

**Sunday, June 12**

10am United Service of Holy Communion in Caversham Court in commemoration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee

**Friday, June 17**

7.30pm The Rectory Garden. Country Dancing

**Friday, June 24**

St John's Day. 7.30pm Parish Communion at St John's. Preacher The Rev John McKechnie, Vicar of St John's, Reading

**Saturday, June 25**

2.30pm St Andrew's Fete. Proceeds to the Corrymeela Community

**Wednesday, June 29**

St Peter's Day. 7.30pm Parish Communion at St Peter's. Preacher The Rev Stephen Bartlett to whom a presentation will be made on his leaving the parish

**Tuesday, July 19**

7.30pm St Peter's Confirmation Anniversary Service. Celebrant and preacher The Bishop of Reading

**Wednesday, July 20**

St Margaret's Day. 7.30pm Parish Communion at St Margaret's. Preacher The Rev Michael Kitchener to whom a presentation will be made on his leaving the parish

**Thursday, July 21**

7.30pm Chalgrove Parish Church. Induction of the Rev Stephen Bartlett as vicar of the parish. Details about coaches will be announced later

**Saturday, July 24**

Parish Holiday starts at Embley Park

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■ Mr Howe Hewlett

— Walton Adams



## WITH GREAT PLEASURE

IT IS indeed with great pleasure that the Board of the Caversham Bridge News extend their heartiest congratulations to Mr Howe Hewlett of 92 St Peter's Avenue on his hundredth birthday on April 20.

No one could have been more delighted than I was when asked if I would go to see Mr Hewlett with a view to writing this article for I remember him in the 1930's when several times he kindly drove me up to the Abbey School.

I had not been with him many minutes when he said: "I have something to show you," and he put into my hand a Bible. Inside was written "Howe Hewlett. First anniversary of his birthday, April 1878." It was beautifully kept and had been given him 99 years ago by his godmother.

Born in Cornwall at Camelford, Mr Hewlett went into coalmining when he left school and trained as a mining engineer in Lancashire. After qualifying he went as a colliery manager, and later he sailed to British Columbia. He returned at the beginning of the 1914 War with the British Columbia Life Force and served in this regiment all the time until he was wounded at Ypres. He came home as one of the war wounded and was sent to Bearwood Convalescent Home. Whilst he was there he sometimes walked into Wokingham and it was on one such day he heard the news that Lord Kitchener had been drowned. He remembers it clearly.

After the war Mr Hewlett married and returned to British Columbia with his wife. When he came back to England with his family he settled at Binfield Heath, later moving to Caversham as it was easier for his children's schooling.

Motoring was always one of Mr Hewlett's interests. It gave him great enjoyment and he had his first car well before 1914. As he told me: "I began driving in the days when, if you saw another motorist, you both stopped and compared notes!" Mr Hewlett has certainly seen the car come a long way since those days.

We wish him and Mrs Hewlett many more years of happiness in Caversham.

— M. K.



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1lb lard.....	22	23	23	22½
1lb cheapest Cheddar.....	50	63	45	54
1 dozen standard eggs.....	52	51	53	49
1lb cheapest bacon.....	86	66	62	68
1lb cheapest sausages.....	40½	35½	40½	41½
Packet of 10 Fish Fingers.....	43	40	40	39
15oz tin baked beans.....	13	14½	12	13
15oz tin soup.....	13	15	14	15
1lb frozen peas.....	33	33	25	33
3lb self-raising flour.....	22	22	18	22
1lb dried fruit.....	44	29	47	45
¼lb cheapest tea.....	17½	16½	16	14½
4oz instant coffee.....	85	87	97	86
Kilo granulated sugar.....	25½	25½	24½	26
500gms cornflakes.....	26½	26	27½	29
¾lb packet biscuits.....	23	21½	23	22
1lb cheapest marmalade.....	23	23½	27	25½
Double pack toilet rolls.....	18½	26½	18	23

TOTAL..... £7.11½      £6.93½      £6.81½      £7.06½  
Compared to last month's total      + 7%      + 8%      same      + 2%

The four supermarkets listed here were visited on Thursday, March 24, 1977. Nationwide prices, particularly of tea and coffee, are continuing to rise, but in Caversham Budgens has confined its overall rise to 2 per cent and prices at Sabres have stayed almost steady. Sabre is also offering a free delivery service in Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park for orders totalling over £5.

The Co-op has introduced a nice clear shelf-labelling system, but it would be better if either it applied to all goods or just to the cheapest. At the moment it is a little confusing.

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## From the Reverend Alfred Bell

WHAT am I doing now? The short answer is that I am retired! After twelve years as Principal of John Groom's Association for the Disabled, where I went from Caversham, I opted for an early retirement in July of last year. The reason? After the years of demanding service in an environment of constant change stemming from a torrent of social legislation I felt that I should spend a few years in the ministry and I am now serving the churches in a variety of ways as opportunity offers. They were busy years in the social service field directing an organisation that moved from being a number of residential centres to an association embracing, with the centres, a housing association for the disabled, the employment of the severely disabled youngsters and, just before my retirement, entered the holiday hotel field with specially designed accommodation. Being a Christian foundation, the aim of bringing men and women to Christ was always in view and there have been those who not only found fulfilment mentally and physically but who also discovered the richer life in our Lord.

For eight of these year my wife Sabine has shared the task with me having special responsibility as social worker, and for the time being

continues. Our son Christopher is married and lives in Bucks and now we are grandparents! (Sarah and Michael). His work as a systems analyst takes him abroad a bit but he, being a qualified football referee, ensures that it does not interfere with this pursuit! Hilary has qualified as an SRN and also lives in Bucks, being married to one of those people who inform us what will be happening to the economy! Best of all, our children and their partners are all identified with the church.

We have many good memories of Caversham days and not infrequently revisit familiar faces and places — and, of course, always follow with great interest Caversham affairs, especially as they affect the church. To all who remember us we send our Christian greetings and love.

**From the Rev Lyn Lewis** SINCE my retirement I have come to understand what my own old minister meant when in his retirement he said: "I have only really been re-tyed." What has happened to us? When we came to the Isle of Wight it was with the avowed intent of not getting involved beyond attending church and the occasional preaching engagement.

But there is so much to be done. Soon after arriving at Shanklin I was very kindly invited

THE EDITOR recently wrote to many former clergy and ministers who have served in Caversham asking for some news of themselves for publication in the Caversham Bridge. A number of replies have been received and we print this month news from two former ministers of Caversham Free Baptist Church and also from the Rev George Shearer, lately minister of St Paul's United Reformed Church.

to the United Fraternal of Shanklin. There was a most happy spirit prevailing and one felt much at home; unfortunately little was being done from an ecumenical point of view. And coming from the atmosphere of Caversham I was able to tell of the work and the Caversham Bridge, etc. Much interest was shown and now we have United Services regularly throughout the winter and house groups for Bible study. Father Prior, from Quarr Abbey, the Bishop of Portsmouth and leading Free Churchmen have all been along to special occasions. Soon after arriving in the Island I was invited to conduct services at weekends; this soon got to the ears of the URC Minister who was responsible for a Group Ministry of three Churches and roped me in for regular preaching appointments. Since that time he has accepted an invitation to Bristol, and I have undertaken pastoral oversight of Brading, Shanklin URC. This arrangement will terminate on March 13 when our new minister

arrives. It has been a most satisfying experience to be in harness once more.

Before my association with the URC I was very happy in serving as a woodwork master at St Catherine's School, Ventnor. It is a Church of England School with a hospital attached, run mainly by nuns for delicate children. Reluctantly I had to give this up when my work at the URC broadened. By way

of hobbies I have done some wood carving, pottery and painting.

Jean has just completed a five year course on millinery, done some pottery, carpentry, tailoring and dressmaking. We are most fortunate in having an excellent Technical College providing good tuition in these and many other subjects.

All this plus a fairly large garden and lovely walks does provide us with a full life and a most satisfying "retirement."

## The Rev George Shearer writes:

IT IS now five years since I left Reading to take up work in the North East of England where I had begun my Ministry over 40 years ago. Having reached, and actually passed, the retiring age for ministers, I am now emeritus and live quietly in retirement in Leicester. I look back on my

seven years pastorate in Reading with considerable pleasure and though St Paul's (now URC) is not in Caversham, we frequently enjoyed the hospitality of your columns in newspaper, which greatly pleased the Presbyterians who happened to reside in Caversham. In a way it was a rather tumultuous time. There was a fire that did considerable damage to our Manse in Highmoor Road; two of my daughters were married and my beloved wife died in Reading.

My family now is rather widely scattered and indeed I myself hope to visit the United States this summer for a preaching engagement, but wherever I go, I often think about the quiet of the River Thames — surely one of the most beautiful rivers of the world — and remember the kindness of the people who live in the Thames Valley.

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, March 24, 1977. Mr B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council presided at the meeting.

This was the last meeting of the Parish Council before the boundary changes that take place on April 1, 1977. As from that date the Parish Council will be responsible for an area that will only include Mapledurham Village, the Chazey Heath area of the Parish and one or two other smaller areas of population. Most of the meeting was therefore devoted to matters concerning the changes.

Particular attention was given to the continued administration of the Playing Fields in view of the special conditions that relate to their control, and the involvement of the National Playing Fields Association. Because of Mapledurham's considerable interest in the future of the Playing Fields, the Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that the interests of the residents of Mapledurham will be protected in the future.

The Parish Council took the precaution of advising the succeeding Councils of certain deficiencies that exist

in the areas to be taken over, such as the lack of main drainage in the Upper Warren Avenue / Chazey Road area of the Parish, and they have requested that the lack of such facilities should be remedied as soon as possible.

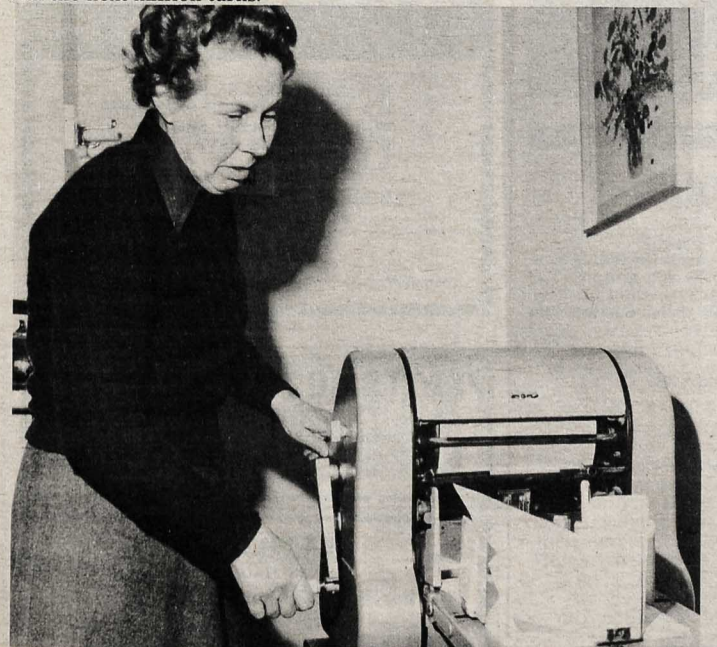
The Council agreed to a Precept of £600 for the forthcoming financial year for the new Parish of Mapledurham.

The Council were informed that the arrangement for the Silver Jubilee function to take place on the Playing Fields in Upper Woodcote Road on June 6 were proceeding satisfactorily.

## Two million turns

FOR fourteen years Mrs Vincent (Daphne to many people in Caversham) has been the Rector's Secretary. For many years she worked in the dining room at the Rectory but as the work grew a move was made to Church House and a separate office established. How many phone calls she has taken, how many letters she has typed or how many stencils she has cut is anyone's guess, to say nothing of the contributions to this paper which, not always written in the most legible of handwriting, she has typed out ready for the printers. But what is certain is that in April 14, she clocked up two million turns on the parish duplicator. So at two thousand turns an hour Daphne has spent several weeks of her life turning the handle.

Congratulations and thanks to Daphne for all she does to maintain the smooth running of one of the largest parishes in the diocese. And good luck with the next million turns.



■ Daphne in Action

— WALTON ADAMS

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# PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

SOON, with my wife and our three children, I'll be heading towards Haiti — a Caribbean haven that inspires images either of voodooistic horrors or political tyranny in the minds of so many people. It depends really whether you've read the novels of Graham Greene or Denis Wheatley. I'll be going as a missionary to a land suffering from debilitating poverty and squalor. It is in Haiti that you will find the highest of population and the lowest income per capita, the biggest illiteracy rate and the smallest mileage of asphalted roads, the most serious child mortality rate and the least developed people, in the Western world. Apart from an occasional scandal or sensation that is blown up by the press, Haiti is, for the most part, ignored by the rest of the world. It has always been a backwater since the days when the slaves of St Domingue threw out their French overlords in 1803. For this is the first negro republic in the world. And one senses at once the dignity of the Haitian, his pride in his history, and his complete freedom from the racial hang-ups that other longer-colonised islanders still suffer from.

## USEFUL ROLE?

But isn't the day of the missionary over? Is there any useful role for someone from the developed countries in a situation of such extreme poverty? Certainly, the era is past when Western churchmen reinforced in Christian terms the ethic of European colonisation. Unfortunately, much of what is still called Christian mission is little more than exploitation. The Haitian is trapped by his environment — hurricanes, blistering droughts, massive soil erosion and the like — into a crippling fatalism that is fed by ignorance and superstition. Poverty and disaster

## TALKING POINT

by  
**LESLIE GRIFFITH**

are inevitable and irrepressible. A philosophy that he sums up with his proverb: "Bon Dieu Bon" which may be roughly translated as "God says what goes."

This whole approach to life, so understandable in view of the circumstances, has to be combated. I regret to say that some Christian bodies still preach a message that suggests that the only appropriate Christian response to the grimness of the natural world is that the believer should grin and bear the vicissitudes of life. By his constancy and endurance will it be decided whether there is to be a place in Heaven for him. This, and anything else, that encourages the deep determinism of the poor benighted people of Haiti is a wicked exploitation of their fear and ignorance. They must be released from their darkness and shown how the seemingly inevitable ravages of nature and disease can be reversed; how some kind of justice can be established and enjoyed. Already, teams of Haitians are working at progressive programmes of education and health and agriculture. And I count it a wonderful privilege to have been asked to give my contribution to this effort.

The missionary works with people of all

faiths and none in the task of enabling people to discover who they are. As a Christian I believe that my faith offers the most deeply meaningful answers to this fundamental question of identity. For all men are children of God and need to know and enjoy the dignity of their calling. Haiti calls itself in its tourist propaganda, "The Pearl of the Antilles." It will soon be my honour to be working with Haitian friends towards the realisation of that dream.

## AROUND THE CLUBS

### CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

MRS Brenda Strong welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, March 10. The election of officers resulted in: Chairman: Mrs B. Strong; Vice-Chairmen: Mrs Weal and Mrs King; Secretary: Mrs G. Mander; Assistant Secretary: Mrs Harwood; Treasurer: Mrs Q. Strong. Also on the Committee: Mrs Stringer and Mrs Hine.

The next meeting on Thursday, April 14 is to be the Easter Party.

### MAPLEWOOD WI

AT THE Annual General Meeting Mrs K. Bubb was re-elected President for the coming year, and the new committee was introduced to the members. The handicraft showed a very high standard in a variety of work. Very satisfactory reports of the year's activities were given by the Treasurer and Secretary.

Continued on  
page 11

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## JUST ARRIVED

PETER and Anne Sear who with their daughter Rachel have recently moved to St Barnabas House come to Caversham from the parish of Sheldon, Birmingham.

Peter, who was born at Enfield in 1949 went from the Grammar school there to train as a pilot. The firm he joined, however, were on the verge of bankruptcy and a few



months later decided they needed no new pilots. So he started work as an X-ray crystallographer and then in the autumn of 1968 went to Exeter University to read chemistry. Feeling the call to the priesthood he changed a year later to theology. At the University he met his future wife who had come from her home in Purley, Surrey to read French and German at Exeter.

Married in 1972 the Sear's moved to Lincoln so that Peter could continue his training at the theological college there. During this time Anne taught at Horncastle and then came the move to Sheldon in 1974 when Peter was ordained. Here Peter found himself involved in local radio, youth work and the Samaritans, while Anne was running a Guide company and teaching in one of Birmingham's many comprehensive schools until Rachel's arrival in March of last year. With Peter describing his hobbies as carpentry, candle making and gardening (though the latter he explains is only for necessity) the Sear's will bring a variety of talent to the parish.

Peter starts his ministry at St Barnabas when he celebrates the Eucharist on Sunday, May 1 at 9.15am and he will be licensed to the parish of Caversham by the Bishop of Reading at a service of Holy Communion in St Peter's on Thursday, May 12 at 9.30am.

## LINK GROUP

Urgently wanted or Priest Hill

The house on Priest Hill for one-parent families is to be opened as soon as possible after the end of April. The house is to be divided into five flatlets. The Link have collected some furniture towards them, but urgently wanted now are:

Chests of drawers  
Beds  
Carpets (sizes from 16ft x 12ft to 10ft x 6ft)  
Stair carpets  
One dining table (small)  
Any small bedside tables, etc.  
Shades for ceiling lights  
Vacuum cleaner (upright if possible)  
Iron and board  
Cots and bedding  
Cups and saucers, etc.  
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## ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

**ANNUAL Parochial Meeting.** About 80 parishioners were present in Balmore Hall for the annual parochial meeting on Thursday, March 10. Mr F. C. Moore and W. A. Vincent were re-elected as Churchwardens and the Rector, on behalf of the parish, thanked them for their unstinting service. The Secretary, Mrs D. E. Gillings reported that there were now 1,015 people on the electoral roll, an increase of 47 in the course of the year. She also presented reports on the work of the Church Council and the Deanery Synod.

The Parochial Treasurer, Mr E. M. Smith presented the accounts. He drew attention to the considerable increase in the income of each district which was almost entirely due to the stewardship campaign held in the autumn of 1975. He pointed out however that the expenditure of the parochial account had exceeded the budget figure and that reserves were at a dangerously low level. Thanks however to a member of the parish who wished to remain anonymous the interest on a large loan would be available to the parish over the next five years and this was to be used to increase the reserve funds. Mr Hitchman presented the accounts for the Missionary Union which had very nearly reached the record figure of £4,000. The fabric of all the churches was reported to be in good order: During the year St John's and St Andrew's had been decorated and the organ at St John's had received a thorough overhaul.

**The Rev Stephen Bartlett.** Stephen Bartlett who joined the staff of Caversham parish in 1972 as priest-in-charge at Caversham Park has been appointed vicar of Chalgrove with Berrick Salome. His institution has been fixed for July 21 and coaches from Caversham will be arranged. An appreciation of his work will appear in a later edition of this newspaper.

**New Collects.** Thirty eight members of the newly elected Church Council were present at

the first meeting on March 29. After a Corporate Communion in the parish church coffee was served by the Churchwardens wives and the Council then met for business. The Rector welcomed all the six new members. Among other items of business the members debated the use of the new collects which have now been authorised by General Synod. Various criticisms were made about the style of the language but it was felt that it was necessary to bring them into use for an experimental period before reaching a decision about them. They are therefore to be used at all services of Holy Communion, other than those of the 1662 order, until the end of the year. Members of the Church Council will be glad to have comments about them from members of the congregation. Copies (price 35p) may be ordered in any of the churches of the parish. The Council also decided to adopt permanently the new lectionary for Holy Communion which had been used for an experimental period of two years. The council meets again on June 22.

**Mother's Union observes Lady Day.** members from all three branches in the parish attended the Lady day service which was held this year in St Peter's. The quiet time before the celebration of Holy Communion was conducted by the Rev Colin Scott-Dempster, a former curate of Caversham who is now vicar of Chieveley. Tea was served afterwards at the west end of the Church.

A joint outing for Mother's Union members has been arranged by Mrs R. Stringer to Littlecote Manor. It takes place on Tuesday, May 3.

**Another Metcalfe.** we are pleased to announce the birth of Lucinda Elizabeth to Penny Metcalfe on March 29.

### ST JOHN'S NEWS

**MOTHERING Sunday** ... there was a large congregation at St John's for Mothering Sunday which, this year, coincided with Parade Sunday, and most of the

## CHURCH NEWS

children brought their parents. Following a reading from Bonhoeffer's **Letters from Prison**, which was a reminder of the blessings of a happy family life, the congregation — from grandparents to toddlers — sang "God made the sun, God made me," to actions by Tiny Tots attenders who were delighted to be able to sing a song they knew at a "big service." The verses of "Every Child must have a mother" were sung as a solo, with the congregation joining in the chorus.

The theme of the sermon was the fragility of life and how much care was needed to help any living thing to grow, whether plant or child, illustrated by visual aids — a box of pea-plants grown by a three-year-old, an enormous, very cheerful drawing of the sun's face and a daffodil — which intrigued the children and kept them happy and attentive.

Indeed, all the children looked happy, obviously finding this an interesting and enjoyable service and church a friendly and happy place to be. When they went to collect their daffodils "for Mum," one very small, laughing girl, who was carried up, came back happily waving hers at the congregation.

It was a great pleasure to welcome several young people who had come back to the district to spend Mothering Sunday with their parents and to join in the worship at St John's.

Afterwards, the daffodils which were not distributed during the service were taken, with love and remembrance, to several elderly members of the congregation who are no longer able to attend St John's on Sunday mornings.

### ST PETER'S NOTES

**MOTHERING Sunday.** "The most Christian service I've ever attended" was the comment made by one visitor after the Parish Communion on Mothering Sunday. The Church was thronged with young and old and everyone seemed to be participating in the worship in a joyous way. Parents and children from different families read the epistle and gospel, took the intercessions and presented the Offertory while the whole congregation gave a wonderful welcome to David Lewis who was baptized and to Rebecca Gordon whose parents were giving thanks for her birth. Children received packets of lettuce seeds so lettuces may be much in evidence when it comes to the Harvest Festival.

**Men (and women) at work.** It is planned to start the decoration of the walls of St Peter's in Easter week in the hope that all will be finished

by St Peter's Day. Although many people have volunteered to help, further offers of help will be welcome — names please to Mr F. C. Moore or Mr L. Cropp. Work has also started on some long overdue improvements to the clergy vestry. These should make the room much less cramped for those who use it as well as greatly improving the appearance.

**From Japan.** It is a great pleasure to have as temporary members of the congregation Professor and Mrs Yoshimoto and their daughter Cecilia who come from the diocese of Yokohama. Professor Yoshimoto is spending a year at the Dairy Research Institute. They are living at 2 Hewett Close and have another daughter who is at present working at Lee Abbey, Devon.

### ST ANDREW'S NEWS

A RECENT example of Christian Stewardship of a slightly different kind has been experienced at St Andrew's when an anonymous donor gave £10 towards much needed choir gowns. The money was raised by selling off some silver-ware. It need hardly be stated how grateful the treasurer was when the money was handed to him.

The Annual Fete this year has been arranged for Saturday, June 25; the proceeds are to go to the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. Please make a note of the date in your diaries.

The date for the Ordination of Mr Inglis Mayo in Winchester Cathedral has been fixed for Sunday, June 26.

Keeping up the tradition of DIY the congregation are being asked to help decorate the small church hall — thus in a space of three years both halls and the church will have been decorated by voluntary labour.

### St Andrew's Mother's Union

**MEMBERS** and friends have attended and appreciated the very interesting Lenten Services held in church on Tuesday afternoons, led by the Reverend B. Gardiner. The final one, on April 5, was on the April meeting day.

On Lady Day Mrs Chennell appreciated the numerous cards, etc., she received to celebrate her 80th birthday.

### St Andrew's Women's Group

**THE GROUP** were fortunate in having yet another extremely good speaker for the March meeting. Mr T. Doughty explained some of the techniques of pottery and invited members to

"try their hand." A few ladies were brave enough to see what they could do with a lump of clay. Mr Doughty, who was thanked for his talk by Mrs Irene Perkins, also had some of his products on sale.

By the time this issue of the Bridge appears a number of the Group will have been to Westminster Abbey for the "Maundy Ceremony." It is hoped to prepare a "write up" for the June issue.

### ST BARNABAS NEWS

**VISIT by the Burn family.** Each of the four Sundays in March brought its own particular highlight to the worship at St Barnabas. The first was notable for a visit of the Burn family to Emmer Green en route for a brief holiday in Devon. The Rev Leonard Burn preached at the Family Communion about the life of a Hospital Chaplain: Friendships were renewed over coffee afterwards. It was good to see them all again and to know that St Barnabas is still much in their minds.

The fame of the annual concert of the University Singers is spreading far and wide.

Not only was the Evensong on the second Sunday swelled by numbers of other congregations in Caversham, but also by friends from elsewhere in Reading. Under their Conductor Colin Lyle the University Singers gave a delightfully varied programme of pieces by Orlando Gibbons, Zoltan Kodaly and Benjamin Britten. The Six Sacred Songs by Alan Ridout superbly sung by the Solo Soprano and student teacher Gill Munday, accompanied by Viv Lacey on the Organ, provided a splendid centrepiece. The retiring collection on this excellent evening benefited Christian Aid by £31, a rewarding evening for all concerned.

### Mothering Sunday.

It used to be the custom on Mothering Sunday for children to return home with a special cake for their mothers. Thus during the Family Communion numerous small iced cakes made by the assistants in the Sunday School were carried to the altar in the offertory procession and subsequently distributed to the children to take home to their mothers.

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# Young Caversham

THE DIRECTORY of Youth and Community Groups in Caversham is now in circulation. This is a very handy guide brought about by the co-operation of the many organisations functioning in Caversham. Its main objective is to provide a communication between group leaders and individuals, and is a useful media in the areas of co-ordination of events, sharing of equipment and mobility resources.

The Guide might also be the answer to that cry, "I'm raring to work among kids, but how do I get in on it?" Any adults reading this column need only to look at the top of Page 7 — Balmore Hall Youth Club, just as an instance. This mixed youth club was featured in the Caversham Bridge some months ago, when the leaders Mr and Mrs P. Handy pleaded for help in running the show. I recently asked Mrs Handy if the response was overwhelming. The reply was pressed into the palm of my hand, scribbled on the back of a pink circular — "The Balmore Club has been open as usual on Friday evenings in Balmore Hall and as usual the doings and sayings have been uninteresting or

unsuitable for reporting in a respectable paper. If the doings could be made more interesting, the sayings might become less unsuitable, but the Handy's report that although they have



by Peter Shock

had many kind inquiries there have been no positive responses to their recent letter in the 'Bridge.'"

Well, how about it? Balmore Hall, Friday evenings, 7.30-10.00. Skills not essential, the importance is being there.

★ ★ ★

Budget Day was Tuesday, March 29. Some of us may want to forget it! In Parliament, there is an air of excitement and conjecture. Members

put on their best attire for the occasion. One back-bencher, Mr Leo Abse, MP for Pointhill, traditionally attracts all eyes in the House as he enters, adorned in his ultra-flamboyant Budget-suit. It was also Prize-giving day at the Lowfield Boys' Club. I could not afford a new suit to present the Prizes, but resigned my glamour to turning up in a brand new pair of "chukka boots." Like the Commons, there is great excitement on the Prize-giving occasion. The finals of the various competitions are not usually played off until

the night, and the ceremony takes place at the end of the session. One of the unexpected surprises was a younger member, 12-year-old David Walker carrying off the Quiz Championship prize. Stephen Clark emerged the Club's Table Tennis wizard. Nicholas Batstone pulled off a double, Chess and Scrabble; Mark Erratt, a cool winner of the Billiards and Paul Charleton succeeded in Draughts.

The competitions have been going on since the New Year and have aroused great enthusiasm among the club members.

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

# MAY FAIR

SATURDAY,  
MAY 28, 2.30pm

Kent Puppet Show. Sideshows. Refreshments, etc.

## CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

### Women's Fellowship Anniversary

WAKING up to a sunny, spring morning was the right way to start an anniversary day. All ladies enjoyed a very pleasant morning service with Mrs Barbara Boxwell from Crowthorne as the preacher. Her theme was "Praise" and the hymns chosen were sung with great enthusiasm. The WF Choir rendered a beautiful anthem "Sing Alleluia" and Mrs Terry and Mrs Masterman read the lessons. At the evening service the Reverend L. Griffiths was the preacher and the WF Choir sang "Except the Lord build the house."

To conclude the anniversary, on the evening of Tuesday, March 8, the WF held their annual "Holiday Slides" evening. It was most enjoyable to see slides of last year's holidays with the lovely weather and great laughter was heard when slides were shown of church members entertaining at the Victorian evening and the Gift Day concert. A number of slides were shown of the Boys Brigade at different events in 1976 and the

slide that brought the most pleasure was of Mr Jo Powell, one of the oldest members, presenting the Boys Brigade with the football cup.

After the slides a buffet supper was served and everyone went home, having enjoyed the Women's Fellowship Anniversary weekend.

### WOMEN'S WORK

All ladies, gentlemen and children are cordially invited to the Coffee mornings that are held every second Thursday in the month at Caversham Methodist Church. This is a new venture on behalf of the Women's Work committee and it is hoped that the regularity of these coffee mornings will bring in outsiders as well as members of the churches in the area.

Coffee is served at reasonable prices between 10 am and 11.30am in the schoolroom in Ardler Road. Do come and bring your friends and enjoy your mid-morning coffee with a chat.

All proceeds go to Women's Work, overseas.

## STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



### SWIMMING ON...

In 1975 Catherine Waltham of Peppard Road, Caversham, a member of the very successful Reading Synchronised Swimming Club, gained her Amateur Swimming Association Synchronised Grade 4 Award. At the time she said that she was going to work hard for her Grade 5, which is the top award in synchronised swimming. Catherine, who is still only fourteen years old, has recently gained her Grade 5. Well done!

### SWINGING ON...

Now to a young man who has been mentioned in these columns on several occasions since he was at Highdown School a few years ago. Phil Morley, who is now 18 years old, has recently caused an upset in a major golf tournament. Playing with partner Hogan Scott in the Sunningdale Foursomes, Phil played what the national papers called a wonder shot with his 8 iron, a shot which helped Phil and his partner knock out their opposition, two Ryder Cup golfers. The two youngsters then went on to reach the semi-finals by knocking out another Ryder Cup player and a leading amateur. That was as far as they got on this occasion but you may be sure Phil Morley will be causing many more major upsets in the golf World before long.

### JOIN THE JOGGERS...

It is just 12 months since Jogging hit Reading and it is pleasing to see that the enthusiasm has not waned in that time. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday throughout the winter a number of people who started last summer have kept up the good work by turning out in all weathers in the area of Prospect Park. In addition to this the number of people seen jogging individually has greatly increased.

With the light evenings, and hopefully better weather, the main group of joggers will be meeting from now on back at the Liebenrood Road entrance to Prospect Park at 7pm every Tuesday and Thursday. If you want to lose some weight after the winter or just make yourself a little fitter, turn up there one evening and join in. Those who started last year are only too willing to help newcomers and we hope that it will be easier to arrange small groups of people of equal ability to jog together. So whatever your age, sex or fitness, come and have a regular jog.

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

## BLAGRAVE WI

MRS GARDINER, VCO was the guest speaker at the AGM of Blagrove WI and her talk on how to streamline the business of the Committee and the Monthly Meetings was both amusing and extremely helpful. An Election was held for the new Committee for the forthcoming year and Mrs Haigh was elected President, Miss Amor was appointed Treasurer, and Miss Reynolds was re-elected as Secretary. Arrangements were made for members to attend the Spring Council Meeting at Newbury and an Outing to be held in the Summer was discussed.

The Competition for a jar of homemade Marmalade was very well supported and was won by Miss D. Chapman, and the raffle was won by Mrs Plumridge.

Mrs Wilkie gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing President Miss M. Chapman for all her hard work during the past year and presented her with an arrangement of flowers, and the Tea hostesses were Miss Latham and Mrs Plumridge.

## CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DURING the past month the weekly meetings have been well attended. An interesting talk was given by Richard Snailham, the well known author, on his stay in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica. On subsequent weeks a whist drive, a musical quiz evening and later, a film show by a member, Mrs Plant, on her visit to her two daughters and their families in Australia, were held.

Meetings are at The Adult Centre, School Lane, Caversham, but there is a waiting list for membership.

## MAPLEDURHAM WI

AT THE Annual Meeting in March six new committee members

were elected to the committee to take the place of the six who had resigned. Mrs Hayward agreed to be President for another year with Mrs D. Deacon and Mrs P. Butler as Secretary and Treasurer again.

The Secretary gave a report on the activities of the Institute for the past year, and the Treasurer followed with a very good financial report. Mrs Hayward then thanked both officers and presented each with a pot of chrysanthemums. The President thanked all members of the committee and others for their help during the past year. Mrs Skinner on behalf of the Committee, presented Mrs Hayward with a beautiful cineraria.

The cup for the monthly competition was won by Mrs Deacon, with Mrs Stacey runner-up and Mrs Butler third.

## EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

THE speakers for March were representatives

from Holmes of Reading who gave a talk about colour and design in the house. Members were very interested indeed in the samples of carpets, upholstery and curtain fabrics that Holmes had provided and in the interesting ideas put forward for colour in furnishings. We were guided room by room through a house using the best of Holmes merchandise (nearly all British, members were pleased to hear!), but the final word was a warning that the most important thing of all is that everything must be chosen so that the buyer personally can live with them. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Bannon.

The activity groups are meeting regularly: The arts and crafts group were given a talk on "Antique Inkwells" which proved extremely interesting. The drama group are hoping to organise a theatre trip in April to Basingstoke to see an Alan Ayckbourn play and the social studies group met to listen to a representative from the Legal Aid Society.

## CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

"VEGETABLES are still too cheap" was the astonishing message given to Guild Members at the March meeting when they were addressed by Mr H. Van Zomeren. He continued with witty charm to explain the cost involved in manufacture, and advised "grow your own." People should not be tempted to sow a whole packet of seed at once, since with care it was possible to produce two hundred lettuces from a packet, but should sow a little at regular intervals and so have a long, continuous supply. Considerable advice was forthcoming throughout the talk, including the avoidance of the highly coloured attractive boxes and packages, with the emphasis on the quality of the goods rather than the colour of the packet.

The meeting was brought to a lively close with members taking part in a Gardening Quiz where the Chariman Mrs C. Mitchell produced the answers when the seeds of thought failed to germinate to her questions!

## CAVERSHAM PARK WI

AT THE March Annual General Meeting, Mrs Olive Harris was re-elected as President for the coming year, Miss Rosemary Powell (Secretary) and Mrs Doreen Mann (Treasurer) also remain in office.

Thanks were extended to Mrs Cynthia Forward and Miss Ellen Ansell from Sonning Glebe WI for acting as tellers.

The Competition Cup was presented to Mrs Phyllis Colley for obtaining the most points during the past year.

A vote of thanks was given and a posy of freesias was presented to Mrs Hodgson VCO who gave a talk on Membership and Interests in the Women's Institute.

As several members will be going on a trip to York in a special WI Royal Jubilee train on the Queen's Birthday, the April meeting will be one week later than usual on the 28th. The speaker will be Mr G. W.

Knight who will give a talk on Bees and Honey. The Competition will be the Prettiest Honey Pot.

At the Group Meeting on March 24, Maiden Erlegh WI were hostesses to Rose Hill, Sonning Glebe, Woodford Park, Mill Green and Caversham Park. After the President's report on their activities during the past year, Mrs Irene Fisher (Group Link) congratulated the Institutes on their wide and varied interests.

The Group Competition — An Easter Theme — was won by Caversham Park who were presented with the Cup, Mill Green were the runners-up.

The speaker — Mrs Lois Hibbard talked on Frills, Furbelows and Fashions from the age of Lady Godiva to Queen Alexandra. Mrs Hibbard made her talk even more fascinating by clothing herself in a costume of each period at the same time describing the make-up and meaning of each dress and accessories.

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## The prayer of five year olds

MRS Juliet Smith writes of her work with the Reception Class at Caversham Park Primary School.

Several weeks ago my Reception Class of 17 five year olds were discussing which hymn to sing at their assembly, and they picked "All things bright and beautiful." We then talked about all the things they had learned to do since starting school, and how they had needed the eyes and ears which God had given them, and also their hands and voices to help them to work and play. One of the children chanced to remark that another child had not used his hands to work,

but to hold the cloak-room door shut so that other children could not get out.

This casual remark led us all into a most vital discussion about how we used those gifts of eyes, ears, hands and voices. Did we use them in a kind way, or an unkind way? Over a period of weeks this prayer evolved from the children's own thoughts and observations, and we decided to use it in our assembly, setting it to music so that the words would be heard more clearly.

One of the most rewarding facets of this prayer is the way in which the children have put their thoughts into practice. Many times I have overheard their remarks about how kind other people have been with their eyes or hands, helping in some way. When a child has been unkind I have suggested that he has just forgotten for a little moment, and that they should watch for him to do something kind to make up for it. It is astonishing how many kind actions they notice now, particularly voices saying kind things which they obviously feel is very important. This prayer can genuinely be said to have been written by these young children. I was lucky enough to be there at the right moment to record it.

### In School Today

We have eyes that see everything,  
Pictures and butterflies and flowers in spring.  
May our eyes show us, we pray,  
Someone we can help in school today.  
We have hands with fingers strong  
Helping us to work and play the whole day long.  
May our hands be busy we pray,  
Working for each other in school today.  
We have voices singing to you  
We can shout and whisper too,  
May our voices say we pray,  
Only kind words in school today.  
Thank you God for eyes that see  
Ears that hear someone calling out to me.  
Hands and voices will we pray,  
Help us to help someone else in school, today. Amen.

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

The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095

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### METHODIST

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## SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

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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

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

### HOUSE COMMUNIONS — CAVERSHAM PARK

May 4: 82 Lowfield Road (Lynne Livsey)  
11: 5 Dacre Avenue (Penny Peirce)  
18: 17 Odiham Avenue (Liz Beckett)  
25: 20 Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)

## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

St Peter's  
March 20: David Lewis

St John's  
March 27: Karen Povey  
Nicola Toop  
Michele Toop  
Ian Toop  
Antony Miles  
David Hawkins  
Lisa Hawkins  
David Stagg

St Barnabas  
March 20: Hannah Mortimer  
Louise Appleby

St Anne's  
March 20: Christella Thompson  
Justine Thompson  
Deborah Keegan  
Sarah Keegan

### MARRIED

St Peter's  
March 19: Albert Bowers and Denise Maslen

St Margaret's  
March 17: Ernest Hicks and Joyce Loveridge

St Anne's  
March 19: Malcolm Dalton and Anne Dyczek

### FUNERALS

St Margaret's  
March 10: Mabel Andrews

Caversham Methodist Church,  
Gosbrook Road

## JUNE FAIR

June 11, 3pm

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION  
11am 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

#### St John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday)

#### St Andrew's

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

#### St Barnabas'

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

#### St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 5th Sundays)

9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION  
10.30 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday)

#### NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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

#### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

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

#### CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship (2nd, and 4th Sunday)  
FAMILY COMMUNION  
(1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)

### METHODIST CHURCHES

#### Caversham

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

#### Caversham Heights

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

### 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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Emmer Green: Tel. 472934.

Mrs M. Coombs (South Caversham), 5 Kidmore Road, Tel.  
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Mrs A. Voase (West Caversham) 40 Matlock Road. Tel:  
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Mrs C. Pynn, (Mapledurham), 42 Geoffreyson Road, Tel.  
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