

WE SHALL MISS THE FRIENDLY AND CARING BARTLETTS

One is sorely tempted when writing about Betty and Stephen Bartlett and of their work in Caversham, to deal only in superlatives — for it is very clear that even in a parish like ours, where friendly and caring clergy families are the norm, they are outstanding.

When he arrived here several years ago, Stephen faced what most of us would regard as two extremely challenging tasks; the embryo ecumenical church in Caversham Park Village had reached a kind of half-way stage and was about to take yet further steps in a very new experiment while, at the same time, there was the Family Festival to prepare for. And it was the organisation of this which was to occupy Stephen for the next 18 months. Yet it helps to explain the kind of people they are to know that neither Stephen nor Betty thought in terms of challenges, but rather of jobs waiting to be done.

Family Festival

While Betty took the first tentative steps in making her home and family a focal point in the village, Stephen became immersed in a welter of planning with local people and organisations and laid the foundation, not only for a very successful Family Festival, but also — though nobody knew it at the time — for the Link Group which was to follow and help keep Caversham congregations very aware of the problems facing the less fortunate members of our community.

Somebody who worked closely with Stephen at this time had this to say: "To draw together into a working relationship people of so many denominations, age groups and differing abilities and view points, could have meant discord and chaos. Under Stephen's chairmanship... strong bonds were formed which have been long-lasting. He had his own very definite ideas of the importance of... family, but he never confused chairmanship with dictatorship. He believed people should be given freedom to work through their own ideas."

Doubtless it is this attitude which makes Stephen and Betty themselves say that they most appreciate the opportunity for growth which has been afforded them

in Caversham. It is very satisfying, Stephen says, to be given a job and to be left, almost entirely, to work it out for oneself.

And work it out they certainly did. From the village and other parts of Caversham, come stories of an enormous amount of outgoing and very natural love. One hears of both Stephen and Betty being called in on all manner of personal problems, of hours spent, unstintingly, with the worried, the bereaved, the sick. And yet they themselves are blissfully unaware that they have done anything out of the ordinary. Stephen has been described by one of his colleagues as the most natural of the clergy team, the only one who is not "surrounded by walls." It is no wonder that the word "open" is used so often in connection with his ministry.

Many tributes

It is not, alas, possible to include all the tributes which came pouring in once it was known that the Bartletts were leaving for Chalgrove, where Stephen is to be vicar. And it is certain they themselves would not wish to be eulogised. But so much has been said that it is only fair to quote and hope that Stephen and Betty will understand. It was said, for instance, that Stephen never concentrated his energies only on "church people" but that his empathy embraced anyone in need at any time. One member of the village church had this to say: "I have never known Stephen refuse help, support, comfort and care to anyone in need. However pressed for time, he makes us feel that we as people matter."

Others spoke of his ability to motivate and relate right across the age range, of his great delicacy in unifying and drawing together various denominations.

Yet others told of Betty's own care and concern. And what has not gone unnoticed has been Stephen's very real concern for his own family and his care to



Walton Adams

see that Betty, while supporting his own role in the church, yet was allowed to develop her own life, both as a teacher at the local school and as a homemaker. To these two their marriage is of supreme importance — and it shows!

Stephen himself is the first to express appreciation for the fact that working as a member of a team, there have been what he calls structured opportunities for leisure, for personal growth, for family relaxation. Many people will be familiar with Stephen's own artistic efforts, both painting and wood carving; as a friend says, everything he produces is thought-provoking. Probe deeper and you will find that here, again Stephen is remarkably open about what constitutes art; a good meal cooked by his wife is, he says, every bit as creative as anything he produces on canvas. And he's right, of course.

Again one is tempted to talk of an "ideal marriage", suggesting, perhaps, a kind of pie-in-the-sky arrangement, a sort of "we never have a cross word" kind of attitude which so often rings falsely. Nothing could be further from the truth, and again one is faced with a paradox. For, with all this, Stephen, Betty and the two girls, Becky and Kathy, are one of the most natural and normal families one could hope to meet.

They will hate me for saying it, but they will not easily be replaced.

W.D.

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The Editor's Column

F.D.

ON EVERY COIN OF THE REALM THERE APPEAR AFTER THE QUEEN'S NAME TWO LETTERS — F.D. These are the initial letters of the two Latin words "Fidei defensor", Defender of the Faith. Few people seem to be aware that they appear on our coins because the Pope conferred this title on Henry VIII for writing a pamphlet against Martin Luther. Every subsequent monarch has used that title.

The English Coronation service is a most ancient rite extending back over more than a thousand years of the English monarchy. It is set within the service of Holy Communion and in the course of the service the Archbishop of Canterbury places a ring on the sovereign's finger and says these words: "Receive the Ring of kingly dignity, and the seal of Catholic Faith: and as you are this day consecrated to be our Head and Prince, so may you continue steadfastly as the Defender of Christ's Religion."

AFTER THE FLAG-WAVING

The Jubilee celebrations are over. If they have merely been an occasion for flag-waving and parties the real significance of them will have been lost. The central act was the service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral when the nation was concerned to give thanks to God for the example set by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family during the past 25 years. The example they have set of quiet devotion to duty, and of Christian family life is much needed at a time when Christian standards have been rejected by so many people. It is very curious how on the one hand so many people profess admiration for the Royal Family and make themselves out to be great supporters of the monarchy, while on the other hand doing nothing themselves to follow the example set by the Queen, as an upholder of the Christian faith.

It seemed particularly appropriate that Sunday, June 5, was also Trinity Sunday and in the words of the collect that day we prayed "keep us steadfast in this faith" — in the faith of the Blessed Trinity which those two letters — F.D. on our coins remind us that the Queen is concerned to uphold, and which it should therefore be the equal concern of her subjects also to uphold.

HEALING THE BREACH

I mentioned that the title Defender of the Faith was given to Henry VIII by the Pope. But that reign also saw the breach in the unity of the Church. In this reign during the past 25 years we have seen a great growing together of Christians. The Archbishop of Canterbury took the opportunity when in Rome last month for his visit to the Pope to suggest that the time had now come for the Roman Catholic Church to give official sanction to what is now a common practice.

Preaching at an ecumenical service he said: "Has not the time now arrived when we have reached such a measure of agreement on so many of the fundamentals of the leadership of both our churches? I would go further and ask whether our work of joint evangelisation will not be seriously weakened until we are able to go to that work strengthened by our joint participation in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood."

In fact in many places around the world, as those of us who travel know perfectly well, the day has already come. Without waiting for official sanction (indeed sometimes with local official sanction) Roman Catholics are receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion at the hands of Anglican bishops and priests, and the reverse is also the case. This I venture to believe, will increasingly take place, whether official sanction in highest quarters be given or no. Has not the time, God's time, for such official sanction arrived? I think it has."

We must pray that in the coming years of the Queen's reign the letters F.D. will acquire a deeper meaning and that the intercommunion already practiced will lead on to that unity we desire, as the divisions going back to the reign of Henry VIII come to be healed.

But how unfortunate that the Cathedral service was taken entirely by Anglicans. At her Coronation the Queen received a Bible from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Surely the present Moderator should have been asked to read a lesson at the Jubilee service, and following on the Archbishop's visit to the Pope, it is strange that Cardinal Hume did not also take part. Someone in the Church of England slipped up badly.

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 lesson still un-learned

From Caversham Parish Magazine, July 1911.

The Union Jack — its use and misuse.

"It was curious and a little humiliating to see many loyal English people in Caversham flying from their houses and gates a signal of distress on the occasion of their King's Coronation. The Union Jack is a national symbol of which we ought all to be proud, and at least to know enough of its use and meaning to avoid the mistake of flying it reversed on an occasion of rejoicing, for as any sailor would tell you, a flag is never reversed except as a signal of distress... to put this in the simplest way the broad white bands ought to be uppermost on the side nearest the flagstaff and if the red bands are put uppermost the flag becomes a signal of distress."

Regrettably at the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee one shop in Church Street was selling Union Jacks attached to a stick as an apparent signal of distress!

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

As we go to print there is evidence that a great many street parties are being held in connection with the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The Caversham Bridge will hope to publish news of these in the next edition, and a prize will be given for the most interesting account and best photograph received of a party in Caversham or Mapledurham. All material for the next edition must be sent to Church House by Wednesday, June 29.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Julia Warner, of 12 Hewett Avenue, on passing her Elementary RADA Ballet exam in May.

POSTBAG

HELP FOR THE AGED

Dear Sir,

The Annual Appeal for "Help the Aged" will be held this year on 12th and 13th July. Centres will be open throughout Reading and District to receive clothing, blankets and cash for the aged destitute overseas. The two Methodist Church Halls in Caversham will be open on both days from 2-8pm to receive your gifts.

We may not think of ourselves as living in a wealthy country, but in comparison with the dreadful conditions which so many old people have to endure in the poorest countries, we are indeed well off. We can surely afford to contribute

some little part of what we have to help the "have nots" of this world.

Please be as generous as you can, and in thankfulness for what you have send your donation to the Hon Treasurer of this Appeal, c/o Barclays Bank Ltd, 3/5 King Street, Reading, Berks. Make it payable to 'Help the Aged' and your gift will be acknowledged.

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Jubilee celebrations at Caversham Primary School

On Thursday, June 3, the children of Caversham Primary School enjoyed a full day's celebrations, thanks to the initiative of the headmaster, Mr Peter Shanks, and other members of the staff.

The day began with a Jubilee Assembly conducted by the Rector, Canon J. G. Grimwade,

who is also a school manager. Later in the morning Mrs K. Sage, Deputy Mayor and chairman of the school managers, planted a commemorative oak tree, and in the afternoon she had the hard task of judging the 50 splendidly decorated bicycles, some of which are seen in our photograph.

There was a safari race in Balmore Park and a Jubilee Fete opened after the special school dinner by the Town Crier of Wokingham. Another feature of the afternoon was the dancing round the maypole. The infants enjoyed a picnic at Virginia Water.



— Photos: Walton Adams

THEME FOUR GOES ON

by John Madeley

"Time to change, enough is enough" was the theme of one of this year's Lenten house groups. A total of five groups, each of about a

dozen people, met to consider this theme — THEME FOUR as it was labelled.

At the end of Lent, members of several groups felt that the issues needed further and deeper consideration. Indeed many of us felt that we were barely at the beginning of the road. A meeting of Theme Four participants took place and it was decided to continue meeting on an on-going basis.

It was also decided to call the group THEME FOUR. The aim of group members is "to simplify their lifestyle and work out their responsibility to those who suffer from poverty and injustice."

Many of the Lenten house group participants were convinced that it is time for a change in our thinking and our Christian approach to world problems. There was a general feeling that we needed to know far more ourselves, and indeed that many people in the Church were ill or misinformed about some of the crucial issues of our day. Educating ourselves and others and increasing awareness of the problems is therefore vital.

There is a deeper reason why the group has decided to call itself THEME FOUR. During the past few years, Christians have examined the themes of world development, lifestyle and stewardship almost in separate compartments — as three separate themes. What we are aiming to do in our on-going group is to bring these themes together — for the fourth theme to be the linking of all these themes.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham churches worked together this year to offer a full programme of events during Christian Aid Week, including a "Rich man: Poor man" supper held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church which was attended by members of Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches.

Following the supper, the Rev Eric Mantle, Field Administrator of Christian Aid, described his recent visit to Calcutta where Christian Aid, in association with similar organisations in Holland and Germany, is spending one million pounds in improving the conditions under which the slum, shanty town and pavement dwellers live.

St John's Church arranged a "nearly new" sale and St Peter's a young people disco which was held at St Anne's Roman Catholic

Church Hall. St Barnabas held a concert a little earlier in the month. At Caversham Methodist Church a large audience enjoyed an excellent performance by the Spotlight Revue, whilst a concert given by Caversham

Heights Junior Choir and the Margaret Morris Dancers also devoted its proceeds to Christian Aid. The Caversham Heights Senior Youth Club made a donation of £15 towards the total of £200,500 — a useful addition to that raised by gift

envelopes and by those from Caversham who took part in the Reading Sponsored Walk. At the Baptist Church there was a display of pictures and posters on Christian Aid themes by the children of Thameside and Hemdean House schools.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by Watchdog

CONSULTATION

It was unfortunate that the meeting called by Caversham Residents' Association to discuss its attitude to the future of Reading Town Hall should have coincided with the Parish Confirmation, as it resulted in the smallest attendance there has ever been at one of their meetings. When it came to talking about the desirability or not of retaining the Town Hall, the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of retention but when it came to a vote as to whether the Association should join the committee working for the retention of the Town Hall, those present were reluctant to commit the largely absent membership to any one particular cause.

To seek a way out of this impasse, the Residents' Association will probably hold a referendum of its members. The chief argument against joining the committee is that the Residents' Association is primarily a Caversham-based organisa-

tion: the chief argument for, is that Caversham is a large part of Reading and includes a large number of ratepayers and Town Hall users.

THE WIDER FIELD

Caversham is also part of Central Berkshire, for which the Structure Plan has recently been published. Comments from all interested parties are invited by the end of August. To publicise the plan, a series of public meetings is taking place throughout Central Berkshire. On this occasion the summer holiday period has been avoided, this previously having been a favourite consultation period in earlier stages of the plan's development, but as a consequence the notice has been insufficient for advance publicity in the Caversham Bridge. Caversham's particular interest must be the central Caversham road plan, lorry routes and the riverside, but obviously it cannot detach itself from other issues. For example, gravel extraction in Berkshire may not directly affect

us, but its repercussions certainly will.

At last the new road under the Vastern Road railway bridge is complete. The dirty old bridges have gone and the road and footpath surfaces have certainly improved. Whether the end result justifies the vast expenditure of public money is another matter. The pedestrian certainly has gained little. She (or he) has further to walk and in order to catch a 'bus is required to run up or

down flights of steps. The 'bus signs also request the queue to form on the side where there is only a narrow kerb between a wall and the traffic flow. Young children, anyone with shopping or an open umbrella, or with any infirmity are going to find themselves in a very dangerous position. All along, this road plan has been to ease traffic flows. Those who walk or wait for buses have been considered only as an afterthought.

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting held on 25th April Mr Alan Sparks, the President, thanked Mr and Mrs E. Howard on their retirement from office for their many years of service to the club. He also said it was good to look back on another successful year and to see the association with a good community spirit.

A new committee was elected with Miss Maida Atkinson becoming Chairman and Mrs Ruth Williams appointed secretary.

A Bring and Buy evening was well attended the following week, all the goods being given and auctioned for club funds.

On 9th May Mrs Yvonne Milne with her Summerdown Singers, accompanied by Mrs Payne on the piano, gave a lively concert. The evening ended with an invitation to the audience to join in the singing, accepted with enthusiasm by the members.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 12th May, 1977. The Council received with much regret, the resignation of the Chairman, Mr B. A. Fowles, and in his place the Council appointed Lt. Col. A. G. Elliott to be Chairman. The Council also received the resignation of Mrs Smithers and Mr N. F. Huff. These resignations have occurred because of the boundary changes as a result of which the responsibilities of the Parish Council have been much diminished. At the meeting notice was given of the Clerks intention to resign at the end of September.

The Council will be taking action to fill these vacancies.

A discussion took

place regarding the draft Order made by Reading BC prohibiting Commercial Vehicles over 5 tons unladen weight on part of the A4074. Concern was expressed that by imposing this condition, it would restrict vehicles from delivering goods to farms and other businesses in the Parish, and it was agreed to ask for an unrestricted access for vehicles affected by the Order requiring this facility.

The Council were also concerned that the diseased elm trees in Rokeby Drive have not yet been attended to by the County Council, but there appears to be a problem concerning the ownership of the land upon which the trees stand, and efforts are being made to clarify the matter.

Nicholas

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They used to live here

The Rev John Stevinson, a member of the staff of the parish of Caversham from 1963 until 1974, writes from Sunderland.

Since moving here Jo has become involved in a variety of interests. She is secretary of the Sunderland branch of the Durham Conservation Trust. She is involved with the Refuge for Battered Women, but her main responsibility, in addition to the family, is as secretary to the Wearside Council of Churches. This has now been confirmed in existence after an initial experimental period, so this year will see her heavily involved in ensuring it makes a worthwhile contribution to the life of the town. Also she has given four brief introductory talks on Tyne Tees Television in connection with this year's Women's Day of Prayer.

NOT SO LUCKY JOHN!

No one has asked me to appear on Television! Although my face has become a bit boring in the local paper, I ceased to be a member and Chairman of the Sunderland Community Health Council at the end of last year. As such I have appeared pretty frequently during the past months, usually as a kind of figurehead, but latterly for expressing controversial opinions.

VANDALISM AND DELINQUENCY

I am at present hard at work preparing a six-week course for the churches on vandalism and delinquency, not I hasten to say how to do it, but why people do; who they are; factors that tend to predispose people towards it in the home and family, in the material environment, the organisation of society and the culture of the neighbourhood, the Christian understanding, and possible lines of response by the churches.

In addition, I have given a paper to the Crime Prevention Panel on responsible parenthood. The panel was set up by the police on the instructions of the Home Office and comprises representatives of most of the significant statutory and voluntary bodies in the town, when they turn up.

I believe that many young people approach parenthood with good intentions but abysmal ignorance, and these different institutions could in many cases help to give them basic insights and skills. Similarly the blind emotional prejudice that is given an airing whenever the question of delinquency or youthful ill-discipline is mentioned is disturbing, and I would like to persuade them to stimulate and make possible a widespread and more informed debate about such matters; one contribution might be to establish public lectures each year on related matters, to which their members would be encouraged to come.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Another area of concern would come under the title "Community Development." Often the churches and Social Workers for that matter, see their work primarily concerned with individuals. I believe that they should have an equal concern for the community.

David (12) is growing fast into a very big boy. His weight serves him well in rugby, and he has represented his school. Richard (14) has recently won a very useful music exhibition, which includes free tuition on his three instruments (recorder, violin and french horn). He has no love of rugby, but plays chess for his school with considerable success.

GEOFFREY HOUSE

Geoffrey House, for many years District Warden at St John's, retired from the G.P.O. in 1975 and with his wife Mollie moved last year to Burnham-on-

Crouch. A recent letter received from him makes it plain that he is having an active retirement. He writes as follows.

"This is a delightful little place. We had a wonderful welcome from the neighbours, all complete strangers to us before and we soon became involved in the life of the village and much of the voluntary work which goes on here. We are both members of the W.R.V.S. for Hospital Car Service. Mollie is on the committee for one of the W.I. groups and from there she has branched out into the organiser for Red Cross and Alexandra Rose Day collections. We have taken over the secretary and treasurer posts of the St. Raphael Club for Handicapped Persons, and have a wonderful band of helpers. We enjoy what we are doing particularly because everyone puts their shoulders to the wheel when there's anything to be done. It's remarkable how quickly they can raise funds too. The sum of £9,000 for Church restoration work came in a matter of a few months. Here we have all Series 3 services without exception on Sunday mornings. Our other interests are Men's Forum, Local History and Amenities Society, gardening of course, and during the summer there is the sailing which is only a short walk across the playing fields from our bungalow. Chiefly we enjoy being so near the family. Richard, his wife and our only grandson are just five miles away. Ann, I am pleased to say, is very well."

NEWS FROM MISS OLIVEY

Miss A. Olivey, who for many years was headmistress of Hemdean House School, recently celebrated her 80th Birthday. The Editor wrote to congratulate her and we publish the reply that he received.

My sister and I joined the local WI when we settled here — and I am in my third year as Secretary of the Institute. We are members of the WI Choir and are kept busy entertaining various Senior Citizen organisations. We belong to the North Devon Choral Society which gives a spring and Christmas concert each year. We are now

rehearsing Handel's Judas Maccabaeus. We joined the Gardening Club, mainly on my sister's account, and I, for my part, belong to the Drama Club. (We have a talented producer who writes our plays). We belong to the League of Friends of Barnstaple hospitals and help to serve teas at the Annual Hospital Fayre, and two afternoons each month we serve in the Hospital Shop at the North Devon Infirmary for the benefit of visitors, patients and nursing staff. Up to two years ago I belonged to a badminton club, but reluctantly now I have had to give that up!

PHEIDIPPIDES

Pheidippides, the Rectory dog and one of Caversham's best-known four-legged friends, died on May 31 at the age of rather over fourteen years. He came to the Rectory from the stray dogs home at Bracknell when a puppy of about six months and because of his habit of running great distances whenever the Rectory door got left open was named Pheidippides after the first Marathon runner. On one occasion a phone call at 1am from a member of the staff of Securicor roused the Rector from his bed to fetch him home.

In later years he became more sedate and accepted with surprising equanimity the arrival of a kitten when he was nine years old, though he continued to resent the appearance of any other dog on the opposite bank of the river and delighted to chase squirrels. Although never actually confirmed he attended more than 150 sessions of adult confirmation groups during his life and seemed to regard himself as an ex-officio member (under the dining room table) of the editorial board of this newspaper. The friendly wag of his tail will be sadly missed by many callers at the Rectory.

WELL DONE!



— Walton Adams

Mrs Sue Purver, wife of the Caversham Bridge "lay out specialist," has won the F. H. Lewis prize. This is awarded to a student at the Reading College of Technology who achieves the highest distinction of the year in receiving some National Award — in this case the Higher National Certificate for Business Studies. Congratulations.

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ST PETER'S DAY

We publish this month photographs of gatherings in what was then the Vicarage Garden at the time of the patronal festival in the days before the first war. At that time the garden extended along to Buck Side and did not go down to

the riverbank. Clock golf seems to have been a popular feature at these gatherings. Prominent in two of the photographs is the Rev C. W. E. Cleaver who was then vicar. Can any of our readers identify any of the other figures?

ST PETER'S DAY

at

ST PETER'S

Wednesday, June 29, 7.30pm

Parish Communion
concelebrated by the clergy of the parish

Preacher:
The Rev Stephen Bartlett

Refreshments will be served after the service and a farewell presentation made to The Rev and Mrs S. Bartlett

★ ★ ★
7.30am Holy Communion



■ 1969 A more recent photograph on St Peter's Day eight years ago showing the change in the Rectory Garden.



■ 1911 In these days strawberries and cream were always served at the garden party.



■ 1913



■ 1914

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FROM CAVERSHAM
PARISH MAGAZINE.
JUNE 1911.

Vicarage Garden Party
The Vicar and Mrs Cleaver most cordially invite all Churchwardens on Thursday June 29th (St Peter's Day) from 4.30 to 7.30pm. Invitations will be sent, but it is possible that some may accidentally be overlooked. If so, let such people please consider themselves as much invited as if they had been formally asked, and pardon the omission.

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PEACE TO YOU

CHRISTIANS SEEM AT A LOSS NOWADAYS when confronted with the invitation at the Eucharist to enact the oldest ceremony of all (apart from Baptism and the Breaking of Bread). 'Greet one another with a holy kiss' would seem to me to be a ceremonial injunction on the part of St Paul — not just an exhortation to friendliness. Is not every expression of friendship — and lovemaking — a ceremonial action — a symbol of the reality thus expressed?

□□

Yet the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark forbade in his diocese any tactual expression of friendship — thus putting into precept the English fear of any bodily contact. (Might it not happen that sex would rear its ugly head? — and the English, of course, have nothing to do with what is strangely called 'sex'.) The same is true of a number of Anglican 'Family Communion' I can think of — the giving of the Pax by the priest to the congregation is followed by fumbling around in pockets for the collection, or by preparing for the Offertory procession, or by searching for the next hymn but not by greeting their neighbours.

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by Canon A. S. Boulton
Rural Dean of Reading

We reprint this month from the Oxford Diocesan Magazine an article by Canon Boulton explaining why it is important that we should revive one of the oldest pieces of Christian ceremonial.

Compare this apparent frigidity (which is in many cases only apparent, not real) with the Pax at the weekly Mass of the Pentecostalist Community of Celebration, now alas largely removed from our midst in this Diocese. There the giving of the Pax and the embracing of the congregation goes on ... and on ... and on ... and on.

□□

So it seemed worthwhile to think about some simple principles involved in the Pax at the Eucharist. First, what does it symbolise? It symbolises the unity that the congregation have in Christ. I would hesitate to say, as some do, that it is a symbol of the unity of mankind, or of the unity of all Christians in Christ. After all, we have discovered that unity demands a meeting of neighbours and cannot be imposed from on high by authority. We start from where we are. On Sunday morning we are with a collection of dissimilar people, not just our family, or our house groups or our club, yet people nonetheless who are closer to us than even our own flesh and blood — for we share in the flesh and blood of Christ. Even in our own house group, where we have opened our hearts to one another, there is still inevitably a reserve, for no one can fully bridge the gap between you and me. So we express symbolically that Christ — the Christ whom we are about to receive — unites us in him, and if there are difficulties in the way, we must first remove them. Secondly, how is it symbolised? I would suggest

by 'doing' what comes naturally. Greet one another with a holy kiss — the kiss would be the normal method of greeting — but this was a holy one — signifying and representing union in Christ. To most people in our country, the clasping of hands is the normal unaffected greeting, but in this case it is a holy handclasp, signifying and representing union in Christ — and even in marriage, it is a handclasp that English custom demands in order to signify union in one flesh. So while the Community of Celebration may do one thing and Benedictine monks may do another, it would seem right that English parishioners should clasp hands.

□□

To be at its most natural, I believe that this handclasp should be done by everyone at the same time. A succession of handshakes along a line smacks of a party game. Better that people greet their neighbours who stand around, rather than wait for 'something' to come along. It also would seem that we need go no further than our neighbours (although there are obvious exceptions to this one). After all, for everyone to shake hands with everyone would become intolerable for a fair-sized congregation, and would be embarrassing for the elderly or handicapped. Your neighbour, as in the Lord's own command, represents everyone, and in expressing your unity with your neighbours you are expressing your unity with everyone. This is a ceremony, yet as

with all ceremonies, it must symbolise reality. To shake hands with your neighbour in church and to ignore him afterwards would seem a hollow mockery.

□□

Thirdly, when is it done? The Roman Missal has always had this rite immediately before Communion, and of course until recently the ceremonial at High Mass stopped short of the congregation, Series 2 and 3 have followed another equally ancient tradition of giving the Pax before the Offertory. I venture to think that psychologically and liturgically we Anglicans are right. The Ministry of the Word over, together we approach the table of the Lord. I am only sorry that it might seem that the Pax follows upon the General Confession. Of course it is a sign that we are reconciled with our neighbours — but it is much more than that. Series 3 rightly attaches it to the Eucharistic action itself. If only the penitential section came at the beginning of our worship instead of being sandwiched between the two proclamations of Christ in word and Sacrament.

□□

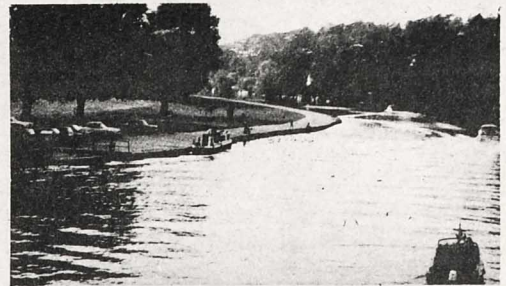
At St Giles', having begun the practice, we had for some time an anti-Pax group that huddled together for protection — but in time even they began to greet each other. I knew that it had taken root when one Sunday morning as I dropped into the back of the congregation a West Indian girl teenager shook hands with me perfectly naturally at the right time. God grant that she and I may both grow in our union with Christ and in Him with each other.

NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL READING 1977

The National Waterways Festival is to be held on the Thames at Reading on August 12th, 13th and 14th. The last time a National Rally was held in the South-East of England was in 1970 at Guildford. Reading Borough Council has readily agreed to the festival site at Richfield Avenue to be used for this purpose. The Thames Water Authority have agreed to allow moorings up to 35 feet from the bank and this will allow attractive moorings to be laid out, including bows-on mooring for shorter craft. On the Richfield Avenue Festival site will be the arena for land-based displays and entertainments.

AIMS OF THE FESTIVAL

The festival will have many objects, not least being to draw attention to the aims and campaigns of the IWA. Of particular local interest will be the publicity for the restoration work in progress on



The rally site at Reading.

the Kennet and Avon Canal. In addition, other restoration projects, including the work being carried out on the Basingstoke Canal, will be highlighted.

It is hoped for a hot-air balloon ascent to be made and a helicopter to make pleasure flights. The festival site will include several static exhibition and trade tents. It is anticipated also that various canal societies will mount exhibition and sale stands. Rural crafts are to have a prominent place on the site.

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CAVERSHAM'S STEAMERS

It was in 1813 that the first steam boat sailed past Caversham on the Thames, quite a number of years before the steam train came to Reading. But it was not until the 1880s that the general public discovered the pleasures of boating in a big way, although regattas had been held as far back as the 1830s and before. By the late 19th century many boat builders all along the Thames had begun to produce steam launches as they were called, but often termed as steamers. The late Mr Arthur Cawston and his father before him had a local boat-building and hiring business where they made steam launches as well as other craft. Many Caversham people will remember some of these pleasure boats — the River Queen, built in 1896, the Majestic and the three smaller boats, Eclipse, Starlight and Mystery, all built by the Cawstons. When I visited Mrs Cawston recently she was not sure whether any of these craft actually took part in the great Armada of little ships that evacuated Dunkirk in 1940. She did tell me that not many years ago she was delighted to see

one of the three smaller launches still in use on the Avon at Stratford.

Often the steamers were hired by organisations for the yearly outing and indeed pictures of the Sunday School have already been published setting forth on one such trip. Huntley and Palmers, too, arranged works outings on the Thames, and many of those who went were picked up by horse-drawn coach and taken to the Promenade where they embarked.

Caversham to Tilehurst 2½p return

For six old pence you could have an evening on the Thames to Tilehurst and back. Very often as the boat turned round for home young boys would appear on the tow path and run along the bank cart-wheeling and doing hand-stands, keeping pace with the steamer and panting at the moorings in Caversham to receive pennies from the passengers as they alighted. I have been told that these lads ran on as far as Sonning when the steamer continued on her way. If so, it was

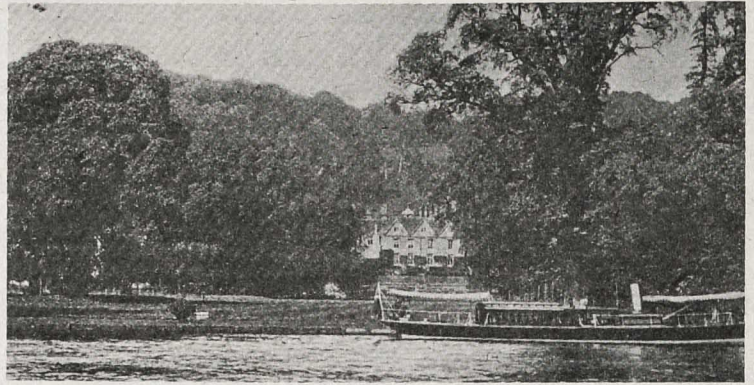
quite some feat of endurance.

Often there was music on board and in the fine, hot summer weekends of the 1930s the steamers were packed with people. You chose your seat carefully if you could for a long-distance cruise, though, as the funnel was lowered before passing under each bridge and smuts blew all over you if you were sitting in the wrong position.

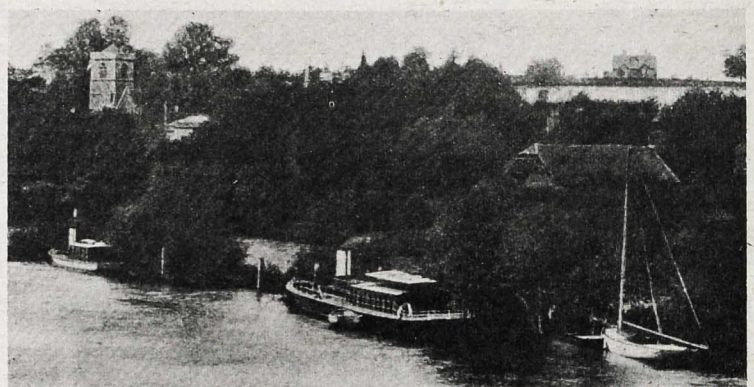
There was also another well-known Caversham riverside family, the Freebodies, who also hired out boats where the two new blocks of flats have now been built. Also on the Caversham bank was the well-known firm of Thorneycrofts who made marine engines.

Salter's Steamers, too, passed by Caversham and still do. Some have been in use for over 70 years. The Sonning was built in 1902, the Henley is even older, and the Goring and Marlow are both pre-1914.

Many are the tales these steamers could tell and many are the memories that some people in Caversham still have of the happy times spent on them years long since gone. — M.K.



■ Hardwicke House, near Mapledurham



■ A steamer moored at Buckside. Note the clean white of the chalk pit on St Peter's Hill, and the lone pair of houses above it.

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TALKING POINT

BY THE REV. LESLIE DAVIES
READING HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

WE HAVE RECENTLY COME TO CAVERSHAM. IT ONLY MEANT MOVING JUST OVER THREE MILES FROM OUR PREVIOUS RESIDENCE, but it could have been very strange if it were not for the fact that I knew that within a mile of our new home there would be four clergy colleagues, three people who work for the same "firm" and quite a few friendly ex-patients. I was not conscious of anything I wanted from them, or for them to do for me, and I certainly had no intention of inflicting myself on them. In fact, I have hardly seen them, yet it made a world of difference that they were there, within reach.

This brings out this concept of BELONGING, which I believe to be one of the most important aspects of human life. I try to make this an underlying principle of my ministry in hospital, in my relations with both staff and patients.

We belong to a nation, a community, a neighbourhood, a firm we work for. I hope that you are proud to belong to them. Then I am conscious that many of you who may read this will belong to a church, a local one, which is part of a greater company which in turn makes us members of the whole great family of God, and I hope that you are all proud of this, too.

To most of us, to be a Christian it means a real commitment but what about those who are not committed, who are sometimes described as

being "on the fringe"?

I suppose that because of the nature and scene of my ministry, I spend more time with people in this category than most

to be alone. I belong to Caversham, to the Church, to the human race. I was hoping you would ask how can we foster this sense of

What happened? asked his wife. "Oh someone spoke to the dog" was his reply. "So what," retorted the pessimistic lady. The husband was hopeful. "Now that they have started, they may talk to me tomorrow."

The starting point of belonging is a friendly smile, a greeting, but most of all a willingness to listen. Most of you will be so much better at listening than we clergy are. We are always talking, but it has all to do with belonging to someone and to someone, and caring for everyone.

'I BELONG'

of my colleagues, and in my book they are somebody, and "we belong".

The Bridge Scheme

A couple of days ago, I read an article which dealt with the needs of patients being discharged from hospitals, and your Bridge Scheme was praised and quoted as an excellent example of a method of meeting various human needs. It is not in my field to encourage more to participate in this excellent service, on the contrary what often concerns me is the reticence that those with real need have to accept such a service when it is readily available.

The majority of the population will not be involved in giving a service of this kind, and I sincerely hope they will never be in any great need of it. But practical material help is not everything. There is something deeper than that. That is a need felt, at times, by the poor and the affluent and especially the stranger and lonely. You see, the greater growth of the community, where so many people become unknown, forgotten and lost.

We should never feel, especially as Christians

belonging? I remember an incident in a play about a retired couple who had moved to a new town. They were complete strangers and not very happy, but one day the man came home from his walk with his dog greatly encouraged.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Busy week in July. Important events take place on three successive July evenings. On July 19th the Confirmation Anniversary Service will be held in St Peter's. The Bishop of Reading was unable to come on the date of the actual anniversary of last year's confirmation but it is hoped, however, that all who were confirmed in 1976 will be able to attend the service at 7.30pm that evening. The following day is St Margaret's Day and after the Parish Communion at St Margaret's that evening a farewell presentation is to be made to Michael and Christine Kitchener. Then the next night 100 seats are available in Chalgrove Parish Church for those who will be going from Caversham to the institution of Stephen Bartlett.

Diamond Jubilee. On June 3rd the Rev Herbert Harry Smith celebrated the diamond jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Living now in retirement at 22 Eastgate, Lincoln, he was once a choir boy at St John's. He spent many years of his ministry in the West Indies. He would be delighted to hear from anyone in Caversham who may remember him.

Mother's Union. Members of the different branches in the parish filled two coaches for an outing, organised by Mrs Rosemary Stringer, to Littlecote manor, an interesting Tudor House with many Cromwellian relics. Members enjoyed their visit there despite a not very warm and dry May day.

ST PETER'S NEWS

The redecoration of St Peter's is proceeding well, though it has become apparent that it is unlikely to be completed by St Peter's Day. The cleaning of the walls has taken longer than expected: some areas were so dirty that it was necessary to go over them five times before any painting could take place, but each Sunday the congregation are able to note the week's progress and when finished the interior of the church will clearly be very much lighter. A considerable number of men, as well as some ladies, are giving generously of their time to this work.

ST MARGARET'S DAY

at
ST MARGARET'S
Wednesday, July 20, 7.30pm
Parish Communion

Preacher:
The Rev Dr Michael Kitchener

Refreshments will be served after the service and a farewell presentation made to the Rev and Mrs M. Kitchener.

ST PETER'S AND ST BARNABAS' MOTHERS' UNION

During April members heard an interesting talk by a probation officer. With so much violence and damage to private property in the news these days, everybody asked questions as regards punishment, and most people approved of the scheme wherein delinquents have to work for the good of the community in their leisure time.

The Rev Stephen Bartlett's talk on the Christian experience of death gave everybody something to ponder over.

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

Youth entertain the elderly — The St Andrew's Youth Group held a party for the senior citizens of the district on Sunday, May 15, in the Church Hall. The young people managed to put together a wide range of entertainments which were enjoyed by all present. These included a flute recital, conjuring tricks and poetry readings, all of which demonstrated some of the group's hitherto unknown talents.

This was followed by afternoon tea, thanks to the organisation by the girl members without whom disaster could not have been avoided.

During the afternoon young and old took the opportunity to chat together on many topics. It was delightful to see so many members of the community helping with this venture, and special thanks must go to Mr John Gazzard and Mr Michael Conniford.

The Mothers' union — On May 25, the Deanery Festival Service, the highlight of the year for members of the Mothers' Union, was held at St Mary's in the afternoon. In the morning those who were lucky enough to be free and see the really thrilling Centenary film in St Laurence's Hall were inspired by the work and fellowship of M.U. members all over the world. Coming events include a talk by Sister Ella Mary on July 5 in St Andrew's Hall at 2.45pm.

ST JOHN'S NEWS

May Fair — The Deputy Mayor of Reading, Mrs Kathleen Sage, opened St John's second May Fair in the church

CHURCH NEWS

grounds on Saturday, May 28, in brilliant weather, when upwards of 600 people came through the gates during the afternoon and a sum of £420 was raised towards the cost of future improvements to the church.

This year an additional attraction was a Jubilee stall offering a variety of souvenirs, with Union Jacks which were soon fluttering merrily in the hands of many of the children there. There was also a Fancy Dress Competition for the children during the afternoon. These, added to the customary stalls and sideshows, with teas served in Caversham Hall, made up the recipe for one of those friendly gatherings once so much part of St John's District life but now sadly all too infrequent.

Again, as last year, the event was splendidly organised by Margaret Horne with a band of helpers — young and not-so-young — who all worked hard both before and on the day to make it the social and financial success it undoubtedly was and, not least, speedily and willingly cleared away the debris and tidied everything up afterwards.

Mothers' Union — At their April meeting members were entertained by the Summer-down Singers in a delightful and varied programme. They particularly appreciated the fact that one of their favourites was included — "All In An April

BAPTIST NEWS

The Members of the Baptist Church were saddened by the sudden passing after a short illness of Mrs Rose Perkins. Before her marriage to Rev F. C. M. Perkins she worked with the National Children's Homes, and after her marriage she was much used in the Churches where he ministered, eventually coming to this area when her husband became Minister of Henley Baptist Church. When he became ill they moved to Peppard, where Mrs Perkins gave herself to work amongst the smaller churches in the area. In recent years she has been a member of Caversham Baptist Free Church where her loving and caring personality has been seen as she served as Secretary of the Women's Own. She was always interested in the wider Baptist scene and in April represented the Church at the Baptist Union Annual Assembly at Nottingham. Her gracious personality will be remembered by the many whose lives she touched, and her love and enthusiasm for Jesus Christ were an inspiration to all who knew her.

Evening".

The Flower Service, on May 24, was conducted by the Rev John Sumner. This was an open meeting and members welcomed ladies from the Baptist Church. The service was followed by tea in Caversham Hall.

ST BARNABAS' NEWS

Saturday, May 28, was one of those hot days when chocolate biscuits melt in the sun and margarine threatens to turn to liquid. It was also the day of the Emmer Green Scout fete at which St Barnabas' Overseas Group had their traditional 10p-a-go-see-what-you-win stall. Though the fete was not so well attended as it has been in previous years — possibly because of a rival fete just up the road at Highdown School — the Overseas Group raised a magnificent £45 which will be sent to St Lucy's Hospital in the Transkei. But thanks are especially due to the generosity of all who gave items for this stall — nearly 500 of them! Well done all round!

Welcome to Peter and Anne Sear. Ascension Day was not only the occasion when the seven newly-confirmed members of the congregation made their first communion but also provided an opportunity for the congregation to gather in the hall after the evening Eucharist to welcome socially their new priest-in-charge and his wife. Ample refreshments, including iced cakes bearing mes-

sages of welcome, and a good humoured informal evening bore witness to the warmth with which the congregation welcome Peter and Anne Sear into their midst.

The Playgroup lives on — The Playgroup is dead, long live the Playgroup! For some years St Barnabas' Playgroup has provided a valuable contribution to the young life of Emmer Green. In recent years this has been due to a large extent to the enthusiasm and sheer hard work of Mrs Sylvia Potter. But now Sylvia has felt the need to give up this work and devote her energies elsewhere, and it looked as though the Playgroup would

come to a sad end.

Some of the mums involved got together with Sheila Edgson of Social Services and Elizabeth Long of the Pre-school Playgroups' Association to see what they could do to save their playgroup. A committee has been formed to get things moving; St Barnabas' priest-in-charge, Peter Sear, was pressed into being chairman of this otherwise female preserve, and things are already looking much brighter for Emmer Green's tots. The Playgroup plan to employ a supervisor for the future and it should be business as usual when the Playgroup re-opens after its summer break.

ST JOHN'S DAY

at
ST JOHN'S
Friday, June 24, 7.30pm

Parish Communion
Preacher:
The Rev John McKechnie
(Vicar of St John's, Reading)
Refreshments will be served after the service
* * *
7.30am Holy Communion

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NO METHODIST NEWS

We regret that at the time of going to print no news has been received from either Caversham or Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Young Caversham

"JUBILEE"! A word we have heard often enough this year, and while I am writing, a lot of activities are going on in Caversham, and indeed, elsewhere. The origin of the word goes way back to the time of Moses. My little 'Gem' dictionary tells me the term denotes a fiftieth anniversary; also a time for rejoicing. Nowadays we tend to think of a Jubilee as almost any convenient round-figure celebration, but if we look up Leviticus, Chapter 24, we read that God said to Moses on Mount Sinai that he should inform the people that they "shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you" ... Every 7th year was a Sabbatical Year,

when all field work stopped and the produce of sections of the land was given to the poor; but 7 times 7 was extra special, and after the 49



by Peter Shock

years had passed, the ensuing year was the time for the heralding of the trumpets. Jews who were in bondage with their masters were dis-

charged; mortgaged ground was returned, and overworked land was rested. Even in those times labourers had a right to land, liberty and happiness, if the landlords could be induced not to flout the command.

JUBILEE APPEAL

Now, in 1977, we are celebrating Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second's 25th Jubilee, and people throughout the land are getting involved in the Silver Jubilee Appeal. This has been launched by Prince Charles (as Prince of Wales) to enable the whole nation to express its affection for the Queen, and its gratitude for her service. It enables everyone in the Realm to show their thankfulness for the past and to benefit in the future.

The Trust, which has been entitled The Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust, will aim at helping young people to help others. The ideal is that every boy and girl should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. The activities to be supported will cover many fields, including work in hospitals, service to the aged, disabled, immigrants, conservation, rescue, life-saving and other adventure activities.

It is felt that young people with the initiative and potential skills for voluntary work should not be hampered through lack of funds. Local youth organisations should get in touch with their local youth district office if they have plans or ideas which would benefit the less able section of the community. Other societies wishing to become involved in the fund-raising side (which will be fully supported by the Appeal Trust) should get in touch at once with Mrs Sue Haigh, Administrator, Youth Involvement Committee, Devonshire Street House, 30 Devonshire Street, London W1. This is the great chance for young people to play an essential part in serving the needs of today, with a spirit of adventure in family, nation and beyond!

MAGGIE BATES

I would like to tell you about Maggie Bates. She was a teenager towards the end of the 1920's and early 30's, and lived in a modest little cottage in Briant's Avenue, Lower Caversham. She was 'nurse-girl' at Caversham Council Junior School (now Thameside) when Mrs Webb was headmistress. Maggie was well-known to everyone in that part of Caversham in those days.

She would willingly run errands for her neighbours, and look

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

JUBILEE SPORTSMEN

Between June 6 and July 6 16 Reading sportsmen will be competing against each other in a dozen different sports with the aim of becoming the Reading Jubilee Sports Superstar. The standard of competition and performance was very high in the preliminary competition which selected the 16, so that the Final is going to be a very keen and tough competition to win.

Two young men, both living in Luscombe Close, Caversham, both schoolmasters and both sharing the name Graham, are among the finalists.

Graham SWATRIDGE is 25 years old and a very good all-round competitor who finished third in the preliminaries. He is a physical education master at Bulmershe School, Woodley, and has a very wide range of sporting achievements to his credit. An FA soccer coach he has played for Salisbury in the semi-professional Southern League and also for St Luke's College (Exeter) in the Western League whilst during the 1975/76 season he was coach/manager to the Reading Schools' team. At school in Wiltshire he was county captain at rugby and an under-15 trialist.

He has not neglected his rugby and has been playing for Abbey Rugby Club for two



Stan Eldon

years and also been a regular Berkshire County representative during that time. In 1975 he toured Canada as coach to the Berkshire Gymnastic team and still is a very active area coach in this sport, listing coaching of this sport as his favourite interest. His list of sporting activity is endless, having been a county representative at cricket and athletics and represented his college at basketball and badminton as well.

On the coaching scene he has toured America and Canada coaching an assortment of sports, and at home has taught everything in sport from water polo to squash. Although Graham describes himself as a sports fanatic he does have other interests. He is a qualified youth and community leader, and has sung with one or two local pop groups. He modestly hopes to finish in the top half of the Skillmaster Final, but with such a background it will take a very good competitor to beat him.

One of his rivals is the man he shares a home with — Graham LYKE — a year older at 26 and a maths master at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common. He started his sporting career at Hereford Cathedral School and continued when he came to Reading University. At school he was captain of rugby and cricket, and also took part in volleyball, fives and athletics. He played for the Herefordshire under-19 cricket team and had county trials for both Herefordshire and Worcester-shire.

At the university he played both cricket and rugby and during 1970/73 he occasionally captained the 1st XV. He now plays for Reading Rugby Club being vice-captain of the 1st XV for the last two seasons and has continued his cricket with Maiden Erleigh Cricket Club. Like his rival above he is looking forward to a tough, friendly competition, and expects a few light-hearted moments. He is, by his own definition, an almost non-swimmer and therefore has to score as many points as possible away from the pool.

With two such great competitors amongst the 16 finalists, the success of the first Reading Skillmaster Competition is assured.

The Final at Palmer Park on July 6 will be a very entertaining sporting evening. The contestants will be competing in a 100m Sprint and 800m Steeplechase, Archery, Golf, Cycling, Rugby and Football Goal scoring, having previously taken part in Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Bowls and Gymnasium events. On the same evening there will be some Schools' Athletics taking place also. As the whole event is in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, we hope as many people as possible will turn up to support this special occasion.

after young children while mothers had to go shopping. She would take the tots for walks, and she was never happier than when she was with children. I know, because I was one of the little beasts she lovingly cared for.

In my early years I lived almost opposite Maggie, and often visited her house. Her mother was very kind, but I was a little afraid of her father, because he was very stern. I think I might have told a little untruth on one occasion, as I remember him saying to me, that if I tell a lie again, he will pull my teeth out! (I still have my own teeth although my name is not George Washington!).

After a few years, Maggie moved to Tilehurst with her parents and sister Betty. She then married Bob May, one of the sons of a well-known Caversham family, and they had two children, Patricia and Michael. They rented a council house in Rodway Road, and were a very happy and contented family.

Then tragedy began to strike; her husband went to war and was reported missing and presumed killed in the North African battles. Her mother

went blind and she felt it necessary to give up her home and go and look after her and her then ageing father; and finally, her sister Betty, a popular clippie on the Thames Valley buses died quite suddenly leaving a son, Brian, who needed the love of a mother.

But Maggie's devotion to her loved-ones never faltered. Now, on May 23rd, that once kind and youthful figure which brought happiness to Lower Caversham departed from this world. Maggie was an example for all.

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CAVERSHAM PARK WI

Mrs Olive Harris presided at the May meeting. Mrs Judy Thrupp gave a short talk on the work and care for the 200 Moderately and Severely Handicapped children at Brookfield School, Tilehurst. Their ages range from 2-16 years old. Members voted in favour that the £46 raised from a jumble sale should go towards the cost of the much-

needed play equipment for the children at Brookfield.

Mrs Esme Boshier gave an interesting account of her visit to Denman College on May 13.

Resolutions for the Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall were outlined and discussed.

The competition — guessing the identity of 12 articles in a sealed linen bag — was won by Mrs Phyllis Colley; sec-

ROUND THE CLUBS

ond Mrs Esme Boshier and Mrs Pauline Young; third were Mrs Elsie Morris and Mrs Linda Rixon.

At the meeting on July 21, Squadron Leader H. Walton will speak on — Partnership in Service for the Elderly.

The competition will be a congratulatory letter on a 100th birthday.

MAPLEDURHAM WI

The president welcomed Mrs Fisher, VCO, who came to the May meeting to help with discussion on the resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall, and Mrs Harrap from Woodcote WI, who is the representative at the AGM for the two institutes.

Mrs B. Robon spoke about the Farm Walk at Shiplake Farm which was attended by members all over the Oxfordshire county. The farmer gave them a talk on the workings of the farm, farm machinery and livestock, and they were conveyed round the fields in two farm carts. Shiplake WI provided an extremely good tea afterwards.

Mrs Butler reported on the outing to London and the visit to the show "Chorus Line".

The President said that it was proposed to hold a Ploughman's lunch in July to raise money for the Jubilee Appeal fund.

EMMER GREEN TG

The Guild has had a busy two months. Members have been entertained by a representative of the Thames and Chiltern Tourist Board who took them on a guided tour of the area, pointing out places of interest and illustrating his talk with slides. At the May meeting Mr Peter Hiley, the editor of the Evening Post, followed up visits made by members of the offices of the newspaper. They had been very impressed by the actual machinery of producing a newspaper and in his talk Mr Hiley gave an insight into the job of an editor and his staff.

The activity groups are meeting regularly to cover a wide variety of topics. The Arts and Crafts group invited Mrs Barnes, a member of the Guild, to demonstrate and talk about the art of collage, and their next meeting is handed over once again to a Guild member when Mrs Bannon will show how awkward containers can be successfully filled with a variety of flowers.

The Social Studies group invited to their meeting an airline pilot who flies jumbo jets; he covered the relatively recent history of flight, his own experiences as a war-time pilot leading up to his flying of jumbo jets. For this month's meeting members visited the Metal Box buildings.

Unfortunately the Ramblers have not had much luck with the weather and many rambles have had to be cancelled; however, from the beginning of June as well as the daytime rambles members are hoping to organise some evening ones.

The drama group worked towards a production on May 25, when they combined with other guilds to present an evening's entertain-

ment in St Andrew's Hall, Caversham Heights.

was also sent to Mrs Ford who had recently had an eye operation.

CAVERSHAM LADIES' CLUB

The Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, welcomed members to the May meeting held at Church House on Thursday, May 12. An invitation to the James Butcher Home at Hayling Island was discussed and arrangements were made for this to be on June 2; tea would be provided at the Home and afterwards a visit to the James Butcher flats at Portsmouth.

Mrs Denne was then introduced to members to whom she read many of her poems which were warmly applauded. She then displayed many articles of Victorian ladies' underwear together with a beautiful christening gown, all of which were hand-made.

A plant, together with a letter of condolence was sent to Mrs Busfield who had recently suffered the loss of her husband. A "get well" card

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TG

Chatter matters and so the Guild held a "get to know you better" fund-raising coffee morning as another Jubilee contribution.

Packaging was the theme of the talk given by Miss Joan Peters of Metal Box when she again met members. Examples of materials and functions showed tin, board, paper, steel and plastics used to protect, preserve and present products for sale. Recycling properties were emphasised and the new Bake in Box and Space-saver containers were demonstrated.

There followed a lively discussion and debate of the motions to be presented at National Conference at Blackpool with members leaving their representative, Mrs Rita Noyes in little doubt as to their feelings on abortion, child-care and capital punishment.

Caversham Shopping Basket

Item	Co-op**	Liptons	Sabre*	Budgens*
Large white sliced loaf	19	21	19½	23
1lb cheapest butter	41	44	42	46
1lb lard	24	22	25	22½
1lb cheapest Cheddar	54	60	50	59
1 dozen standard eggs	44	43	48	44
1lb cheapest bacon	74	52	66	80
1lb cheapest sausages	42	43	42	41½
Packet of 10 Fish Fingers	42	45	40	45
15oz tin baked beans	12½	13½	13½	14
15oz tin soup	13	15	15½	15
1lb frozen peas	35	30	25	35
3lb self-raising flour	22	25	24	24
1lb dried fruit	44	41	47	46
¼lb cheapest tea	25½	25½	29	14½
4oz instant coffee	90	87	1.20	89
Kilo granulated sugar	24½	25½	24	26
500gms cornflakes	25	28½	33	32
¼lb packet biscuits	24	22½	24	24
1lb cheapest marmalade	23	23½	26	28½
Double pack toilet rolls	19	22	18	24
TOTAL	£6.97½	£6.89	£7.31½	£7.33

Compared to last month's total +4% +1% +3% +2%

* Sabre and Budgens give Green Shield Stamps, Sabre double stamps on Tuesdays.

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

The four supermarkets listed here were visited on Friday, May 27, 1977.

This month prices have taken a sharp upward turn nationally, and this is reflected in our local shops.

Tea is the commodity that provides the biggest shock. In November, 1975, when the Shopping Basket began, Liptons tea — the cheapest available — was 10p a quarter. It is now 25½p — a rise of 155%! Budgens still have tea on offer at 14½p. Butter prices are generally down, however.

The shopping Basket will not appear again until September. Let us hope that by then, the prices spiral will have slowed down!

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MAPLEWOOD WI

The President, Mrs K. Bubb, introduced the guest speaker at their April meeting, Mrs Hassal, who gave a very interesting talk on an archaeology. There were many pieces of pottery, knives, etc., some dug out from her own garden, others in Berks, Oxon and Hants.

Easter eggs had been sent to St Benets Home. The monthly competition was "flower of the month". A report was given by Mrs Brandon on the Spring Council meeting of the county WI which was held in Newbury.

BLAGRAVE WI

The resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall were discussed at the May meeting under the able guidance of Mrs Holland, VCO. A request was made for crafts to be sold at Debenhams, London, in October, in aid of the Jubilee Appeal.

A report was given by a member who went on the Royal Train trip to York on April 21 (Queen's birthday), organised by the Berkshire Federation.

The competition for a spray from a flowering shrub was won by Mrs Tilley.

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

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

The Rev Michael Kitchener, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.

The Rev John Sumner, St John's House, 9 Southview Avenue. Tel. 471814.

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

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

BAPTIST

METHODIST

The Rev Leslie Griffiths, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

The Rev Plunkett Shannon, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

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, 4th 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

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

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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

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St Peter's
May 16: Malcolm Hough
Colin Keetch
Helen Milson

St John's
May 29: Graham Tench
Kevin Gough
Ian Gough
Beverley Samuels

St Andrew's
May 15: Barbara Clever
May 29: Caroline Rickards

Caversham Park
March 27: Stephanie Jerome
Marcus Pett
April 10: Iain Parkinson
May 15: Lynn Holbrook
Mark Oxborough

St Anne's
May 1: Caroline Walker
May 14: Daniel Ivey
James Ivey
May 15: Ainhoa
Coruera-Cuadrado

CONFIRMED on May 16 at St Peter's by the Bishop of Reading:

St Peter's
Nigel Aisbitt, Helen Bertram, Sandy Bowcock, James Clark, Neil Eldon, Alistair Holloway, Joanna Longstaffe, Jacqueline McGregor, Juliet Smith, Nigel Smith, Sharon Smith, John Taylor, Andrew Waterson, David Wright.

St John's
Sally Edwards, Janel Griffin, Stuart Griffin, Freda Haines, Patricia Haines, Bruce Honey, Colin Honey, Lorna Honey, Timothy Horne, Matthew Starks.

St Andrew's
Sarah Belcher, Rachel Boulding, Rachel Corder, Edith Eggleton, Stuart Eggleton, Malcolm Hough, Charlotte Ingoldby, Colin Keetch, Jane Morris, Philippa Reed, Louise Smith, Victor Smith.

St Barnabas
Philippa Bousfield, Sonia Fuga, Caroline Giddings, Diana Hawkins, Bridget Hicks, Jacqueline Holloway, Caroline Standing.

St Margaret's
Jessie Banks, Gerald Davies, Juliet Goodenough, Deborah Lindsay, Karen Lindsay.

Caversham Park
Jonathan Chevallier, David Goldsmith, Richard Goldsmith, Amanda Hillier, Helen Milson, Shirley Preston, Kenneth Spring, Dawn Trotman, Lynn Holbrook.

MARRIED

St Peter's
May 28: Dennis Fowler and Wendy Harris, Brian Utley and Anne-Marie Bunce
June 4: Edward Roper and Pauline Bailey, Derrick Williamson and Elaine McInnes

St Andrew's
May 21: Michael Burton and Angeliqve Lyvissianos

St Margaret's
May 7: Robert Symes and Philippa Jones
Caversham Baptist Free Church
May 7: Arthur Purnell and Barbara Green

FUNERALS

St John's
May 12: Leslie Hancock
May 26: Beatrice Hopkins

St Anne's
May 23: Julia Pearce
June 1: Kitty Epstein

Caversham Baptist Free Church
May 13: Rose Perkins

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