

KEEPER OF OUR CIVIC TRADITIONS

Pageantry, pomp and panoply — all these used to be a vital part of the process of government whether national or local, but in these utilitarian days the trappings of public office are often thought not quite democratic, and the badge of office not always regarded as a matter of pride.

But there are still some occasions when our local dignitaries appear in full regalia, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor resplendently robed in scarlet and blue and wearing archaic tricorne hats, followed by the councillors clad more sedately in robes of black. Heading the procession, bearing the burnished golden mace, is Michael Hehir, the mace-bearer, immaculate in tail-coat uniform and shining top hat.

CAVERSHAM RESIDENT

Mr Hehir, who lives in Dovedale Close, Caversham, is much more than the holder of a traditional office. He is deeply involved in the mechanics of Mayorality, along with the Chief Executive and Mayor's Secretary. Acting as body servant, adviser, confidant, general factotum, companion and guardian to some 15 Reading mayors, his responsibilities range from attending on the first citizen at civic functions great and small, to cleaning the civic plate. His day starts at 8am and often goes on until well past midnight.

Mick Hehir was a regular soldier before the war (most of which he spent in a German prisoner of war camp) and on his return he took a post as butler to Lord Buckhurst. After some years in this service he became mace-bearer to Battle Rural District

by Zoilus

Council and from there, in 1962, came to Reading, so he is now approaching a record tenure of the office.

Apart from attending on the Mayor at over 150 functions in a year he acts as butler at most business luncheons and receptions given at the Civic Centre, and has in an emergency been the Mayor's chauffeur.

He will always remember the time he was driving the Mayor's party home from a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace when the ancient Princess limousine, then the official car, wheezed to an unscheduled halt in the London rush-hour traffic. Mick had visions of the Mayor and her escort having to get out and push away down the Cromwell Road, but his Army training came in useful and he was able to clean the carburettor and gingerly coax the car back to Reading. Soon after this the present Daimler was acquired, to the great relief of all concerned.

HANG ON TO THE CHAIN

Another Mayor was about to be ferried across the Thames to a function in Caversham Court when he decided it would be much more fun to paddle over in a canoe. Getting his priorities right, Mick told him: "Alright Mr Mayor, off you go, but give me your chain first — we can always get another Mayor, but we can't afford to lose the chain."

Mr Hehir takes his job seriously, in fact he regards it as a vocation and is rightly jealous of any belittling of the dignity of the office of Mayor or councillor. He is a little sad that during the 15 years he has been in Reading the number of councillors who wear the robe has tended to decrease, as is support for such functions as the church service before the opening of Assizes. He feels — and may well be right — that something important will be lost if town councillors ever come to regard themselves as little more than glorified clerks sitting on a municipal committee.

"What do you think the most important asset for your job," I asked him. "That's a hard one" he replied, "but I'd say it's having an understanding wife!" When you think of the long and anti-social hours he works — there is no trade union for mace-bearers — it is pretty obvious that the Council is in the debt of Mrs Pat Hehir, as well as her husband, Mick Hehir, mace-bearer and upholder of valued tradition.



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The Editor's Column

WORRY

AS I go around Caversham I meet a great many people who in the course of conversation say to me: "I'm so worried about so and so. I had another bad night last night thinking about it." Perhaps such people could be helped if they looked carefully at what our Lord has to say about just this sort of thing.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

In the Sermon on the Mount (St Matthew, Ch. 6, verse 25 and onwards) we find Jesus saying that we are to put away anxious thoughts. He is not forbidding ordinary prudence and He is certainly not arguing for a thoughtless and shiftless attitude to life. But He is forbidding us to adopt the sort of attitude which takes all the joy out of life. And He advances a number of arguments to support what He says.

He begins by reminding us that if God gave us life we can surely trust Him to provide all our lesser needs like food, drink and clothing. But He then goes on to make it quite plain that worry is quite useless: nothing is ever actually achieved by worrying: in fact when we worry we merely waste time and energy and are consequently less able to come to terms with our supposed difficulties. But the most fundamental argument that He produces against worry is that it is essentially distrust in the power of God. When we worry we are in effect saying to God: "You do not seem able to deal with this situation, so I will take over." Worry in fact is really an expression of our disbelief in God himself.

OUR LORD'S SOLUTION

Jesus spells out two ways of defeating worry. The first of these, He says, is to concentrate on the Kingdom of God. "Set your mind on God's Kingdom and His justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well." It was His conviction that when God is the real dominating power in our lives there is no room at the same time for worry. Secondly, He says: "Do not be anxious about tomorrow: tomorrow will look after itself." Once again He is not forbidding ordinary prudence but He is saying that we should handle the demands of each day as they arrive. So much fear is in fact totally needless because our imagination invents situations that cannot possibly occur.

POPE JOHN

I remember as a small boy at the seaside seeing a notice displayed on the beach by a boatman. It said: "Yesterday is dead — forget it. Tomorrow is not here — do not worry about it. Today is here, use. Motor Boat Trips One Shilling — Enjoy one now." And a story is told of Pope John. He used to say that when he woke up in the night worrying he would ask himself: "Now, John, who is running the Church — you or the Holy Spirit?" And then he felt better and dropped off again to sleep. So if you wake up at 2am tomorrow remember how Pope John dealt with the problem — you may also find the prayer at the bottom of this column helpful.

John Grimwade

A PRAYER BY FRANK COLQUHOUN

Heavenly Father, who has taught us to be anxious for nothing, but to cast all our care upon Thee; Increase our faith we beseech Thee, and strengthen our resolve, that with a calm and courageous spirit we may meet all life's duties and demands, and know in daily experience Thy peace which passes all understanding: through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

EDITOR: The Rev Canon J. G. Grimwade
59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel. 471703.

ASST. EDITOR: The Rev B. Gardiner
St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road, Caversham. Tel. 472788

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule
18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel. 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher
8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7AW. Tel. 472660.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. J. Pilgrim
64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel. 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mr H. Hitchman
153 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham. RG4 7JR. Tel. 472542.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Guides companies and Brownie packs in Caversham West District are thriving units, full of girls between the ages of 7-16 years. All ten units which meet in various halls in the district have at least one Guider in charge of the girls but only four of these have a second adult to help.

If anyone is interested, irrespective of whether they have been a member of the movement or not, and would like to give assistance with either the Brownies (ages 7-11 years) or the Guides (ages 10-16) please contact the District Commissioner, Mrs J. Nicol. Tel. 474170.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

Those of us who attend at the Chapel of Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road, read your report on the fund-raising activities and the do-it-yourself renovation work on the chapel with great interest. We are pleased that your correspondent reported this work and that you were good enough to print the news.

However, it is unfortunate that some families were particularly named as helpers, since such a list could only be short and therefore excludes mention of many hard-working volunteers who have given valuable time, energy and money to sustain the entire project. Indeed, the renovation work, and the supporting activities, have involved practically every member of our congregation in one way or another. That has been the joy of this situation. Who can ever judge who has given the most to the cause — the widow's mite has analagous relevance in every experience such as this.

If you wish for names of helpers, I will quote the parish register. But they do not matter — it was a community effort shared by everyone, and we look forward to many more, for we are all the richer for having worked so hard together.

Yours etc.,
John Nelson

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IONA THE ISLE OF PILGRIMAGE



■ The ancient Abbey Church, Iona.

CARE FOR THE DYING

Sue Ryder saw for herself the evils people suffered and endured under the Nazis. She worked with the British Special Operations and

met the heroes, heroines — and sufferers — of Occupied Europe's Resistance. The experience launched her,

immediately after the war, into work among the survivors of battle zones, concentration camps, prisons and so-called "hospitals". Now the Sue Ryder Foundation exists not only to heal those old wounds but also to bring relief to modern-day suffering.

Chief amongst the Foundation's projects are the Sue Ryder Homes. They are homes for the incurably ill. They are founded upon faith and love and they are there to bring peace, purpose and homeliness to the dying. They are supported by volunteers and Sue Ryder herself works voluntarily, even paying her own travelling expenses over 40,000 miles a year.

There are over 70 homes in different countries, and another is planned near Reading — when a suitable building can be found. Last year the Area Health Authority recommended two homes should be established in Berkshire, but they have not the money to do it. So, with the goodwill of the Authority, the Sue Ryder Foundation is trying to fill the need.

In this age when many people are frightened to mention death, let alone face it, the example of homes which bring love and joy to the dying is terribly important. In this age when many hospitals try to conceal the approach and event of death, it is reassuring to find how in these homes death can be faced honestly and openly. In this, each person's value and self-respect is preserved.

If you would like to join a new group to support the Sue Ryder Foundation and thus help the establishment of a home near Reading, please contact Mrs Jennie Tipton, 73 South View Avenue, Caversham. Tel. 474076 (evenings).

I was most fortunate to visit the Isle of Iona this summer with the help of the Kendrick Travel Scholarship. Along with Jacqui Payne I met many other young people, including some from Germany and America, who were attending the Music and Drama Course.

We had only been on the island a few hours when we discovered that friends were being made quickly, and on our first evening we climbed Iona's highest point to watch the sun set and sing madrigals. People were not strangers for long.

by Susan Osbourn

chores that had to be done. The afternoons were left free so folk could do what they wanted, and the things they wanted to do were to explore the island, to hear the corn-crakes, pick wild lilies and orchids. To make music and laughter, and play "Three-legged Football" to the horror of the German boys!

But the opportunity of making new friends and meeting each other was obviously central to all that happened. Each evening after the service there was an organised event like a concert, dance or Kali. The last evening represented the high-point of our week together on that enchanted island. In place of the usual evening worship and after the play produced by the drama group, there was a Communion Service.

Trestle tables covered with white cloths were set up between the choir

stalls in the abbey which was lit by candlelight. The choir sat in an arc around the head of the table and the rest of the congregation sat at the table, in the choir stalls and below the table. The bread and wine were passed from hand to hand down the length of the church, each person receiving communion from his neighbour.

It was indeed a very beautiful and mystical service and at the end we sang a mediaeval chant in three parts. "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" echoed around the darkening abbey again and again, as the congregation filed out into the cloisters. It's hardly surprising that I would like to return next year.

HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE:

St Columba came of a noble Irish family Trained in Irish monasteries, St Columba eventually established himself on Iona along with 12 companions where he remained for 34 years.

THE PRAYER OF COLUMBA

Almighty Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Eternal ever-blessed gracious God,
To me, the least of saints, to me, allow
That I may keep a door in Paradise:
That I may keep even the smallest coldest door,
The furthest door, the darkest coldest door,
The door that is least used, the stiffest door,
If so it be but in Thine house, O God!
If so it be that I can see Thy Glory,
Even afar and hear Thy voice, O God!
And know that I am with Thee — Thee, O God.

AN ANCIENT CHRISTIAN SHRINE

The Abbey of Iona left a very deep impression on all of us by its stark beauty. We worshipped together in the abbey at the beginning and end of every day, and it was there, too, that the music was rehearsed. On one evening the young people were able to conduct the worship themselves.

It felt quite natural to sit on a beach with a group of people, unknown to each other a few days previously, singing hymns and praying together. The bay, said to have been the landing place of St Columba, was visited also during our stay on Iona.

The week was one of contrasts. There were

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MRS EVA SAWYER

It may be imprudent to enquire of a lady her age but Mrs Eva Sawyer of 90 Oakley Road is proof positive that life's span of three score years and ten is a fallacy — with a chuckle she will tell any inquirer that she is well into her second innings.

Mrs Sawyer, a native of Caversham, has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and continues to do so as far as the crippling effects of arthritis permit. She is the senior member of the Baptist Church, having been admitted to membership in 1916. In her younger days she was leader of the Primary Department of the Sunday School and

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— Walton Adams

active in youth work generally — how many middle-aged men can remember her reading *Jungle Stories* to a somewhat unruly Cub pack?

Mrs Sawyer's activities are by no means parochial for whilst she made time to deliver the "Caversham Bridge" in Rotherfield Way until quite recently her great passion is the "Save the Children Fund". It is to this organisation that credit must go for recognising her true worth in that the Reading branch recently appointed her a Life Vice-President.

Her interest in this work started in an innocuous way some 30 years ago when the Reading and District Free Church Women's Council was invited to nominate a representative to the local committee and Mrs Sawyer was "hooked". She continues to support this work within the confines of her home where she is managing director of a cottage industry, the profits from which she donates to the Fund.

Her kitchen doubles as a bakery and a marmalade factory — her rolls are light and airy and

her marmalade delicious — in fact, one of her customers orders his marmalade in half-hundredweight lots.

20th CENTURY DORCAS

Having led such a busy life it is no small wonder that a certain linen tea cloth has taken so long to reach the stage at which it can be used for its intended purpose. The saga of the cloth dates from 1920 when linen and cotton for the crochet edging were bought, the inset corners and one side completed, but alas this 20th century Dorcas had other demands on her time.

Year after year the initial effort was reviewed but little or nothing done until quite recently when interest was re-awakened. Amazingly after so long the pattern could be found, some of the original unused balls of crochet cotton were rediscovered and more were purchased. At the rate of 14 rows per day the cloth was completed in six months — a tribute not only to this good lady's eyesight but to her tenacity of purpose.

CENTENARY PLANS— THE LIVING CHURCH

THE ST PETER'S CENTENARY COMMITTEE is finding that interest is growing rapidly for next year's four-day festival which starts on St Peter's Day, Thursday, June 29.

Miss Kiff has received offers of help from so many directions that it has been decided to mount the greater part of the exhibition of the history of Caversham in Church House, putting

only a small portion of the exhibition together with the Flower Festival in the parish church itself.

Two concerts are planned for the evenings of Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1, and Bishop John Hughes, lately Bishop of Croydon, who conducted a memorable retreat for members of the parish last year, will be the preacher at the special closing ser-

vice on Sunday evening, July 2.

The central committee has chosen as a title for the Festival, the Living Church, looking back to the Victorians of 1978 and forward into the future through the many groups actively involving the church in the life of the community in 1878 and beyond. Sub-committees have been established and are progressing with their work.

THE LYNCH-WATSONS ARE AT CAVERSHAM PARK

GRAHAM AND JANE LYNCH-WATSON WITH THEIR CHILDREN Frances (14), and Sam (11), move into Caversham Park Church House this month.

Graham, who comes from Richmond, further down the river, read Theology at King's College, London, from 1952-56, after two years' National Service and two years gaining some experience of industry and commerce.



He was ordained in 1956 and his first curacy was at All Saints', New Eltham. After four years he crossed the river into the London Diocese where he was

curate at St Mary the Boltons, Kensington. It was there that he met Jane, who, after reading English at St Andrew's University, Fife, was teaching in a Roman Catholic school in Notting Hill Gate.

They moved from their first home, a flat in Kensington, in 1963 to a parish off the Old Kent Road, where Graham was Vicar of St Bartholomew's, North Camberwell. They remained south of the river when Graham became Vicar of St Barnabas', Purley, Surrey, in 1967, where he has been since then.

Jane has done various part-time jobs since marriage including GCE exam marking, coaching, working in Debenhams and

writing five books. She is hoping to find work in Reading.



Graham and Jane share an interest in the theatre and enjoy walking (just as well as they haven't a car!) Graham is also a Fulham FC supporter, which causes some friction in the family as Sam follows West Ham. However, they both agree that now they will join forces and start cheering for Reading.

Graham writes: "How much we look forward to coming back across the river to join the team ministry in Caversham. We would be grateful for your prayers as this new chapter opens for us."



Talking Point by PETER SEAR

THE STATUS RACE

ANY DAY NOW THEY START DROPPING THROUGH OUR LETTERBOXES AND STARING AT US OUT OF THE PAGES OF "RADIO TIMES".

They are the holiday brochures and adverts trying to lure us to far-away, exotic places. They promise us broken hours of sunshine by day, excitement, and fun by night, safe bathing for the children, beautiful girls in the briefest of bikinis to feast the eye.

COMING TO BOGNOR?

"Where shall we go to this year, dear? Torremolinos, or how about Jamaica for a change? ... You don't really want to go to Bognor, do you?"

I once heard of a girl who went abroad for her holiday for what was a rather odd reason. Secretly she dreaded the idea; she was afraid she would dislike the food, she couldn't speak the language, in fact she would have preferred to go to a holiday camp in England. So why go abroad? — she thought it would sound better when the people at the office asked her where she had been. She could tell them she'd been on the Continent.

Perhaps you think she was a bit silly. But in one way or another we all do it — we don't like to be left behind in the status-race. We want to keep abreast of the Joneses — or better still, overtake them. It becomes something of an obsession. We want to stand out from the crowd.

Not that we seem to change much. When Jesus was around He noticed how people were always trying to get the best seats where everyone would notice them. So He told them a story. When you are asked to a wedding don't sit down at the top table. Someone more important may be coming along later, and you'll look silly when you have to give up your place. You can just imagine them — rather pompous, tubby men, jostling each other, politely of course, to get to the best seats, so that they can later tell their wives who they were sitting next to at dinner.

So why do we try to assert ourselves in the status-race? Perhaps we

want to be a "somebody", not just any Tom, Dick or Harry. We don't want to be faceless, a statistic in a computer. We want to have made our mark in life.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

We are, says Jesus, Children of God; Brothers and Sisters together in the Family of Man. In a family we can accept each other as we are. There may be friendly rivalry at times, but we don't spend all our time thinking how we can do each other down.

Perhaps it's a little idealistic to dream of a world where we don't just think of people as contestants in a status-race (and its near neighbour, the rat-race) where the crown for the winner is a coronary, but as Brothers and Sisters of a Family. Why spend all our effort to keep up with the Joneses — only to find when we get there that the Joneses have already moved on?

An idealistic dream? — but worth a try, wouldn't you think.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Members listened to Mrs Patrick speaking on "Nutrition and Slimming" and hopefully took her advice to heart to get trim for their summer holidays. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Johnson.

The Arts and Crafts group invited a member of the guild, Mrs Gillings, to talk to them on Patchwork, while Social Studies group visited the Museum of Rural Life at Reading University.

During the summer break when the guild does not normally meet, a Garden Party was arranged; a member kindly lent her garden and the weather proved just as kind in this changeable summer. There were sideshows and stalls and later dancing, and £25 was raised to send to the Reading Jubilee Fund.

In September Mr D. Gardiner, a crime prevention officer attached to the Reading division of the Thames Valley Police, talked on the "Prevention of Crime", concentrating on home safety. Members found his talk and film of great interest and took to heart his advice that we need to be our own crime prevention officers. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Klein.

After their summer break the activity groups resumed a full programme: the Arts

and Crafts group have visited Burchetts Green for a cookery demonstration, "Cook for Tomorrow". The drama group are busy rehearsing a play to produce for the Reading Ladies' Club later this year, while the Social Studies group listened to Mr Barnsley from Reading Fire Brigade who talked on fire prevention and the work of the fire brigade in general.

Once again the weather has been against the Ramblers and many of their planned walks have been rained off.

Caversham Park Women's Institute

Floral decoration was the theme of the September meeting, Mrs Thelma Castle, one of our own members, gave a most colourful talk and demonstration on Artificial Flower making and arrangement using natural woodland foliage, grasses, feathers, ribbon and silk.

Members were delighted in coming third with their entry in the Reading Show, in the Class — Staging a song title, A Windmill in Old Amsterdam was the choice. The President, Mrs Olive Harris, congratulated and thanked Mrs Elsie Morris, Mrs Linda Rixon, Mrs Hilda Adair and Mrs Els Knight for the work and

effort they put into this achievement.

The competition for a home-made artificial flower was won by Mrs Betty Atherton with Mrs Phyllis Colley second and Mrs Linda Rixon third.

At the meeting on November 17 Mrs Allaway will give a talk with slides on Spinning and Weaving. The competition will be a pair of hand-knitted bedsocks.

Caversham Community Association

On August 22 the Summer Fair was held at the Adult Centre. It was decided to hold this indoors as the weather was rather dull, but both visitors and stallholders enjoyed the evening and voted it a success.

The members divided into teams on September 5 to take part in a "quiz" evening. The subjects ranged from questions on historical dates to cookery terminology.

The following Monday evening a coach trip was made to London. A courier was waiting at Kensington to board the coach and gave a very interesting commentary on the places seen on the tour. The driver was able to use roads too busy to linger on in the daytime and informed the members that 38 miles had been covered on the drive around the capital.

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BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

September was a month full of activity at the Baptist Church. The annual Church Outing was held on September 10, and two coaches of friends visited Dodding-ton House. Whilst the weather was rather cold there was much to see in the House and Carriage Museum, and many of the younger folk enjoyed the children's adventure area.

All agreed that it had been a very happy day. On the following Saturday the Sunday School held a Sports and Field Day at Emmer Green, and refreshments were served at the Youth and Community Centre.

Sunday, September 18, saw the baptism in church of Sally Ann Ousley. It was fitting that the service was conducted by the Rev Laurence Stevens, for Sally Ann had grown up in the Church family during his ministry at Caversham. The large congregation rejoiced with Sally Ann and her family as she made her witness.

Harvest Supper took place on September 24 and involved a return to Emmer Green, for it took the form of a Barn Dance, and was held at the Youth and Community Centre. Over 100 enjoyed dancing, or watching, and men from the Diaconate surprised the assembled company by producing a three-course meal for everyone, with the help of a Baby Belling and a hotplate.

On the Sunday the Harvest Services were conducted by Rev D. Trussell and Rev W. O. Jones. The morning service included items from the Beginners and Primary, and from the Senior Department, and the evening service included music from the Youth group.

Amongst those returning to full-time study this autumn was Richard Shield to Durham University. Martin Beek has started at the Exeter College of Art, and Steve Watson at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Whilst there is no news of any settlement of the Pastorate the members have been glad to welcome Rev Arthur Gray as Moderator. Mr Gray, who was Minister of the Baptist Church at Cowes, I.O.W., retired earlier this year and has settled in Reading. Until a new minister is installed he will be exercising pastoral oversight and conducting services on two Sundays each month.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL 1977 — There are a number of very important dates in the calendar to punctuate the year and to measure its progress. There are, for example, the New Year, Easter, Lent and Christmas, but for many the most pleasant of these "milestones" is autumn with Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival. Generally, this time of the year is so pleasant, the summer heat over and cool, dry, sunny days promising winter to come.

Outdoor jobs are completed, log piles

full, gardens tidy. Frost in the mornings hint of the winter with time necessarily spent indoors on maintenance tasks or reading, wind, rain or snow, cosily outside. This is a season between seasons, with time to thank God for his continuing love in providing fruits and food for His earth and people.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church enjoyed their Harvest Supper on Friday, September 23. Around 150 members and friends assembled in the Church Hall to enjoy an

evening meal and fellowship, celebrating the completion of another year's harvest. Entertainment after the meal was "home-grown", with sketches, songs and choral pieces, provided by those present in turn but with some lightning changes. The game was to "spot the member".

Saturday was spent decorating the church with flowers and vegetables. Both services on Harvest Festival were led by the Rev. Ralph Rogerson.

JUNIOR CHURCH TEACHERS — At the

Rededication Service for the Junior Church Teachers and Youth Workers held recently at Caversham Heights Church, Reading, eighteen new teachers were commissioned by the Reverend Ralph Rogerson. They have received counselling, training and practical experience in the Junior Church.

A refresher course is taking place currently, led by Mrs P. Court, the Superintendent, who has recently been appointed a tutor/assessor for the Reading Circuit.



■ Pictures of the Harvest Supper at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

— John Williamson

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— John Williamson

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

RESCUE ACTION

To have raised £600 in three years is not a bad effort for these days, but that is what the Caversham Court Gazebo Trust has done. Of course, there are other needier causes and more spectacular buildings, but the Gazebo has come to symbolise a determination to call a halt to any further destruction of historic buildings.

The sum now raised is enough to qualify for a loan from one of the funds that exist to help with the preservation of ancient buildings so that the necessary work could be started. It was at this point that the problems started.

The Architectural Heritage Fund is unable to make grants for buildings in the ownership of a local authority, which the Gazebo, of course, is. The Trustees considered the possibility of asking the Borough Council to transfer ownership to them (something the council would probably not oppose in view of its years of neglect) but decided this would not be feasible as it would mean ensuring their successors when age and death took their toll of the present members of the Trust.

This left the Civic Trust Conservation Grant Fund as an alternative source of help. Here an even more frustrating blank was drawn as this fund can only be used for buildings in a conservation area. For years now the Civic Society, later

by WATCHDOG

joined by Caversham Residents' Association, has been urging the Borough Council to declare the area around the parish church a conservation area. Townswomen's guilds and women's institutes have also added their voice. The Borough Council has just mumbled excuses, lack of staff and money being the favourite in recent years.

It is difficult to see that it would be an expensive operation, but cheese paring always has been a favourite way of economising. As for lack of staff, the Civic Society has done practically all the spade work in mapping out and describing the area. Still no action has been taken, and now we find the hard work put in by many people is likely to come to nought because of the tardiness of the local council.

TARGET 1978

Everyone who is concerned about this matter and does not want to see the Gazebo fall down (and if something is not done soon, it will) is asked to urge the council to carry out the often expressed wish of the local community to declare this part of Caversham a Conservation Area.

St Peter's Church is celebrating the centenary of its Victorian restoration next year with an imaginative

programme of events. This would seem a suitable opportunity for the Borough Council to make amends for past neglect and express its appreciation of local care by giving Caversham a birthday present in the form of declaring the area around the parish church a Conservation Area.

Apart from this being about the only way of saving the Gazebo, the area deserves this recognition, containing as it does many other worthwhile buildings such as the flint walls of Caversham Court, the crinkle-crinkle wall, the ancient yew hedge (not a building, of course, and already under a preservation order) several old houses and cottages such as Bankfoot and Buckside Cottage and the Rectory, unpretentious and somewhat stolid, but with an air of "belonging". And the area's title of course, would be the St Peter's Conservation Area.

PAINLESS GIVING

Here's a way of cheering up a gloomy November evening and contributing to the Gazebo Trust Fund.

November 5 — St Andrew's Hall, 7pm, **HARDY'S WESSEX**, an evening of music, readings and slides, compiled by Ted and Betty Lewis and Nigel and Joan Townsend, followed by appropriate light refreshments. Tickets 75p, from 14 Albert Road (472300) or 13 Buxton Avenue (473819).

TEN YEARS AGO

From the Caversham Bridge of November, 1967. Restoration of the Gazebo?

Readers of the Bridge may remember the article in the June number about the Gazebo in Caversham Court. Mr F. Heaton has done some investigating and found it difficult to determine the original construction of this charming 17th century gazebo because of all the trees and undergrowth around it, and

because of the barely concealed sewer covered with rubbish, built close to the west side of the building.

In scrambling around, it is possible to see an old brick and flint wall of some depth built down to the water's edge. The interior is in a very bad state. Mr Heaton thinks the upper floor must have been used as a canteen by the men engaged in building the sewer 40 years ago, and the room hasn't been touched since. The attractive observation hole, a normal feature of a gazebo, is scarcely visible and is blocked up with rubbish.

If it was restored by the Corporation this building, the only one of its kind overlooking the Thames, would be added beauty to Caversham Court Gardens, and would allow visitors fine views up and down the river. Is there any reason why it should not be restored? (After ten years the campaign to restore the gazebo is still in progress and we report latest developments on this page).

BAPTIST NEWS

The young people's new Coffee Bar Lounge in the gallery of the West Memorial Institute was officially opened by Mrs D. W. Collier recently. At the opening ceremony which was attended by a goodly number of young people and older friends Mrs Collier paid tribute to those who had worked so hard in preparing the new room, and urged the young people to go out into "the highways and byways of Caversham" and bring in new friends so that they may experience something of the joy of Christian living.

Mrs Collier, after cutting the blue ribbon and declaring the room open, was presented with a bouquet by Miss Lynsay Rhymes.

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

The New Lady Chapel Kneeler is now in use. It was dedicated at the Family Eucharist on Sunday, September 17. The kneeler contains nearly 25,000 stitches and involved work over a period of two and a half years.

WEDDING



— Walton Adams

■ Mr David Sayers and Miss Margaret Roderick who were married at St Barnabas' Church on September 17.

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ST PETER'S NEWS

With the theme at this year's Harvest Festival being "Fishers of Men" the huge congregation arrived on Sunday, September 11, to find a boat and fishing nets features of the decorations together with mobiles in the form of fish hanging in each arch of the nave.

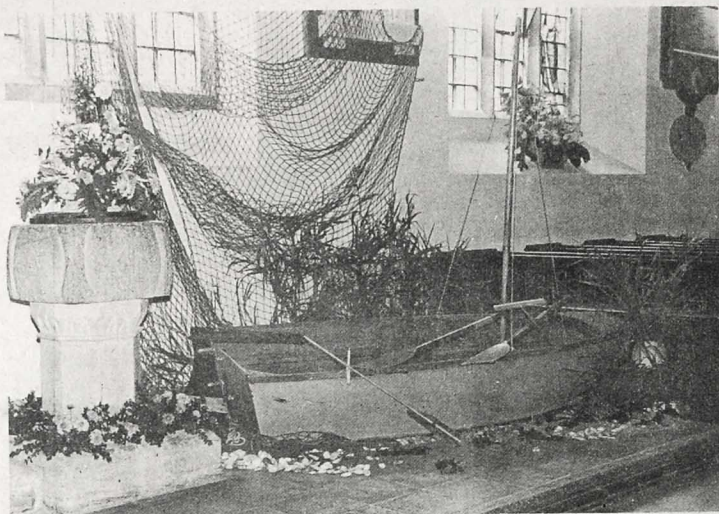
The collection for the Church Times "Train a Priest" fund amounted to £96. There was also a tremendously generous response for the appeal

for groceries which are given to pensioners and others in need at different times throughout the whole year.

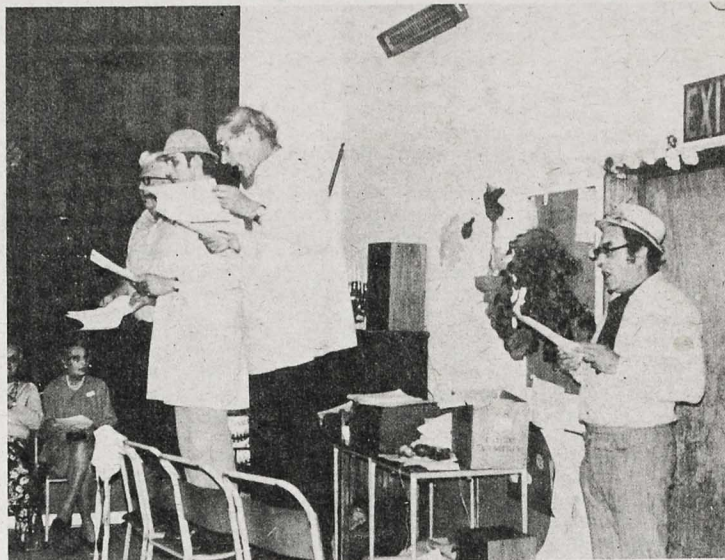
Because of the large numbers who were wanting to attend the Harvest Supper it was held this year in St Andrew's rather than Balmore Hall. The Social and Catering Committee are to be congratulated on arranging a most successful evening. Much

thought had gone into the decorating of the hall, and many of those who attended came in farming costumes.

After an excellent meal with waiter and waitress service from a large number of the younger members of the congregation games, country dancing and community singing followed. The advice to those who missed this year's supper is "Book early for 1978".



— John Williamson



— John Williamson

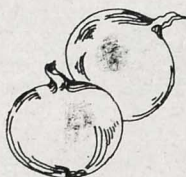
■ St Peter's Harvest Supper



— John Williamson

■ St Peter's Harvest Supper

■ Above. Part of the Harvest Festival decorations in St Peter's Church



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ROUND THE
 ANGLICAN PARISH

ANNE GRIMWADE has made a splendid recovery from her recent operation. She is most grateful for the prayers, letters and flowers that came from so many friends throughout the parish. She is at present away convalescing and expects to be out of Caversham for some weeks yet.

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**FARMER, MILLER,
INNKEEPER**

It was on Tuesday, December 17, 1894, when the first Parish Council Meeting took place in the schoolroom of Mapledurham's National School. Six councillors had been elected at a previous meeting on December 4.

They were the squire, Mr John Darell Blount, who was Chairman; the Rev Francis St John Thackeray, vicar; Thomas Gimblett, farmer; Henry Stone, miller; James Trinder, innkeeper; and a Lieutenant-Colonel Stovell. It is worth remembering that at that time Mapledurham was a completely rural parish.

There was no housing along the Woodcote Road, and the Woodcote Way area was a large field often grazed by sheep and known as Great Gallowsfield or Galley field. Chazey Road was an ancient cart track with ruts made by the cart wheels running either side of a grass patch down the centre.

83 YEARS— And now a change

LAST April the first part of the Civil Parish of Mapledurham came under the Reading Borough Council and the boundary between Mapledurham and Caversham was moved out as far north as Shepherds Lane, stretching down to the Thames to include Chazey Court Farm and merging the Woodcote Way area into the Kidmore Road part of Reading.

Before the year of this historical change ends it seems a good idea to look back at the very beginning of Mapledurham as a Civil Parish with its very first own Parish Council.

Gradually as the years went by and carts stopped using it, the grass in the centre grew taller and by the late 1920s sweet briar and ordi-

nary dog roses flowered there also. It was indeed a pleasant place in which to walk.

Until after the First World War the council seemed to have little business to discuss and on several occasions there were not enough councillors present to make a quorum, so meetings were adjourned. The venue was either the vicarage, Mill House, or the National School.

In spite of the council's uneventful progress for the first 30 years or so the Minute Books until 1948 make interesting reading and shed a light on life in an agricultural district in the last few years before the machine took over. One can also trace the change which gradually emerged as part of the parish became a built-up area and the population increased, bringing town dwellers into the surrounding countryside.

Farmer Gimblett resigned as a councillor in 1917, having held this office since 1894. Also in that year a letter written in reply to the council's letter of condolence on the death of Queen Victoria was hung "in a conspicuous place in the school". That it took 15 years to get there is a little odd!

In April, 1919, "the defective state of the pump at Chazey Heath was raised and the possibilities of reopening old wells was discussed", though this was eventually deferred. "Miss Thackeray brought to the notice of the council the state of the well in Mr Cattall's garden opposite the school, which, through the kindness of Mr Blount, the schoolchildren had been permitted to use.

Mr Blount thought that the first thing to do was to find out if the water was quite fit for drinking purposes and, if pure, ask Mr Cox (the local builder) to give an estimate to clean the well". The water was duly tested and found to be not completely satisfactory, having particles

of rust in it from the iron chain attached. A pig sty was only six feet away and this could not have improved matters! What the end of the story was is not recorded, but a stack pipe is now in the cottage garden, so that may well have been the outcome.

**CONCERN FOR
RATEPAYERS**

A steam roller caused a spot of bother in the summer of 1923. Apparently it was lying idle for over a week on the main road to Goring "causing unnecessary expense which ultimately had to be borne by the ratepayers, which could be considered a hardship".

By 1924 the council were considering the possibility of a recreation ground for the parish and "eventually, Mr Chown (tenant of Blaggrave Farm) stated he would be willing to let a field near The Elms, Farthingsworth Green (the Kidmore Road end of Shepherds Lane) for cricket and football, etc., on condition the gates were always closed after use".

1928 saw the council arranging for a supply of handbills to be printed and circulated throughout the parish informing householders of the telephone number of the Pangbourne Fire Brigade. They were also studying a report from the District Council on a proposition to widen the road at the main road corner leading to the school by taking away the triangular grass plot. This patch of grass is still there today.

**DUSTBINS AT THREE
AND TEN PENCE**

Houses were already beginning to be built along each side of the Woodcote Road outside the Caversham boundary, and a letter received by the council in 1926 from one of the new Mapledurham residents asked if "they could undertake some method of collecting and disposing of household refuse as people

were compelled to bury this".

The matter dragged on, for it was not until 1931 that a letter was received from Goring District Council stating that "owing to some little delay in obtaining the necessary alteration to the Bye-laws the collection of house refuse over the whole district would not be able to be commenced as early as April 1st next". By June 25 a weekly refuse collection had begun, the District Council supplying dustbins at a cost of three shillings and ten pence each.

A letter from the Reading Postmaster was received early in 1934 stating that work at Mapledurham Post

Office on a Sunday and on Public Holidays in connection with telegrams was now so minimal that if the council agreed, after discussion on the matter, the Post Office would remain shut on these days after August 26.

Long before the First World War they had had other correspondence with Reading Post Office informing them that Mapledurham Post Office would be open daily from 8am to 8pm and not 7am till 8pm as had been the custom.

Then came World War II and council meetings were held at the Air Raid Precaution Post in Upper Woodcote Road. With the ending of hostilities the venue became the Forestry Hut belonging to the English Forestry Association and remained so until 1947 when on July 28 the meeting place became the "New Memorial Hall", the original Army hut belonging to the Searchlight Unit stationed in what is now the Playing Fields.

It is interesting to note that on March 31, 1977, when the parish was decimated the Parish council had amongst its current members a farmer, a priest, a lieutenant-colonel and the local squire.

It should also be recorded that in the 83 years it has been in existence the Parish Council has had 24 chairmen, 9 clerks and 83 councillors, of whom 13 were women. All have given hours of their time to local affairs and for such service to the community they should be thankfully remembered.

—M.K.



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VICTOR, the giraffe at Marwell Park Zoo, was the topic of the animal world a few weeks back. Albeit, the help and advice from thousands of sympathisers failed to rally him from his unfortunate predicament.

If you were an ape in the Pliocene age several million years ago (and that would be a good many centuries before modern man was evolved), you might well

have had giraffes, as well as rhinos, hippos and elephants as your neighbours in Caversham.

These mammals once roamed the barren wastes of Europe, but now they only exist in

the wild in some tropical areas of the world. Giraffes, earth's tallest creatures, are gentle by nature, and can grow up to 19 feet, although the normal height is around 14ft to 17ft.

They are confined to

central and southern Africa, and in some parts they are protected in wildlife reserves. Every giraffe has a different spot pattern, similar to our human fingerprints, although there are a few rare species having no spots at all.

The young animal has an uncomfortable birth, as it is dropped five feet from the mother while she is standing up. The new-born baby enters the world already six feet tall, and becomes very independent within the first few months.

Despite this, only about a quarter of the infants survive the first year. They fall easy victims to lions, hyenas and other vicious predators, but perhaps this is Nature's seemingly cruel way of sharing out the limited food supply.

Although the animal enjoys protection in the National Parks, tribes-

men poachers are ever ready for the kill. The meat serves as a tasty meal for their families, while the giraffe hide and tail becomes useful material for souvenir items on the Nairobi bazaar-stalls.

Thirty years ago, when the circus arrived in Caversham, almost the whole village would turn out to watch the parade of elephants through Church Street and Gosbrook Road. With the present-day conglomeration of telephone cables, lamp posts and traffic signs, I don't think we are ever likely to see such a display of giraffes!

I am all for a bit of amusement at the appropriate times. The charter presented by the National Union of

School Students in September provided just that — at least, I take it that that was the tongue-in-cheek intention. Their charter of rights includes such articles as the abolition of prefects, and an end to "petty" school rules, such as being forced to be polite to teachers, calling them "Sir" or "Miss", etc.

Well, like many of our old traditions, prefects have been around for a very long time, getting on with the job of maintaining some sort of order while teacher is busy with other important business, including maybe — teaching. It may also occur that the teaching profession in general have no desire to be addressed "Tom, Dick or Mary" by their pupils. They have their democratic rights, too.

However, although I have never actually fallen head over heels in love with union power, I would be the last one to dissuade young idealists from their harmless enjoyment — a pie in the sky is better than a brick through a window.

Young Caversham

By Peter Shock

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

CLUB SUCCESS

At a time when Reading Football Club is going through yet another disastrous period it is very interesting to hear that lowly Wokingham Town have appointed their first full-time general manager.

The man given the job is Roy Merryweather, well known in the Caversham/Kidmore End area both as the successful manager of Peppard Football Club a few seasons ago, and also as a cricketer with Kidmore End Cricket Club.

Following his success with Peppard he took over as manager at Wokingham, and although up to now the playing success has been mixed, Roy has made a major contribution in building up the social and fund-raising activities of the club.

At the clubhouse in Wokingham they hold dances, organise whipper racing and many other social events, as well as building up a reputation as a good eating place with people using the club for lunchtime meals.

Indeed, the whole thing has been so successful financially that they have been able to take the unprecedented step for such a small club by appointing Roy as their first full-time paid manager. With this approach the club should go from strength to

strength. Reading please take note.

SCHOOL SOCCER

It is good to see our local comprehensive, Highdown School, making its mark in Reading school teams now. During its early days and despite its size, Highdown was not providing many representatives for Reading teams, although it did produce a few outstanding individual performers.

Now, any team listed to represent Reading seems to include a good proportion of Highdown pupils. In particular they have been providing a very high percentage of the players in all the various Reading Schools' football teams.

SUNDAY FOOTBALL

Looking through the local soccer league tables it is good to see two local teams on top of their respective divisions. At the top of Division 3 is Micklands Football Club, and Caversham Wanderers are at the top of Division 6 with Caversham Athletic just behind.

OVER-SUBSCRIBED

Graham Swatridge, the Caversham schoolmaster who won this year's Reading Skillmaster Competition, has had another success. A few weeks ago he called a meeting at the Bulmershe Sports Centre to form a new gymnastic club.

He asked parents and girls along in the hope of getting enough people to form the new club. The result — the hall was not big enough to hold all those who turned up, which was about 200 parents and as many young gymnastic hopefuls.

During the following week, trials had to be held to sort out the applicants and unfortunately many young hopefuls could not join the club at this stage. With such support and enthusiasm this club must be successful.

COUNTRY WEDDING

On September 17, the farming community and friends had a very enjoyable get-together when 300 guests joined in the celebration of the marriage of Sue Beacroft of Lilley Farm, Mapledurham, and Chris Lay of Manor Farm, West Hagbourne.

The Rev Michael Kitchener returned from Yorkshire with Christine and Clare to officiate with the Rev Tony Starbuck from East Hagbourne. The organist, Mr Peter Mitchell, is a friend of the Lay family, and will be Sue and Chris's neighbour. She was given away by her father, and brother John was best man.

Sue has been a past member of St Margaret's choir and a bellringer, and has always taken an active interest in the village life. After travelling around the world, she met Chris at a Young Farmers' Club and after her marriage will continue to participate in the farming business with her father, Mr Bob Beacroft.

Chris works Manor Farm with his father, Mr Charlie Lay, brother Nicky, and other relatives. The Lay family has farmed in the Hagbourne area for 200 years.

The bride wore a medieval-style dress, trimmed with guipure lace, and she carried a bouquet of autumn-coloured chrysanthemums, intermingled with wheat and oats. The five bridesmaids wore rich green and carried corn dollies with autumn-toned flowers.

The newly-weds left the church on the "Honeymoon Special", a combine harvester, for the reception held in the suitably-decorated marquee in the picturesque setting of Lilley Farm garden. After a very happy afternoon with friends and relations they left for a honeymoon in Malta.



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BAPTISED

St Peter's
Sept 18: Richard Stanbrook

St John's
Sept 18: Charlotte Tavener

St Andrew's
Sept 4: Heidi Belshaw

St Anne's
Sept 4: Simon Webb
Lindsay Dawes

Sept 11: Simon O'Sullivan

Sept 13: Jane Turek
Mark Turek

Sept 25: Lindsay Hayes

Caversham Baptist Free Church
Sept 18: Sally Ousley

WEDDINGS

St Peter's
Sept 10: Peter Douglas and Vicki Hudson,
Trevor Simpson and Jacqueline Barton
Sept 24: James Deasy and Ava Richardson

St Andrew's
Sept 17: Martin Hobbs and Karen Teagle

St Barnabas
Sept 10: David Sayers and Margaret Roderick,
Phillip Wyatt and Lesley Hope

St Margaret's
Sept 17: Christopher Lay and Susan Beacroft

St Anne's
Sept 10: Timothy Lane and Eileen McDonnell,
Stephen Higgs and Catherine Browne

FUNERALS

St Andrew's
Sept 16: Norah Bucquet

Caversham Baptist Free Church
Sept 18: Ron Williams

CAVERSHAM PARK VILLAGE HOUSE COMMUNIONS

November 2: 8 Launceston Avenue (Diana Etherington)
November 9: 4 Kirkham Close (Pam Gordon)
November 16: 10 Netley Close (Joy Abel)
November 23: 4 Holyrood Close (Barbara Robinson)
November 30: 1 Chestnut Avenue (Karen McDonald)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

Sunday Worship: 11am and 6.30pm

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

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). Methodist School Room, 11am (seven upwards). 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.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
10.45 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
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
4.00 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 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 Sundays)
FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sunday)
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)

METHODIST

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
9.30 a.m. Mass

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