

CAVERSHAM

BRIDGE

JANUARY

1973

PRICE 4p

THE NEWSPAPER FOR ANGLICANS, FREE CHURCHMEN AND ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CAVERSHAM & MAPLEDURHAM. NUMBER 100.

No Generation Gap Here!

THE BRIDGE SPANS THE YEARS

Miss Williams, a resident of Springfield St. Luke, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Boxing Day. Our photographer found her the other day nursing Simon Burn, one of Caversham's youngest inhabitants, who was born on November 8th — the first child of the Rev. Leonard and Mrs. Burn of St. Barnabas Church.



— Walton Adams

GUIDE'S HONOUR

Becoming a Queen's Guide is no mean achievement in any circumstances, but doing it almost yourself as a lone guide deserves a special mention. Congratulations then to Jane Freebody of 24 Eric Avenue, Emmer Green, on recently achieving the top Guiding distinction the hard way.

Jane, aged fifteen, and a pupil at Christ's Hospital, Hertford, completed the course with the help of Miss Curtis of the 1st Shinfield troop. Some of the difficult projects which included life saving and child nursing, she carried out on her own.

At present she is waiting for the results of the nine 'O' levels she has just taken. After leaving school she hopes to become a physiotherapist.

BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

If you want to find out what the Bridge Scheme has done in 1972, come to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 18th at 8 p.m., in West Memorial Hall, Gosbrook Road. The Bridge Scheme needs more helpers. What about you?

The Editorial

Board of the Caversham Bridge wish all readers a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and hope they like the new Caversham Bridge. The February edition will be published on Saturday, January 20th: all contributions should be sent to the Caversham Bridge office at Church House by Tuesday, January 2nd.

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THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

THE PRICE OF UNITY

"I DON'T SUPPOSE A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL TURN UP." Such a thought was in the minds of many as they made their way on a wet Sunday afternoon to Caversham Park School. But as they approached and saw large numbers of cars, and a queue at the school doors they realised they were wrong. And so some 250 of us who had been taking part for six weeks in the many ecumenical house groups found ourselves caught up in a thrilling and intensely lively conference under the chairmanship of the Rev. Robert Jeffery.

It was obvious from the start of the afternoon that the study groups had generated tremendous interest and enthusiasm. The Chairman however wisely sounded a warning note in asking us, as suggestion followed suggestion, who was going to have the time to put all these good ideas into practice — for were not all of us at the conference already very busy people?

THE NEXT STEP

Meeting a few days later the Co-ordinating Committee of Caversham Churches of which Anglicans, Free Churchmen, and Roman Catholics are members, asked some of us to form a working party to think through in more detail the recommendation of the study groups. These can be put under nine headings:

- Relations with the day schools.
- Provision of youth facilities.
- Education for Christian living.
- Preparation for adult membership of the Christian Church.
- The future of house groups.
- Worship in common.
- Provision of a Church Centre in Caversham.
- The possibility of a second Mayday week.
- The development of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service.

This is a formidable list and one that cannot be completed in a hurry. Those of us who have been asked to work on this task will hope to offer interim reports and to call in those with a special knowledge in different fields to help us. But as the chairman warned us, we have to realise that we have limited resources and until we can agree to STOP doing certain things which may have outlived their purposes it will be difficult to embark on new projects.

The study groups have already justified their existence in that they brought together Christians from the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches to share their problems and to learn from each other. But we now have the far harder task of acting upon the clear desire that there should be closer unity and a better use of our resources in Caversham. This will, for many of us, mean sacrificing things that we may hold dear. What price are we prepared to pay?

John Grimwade

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MEET MISS SIMS



— Walton Adams

"A happy and attractive place in which to live and work" is how Miss Sims, the new Principal of the Chiltern Nursery Training College, describes Caversham. "People have been most friendly", she says.

Wide Experience

Miss Sims brings to the Chiltern a wealth of experience which started in Hereford where she trained as an infants teacher from 1943 to 1945. It was during that time that she became very interested in a wartime nursery which happened to be held at the college; an interest which grew during the next seven years while teaching in a Gloucester infants' school, where her attention centred mainly on the nursery department.

The next move was to Stanmore, to become nursery specialist on the staff of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Here she introduced modern methods of teaching and play equipment. After further qualifications, a diploma in the education of handicapped children gained at Durham, she returned to Stanmore as Deputy Head.

Training Others

Recognising the need to provide greater stability in the lives of the younger children at this large hospital school, she introduced nursery nurses. So impressed was she at the work they did, that four years ago she joined the staff of the Bristol Local Education Authority's nursery nurses' college to assist in the training of others.

As an examiner and assessor for the National Nursery Examination Board, she is in touch with nursery training throughout the country.

A Methodist for Unity

Miss Sims is also a Methodist, with an ecumenical outlook. She has discovered the church in Highmoor Road and was pleased to learn that the Revd. Terence Harris also has Gloucester connections.

The "Caversham Bridge" welcomes Miss Sims and hopes she will enjoy living and working here for many years to come.

M.K.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 9th November, 1972. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed that no developments had taken place since the last meeting that would affect the present position regarding the proposed school site off Shepherd's Lane. However, Oxfordshire CC had now asked Reading CBC to investigate possible sites in the area that might be used for secondary school purposes.

The Council were advised that a number of persons in the Parish and in the north Caversham area of Reading had expressed the view that whilst they might agree with the green belt policy, they do not feel that this must be preserved at all costs, especially as it may mean an inferior site, or even no school at all. The Council were also reminded of the strong views expressed at a recent meeting of residents when the Mapledurham Resident's Association had been formed, concerning the preservation of the Green Belt area.

Whilst the Parish Council have expressed their concern over the proposals that have been put forward by Oxfordshire CC, and have submitted its comments to the appropriate authorities, the Council wished to record its policy on the general principles

involved. It therefore agreed: (i) to accept the principle that there is a need for a primary school within the Parish; (ii) expressed its doubt whether the site suggested for the school off Shepherd's Lane was the most suitable, and considered that alternative sites should be very carefully examined by the local planning authority, and others closely associated with the proposed development before coming to a firm decision; and (iii) agreed that if there is no other suitable site, it would be prepared to accept the Shepherd's Lane site for the purpose of a primary school.

Regarding the location of a secondary school on the site, the Council were reminded that this did not form part of the original application, but the possibility of such a development would be very closely watched, and it was hoped to arrange discussions to be held on the matter generally with representatives of the County Council.

The Council were informed that Henley RDC had agreed in principle that a bus subsidy scheme should operate within the RDC's area from April next year. Beneficiaries of the scheme will be old age pensioners and certain others who had a disability. As far as Mapledurham is concerned, passengers using the Chiltern Queen buses and Reading Corporation Transport would derive some benefit.

GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by
Zoilius

Anyone who has sat in that elongated minstrels' gallery from which the public may witness the deliberations of Reading Town Council, will know that it is desirable to have both the neck of a giraffe to observe more than half the arena, and a well-padded posterior to cope with the strictly utilitarian seating. So it may well be that the dozen or so citizens who attend full council meetings are a tribute to the wit and erudition of our elected representatives.

Certainly the meeting last November provided varied fare. Councillors debated with enthusiasm or acrimony, according to taste, on such diverse topics as the new civic centre, play groups, pop festivals, the roads, the aged, the young and family planning in all its aspects.

Family Planning

The debate on Family Planning may not have been the most important of the evening, but it certainly was the one that engendered most heat and took up a lot of time. It was initiated by Cllr. Davies for the Conservatives, when he moved that the decision of the Health Committee to provide free prescriptions for contraceptives, etc., should be referred back for further consideration.

Now Cllr. Davies is a reasonable man. It wasn't that he was against family planning. He wasn't even against the idea that there should be advisory clinics for those whose attitude to parenthood might be somewhat ambiguous. But he inferred that such personal matters might be thought to be the prerogative of the person and not Auntie Local Government. He suggested there should be a free vote on this amendment.

Condemnation

Next came one of those unexpected turns that enliven the Council Chamber at odd times. Just as Cllr. Chopping, a senior Tory spokesman, was rising to second the amendment, Cllr. Jim Day, the leader of the Liberals, beat him to it and surprised and gratified Cllr. Davies by claiming the right to second this Conservative motion. Cllr. Day was most forthright in his condemnation of the proposed piece of permissiveness. Why should people who want contraceptives get them free on the rates? Should this service not be for those who want help and advice only? Tory heads nodded sagely in agreement with this unexpected ally. Cllr. Chopping, coming in at third man, got down to brass tacks. He wanted to know what the cost would be and surmised gloomily that it would undoubtedly far exceed the provisional estimate. He visualised it seemed, vast queues of gay bachelors stocking up for a sort of Thames Valley Saturnalia.

Hurt

But it was not all opposition for the Health Committee's recommendations. Cllr. Goodall, who as Chairman of the Social Services Sub-Committee was steering the measure through Council, is a reasonable man too. He was hurt that the unimaginative Tories should carp at a measure that was so obviously desirable and humane. More than that, it was highly economical because the cost to the rates of keeping an unwanted child in care was far greater than the outlay on preventive methods. He was pained that certain churchmen should be so unkind as to criticise this forward-looking scheme, and in any case the Tories were just as much involved because they assisted in the preliminary plans when they were in power.

Cllr. Towner, the leader of the Labour Councillors, rubbed in the fact that a child in care costs £1,200 a year, and reminded the members that standards have changed and we must all accept the fact. He also turned down the plea for a free vote. Labour Councillors knew where they stood on this, he implied.

This seemed to be fair enough, because Cllr. Lyons, who is a Roman Catholic, stoutly supported the plan, and Cllr. Scarth told of a little girl who missed her "A levels" because she had to have an abortion. Cllr. Wheeler supplied the intriguing information that "nobody at the Brewery is against it", and Cllr. Christine Thomas said she had only two letters from Caversham residents about the matter.

In the end the reference back was defeated, with the Socialists voting one way and the Conservatives and the Liberals the other way.

Unfair

But in all this welter of emotion and emotive speeches, there was a brief intervention from Ald. Mrs. Morris that touched a very responsive chord. She thought a lot of this talk about unwanted children was unfair. Many of the children were very much loved and wanted, both by their own parents and by the house parents. Many were in care only because of a chain of unfortunate circumstances. And somehow, this thought underlined the fact that what the Council had been discussing for most of the evening was not only a matter of statistics and finance; it was a human issue of flesh and blood. And that, after all, is the essence of nearly all the work of Reading Town Council.

WORLD CONFERENCE DELEGATE

Recently returned from Delegates attending the a week in America is Mr. Conference, which was en- Fred Haynes, of Chiltern titled "The Higher Mission Road, who attended the Bi- of The Christ-Power", Annual Conference of came from most of the Committees on Publication countries in the world. at The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Fred was recently re- Scientist in Boston, Mass. appointed as Christian

Science Committee on Pub- when he and his wife, lication for Berkshire. In Edna, were away for three his church "Committee" is weeks. Both are members the name of an office and of the First Church of not a body of people, and Christ Scientist, Kings he has served in this way Road, Reading, where for sixteen years. both have been Readers for This is Fred's second their allotted times, and visit to Boston, the previous have served in various occasion being in 1964 other capacities.

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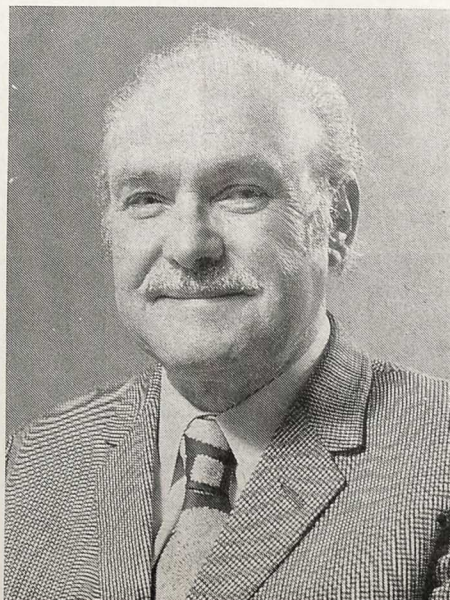
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WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Can anything good come out of Caversham. You bet it can! Take the Reading Male Voice Choir, for example; born in Caversham about a year ago, it has grown strong in numbers and performance. It still rehearses every Friday at Highdown School and Mr. D. Evans, 37 Church Road, Woodley (Tel. Sonning 3626) will be happy to hear of anyone interested in joining.

Conducted by Gwyn Arch, who recently led another Reading choir to victory in the BBC "Let the People Sing" contest and to an award at the Llangollen Festival, this choir is a "must" for those who enjoy male voice choirs. It is a joy to watch Mr. Arch coax the best out of these men, and their best is well on the way to being very good indeed. Make a note in your diary — 9th February 1973, when the Town Hall will see this

choir combining with the choir of the Berkshire College of Education to give a performance in aid of Reading House at Hayling Island.

Incidentally, I understand the choir is only too happy to accept engagements for nothing more than a possible voluntary donation towards expenses.

And for you social secretaries with a programme to draw up, I have more news. Molly Casey, of 14 Albert Road, recently made a study of Caversham History and gave a talk to the Caversham Residents' Association. Our local history is a very popular subject and Molly will be happy to offer her services to any organisation which would like them.

Also open to requests is Mr. Gwyther, who runs the local fabric shop. There isn't much he doesn't know about the new fabrics currently coming on to the market and what woman can resist an evening spent acquiring such information and sampling some of his very pretty materials.

And now for my usual 'beef'. Could we please have the alleys leading from South View Avenue to Cromwell Road and from Westfield Road to South Street cleaned up; they are often in an appalling mess, disgusting to look at and dangerous to walk in when the local dogs have been active. I notice too that a very clear 'No Cycling' notice has been put at the entrance to

the alley leading to South View Avenue. Could we please have a new one at the entrance to the other alley — the present one is not easily seen but very easily ignored and where the alley curves cyclists are a real menace.

On the subject of walking, I'd like to take the opportunity of thanking two good Samaritans who came to my rescue recently. Walking through Caversham Heights one wet evening, pondering on the apparent desertion of the streets and the possibility of being mugged without anyone knowing or caring, I slipped on the wet leaves and came down to earth with a bump. So much for the apparent desertion; almost immediately a young lady came running from one direction and a gentleman, who kindly offered me a lift, from another. No bones broken, so I was able to limp home with only my dignity shattered — but I was grateful to know that help generally seems to be at hand when needed.

WHOSE GREEN BELT ?

Caversham is split in internecine warfare and as each side takes up its entrenched position, a battle to the death becomes inevitable. But need this be the case?

Caversham Residents' Association, now in its sixth year of existence and formed "to ensure that as far as possible the development and amenities of Caversham and district are in accordance with the best interests of the people of the area" is making an objective assessment of the situation to see if some solution can be reached which both sides will be prepared to accept.

the district. So we see small children of five years old having to wait for the school bus to take them from one side of Caversham to the other if they live in Oxon area, or joining the traffic queues down into Caversham if they live on the outskirts of the borough. A jointly administered school at least for primary school children, was the obvious solution.

Jealous

The trouble has arisen over Oxfordshire County Council's proposal to build a primary school, and possibly a secondary school, on land to the north of Shepherd's Lane that has always been considered to be green belt land. With creeping urbanisation spreading over South-East England, Caversham people are rightly jealous of safeguarding their own green belt, leading as it does into some of the loveliest countryside in the South of England.

Unwelcome

It was a long time before such a revolutionary principle could be agreed to but when it finally was, available land had run out, so the position has now been reached when, wherever this much needed school is built, it is going to be unwelcome to someone.

Caversham and District Residents' Association believes the first need is to examine alternative sites available, and when this has been done, to decide which will be the most acceptable. Then, because of the importance of maintaining the rural character of the area, the site must be developed in such a way as to blend with its surroundings, so that far from detracting from the area, it becomes an added amenity.

M.C.

Overflow

But over the last forty years, Reading's built-up area has overflowed the borough boundary into Oxfordshire, with more and more houses being built in what should have been green belt land, but with no school being provided for the children of

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You may not be one of the swinging transistor set and possibly you may not be conscious at 8.30 on a Sunday morning so you can be forgiven if you have never heard of the Orange and Lemon Club. However some of the younger ladies of the Baptist Church are obviously early "birds" for they know all about the Club and what it seeks to do — in fact two of them have taken part in a broadcast.

The younger young ladies, Pamela and Jeanette Ide, Joy and Sally-Ann Ousley who appear in our photograph, are so enthusiastic that they recently organised a Coffee Morning and Book Sale at which they raised some £40 for the TEAR Fund of the Evangelical Alliance "House A Family" Project. The TEAR Fund is building houses of mud, straw and bamboo thatch at £15 each in Bangladesh for the homeless victims of the recent and almost forgotten war. The four young ladies are to be congratulated on their enterprise and concern for unfortunate people and if you want to know more then tune in at 8.30 a.m. next Sunday to the Orange and Lemon Club — 206 Metres Medium Wave or 95.3 V.H.F.



— Walton Adams

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The Church in Caversham



— P. Handford

An ecumenical advisory centre in the heart of Caversham, more professional training of Sunday School teachers on an ecumenical basis, school chaplains, better use of churches and inadequately used church buildings, more support for the Bridge Social Service Scheme! These were just a few of the many suggestions voiced at a meeting of well over 200 people, draw from all Caversham churches, held at Caversham Park Village School on a wet Sunday afternoon in November.

Gruelling research

Many readers will know that these suggestions were the outcome of six weeks of somewhat gruelling research by over 30 house groups in Caversham. These were no waffle sessions, no sentimental or pious gatherings but serious attempts to come to grips with the current situation. For six weeks committed Christians in Caversham endeavoured to find out what they should be doing as Church members and, probably more important, what they should not be doing.

Over-enthusiasm

If mistakes were made they were mistakes of over-enthusiasm rather than lack of it. In many ways it was a pity the Rev. R. M. C. Jeffery, vicar of Headington, Oxford, and formerly Secretary of the Department of Mission and Unity of the British Council of Churches, did not make his speech before the groups started, for he brought everyone down to earth with a bump when, trying to sum up, he asked simply how everyone thought these bright ideas were going to be

implemented unless the churches were prepared to give up many of the things they were at present doing.

There is today, he said, no pool of leisured people with nothing better to do than organise church activities. On the contrary, many people looked to the church to help them to cope creatively with the tensions in their lives.

The Church of the Future

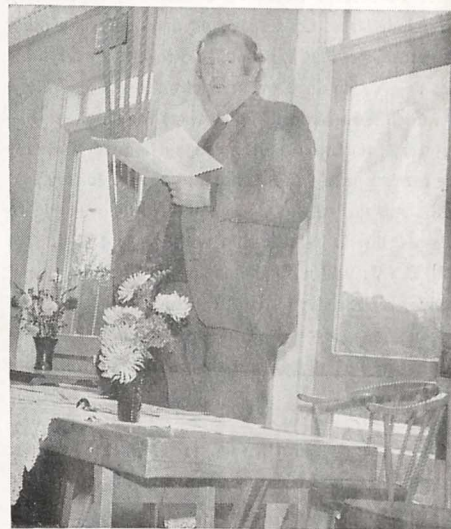
It would be impossible to mention here all the many ideas put forward that afternoon, but some points were particularly impressive. One speaker insisted that Christians should be life-centred, not church-centred, many spoke of the need to be seen as "one church", some, alas, pointed out that, considering the discussion was about the church of the future, it was unfortunate that the ages represented at the meeting were rather too high.

A representative of the United Reform Church regretted the continued use of "labels" by various denominations, many felt the need for more education about the Christian faith, others thought there was too much discussing and not enough "doing".

One thing was obvious: everyone recognised the need for change and, as Mr. Jeffery said, the necessity for a more realistic approach on the part of the church. There was much enthusiasm, a great deal of concern, and a vast fund of good fellowship at this meeting. Some people, it is true, expressed pessimism as to the outcome of the exercise, but another speaker pointed out that in one field action could be taken immediately demanding no special effort, no organisation, no stretching of already over-burdened resources — good fellowship.

Linked hands

It was a stroke of genius on someone's part that, at the end of the short service which followed, everyone was asked to link hands with those next to them while repeating the Lord's prayer, a symbol of fellowship indeed.



The Chairman, the Rev. R. Jeffery addressing the conference.

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Talking Point

The Church for Tomorrow

by **TERENCE HARRIS**

"That Conference held at Caversham Park last November — lot of talk you know — nothing ever comes from that sort of gathering", so speaks the voice of a frustrated ecumenical enthusiast on the campus of Caversham.

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT !

At the Conference there was a wonderful spirit of enthusiasm and genuine concern for closer co-operation amongst the Christians of Caversham in their mission for Christ. Certain guidelines were set down by the excellent Chairman, the Rev. Robert M. C. Jeffery (author of several works on ecumenical experience). He reminded the Conference of dictums from other such gatherings; that we should do together everything which conscience does not compel us to do separately; that we should not do together what we should not be doing at all; that we should be supporting work already being carried out in the community. Mr. Jeffery said that the mission of the Church was to help people to fullness of life in relationship with Jesus Christ. He amplified this under four headings: education, social outreach, communication and worship. Finally he recommended that a small working party should be set up consisting of not more than six persons to work out the objectives.

Comment should then come from the various Christian bodies and when agreement had been reached for all to sign on the dotted line.

What has happened so far? Here we have something to set us talking. It will not only set us talking, but action is already being taken.

FOCAL POINT

Firstly it was realised there was a need for a central focal point for the Church in Caversham. Mr. Jeffery gave an example of the Pastoral Centre in Dawley High Street, Telford, Shropshire. News reached us of the compulsory purchase order on "Church House" and the proposed new community complex envisaged by the Borough. The Parochial Church Council has already approached the other denominations with a view to the Church having a place in this new community area. Surely this is an opportunity not to be missed?

Secondly, time and again the whole matter of education came from the Conference. The Caversham Churches' Co-ordination Committee has urged a consultation between the various Sunday Schools, and the use of St. Mary's Centre and their resources, and liaison with the Youth Service Department. These matters are all in hand. Aren't these arising directly out of the Conference?

Thirdly, conversations between Caversham Methodist Church and St. John's have been resumed. Still we are only in the discussion stage and no positive action has been taken. Similar situation have occurred

in other areas and representatives may be invited to come and address a joint meeting in the near future.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Fourthly, and I think I shall have to end on this, the Co-ordination Committee agreed to the setting up of a Steering Committee. This Group will prepare papers on such topics as: relations with day schools, preparation for adult membership of the Christian Church, future of house groups, worship in common, possibilities of a second Mayday Week and the development of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service. Looks to me that the next few months are going to be lively. Don't you think so?

In all the welter of enthusiasm for various projects and ecumenical ventures let us not lose sight of the main fact of our existence as churches in Caversham. The articulate and inarticulate cry of many is, "We would see Jesus!" In Jesus people come to see a new dimension to life and a new quality in life which can only be obtained by a personal response to His call, His claims and His challenges. By the grace of God we are what we are! We are commissioned to help people to this fullness of life in relationship with Jesus. In all things He must be given the pre-eminence.

THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

The Thursday Lunch Club which was recently started in the Adult Education Centre at School Lane, Caversham, is proving most popular with elderly residents in the area who enjoy the opportunity to meet weekly over a welcome meal. There are a few vacancies for members and enquiries should be made to Mrs. L. W. Osborne, Chevy Chase, Upper Warren Avenue. Telephone 476956.



— Walton Adams

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THE CHURCH AT CAVERSHAM PARK

— A PERSONAL VIEW

When we moved to Caversham Park in April 1970 almost the first thing we did was to attend Family Communion at St. Peter's and introduce ourselves to the Rector. "You must meet John Crowe" was his immediate reaction and John, then curate on Caversham Park Village, duly arrived on our doorstep the following week.

Over coffee he told us about his work in the village and his hopes for the future development of the Christian Church there. At that time the House Communion was the only corporate form of worship, but with the increase in the population John felt the time was nearly ripe for an extension of Christian worship to a regular Sunday service.

was worshipping with neighbours and friends, with people one met in the shopping precinct or at the school gates. This feeling of fellowship has grown as the number of worshippers has increased, and with no denominational building there were no established traditions to break and no prejudices to overcome.

Able to experiment

At Caversham Park we have the advantage of being able to experiment with various forms of worship and to involve the congregation in the services. It was John Crowe's policy to involve as many people as possible in decisions, and Stephen Bartlett, his successor, has continued this policy. Two conferences have provided opportunities for people to work together in various ways and these occasions have been valuable in helping to make the Christian Community in the village feel part of the Church in Caversham.

An established part of life

For nearly two years services have been held regularly on Sunday mornings, house communions have continued, evening communions tried as an experiment, study groups held and the Christian Church is now very much an established part of the life of Caversham Park. We have even had an interregnum during our short existence.

Neighbourhood worship

The main problem was accommodation; fortunately this was solved with the opening of the new Primary School in the village in June, 1970, and the first regular act of Sunday worship took place there in January 1971.

It is difficult to recall those early services; numbers were small at first but from the outset there was a great feeling of fellowship between Christians of all denominations. One from 1973.

Other activities

Now the Bridge Scheme of Social Service has started in the village, a children's group has been formed, a plan to visit newcomers is being developed, discussion groups for parents requesting baptism of their children have been started, and it is hoped that study groups will resume in the new year. Much has been achieved, much remains to be done.

We would like to pay tribute to all those who have helped to make this possible, in particular to John Crowe for establishing the Christian Church in the village, to Stephen Bartlett, who is always ready to listen to, and consider suggestions about, worship and work of the church, and to Terence Harris and David and Myra Parsons for their work and enthusiastic participation in the Ministry here.

WEDDING



— Walton Adams

Mr. Freeman and Miss Kirk were married recently at St. Anne's Church.

We are glad to have been involved in all this. At first we missed the traditional services, but any sense of loss has been adequately compensated for by the great feeling of Christian fellowship that exists in Caversham Park Church.

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Mapledurham W.I.

Chaired by the President, Mrs. Bramwell, the November meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. was entertained with slides shown by three of its members. Mrs. Penny illustrated several canal trips in England and recounted the various mishaps which had occurred. Of particular interest were slides taken by Mrs. Corkery of Tutankhamun's tomb and sphinx son et lumiere, during her visit to Egypt. Equally interesting was Mrs. Mortimer's photographic record of trips taken by members of the Institute.

Rosehill W.I.

Fifty-one members, including Mrs. Davies and two visitors, attended the November meeting, to hear an interesting talk by Mr.

ROUND THE CLUBS

North on "Your local paper, the Reading Mercury". The competition "A paper hat to represent a song title", was won by (1) Mrs. Ellington, (2) Mrs. Roberts, (3) Mrs. Ilott.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Autumn Fayre held in Balmore Hall on Saturday, November 4th, proved to be a huge success. It was well supported and the many and varied articles made and collected by members were quickly snapped up. Thanks to all

whose efforts made this venture so well worth while.

At the Annual General Meeting on November 9th the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. P. Tiffin, gave her report on the activities of the past year. These included Music, Tatting, Swimming, in addition to the many outings and talks on items of interest to members. The Hon. Treasurer, Miss E. R. Baker, was able to report another financially successful year, and our Chairman, Mrs. C. Mitchell, was pleased to welcome several new members. Miss E. R. Baker proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Hon. Secretary, Mrs. P. Tiffin, and expressed the gratitude of members for the able way she had undertaken the many arduous tasks which had fallen to her lot during her many years in office. A presentation was made to mark the occasion. Miss K. H. Brown was elected President for a further year and Mrs. E. Manning was elected Hon. Secretary. On display during the meeting was a selection of garments made by the Chiltern Group. These garments are being sent to the Church of England Children's Society Homes. After a break for tea members enjoyed themselves making animal crackers. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in the Caversham Community Centre, School Lane. New members can be assured of a warm welcome.

Maplewood W.I.

A talk, illustrated with slides, about a "Visit to Nepal", given by Mrs. H. Lawrence, was enjoyed by all, after an introduction by the President, Mrs. Betty Lewis. Produce Guild members and other enjoyed an Exchange and Sale of

plants at Mrs. Betty Osborne's when a profit of £4.16 was made for W.I. funds. A report on the Autumn Council Meeting was given by the delegate, Mrs. Mary Clarke won the competition for the "Decoration of Christmas parcels for Elderly Folk". Winners of other competitions were Mrs. Flawn and Mrs. Bubbs. The guest evening was held on December 5th.

Blagrove W.I.

Miss Vowles, Head of the Rural Home Economics Department, Berkshire College of Agriculture, gave a very interesting demonstration of Cake Icing, with many useful tips on the art of cake decoration.

A cake-making competition, sponsored by the makers of "BE-RO" Flour was well supported; the successful competitors were: (1) Mrs. Wright, (2) Mrs. Menary, (3) Mrs. Waite, (4) Mrs. Benham.

Miss Reynolds, delegate, gave a report on the Autumn Council Meeting of the Berkshire Federation.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Guild look forward to another busy and happy year under the Chairmanship of Mrs. D. Gillings, who was returned unopposed at the Annual General Meeting in November. Mrs. F. P. Harvey is continuing as Treasurer and Mrs. J. Smith will take over as Secretary. Mrs. Klein gave a commentary on the slides she showed of her visit to Africa.

Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild

At the Annual General Meeting of the Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild, held on November 16th, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. C. Griffiths; Vice-Chairman Mrs. V. Kitcher; Secretary, Mrs. J. Gosling; Treasurer, Mrs. P. West. In her annual report the Secretary said that membership was 131 last year and that the average attendance for the monthly meetings was 73. The programme had been very varied, ranging from the illustrated talk on Tutankhamun to the one on Local Government, and from the demonstration on cookery by the Milk Marketing Board to that on make-up by Innoxia. There have not been so many classes this year, but those that were organised (bridge, crochet, keep-fit) had been well supported.

The Drama Group have

not entered any competitions this year but they were asked to do a play reading at the Federation Drama Festival. They produced "Four Queens Wait for Henry", and in full Tudor costume it proved to be highly successful. They have started rehearsals and hope to enter some festivals in the coming year.

A Singing Group has been formed, rather small at the moment. It is hoped that more members will come forward to swell the numbers and volume.

Social Studies had 'Transport' as their theme this year and had many successful talks on tramways, trolleybuses and railways, together with a visit to the bicycle exhibition at Benson.

The Secretary ended by thanking all the committee, and in particular her Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Lovewell, for the full support she had received during her time of office. The Treasurer presented the audited statement and her forward budget, and pointed out that while the balance was reasonable costs were rising all the time, and therefore as much support as possible for fund raising events would be needed in order to keep the status quo. The innovation of monthly coffee mornings had proved very successful, both financially and socially. The Jumble Sale had also been very worthwhile.

In her closing remarks, the retiring Chairman, Mrs. Hill, thanked all those who had supported her during her two years in office, especially her Vice-Chairman Mrs. Kitcher, who had stepped in during the few occasions when business commitments had made it impossible for her to preside. Mrs. Griffiths then presented Mrs. Hill with a Wedgewood vase on behalf of the Guild in appreciation of her efforts during her term of office.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I felt I must write and say how sorry I was to read your leading article in the November edition of Caversham Bridge entitled "False prophets". Naturally I endorse what you say in parts but am saddened by the inference in others, particularly para 4. Isn't it true that the real challenge of the Christian Gospel should be clearly stated from the pulpit, even if it means long established Christians feel uneasy? The words of Christ will always be a challenge to those who read or hear them, and we must have open hearts and minds to learn new truths from the Bible, as the Holy Spirit reveals them.

Regarding your remark concerning the work of the Holy Spirit, that it is a unifying force, surely this depends on whether or not all the members of the Church or group are following His leading. Those who are merely nominal Christians will always label others who are following Christ, and being led by His Spirit, as "too religious", "narrow minded", or just "taking things too far". Here is the division! Who is to blame?

Let us have more prophets who are willing to stand and say "This is the way of the Cross, Christ calls us to follow Him and live our lives in the power of His Spirit". This was the message of the Early Church. May it be ours!

Yours faithfully,

Cynthia J. Toms.

(The article did in fact say "We must beware of a presentation of a Christianity that is too easy... to-day we often see this temptation to want religion on the cheap." Editor.)

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J. M. A. REJOICE-IN



— Walton Adams

THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION RALLY WENT WITH A DIFFERENCE. Mrs. Oliver Morgan, the Secretary, felt it was time to call for a "Rejoice-in" since there was so much to make us despondent in the world. The "Rejoice-in" took place recently at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

A welcome was given by the Minister, the Revd. Terence P. Harris to representatives and young people from St. Andrew's, St. Paul's (United Reformed), Trinity and Park (United Reformed), Wesley and West Reading, Miss Bulford, the Methodist Circuit Secretary, was also present.

Mrs. Olive Morgan explained the "cheersymbols". The Rev. Terence Harris gave a potted history of the Church of South India and

gave a "visual prayer" using slides. The guest speaker was Mrs. D. Phippen, who with her husband (the Methodist Minister from Tilehurst), was for many years a Missionary in India. After her lively talk she cut the "birthday cake" and all sang "Happy birthday Badges were presented to the new collectors and all the other collectors were thanked for their work through the year. A few people from St. Andrew's, St. Paul's (United Reformed), Trinity and Park (United Reformed), Wesley and West Reading, Miss Bulford, the Methodist Circuit Secretary, was also present.

A tea followed. There

was a stall which raised plenty to "rejoice-in" in £11 and the collection including the £332 raised by realised £2.20. There was collectors during the year.

Obituaries

CHARLOTTE RYDER

The death occurred on December 1st of Mrs. Charlotte Ryder: born in 1879 when Disraeli was Prime Minister she had lived a full and happy life, and only a fortnight before her death had been making articles for the missionary sale at St. Barnabas. For many years she worshipped at St. Peter's. Since moving to her daughter's at Kidmore End Road she had attended St. Barnabas where her regularity on Sunday morning until the last few weeks of her life was an outstanding witness to her faithfulness to Christ. Her funeral which was attended by many friends echoed her own belief in the Resurrection. To her son and daughter the Caversham Bridge extends sympathy. May she rest in peace.

EDITH STREAMER

People in the rural area of Mapledurham have lost a well known member of their community with the death of Mrs. Edith Streamer in November. She had lived in Mapledurham for about 40 years and the latter part of her life was spent at Chazey Heath with her children.

She was a member of the Mothers' Union and also came to the Jubilee Club until failing health prevented her. The Caversham Bridge extends sympathy to her family.

AGNES BRIDGE

The death of Mrs. Agnes Bridge occurred at her home at 42 Priest Hill,

Caversham on the 15th October and a memorial service was held at St. Peter's on the 2nd November as there was no funeral, Mrs. Bridge having given her body for research. Agnes Bridge, formerly Miss Holmes, came from a well known and ancient Reading family, and was married at St. Peter's Caversham. Prior to her marriage she was a graduate of London University in the early years of this century. She celebrated her 95th birthday on October 3rd when a large number of relatives gathered to wish her well. "Peggy" Bridge as she preferred to be known, will long be remembered for her clear and incisive mind and her abiding interest in all that went on. Above all else however she will be missed by many whom she helped, and for whom she always had a good word to say. Caversham has lost a colourful character by her passing.

DOROTHY SIMPSON

Mrs. Dorothy Mercidis Simpson formerly of 71 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, died at Battle Hospital after a short illness. She was buried at Caversham Cemetery on Wednesday, November 1st, following a service at St. Peter's. Mrs. Simpson was 82 and for many years kept a Tobacconist and Newspaper Shop in Church Road. She worshipped at St. Peter's and St. John's Caversham and will be remembered by many of the older residents.

CAVERSHAM DRAMA

Comedy Not Ideal

Judging by Roy Heather's autumn production of Alan Ayckbourn's "Relatively Speaking", CAVERSHAM DRAMA has now become a group of amateur entertainers comparable to Mapledurham or Caversham Park players. There is nothing wrong in this, of course, but one wonders how much it is due to public pressure. An "opinion poll" was taken at the last performance to sample the taste of the audience and light comedy apparently topped the poll. Although I am convinced that everybody enjoyed "Relatively Speaking", I am not so certain about the wisdom of following opinion polls. The theatre's primary duty is to lead, not to be led. Light comedy is an escape. Most theatre lovers do not go to theatre just to have a good laugh but also to see something different.

Going back to "Relatively Speaking", the audience was quick to appreciate the excellent scenery and other stage effects which must have taken John Spencer, Ray Goodman, David Cooper, David Hogarth, John Wadsworth, Susan Hogg and members of the cast hours of patient work.

The basic plot of the comedy was inadvertently hatched by Ginny (Gilly Spencer) when she was about to end her love affair with her married boss Philip (Robert Silver) to marry Greg (Peter Goodman). To disguise her visit to Philip, she told Greg that she was going home to tell her parents of the forthcoming wedding. But Greg found Philip's address on a letter and Ginny pretended it was her parents' home. Greg followed her and met his presumed father and mother-in-law (Laurine Deighton). From here on the mix-up was complete, with Philip and Ginny desperately trying to hide their relationship — which they managed, despite some suspicion, until the happy end.

The best of the foursome was undoubtedly Laurina Deighton whose acting was natural and smooth. Robert Silver was lucky that the author put his Philip twice into awkward situations — first over a missing spade and later over Ginny's presence, giving him the opportunity to look uncomfortable. Robert Silver looks good on the stage but should learn to relax. Peter Goodman's Greg was likeable but on occasions too close to Peter's earlier creation as a drunk. Gilly Spencer's Ginny was credible. Her performance would have been even better if her acting had some inner depth. Roy Heather's experience made him an ideal director for this play.

P.G.

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St. John's. St. John's Hall, 11 a.m. age 4-9 years.
Superintendent: Mrs. A. Yates, 39 Field View.
Tel. 477895.
St. John's Church, 11 a.m. age 9 upwards.
Superintendent: Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent. Tel. 472084.

St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m., age 4 years and upwards.

St. Barnabas' — Church Hall, at 9.15 a.m., except on 1st and 2nd Sundays of the Month.

Methodist Church

Gosbrook Road — In Church, 11 a.m., age 3 years and upwards.

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8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

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 (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (4th Sunday Matins).

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. (not 3rd Sunday).

CAVERSHAM PARK SCHOOL

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service.

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights

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

Caversham

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service. (not 3rd Sunday).

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The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.

The Rev. Michael Atkinson, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.

The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 471572.

The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.

The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.

The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

BAPTIST
The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 7 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Christmas Eve
4.00 p.m. Children's Gift Service with Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day
7.00 a.m. 8.00 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.

ST. JOHN'S

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.00 a.m. Carol Service for Children.

ST. ANDREW'S

Christmas Eve
6.30 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Blessing of Crib.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. BARNABAS'

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

ST. MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM

Christmas Eve
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Church of England
Times when clergy will be available to hear confessions will be given in the church notices on December 17.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 17th
11.00 a.m. Toy Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Sunday, Dec. 24th
11.00 a.m. Family Service and Communion.

4.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Lessons.

Christmas Day
10.30 a.m. Morning Service. (Shared with the Methodists.)

Sunday, Dec. 31st
10.30 a.m. Family Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service conducted by the Revd. Trevor Landon.

CAVERSHAM METH- ODIST CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 24th
6.30 p.m. Carol Service.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 24th
11.00 a.m. Toy Service.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Communion.
(N.B. No service at 6.30 p.m.)

CAVERSHAM PARK SCHOOL

Christmas Day
11.15 a.m. Family Service.
(N.B. No Family Service on Dec. 24th.)

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

VARIED BUSINESS

Forty members of the Church Council were present at the November meeting and were confronted with a varied agenda. After considerable discussion it was agreed that, much as all members regretted it, the locking of churches outside the times of services had become necessary because of the numbers of thefts and acts of vandalism that had taken place. Members heard a report from the Rev. D. F. Shaylor of a meeting called by the Director of Social Services to consider the purchasing of houses for Uganda Asians and it was agreed that, if a viable scheme could be produced by the Director, serious consideration would then be given to the purchase of a house.

It was agreed to make a token extra payment to the Diocese above the amount asked for as the parish share. Members noted that the Church Council of Mapledurham wished to continue the present relationship between the two parishes, and passed a resolution for the Diocesan Pastoral Committee unanimously supporting the decision of Mapledurham P.C.C.

The Rector reported that the plans for a new community centre in Caversham would mean the compulsory purchase of Church House. Following on the many suggestions made at the recent ecumenical conference, it was resolved to approach the other denominations in Caversham to see if they would be willing to co-operate over the establishment of an ecumenical centre in Caversham.

Mr. Moore reported on the situation that had arisen as a result of four of St. Peter's bells having been found to be cracked and it was agreed to seek a faculty for the re-casting of the bells, though at a lighter weight, as it was felt that it would not be right to accept a more expensive scheme.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

The morning services will be at the usual time in all churches except that there will not be a celebration of Holy Communion in St. Andrew's at 11.15 a.m. Evensong will be sung at 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's but not in any other church that evening. Times of service on Christmas Day will be found on another page.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Money Isn't Everything

Apart from realising a profit of £181.30, a record for recent years, the Autumn Sale at St. John's Hall suggested once again that this sort of event brings people closer together and creates greater friendship and unity of purpose than some other church activities. A noticeable air of co-operation and interest between people and groups of all ages made for a happy and friendly effort at every stage.

Opening the sale, in an unusually festive looking hall, Mrs. S. Williams, Principal of Newbridge Nursery School, called for an all-out effort to increase the church's support of Overseas Mission. The many attractive stalls did brisk business throughout the afternoon. Parents were able to leave their children in a creche and friends met over a cup of tea in the large refreshment room before joining the fray again. Mental refreshment for all ages was kindly presented by Mr. Norman Kent, in the form of a Punch and Judy show. The many children present were not alone in enjoying this happy and relaxing interlude.

Many thanks to all, who in one way or another contributed to a very successful day, particularly to this year's organiser, Mrs. Betty Fowler.

Christian Aid Concert

Thanks are also due to Mr. P. Tipton for arranging, in November, a very

entertaining evening of music and song, given in the church by the boys of Stoneham School and the Summerdown Singers. Under their conductor, Mr. Gillman, the boys gave polished performances of several songs and instrumental numbers for a trombone quartet and piano and cello. The Summerdown Singers, conducted by Mrs. Y. Milne, also performed well their selection of varied choral pieces, including a fine solo from Mrs. Colley. The proceeds were for Christian Aid. What a pity it was that such an excellent evening was not better supported.

Further Moves

With regret St. John's take note of the fact that two more members are leaving Caversham. After twenty years, Miss Eleanor Hellins is giving up her home in Mayfield Drive because of ill-health. She is moving to Somerset to be nearer her sister. Her address for friends who would like to keep in touch will be Avalon Hotel, Blenheim Road, Minehead, Somerset.

Maimie Hoad and her family have just left for Bridgend, Glamorganshire. Maimie will be missed particularly for the help she has given towards running the creche on Sunday mornings and also for the vocal contribution she has made to the development of the Summerdown Singers.

Good wishes to both the Hoads and Miss Hellins.

St. Peter's News

His many friends were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mr. Frank Geake. Mr. and Mrs. Geake, who for many years had lived in Priest Hill, moved in December 1971 to Kingswinford to be near their married son. Mr. Geake had been an active helper in Reading Samaritans and had also been a constant visitor to many housebound people in Caversham.

The death also occurred recently of Mrs. Gertrude Overy, at the great age of 95. Her husband had many years ago been curate of St. Giles, Reading, and Mrs. Overy, who had moved from Caversham about two years ago, had attended St. Peter's until she grew too infirm. A person of great spirituality, she much appreciated the friendliness she found in the congregation and was always very grateful to the different people who gave her a lift to church.

New enrolling member

Mrs. Grimwade has retired from the post of enrolling member of the Mothers Union after completing nine years in office, the maximum period that any one member may serve. At the Annual Meeting of the combined branch of St. Peter's and St. Barnabas Mrs. Hutson was elected as the new enrolling member and was admitted to office on December 7th.

Christmas readings and music

As the choir will have been singing Evensong in Westminster Abbey the previous day (Saturday, December 30th) the normal service of Nine Lessons and Carols which is held on the Sunday after Christmas will this year take a different form. A special evening of Christmas music and readings has been devised by a group of friends on behalf of Shelter, and this will take place on Sunday, December 31st, at 6.30 p.m. The congregation will still find an opportunity to sing familiar carols, but there will be poetry readings, music for harpsichord and other special items. Members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church will be attending this service instead of on December 17th.

St. Margaret's

At their recent meeting the Parochial Church Council agreed to suspend Sunday Evensong from the end of December until Easter and then review the situation. Attendance has been extremely small recently and as sometimes the entire congregation had driven out from Caversham it was felt that it would be more realistic for them to worship at one of the Caversham churches.



— Walton Adams

Silver Jubilee Gift Day for Gosbrook Road Methodists

On October 28th Gosbrook Road Methodist Church celebrated twenty-five years of Gift Days. Started in 1947, to raise money for the church spire (long since removed), they have continued ever since. Chairman and opener for the day were the Revd. Ewart B. Wright and Mrs. Wright, with the Revd. Terence Harris and Mrs. Harris as host and hostess. During the opening ceremony Mr. E. J. S. Beckley spoke about the history of the Gift Day. Mrs. A. Caddell and Mrs. F. M. Burling, both past Gift Day secretaries, cut the celebration cake.

CAVERSHAM PARK
Wednesday House Communion: December 20th, 10.30 a.m. — 2 Blackwater Close.

Many past members and friends were among the one hundred and twenty who sat down to tea after spending their money at the usual stalls. Greetings were received from those not able to attend. Tea was followed by a sing-song in church led by Mr. Raymond Jones and the day ended with an evening entertainment by the Triangle Players, of sketches, dancing and singing. A total of £460.71 was raised.

On the following day the Sunday Chapel Anniversary Services were conducted by the Revd. Ewart B. Wright. The Boys and Girls' Brigade took part in the parade and family service at 11 a.m. In the evening, friends from Caversham Heights were also present.

St. Andrew's Women's Group

St. Andrew's Women's Group started the new season very successfully with a well-attended and interesting talk by Miss Evelyn Home on aspects of her job as an "advice columnist" with "Woman" magazine. She spoke of the various problems confronting people who write to her, and the efforts of herself and her staff to find practical ways of assisting them.

For the October meeting, the S.E.B. gave a demonstration of cookery with a Christmas theme, to remind members of the imminence of the festive season. The November meeting featured a talk by Miss McGarry on the work of Borocourt Hospital, and made listeners aware of the problems facing the staff in such an establishment.

Two recent social events have both been very successful. In September many members and husbands visited the Watermill Theatre at Bognor to see "There's a Girl in my Soup", and in November a party visited London Airport and were shown behind the scenes.

The Group also made several gifts to charities as Christmas approached, and now look forward to summer in the January meeting with a "Short Holidays Abroad", by Gangplank Tra

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

JUNIOR RED CROSS

Young Martin Hibbs, a 12-year-old who lives at Elizabeth House, was talking to me the other day about his weekly visit to the Red Cross instruction session. Being a keen "First Aid-er" he looks forward to attending to his fly-in-the-eye victims and stretcher cases when he and his young friends meet each Wednesday at the West Memorial Hall. Under the guidance of Mrs. Buller, Miss Hayes and Mr. Wren, these boys and girls have been nobly devoting their time and energy to a very worthwhile service, for which we should all be very grateful. Martin thinks that more young people ought to join the group. So if you are interested, just look in at the West Memorial Hall on Wednesday at 6.30 p.m.

WEST CAVERSHAM BOYS' CLUB

This progressive boys' club has been busy notching up more achievements again. At the Reading

Indoor Games Youth Clubs' Championships held at the Crescent Club on November 12th the following boys were successful in the Finals and became the town's champions for 1972.

Junior Batinton: Paul Mason and Michael Moliniaux (doubles); Junior Darts: John Home and Geoffrey Powell (doubles); and Senior Draughts: Anthony Bateman. All these boys now go forward to compete in the Berkshire County Championships. We wish them success!

by PETER SHOCK

ROAD SAFETY TALK TO LOWFIELD CLUB

The Oxfordshire Road Safety Team visited the Loweld Boys' Club on Wednesday evening, 7th November. An interesting and instructive talk was given by an official of the panel and some practical demonstrations were provided by Panda driver Mr. Davis.

Several films were shown, including one starring Reg Varney the T.V. comic; Caversham, too).

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Mr. John Allen, of Burnham Rise, Emmer Green, has forwarded me a programme of events organised by the Reading International Club, with which he has been actively associated for many years. Among its attractions are Discotheques and "Fish-coteques" (dancing with fish and chips?), Steel Bands and Party Nights. All sounds very exciting! Students and "Au pair" girls, and young people of all nationalities are welcome to its activities at Watlington House, Watlington Street, Reading each Wednesday, 8.0 till 10.30 p.m. The paramount object of the club, which has been in existence for twelve years, is to foster a friendly spirit between overseas students and the townsfolk of Reading (and Caversham, too).

SPORTS SPECIAL

The object of this column each month will be to take a look at sport in Caversham and the sporting achievements of some of our residents. We hope to cover as many sports as possible and to bring you news of the boys who get a trial for Chelsea, those who coach our stars of tomorrow and the married women who get together for Netball or Badminton. Also, we will cover any sporting events that occur in the Caversham area from time to time.

BOYS IN BLUE

Every Sunday morning, whatever the weather, nearly 100 young lads are playing football at Mapledurham Playing Fields in their Chelsea blue kit. Competition is tough to get into one of the five teams run by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Millard with the help of parents and the five individual team managers. The standard of football is high and the boys have been very successful in their games with other teams from the Reading and South Oxfordshire area.

Country used to be the sport of men but now boys and girls of 12 years and over can take part and the runners race from 1½ miles to 7½ miles according to age over fields, mud, water and fences. Many major championships have been held in Caversham over the years, including the National Championships, although most of them were held over the old course much of which was over fields where Caversham Park Village now stands.

BOY WITH A FUTURE

One Caversham Park resident who is already making a name for himself is Henley Grammar schoolboy Peter Baker, age 15 years, who runs for the well-known London Club of Thames Valley Harriers. Peter who is already Oxfordshire School's Cross Country champion, recently won his Club's under-15 championship so winning The Willis Cup for the second successive year thus becoming only the third athlete since 1935 to achieve this.

Pete runs over 30 miles a week in training under the watchful eye of his father, himself a former athlete with Thames Valley.

ALL SPORTS

It is perhaps appropriate that the residents of Caversham Park Village are themselves very enthusiastic sportsmen and women. There are clubs in the Village for Badminton, Tennis, Cross Country runners Football, Netball, Sub-aqua, and there are many Keep-Fit enthusiasts who can be seen

MUDLARK

For many years now the headquarters of the Reading Athletic Club has been at Emmer Green on most Saturdays this time of the year Cross Country runners of all ages meet there to take part in inter-club or league races. Cross



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INTRODUCTION. Each month a brief article dealing with an aspect of saving will appear in this space. This month we introduce ourselves with a general indication of our service which is free — if you want advice ask for it.

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BAPTISED

St. John's
November
12 Lisa Tallett

St. Andrew's

November
26 Pamela Wing
Keith Edwards

St. Barnabas'

12 Luke Bailey
19 Paul Cox
Eon Bedworth
Jason Thompson
Karen Gough

MARRIED

St. Peter's

October
21 John Crossley and Ann Brind
November
11 Charles Price and Annette Miller
23 James Keeling and Beryl Reece

FUNERALS

St. Peter's

November
1 Dorothy Simpson 10 Lily Clark
22 Flora Gibbons

St. Margaret's

November
15 Edith Streamer
18 David O'Boyle and Jennifer Hart

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