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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT IS LIKE TO TAKE YOUR TRICK AT THE WHEEL OF A THREE-HUNDRED-TON SAILING VESSEL bowling along under a stiff breeze? Of course you have and probably thought you would give your eye teeth for the chance.

Every year hundreds of young men from Caversham — the girls' cruises between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, realise that dream on one of the famous topsail schooners, "Sir Winston Churchill" and "The Malcolm Miller".

This year, arising from suggestions made at the 1972 ecumenical study groups, the Youth Service sub-committee of Caversham Parochial Church Council, is to sponsor two

the glorious days of the tall ships. It will not be quite as tough, of course, but it will be an intensely exciting holiday with forty other young men.

The only permanent crew members are the Captain, mate, engineer, bosun, and cook. The three watch officers and three watch leaders are all volunteers with experience of previous cruises. There is also a volunteer professional navigator.

What to do

Any young man, aged seventeen to nineteen, and a member of a Caversham church, who would like to

be considered for the "Malcolm Miller" cruise on 21st October, should write a short note giving his age and interests. The letter should be addressed to F. T. Knight Esq., 16 Piggotts Road, Caversham, who has kindly agreed to co-ordinate applications before final selection by the sub-committee. The two selected will be asked to contribute £20.00 per head towards the cruise fee of £80.00. The point of embarkation will be Portsmouth. Efforts will be made to assist in covering the cost of travel from Fowey, the landing point.

Dig up a Pole

Remember the street furniture survey and the campaign to get rid of superfluous poles? You must have noticed that some of the more useless ones have discreetly disappeared. In fact, altogether thirty were dug up in 1972 and have gone. We hope, to perform necessary and sterling service in some other part of the town.

Plant a Tree

However, if 1972 was the year for digging up poles, 1973 is the Year of the Tree. A tree takes a long time to mature but a few minutes work can fell one. So in 1973, we chop down less and plant more, for ourselves and future generations to enjoy.

Caversham Residents' Association has invited Mr. W. Dulborough of Reading Civic Society to speak about this. Mr. Dulborough has made a study of the use of trees in towns and has a collection of slides showing how they can be used to improve the urban landscape and how their absence makes for a bleak and barren aspect. Most of the slides are local ones.

The occasion will be after the Annual General Meeting of the Residents' Association on Monday, 2 April at 8 p.m. at St. John's Hall.

A.G.M.

With such an attraction as this, there will be no need for members to drag themselves to the A.G.M. from a sense of duty. Business and pleasure can be combined. The only thing is that you cannot vote at the A.G.M. unless you are a member — so 25p per household to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. P. Germain, 62 Westfield Road, or any committee member. As the meeting is at St.

John's Hall, Montague Street, a little way from the centre of Caversham, some people may have difficulty in getting there. It has therefore been arranged for lifts to be available from the Chester Street car park at 7.50 p.m. for those who wish.

Caversham Development Plan

A last minute reminder of the meeting on Monday, 5 March at Church House to hear about the Caversham Development Plan. Mr. C. MacDonald, the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. J. Cowling of the Planning Office, Mr. R. Bristow,

Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, and Cllr. A. Marshall, chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee will all be present to speak and answer questions.

A large attendance is expected so come in good time for the start of the meeting at 8 p.m. M.C.

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The Editor's Column

A CURIOUS OMISSION

THERE IS WHAT ALWAYS SEEMS TO ME A CURIOUS OMISSION IN THE ANGLICAN CONFIRMATION SERVICE. When the bishop prays for those about to be confirmed he asks that they may receive various gifts of the Holy Spirit but not that very gift which our Lord himself speaks of so often in connection with the Holy Spirit, and which is mentioned in the Gospel passage which precedes the Bishop's prayer.

Truth is to-day held in low esteem. In Victorian times it was an essential mark of godliness, and the Englishman's word was his bond. To-day we have devalued truth. The low estate in which politics is held is largely because politicians are concerned more with power than with truth, and the constant attempts made by so many politicians to vilify their opponents makes it very difficult for a truthful man to be a successful politician. But perhaps even more than the world of politics, the world of advertising with its subtle half truths has succeeded very cleverly in undermining the truth. Truth to-day is a virtue which is in low esteem.

THE CHURCH TO BLAME

But in all honesty I think that the Church must be held to be largely responsible for this attitude towards truth which is now so common. In the past we have in the Church of God too often demanded promises from people without first explaining the nature of those promises. I have particularly in mind the promises made at baptisms and weddings.

The promises made on these occasions are voluntary ones in that no one is obliged to have their children baptized nor is a church wedding the only way of getting married. So, provided the meaning of the promises is explained to those who make them, it is perfectly reasonable to expect them to be made. But truth has been undermined because too often little or no instruction has been given about what those promises mean and involve. And as a result we have undermined the whole concept of truth: solemn undertakings have been exacted from people at solemn moments in life without their being helped to realise that if they are given, then there is also an obligation to endeavour to keep them.

Small wonder then, when the Church of God has not stressed the importance of truth, if the world at large pays little heed to it. So for many people truth has ceased to be regarded as making any demands on them.

WHERE THE RUB COMES

But if we turn, for example, to Psalm 15 we are reminded very clearly that the followers of the God of truth are those who, having sworn to do something, do not disappoint their neighbours even though it is to their own hindrance. This is the rub: having undertaken to do something we must be prepared to go through without it even though we would rather not. And this is what so many of us to-day do not like having to face up to. And because we do not like this there is slowly collapsing one of the basic assumptions of our way of life.

So all around us we are finding that truth is held to be of little account.

But God is the God of truth. And the Church of God must be the body of people who are true. And truth will make demands on us; but we have to choose whether or not we are prepared to serve the God who is the God not only of love, joy and peace but also of truth. We must not blame others until we have set our house in order, and I hope that a future revision of the confirmation service will give a greater promise to the gift of truth as an essential gift of the Holy Spirit.

John Grimwade

ROUND THE CLUBS

Blagrove W.I.

The January Meeting, held at the Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road, heard a most interesting talk on The History of the Fire Service, given by Mr. Harvey, Assistant Divisional Officer of the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade. Mrs. Plumridge gave a vote of thanks. The competition — "A sample of Handwriting" was won by 1. Mrs. Menary; 2. Mrs. Wright; 3. Mrs. Bartlett.

Caversham Heights T.W.G.

The Speaker at the January meeting of the Guild was "Sylvia 59", one of the six Deputy Directors of Reading Samaritans. Everyone must have heard of the Samaritans and, after the TV series, must know basically what they try to do, but Sylvia was able to tell us so many interesting facts.

The Reading branch was started in 1963 when it was felt necessary to extend the service from the crypt in St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London, E.C.4. There are now on average some 100 volunteers who are required to do at least one 3-hour telephone shift per fortnight, and to attend a group meeting on the alternate week, in addition to befriending as many clients as the Samaritan can cope with. They are known only by code names and are not allowed to discuss their cases with anyone other than another Samaritan; this means that not even neighbours would know they lived next door to a Samaritan. There are now about 120 branches all over the country which are providing a befriending and advice service 24 hours a day. No money, food or clothes is ever given but ways are looked for to overcome the underlying problems which may have led

to these difficulties. One cannot ring the Samaritans on behalf of a person in need unless that person is prepared to speak for himself at least on the telephone. Clients do not have to give any personal details about themselves but often just talking to a good listener helps them to see their failures in a different light. Sometimes not even all the comfort and advice that the Samaritans can offer deters a person from taking their own life, but it must be greatly encouraging to know that in towns which have this service the suicide rate has noticeably declined. Although more women attempt to take their own lives, more men actually succeed.

The Reading area extends to Bracknell where there is a probationary group who man the telephone at night and during the day the calls are transferred to Reading 54845. The area also covers Henley and Newbury which only has a befriending group. Last year there were 716 women clients and 431 men who called for help. Most people seem to come with obvious difficulties which are not necessarily the ones which have brought them to such despair, and it may take some time before the Samaritan has really got down to main problems and is able to help.

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs. Russell was in the chair to welcome members to the first meeting of the New Year. A very welcome return was made by Mrs. John Blatch whose subject, "Impressions of the Far East", members found very entertaining. The competi-

tion results were 1st Mrs. Bovey, 2nd Mrs. Beasley, 3rd Mrs. Ellingham.

Maplewood W.I.

Maplewood's 18th Birthday Party took place on January 16th. Members and guests enjoyed a Barn Dance with Mr. A. J. Moss as the caller. The President, Mrs. Betty Lewis, welcomed Miss Latham and Mrs. Hill VCO. The competition for 3 hyacinths in a bowl was judged by Mr. Grimsey and won by Mrs. Eleanor Alford (1), Miss Dormer (2) and Mrs. Berry Clamp (3). Mrs. Matthews, Miss Dormer and Mrs. Parcell made and iced the beautiful cake and the committee provided the refreshments. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Clarke won another competition.

Mapledurham W.I.

Mrs. Bramwell was in the Chair for the January Meeting. Mrs. Skinner gave the vote of thanks to the Speaker Miss K. Page who came from London to speak about famous actresses she has known. She also acted several small excerpts from well-known plays. It was a most interesting and entertaining afternoon.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

There was no speaker this month, instead members' holiday slides were shown. Mrs. O. West collected and co-ordinated these and everyone present

enjoyed a magic carpet trip round many of the beauty spots of Europe.

The sunshine of the holiday slides was most welcome on a chilly January evening.

A rather artistic touch was added by the showing of Flower slides to denote the passing from one country to another.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At their meeting in January members of the Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild were able to renew their acquaintance with an old friend. The guest speaker on this occasion was Mr. Bryant Peers M.A., well known to members as their guide on tours to the lesser known places of interest in London after dark. Mr. Peers took as his subject "Night and day in Victorian London" and illustrated his talk with many slides of places, people, districts and events from that period. At the close Mrs. B. Stratford thanked the speaker on behalf of all those present for an entertaining and interesting afternoon. The Chairman Mrs. C. Mitchell introduced two new members and Mrs. L. Grey gave news of an outing which she is arranging to Burghley House the seat of the Marquis of Exeter.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday in each month at Caversham Community Centre, School Lane, Caversham, at 2.15 p.m. Intending members are assured of a warm welcome.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by
Zoilus

A SEAT IN THE GALLERY OVERLOOKING THE COUNCIL CHAMBER HAS AT LEAST ONE FRINGE BENEFIT, it encourages a sense of detachment from the hurly-burly of municipal politics snarling away below. Just as our forefathers must have felt safely immune from the ferocity of the bear pit, as they peered down from the cosy safety of their seats in the family circle.

SOUND AND FURY

Not that the proceedings at the last Council Meeting passed the bounds of polite political skulduggery. There was a certain amount of verbal assault and battery, the usual setpiece battles were fought out on the subjects of finance, education, housing and development. There were satisfactory little skirmishes around the pop festival, road patterns, the Market (Butter, not Common) and Bingo. Protagonists on both sides were able to strike the conventional warlike poses and trumpet the accepted tribal challenges. But as the present voting strength means that almost any proposal which is backed by the majority party is certain to be accepted once it has passed through Committee—where the real work is done—the sound and fury of a full council meeting is somewhat academic.

Nevertheless, it provides a useful shop window from which parties and personalities can demonstrate their loyalty to this creed or that dogma and a platform for the committee chairmen to publicise the plans of their departments.

RENTS AND HOUSING

At the last meeting Cllr. Alexander had the ticklish task of explaining the Council's attitude to the new Housing Finance Act and the consequent assessment of fair rents. Here is a situation almost Gilbertian, for the Labour Party have about as much enthusiasm for the Act as Lord Longford has for "Oh Calcutta!", yet

the results of a refusal to operate it would be disastrous for the borough's finances and quite uncomfortable for the unfortunate dissident councillors.

So Cllr. Alexander's task was to steer the disliked measure through the chamber without too much loss of face, and quite a good job he made of it. If he didn't fashion a silk purse out of the sow's ear circumstances had given him, he did produce one of nice shining nylon. Like a Glaswegian grand old Duke of York, he led his troops up to the top of the hill, belaying about him at the iniquities of the Act and the injustice of a government mean enough to double the rents of the more needy families. Reaching the summit he paused to assure protesting tenants that the Council will give them every assistance in claiming against the hardship caused by the Act, and then marched down to level ground again where he fired a final broadside condemning the measure as a Tory Law which the Council must accept but will do all in its power to ameliorate.

EMOTION

Alderman Busby, speaking with all the authority of 27 years service on the Council and as leader of the Conservative group, regretted that housing always had to be dealt with in an emotional and political manner. He pointed out that without the aid of the Housing Bill land prices would be prohibitive and reminded members that rent rebates were available to reduce extra charges.

The Liberals were worried about the state of repair of some municipal housing. Cllr. Day thought that the rent assessment should take this into account and if not, the tenants of such sub-standard properties should appeal.

Cllr. Towner endorsed this. The Conservatives had only spent £320,000 on repairs to council houses, he said, whilst his Socialist administration had spent £500,000.

Labour leaders had warned that rents could be doubled by the Act and they had been right. It was all the fault of the government, he declared, resuming his seat and passing a peppermint to Ald. Busby, whether as a gesture of sympathy or an act of contrition, I know not.

DISAPPOINTED

Then followed quite a procession of Labour members all eager to wear the martyr's crown. Cllrs. Clifton, Huntley, Lyons and Still were all deeply disappointed that their unadventurous leaders had denied them the opportunity of being prosecuted, fined, imprisoned, even lined up in Valpy Street and shot, perhaps, rather than submit to the tyranny of the Housing Act 1972. However, if it was really too late for that sort of thing they were still ready to act as ghost-writer to any tenants whose literary talents might not run to composing a really trenchant letter of protest to the Local Authority.

The Conservative contribution to the debate was somewhat muted, perhaps advisedly. Cllr. Chopping complimented the chairman of the Housing Committee on piloting the motion through as well as he would have done himself, though whether he had his tongue in his cheek it wasn't possible to see. Ald. Barrett came up with his famous Crusty Old Tory Act and accused the Socialists of looking after their own, who live in council houses. An amendment to provide each tenant with a stamped and addressed envelope to facilitate their appeal was passed, and eventually the Council moved on to other business.

It was well past midnight when proceedings ended, after nearly six hours of debate. Which shows the dedicated thoroughness which our representatives bring to the town's business, and that you rarely find them at a loss for words.

Tony Durant

Prospective Conservative candidate for the new constituency of Reading North, Tony Durant, comes from Woking where he is a local councillor. Educated at Dane Court School, Pyrford, Surrey, and Bryanston school, Dorset, he served in the Royal Navy at the end of the war and is now an Audio Visual Aids and Management Consultant.

From 1962 to 1967 he was National Organiser of the Young Conservatives having previously been Area Young Conservative Organiser for Yorkshire. In 1959 he was constituency agent in Clapham for Dr. Alan Glyn, the present member for Windsor, when the seat was won from Labour. The 1966 election brought a different experience as a member of Mr. Heath's personal staff, and in 1970 he was himself candidate for Rother Valley when he succeeded in reducing a 30,000 socialist majority to 26,000.



—Robert Enever

SPECIAL INTERESTS

As Deputy Leader of the Surrey County Council and Chairman of the Woking Education Committee, Mr. Durant has considerable Local Government experience. He is concerned with the protection of the rights of individuals in housing, planning and social problems. He wants to use this experience to help the people of Reading with particular reference to traffic problems, education, housing and better amenities. Already he is taking up local issues and individual cases. Other interests include Town Planning and British Waterways.

Married with three children — a boy and a girl aged thirteen (twins) and a younger son of six—he enjoys an occasional round of golf and mucking about in boats with his family.

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WEST HIGHLANDS — INNELLAN, ARGYLLSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leader: Mr. E. J. S. Beckley, J.P.

Dates — Friday, June 15th to Saturday, June 23rd. Overnight at CARLISLE.
Excursions to Inverary, Oban.
Inclusive price £49.

EAST HIGHLANDS — BLAIRGOWRIE, PERTSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Walters.

Dates — Friday, June 22nd to Saturday, June 30th. Overnight at CARLISLE.
Excursions to Balmoral, Deeside, Glencoe, Blair Atholl.
Inclusive price £54.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS — KILLIECRANKIE, PERTSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. R. Chewter.

Dates — Friday, August 31st to Saturday, September 8th. Overnight at CARLISLE.
Excursions to Balmoral, Glencoe, Pitlochry, Queens View.
Inclusive price £52.50.

NORTH WALES & LAKE DISTRICT (2 Centres) LLANDUDNO & GRANGE — 8 DAYS.

Dates — Saturday, June 9th to Saturday, June 16th.
Excursions to Snowdon, Caernarvon, Betws-y-Coed, Anglesey, Keswick, Kirkstone Pass, Ullswater, Windermere etc.
Inclusive price £39.50.

SWISS ALPS, HASLIBERG AREA — 13 DAYS. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morrow.

Dates — Thursday, June 7th to Tuesday, June 19th. Overnight at AACHEN and HEIDELBERG.
Excursions to Interlaaken, Jungfrau, 3 Passes, Lucerne etc. etc.
Inclusive price £75.

AUSTRIAN ALPS — KLEINES WALSERTAL — 12 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Monday, June 4th to Friday, June 15th. Overnight at AACHEN and HEIDELBERG.
Excursions to Lindau, Bregenz, Bodensee, Garmisch, Zugspitze etc.
Inclusive price £68.50.

BLACK FOREST — 9 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Thursday, June 21 to Friday, June 29. Overnight at AACHEN.
Excursions to Baden-Baden, Heidelberg etc. — Centre at Baiersbrunn.
Inclusive price £59.50.

HOLLAND — 8 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Saturday, May 12th to Saturday, May 19th.
Excursions to Rotterdam Gouda and Hague etc., includes visits to Bulb Fields.
Inclusive price £52.50.

WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

My first reaction to press and TV coverage of the story of the gentleman found dead at his home in Gosbrook Road — righteous indignation! Someone should write and tell these people about the 'Bridge' scheme, someone should inform the world at large that we don't neglect our old people in Caversham!

Second thoughts, as usual. No doubt this was a case where help was actually rejected — we are all familiar with such cases. But, in spite of the 'Bridge' scheme and the hundreds of well-meaning people, do we really get to the roots of the problem? Is Caversham really a friendly place? As an alien I know I'm sticking my neck out, but it seems to me it is just the reverse. There are still far too many people whose proud claim is "I keep myself to myself" — on practical grounds perhaps fair enough when we are young and healthy; alas, by the time we become sick or old it is often too late to break the habit of a life-time. We haven't all got time for 'good works', but we could all help to engender a new spirit of friendliness — the odd smile, the occasional greeting, anything, in fact, which creates a feeling of belonging.

Litter louts

At present I seem bedevilled by the problem of litter. Yesterday I had the temerity to suggest that a passer-by should retrieve her own discarded banana

skins, yet five minutes later I found myself adding my own 'widow's mite' in the shape of a cigarette end. This morning, on the way to church, I noticed the usual piles of votive offerings, evidence of Saturday's car-cleaning sessions, little piles of cigarette ends and odd rubbish in the gutters. Granted the local authorities have a responsibility, but I don't think we help ourselves much, do we?

TV Aerials

I hear the people at the Council flats are still waiting, in spite of repeated promises, for their 625 TV aerials. I wonder how much longer the tenants will have to wait before they can see BBC 2 or colour TV. Local authority please note.

Shopping trolleys

Are those shopping trolleys really so useful or necessary? One thing I do know — handled carelessly they are a menace. A friend of mine has had a very painful foot for weeks due to a confrontation between her big toe and a carelessly wielded trolley. A little more thought would come in handy, particularly on our narrow pavements.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 11th January, 1973. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided.

The Council received a further application from Oxfordshire C.C. for a primary school off Shepherd's Lane, Mapledurham, and this indicated two separate sites for a primary school, one covering the same area as submitted last August, and the other covering approximately 3 acres on a site bounded by Tokers Green Lane, and to the north of the first alternative. In both instances an access to Shepherd's Lane was proposed, entering Shepherd's Lane at the same point as in the previous application.

Regarding the second alternative, the proposal contained a suggestion for a footpath to run roughly parallel with Tokers Green Lane, with access into Rokeby Drive. Of the two alternatives proposed, the Council considered that the second alternative was the most suitable, i.e.: the one covering the area with the frontage on to Tokers Green Lane. The Parish Council considered that if this proposal was accepted, improved road facilities would be required to be carried out in Tokers Green Lane.

The County Council have again turned down the Parish Council's request for footpath facilities on the A.4074 between Rokeby Drive and Greendene Farm. The County Council have stated that as level verges will be provided when this section of the A.4074 is reconstructed, it had been decided that the cost of the work could not be justified at the present time. Further representations have been made to the County Council by asking them when work of reconstruction is likely to take place along this particularly dangerous stretch of this road.

The Parish Council has been advised by Henley RDC of the amount of the product of a penny rate for 1973/74; this has been considerably increased due to the recent revaluation. The Council is therefore to pre-empt the RDC for a sum of £3,100, and it is anticipated that this will be the equivalent to a Parish Rate of one penny.

The Council were informed that the Thames Valley Police are continuing their vigilance along the A.4074, particularly between 'Pack Saddle' PH and Cane End, where there have been some recent blatant examples of overtaking along this especially bad stretch of road where 'no overtaking' signs have been erected.

THE B.P. SCOUT GUILD

WHAT IS IT?

It is an association of:

- (1) men and women who have served in Scouting and Guiding as youngsters
- (2) parents of boys and girls who are in either movement
- (3) an enthusiastic number who wholeheartedly subscribe to the principles of scouting, yet were never Scouts or Guides in their younger days.

Often referred to as the family behind Scouting, the Guild certainly enjoys a delightful social atmosphere, and is open to husband and wife alike, in fact to anyone over the age of eighteen.

The Emmer Green and Caversham Branch, formed in 1970, meets on the second Tuesday of each month. A cordial invitation is extended to all ex-Scouters, Guiders and other adults who would like to join. Please contact the Guild's secretary Mr. C. Werrell at 90 Mayfield Drive — tel. 477704.

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Calling the Tune

by
Maeve Murphy-O'Connor

Those who know Reg Brind, organist and choir-master at St. Peter's for many years, will find it hard to believe that he was born into a completely unmusical family and that he started his working career as an apprentice engineer. Music is so much a part of his life — in fact it can fairly said to be his whole life — that it is not surprising that young Reg wasn't prepared to accept this state of affairs for long.

Reading bred and born, his musical career really began when, still very young, he started giving piano and singing lessons to a few private pupils. And by the time he was 21 he had won a scholarship in music awarded by Reading University. Here he had the rare good fortune to be a pupil of the famous musician and composer, Gustav Holst, shortly before the latter's death in 1934.

Director of Music

Soon after this, under the auspices of Dr. Thornton Lofthouse, then Professor of Music at the University, Mr. Brind secured the post of Director of Music at Henley Grammar School, a position which he held until his retirement five years ago. Not that he can really be said to have retired, for he still teaches the organ to a few private pupils.

It is as an organist that most people will know Mr. Brind. Actually he started learning to play the organ at a very young age at St. Agnes' Church, then in Silver Street; subsequently he was appointed deputy organist



Mr. Brind at the Organ of St. Peter's.

— Walton Adams

at St. Giles. At the same time he deputised at various churches in Berkshire until finally, in 1947, he was appointed organist at St. Peter's Caversham.

Since then, together with Mr. Rowe, organist at St. Andrew's, he has trained and conducted choirs amalgamated from the churches in the district to sing at services in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Modern Trends

Like many organists, Mr. Brind thinks that the Church has got to move with the times as far as music is concerned; at the same time, he thinks the fine musical heritage of the past should not be neglected. Any attempt to amalgamate traditional and modern music should, he thinks, be avoided.

Other interests

It is difficult to see how he finds time for any other activities, but Mr. Brind, who now lives at Twyford, the proud grandfather of four, does find time occasionally to listen to the radio and even to indulge in a favourite pastime, carpentry.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to think of Reg Brind, a founder-member of the Berkshire Organist Association, without thinking of all he has contributed to music in this district, and, in particular, to the churches of Caversham.

WORLD POVERTY — TEACHING THE FACTS

With Christian Aid week approaching—it begins on 14th May — many schools will be undertaking projects on world development. In order to further such studies a session has been arranged by St. Mary's Centre in Chain Street, Reading, to introduce resource material produced by Christian Aid. Sue Varney, Schools Secretary for Christian Aid will lead the session which takes place at the centre on Monday, 5th March from 4.30 - 6.00 p.m. Tea will be provided. Enrolment forms are available at the centre — course fee 25p.

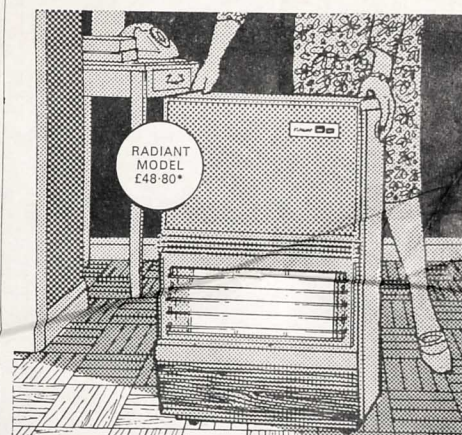
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WE OUGHT BY NOW TO BE THINKING...

TIME TO WAKE UP

by PARISH ELECTOR

We ought by now to be thinking very seriously about nominations for P.C.C. elections. A few days before annual District meetings will be too late. Recent ecumenical group studies showed that there is an urgent need for younger members on church councils — people who understand how their contemporaries think and who can represent their ideas.

If we are to advance and get rid of some of our 'excess baggage' of prejudice and complacency we need the uncluttered outlook of the young, who are unhindered by such attitudes as "we have always done it this way", and an excessive pre-occupation with bricks and mortar. Ceremonial and custom, and material considerations such as roofs, organs, heating and bells aren't unimportant; but it does sometimes seem that we get our priorities wrong.

PERSONAL APPROACH

Young people see things simply and in present context: they see the church as it should be — a body of people, Christ's body, working together to the glory of God and the benefit of all people, whether they come to church or not, whether they are believers, atheists or agnostics.

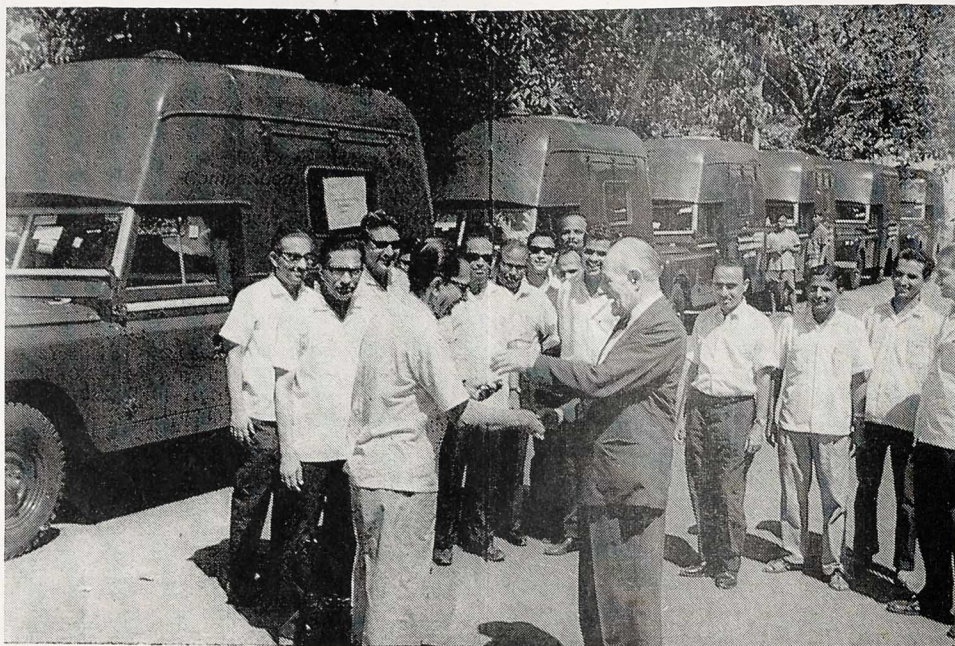
At a recent group meeting one reaction was, "We put up a list at the back of the Church, but the young people don't put their names on it". Of course they don't: they would naturally be diffident about

putting themselves forward. It is up to the older members of congregations and these already in office to approach them personally and to tell them something of the way the cumbersome machine of Anglican government works and to point out that the only way to get progressive ideas over to the Establishment is to get on the P.C.C. and explain how they feel things could be simplified or improved. An initial approach could perhaps be made by the clergy or wardens.

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

I am not suggesting that the whole P.C.C. should resign to make room for a completely new collection of younger people: the new members will obviously need guidance from the more experienced and both groups can learn from each other. The initial aim might be to have two young people from each district. They could then give mutual support in the ordeal of their first P.C.C. meeting and in presenting their ideas.

FEEDING THE WORLD



Mr. Belfield-Smith presenting nutrition vans to Indian representatives.

FEW PEOPLE CAN GIVE US SO MUCH FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AS MR. BELFIELD-SMITH who now lives with his wife in Hewett Avenue, Mapledurham.

For much of his life he carried on the large family catering business and started the first catering college in Britain. But eighteen years ago he offered his vast fund of knowledge to the United Nations and began work with the Food and Agricultural Organisation to which, though officially retired, he remains a consultant.

A year's visit becomes seventeen

His first post was in India on what was supposed to be a year's visit. Actually he and his wife remained for a further sixteen, attached to the Indian Government who were anxious to give the Indian people technical training in the proper handling of food. The Indian housewife was adapt at this but when it came to feeding large numbers in schools, hospitals, etc., it was a different story. Mr. Belfield-Smith opened the first ten catering colleges in India. He also organised the use of nutrition vans; these vans, costing five thousand pounds each, are attached to rural areas in each state and their aim is to teach those in country districts and the poor in urban areas, and to raise their standard of nutritious feeding.

So successful were the catering colleges that Mr. Belfield-Smith was asked to go to Malaya, Ceylon and Nepal to found others. Now such colleges are world-wide and not only help to raise the feeding standards of many nations but also provide work and a more stable future for many.

Heartening news

On the subject of developing countries, Mr. Belfield-Smith is most illuminating. Apparently some of the smallest affluent nations are the most generous, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark being among these. Another surprise is to find that Britain gives the second largest contribution to overseas aid, and this, according to Mr. Belfield-Smith, with few strings attached. One project which Great Britain has financed in India is the Higher Institute of Technology in New Delhi, whose massive buildings cover five hundred acres.

In spite of this, however, India still faces problems, such as the poor harvest of last year and a growing population. But they do try to help themselves as is shown by the renewal of the control of meals order, which makes it an offence to give a party of more than fifty people, and where only nuts, coffee and tea are allowed as refreshment.

Cuba

As consultant, Mr. Belfield-Smith has recently been to Cuba to assist in preparing a project ap-

proved by the Cuban Government to be considered by the UN Children's Fund, assisted by Finland. The Cuban Government concentrates on the welfare of the children and have many day-care centres with about 150 children in each. There are some 200 such centres in Greater Havana, feeding 23,000 children whose mothers go out to work, some in the sugar industry. The first project is to increase this facility

to feed 50,000 and eventually 250,000 children. Thus the work force of Cuba will be considerably increased; at present out of 8½ million people less than two million work.

Each day-care centre is well-equipped and staffed, and is visited by a doctor three times a week. However, raw materials are short and it is for this reason the Cuban Government have appealed to the UN for help.

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As our pictures show many of the 240 Caversham Bridge distributors came together recently to celebrate the appearance of the new style Bridge. The Caversham Bridge Board also wished to say thank you to them for the loyal way in which this large body of volunteers deliver about 40,000 copies of this paper in the course of a year.

The University Folk Dancing Society, led by Mark Bennett, not only gave a splendid display of Morris and other dancing but also got many of the guests to dance with them. Major Coslett, Distribution Manager, spurred his large team on to further efforts in 1973 when it is hoped that the circulation will be increased by a thousand copies monthly. Mrs. Pilgrim, wife of the Board's secretary, with the aid of several assistants, carried out a highly successful catering operation and all present voted that it had been a first rate evening, which was suitably held during the week of prayer for Christian unity. Among those present were Mr. H. G. Purver who for many years has been responsible for the lay-out of this paper, and photographer Mr. John Anderson who seized the opportunity to photograph many of the distributors.



The Distributors get with it.

— Walton Adams



The Morris Dancers.

— Walton Adams

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

AT 8.00 P.M.

Monday, February 26th
St. Barnabas' District
in St. Barnabas' Hall

Wednesday, February 28th
St. Andrew's District
in St. Andrew's Hall

Tuesday, February 27th
St. Peter's District
in Balmore Hall

Tuesday, March 6th
St. John's District
in St. John's Hall

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

AT 7.30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH
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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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We are a firm of savings consultants who offer you a free advisory service on saving and investment.

There are many saving and investment schemes available of which most people are aware. We feel that knowledge of the savings market should be more widespread so that with professional help people may select a scheme that is best suited to their needs.

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Our Service

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talking point

DR. WHO MEETS THE THEOLOGICIANS

by
**Laurence
Stevens**

If "to the pure all things are pure" then perhaps to a minister relaxing with the children to watch "Dr. Who" on Saturday afternoon, all things are theological. It may be the impending approach of Sunday, with all those sermons floating around inside my head, or perhaps I need to learn the art of relaxation!

At any rate, a recent series prompted strange speculations in my mind. Dr. Who was involved in something of a crisis of identity. Viewers have long been accustomed to leaping the "space-time" hurdle by means of the Doctor's remarkable police call-box "Tardis", and have reconciled themselves to the change of actor from William Hartnell to Patrick Troughton, and then most recently to Jon Pertwee. Now they had to leap the bounds of character and personality, for all three Doctors appeared at once. One presumes that a change of actor in the key role is something of an em-

barrassment to a producer of such a series as this, which has now been running for ten years. Hartnell, the first Dr. Who, was heard to complain that "this old body of mine is becoming a bit tired" and he was given a new face. The second change was arranged ostensibly to save the Doctor embarrassment when exiled to earth.

Who's who?

The latest mind-boggling event is the meeting of Dr. Who with Dr. Who with Dr. Who. Or should one use a mathematical formula Dr. Who/3? For it now appears that the three doctors are not really three

separate persons, but to quote the second, "We are all different aspects of the same character". And their fight, of course, is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers of "anti-matter".

BBC Plot

Perhaps theologians should soften up their congregations for an understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity by prescribing a compulsory series of Dr. Who episodes! For are we not taught that God is not really three separate persons in the sense in which we think of a separate individual today? And did not "person" come from a word which meant an actor's mask? Then there were the moments when

there was a curious interplay of energy between the three doctors — dare one call it prayer — when they sought the advice and strength of the doctor who remained above (or elsewhere) in the realm of the Time Lords. And what of Christians spoken of heaven as a society?

Perhaps it is all part of a subtle plot on the part of the BBC Religious Broadcasting Department to subliminally indoctrinate us. If children can grasp these difficult concepts, they should not do too badly on theology. Or perhaps it is that like the rest of creation, to those who are prepared to look, even a space-fiction programme can carry intimations of the divine.

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Postbag

Dear Sir,

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His water will either be fluorided or it won't. There is no middle way.

It seems to me incredible, that when the cause of dental decay is well-known, local authorities should resort to medicating everyone's water supply. Constipation is also a common complaint. What would we feel if a daily dose of salts were added, without our consent, to our drinking water?

Yours faithfully,
Molly Casey (Mrs.)

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John Earl of Kildare, William Bullivant Williams, Stephen White and others. Few people in Caversham have probably ever heard of these names but as a result of various legacies left by them and other people over the centuries there exists what is now known as the Caversham Consolidated Charities. These are administered by a group of Trustees of which the Rector is always one and others are appointed by the Borough of Reading and by the parish councils of Kidmore End, and Eye and Dunsden as these civil parishes were formerly in the ancient parish of Caversham.

Although the annual income is small the Trustees are always glad to make grants to people in need. Grants can be made to persons who are sick, infirm, convalescent or in need of change of air; grants can also be given for travelling expenses for persons visiting sick relatives and convalescing made towards bedding, food, fuel, furniture or other useful articles. Assistance can also be given to students in need of books or necessary tools.

The clerk to the Trustees is Mr. P. Tipton, of 73 South View Avenue anyone wishing to apply for a grant should contact him.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

MARCH, 1973

ECUMENICAL STUDIES

Two courses of lecture-discussions have been arranged for Lent in Church House, Church Street.

Course A. Mondays at 8 p.m. beginning March 19th.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Course Leader: Gerald Restall. Director of St. Mary's Centre, Reading.

1. The World of the New Testament
2. Introducing the Gospels
3. What the Gospels say.
4. The first Christians.
5. Letters to the Churches.

Course B. Thursdays at 8 p.m. beginning March 15th.

THINGS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

1. Believing — Paul Fiddles. Research Fellow of Regent's Park Baptist College, Oxford.
2. The Creator — Paul Beaumont. Director of Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Catechetical Centre.
3. Man's Inadequacies and God's Response — Elwyn Shackleton. Minister of Didcot Baptist Church.
4. God working today — Wilfrid Browning. Canon of Christ Church, Oxford.
5. What about the future? — Alan Smithson, Anglican Chaplain to Reading University.

There will be opportunity for questions and discussion. The fee for each course will be 35p. Please return the form below to the Parish Office, Church House, Church Street, Caversham, marked "Lent Course".

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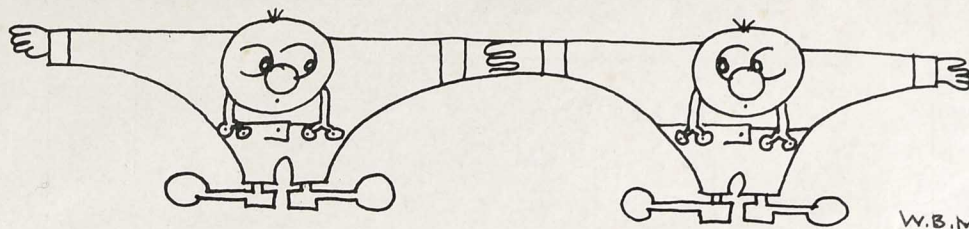
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THE BRIDGE SCHEME



BIG ATTENDANCE AT BRIDGE SCHEME MEETING

There was once again a splendid attendance at The Annual Meeting of the Bridge Scheme of Social Service which was held in a crowded West Memorial Hall during the week of prayer for Christian unity. Mrs. Besley, the Central organiser, reported on the work of the scheme and announced that twenty-nine helpers had now been found in Caversham Park so that the work of the scheme could be extended to that area.

The guest speaker was Dr. G. M. Vine, himself a Caversham resident and the consultant geriatric physician for Reading and District Hospitals. In his talk he stressed in particular the high incidence of hypothermia among old people, the bedroom often being the coldest room in the house: this resulted in many old people gradually going into a coma.

A number of volunteers for the scheme were forthcoming at the meeting but there is still an urgent need for more helpers, particularly car drivers, and Bridge readers are invited to offer their help and to complete the form published on this page.

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Mrs. M. Coombs (Sth. Caversham) 5 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472689.

Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham) 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.

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Obituary

The death occurred in hospital recently at the age of 85 of Mr. Conrad Willcocks of 47 St. Peter's Avenue. For many years a worshipper at St. Peter's until growing infirmity made it impossible for him to get to church, he always delighted to send hundreds of daffodils and narcissi for the decoration of the church at Easter, and he took a great delight in his large garden. By profession an architect he had designed the Roman Catholic Church at Woodcote and many Reading buildings, the first of which was the Arthur Hill Memorial Baths. He also undertook the restoration of Watlington House.

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- St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m., age 4 years and upwards.
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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).
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st 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. Evening Service (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. Evening Service (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).

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- 10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
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- The Rev. Michael Atkinson, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.
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- The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
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- The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Baltimore Drive. Tel. 478668.

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

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

WE RECORD . . .

MARRIED

- St. John's**
Jan. 27th Mervyn Brown and Elizabeth Sherwood.
- St. Andrew's**
Dec. 27th Michael Goddard and Margaret Harden.
- St. Margaret's**
Dec. 2nd Geoffrey Tier and Rosemary Hall.

FUNERALS

- St. Peter's**
Dec. 20th Maud Herring.
22nd Alan Featherstone.
- Jan. 1st** Conrad Willcocks.
4th Harry Stelling.
- St. John's**
Dec. 19th Edward Wigmore.
20th Frank Taylor.

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FROM CAVERSHAM TO CROYDON

Congratulations to the Rev. Colin Hill on his appointment as Vicar of Croydon. A former St. Peter's choir boy he is at present vicar of Easthampstead, but he and his sister are remembered by many in Caversham, and he is one of several priests whom this parish has produced.

BUT MORE PRIESTS TO-DAY?

On Sunday, March 4th four men who are at present training for ordination in Oxford will be visiting the parish to preach at each church at the Parish Communion. One will come from each of the four Oxford colleges, Cuddesdon, Ripon Hall, St. Stephen's House, and Wycliffe Hall; in the course of the day they will hope to meet many members of the different congregations. In recent years there has been a sharp decline in the number of men ordained. A parish such as Caversham ought to be producing a steady supply of men for the ministry. The visit of these four ordination candidates on March 4th should stimulate thinking about this matter which is vital for the life of the whole church.

Parish of Caversham Ash Wednesday Services

Holy Communion
7 a.m. — (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).
9.30 a.m. — (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).
10 a.m. — (St. Barnabas).
Sung Eucharist
8 p.m. — (All Churches).

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St. Andrew's Notes

Epiphany Party:

A lot of people gathered in St. Andrew's Hall on Saturday evening, 6th January for the Epiphany party. This was not held last year because of the electricity cuts. Sherry was served on arrival and the guests were able to sit and talk at tables around the hall. A delicious spread of turkey and ham with all the trimmings was to follow, and many people said how much they had enjoyed the refreshments. Musical entertainment was given by members of St. Andrew's Church family, and a short play was produced by Caversham Drama Society. Many thanks to all who helped this to be a happy occasion.

St. Andrew's Children:

A good crowd of parents and friends, and members of St. Andrew's Church family came to share with the children in their Festival of Praise which they gave in church on Sunday, 14th January at 6.30 p.m. It was a truly joyful evening with excellent reading and song from the children. St. Andrew's teachers are a credit! Many thanks.

Baptist Service of Baptism

There will be a service of Believer's Baptism at the Baptist Free Church in Prospect Street on Sunday evening, 18th March at 6.30 followed by Holy Communion. All friends from other churches are warmly invited to share in the worship and to take communion.

There will be one candidate on this occasion — Pamela Ide, the elder daughter of the Church Secretary.

ST. PETER'S NEWS

MRS. ANNE CAMERON

Mrs. Anne Cameron, one of the members for Oxford diocese of the General Synod will be the first woman to preach at the Parish Communion. She will be visiting St. Peter's for this purpose on March 18th. The first Friday in March is traditionally observed as the Women's World Day of Prayer. The Bishop of Oxford has asked that Women should be invited to preach, and the attention of congregations focussed on the ministry of women. All members of the Mothers Union and of St. Peter's Wives are particularly asked to make a special point of being present that morning. It was Mrs. Cameron who last summer moved the resolution in the Diocesan Synod asking that steps should be taken to implement the proposals of the Commission on the Christian doctrine of marriage for the remarriage in church, subject to adequate safeguards, of divorced persons.

Wives' Group

The St. Peter's Wives Group continues to be a lively and active organisation. It is open to all women and meetings are held regularly on the third Tuesday of each month in Church House. Other ex-

tra meetings and social evenings are arranged.

The new programme has just been finalised and a welcome is extended to anyone who would like to come and join.

They also sponsor a Play Group which is held on three mornings a week in Balmore Hall. Vacancies exist for children from 2½-5 years.

Jean Pugh — 472949 — and Sandra Owen — 474038 — will be pleased to give any further information about the Group and its activities.

ST. PETER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

held its annual winter party at Balmore Hall on Saturday, 27th January. About 35 children turned up for the occasion and enjoyed some jolly party games and a nice tea laid on by the teachers and parents. A lively entertainment by 'John' with his guitar proved a very popular item in the afternoon's programme. At the stroke of six, a host of gaily-coloured balloons parachuted from the rafters, and a good time was had by all who survived the massacre. A second party was held a week later in Church House for younger children in the kindergarten.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



GRAHAM KIRBY — LINDA DAWSON

Graham Lindsay Kirby and Linda Dawson were married at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on 27th January 1973 by Rev. T. R. Harris. Both are active members of the church, both being Youth Club Leaders. Linda also being a Sunday School teacher and Graham a Local Preacher in the Reading circuit. The bridesmaid was a friend of the bride, and the best man was Mr. Russel Kirby, brother of the bridegroom. Mrs. A. Dawson and the

Linda is the daughter of late Mr. G. Dawson of Brisbane, Australia, and

although none of her immediate family was able to be present at the wedding, she had a telephone call from them during the afternoon — which was the middle of the night in Australia!

The reception was held at the Caversham Bridge Hotel followed by a large gathering of friends at the home of the bridegroom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kirby, 11 Sanderfoot Road, Caversham. The couple left later for their honeymoon in Bournemouth.

Graham and Linda's many friends in Caversham Heights wish them God's blessing and every happiness in their future life together.

St. Margaret's

Mapledurham Parish Social

The Mid-Lent Parish Supper and entertainment is on Saturday, 31st of March in Trench Green Hall. Admission by ticket: these are on sale at Green Dene Farm, Chazey Heath and from members of the Church Council.

Vestry and Parish Meeting

This will be held at Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road, on Thursday, 1st of March, at 8.15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on March 7th, when there will be a House Communion in Mapledurham Church House at 8 p.m.

Caversham Methodist Church

Building Fund

1972 has been a very eventful year at Gosbrook Road. It started off with the bad news that the roof was in a very bad state, and the church was under repair for several weeks. Morning services were held in St. John's Church and this was greatly appreciated by all at Gosbrook Road. Members gave loans and gifts to help foot the bill.

BREAD-AND-CHEESE FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

In the districts with church buildings "after church coffee" is a well-tried way of extending and deepening the church's fellowship. In Caversham Park the service is later — a bread-and-cheese lunch instead will be tried. If you want a break from cooking Sunday lunch (or perhaps, like our family you can't afford one any more) then bring the family to the Family Services on the first Sunday of the month and stay to lunch afterwards. The first is on March 4th. Bread, cheese and coffee will be on sale.

Sunday Services in Caversham Park School 11.15 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAYS:
The Family Communion
(Feb. 25th; Mar. 25th)

OTHER SUNDAYS:
The Family Service
March 4th:
Bread-and-cheese lunch after the Family Service

Wednesday Communions
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March 14th:
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March 28th:
6 Devon Drive

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SPORTS SPECIAL

by STAN ELDON

Brownies

Local Brownie Packs have been conspicuous in their activities recently. One rather unusual spectacle was that staged by the 1st Caversham Pack who entertained parents and friends at Balmore Hall on January 4th. Among the evening's items was a play "Jonah — Man — Jazz", a story of the biblical Jonah in modern idiom (with reindeer replacing the historical whale). Songs and other musical items were arranged by Miss Ruth Bartlett and Mr. J. Dussek (music teacher at Kendrick School). The occasion was to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the pack. Mrs. Cherrington has been

Brown Owl for the past three years, with Mrs. Knight as Tawny.

Another pack, 5th Caversham (St. Peter's) were busy over the Christmas singing carols to raise funds for comforts for the old people. Lots of groceries were bought and distributed to the homes of the elderly in the parish. On January 13th the pack travelled to the Poplar Civic Theatre to see a performance of Sleeping Beauty. The characters in the pantomime consisted of members of Scouts and Guides of East London, and the proceeds of the performances were devoted to the financing of



Lowfield Boys' Club. Winners Under-14 Plate Competition.

Back: Kevin Marlow, Peter Nathan, Paul Mackrory. Front: Michael Farrier, Kevin Smith, Philip Hooper. — Fred Walker

for Scouting and Guiding in the East End.

Youth Festival of Modern Singing

It should be a great evening at Reading Town Hall on Saturday, 14th April. The Amethyst Club are organising a Festival of Modern Singing for young folk. It is hoped that young people from Caversham who can sing to a guitar or piano accompaniment and are able to express themselves fully within the bounds of decency and goodwill will volunteer to take part. Call in, or write to A. H. Reddick, at the Amethyst Club, 42 West Street, Reading, where full details will be supplied.



West Caversham Boys' Club. Runners-up Premier (Under-16) Competition.

Left to Right: John Home, Paul Mason, Nicholas Ford, Geoffrey Powell, Anthony McDonnell. — Fred Walker

Girl Guides

Two members of the 5th Caversham (St. Peter's) Guides Company, Jane Padgham and Karen Teagle, received their certificates of Membership of the Guide Sisterhood. The awards, which contained the Royal Coat of Arms and Her Majesty the Queen's signature, were presented at Balmore Hall, on January 24th. Both Jane and Karen live in Hemdean Road.

Boys' Clubs

At the Berks County Boys' Clubs' 5-a-side Indoor Soccer Championships held at Crescent Club, Reading in January, our two Boys' Clubs displayed remarkable performances. In the Under-16 Premier competition West Caversham's senior team proved themselves worthy runners-up after a defeat by Y.M.C.A. in the Final. The Junior side reached the semi-final of the Under-14 Premier contest, at which stage they were put out by

With the decline in the following of Cricket and Athletics there is no doubt that the No. 1 Summer Sport in this country is now Tennis. Here in Caversham we are fortunate to have the Caversham Lawn Tennis Club, one of the longest established and progressive clubs of its kind in Berkshire, or indeed in this country. It is a very friendly and sociable Club, financially self-supporting and has achieved what very few Clubs are able to do in buying its own Clubhouse and courts in Conisboro Avenue, Caversham. This is notable as very few sports clubs of any type are able to do this and have to rely on Local Authority sports facilities.

Last year they entered a National competition to find the Country's most progressive Tennis Club. They reached the Final and a cross section of Club officials and members had to face a panel of experts and answer questions on the running and management of the Club. They finished third and won the £100 prize.

The President, Jack Stacey, has been with the Club for many years and his experience and help have been invaluable. Well-known in tennis circles, Mr. Stacey is now Secretary of the Berkshire L.T.A.

"ALL THE YEAR" SPORT

The Club is the largest in

Excellent coaching facilities are available through the professional Club and Berks L.T.A. Coach Robin Sharp who must be one of the busiest sportsmen in the county. A full-time schoolmaster, he is a member of the Southern Sports Council and is involved with coaching in Squash, Swimming and Cricket as well as Tennis.

Two Club members who have reached a high standard in the last few years are Sarah Cunningham, who was accepted for Junior Wimbledon last year, and Robert Vigor, now at Millfield School in Somerset, who has made his mark at National Junior level.

New members are always welcome, so with Spring not far away, if you would like to join the Club or know more about it please get in touch with Robin Sharp at 31 Matlock Road, Caversham.

Spital. The most surprising result was perhaps Lowfield Boys' Club's success in the Under-14 Plate Competition, by winning the Final with a 4-1 lead over Wokingham. Medals were pre-

Some 40 Boys' Club from all parts of Berkshire took part in the various sections of the Competition.

CAVERSHAM'S FIRST INHABITANTS

Probably many people in Caversham are unaware that some of the earliest men in Britain once roamed the hills above the Thames just here. The gravel terraces rising from the river and containing their plentiful supply of flint were obvious places to be favoured by men of the Lower Paleolithic Age. This was about half a million years ago when a warmer climate made this area habitable and these hunters and food gatherers wandered over the highland beside the Thames.

The flint tools and weapons they used were large, heavy and rather crude, not nearly so developed as they became in later ages through experience and acquired techniques which gradually built up in the users from generation to generation.

Local Finds

On an ordinance survey map I was shown at Reading Museum finds have

been marked in many places on Caversham Heights. A 'find' denotes a place where perhaps one or two flint tools have been discovered, but as these could have been discarded or accidentally dropped as hunters roamed the hills, it is not possible to call such a place a site of Paleolithic man.

Mr. Smith strikes it rich. There is, however, one place in the district which qualifies as such, namely the area of 2 and 4 Darrell Road. Here was an old gravel pit until 1905 belonging at one time to Toots Farm and known as Old Toots Pit. In 1892 Mr. George Smith, a Reading bank manager with an interest in the Stone Age, began to search this pit and discovered a variety of man-worked flints. Many are in the Reading Museum and a few, probably the best in his collection, were left to the British Museum. Mr. Smith

kept a journal of his discoveries and acquisitions which ran into hundreds, and it is obvious from his notes that this was a place where flints were dug and knapped.

If this article brings out a rash of would-be-archaeologists searching their gardens for further discoveries of worked flints, Reading Museum have assured me they would be delighted to see any likely objects and give their opinion on them. It would also help them to fill in more 'finds' on their map. And in case anybody is really interested in further study of the subject, I am told that John Wymer, who worked for many years at the Museum and dug in Toots Farm Pit in 1964, will be addressing the Berkshire Archaeological Society at Reading University (London Road campus) on 17th March, at the 2.45 p.m.

M.K.

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