

BATTLE FOR H.Q.

One of the last announcements in the Caversham Parish Magazine before it became the Caversham Bridge Newspaper was that St. Peter's Scout Group was to be closed through lack of leadership. As the total membership was five scouts and eight cubs it was perhaps hardly surprising that it was difficult to arouse any enthusiasm among possible volunteers.

However, one was found to keep things ticking over until a qualified leader could be appointed.

That was in 1964. Needless to say he is still there today.

In 1965 it was apparent that if the young people of the District were to be given adequate opportunity to join the Scout Movement it would be essential to have a headquarters.

Parents were approached and a fund-raising and administrative committee was formed. In May, 1965, the first Jumble Sale was held. Then followed Fetes, Garden Parties, Christmas Cards, etc., etc., and a Bank Account started to work. Church Parades became regular. Scout Job Weeks happened. The Group started to grow, help was found and Scout Training really meant something. Camping equipment was purchased, two boys attended the World Jamboree in the USA, two older boys obtained their Scout Wings, two spent a fortnight in the Austrian Alps on an Explorer Belt scheme, canoes were bought.

Money was raised; and it was spent.

But the Building Fund carried on increasing. The money was carefully invested by astute successive Treasurers and the hunt for land started.

The first letter enquiring about land availability was written in 1967. From that point a steady stream of letters, phone calls, and advertisements issued forth — to be met by absolute failure.

In 1971 a letter was sent to the Mayor, the Town Clerk, EVERY member of the Town Council and the Principal Corporation Officers. This time it worked!! After numerous meetings and letters in March, 1972, the Town Council passed a resolution that the site of 49/51 Grove Hill be sold to the Group for £1,500.

Meanwhile the procedures for Grant Aid had started with the Department of Education and Science. Planning negotiations had started.

In January 1973 the site clearance for the building started.

The cost? In 1967 the budget was for a total of £5,000. In 1973 the cost will be £19,817 — four times as much!

With Grant Aid and the Building Fund the shortage will be £3,800. The Group Council will not borrow money. Savings will be made wherever possible by self-labour, and fund-raising will continue apace.

Who will use the building?

The Cub Scout pack has 30 members and a waiting list which will enable a complete second Pack to be formed when we have somewhere to meet. The Scout Group has 40 members and the Venture Scouts 16 to 20 years old has 10.

St. Peter's Scout Group has come a long way since 1964 — but it still has a long way to go. It needs help with the building and help with the furnishings.

And it still needs help with leadership — or even occasional instruction in specialist subjects.

Can you help in any way?

If so please phone 472912.

The Group will have over 100 young people who have promised to "Do their duty to God . . . and help other people".

What about you?

PRICE ON HIS HEAD?

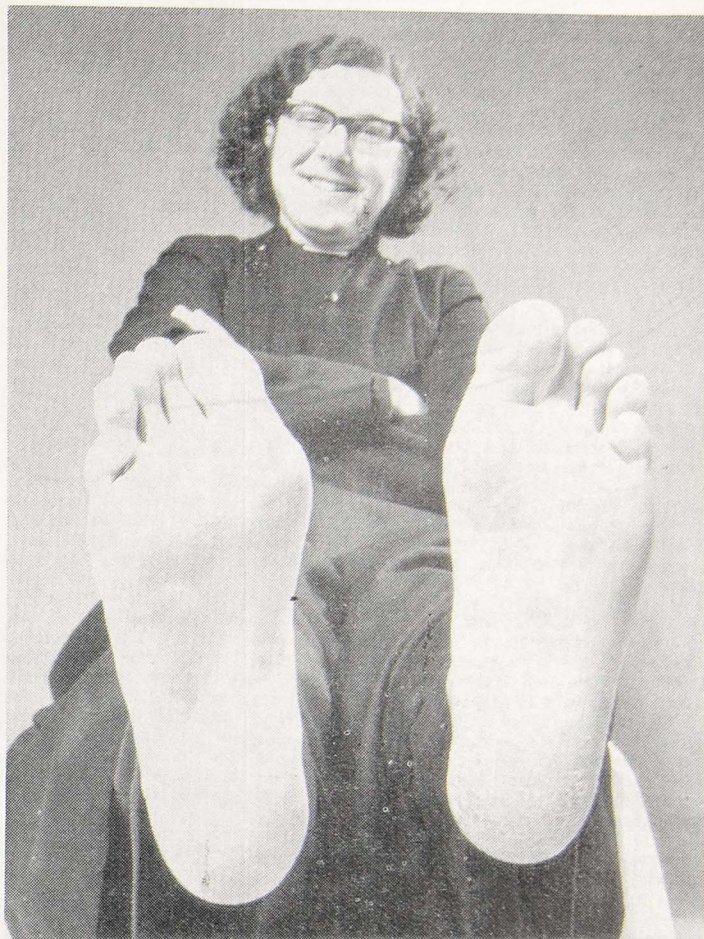
No—on his feet!

The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe

will be taking part in the

Christian Aid Walk

Will you sponsor his feet?



— Walton Adams

PLEASE COMPLETE THE COUPON IN PAGE 7

JUNE EDITION OF 'CAVERSHAM BRIDGE'

A number of articles which we had hoped to publish in the present edition have had to be held over for next month

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— Walton Adams

The Editor's Column

WHAT SORT OF CAVERSHAM?

Early in March a large number of people attended a public meeting to hear details of the proposals for the re-development of the centre of Caversham. The Residents' Association deserve our thanks for arranging this meeting.

Those present made it quite plain that any plans for tall flats near the river will meet with strong opposition, and it is as well that those concerned should be aware of this. It also seems that it may be necessary for local residents to make equally plain that the building of a third bridge in between the present two bridges would be utterly pointless. Another bridge is needed: no-one would deny that, but it should be either some way up-stream or some way down-stream — indeed if finances permit two bridges ought to be built to relieve Peppard Road, Henley Road, and Woodcote Road of much of the traffic which only comes into Caversham (and indeed into the centre of Reading) in order to cross the river.

Social Problems

The development plan also raises many social problems. Granted that our local doctors need new and enlarged premises for their surgeries, does it really make sense to have nine consulting rooms in the same centre? The mother at Caversham Park with a sick child, or the pensioner in Chiltern Road who needs to see a doctor, cannot get a bus into the centre of Caversham. A doctor's surgery in the Donkin Hill area would fulfil a real need. In this respect the local authorities might learn a lesson from the Church of England: as the population grew we built three churches to serve the areas of East Caversham, the Heights and Emmer Green, while retaining one parish and retaining some degree of centralisation.

Curious proposals

While there is much to be said for closing part of Church Street, the suggestion that traffic would be stopped from entering or leaving Hemdean Road at the corner by the present public library must raise grave doubt in the minds of those who live in Priory Avenue, Rectory Road and Chester Street: in their interests this suggestion needs much more thought. Another curious proposal is to allow residential development on a plot of land adjacent to Thameside School but to make playing fields available some distance from the school. Why not give the school the site next to it and build on what is at present planned for playing fields?

In whose interests?

One is indeed left wondering whether the present proposals have been conceived in the interests of the residents of Caversham or of a development company. This is a question to which Caversham ratepayers deserve to have a straight answer.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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Obituaries

Peggy Reeves

The sudden death of Peggy Reeves came as a sad shock to her many friends. Born and brought up in Caversham, she was trained in secretarial work and spent many years as school secretary, first at Leighton Park and later at Kendrick. Ten years ago she decided to launch into teaching; having completed a course of training, she taught at Alfred Sutton Girls School until her death. She proved to be a born and enterprising teacher; the visits that she organised as part of her Civics lessons, to the Houses of Parliament, Council Meetings and so on were highlights for her pupils.

Bereavement brought Peggy much sadness and loneliness, but her courage and generosity eventually brought her a very full life — at an age when some people have already given up. Always handicapped by poor health, she was constantly sympathetic and understanding to others. She gave herself to the utmost — more, indeed, than her health would stand.

As a child Peggy attended Caversham Baptist Free Church with her parents, and at one time was secretary of the Sunday School, often helping out with piano accompaniment. She had a lively and alert mind and was aware that for many people truth was not to be found solely within the walls of any one church. Hence many Sundays would find her travelling further afield when she went to listen to Leslie Weatherhead, Donald Soper, Trevor Huddleston, Colin Morris and many nearer home.

Some four years ago she felt the need to put down roots in a specific church and was baptised in St. Peter's. Unfortunately she was ill at the time of the confirmation there that year, so her confirmation took place in Guildford Cathedral where she had been greatly helped in the past. She settled very happily in the congregation at St. Peter's and contributed much to the life of the parish. She organised regular hymn singing on Sunday evenings at the Arthur Clark Home and played the piano for it. She was also on the rota to play for Caversham Park Family Service; and she welcomed many an ecumenical discussion group to her home.

Perhaps unexpectedly modern in her outlook, she was enthusiastically in favour of bringing church services into line with this day and age. She loved the new hymns and modern settings and anything that she felt would bring the church alive to those who found it dull, boring or irrelevant.

Retirement was not long away and it was typical of Peggy that, before she would allow herself to enjoy leisure with her beloved music and garden she was offering herself for a year's Voluntary Service Overseas if a place could be found for her in a suitable climate!

We who knew her well are grateful that her call came suddenly and that she did not have to suffer a long illness.

A board outside the Baptist Church recently proclaimed "Live to be missed". There are many people who are going to miss Peggy Reeves for a very long time.

M.C.

Charles Welfare

The recent death of Mr. Charles Welfare was a sad loss to education in the Reading area. Readers will remember his particular association with Caversham through the Adult Education Centre. When the Centre was opened in the early sixties he was in charge of its development and built it up from scratch. In fact it was very much a family enterprise, with his wife helping to run the canteen.

As well as being a teacher at Wilson, now Meadway, school, Mr. Welfare was for many years actively involved in the W.E.A., and for a time was chairman of the local branch.

IN THE SWIM

Summer brings with it a variety of outdoor activities, some connected with water. It's a wise move therefore, to make sure that your children can swim, especially with the Thames so close at hand. Partly with safety in mind, a number of Reading Education Authority Schools in Caversham and Emmer Green have recently entered pupils for

Robert McNally

The tragic death in an accident on March 28th of Mr. Robert McNally robbed Caversham of one of its most respected residents. Although in more recent years he worked in the County Treasurer's Department at Shire Hall, his life was the Army. For thirty-three years of that life he was in the Scots Guards. Later he became R.S.M. at what was then the Apprentices' School, now college, at Arborfield, where he won the respect of the many boys who passed through the school. It was during his time at Arborfield that he was awarded the M.B.E. He was also, at various times, chairman, treasurer and secretary of the Guards Association in Reading.

The Caversham Bridge extends its sympathy to his wife and family.

schemes for the encouragement of swimming. Clare East of St. Andrew's Road and Alison Rosser of Albert Road were both already able to swim well enough to enter a proficiency course in personal survival, held at Highdown School.

MAY SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's
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).
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. 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. Evensong

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. Evensong

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

ST. PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

York Road
11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Worship.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's
8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.

Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

Mapledurham Tennis Club

The Mapledurham Tennis Club would be pleased to welcome new members. An active committee has been formed and the Club will be using the three hard courts on the Mapledurham playing fields this season. The current subscription of £2.10 for a family membership makes it an attractive proposition, both for tennis enthusiasts and those who just enjoy a game of tennis. Anyone interested should contact the Club Hon. Secretary, Noel H. Postles, at 226 Kidmore Road.

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Shall we see Reindeer on Christmas Common?

by MRS. FOX, HEADMISTRESS OF THAMESIDE SCHOOL

The natural way for a child to learn is through his own curiosity. He watches, imitates, asks questions. In education today our aim is both to stimulate and guide this inquisitive spirit. In the primary school our guidance must, to a considerable extent, take the form of giving the child the tools he needs for correlating and recording the results of his eager researches. The most important of these tools is language, together with the ability to read and write it.

"Shall we see reindeer on Christmas Common?" partly because his vocabulary was too restricted. He knew about streets and cars and cowboys on television, but not about forests.

This question was asked by a boy in the remedial reading group. We were in the minibus on the way to the school nature trail at Christmas Common. This boy was eleven years old but he was a town child and had never walked in a wood before. Being unable to read freely, he had no way of enlarging his immediate experience so he had no way of knowing that we were unlikely to see any reindeer up there. Even if I had described the forest on Christmas Common he would not have been very much the wiser,

I did not attempt to answer his question. By the time we returned he could answer it for himself. As one of the group remarked, we came back with "a whole load of information". We had three pages of notes, two carrier bags of specimens and a box of fossils found in flint stones in a certain part of the wood. The group also had a greatly enlarged vocabulary of words apper-

taining to what goes on in woods.

The next task was to get all this information written down and illustrated so that the rest of the school could share these children's exciting experience. Although the remedial reading group have extreme difficulty in expressing themselves on paper, they all went to work with a will. Two boys wrote the sad story of a fallow deer which died through being trapped, by its antlers, in a roll of wire, carelessly thrown away in the wood. They used a simple picture dictionary as an aid to spelling. Another

boy was interested by the plan in the trail guide and decided to draw an enlarged map with notes of his observations at each visit at a morning assembly. He was also interested in the problem of working out the height of a tree. His teacher promised to help him with this.

Finally two of the group read their accounts of the visit at a morning assembly. We took as our theme for worship, 'Our Care for the Countryside.'

At the special request of the group we shall go back to Christmas Common in the summer in order to compare the forest at different seasons of the year.



— Photos Walton Adams

THAMESIDE SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

The school's spring fair will be held on Saturday, May 12th, and will be opened by Miss Chloe Ashcroft of the children's BBC television programme 'Play School'. Among the attractions will be the Army Youth Team; P.C. Davies, Road Safety Officer for Caversham, with films and displays; and the Boys' Brigade Band. There will be games and competitions and a wide variety of stalls and sideshows. The aims of the Fair are to raise money to buy additional equipment for the school and to improve play facilities. The money raised from the two previous fairs have bought a cine projector, provided a sand pit for the infants, and made possible the construction of the adventure playground.

SAINSBURY SINGERS

On Saturday, 2nd June, at 8 p.m., the Sainsbury Singers will be giving a concert at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. The Sainsbury Singers are noted in the district for their very polished performances and it is good to learn that they have consented to appear at Caversham. The proceeds of the concert will go to the Methodist Missionary Society, which is concerned with agricultural and industrial development overseas, education, medical services, spiritual guidance — in short all that is necessary to help the often desperate plight of underprivileged people.

Postbag

Dear Sir,

Re St. Peter's news in your April edition ("there is no truth in the rumour that the arrival of a former curate of Caversham in Sheffield drove them South") I would just like to assure your readers that there is also no truth in the other rumour that they were despatched by that self-same curate as missionaries to a heathen land.

I am as ever, etc., etc.
F. W. Dawson
(N.B.: We entirely agree with our correspondent that there is no truth in what he calls "the other rumour"; non-existent rumours can neither be described as false nor true. —Editor)

A CHANGE OF DATE

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road) announce the fact that the date of the Sunday School Anniversary has been moved to Sunday, May 13th, at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. The Services will be led by the Revd. Terence R. Harris and will include items by the scholars. There will be a Teachers' and Youth Workers' Dedication Service in the evening.

Dear Sir,

As a pupil at Reading School I was interested to read Mrs. Hursey's letter in the April edition of the 'Caversham Bridge'. Although her statements may have contained a certain amount of truth, however, there is one incident which I recall.

A friend of mine was travelling in a bus on the way home from school, and was inadvertently allowing a lady to remain standing. Despite later giving up his seat, he received a prefect's detention on returning to school.

Our headmaster, Mr. Davis, is concerned that the behaviour of a few boys should not spoil the reputation of the school. He is well aware that now, especially, the school is certain to be open to criticism, but is confident that we shall maintain its good name by showing consideration towards others. Unfounded criticism is to be expected, with the future of the school as uncertain as it is.

ANON.
(Name and address supplied)

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CHRISTIAN AID SALE ST. JOHN'S HALL

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ELECTION VIEWPOINT

Not so long ago the inhabitants of a little fishing village in Cornwall conducted their local elections in a most civilised way. On suitable spring evenings the various candidates would wander down to the quay and sit in a row on the harbour wall, now and then tossing the odd pebble into the sea, philosophising together and awaiting the questions or problems of any of the electorate who might come to join them. This delightfully open-ended discussion was continued later in the village pub and no doubt that Cornish village got the council it deserved, which should have been a very good one.

by ZOILUS

DOOR-STEP BASHING

These days things in Caversham are less idyllic; but more professional. It is unlikely you would find the candidates leaning over Caversham Bridge and betting each other how many swans pass under in five minutes. There are too many houses to be canvassed; "door-step bashing" as it is known to the cognoscenti. (Sample dialogue: "Good evening, Mrs.-er-Brown, I'm Hubert Stingworthy, your Flat Earth Society candidate . . .") "Oh, you are, are you? I suppose there's going to be an election, that's the only time we see you!" What politician would sacrifice such glorious inanity for the parish pump philosophising of our Cornish friends?

A few years back there used to be an all-party meeting annually, organised by the "Caversham Bridge", but for one reason or another it hasn't happened recently, so I thought the next best thing would be to get the candidates in the County Council elections chatting together for the benefit of readers. One evening at the end of March, Anthony Goodman and Brian Thomas met in one of our village hostilities to enjoy a friendly confrontation over a glass of sherbet, with Zoilus as link man. There was no need for a referee.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

Superficially they may be quite a different breed. Tony the typical young Tory, impeccably dressed in houndstooth cloth that could have come from the Huntsman, equally suitable for a board meeting or a cricket

club sing-song; and Brian sporting a Cliff Richard hair-do, topping a trendy lightweight suit, set off by a Mr. Kipper tie. Brian was brought up in one of Dr. Barnardo's homes, from which he won a scholarship to a much-respected grammar school. Coming to Reading he started his political career as a Conservative worker in a ward in the town. This, he tells me, is what has made him a confirmed Socialist. Now a Labour representative for Park Ward, he has lived in Caversham for some years, where his wife, Christine, is a Labour councillor and occasional contributor to the "Caversham Bridge".

Tony was born and bred in Caversham, educated at Reading School and is now chairman of the heating engineers and steel stockholders founded by his grandfather at the turn of the century. He is a local magistrate and represented Caversham as a Conservative for several years. He now sits for Thames on the Town Council.

Talking to them though, I discovered that they shared many of the basic qualities we look for in our representatives. Why did they regard the elections to the new County Council, which is now to be the first-tier regional authority, as so important? "Because the new authority is bound to be so much more alive and representative than the old Berks County Council", said Brian. "With Reading and Slough included it will mean more left-wing members and the over balance of the county squire type of councillor will be diluted." "True, a few more Socialists may liven things up a bit," Tony agreed, somewhat enigmatically. What did they think of the value of the traditional street canvas? Both agreed that every voter should have the opportunity to meet the candidates and Brian added that he thought it was his duty to always vote the way his constituents wanted! Tony had slight reservations in this. After all, he reasoned, if you elect a man you must give him

the credit for having a mind of his own. What did they think of consensus government? Would they be willing to work together on a non-party basis? Oh yes, they held each other in the highest esteem. It was the other members that were the trouble. It just wasn't practical.

CHANCE REMARK

Just as I was thinking this old pals act had gone on long enough, and was wondering how Robin Day would have stirred things up a bit, the whole scene caught fire with a chance remark about the recent Council decision to put family planning on the rates. "I'm absolutely against it", fumed Tony, "it's deliberately encouraging youngsters to go off the rails". "Nonsense", snorted Brian, "you can't stop it, anyway, so why not teach them to take precautions". A spirited argument ensued, but as the topic has had a pretty extensive coverage recently, I won't report it in detail. Sufficient to state that on this subject B. Thomas is for and A. Goodman is against.

POLITICAL LOYALTY

Judged as personalities, both would serve Caversham well. But although they were in agreement as individuals, they are more than ready to be opponents in politics. Neither could visualise a situation in which they would vote against their party whips. Both would be prepared to argue an issue within their party private meeting, but neither would go further than abstention if it came to a public vote. This confirmation of the strength of political loyalty in present day local government, coming from two young, intelligent and tolerant candidates, is significant, if a little sad for those who pine for the old days of sturdy independence. But at least the voter knows he is getting the goods as advertised on the packet.

By the time this is in print the County election will be over. I'm sure that whoever is unlucky at the count will be the first to toast the health, if not the political success, of his friendly adversary.

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Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 8th March, 1973. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council were advised that there were no further developments upon which to report regarding the proposed school site off Shepherd's Lane. The Council are still awaiting the representative meeting which is being arranged by Oxfordshire C.C.

The attention of the County Surveyor, Oxfordshire C.C., has been drawn to the misleading notice which appear at the top of the village road near the Trench Green cross roads. The sign indicates that there is a car park in Mapledurham village, but there are no car parking facilities in the village, and the Parish Council feel that this is misleading for the casual visitor. The Parish Council have asked the County Council to amend the sign.

Following representations that have been made to the Oxfordshire C.C. regarding the Reading-Crowmarsh road (A.4074), in which the Parish Council requested information when the stretch from the Goring Heath Road junction to Cane End would be improved, the Parish Council have been informed that it is unlikely any work will be carried out before 1976.

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CYRIL BURNSIDE — A CONTENTED LIFE

The retirement recently of Cyril Burnside as Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council, marked the end of twenty years' unstinted service to the church in Caversham. Being treasurer is probably the most demanding job in parish life, especially in a parish of the size and complexity of Caversham.

It was then a fortunate day for the local Anglican Church when, in 1920, Cyril Burnside moved with his parents from London and came to live here. He has remained ever since, marrying Marjorie Aldridge, herself Caversham born and bred, in the 1930s.

Life-long Churchman

From an early age Cyril was attracted to the church. As a boarder at Magdalen College School, Oxford, he well remembers singing in the choir and greeting the dawn on the 1st of May high on the college tower, with the anthem 'When the sun came over the top of the hill.'

For several years he was a sidesman at St. Andrew's Church and eventually, in 1952, became P.C.C. treasurer after serving as assistant treasurer for some years. Twenty years is a long time, but it is worth noting that since 1918 the parish has had only three treasurers. For the last eleven years he has also been churchwarden, and until recently was a member of the Reading Deanery Synod and the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance.

Somehow, Cyril also found time to be a manager

Former Bank Manager

Since the age of sixteen his working life has been in banking in the Reading area. His last appointment was as manager of Barclay's in King Street. But other interests have included a twenty year association with the Territorial Army, reaching the rank of Major and receiving a Territorial award in 1945; and membership of the Caversham Lodge of Freemasons, of which he is a Past Master. He is also a member of the Reading Rotary Club.

"Nothing Spectacular!"

With such a full life, it may seem impossible to have had time for hobbies as well, but Cyril is a keen colour photographer and has a fine collection of transparencies, many taken in the Lake District, which he and Marjorie love so much, having spent many happy holidays there.

At the end of his interview with the 'Caversham Bridge', Cyril Burnside remarked: "You know, I've done nothing spectacular. I've led a very busy, full life. I don't think I've wasted my time and I have been very contented." There speaks a modest and fortunate man.

THANK YOU

Mr. C. V. Burnside has asked us, through our columns, to say on his behalf how very grateful he is to all those who contributed to the presentation made to him at the annual parochial meeting.



— Walton Adams

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STATE EDUCATION

The following meetings will be held during May in the lecture theatre at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common:

Wednesday, 2nd May — 8 p.m. Mr. E. Martin, Headmaster of Chiltern Edge School, will discuss the changeover to full Comprehensive Education at his school.

Tuesday, 22nd May — 7.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting, followed by: Mr. E. J. Dorrell, Director of Education for Oxfordshire, who will talk about the future of education in South Oxfordshire.

BRING AND BUY FOR ST. BENET'S

A Coffee Evening and Bring and Buy Stall will be held on Friday, 4th May, at St. Barnabas' Hall at 7.30 p.m. to raise funds for St. Benet's Church of England Children's Society Home at Emmer Green.

With Mr. William Sayers, regional appeals organiser, present to show the most recent film about the work of the society, visitors are promised a most interesting evening.

Tickets, 10p each, are available from all local churches, from Mr. D. G. Snell (Reading 475050), or at the door on the evening. Your support for this very important work would be greatly appreciated.

Services at Caversham Park

Sundays at 11.15 in the School Hall:

Fourth Sunday (May 27th):
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Other Sundays: Family Service.

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CHRISTIAN AID



— Walton Adams

The Reading area's project this year is to support Christian Aid's rehabilitation work in Bangladesh. £5,000 has been promised, but much more than that is hoped for to help in the other aspects of Christian Aid's work. Last year £8,269 was raised during the week (exclusive of the money raised on the Sponsored Walk). The target this year is £9,000.

We are pleased therefore to publish two articles, one about the Bangladesh project, and the other of a more general nature, in the hope that all our readers will give generously.

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AFTERMATH OF WAR IN BANGLADESH

When the war ended in Bangladesh 10 million refugees started to come back from India. Another 20 million who had fled into the interior were also making their way back to the villages. That is the size of the problem in terms of people, but to appreciate its complexity we must have some idea of the devastation they found.

"Through arson or looting all the houses were reduced in many villages to just the bare plinth. I have seen villages that looked like graveyards because the mud on the plinths on which they were built were all that was left standing". So reported Canon Biswas, head of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, which was the first agency to go inside Bangladesh and start rehabilitation work — the money being supplied by Christian Aid. But, as well as the destruction to their homes, they found their fields flattened and the land, untilled for over a year, bone dry and unready to take seeds. There were no cattle left.

Morale

So houses needed to be built, wells sunk, the land made ready for cultivation, seeds sown and cattle supplied to the farmers. All this is basic, but it takes time as well as resources. Then dispensaries and hospitals which had lost all their property needed to be reactivated, schools rebuilt and re-opened, small grants made to individual artisans to get them on their feet and everything possible done to build up the morale of the people and restore them to normal life.

In all these days, and in many others, such as the rehabilitation of the fishing industry, Christian Aid has played its part and continues to do so, working now mainly through the Bangladesh Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Service (BERRS), which is a group of International Agencies related to the World Council of Churches. The BERRS programme will involve an expenditure of £5,200,000 up to June 1973, but this programme is expanding all the time. All projects are mounted within the framework of plans drawn up by the Bangladesh Government and run in close co-operation with the Roman Catholic and United Nations agencies. It is interesting to note that BERRS has so far allocated over £400,000 to over 50 small local projects which are being operated by Christian groups around the country to help the people in their own communities, regardless of race or religion.

Drought

Much then has been accomplished, but there is still great distress. Prices have rocketed because there is a severe shortage of everything. Above all there is now a terrible drought, bringing with it the threat of starvation for millions. A Christian Aid worker on the spot reports:

"When I spoke to some village people they said that, by carefully conserving what remained of the winter crop, and by eating only one meal a day (wheat with sweet potatoes or maize cereal) they thought they could just hang on to life until April or May. Then there would be a six-month gap until the winter harvest, with nothing at all".

Bangladesh has now ceased to hit the headlines but, as in so many other cases, this is the very time when it is vital that the work of relief and rehabilitation should go on. The money raised during Christian Aid Week will help ensure that it does.

THE LAME WALK

It has always been the body. And both are by-business of the Church to products of a poverty which change human lives for the degrades more people than better — and not by conversion alone.

When the Church pioneered in education and health it did not teach children to read only the Scriptures, or nurses to tend only Christians: it saw illiteracy and ill-health as handicaps to human fulfilment. Ignorance and disease are as capable of crippling the spirit as of crippling the mind and

So having founded schools and hospitals in Britain and, through missionary societies, taught the younger churches to do the same overseas, the Churches today are now engaged in a variety of world-wide activities whose aim is to raise the living-standards of the poor. And because in poor

(Continued in page 7)

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WEEK 14th-19th MAY

THE LAME WALK

Continued from Page Six

countries the indigenous churches share the poverty of those whom they would serve, they cannot fulfil their duty to their neighbours unless their meagre resources are strengthened from outside.

Self-help

To strengthen them for that task is the purpose and policy of Christian Aid which, spanning denominational divisions, brings the combined resources of church people to bear wherever the needs are greatest. This does not make poor men rich or fill the hungry with good things, but because Christian Aid money is used by local Christian organisations on self-help schemes,

trade training, food production and welfare services, it does enable the lame to throw away their crutches and the sick to roll up their beds and walk. Once on their feet they have a chance to find their own way to maturity — physical, economic, political and spiritual.

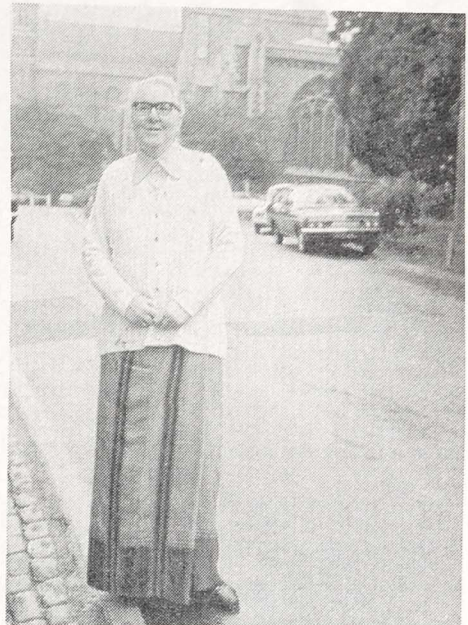
In Christian Aid Week, which this year is 14th to 19th May, church people in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland are requested — and equipped — to go out into their local communities and to campaign for public support. All congregations are asked to play their part through their local Christian Aid Committee.

ROSAMUND ESSEX TO PREACH IN CAVERSHAM

Many distinguished preachers have preached from the pulpit of Caversham Parish Church. One more will be added when Miss Rosamund Essex preaches at the Parish Communion at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday, May 13th, at the start of Christian Aid Week.

One-time editor of the Church Times, she has for several years been on the headquarters staff of Christian Aid. Now she has just returned from a visit to India and Ceylon. Her time in India was spent with members of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service visiting in the slums of the city. She witnessed the terrible plight of the pavement dwellers, homeless people who have none of the things which are taken for granted in England, shelter, nourishment, clothing, education and family life. She went on the early morning "milk round" during which starving children were given milk and soya bean biscuits; she visited the street clinics where diseases such as ulcers, scabies, scurvy, diarrhoea and typhoid are prescribed for at the kerb-side. In Ceylon she was concerned with the plight of youths who, because of the financial crisis there, are without work or wages. She visited the Christodaya Farm, which is helped by Christian Aid, where youths are given a home, a training in mixed farming, and a new start in life on a piece of land of their own.

Miss Essex was one of Oxford's early women students (and a keen oarswoman). Now at the age of



— Daily Telegraph

Rosamund Essex

seventy-two she drives herself all over England to preach and lecture on behalf of Christian Aid. Caversham is very fortunate to have her as a visiting preacher at the start of Christian Aid Week and her presence should ensure a very large congregation at St. Peter's to hear this inveterate champion of the under-privileged whom Christian Aid seeks to help.

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CHRISTIAN AID WALK

Saturday May 19

The Christian Aid walk will again be over the lovely stretch of country which so many people enjoyed last year. The route, starting at Henley, takes walkers through Stonor, Bix and Highmoor back to Henley, and is specially designed to avoid roads and take walkers along footpaths.

Those wishing to go on it should obtain a sponsorship form from Mr. G. D. Wild, 33 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green.

The Rev. W. B. Metcalfe will be taking part and if you cannot go and wish to sponsor him please send the form below to him.

To the Rev. W. B. Metcalfe,

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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.

Introducing Ourselves

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.

We discuss with our clients their requirements. From our knowledge of the market we are then able to advise on the most suitable scheme. In advising we take into account protection against inflation and gaining maximum relief of income tax.

Our Service

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Prayer - Does It Work ?

Following the Editor's invitation to readers in last month's 'Caversham Bridge' to send in questions, we have received the following question:

"We are always being told that prayer is the most important thing a Christian has to do. I have said my prayers every night since I was a child, and it used to mean a lot to me. But in recent years the meaning seems to have gone out of it. When I see all the suffering in the world, I can't see that my prayers can make any difference. Why is it that prayer doesn't seem to work?"

Several years ago Peter Cook and Dudley Moore did a sketch about religion. One of the characters, Pete, says he prays when he is in a tight spot — if he's got flue for instance. His prayer goes like this: "Dear God in heaven, if you're there, heed my prayer; if you're not there, don't take any notice. But if you are, make me better by Tuesday lunchtime and I'll know you've done it and I'll promise to be good and believe in you."

Of course the trouble is, as Pete says, if you do get better by Tuesday lunchtime, you don't really know whether it's because God has done it, or whether you would have got better anyway.

Well that is a trivial illustration, but it points to the problem as the questioner seems to see it, of whether prayer works. Does it produce results?

PURPOSE

Before you can decide whether anything works you need to have some idea of what sort of job it is meant to do. It's no good saying a spanner doesn't work if you try to comb your hair with it! It isn't designed for that purpose. It's rather like this with prayer. Is it a sort of substitute for your own effort; bringing God in when the going is too tough for you? Like backing the outsider in the last race. You don't think there's much of a chance, but it's worth trying. Experience suggests that prayer doesn't work at that level.

If you think about it, isn't your real prayer, whatever you may do as a last resort, something that is there all the time? Isn't it much closer to what you

earnestly long for? What you struggle to get out of life all the time? And that brings you to the next stage. Because what you longed for and what God longs for are not always the same thing. Prayer then becomes the means of bringing your desires to God and asking him to reshape them so that they might be more in line with his. Prayer is meant to bring you and God together in the common task of reshaping the world.

IS IT ANY GOOD?

If that is the job prayer is meant to do, you can now go back to the original question: Does it work? Allied to that is the further question: What do you expect to happen? You pray for a child who is seriously ill. What do you expect from God? To that there may be a clear answer, but a possible approach is this.

QUESTION TIME

Following on the Editor's announcement last month about a question column in the 'Caversham Bridge' we publish our first question and answer this month.

Questions for answer in the June edition should be sent to the Caversham Bridge office not later than Saturday, April 28th.

If you open the whole of your life to the love of God, through your prayer and openness, God may be able to do things almost naturally that you don't normally dream of. At the same time you have to remember that God has created the world in such a way that it runs along in a fairly regular and consistent manner. Can you really expect God, suddenly reminded by your prayer,

WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

The next time someone says: "They're selling sugar at a penny off in Thingamees" I honestly think I'll throw something. Thank heavens at last I'm not just a voice crying in the wilderness — one of the colour supplements has taken up the subject of the 'great con'. For those who haven't seen the article, someone, it seems, has finally realised that 'shopping around' is a fantasy, dreamed up by politicians who still live in the days when housewives had nothing better to do than traipse from shop to shop. I don't remember all the details, but it seems that it is possible to 'shop around' in six shops in one area, spend three hours buying about ten items of grocery and then produce the magnificent 'save' of 10p. I wonder just how many of us would be prepared to work for just over 3p an hour in the normal way.

Away from it all

Just back from retreat I wonder, as always, why we spend millions on curative medicines and drugs under the National Health and the virtually nothing at all on the one thing that could prevent thousands of breakdowns. Religion apart —

and I should add that I'll be more than happy to enlighten any Christian interested — I'm utterly convinced of the therapeutic value of a few days complete withdrawal from telephones, newspapers, television, radios, etc.

Mind you, I think the church could take a lead in this. If it really is 'the only body which exists entirely for those outside itself', it might take a look at the possibility of sponsoring retreat houses for those badly in need of 'getting away from it all' yet who feel unable to take part in Christian ritual.

Away with non-disposables

I'm glad to hear one Caversham shop at least is taking a lead on the subject of non-disposable bottles. I understand the Co-op will in future be selling milk in cardboard cartons — if this leads to a gradual disappearance of non-disposable containers in our shops, it may help to solve one of our biggest environmental problems.

To cross or not to cross

Are you happy about the change in the pedestrian crossing in Church Street? I'm certainly not — at least under the old scheme

pedestrians, even elderly and handicapped, had a reasonable time to cross. Now it's a case of "On your marks, get set, go", if you want to get across at all. And honestly, I do think there should be a very clear warning put up when changes in crossings are taking place; accustomed to crossing at that one spot, I wasn't the only one who nearly finished up under a car before noticing the crossing had been removed, albeit temporarily. Needless to say, motorists seem to have noticed it quickly enough — but then I don't drive, so I guess I'm prejudiced.

A bargain at the price

I think I deserve a bouquet from you secretaries with programmes to fill up — on your behalf I nearly bought myself a leather coat last week. In fact it would — to my admittedly unskilled eye — have been a bargain at the price. So if that's the kind of stock they sell, I've no hesitation in giving you Jea'dor Fashions (stockist: Jeanne Dormer, telephone Checkendon 372) for a possible exhibition next time you have a free date in your programme. They cater, incidentally, for both sexes.

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Bowling them over

If you are wondering how to spend your leisure time during this coming summer, why not take up bowls? A pleasant pastime, requiring more skill than energy, it may be thought the exclusive reserve of the older generation, but many younger people enjoy it as well.

Caversham Bowling Club came into existence in the "Griffin" in June, 1922. The opening match was fixed for May, 1923, between Caversham Bowling Club and Reading Corporation. The first wood was bowled by the Mayor and Caversham went on to win 94-67.

to pop in and do something unnatural?

What's the good of praying then if you are not sure whether the child is going to get better? Well, what was the good of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane "Take this cup from me" Did that work? The goodness of Jesus' prayer was that through it the love of God could flood into the situation, enabling him to face whatever lay ahead. In that sense it worked.

The point is that the question: "Does prayer work?" isn't the same ques-



— Walton Adams

After 50 years still going strong

As a fitting climax to the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1972, the club gained its first County Championship honours for over 20 years by winning the Berkshire County Ben-evolent Triple Trophy. The successful trio (seen in the picture) were Eric Crutchley of Matlock Road, Eric New of Buckingham Drive, and Jack Mobbs of Hewitt Avenue.

tion as "If I pray hard enough will John recover from his accident?" What you learn through prayer is how the love of God transforms people and situations. So when you pray you are putting yourself at the disposal of love and justice and against fear and hatred. When you look at it like this, and are being honest in your intention, you can say, without qualification: "Yes, prayer does work — always."

The 50 or so active members, including a ladies section, meet at the pleasant Albert Road recreation ground. So come along, ladies and gentlemen, follow Sir Francis Drake in this ancient pastime.

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Caversham says 'NO'

Caversham's response to the news that yet another application had been put in to build houses in Hemdean Valley (Bug's Bottom) was an unequivocal 'No'. Moreover, residents are getting just a little fed up at the number of applications that have been made to develop this attractive valley.

Three public enquiries and at least half a dozen refusals at local level should be enough to indicate what the public feels, yet once again money, time and effort is to be put into refusing or objecting to yet another application.

A unanimous 'No' also greeted the news that an application had been made to build a seven-storey block of flats in the centre of Caversham. The desirability of high-rise flats anywhere is being questioned. On this side of the river they would be quite out of keeping with the characteristics of the neighbourhood.

M.C.

BRIDGES, BOOKS, BABIES AND BUSES

Now that there has been time to assimilate the plans for the re-development of Central Caversham, a certain consensus of opinion is emerging.

Crucial to everything is the problem of traffic and the general feeling is that traffic should be discouraged, rather than encouraged, from entering the central area. For this reason, a site between the two present bridges, even if the money were available for more than one bridge, is the wrong one, and it should be clearly stated that any provision for one in that area is to be dropped. This will, in turn, release land for more constructive purposes and remove the still present fears from occupiers of property in the Prospect Street-Westfield Road area that their property is under threat, as there will be no need for road widening to take the traffic down to a third bridge.

Following from that it is essential that the leisurely conversations about the siting of the new bridge should now take on some

urgency, with the actual site soon decided upon. Not till then should any road plans for Caversham be put into effect. In fact, remembering the reduction in Reading's traffic due to the opening of the M4 was greatly underestimated, it might be worth seeing what the result of a new bridge actually is before slicing up Caversham for the benefit of the car.

Another point on which agreement seems general is the future of the library. The Residents' Association, which seems to act as a repository for local complaints, has received no complaints about the service the present building offers, but the Borough Librarian has a pretty convincing case for the need for a new one. But most people have an affection for the present building and want to see it retained for some kind of community use.

Similarly, there is general agreement about the need for a new Welfare Clinic, but the welcome given to a Health Centre has been tempered by the realisation

DARBY AND JOAN ARE 25

A special lunch at the Caversham Bridge Hotel was one of the highlights when, on April 5th, Caversham's Darby and Joan Club celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday.

First opened on March 10th, 1948, by what was then the W.V.S., the club used to meet at the old St. Peter's School. Of the 30 or so members who joined at that time, two — Miss Clara Mitchell and Miss Amy Blackall — still attend today. A rapid growth in membership led to a move to Balmore Hall in 1951, where the club has met ever since.

Meeting every Wednesday afternoon, members enjoy a variety of pursuits, including playing cards, making soft toys and providing entertainment. Outings are also arranged from time to time.

The recent twenty-fifth anniversary lunch was fol-

lowed by a tea party, complete with a cake-cutting ceremony and entertainment. Many friends were invited to join in the fun and games, including Mrs. Bayliss, the founder of the club.

There were also messages of congratulation from Derek Nimmo and Max Bygraves.



— Walton Adams

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PLENTY OF WORK FOR THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The first meeting of the new Church Council was one of the longest meetings in recent times. In addition to discussing the new order of Holy Communion, as reported in another column, the members heard a report from the Rev. Stephen Bartlett of plans for a Family Festival in 1974 (the successor to the Mayday week of 1970). It is proposed to start this on St. Peter's Day, June 29th, with a three-day Flower Festival in the parish church, and conclude it with an open air ecumenical Eucharist on Sunday, July 14th. Fetes, concerts, and public meetings are to be arranged and it is hoped that all Caversham churches and many schools and organisations will sponsor an event during the fortnight. The chairman of the festival committee is the Rev. S. Bartlett, the secretary is Mr. R. Jeffery, and the treasurer 'Mr. C. Belfield Smith.

The Council also discussed the proposals for the re-development of the centre of Caversham and Mr. Vincent was asked to submit criticisms to the planning authorities.

Mr. Eric Smith was elected parochial treasurer in succession to Mr. Burnside. Mr. Burnside, Mr. Beale, Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Hitchman and Mrs. S. Bould were co-opted to the Council, and Mr. Goldsmith was also appointed to a vacant place on the Deanery Synod.

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ST. PETER'S BELLS RE-CAST

will be returned to Caversham and re-hung.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

A party of St. Peter's ringers travelled recently to Loughborough to be present at the re-casting of three of the bells. After being entertained to lunch by Mr. P. Hayward, a representative of Messrs. Taylors, they were taken on a tour of the foundry where they saw bells from all parts of the country of various sorts and sizes, the heaviest being the tenor from Chester Cathedral. They then watched the molten metal being heated. Eight moulds were prepared and placed in position to receive the metal. The cauldron which receives the metal as soon as it is heated is large enough to hold several tons of it. This is then lifted by a crane to the necessary height and the metal is directed into a container above each mould. As each mould is filled an operator tips the cauldron up and the molten metal is agitated with an iron rod so that any air bubbles are released. It is very seldom that there is an unsuccessful casting.

Other work has still to be done on the bells and it is not yet known when they

A change was made this year in the arrangements for Mothering Sunday. In place of the usual afternoon service children were specially invited to bring their parents to the Parish Communion. The result was a congregation of over 300 people.

The epistle and gospel were read by the children, who also accompanied one of the hymns on recorders. The intercessions were taken by one father and mother with their children assisting, and another family presented the Communion loaf. At the end of the service the Rector presented over one-hundred children with packets of seeds.

SUNDAY, MAY 6th

Because of the visit of the President of the Methodist Conference to Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Matins will be cancelled on this day and those who normally attend this service are asked to share in the Methodist service. On the same evening, in place of Evensong, there will be a service of Easter Carols and lessons.

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

The end of February and the beginning of March saw the usual series of annual meetings for the parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham. First came the meetings of each district, attended in all by about two hundred electors, and then the annual vestry and parochial meeting was held on March 8th.

The highlight of Caversham's annual parochial meeting was the presentation that was made to Mr. Cyril Burnside on his retirement from the posts of churchwarden and parochial treasurer. He had served as churchwarden for twelve years and treasurer for nearly twenty. When he first became parochial treasurer the parish contribution to the diocesan quota each year was about £250. In 1973 it will be £4,400, and the work of the treasurer increased enormously. Tributes were paid to him by Mr. D. Birtwhistle, Mr. G. C. House, Mr. B. Butler and Mr. G. C. Page, representing each of the four districts of the parish. The Rector, on behalf of more than 200 parishioners, then presented Mr. Burnside with a radio set, a pair of binoculars and a book token, and Mrs. K. Brow made a presentation to Mrs. Burnside, who had so loyally supported her husband in all he had done in his work for the parish.

In his reply Mr. Burnside thanked all who had contributed to his presentation and spoke of the tremendous help he was receiving in his illness from the power of prayer, which he described as something of which he felt physically conscious.

Mr. F. C. Moore was elected churchwarden in place of Mr. Burnside, and Mr. Gordon Page was re-elected for a second year. Three new district wardens were appointed: Mr. K. Brow (St. Peter's), Mr. P. Tipton (St. John's), and Mr. O. Jewiss (St. Barnabas). Newly elected to the Church Council were Miss W. Hill (St. Peter's), Mr. S. Holmwood (St. John's), and Mr. R. Satchell and Mrs. A. Smith (St. Barnabas). Mrs. D. Gillett, Mrs. P. Nicholls, and Mr. R. Barnes also returned to the Council with Mr. K. Brow after not having served in the previous year. The churchwardens and Messrs. E. Smith, D. Cooper, O. Jewiss and Miss K. Harris were elected to the Deanery Synod.

At the annual meeting for the parish of Mapledurham, Mr. B. A. Martyn-Jones and Mr. G. W. O. Price were re-elected as churchwardens, and Mrs. D. Hall was elected to the Church Council — she re-replaces Mr. M. Binks who, with his family, has recently moved to Wiltshire.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

SCOUT ACHIEVEMENTS

A new chapter in the life of St. John's Scouts began at the end of March when, at a combined meeting of Scouts and Cubs, three scouts were presented with their Leader Permits. Mr. Ernie Cartwright and Mr. Colin Waite received permits from Mr. C. Wort, District Commissioner for Scouts. Mr. Stephen Cousins' was presented by the District Commissioner for Cubs, Mrs. K. Tester. The occasion was also marked by the presentation by Mr. Wort of "Chief Scout's Awards" to five members of the troop. These are the first to be gained by St. John's and it is hoped they will lead to more. The troop is still in need of adult help and would be grateful to hear of anyone with an hour or two to spare each week, even if only to run a games evening.

WALTER BURNHAM

Regretfully, St. John's records the death, on March 29th, of Mr. Walter Burnham, of Star Road. An invalid in recent years, he showed great fortitude in the face of difficulties imposed by illness. Mrs. Burnham's grief and loss are shared by her many friends.

PARISH CONFIRMATION

The annual parish confirmation will take place on TUESDAY, MAY 29th at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Church.

Mapledurham Party

St. Margaret's spring parish party was held at Trench Green on March 31st. Down the length of the hall extended a long decorated table covered with assorted salads and sweets, flan and fruit pies. Hot soup was handed out, while groups of friends and old acquaintances gathered around the small green tables with their plates filled with each other's food and listening to each other's conversation. The ladies brought the food, the choir sang, and volunteers joined in hand-bell ringing. The men organised games featuring balloons, newspapers, candles, music and sacks full of clothing. Winners came forth as the mystery items and the mystery photographs were revealed. Dancing continued well into the evening.

Women's Group

The March meeting of St. Andrew's Women's Group took the form of a well-attended demonstration by Lancome 'Skin Care and Make-up'. Each member was given a free cosmetic sample, and one lucky member was used as a demonstration model and given a complete cleanse and make-up.

Several members have been on a very interesting visit to see behind the scenes at Reading Police Station. There is also an outing to Windsor Safari Park planned, and a visit to a television studio in London.

Holy Communion Series Three

The March meeting of the Church Councils of Caversham and Mapledurham was preceded by a celebration of Holy Communion according to the recently authorised new order, and a discussion on the service followed. For the most part it was obvious that the service met with favour: it was realised that it was the language rather than the structure of the service which would strike people as the biggest change. The Caversham parish organists were present and pointed out that none of the existing music can be used with the new service: some new settings have already been written, but one or two members who had heard them expressed some misgivings about them.

It was agreed that an evening service according to the new use, followed by a discussion in the Church Hall, should be held during May in each district. Then the new order will be used in each church in Caversham and Mapledurham on two Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. and two at 9.15 a.m. during the early summer. After this a meeting of the whole parish will be held in July and the P.C.C. will then have a final discussion on the merits of the service before any definite decision is taken about using it. If it is decided to adopt it, it is certain that this will not be done until the autumn, and only after there has been ample opportunity for all communicants to study and discuss the service.

HOLY COMMUNION — SERIES THREE

There will be a said Celebration of Holy Communion according to this use at 8 p.m. as follows:

MAY
Tues., 8th — St. Peter's
Fri., 11th — St. Andrew's
Mon., 14th — St. John's
Mon., 21st — St. Barnabas

After the service there will be a discussion in the Church Hall (in Toc H after the service in St. Peter's). Copies of the service will be on sale shortly and members of the congregations are asked to buy a copy and study it before coming to these services.

St. Andrew's Notes

HUNGER LUNCHES

On the last Friday of each month a Hunger Lunch is held in St. Andrew's Hall. The proceeds are given to Christian Aid. The lunch takes place from 12.30 to 2 p.m., and the food, which consists of bread and cheese, is provided by a different organisation each month. Many more people could be accommodated and the organisers would be grateful if this ecumenical event could be given wide publicity.

The Children

When did you last buy a joint of pork? That is what the children of St. Andrew's have been selling during the past eight weeks as part of their work centred on the Joan Barker Hostel for girls at Maranghata, India.

The project started with a film strip showing Miss Barker and the girls of the school at their various tasks. Not only are the girls educated academically but also very practically, housework, animal care, even fetching water daily are all tasks which are part of their lives. As well as the film strip, the life of an Indian family was outlined in the story of Asha Nag, of Ranchi, which was told in weekly instalments, and the children heard of many strange customs. Each week there was a letter from Miss Barker telling in more detail about the hostel and introducing some of the girls there.

Not neglected were the tastes of India. The Sunday School teachers spent one Saturday evening eating curry and the following day the tiny green peppers called chillies were shown to the children. Some of the boys found that these did not live up to their name.

However, on the penultimate Sunday of the project, Mr. Kent, Mr. Gazzard and Mr. Cooper put on their chefs hats and cooked jellabies — a mixture of treacle and flour cooked in hot fat — which proved very popular.

The money collected by the children amounted to £30, enough to buy six pigs for the hostel. This money was then presented to Miss Whitehill who, on behalf of the Missionary Society, thanked the children for all the hard work they had put into their project.

During the Easter holidays the children of St. Andrew's are going on their annual outing to see the famous Hogarth Puppets at Camberley.

St. Andrew's Mothers Union

The speaker at the March meeting was Mrs. June Doran, wife of the Vicar of Bray, who was a former priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's. She herself spent her early years here and was a regular worshipper at the church.

The subject of her talk was "The Church's Ministry of Healing". She spoke of the importance of the Ministry in the early Church and enlarged upon the Sacrament of Holy Unction and the laying-on of hands. She stressed the importance of prayers for the sick.

At St. Andrew's there is a branch of the Guild of St. Raphael, which meets for this specific purpose. It meets at 7.15 p.m. in church for a short service (under half-an-hour) on the first Friday of each month, when the sick are remembered and prayed for individually.

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WHAT HAPPENS AT 11.15am ON SUNDAYS (continued)

We continue our story of the various departments of the Junior Church of the local Baptist Church with the Primary Department.

A Natural Progression

The Primary Department is the natural progression from the Beginners' Department. That children learn by 'doing' is the new theme in day schools and this thought has influenced the pattern which is taking shape in this branch of the Church. At the same time every effort is made to encourage the atmosphere of worship.

Creating the Right

Atmosphere

The children assemble in their room to the sound of music. The room looks attractive — little tables and chairs are placed in suitable positions, and rugs and mats are there for use during the informal talks when tables are not necessary. Usually the singing of a hymn marks the beginning of the session as this has been found helpful in that many of the children are in a boisterous mood after crossing the road from the Church to the Hall. This is followed by the offertory — the dropping of coins is infectious and disturbing.

Introducing the Topic

The leader's talk introduces the topic for the day and is used to link the previous week's work. Suitable pictures decorate the walls and the children are encouraged to look at them and to talk about them. There is variety in the order of the programme, each child has the choice of activity — drawing, cutting out, pasting, modelling, using the percussion instruments or the sand tray, and through such activity and play it is hoped that the topic will be more easily understood and remembered.

Movement

Whilst there has been a movement away from the 'sit - still - and - listen' approach, there is still great value in a well-told story and sometimes the emphasis is more on the story than on individual activity, but one thing remains constant and that is the short time of prayer with which the sessions end.

The teachers are enjoying sharing the experiences of the small boys and girls and it is hoped that the Primary Department will after crossing the road from the Church to the Hall, more and more children will learn to accept God as their loving Heavenly Father, who cares for them.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH OVERSEAS MISSIONS SUNDAY

The spotlight will fall on the world of the Methodist Church Overseas on Sunday, May 20th, at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. William D. Robinson, B.A., M.Th., will be conducting the worship. He served recently for five years in Ghana and returned to this country in 1972. He is at present Superintendent of the Liphook and North Hants Circuit. The evening service will be united with the Anglicans of Caversham. It will be a Service of Thanksgiving at the end of Christian Aid Week. The University Singers will be taking part in the evening service.

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ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mr. J. Tomlin, 32 Kidmore Road. Tel. 473809

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Secretary: Mr. C. H. Cox, 160 Hemdean Road.

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Secretary: Mr. V. Tanner, 4 Bardolph Close, Mapledurham. Kidmore End 2550.

WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mr. N. S. Ide, 3 Ibstone Avenue. Tel. 477007

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Groups of women are stitching together gaily coloured hexagons and perhaps dreaming of the wonderful bedspreads that will eventually adorn their homes — or will it just be a child's ball or eight or so pieces? This was the culmination of a talk entitled 'Patchwork' given by Mrs. Hazel Rolf to the Caversham Heights Womens Fellowship recently. A little of the history of this ancient art was explained and many examples of patchwork, including an old and very beautiful pram cover, were displayed. There was a reminder that life itself is quite a patchwork — a blending together of light and dark patches — but there cannot have been many who went away after the meeting feeling that life was mostly dark and dreary!

The essence of this new group, which meets on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 3.30 in the Methodist Hall in Highmoor Road, is fellowship. The group is affiliated to the Women's Fellowship of the Methodist Church, and thereby has an unashamed Christian basis whose aim is "To call women and girls to a Christian Womanhood which accepts responsibility in the Home, Church and State". This aim has been interpreted in many different ways in the meetings, and since the group was formed last September meetings have included talks on "Home and Hospital Teaching", "Work in the Courts", "The Caversham Bridge Scheme", and "Women in the Ministry".

A way of promoting good fellowship has been to encourage all attending to contribute in their individual way — whether it be preparing the welcome "cuppa", taking the 'chair' for a meeting, sharing an idea for a future meeting through the "suggestions box", or providing transport for somebody else to get to the hall.

The group now feels well and truly launched. There is a creche for young children and meetings finish in time for school children to be collected. At one of the first meetings it was noted that there was somebody representative of every five year age group from the early twenties till the (perhaps) late eighties!

So, if you are female, there is certainly a place for you, and you will be very welcome at any of the meetings. Further details can be obtained from the President, Mrs. J. Harris, 17 St. Anne's Road, or the Secretary, Mrs. M. Beek, 29 Morecambe Avenue.

The programme for May is as follows:

- 3 A members "Thank the Lord" afternoon.
- 17 Mrs. E. Denne "Flower Arrangement".
- 31 Annual General Meeting and Musical Items.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CAVERSHAM

The Methodists in Caversham feel very privileged to have a visit from the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Harry Morton, M.A. He will preach at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on May 6th. It has been arranged to relay the Service to the Hall for any overflow of congregation.

Many people will want to meet the President. He was born in 1925 in Kiverton Park in a mining village near Sheffield in South Yorkshire. He grew up in the years of the depression in a working class family. He received his education at King's School, Pontefract, and at King's College, Cambridge.

Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, said of him: "Thanks to the Student Christian Movement and the Order of Christian Witness under the dynamic leadership of Donald Soper, Harry came through to a working, questioning faith... He is alive, creative energies and deep ways, like the times in which he lives, on the edge between hope and despair, between laughter and tears. British Methodism will certainly have an uncomfortable year with this modern Jeremiah (his last son is

characteristically called Jeremy), who, like his prophetic predecessor, is yet very realistic in keeping his eye on what is to be done now for the renewal of God's people for more relevant witness in the world".

He entered Hartley Victoria College in 1949. Then he served as Yorkshire travelling secretary of the S.C.M. He was married in 1954. His wife, Pat, was at the time of their meeting, a travelling S.C.M. secretary in Australia. For the next six years they worked with the Indian S.C.M., then in the pastorate of the English-speaking Wesley Church in Madras. In 1960 the family moved to Geneva. Their children are Ruth, Timothy, Bridget and Jeremy. In 1963 the Methodist Missionary Society called Harry to serve as Candidates Secretary, and also to be responsible for the work in East and Central Africa. He has served with great distinction. He is a man of far-seeing wisdom, nervous, creative energies and deep Christian commitment. He is a person not to be missed. Your opportunity to meet him and to hear him will be on Sunday, May 6th, at 11 a.m. in Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Do come.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH — BREAD AND CHEESE LUNCHES



— Peter Handford

Bread and cheese lunches, held on the first Sunday of the month in Caversham Park School, are proving to be very popular. The money raised is used to aid the undernourished peoples of the world.

An invitation is therefore extended to people from other parts of the parish to join in the church's worship on the first Sunday of the month and then to share in the meal afterwards. An excellent opportunity for people to get to know each other, it also makes a tangible contribution towards the needs of others. No fixed charge is made; you are free to make whatever contribution you think is suitable. The £10.95 raised in March went towards the work of Oxfam in India, and Bangladesh, and April's contribution of £9 has been sent to Save the Children Fund.

The next lunch will be on May 6th at 12.15 p.m. Even if you can't come to the service you will still be welcome. A call to the Revd. S. Bartlett (475152) or Sheila Goldsmith (475303) would help with catering.

Mothering Sunday at the Baptist Church

Baptists are not accustomed to making a 'great thing' of such occasions as parents and a great mass of 'Mothering Sunday', but it other children from tots to was decided that this would teens, in addition to the be an appropriate occasion adult congregation, joining for a Cradle Roll Service. in the Service.

The morning service on Sunday, April 1st, was suitably adapted by the Minister of spring flowers were preter to cater for, and give sent by the younger licence to, a certain amount children to their 'mums', of controlled pandimomo and this, coupled with the nium. During the formal, opportunity to chat over or perhaps it should be in coffee and biscuits, not formal, part of the service getting squash for the child-the names of six babies ren, rounded off what can who had been dedicated in only be described as a the Church during the past somewhat novel service for year, were added to the Caversham Baptists.

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Young Caversham

The annual Festival of Arts by the Youth of Reading and Berkshire was held at the Crescent Club on Tuesday and Wednesday, 20th and 21st March. I hear the first evening was quite a "rave-up", and I managed to look in on the Wednesday with a view to probing the mysteries of mural art and objets d'art in the making. Songs and light drama provided by the Knowl Hill and Waltham Girl Guides company proved most entertaining; also guitar music by a trio from the Y.M.C.A. Circle Club. Perhaps the most colourful part of the evening's programme was the lively dancing and singing by the young group of Ugandan Asians from Greenham Common. Theatre Workshop invited guests of the Festival to attend the full dress rehearsal of their current production "Zigger Zagger" at the Progress Theatre. Caversham's youth contributions to the Festival were collections of drawings and paintings by Kevin and David Douglas of Priory Avenue, and Stephen Hunter and Philip Hooper of Caversham Park.

Does anyone know of a seaside villa available for two weeks during the summer school holidays? Mrs. Sheila Borg, who is mother at the children's home at 14 St. Peter's Hill, Caversham, has found that her large family has now out-

grown the bungalow at Hayling Island where they have stayed for many years. There are now sixteen children and three staff. Mrs. Borg would be delighted with any suggestions or ideas.

Sorry, boys and girls, but no more evening parties at the Toc 'H' Centre. While many of the parties have been well supervised, there have been several instances lately where the facilities have been abused. The buildings are the property of Reading Corporation, and Toc 'H' have a responsibility to ensure that the premises are used properly. The Borough Surveyor has instructed that action be taken to avoid further nuisance, and therefore this decision had to be taken. It is a pity that the majority have to suffer because of the few.

Sometimes young people ask me about working holidays. If you are in the sixteen to thirty age group the Concordia Youth Service Volunteers, 11a Albe-Marle Street, London W1X 4BE, have a special programme for that age range. Work camps are organised in this country and abroad. Work includes fruit picking and agriculture, help in holiday camps for children, old people and the physically handicapped. There is also unpaid voluntary work in the United Kingdom and throughout Western Europe.

SPORTS SPECIAL by STAN ELTON

Football Clubs new Headquarters

The Abbey Rugby Football Club was founded in 1956 from what had previously been the Reading Youth XV, a team which had grown up to cater for young rugby players in Reading. The founder of the youth team was Cyril "Shove" Showell, who is now a Life Member of the Club. For the last fifteen years the Club has not had a home of its own and has played at the old Grove School in Caversham (now Highdown), Palmer Park, Rabsons Recreation Ground, Bulmershe College and Ashmead School, etc. Its other activities have taken in an equal number of premises. Like all clubs, it has had its difficulties, but has thrived and now has four senior teams as well as a first-class colts team drawn from local comprehensive schools. The club's fixture list has improved as the Club has gone from strength to strength and now has first-class fixtures against such distinguished clubs as Southampton, Twickenham, Poole and Henley.

Finding a 'Home'

The search to find a suitable site for a Club Ground and Headquarters started in 1964/65 when they were thwarted in their efforts to secure a plot of land in Mapledurham. They then tried to secure Clayfield Copse at Emmer Green, but without success. When the Reading and District Sports Advisory Council was inaugurated early in 1967 the Club was no further forward, but with the help of this organisation learnt about land at Rose Hill, Peppard Road. By 1968 the lease

was arranged and outline planning permission obtained. The hard work of raising money for the premises was already well in hand, but much more was needed for the laying of the pitches, building of changing accommodation, etc. By 1970 the Club Entertainments Committee had raised £2,600 towards the cost, and the Committee of the Club then raised a further £5,000 by a grant from the Department of the Environment and loans from both the Rugby Union and the Brewers (and, knowing rugby players, I am sure the Brewery will be well rewarded).

Hard labour

The actual building work was for the most part undertaken by a band of Club members and their wives. After 18 months of combined effort the new Club House was complete, and on 15th April the official opening took place at Rose Hill, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, by Dudley T. Kemp, Past President of the Rugby Football Union. The ceremony was followed by two matches, Abbey v. Presidents International XV, and Colts and Past Members.

Support needed

The Club will welcome any new players, both for their Colts and Senior teams, also non-playing members who can join for £1.05. Rugby is enjoying a big increase in popularity and it is to be hoped that this Club will not lack for support in Caversham and Reading.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the last meeting Miss Lois Hibbard made a very welcome return. In the past she has shown the Guild her collection of Hats thru' the Ages and also Ladies' Dresses—this time it was the turn of Ladies' Underwear. Models were provided from members, and with many amusing anecdotes they were taken down through the years in the underwear scene. Apparently underwear was not worn before the Elizabethan period and then it seemed to consist mainly of something framed of steel, well padded and with a wooden stay down the front; plus a curved wooden board, resembling water wings worn on the hips. Knickers had not been invented then; in fact it appears that the Victorians were the first to have knickers, vaguely like the modern pantaloons. In early Victorian days children wore pantalettes, which were in fact only the leggings of long pants edged with lace, which were designed to show below the upper garments. The Georgian paniers, worn on the hips and giving that wide side-crinoline effect, could be lifted by the wearer like concertinas, when it was necessary to go through a single doorway. What with false padding front and rear and many complicated 'stays' etc., it is no wonder that ladies in the past have taken so long in their toilette, although washing and bathing did not become acceptable until the Victorian era. Their hair was never washed and was consistently covered in scent and powder, and it is no wonder that many, especially Georgians, went prematurely bald! The

members certainly enjoyed Miss Hibbard's visits and look forward to the next.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

This month's guild speaker, Mrs. Van Dort, gave an extremely interesting talk on making the most of yourself. She stressed the need to make the most of any good points and minimise the less attractive points. Then she howed a number of hair pieces and explained how they could be used to enhance your appearance. On the subject of cosmetics she explained that it was not necessary to spend a lot of money to achieve a new look. A number of the members asked questions regarding their own problems and she was able to offer expert advice.

This year the Social Study group have as their theme the training of people to keep Law & Order—Mr. J. Murchie introduced the subject; this month Sergeant Blake, the Divisional Training Officer, gave an account of the training of policemen and women. The Arts and Craft also have an interesting programme, this month's subject being Creative Embroidery. There is also a very active Drama Group and Rambling club.

Rosehill Wovens' Institute

Mrs. Sansum presided for the first time, a new committee having been elected. Mrs. Bradley as secretary, Mrs. Burtenshaw as treasurer. There were 43 members present. Mrs. Crowther spoke on horoscopes. Mrs. Bovey won the competition for miniature ornaments. The "new

year" got off to a successful start with a rummage sale, another popular evening of skittles, and a coffee morning in aid of "Pennies for Friendship" given by Mrs. Beasley.

The Annual Group Meeting was held on 28th when the branch were guests of Malden Erleigh W.I. The enjoyment of the evening was greatly added to by winning the competition cup jointly with Sonning Glebe, the entry being Swaziland. A witty talk was given by Miss Elsie Taylor, who, partially sighted, deaf and suffering from arthritis, was nevertheless bright and gay and an inspiration to all.

Blagrove Women's Institute

The annual meeting was held on March 6th at the Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road. The President, Mrs. Wright, welcomed members and introduced Mrs. Sizer, Voluntary County Organiser, who gave a most interesting talk on "A Resolution—From Village Hall to Albert Hall", explaining the method of choosing resolutions for the A.G.M., in London.

After reports on the past year had been given, Mrs. Wright thanked Mrs. Bartlett, retiring secretary, and members of the committee for their support during her four years as President.

Mrs. Sizer then presided over the elections for the President and Committee for the coming year. Mrs. Wilkie was elected President; Mrs. Sholl and Miss D. Chapman Vice-Presidents; Miss Reynolds secretary; Mrs. H. V. Moore treasurer. The other committee members elected were: Mrs. Day, Mrs.

Wright, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Price, Miss M. Chapman.

The competition for a knitted article was won by 1 Mrs. Benham, 2 Mrs. Wright, 3 Mrs. Davey. The winner of the monthly raffle prize was Mrs. Wright.

Mapledurham Women's Institute

The March meeting of the Mapledurham W.I. was the A.G.M., with Mrs. Bramwell in the chair. The treasurer's report showed that Mapledurham had had a good financial year and made good donations to both the Blind and to Cancer Research. Mrs. Bramwell was re-elected unanimously and everyone was thanked for all the hard work, particularly Mrs. Deacon, the treasurer, who has completed ten years service. A proposed W.I. Market at Wallingford was discussed and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The March meeting was chaired by Mrs. C. Mitchell who welcomed the members, new members and visitors assembled to listen to guest speaker Mr. Bert Foord, who spoke on 'Your Weather Services'. Mr. Foord, who is a regular member of the Television and Radio Weather Unit, has worked as a meteorologist for 2 years. He had a wealth of amusing stories to tell, particularly of remarks on English weather by visitors to this country, and the long-held belief that the weather was always better in the good old days. He also spoke of the more serious side and the help meteorologists are able to give to shipping, transport and industry.

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