

JOHN GRIMWADE RETIRES

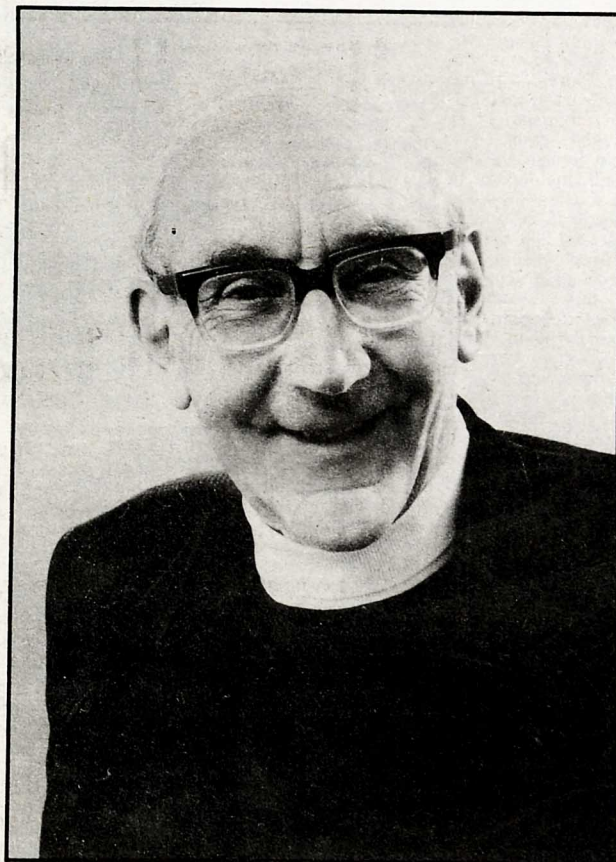
John isn't everyone's cup of tea — he is far from what the public at large, the media and even Church members often expect of a parish priest. He doesn't go around muttering comforting, if sometimes misleading, platitudes, he doesn't believe that religion can be bought on the cheap and he doesn't waste time attending polite parish tea-parties. He has far more serious things to do.

It's no wonder that he hit Caversham like a bombshell when he arrived here with his family in 1962. Heaven alone knows what impact he had on the peaceful little Cotswold village of Stonesfield when he joined them six years ago. But John is one of those very fortunate people who saw, both here and at Stonesfield, the greater part of his mission accomplished and when he preached his last sermon at Stonesfield parish church on 18th June, before retiring to Cirencester, he and Anne could not have failed to notice that here, as at Caversham, they were leaving behind more friends than most of us can expect to have at the end of a working career.

the local people. After a very happy service in which John preached the kind of sermon everyone expects, exhorting the Stonesfield people to keep up the good work and thanking everyone, including those from his previous parishes, for all their help, we all trooped across to a lovely buffet lunch in the gardens of the local Manor House. Fortunately it was a beautiful day and full advantage was taken of the setting for farewell speeches, presentations, etc. There was a hint of sadness, as there always is on these occasions, but it was still a very joyful day.



We have written before of all John achieved in Caversham, bringing together all Caversham churches in order to further Christian work in the parish, the strengthening of the power of the Church so that, whether one was a church attender or not, Caversham people benefitted greatly from all he taught his own congregation. He was tough with them and demanded a great deal but those who



stayed to listen after the first initial impact, learned the full breadth of John's religious beliefs. For example, word went out that 'your new Rector' didn't like holding midnight mass at Christmas; he soon convinced people that this stemmed from his horror of people attending only that service as, I think to use his own words, like

adding an extra piece of tinsel on the Christmas tree. His views on baptism caused something of a furore, but few who remember those early days of his ministry here, will have forgotten his disgust of the church being used purely for ceremonial occasions; at a previous parish, he said, he even had a youngster asking for his baby

brother to be christened because, he said "Mum doesn't seem to have had much luck with the football pools lately."



John is nothing if not a man of great principles and didn't hesitate to pronounce on them. But

he had endless patience with those sincerely seeking help and guidance, whether spiritually or in any other way. A man of deep faith, he would abandon his prayers if someone needed practical help. He believed that, as someone said, the Church exists largely for those outside itself; his Christian love extended to everyone in Caversham, and he taught his congregation to act in this spirit. As he said in his last sermon: "There is a Christian view about all life and whether or not a particular government or party likes or dislikes it, the Church has a duty to speak and in particular to show the compassion of Christ on behalf of the underprivileged".

In all his work here he was helped by his wife, Anne, who carved her own niche in our affections. John believed very strongly in structured leisure time for the clergy, but the rectory was never a no-go area. John and Anne, together with their children, Alice and David, gave a shining example of happy Christian family life. Stonesfield will miss him, as we did, but what he taught will not lightly be forgotten by all who knew him and his influence will be felt, as it is at Caversham, long after he retired. We wish all the family well in their new home in Cirencester. Perhaps it is too much to hope that either John or Anne will just grow old gracefully. W.D.



John Grimwade with old Caversham friends at Stonesfield.

TALKING POINT

By Father Thomas Meagher
St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church

REFLECTIONS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES — JUNE 1989

TWENTY SEVEN OF US FROM CAVERSHAM joined other groups from Croydon, Rotherhithe and various other places under the excellent aegis of the St Peter's Pilgrims' Association (no, not Caversham; Catford in London). It is possible that details of the events will be chronicled elsewhere in the 'Bridge', but it might help if I make a few general (and personal) observations. General considerations will come in a moment, but one ought to set the scene in blissful heat and the haven of an excellent hotel, from which the Pilgrimage 'exercises' were taken in our stride.

himself completely on their veracity.

Interestingly enough, not only was Bernadette Soubirous canonised as St Bernadette, but also Fr Michael Garicoits, who examined the facts of the Apparitions, was made a Saint. (Neither was canonised for these things, but for their obvious holiness of life).



I am sure that everyone knows that we believe that Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, a very poor Lourdes girl, 18 times in 1858, and on the sixteenth occasion she revealed herself (in the Basque tongue) as 'The Immaculate Conception.' This was a doctrine which had been defined four years previously, and its development had a very fine English and Irish pedigree. In England the path towards the thinking on the subject had been cleared by St Anselm the great Archbishop of Canterbury in his clarification of the nature of Original Sin. The Fathers of the Church, while being prepared to give Mary every possible honour due to God's Mother, could not see how she could be preserved from the 'common taint of mankind', but Anselm showed that God created the soul in an original defect of worship due to Him; his scribe Eadmer pointed out that it would be fitting for God to preserve His Mother. It was left to the great Franciscan theologian of Oxford, John Duns Scotus, to argue theologically that it was possible for God to do it, and as He would want what was best for His Mother, He did preserve her. The doctrine states that 'Mary was preserved, from the first moment of her conception, from all stain of sin, original or actual, through the anticipated merits of her Son.'

Ireland's part in this matter lay in the institution of the Feast of the

Conception of Our Lady. In these ways we can be very proud of the part played by these islands.

Teachings about Our Lady are all connected with the Incarnation and Redemption, and all her privileges flow from these great truths; in that she, a creature was chosen to be God's Mother, and not only does she show her Motherhood, but she points us always to her Son. Do we need to repeat that we do NOT worship Our Lady, but honour her as the Queen of Creation?

The attraction of Lourdes may be slightly different for different people, but I am sure that most, if not all, will agree with me that it principally lies in the depth of faith exhibited there. The whole 'domain' (the area around the grotto of Massabielle — the scene of nearly all the apparitions) and the various Basilicas seem to generate an aura of prayer and they become a magnet for people from all over the world. While we were there, for example, there was a large pilgrimage from Northern Italy, the Belgian National Pilgrimage with its colourful miners' contingent, two Irish Diocesan Pilgrimages, groups from Bavaria and Cologne and smaller parties from all parts of the world. (And for most of the time Lourdes was about half-full!!!).



All had come in faith, many bringing sick and handicapped pilgrims with them — it was impressive seeing two groups of handicapped from England and Jersey. People are by no means always hoping for a miracle of healing there, but certainly all wanted to grow in faith; in this context it is always thrilling to hear the great crowds praying and singing at the procession of the Blessed Sacrament or the torchlight procession at dusk.

The happiness on the faces of all has also a profound effect — to see those grievously afflicted, still radiant, makes one's own problems seem puny. The depth of prayer which goes on all night and all day beside the grotto must have some effect on the casual bystander, and it is an inspiration to see the care and Christian love which is given to the sick.

While Lourdes is primarily a place of prayer and healing (always of spirit, sometimes of body) there is too an element of penance — but that depends very much on the individual. The 'Upper' Stations of the Cross can be very difficult — in bare feet they are cruel, but never does one hear a complaint about this.



All these aspects of Lourdes are obvious; all too often people talk about its 'commercialisation'. I've never found this of any difficulty; if people want souvenirs, then these people are catered for. Contrast the bustling trade of the town with the peace and tranquillity of the 'domain', the Catholic centre of Lourdes.

What other personal memories? We were, as I have said, very fortunate in our arrangements for Mass. On the first morning we actually had Mass at the grotto; our priests concelebrated with an Indian Bishop who was very happy to join us. I was especially lucky to be asked to officiate at the International Mass in the underground Basilica of St Pius X before a vast congregation. An excursion to Bartres was our venue the following day, with Mass mainly in the open air at the place where Bernadette lived and looked after the sheep in her adolescence. Equally moving was Mass on the last morning at the Cite des Pauvres where poor pilgrims are housed. Mass was said for the



Sick, and the Sacrament of the Sick was administered to those in need.

In between the organisers managed to sandwich a walking tour of Lourdes to visit the places of Bernadette's childhood, a trip to Gavarnie in the high Pyrenees with its awe-inspiring 'cirque', the snow-covered ridge, and the highest waterfall in Europe. Stations of the Cross was a highlight, as was the 'bath' in the waters of Lourdes. Our Organisers had worked wonders, and even a last-minute 'hiccup' of a strike at Tarbes-Lourdes airport gave us the opportunity of a visit to the shrine of St Michael Garicoits (with Benediction) in Betharam. A further delay at Pau airport caused by a breakdown of power at Gatwick gave Pau the unusual opportunity of providing for a relatively large influx and the chance of watching (or avoiding) a four-hour impromptu entertainment over which one might draw a veil.

All in all, the pilgrimage was a great inspiration, and I think was of benefit to everyone. We left a large Candle to burn at the Shrine for the needs of the Parish, and many prayers were answered. A wonderful interlude.

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

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All contributions for Sept issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 2 August.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 28 June.

The dates for October will be Wednesday 6 Sept and Friday 1 Sept.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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SAD NEWS COMES TO CAVERSHAM PARK IN 1839

ON MONDAY THE SECOND OF SEPTEMBER 1839, all was bustle at Caversham Park for Mr William Crawshaw and his family were expecting a visit from the son and heir. This was to be his first stay at their home in Caversham and everything had to look its best. The gardens were still filled with flowers and the hot houses with fruit. Mr Crawshaw, his third wife Isabella, and other members of the family were eagerly awaiting the arrival of William junior who was coming from South Wales to report on the progress of their vast family business. The Crawshays were ironmasters and their foundries had been started by the young man's grandfather, also a William.

The railway had not yet been opened so the journey from Wales was long and tedious and meant an overnight stay at a coaching inn. The young man was due at Caversham Park some time between four and five in the afternoon of the second day.

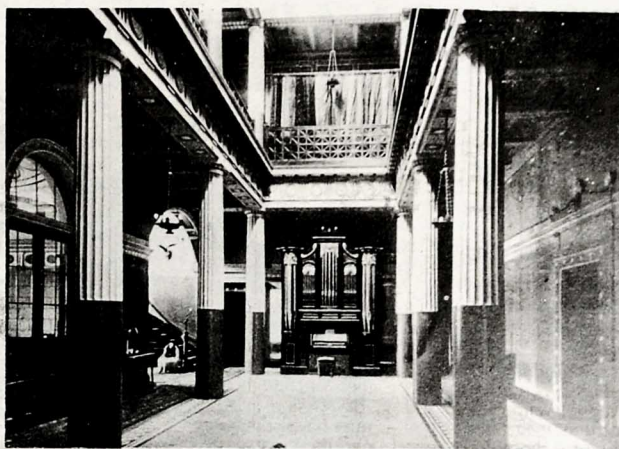
William Crawshaw senior was looking forward to showing his son round the estate which he had only purchased the year before, having rented it a few years to see whether or not it fulfilled his requirements.

When will he come?
Five o'clock came and went with no sign of

the visitor. Sunset fell and he still had not arrived. By this time the family were becoming a little worried. With only an hour to midnight everyone kept anxiously looking at the time and listening for the sound of horses. At last they were heard galloping up the grand drive. The doors of the mansion were flung open and more lights fetched by the servants to welcome the long overdue traveller; but when he came into the grand entrance hall it was not William junior standing there but his brother-in-law, George Thomas, who had ridden post haste with the terrible news that the young man, so eagerly awaited, had drowned the day before crossing the Severn on his journey to Caversham.

It appears that William was coming by boat across the Severn to save a land journey of some forty seven miles via Gloucester. The mailboat on a Sunday left from Merthyr, sailed up the coast to Beachley and then over to Aust. This crossing was known as the Old Passage and took anything from half-an-hour to almost three depending on the wind and the tide.

On Sunday the first of September William arrived at the landing stage to find the boat already filled with its quota of passengers and the captain refused to take him and another latecomer on board, sailing without



The great entrance hall at Caversham Park. This picture was probably taken when the Crawshaw family put the house up for sale in 1920.

them. William and the other traveller hired a post chaise and drove the twenty seven miles to Beachley where the mailboat was due to set down and pick up passengers at three in the afternoon. They hoped there would be room for them to board here and cross the Severn at this point as already planned. Alas, they arrived just in time to see the mail packet drawing away from the jetty.

Desperate to continue their journey the two travellers found a small boat called the Little Weston due to

leave shortly with eight horses to be sold at Bristol fair. The skipper agreed to let them embark along with four other passengers and they left a quarter of an hour after the mail boat.

Tragedy

The three mile crossing was a difficult one in heavy weather and that Sunday in early September the first gale of autumn had begun to blow. When the Little Weston was in mid-channel she was hit by a violent squall. It was presumed that the horses were

thrown to leeward or panicked causing the vessel to overturn. No one survived the tragedy, which was visible from both sides of the Severn. The mailboat, which had already arrived in Aust, immediately returned to the scene of the disaster but help came too late.

Very soon word of the terrible tragedy reached William's sister Elizabeth and her husband, George Thomas at Llandaff Court and George raced to Caversham to break the sad news, while others of the family went with local boatmen to search the shore for William's body. It was discovered the next Sunday, September 8th, the finders bringing the twenty gold sovereigns and the gold watch found in the pockets to be an identification.

On September 10th the grieving Crawshaw family buried William in the family vault at Llandaff Cathedral.

M.K.

AN EDITOR ON THE MOVE



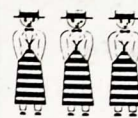
After 5 years on the editorial board of the Caversham Bridge, Nigel Wright has stepped down. He is leaving Caversham to take up lecturership in the University of Hull in the autumn.

Nigel came to Reading as an Undergraduate 20 years ago and has lived in Caversham for the past 16 years. For much of that time he

taught history at Highdown School and has been a member at Caversham Baptist Free Church.

Nigel, his wife Dawn and their three children will be living in ancient Beverley. They will miss Caversham, where they have many friends, but hope to keep in touch via this newspaper. Very best wishes to them all.

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NEWS FROM THE BOARD ROOM

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors were pleased to welcome Mrs. Angela Sealey, the Roman Catholic representative who is taking over from Dr. Gwen Delany.

Mr. Bernard Miller, Chairman, has agreed to take Mr. Nigel Wright's place on the Editorial Board. The meeting thanked Mr. Wright for his help as co-editor and wished him every success in his new post.

The Board was thanked for its donation of £100 to Share-a-Care to help towards its running costs.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NO EARLY RETIREMENT FOR ST. BARNABAS

June 29th this year marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Dedication of St. Barnabas Church as a local church for the people of Emmer Green.

Mindful of the importance of the occasion, the church was delighted when Philip Morgan, General Secretary of The British Council of Churches was happy and able to preside over the celebrations.

The Minister of Caversham Hill Chapel read one of the lessons and helped with the music. Highdown School contributed an excellent Flute Quartet and two singers, who sang Pie Jesu. St. Barnabas' choir sang Elgar's motet "Ave Verum". Eric Essery, the Rural Dean of Reading, and the Executive of the Reading District Council of Churches were present to join in the worship. As is usual after such celebrations a reception was held in the hall afterwards.

The celebrations were particularly meaningful this year, as St. Barnabas is in fact celebrating not only its sixtieth birthday but at a time when some are thinking of taking early retirement and a quiet life, also its first birthday. Its first birthday, that is, as a Parish in its own right.

T.S. Eliot once wrote: "Time present and time past Are both perhaps present in time future".

And certainly as St. Barnabas stands poised, with its new vicar, Nigel Hardcastle, to step into the future, it would seem an appropriate moment to look back to the past, to be reminded of the rich legacy, which the church has received from it.

For many years the residents of Emmer Green worshipped in what is now the church hall. However, with the help of a legacy of £1,000, bequeathed by Mr. Saunders of Grove House, now Highdown School, and the untiring efforts of Mr. Percy Haydon-Bacon of Springfield, sufficient money was raised through fetes, concerts, sewing and American tea parties to build the present church.

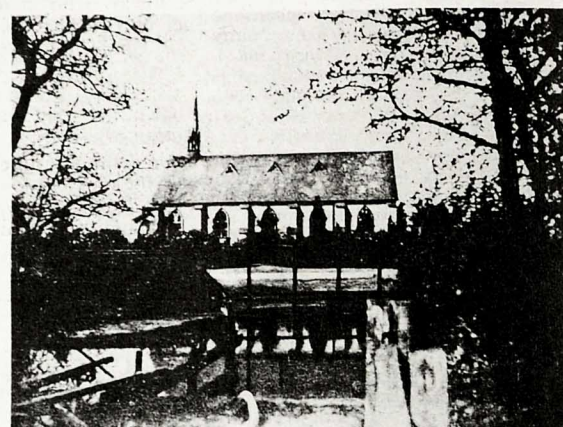
The beautiful East window was the gift of Mr. Haydon-Bacon, who was in fact a Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, and the West window the gift of the Misses Turners of Caversham Rise. The first priest-in-charge was the Revd. B. Mason, who has since been succeeded by fourteen further incumbents.

In those days Emmer Green was not the generally affluent suburban middle class area that it is today, but a rather spreadeagled village of dirt track roads and few cars. The inhabitants for the

most part were either rich or poor. The rich families inhabiting the large local houses of Caversham Park, The Grove, Rosehill Park, Springfield: and the poorer families inhabiting the many local cottages, which still remain as domestic dwellings. But whatever the difference in wealth or status, the whole village would meet in church on Sunday, the pews filled to bursting; some attending as much as three times daily, work permitting. Anyone with any voice at all would be co-opted into the choir, which was particularly rich in boy sopranos from the St. Benet's Boys' Home, now Lyefield Court. In fact in those days St. Barnabas boasted no one, but two choirs. Riches indeed!

So, along with the blacksmith, the baker, the general store, the pub, the school and the village hall, the church was very

much an integral part of village life; a place where you met your friends and neighbours and joined with them in the worship of God. Through love of God and unstinting effort and generosity the people of Emmer Green built a church of which they must have been justly proud. Now in the midst of its celebrations St. Barnabas is asking itself itself what gift it will bequeath to future generations of local people. Will it be a church of mere bricks and mortar, or will it continue to build upon the traditions of the past and the present and create a living church, a reality not just for the few, but the many? Time alone will tell.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Saturday 30th September is an important date in the life of Caversham Baptist Church — it marks the start of a nine-day Partnership Mission to be carried out in the Caversham area in conjunction with a team from Flat Rock Baptist Church, South Carolina, USA. The time will be spent reinforcing the message being spelt out this summer through Billy Graham's Mission '89 and the forthcoming Nationwide March for Jesus; a message that proclaims the risen Lord Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

The team from Flat Rock will be led by their Minister, Revd. Norman Ponder and will have six members including their musical director. This team is one of 21 teams from South Carolina visiting churches in the Berkshire Baptist Association.

During their stay, the Flat Rock team will assist our members with different forms of Christian outreach, including a harvest supper, guest services and coffee mornings. There will also be specific 'reaching out' opportunities such as open-air witness, and small teams will visit homes and schools in the area.

On Wednesday 4th October at 7.45 p.m., an evangelistic meeting will be held at Wycliffe Baptist Church, where representatives of all 21 churches involved in the Partnership Mission will join together to welcome all who may care to come.

In the meantime there are many preparations to make, and a committee is meeting regularly to ensure that all the activities during the Mission are to the glory of God. We invite you to join us in prayers that this may be so. Watch this space for further details!

ST. ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

St. Alban's was the destination for a coachload of members of the Fellowship and the Townswomen's Guild who had teamed up on this occasion for a very enjoyable day out on June 14th.

On arrival everyone made a beeline for the Information Office in the Town Hall to get maps and leaflets to enable them to take full advantage of what the town had to offer. Some went to the Abbey, some toured the market, some even went to a Flea Market, some visited relatives and those with

maps managed to find the Museum and Park.

The weather was fine and hot, but though threatening clouds appeared overhead during the afternoon, no storm materialised. A happy, tired and rather hot band was promptly picked up by the coach for the return journey at just before six o'clock. In an endeavour to avoid Reading's traffic, the driver diverted to Henley which was interesting, in spite of a hold-up, as the passengers were able to glimpse a special Regatta Anniversary parade of boats when crossing the bridge.

ST. MARGARET'S NEWS FOR JUNE

St. Margaret's wish to congratulate Joan and Morrice Hutt who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently. Both have worshipped at St. Margaret's for many years and Morrice has been a member of the PCC and given much time and advice over the maintenance and repair of the beautiful old church. We send them love and good wishes for many more years of happiness together.

We also send congratulations to Helen Solloway who had her ninetieth birthday this June. Helen is sadly no longer able to worship at Mapledurham but she is never forgotten.

On Sunday June 18th the congregation were delighted to welcome Betty and Les Williams and their family to Mapledurham once again. They had come from Mat-

tingly to join in the worship as they celebrated their Silver Wedding in the church where they were married twenty-five years ago.

The following Sunday, June 25th, a seat in the churchyard was dedicated to the memory of Ken Lewington. It was given by his family and will be most welcome to visitors who often must be grateful for somewhere to rest a while.

CHRISTIAN AID

The Caversham Christian Aid Committee is pleased to report that the total amount raised in Christian Aid Week in Caversham, Mapledurham and Emmer Green was £4,442.

Many thanks to all who took part in the house-to-house collections and for the donations received.

MAPLEDURHAM MIDSUMMER MASQUE

In the lovely setting of St. Margaret's Church on 21st June, Bob Avis, who masterminded this event, reminded the audience that, when Shakespeare was writing the lines with which the evening opened so stirringly, Mapledurham House was being built, and the Church was already several hundred years old.

□ □

But most of the performance, as Bob said, was very much in the style of a Victorian family entertainment, with songs, readings and music. It was good to see the very talented teenagers joining happily with younger members of the St. Margaret's Church family in the Young

Musicians Group; very good, too, to welcome back Derek Spears, who joined with others in excerpts from 'Henry V', and the contrasting 'Importance of being Ernest'.

□ □

When, as on this occasion, a family is joining together to provide entertainment and excellent refreshments, it is impossible to mention everyone by name. The whole of St. Margaret's congregation (with two notable additions from St. Peter's!) worked hard in providing a happy and welcoming evening for the many visitors. And the splendid sum of £250 was raised for the Church Urban Fund.

Doreen Bennett.

ST. ANDREW'S FETE

On a beautiful summer's day, Saturday 24th June, St. Andrew's held their annual Summer Fete. It was opened at 2 p.m. by the Revd. Bill Carpenter, despite being repeatedly attacked by a real life figure of 'Mr. Punch' who was in fact young Daniel Kent dressed in the same costume that his father wore at a similar age at St. Paul's, London, to celebrate Mr. Punch's birthday and it certainly added a bright spot of colour to the proceedings.

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Leslie and David Maynerd ran two competitions for the children, the Fancy Dress which was won by Phillip Jellyman and Lucy Marsh, whilst a colouring picture of Mr. Punch was won by Alex Hodson.

□ □

There were all the usual stalls, Books, Gifts, Needlework, Toys and much more and whilst members of the Junior Church ran the fund-raising stalls in the car park, ladies were dishing up 'tasty teas' in the small Hall.

□ □

A Punch and Judy show was followed by the drawing of the raffle and to finish with, there was a Grand Auction which raised just under £100. Altogether in just two hours from 2 to 4 p.m. some £1,400 was taken, all the profits of which will go to the Church Urban Fund. NGK.

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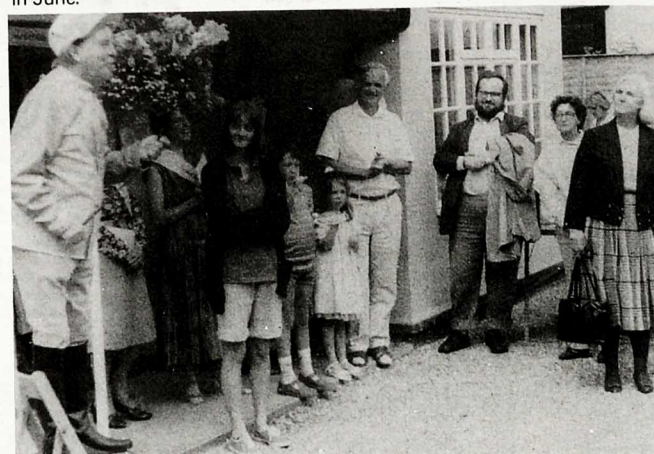
MIDSUMMER



Cake Sale at St. John's Church in June — nearly sold out!



Sale of Work, Plant and Craft Fair at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church in June.



Felix Bowness, of "Hi De Hi" fame, opening the Save the Children Fund Fete at 29 Derby Road on 3rd July.



Prize-winners in the St. Barnabas' "Design a Poster" competition.




St. Peter's Guides and Brownies enjoying their Garden Party in the Rectory Garden in June.

A variety of summer events were taking place in Caversham and our photographer was kept busy. We regret that every event was not covered but hope that the following will give some idea of what does go on round about the churches.




*Pictures
by
E.S. Archer*






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JOLLIFICATIONS

The new Parish of St. Peter, Caversham and St. Margaret, Mapledurham provided Fun for All at their Grand Fete in Caversham Court on 1 July, as the adjoining pictures show!



Patrick Bailly.

"Squash" provided lively music — good to have them as part of the team!



E. S. Archer.

The children always have enough energy to race!



Eager bargain hunters.

E. S. Archer.



E. S. Archer.

The bustle of the opening minutes. It was good to see such a large crowd.



E. S. Archer.

Caversham Primary School pupils entertained with a charming Maypole dance.



E. S. Archer.

This train never stopped running!



Punch and Judy entralls old and young.

E. S. Archer.

PRIZE WINNERS — GRAND DRAW, held on behalf of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's Churches

Royal Grafton Tea Service — P. Chapman, Tokers Green: Chinese Rug — S. Scott, Richmond Road, Caversham: 6 Wine Glasses — A. Jackson, Woodcote Road, Caversham: £20 Marks & Spencers Voucher — C. Perry, Cedar Wood Close, Caversham.
Bottle of Brandy — P. White, Albert Road, Caversham: Box of Chocolates — M. Hill, Harrogate Road, Caversham: Clock — R. Antell, Albert Road, Caversham: Bottle of Champagne — R. Russell, Crawshay Drive, Caversham.
Jig Saw Puzzle — B. Laverick, Beech Lane, Earley: Doormat — W. Butler, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham

The Flower Quiz sold from the Art Stall was won by Mrs. N. Kemp, Peppard Road, Caversham.

An estimated 1,500 people visited the Fete, many from outside the Parish. Energetic efforts by parishioners and their friends, and generous gifts and prizes, resulted in £3,500 being raised towards the expected Parish deficit this year.



Patrick Bailly.

It was good to see the return of an old friend, even if only for the week-end.



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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

COUNTRYSIDE PURSUITS

THE COUNTRYSIDE immediately beyond the built up area is valued as much by the people who live in Caversham as it is by those who live in the rural areas themselves, so anything that might seriously change its nature becomes a matter of wide concern to people living either side of the boundary line.

For several months now, combat games, war games or paint ball games, call them what you will, have been taking place in Chazey Wood, a private wood through which a well-used, but apparently not a public, footpath ran. They have been tolerated rather than welcomed. A planning application has now been submitted to extend their use to 120 days a year. This is a lot, particularly if periods like Christmas and very severe weather are excluded. It will not allow time for consideration to be given for any tender feelings towards bluebells, the nesting season and newly emerging plant and wild life. A carefully balanced ecology could be wrecked by being trampled over and churned up. The organisers can be made to clear up litter; they cannot be made to restore that kind of damage. No wonder people feel uneasy. In no way could regeneration take place with such constant use, though it may have been possible under the twenty-eight days

permitted without the need for planning consent.

None of this implies a lack of sympathy for landowners faced with the upkeep of listed buildings and a large estate, and told to take land out of agricultural production, to set aside and diversify. It is a problem few of us would care to have to wake up to every morning. So in addition to war games, another idea the Mapledurham Estate is pursuing, and on which, to give them credit, they have sought the views of local people before putting in an application, is for a golf course between Woodcote Road and Tokers Green from just north of Shepherds Lane as far as the Pack Horse. At least it is better than mass housing with which neighbouring Bugs Bottom is threatened.

□ □

The plan is only outline and it is the details rather than the general principles that worry people. There will be tree loss, but just where and how, is not clear. Bardolph's wood appears to be in some danger, though we are told it will probably have to be partly felled anyhow because the trees are getting old. Would a golf course make its fate better or worse? Where would the clubhouse go? Where will the access roads be? What about houses in the immediate vicinity? None of these questions can be answered until the detailed plans go in and these will only be submitted if the outline application is approved.

Not surprisingly, there is a certain reluctance to give the plan a whole-hearted welcome when it is not clear just what it will entail. It might even improve the area and ensure its remaining green for the foreseeable future. On the other hand it could alter its character immeasurably, so that it came to be more like a suburban park than countryside. If outline consent is given, it is then essential for everyone affected to make their views known. At that stage Caversham people, not being electors of South Oxfordshire, do not have much say, although members of Caversham and District Residents'

Association who live beyond the Borough boundary will be able to make their voices heard.

WELCOME TO CAVERSHAM COURT

Caversham Court is more than just another municipal park. It is closely bound up with the history of Caversham and we are privileged to be able to enjoy its well-kept gardens, even though a myopic Borough Council demolished its house in 1931. However, it does not belong exclusively to Caversham and we are always pleased to see visitors enjoying its tranquil lawns and trees as long as they do nothing to detract from its beauty, which very few of them do.

However it seemed quite unnecessary to attach a large notice to the gates loudly bidding people welcome and giving its name. If they had got as far as the gates they would know where they were and if they didn't know where it was, sticking a notice on the gates wouldn't make them any wiser. However, it was not its uselessness that annoyed people, but its very loudness, its strident colours incongruously rubbing shoulders with the weathered grey of the flint walls and its size obscuring part of the wrought iron gates that were only erected two or three years ago to enhance the entrance to the gardens. Moreover the walls and most of the buildings of Caversham Court are listed and are also in a Conservation Area, but no planning permission had been applied for or granted.

□ □

Not surprisingly there were protests and it was removed within a few hours of having received its official blessing, the Borough Council having apparently responded with commendable alacrity to the expression of public concern. However, it turned out later that it had been defaced and preposterously it was even hinted that members of Caversham Residents' Association may have been responsible. There are rumours that it is going back on the gates. If it does, it is up to all those who don't like it to say

so. In some parks such a notice may not be too much out of keeping. On a listed building in a conservation area it is an unseemly intrusion.

Caversham Court was the scene of the annual family picnic which forms part of the Reading Arts Festival. The theme was France, during this bicentennial year of the French Revolution and was music, dancing and entertainment from a pair of strolling players. A well-known Caversham couple who looked as if they had stepped straight out of a Renoir picture won the first prize in the fancy dress competition; a jolly striped shirt clad group of matelots, fisherman and chefs shared the second (it worked out at a glass each) and the third went to a menacing looking 'sansculottes' who is usually seen around Caversham in more conventional garb.

The news that money has been earmarked for the repair of the Gazebo is also welcome, though it is a case of really believing

it when it happens, as this would not be the first time that money has been promised but not materialised. It is high time that this old building, which features in many pictures of old Caversham, was restored to become a fitting focal point of the gardens in which it has stood since the seventeenth century.

□ □

WATER PROBLEMS

The water problems experienced in Caversham during May and June were, according to the South-West Division of Thames Water in a letter to Caversham Residents' Association, caused by exceptional demand in the Woodcote Reservoir Zone and further compounded by a pump failure at Cleeve. When the Cleeve works are completed in April 1990, the situation should improve. However, reinforcement mains would still

Turn to Page 9

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THE COUNTRYSIDE — IN CAVERSHAM

MORE NATURE JOTTINGS FROM A LOCAL RESIDENT

Owing to the mild winter and spring, the wild flowers have come early in our little wood beside the house that runs from the road to the end of our garden at the back. First the celandines covered the ground in a carpet of gold, flowering on for several weeks. They have been exceptionally plentiful this year and have been a joy to see as we stroll along the different paths we have trodden out and intersect the wood to extend our walk. Next to appear were patches of bluebells, with singles popping up here and there, intent on spreading. With warm sunshine came

masses of forget-me-nots, and stitchwort mingled together, the former evidently escapes from the garden and no doubt spread by the seed-eating finches, the wood being a sanctuary for many birds. Jack-by-the-hedge followed, topped by a cluster of small white flowers, reaching a height of a foot or more; pinch the leaves and stem and you get a scent of garlic. Now fools parsley, reaching a height of two to three feet gives a fairylike appearance to the whole.

Stinging nettles are everywhere which we make no effort to

eliminate as they are the breeding ground for several species of butterfly. Our first sighting was the brimstone, then a flood of orangetips, a daily visit by a holly blue, an occasional peacock, several speckled woods and a few whites.

A field at the end of our garden rises until the top of it becomes our horizon, so that we can see what goes on or settles in it; the various kinds of birds, magpies, starlings, blackbirds, pigeons, crows, and rabbits, etc. The field, normally green, is now turning a golden yellow with buttercups, a veritable 'cloth

of gold' particularly in bright sunshine. A few horses graze contentedly. Although we front on to a secondary road, and a considerable amount of traffic passes the house, as we sit on the patio at the back of the house we hear very little of it, and all is peaceful, balm for the souls, broken only by the songs of blackbirds and chaffinches, the distant call of the cuckoo, or the yaffle of a green woodpecker.

Suddenly a blackbird's song changes to an agitated note of alarm, often repeated, and spreads to others in the vicinity; a prowling cat perhaps, or a

magpie raiding a smaller bird's nest! Not so, for out from behind the trees flies a kestrel, soars to a hundred feet or so and hovers suspended; drops twenty feet and again hovers, finally dropping to the ground, staying a couple of seconds, having caught maybe a dung beetle, for the field is littered with horse droppings. Then up and away, circling the field before flying off to other hunting grounds. The alarm notes slowly subside, the blackbirds and chaffinches resume their songs, joined by a robin, the shrill piping of a wren, and peace and tranquility reign once again.

LINK GROUP REPORT

The Link Group held its A.G.M. on Monday June 26th at Doreen Bennett's house.

Suzy Robinson's last act as chairman was to report on a very successful year for the Link Group. A year in which 'The Refuge', opened its own playgroup for those pre school children living in the home, and a year in which nearly £700 was raised in one hour of sponsored knitting by 35 people. Some of that money was then

donated to the charities in immediate need.

It is two years now since Suzy Robinson took over the chair and in that time her hard work and dedication to her task have been enormous and much appreciated by all concerned. A vote of thanks was given by Doreen Bennett and heartily endorsed by everyone present.

Vera Scott and Peggy Coombe reported on the continued success

of the monthly tea parties. They are able to cater for a large number of people, but their main problem continues to be transport to and from the different venues. If you are in a position to help one Thursday afternoon a month, please contact Vera Scott on 479179. It would be much appreciated.

Lynn Baker then gave a resume of her work with R.E.A.P. who continue to offer food and shelter to the homeless of all ages. One of the unwelcome features seen by them this year has been the alarming increase in the number of young girls seeking shelter with them. R.E.A.P. are looking for office accommodation in the Oxford Road area, and for retired professional people — ex-bankers, company secretaries, who are in a position to offer their expertise on a voluntary basis. If you are interested or know of an office they could rent please contact Lynn Baker on 471262.

Sandra Owen updated them on the work of 'Sphere', who now offer a morning creche three days a week to the children of young single parent families giving the mothers a much needed break, to attend one of the discussion groups held at Allen House.

Finally some arrangements were made towards the Ecumenical lunch to be held in November and the meeting was closed with a Communion service conducted by Revd. D. Clarke.

From Page 8
be required to serve the proposed housing at Bugs Bottom, which the developers would have to pay for.



Although this explains current problems, it does not explain why certain areas on higher land have had low pressure for years, whenever the weather was hot. It remains to be seen whether the new works will have a long term effect, or whether they will only alleviate existing problems.

Ironically, a hose and sprinkler ban was introduced in the area affected towards the end

of June, to last for an indefinite period, and right on cue the weather broke and it started to rain. A refund is promised to hose and sprinkler users who doubtless felt put out that just when their gardens started looking thirsty, they were told not to use their apparatus.

The rain held off until the kerb stones and drainage gullies in Kidmore Road were excavated from their layers of tarmac, thus removing fears of flooding. All of this must have cost extra money to clear up what it is difficult to accept was other than a mistake, in spite of protestations that this was normal practice.

KATY WRITES AGAIN ...

About this time of the year was usually have lots of news about our young people, leaving school or university, taking up jobs all over the world and so on. We love to have such news and in this mobile society it is sometimes the only way in which our young people keep in touch with each other once they leave the district.

We've only just heard, for example, that

Michael Smith, the son of Joan and Neville Smith, Chaplain to Queen Anne's School, gave up his industrial work some time ago and is now in training at Cuddesden Theological College.

So many friendships are formed with our young people and it would be nice to have the odd bit of news about them. So please won't you help with this.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to David Cleare, 3rd Reading (St Peter's) Venture Scout Unit on being presented with The Queen's

Scout Award Badge on Monday 12th June at Reading District Thameside Annual General Meeting.

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OBITUARIES

DEREK FALLOWFIELD

All who knew him were saddened to hear of the death of Derek Fallowfield in June. He and Marian had many friends in the district and from their love of and interest in the countryside and the area in which they lived, they threw their energies into many organisations, including the Civic Society, the Residents' Association, the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Society, the Chiltern Society and many others. They worked hard for everything they believed in.

But, above all, Derek had such a wonderful friendly personality; to say he was one of Nature's gentlemen is no exaggeration and it was a great privilege to have known him. He will be greatly missed but, as Marian herself says, there are so many happy memories. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with her at this time and with their son and daughter, Michael and Valerie.

MR. BILL SUGGETT

It is a great pity when we lose members of our community we can ill afford to lose, and an even greater pity that nobody can find the time to submit even short notes about them for the 'Bridge'. I was saddened, for instance, to hear of the death of Bill Suggett, who lived with his family in Prospect Street; very many Caversham people will have come into contact with him in one way

or another, perhaps especially as a helpful gentleman in Waitrose who would, on occasions, help customers to bag up their purchases.

But however one knew him one always had the impression of a very friendly gentleman and he will be missed. There is much more that could be said about him and it really would be nice if readers could take the trouble to send in a short paragraph when we lose someone who was such a valuable member of our community.

MRS. GOOD

I was also saddened to

hear of the recent death of Mrs Good; I don't even know her full name, but interviewed her years ago when she and her husband ran the radio shop, with the lovely garden, in the old cottages near Caversham Night Club. Since then meeting her on the rounds in Caversham, it has always been an added joy to receive a friendly greeting. We know from conversations with others, that she was a very valued member of the community and it would have been nice to have recorded more about her. Suffice it to say she was a lovely person.

Katy

JOAN FRY

Many Caversham people will have been saddened at the death of Joan Fry on 20th May. She was a rather reserved person, but, nevertheless, she had many friends at St Andrew's and particularly in Maplewood Women's Institute, of which she had been a member for nineteen years. For many of these she served on the Committee in which her many talents were recognised. She filled the office of secretary for several years

and that of President for three years, the duties of which she always carried out in an efficient and businesslike manner. She had helped with catering and also programme planning. Anything that Joan did was done well and she was utterly reliable. Among her many interests were gardening, sewing for her grandchildren, embroidery, calligraphy and scrabble.

In earlier days Joan had not been able to get to Church as often as she

would have liked because of family commitments — she had looked after her husband's parents for a time, then her husband Norman became ill, and he died about ten years ago. Since then Joan had entered into Church life at St Andrew's and enjoyed all the various activities, such as Fellowship and the various outings and Church concerts. She even managed to attend when the Elizabethan Singers gave a concert in

April, although, at that time, she was very ill.

During her last few months she showed outstanding courage, in that although she must have realised the seriousness of her illness, she concealed the fact almost entirely and carried on with her normal life and activities as though she were a fit person.

She leaves a son, Brian, and his wife Stephanie and a daughter, Sheila

and her husband, who have two daughters, Joanne and Clare. Joan was a very loving Grandma. We extend our love and sympathy to her immediate family, by whom she will be greatly missed. Joan also had three sisters and a brother and, sadly, ninety-eight-year old mother, who, until recently Joan used to visit three days a week. Joan's death will leave a big gap in her family.

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"If I didn't go on Readibus I would have

to stop at home on my own" Reading Chronicle, September '88. Mrs George, Curley to all her friends, a pensioner, only lives a stone's throw from the town, but it might as well have been miles. Now she manages to go to Bingo regularly and do her own shopping impossible before.



Another lady had just given birth to a lovely boy, a brother for Louise. For several months while she was pregnant she used the Readibus to visit her mother, go shopping and attend ante natal classes at her surgery and the hospital. After a few weeks when she's on her feet, she'll use the ordinary buses again.

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More about booking and other services next month.

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the CLUBS

Emmer Green TG

Mrs Eileen Flint from "Simply Silk" visited the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild in June, bringing with her samples of her work with silk and dried flowers. Her arrangements were beautiful as well as being washable! Quite a bonus, as the silk flowers are very realistic, especially when used with real flowers. Mrs Flint's arrangements can be hired for weddings or other special occasions and for offices, in the reception areas. Artificial flowers have certainly improved since the days when a plastic daffodil was given away free with a packet of soap powder!

Mrs Flint kindly judged the competition for an Ascot hat which was won by Mrs Pam Harvey.

Earlier in the month the guild had enjoyed an outing to Bowood House and Laycock Village and thanks were given to Mrs

Sutherland and Mrs Cave for their hard work in arranging it.

The Social Studies group held a very well attended meeting on the "Poll Tax" and the Arts and Crafts group had a boat trip from Caversham Bridge to Henley. Two walks are planned with the rambles and a garden party is to be held in August, so there is plenty to look forward to.

The guild meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Chazey WI

The June meeting of Chazey WI was opened by the president, Mrs T. Stringer, who after welcoming new members and visitors introduced the speaker for the evening, Mrs G. Horn, who talked about her hobbies, collecting veteran sewing machines

and making patchwork and appliqued quilts. She brought a collection of smaller hand machines and a quantity of fascinating quilts with her which she briefly described and explained the special occasions for which some of the quilts had been made. Members showed much interest in her exhibits during the coffee break, especially the old style cotton reels, needle cases and other items of a bygone age. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Lenora Bowden.

The business meeting followed and plans were finalised for the Strawberry Supper and for the visit of a party of London pensioners to Chazey to take place in early July.

A full and interesting report on the WI AGM at the Albert Hall, London, was given by Mrs May Smith of Caversham WI, Chazey WI's link institute.

The competition for a peg bag was won by Helen Hudson, and the meeting closed later than usual but members agreed it had been a fascinating evening.

Caversham Heights TG

A Roman Theatre and a Party

St Alban's, not seen for many years, was revisited in June, when social studies group of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild joined forces with St Andrew's church members. Watling Street led the coach into the town and was later traced passing near the Roman theatre with its colonnaded stage and auditorium. Lying to west of St Alban's, much of Verulamium is now pleasantly covered by grass, although other remains are still to be seen. It was once probably one of the few examples in Britain of a municipium, where the inhabitants had the same rights as citizens of Rome.

The present cathedral, formerly a Benedictine abbey and monastery, stands on the supposed site where Alban, a Roman soldier, became the first Christian martyr to die in Britain. In the town the Old Market place was explored, the watermill admired and the very old Fighting Cocks inn became a favourite place for lunch for some. Flowers were the theme at the main guild's 28th birthday party at St Andrew's Hall at which Clarice Lott and Muriel Popplewell received guests including some from Federation and Emmer Green guild. Jancis Brown presided. Members were delighted that two of their

number were well enough after illness to come along. Glasses of punch and supper, which included strawberries and cream, were followed by some ingenious games using the names of flowers. When the rain poured down the flowers had to move fast in the flower border game. A charade, delicious birthday cake and coffee concluded the evening.

Caversham Community Association

A whistdrive was held on the 5th June with Doreen Crawley, as usual in charge of the proceedings. There was a good attendance and when the scores were added, the member with the most points was Betty Petherbridge, who received first prize. Vicki Scheel was selling at the Nearly New stall with lots of bargains to offer on the members' behalf.

Tom Story visited the club the following week to entertain the members. Mr Story, at one time, had been a member of a concert party and with his cheerful manner kept everyone amuse whilst he played selections from his collection of records. These included Pam Ayres' recitations of her poems, popular songs and music. There were many opportunities for the members to join in the singing to make a happy evening.

On the 19th June a Bring and Buy evening was arranged when the members were asked to contribute a gift to be auctioned. The cash raised was used to subsidise the recent evening outing to Milton Manor House, near Abingdon. Some members, who wish to reduce their weight, are taking part in a sponsored slim in aid of the Battle Hospital Appeal fund. Their weight is checked at the club to see how they are progressing.

The June meetings ended on the 26th June with a social evening and was well attended.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, the Chairman, introduced Mrs Beek who was going to give a talk accompanied by slides on the Welsh Borders. Mrs Beek said it had been an ambition of hers to walk the Pennines on her own. However back in the early '80s she set off for Offa's Dyke. Offa, King

of Mercia, had so much trouble trying to repel raiders on the Welsh Borders that he decided to have built this dyke which is an earthen mound about one hundred and seventy miles long from South the North Wales.

The slides shown as Mrs Beek talked of the history of the Dyke were lovely, the paths going up and down mountains, through fields, the Wye Valley, Black Mountains, larch woods and past distant castles (of which there are so many in Wales) and stately homes, both of which Mrs Beek was determined to view at a later date, more closely.

Mostly she was the only one travelling the lonely paths, but on the occasions when she put up for the night at lonely farms or in villages, it seemed she was not unknown. So many knew her as the lady walking on her own: news certainly travelled fast in the country.

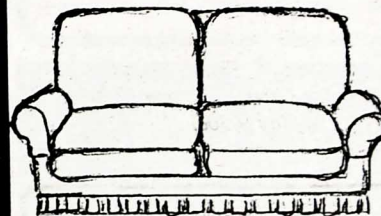
One very great help in keeping to the correct path was the sign of the Acorn, which is the 'Countryside Sign'. It appeared on stiles, posts, gates, trees, etc. and where paths were not so clear it certainly was a helpful sign. Mrs Beek said it had taken her nineteen days, seventeen of them walking the paths, and listening to her talk and looking at the slides, it certainly seemed an achievement to be very proud of. Whilst the memory of the beauty of her walk in Wales is something this 'lone walker' will not easily forget, members had enjoyed their afternoon's entertainment and showed it in their quiet, relaxed attention during Mrs Beek's talk, which also held a lot of amusing anecdotes.

Turn to page 12

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9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

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6.30pm (in Chapel)
10.45am Christian Fellowship at Mapledurham Pavilion.

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Caversham Heights
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From page 11

Caversham W.I.

At the June meeting of Caversham W.I. Mrs M. Cookson gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by slides of the history and renovation of Mapledurham Water Mill. Mrs Cookson herself works at the Mill which grounds the grain from local farmers to provide bakers with flour. The Mill itself is very old and was used in the film *The Eagle has Landed*.

Mrs May Smith then

gave a report on her trip to the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall, resolutions, hats, speakers, visitors and the singing of Jerusalem, and all.

The competition for a river photo was won by Mrs Myszor.

Maplewood W.I.

At the May meeting Maplewood W.I. discussed the resolutions to be presented to the AGM in June and the link delegate was instructed how to vote. The flower of

the month was won by Mrs Turner.

The June meeting was attended by thirty members. Mrs Baddley gave an account of her attendance at the W.I. Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall. This was followed by a demonstration of summer sweets by Mrs P. Morden. Mrs Morden introduced members to some delicious recipes and they were able to purchase the dishes she had made in her demonstration.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs Jeffrey with a white rose.

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