

CAVERSHAM

BRIDGE

FEBRUARY 1982

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CHRISTMAS SCENES



— Graham Aisbitt

A new crib was made for St Peter's this Christmas, the work of Pauline Mercier, a member of the congregation whose work as a potter was featured in an earlier number of the Caversham Bridge. The crib was given in memory of Mrs Florence Few. The expression of serenity on our Lady's face and the joy on the faces of the shepherds and kings attracted the attention of many worshippers to the Christmas services.



The December snowfalls gave a new beauty to St Peter's. A seasonal scene taken in Caversham Court by Peter Sear.



— Peter Sear

Carol-singers from St Barnabas' Church raised £16 for the Save the Children Fund.



— Graham Aisbitt

Some of the mobiles in St Peter's made by Jane Kane. Collection on Christmas Day for Polish Relief amounted to £770 throughout the parish.

Caversham Bridge competition

There will be a change in the design and size of the Caversham Bridge from the April edition. We hope to introduce a new heading on the title page and readers are invited to submit a new design. The size should be 26 x 4cm and space must be left for

the date, price and number to be printed.

Entries should be sent to the Caversham Bridge Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham by noon on Friday, February 9 and a £5 token will be awarded for the winning entry.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 5, 1982 at 8pm

The Revd Constance Payne

(Minister — Grange United Reformed Church) Reading will be the Speaker at

Caversham Baptist Free Church

A warm welcome is extended to all friends

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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The Editor's Column

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER

A SERMON PREACHED IN ST PETER'S ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Apart from his Father Brown stories I doubt if the works of G. K. Chesterton are much read today but whenever I do read them I am intrigued by his love of paradox. Had he ever preached a Christmas sermon I can imagine him starting by saying "I cannot give a Christmas message because there is no such thing as one." And when we turn to the earliest of the Gospels, St Mark's, we find no account of our Lord's birth nor does St John give us one though in the wonderful gospel for Christmas we learn about the deeper meaning of it. Except for one reference in his epistle to the Galatians St Paul never refers directly to the Incarnation, and the various scripture passages chosen for the epistle on this day are not really about the Incarnation. This is in contrast to the readings of Holy Week and Easter which are very relevant to the Cross and Resurrection. So the Christmas Gospel is more a pointer to the Gospel than being itself the Gospel.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The centre of our worship at Christmas springs not from the happenings of Bethlehem but of Jerusalem. Indeed the very title of the day-Christ-Mass day takes us to Maundy Thursday. So when St John writes that the Word was made flesh he is telling us that Christian belief is not in a system, as is the belief of other world religions, but in the person of Jesus Christ. Life is about relationships with persons, and all real life lies in meeting, in person to person encounter. So Paul tells the Philippians "All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings becoming like him in his death." So the Gospel starts with the Resurrection and not with the Incarnation. Michael Ramsey, later to be Archbishop of Canterbury tells how he went as a young man to a course of lectures in Cambridge on the Gospel by the great New Testament scholar of the day, Edwyn Hoskyns; to his surprise Hoskyns started at the apparent end with the Resurrection. And Archbishop Ramsey writing about this later realised of course that the Resurrection is the beginning. So Christmas and its gospel has no real meaning unless it leads on to the Resurrection. And the holy and yew we use for decoration at Christmas remind us of the Crown of Thorns and of immortality, which is why the long lasting yew is commonly to be seen in ancient churchyards such as ours. And in the Eucharist on Christmas Day, as at every Eucharist, we proclaim not our Lord's birth but his death.

MORE POPULAR THAN EASTER

Christmas however has a popularity that Easter does not have. There are for example many more communicants in the whole country at Christmas than there are at Easter, and at Christmas large numbers attend carol services but go to no equivalent service at Eastertide. This is because the idea of birth is naturally associated with rejoicing, and all the world loves a baby. So let us rejoice for Christmas is rightly a time for joy. But as we rejoice let us be sure that we know why we rejoice.

"Except" says Jesus "a grain of wheat falls and die it abides not." That is the Gospel for today, and that is why there is no such thing as "Just a Christmas message." But the Word became flesh and so through the person of Jesus, through God taking human flesh, we may come to know God and then, with Paul, to discover the power of the resurrection.

BACH AND ELIOT

One night recently I went to hear Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and the writer of the programme notes pointed out that although the general mood of the work is one of exultation the thoughts of Christ's sacrifice runs through the work. Bach makes use of music we associate with Passiontide and the words emphasise that only through the death of Jesus does the birth of the heavenly child procure mankind's salvation. And all this is summed up in the closing lines of T. S. Eliot's poem about the Magi. He makes one of them describe his journey and the account ends with these words:

Were we led all that way for birth or death?

There was a birth certainly.

We had evidence and no doubt, I had seen birth and death. But had thought they were different; this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,

But no longer at ease in the old dispensation,

With an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another death.

A JOURNEY

If we are to understand Christmas we must see it as the Magi as involving a journey, or rather the start of a journey; and like the Magi, once we have started we can no longer be as ease in the old dispensation. So there is no point in keeping Christmas unless we are prepared to journey from Bethlehem through Galilee to Calvary, and that means we must identify ourselves with the suffering. Our thoughts and our prayers must be with those who suffer. A Church which is not identified with the suffering is not a Church at all.

The Times newspaper published a leading article on Christmas Eve listing many countries where freedom, as we understand it, does not exist. Poland of course comes first but there is El Salvador actually named after the Redeemer of Mankind, there are many countries in Latin America, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Iran, Vietnam, and the overcrowded townships of South Africa, to pick out but a few. But the writer went on to say: "If all human misery is to be gathered in, the net of compassion must take in the poor of Egypt, the starving of Calcutta, the African child dying of an infectious disease against which he could have been inoculated for the price of one of the cheaper Christmas presents of a British middle class child. It must take in the frightened of Northern Ireland and the unemployed of Britain. "I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger and ye took me not in; naked and ye clothed me not. Who can keep those words in mind and still enjoy his Christmas dinner?"

APPROPRIATE HYMN

There is a hymn which begins with these words:

O sing a song of Bethlehem.

Of angels watching there.

And you will say "How appropriate; those are the sort of words I want to sing on Christmas day." But the really appropriate verse is the last one:

O sing a song of Calvary,

Its glory and dismay

Of him who hung upon the tree and took our sins away.

For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave

And Christ our Lord by heaven adored is mighty now to save.

That is the Christian Christmas message which is not the same as the world's message which sticks to the baby and the tinsel. For the purpose of Christmas and the reason why the Word became flesh is because

... he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave.

And Christ our Lord by heaven adored is mighty now to save.

John Grindale



Dear Sir.

In response to the caption of your December editorial, may I as a Roman Catholic reader make a few observations.

Surely the supreme act of worship is the sacrifice which Christ as priest and victim offered on the cross. Just as the Eucharist is an extension in time and space of the Last Supper, so also is it an extension in time and space of Christ's eternal act of worship. The two actions cannot be separated.

In the Magnificat is it necessary to identify the "mighty"? We know for certain that the humble shall be exalted. Again it is not the "poor" who are fil-

led with good things; it is the hungry. The same thought is expressed in the Beatitude — "Blessed are they that hunger after righteousness ..."

I agree, it is not enough to pray for peace, we must also work for it by acts of penance. Peace like charity begins at home and it is only when we have committed ourselves totally to Christ that we will be able to radiate His peace.

Young people crave for a more spiritual outlook on life. This will not be achieved by bringing the Church down to the level of their everyday lives. They are well aware that their own "culture" is ephemeral.

To quote from the Partners in Mission report "Inside the Church we are not sharing the real problems and tensions of daily life; our work, our families and the society and world in which we live. The Church must ... become actively engaged and involved in helping to resolve them." What are

the real problems of our times? They are loss of faith, materialism and the permissive society. These are what cause the tensions in our modern world. Poverty, unemployment, nuclear arms or concern for human rights are secondary causes.

What is the antidote? I think the answer lies in our own hands — joined in prayer. This does not mean that we stand aloof from the sufferings of our fellow men; we will do what we can to alleviate them. It does mean that we recognise that the heart of the matter is indeed the human heart and only God can change that. We believe that only prayer can transform the world. That one just soul can obtain pardon for a thousand sinners. This is the Divine equation of mercy that could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah — it still holds true, but time may be running out.

Yours etc

Frank Sweeney
152 Galsworthy Drive,
Caversham Park.

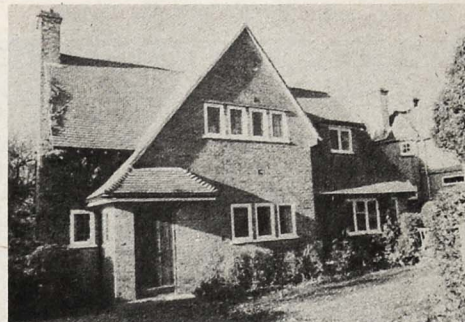


Nicholas Est. 1882

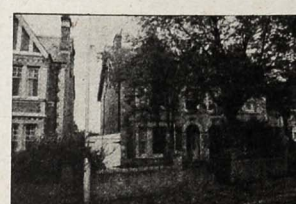
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

WHITHER DEMOCRACY?

Or alternatively, wither democracy, because that is what it is in danger of doing. The right of locally elected councils to run their own affairs has been a cherished part of this country's way of life. This right is slowly being eroded.

Take Reading as an example. Much of its suburban development is outside the borough boundaries, but pressures from Earley, Woodley and Calcot make tremendous demands on the Borough and decisions made by their councils affect the lives of Reading ratepayers, particularly where traffic is concerned. In Caversham it is Oxfordshire County Council's decision and not Reading's that subjects us to the daily passage of heavy lorries. But more insidious than the decisions of neighbouring councils, which in many instances are largely imposed on them by population pressures, is the control exercised by Whitehall.

There are far too many examples of interference by the Secretary of State for the Environment. He has overthrown Berkshire County Council's Structure Plan by insisting on massive housing development in Central Berkshire, an idea which the Structure Plan had rejected. He has insisted that Reading become a centre for further massive office development, contrary to the Structure Plan, and any developer whose application is turned down by the Borough's planners can be pretty certain that on appeal he will get the go-ahead from the

Department of the Environment. The affect of all this on Reading's traffic, services and appearance can only be disastrous.

Another cause for disquietude is the way the maximum weight for heavy lorries has been raised from the present thirty-two tonnes to forty tonnes. When this came before the House of Commons for discussion, there was widespread opposition to it from all the parties. If you asked the man or woman in the street, his or her reply, if it could be heard above the roar of traffic, would almost certainly be against an increase in the size of these monsters. But all the same, we are going to get them, though it is difficult to find anyone apart from the road haulage lobby who is in favour of them. So what does democracy mean? For Caversham it means yet larger vehicles churning up St Peter's Hill, shaking the foundations of our walls, occasionally knocking them (and one day inevitably us) down, and getting stuck across our unsuitable road systems.

But fear not, we are told these new and bigger lorries will be quieter and less heavy on the road surfaces than the existing ones. Apply your wit to this Alice in Wonderland logic, and work that one out.

PAY TO PARK

Is ten pence too much to pay for leaving your car for five minutes in the Chester Street car park? The proposed charge is actually ten pence for two hours, and no-one would grumble, or at least not much, about that. But shoppers are

in the car park for much less than two hours. In fact it is probably true to say that any car that is there for more than one hour is a commuter car, and it is this type of parker, and not the shopper, that the new paying system is designed to discourage. Indeed, with a charge of one pound beyond two hours, they probably will be discouraged. However, it will also discourage those upright and conscientious citizens who park in the car park if they can get in, rather than cluttering up the streets, even if they are only doing something like picking up a loaf of bread or buying a newspaper on the way home from work or to some other place.

Very soon many of the streets adjacent to the Chester Street car park will be largely "Residents Only," so that the alternative to paying ten pence more for your newspaper or loaf will be to park in some road like Rectory Road, where parking is unrestricted, which means that the residents are virtually living in a car park, or to join the really bad boys who park on double yellow lines at the beginning of Hemdean Road while they buy a loaf or place a bet, and cause almost immediate disruption. "I'll only be a couple of seconds," they say, forgetting there was someone there only a minute before, and will be someone else in a minute's time. No, parking should be free for the first hour, or at least only a nominal sum.

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

Recently it has been noticed that the Pelican crossing near the Library responds much more quickly to the button being pressed than it used to. In the past one had to wait for so long being rained on, blown at by bitter winds or half frozen, that many people came to the conclusion that the button was merely cosmetic, a kind of placebo, and that the lights only changed when the internal workings had already programmed them to. So now it is much less frustrating to use the crossing, although it is still essential to be in good trim, as the amber light starts flashing as quickly as before, and as every motorist knows, that means: "Out of the way you lot, it's our turn now."

PRESENTATION

Deborah Brooks, head girl of Hemdean House School, is seen presenting a cheque for £917 to Mrs Moat, Matron of the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed, at the school speech day. The money was raised by girls at the school who adopted the Sue Ryder Home as their charitable cause for 1981.



Dear Sir,

The article by MK on the life of Hannah Hearn (January 1982) moved me to write these few lines in amplification and perhaps pedantic correction regarding the reference to the Reverend and Mrs Sherman.

The Revd James Sherman (ordained into the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion) was Minister of the dissenting chapel on the North side of Castle Street, next to the Sun Inn during the years 1821 - 1836. The Chapel was built on the site of the old county jail and opened on December 16, 1798 by a breakaway congregation from St Giles who

wished to maintain the evangelical tradition of the late Revd William Bromley Cadogan (a scion of Caversham Park) which his successor discontinued. This break-away chapel, although outside the Church of England, maintained the traditions of that Church and the Book of Common Prayer.

It was not until after the ministry of James Sherman, when he moved away to the Surrey Chapel in London, that the Bishop of Salisbury (Reading was in the Diocese of Salisbury in those days) on the 1st September 1836 readmitted the congregation and chapel into the Church of England, as St Mary's Episcopal Chapel, Castle Street. The church is still very active with a tradition of evangelical preaching and a simple liturgy based on the Book of Common Prayer.

It was at the time of readmission to the Church of England that a part of the congregation

moved to the opposite side of Castle Street and built a Congregational Chapel. It was opened in 1839 and James Sherman preached the opening sermon; he was not, however, the regular minister. He often returned to Reading but his ordination to the Countess of Huntingdon Connexion closed the pulpit of St Mary's Castle Street to him, now it was within the established church.

The Congregational Chapel in Castle Street is now closed, but the premises remain as a furniture store.

When mentioning the ministry of James Sherman in Reading the thread runs back to Caversham as it was he, from his base in Castle Street, who was instrumental in founding Caversham Hill Chapel (1827) and similar other chapels in the villages around Reading.

T. A. Barker
6 Chelford Way,
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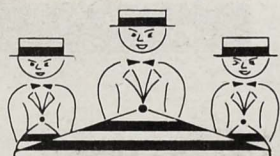
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On Monday, December 7, 54 young people with their families and friends gathered in the hall at Leighton Park School for the 1981 presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The Awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire. Seventeen of those young people were from the Caversham Methodist Church. They had been awarded their certificates for achieving certain standards in expeditions — handcraft — sports and social activities over a specified period. A high standard had been reached and they are to be congratulated. The majority received the Bronze Award with one Silver Award going to Neville Keating. An exhibition of the activities of the Reading Group and refreshments concluded a memorable evening.

Awards were presented to the following:

Silver: Neville Keating.

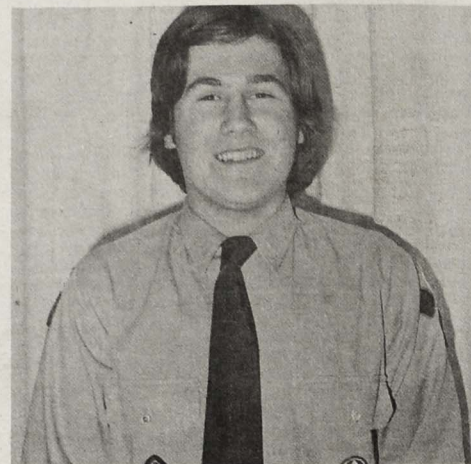
Bronze: Julie Baker, Barrie Stone, Robert Blackburn, David Champion, Diane Monaghan, Caroline Herbert, Catherine Hackman, Denise Dymond, Ann Berezyskyj, Tony Cooper, David Plunkett, Gisela Schmucker, Linda Farrell, Anne-Marie Robinson, Dawn Ault, Diane Herbert.



Mick Brown of St Peter's Scout Group who has received his Gold Award. — Graham Aisbitt



Hilary Jewiss from Emmer Green visited Buckingham Palace on December 16 to receive her Gold Award. To gain the award Hilary helped for 18 months as a Young Leader with the 1st Emmer Green Guides, and showed her ability in cookery and household management. The most arduous part was a 150 mile hike in 2½ weeks along Offa's Dike in the Welsh Marches. Hilary is now studying chemistry at Southampton University. — Peter Fear



Philip Hardy, also of St Peter's Scouts who has received the Gold Award. Philip goes to Jesus College Cambridge in October and is now spending six months in India working near Delhi with the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ, Church of North India. — Graham Aisbitt

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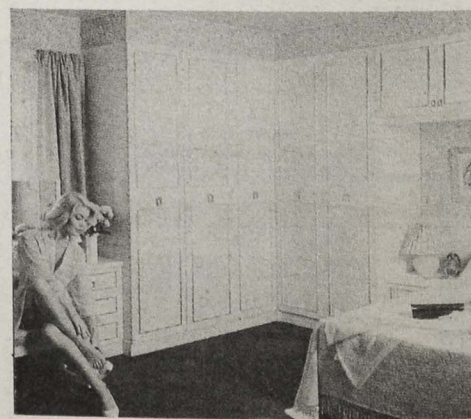
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WHAT DO THE LETTERS L.T.C. MEAN TO YOU?

To many residents of Emmer Green, Senior Citizens, handicapped and housebound, they represent a pleasurable afternoon at the Leisure Time Club, which is held in the St Barnabas Church Hall every Monday at 2pm (except the first Monday in each month).

The Club was started four years ago and has grown steadily to agreeably full membership. Where necessary, transport is provided by courtesy of the Caversham Bridge scheme; and our grateful thanks are due to Mrs Margaret Russell and her helpers for making the journeys to and from the hall so easy and pleasant.

And what do the Members do when they arrive? A wide variety of interests is catered for. Perhaps there is a concert, a film show, Old Time Dancing or an instructive and helpful demonstration on cookery or flower arrangement — and then — what about a session of Bingo, and a chat over tea and biscuits?

An annual treat for all members is arranged in the summer — but there is more to come! During the year several outings are arranged. An

enjoyable day was spent at Swanage; a guided tour of London including a visit to St Paul's was enjoyed by all, and everyone agreed that the Big Top Variety Show at Windsor by courtesy of the I.T.V. was super!!



Mrs Sylvia Potter (centre) with members of the Leisure Time Club.

However, the Club's purpose goes deeper than personal enjoy-

ment, and willing hands are outstretched to help those less fortunate than themselves. Busy fingers have knitted hundreds of coloured wool squares, which, when sewn together, have provided at least



— Peter Sear

twenty-four warm blankets to be sent to Mother Teresa's Hospital for the destitute in Calcutta. Sheets have been donated, torn into strips and tightly rolled into over twelve hundred bandages.

Outworn tights would seem a strange need, but they are welcomed by the nurses for making into pallets for the dying, or as a protective covering for bandages on diseased arms and legs. On the lighter side, there is a place for broken beads, jewellery and trinkets. These are re-threaded or mended and sent as gifts for orphan girls on festive occasions.

Through the kind agency of Mrs F. Russell of Phillimore Drive all these are taken to the London Docks, and thence shipped free of freight charge to Mother Teresa in Calcutta. It is known from personal reports of the field-workers how much this caring service is appreciated.

The L.T. Club is entirely self-supporting and bazaars and Jumble Sales help to finance it. A small weekly charge is made. Offers from voluntary entertainers and pianists would be much appreciated; gifts of outworn sheets, tights and used woollen garments will be gladly received by the Chairman — Mrs Sylvia Potter. Tel. 475260.

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

WATTS' GROCERS

Just how do these rumours start, I wonder? Who started the story that Watts, the grocers on the corner of Washington Road, were closing — were they perhaps confusing it with Platts' Stores, the closing of which is featured elsewhere in these pages? Anyway I'm happy to knock that one firmly on the head. Mr and Mrs Watts have no intention of retiring just yet and if and when they do they will give everyone plenty of notice. Meantime the shop continues to flourish and is fun to shop in, which is more than can be said for some supermarkets.

'LIGHT AND SHADE'

Browsing round our local bookshop — how I bless people who give me book tokens so I can have fun after Christmas too — I discovered a book of poems written by

Edna Fitzeustace. Many of our readers will remember articles Mrs Fitzeustace has contributed to the "Bridge" in the past, and those of us who read the "Berks and Bucks Country-side" will be familiar with her series on art in the district. She is, in fact, a freelance writer and journalist, having started her career at the age of 17. Nor are her interests confined to writing; a member of the Guild of Artists, she is also President of the Thames Valley Flower Arrangement Society; as a member of St Peter's Church, her contributions to the floral decorations are frequently seen in the church. The proceeds from the sale of her book of poems are to go to the Guide Dogs for the Blind, and at the modest sum of 95p who can resist this opportunity?

'LIFE IN OLD CAVERSHAM'

Mary Kift's book has had such a suc-

cess recently that, by popular request, a number of hardback editions are now on sale. It seems that many people feel it is something they want to keep and paperbacks do tend to get knocked around. Selling at £5.95 in the local bookshop, it would make an ideal gift — or how about spoiling yourself a little?

GREATLY REDUCED

Actually the bookshop is well worth a visit at the moment since there are a number of books on offer at much reduced prices, one example being signed copies of Daphne Phillips' "Story of Reading" now reduced to £6.95. This is something Reading people really ought to have on their shelves. Before you use up all your gift tokens or any cash you may have left, why not have a word with the staff at the bookshop and find out just what is on offer.

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THE MINISTRY OF READERS

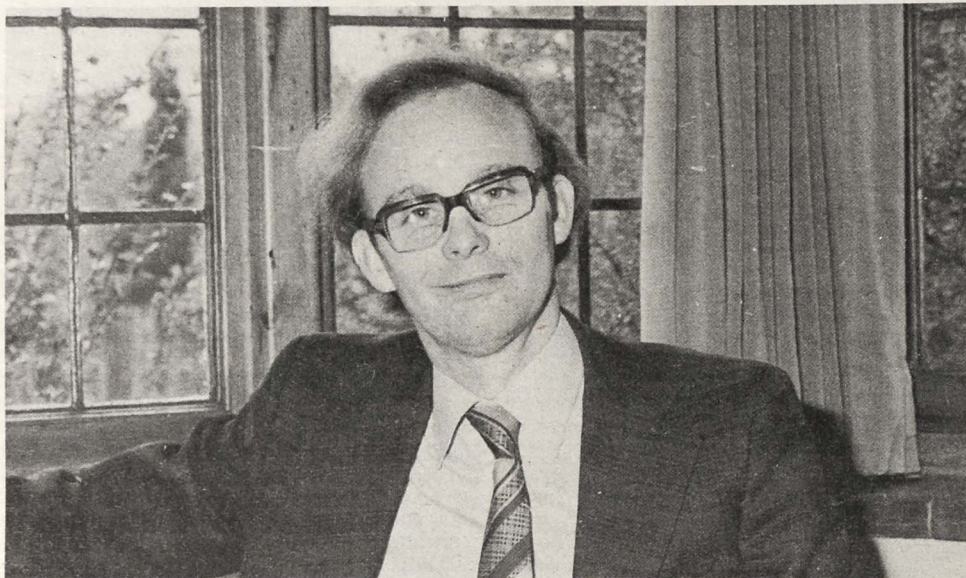
IN its present form the office of Reader in the Church of England dates from 1866. Readers (formerly known as Lay Readers) are members of the laity, both men and women, who are licensed by the bishop to help in the work of a parish. Six Readers are attached to the parish of Caversham.

Readers may conduct Morning and Evening Prayer, preach and now normally help with the administration of the Sacrament at Holy Communion; this includes taking the Reserved Sacrament to sick and housebound people in their homes. Recently they have also been authorised to conduct funerals. In addition to what they undertake

in public worship they also help generally in pastoral work and visiting, and in leading Bible and other study groups.

Canon D. H. Ruddy is Warden of the Oxford Diocesan Readers and he is responsible for the training of those who offer themselves as Readers. Licensing by the Bishop follows when the training has been completed.

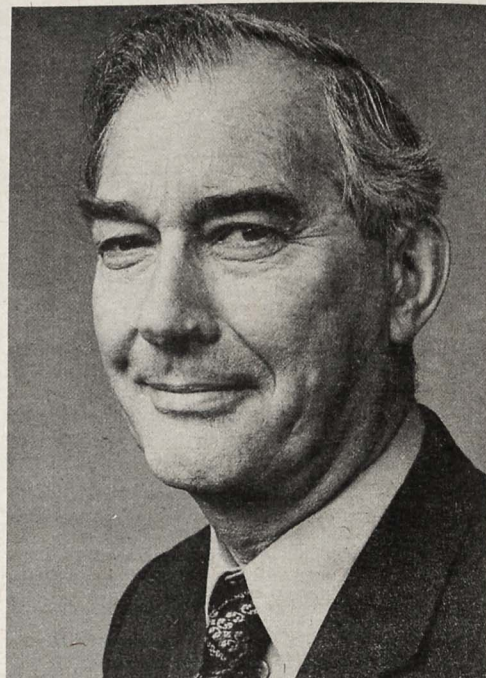
The Church of England as a whole and the parish of Caversham in particular would be much the poorer without its Readers who play an important part in the life and ministry of the Church.



KENNETH ETHERINGTON

— Graham Aisbitt

A Lancastrian by birth, Kenneth Etherington was licensed in 1967 as a Reader in the Diocese of Ripon; he moved from Leeds to Reading in 1970 and across the river from Tilehurst to Caversham in 1978. He is employed as Taxation Manager of a UK-based multi-national company, and commutes daily to London. A keen member of Caversham Players he is married to Anne, a social worker and they have three children, Andrew, Timothy and Rachel who all sing in the choir at St Peter's.



— Graham Aisbitt

WILLIAM VINCENT

William Vincent (often known as Bill) has been a Reader since 1949. He moved to Berkshire in 1954. At one time he taught in the Sunday School at St Andrew's and was the first Reader in the parish to administer the chalice at Holy Communion. He has taken an active part in the work of the Diocesan Readers Board and served on the Berkshire Stewardship Council. A foundation member of the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme he is at present Church Warden having previously held the office of District Warden at St Andrew's. Semi-retired he has served for forty years with the Ministry of Agriculture. His wife Daphne is the parish secretary; they have three happily married children.

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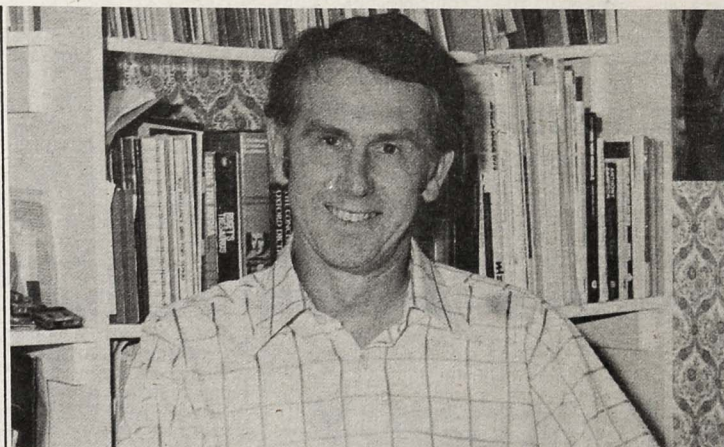
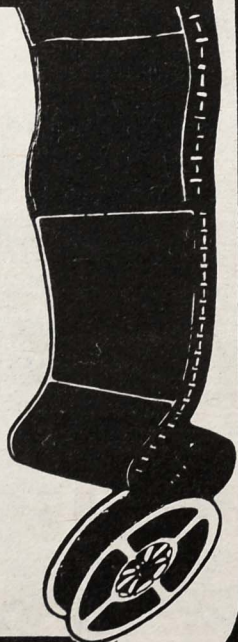
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— Graham Aisbitt

JOHN MADELEY

Freelance journalist, broadcaster and lecturer, specialising in North-South issues. Writes for "The Guardian," "The Observer," the "Church Times" and for about 40 other newspapers in Europe and the Third World. Broadcasts on the "Today" and "Financial World Tonight" programmes on BBC Radio 4 and on world service programmes. Converted to practicing Christianity in 1956 through reading Billy Graham's book "Book With God." Been a reader since 1968. Was a Liberal parliamentary candidate in the last two general elections. Recreational activities include walking and sailing; also claims to have invented a new game which vaguely, very vaguely, resembles tennis.

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THE MINISTRY OF READERS



— Graham Aisbitt

PETER HOLBROOK

Peter Holbrook has been a Reader for twenty-three years and has held licences in four Dioceses and in the Province of East Africa. This has given him a varied ministry in widely differing social, cultural and parochial circumstances.

Since 1974 his ministry has been exercised mainly in Caversham Park Village and he has been fully involved in leading worship, preaching, youth work, Baptism preparation and organising study groups. He is currently a member of the parish Working Party on Lay Participation in Ministry.

Peter is a senior administrator with the Berkshire Area Health Authority and is waiting to find out what effect next year's re-organisation of the Health Service will have on his career.



— Graham Aisbitt

ELMSLIE PERKINS

Aged 63, Elmslie Perkins has been a Reader since 1954, when he was licensed in the diocese of Chelmsford but has since then served the church in Chichester, Sheffield Rochester and Oxford dioceses. Married to Irene in 1941, the Perkins have two children, a son David who is an Anglican priest and Christine a schoolteacher. They have four grandchildren. A certified accountant, Elmslie Perkins moved to Reading in January 1976 as Official Receiver and retired in 1979. His interests and hobbies include cine-photography, wine making, walking, caravanning and travelling at home and abroad. He is a member of the Caravan Club, the International Caravanning Association and of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. With his wife Irene he worships at St Andrew's but is frequently to be found acting as Reader in other districts of the parish.



— Graham Aisbitt

TED BOULDING

Ted Boulding was born over sixty years ago in Kent. He left home in 1937 and sought work in the Prudential Chief Office, Holborn, and apart from the War years, has been there ever since.

From 1942-46 he was in the Middle East; he travelled widely right from Tripoli to Lebanon, round Palestine, Egypt and Libya, as far as Tobruk. In Cairo he became an official photographer in the Graves Unit, working with Italian ex-prisoners.

Ted met Joyce from Preston in 1956, and they married a year later. The three boys are away in Durham, Brazenose (Oxford) and Leeds, leaving only Rachel, aged seventeen, in Caversham; Joyce's father, Archie Garratt completes the family.

Ted is a prison visitor, and also a founder member of the Link Group. Peter and Ted went to Dusseldorf in 1981, and look forward to the return visit of the Germans in 1982. The family love Brittany and have all been to Rome, Ravenna and Assisi.

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STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



The greatest race on earth

FOR several years now someone from Caversham has made the trip to New York to run in the famous Marathon. This year, for the first time, an "Eldon" made the journey and ran the 26 miles 385 yards through and around the Big Apple, as New York is often called. Not it was not Yours Truly on this occasion but one of my offsprings, Jonathan Stanley aged 21 years, who joined the other 1,000 plus British runners together with 15,000 others from the United States and the rest of the world who made up this year's entry. Jonathan went with 90 other runners on the trip organised by "Running" Magazine and the day to day diary went something like this:

Day 1: The journey started at 8am from Reading on the Airport bus, then from London Airport to Shannon and on to John F. Kennedy Airport arriving at 3.30 in the afternoon New York time but 7.30pm our time. Then it was on to the hotel just off Broadway and Times Square. Time for the first quick walk around to see the sights and bed at 10.30pm (2.30am our time).

Day 2: Up at 8.30am and off to the Sheraton Centre to register, collect numbers, free "T" shirt and shorts, etc. Looked around the Trade

Stands showing all the latest in running shoes and gear, then off to do some shopping. In the evening went to see the Broadway show "A Chorus Line."

Day 3: Left Hotel at 7.30am and ran to United Nations Plaza for the International Breakfast Run. This is a three mile run through Central Park for all the overseas runners. After the run it was breakfast at "The Tavern on the Green" in Central Park with the other competitors. Then at 11am on to the coach for a tour of the course and sight-

seeing. Lunch at a Steak House was supplied by the American "Runner" magazine and in the evening they attended the traditional Pasta Party.

Day 4: The Important Race Day. Up at 6.30am then breakfast and on the coach to the start at 8.15am, with 16,000 runners it was 9.45am

before the coach arrived at the appointed place. Coffee was served and then it was track suits off and the process of lining up for the start began. At 10.38am the cannon fired and the 16,000 from their two start points were on their way. After three miles the two groups of runners merge (two start points have to be used otherwise it would take too long for the huge field to get started). The roads are closed and three million people turn the day into a great spectacle and carnival with steel and jazz bands. The support is tremendous, oranges and drinks are thrust at the runners from the crowd. In fact the runners are warned to be careful of taking drinks from strangers as frequently gin and other unsuitable beverages are offered. At the finish all the runners were given their foil blanket to keep them warm and also a drink. Shortly afterwards every finisher receives a medal. The rest of the day

was spent relaxing (and recovering) in the hotel. The following three days were spent sightseeing and Jon, with friends, visited the World Trade Centre, the United Nations, the Lincoln and Rockefeller Centres, Wall Street, the Empire State Building, Radio City Music Hall, two Museums and St Patrick's Cathedral. They ate in a wide and varied number of places including the basement of the United Nations

Building and on the 110th floor of the World Trade Centre.

The final evening was spent in an "English" pub, where they had a final party before returning home on the eighth day.

Oh yes! I almost forgot, Jon ran the distance in the very good time of 3 hours 23.50 seconds and finished in the top 25% of the field ...

Worth backing

THE young Caversham professional golfer Philip Morley, now 23, of Buxton Avenue, is hoping to break into big time golf during the 1982 season.

Philip turned professional in 1978 after having played the amateur game at the highest level, including reaching the Semi-Finals of the English Amateur when he was only 17.

He qualified for the European Tour in 1979 and finished 153rd on the order

of merit table for Europe. Since then he has played in local tournaments, Pro-Am tournaments and a few months ago he went and played at the qualifying school in Portugal where he finished 2nd, thus ensuring his place in the 1982 European circuit.

The rewards in golf are high at the top but to reach there the costs are considerable. Up till now Philip has received a great deal of help from his family which has enabled him to pursue his golf. However, the time has now come when he must have proper sponsorship under the wing of a company sponsor is he is to progress further.

If he can find the right backing during the next few months Philip Morley could well be the next Tony Jacklin. He certainly has the application and dedication required to reach the top.

The soaring Albatross

JUST before Christmas the Albatross Diving Club presented their Annual Gala at the Central Pool, Reading. As always, the standard was very high and guests attended from all over the South of England, including a Past President of the Amateur Swimming Association.

Caversham's Marianne Green was without doubt the leading lady of the show, winning all three of the events she entered and I am pleased to report that her collection of trophies included the Stan Eldon Trophy. Her younger sister, Juliet, took second place in each of the three events, so there must be some real friendly rivalry in the Green household.

Shortly after the Gala, Marianne competed in the National Age Group Diving Championships at Brighton. After winning many National Silver Medals, on several occasions just missing the Gold by a mere fraction of a point, she finally reached her goal by beating her main rival and winning her first National Title. This was also the first National Diving title for Reading and indeed for Berkshire. This completed a very heavy season for Marianne and her mother/coach, Anne, who will now be taking a two month break from competitions before building up for the 1982 European Trials. But I have a feeling mother and daughter are looking further ahead to the Olympics of 1984 and beyond.



— Peter Sear

2nd Emmer Green Brownies held a "Fun Open Evening" on December 9. After three Brownies had been enrolled, the Brownies manned stalls with a variety of goods for sale and organised games. The evening was attended by many parents who joined with the Brownies at the end to sing Christmas carols.

Over £20 was raised and the following week the Brownie pack took the money to the Heathcroft home for handicapped children to buy toys for Christmas.

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CHURCH NEWS

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

'THE WAY FORWARD'

Last October forty members of the Caversham and Mapledurham Parochial Church Councils, together with observers from the Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic Churches, spent a day at North Stoke Village Hall in study and discussion on "The Way Forward for the Church in Caversham." The gathering was addressed by various speakers. The Rev Vincent Strudwick, the Diocesan Education Officer, led the discussion and in summing up observed that:

- 1 There was an acceptance of the need for a greater clergy/lay participation in ministry.
- 2 The Parish should be given an opportunity to explore the meaning and implication of this partnership.
- 3 Both laity and clergy should meet regularly to study the pastoral needs in greater depth.
- 4 After wider study by the parish, Pastoral Groups should be set up by each district.

The Caversham Parochial Church Council at their meeting in November recommended that ecumenical groups should be arranged during Lent to enable as many members of the various churches in Caversham to discuss and share their ideas on the way God is calling them to serve and witness to Him in the future. The suggested aims of these groups are:

- 1 To help members of the Christian Community to understand their role as part of the Church.
- 2 To stimulate the Christian Community to react to present day needs by suggesting future action and accepting what steps should be taken while realising the barriers which are present.

Please do your best to join a study group and make your contribution to finding a way forward for God's Church in Caversham. He depends on you!! Further details next month.

ST JOHN'S NOTES

In the very cold weather the Saturday Workshop for five to ten year olds had a lively Christmas party

in the upper vestry on December 19 at their meeting time of 10.30. This was their last meeting, and different plans for work with this age group will be discussed early in the New Year.

It was bitterly cold work decorating St John's Church for Christmas. Snow and frost meant that the evergreens had to thaw in the church. The Christmas tree was tied into position and defrosted onto sheets of newspaper for twenty-four hours before it could be decorated. It was nice that some of the younger members dealt with the tree. The bitter weather meant that flowers were in short supply, and the decorators just managed to buy the very last bunches in their local shop: they were beautiful. Without these bunches flowers would have been very sparse in the church.

In spite of all the difficulties the church looked lovely at the Christmas services. The weather did not prevent a large congregation at the Midnight Communion; on Christmas morning there were many young families in the church, and there was a toy collection for the Reading Probation Service.

Some of St John's young people went carolling "just because it's Christmas." Their singing gave a great deal of real happiness and pleasure. As one listener, not a churchgoer, said "They sang as though they really meant it. That was Christmas."

ST MARGARET'S

SATURDAY WORKSHOP

This little group of three - eight year olds, mostly from the congregation of St Margaret's, continues to expand. During the last few meetings they have welcomed a number of newcomers, who have joined in the activities on the second Saturday of each month. The Group is most grateful for the use of St Andrew's Hall. It makes all the difference in the world to have plenty of space for Workshop now that numbers have grown.

On a cold and frosty afternoon, December 19, the children held a little pre-Christmas celebration in St Margaret's. The theme for this short carol service was Christmas in other lands. Afterwards there was the usual little gathering for refreshments at the back of the church to fortify everyone for the cold, slippery journey back up Mapledurham Hill. A few hardy stalwarts from the congregation stayed behind to carol sing in the village before darkness descended.

Grateful thanks to Heather Robinson for all the hard work she puts in as organiser of Workshop, and to Irene Lindsay, Cathy Pynn, Judy Wright and others for all the energy and enthusiasm they put into the meetings. It is certainly a most happy group of very young Christians.

ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

The next three meetings will be: March 11, Mr C. N. J. Bond following the Klondike Gold Trail, an April visit to a play at Broadmoor and on May 13 Ted Boulding and Kay Solly will speak about their visit to Dusseldorf at Ascensiontide 1981. They hope to interest members in the forthcoming return visit planned for July 17 - 24, 1982.

BAPTIST NEWS

REJOICING ALL ROUND

The Christmas Toy Service at the Baptist Church, was by design, jiggered for all children from nine days to ninety-nine years — and how they enjoyed it. The theme, "Christmas Tokens," was based on Happiness, Sharing and Caring. The Order of Service was a well balanced mix of the traditional and modern. There were the well tried and tested carols and the jaunty modern ones and they were all lovely.

Happiness was typified by the younger children excitedly opening a large parcel well wrapped in Christmas paper to reveal a number of beautiful decorative angels which were placed around the Church to complete the decorations. A second parcel, equally intriguing, revealed Christmas Cards and crackers. The cards were addressed to those members and friends who were unable to be present due to age or illness, and the crackers, when pulled, produced not hoary old jokes and paper hats but sections of the Christmas Story which were then read by the children as the Lesson — a very novel way of presenting the Gospel. Then came the act of caring when both adults and children were invited to bring their gifts of toys and sweets and present them at the large Christmas tree which adorned the Church. The toys were subsequently distributed to "The Peppard Trust" and Smith's Hospital for the handicapped, and to the Save the Children Play Groups at Battle and Royal Berkshire Hospitals. With the sad news of events in Poland over-

shadowing the festivities it was good to know that as an act of faith and goodwill it was hoped to send the chocolate and sweets to the Baptist Church at Krakow, contact having been established through an intermediary.

No such Service would be complete without the little ones taking the stage and stealing the limelight by depicting the Nativity. This was a joy in

itself and was doubly so in that the unscheduled happenings added colour. It was apparent that "Joseph" was very fond of "Mary" and how delightfully innocent it was. And then there was the shepherd who was seized with fear — albeit of the stage variety — and after blindfolding himself with his headgear still could not stand the pressures and so fled back to mum.

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9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15 Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion (not on 4th Sunday)
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Service for Parents and Children (4th Sunday)
4.00pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)
MORNING WORSHIP (2nd and 4th Sundays)
7.30pm Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

Caversham
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
8am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's
9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)

Our Lady of Caversham
8.30 and 10.30am Mass

St Martin's School

9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House
6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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Evening worship 6.30pm

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

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Clergy and Ministers of Caversham

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The Rev Canon John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road Tel: 471703.

The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.

The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Derek Spears, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

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THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN

ST ANDREW'S Sunday School meets in St Andrew's Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Sheila Ivens (477180) or Mr Peter Watsham (478744).

ST BARNABAS Sunday School in the Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). Also Service for Parents and Children — last Sunday in the month at 11am.

ST JOHN'S Nursery Church (for children up to 8 years) in church during the Sunday eucharist at 9.15am. Family Service 1st Sunday in the month at 11am (mainly for children over 4 years).

ST PETER'S Sunday School meets at 43a Church Road (homes of Mrs Jane Kane) at 9.15am (except 2nd Sunday which is Parade Service).

ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM) Family Workshop 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-12 noon. Contact Mrs Heather Robinson, 4 Hilltop Road (476873).

CAVERSHAM PARK At Caversham Park School 11am. Contact Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close (478430).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST Junior Church — Sundays 11am. Youth Squash — Sundays 8pm.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH Bee-Gees — Sundays 10.15am. Sunday School — Sundays 11am Young Peoples Club — Sundays 7.30pm.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH 10.30am Creche — up to three years. Beginners, juniors and seniors three to 14 years. Fourteen Plus Group. Secretary: Mrs M. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham (474017).

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Andrew's
December 6 — Benjamin East
Philip Jellyman

St Margaret's
December 6 — Robin Perham

MARRIED

St Peter's
December 12 — Stephen Bourton and Marie-Louise Hatzzaetos
December 19 — Dean Proudley and Susan Ridout

St Margaret's
December 28 — Sandra Strong and Tony Tapping

FUNERALS

St Peter's
December 16 — William Pearce
December 31 — Dorothy Calcut

St John's
December 4 — Susan Willmott
December 21 — Nellie Clarke
January 4 — Constance Cunningham

St Andrew's
December 9 — William Waite

Springfield St Luke
December 18 — Janet Clark

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Telephone 478538

CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

Secretary: Mrs W. A. Vincent, The Parish Office, Reading

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MAPLEDURHAM PAVILION

Secretary: Mrs L. F. T. Bartlett, 6 Westdene Crescent

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ST ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mr J. Tomlin, 3 Wordsworth Court

Telephone 481749

ST BARNABAS HALL

Secretary: Mr G. F. Davies, 11 Eric Avenue

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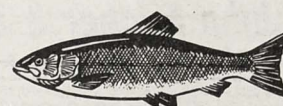
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ROUND THE CLUBS

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

On November 30 the Music and Movement group from the Fir Tree club gave a display of their exercises. Peggy Pilkington was the leader and invited the members to join in the exercises and dances. An enjoyable evening was spent with the group with some useful information on the benefit of the movements imparted by Mrs Pilkington.

Christmas decorations was the theme of the activities the following week when Cheryl Pilgrim explained how she made her attractive table decorations etc. Mrs Pilgrim later demonstrated the method of making paper flowers.

December 14 was the occasion when the friendly people of the East Reading Salvation Army Band and the Songster Brigade were again welcomed to the club for the Annual Carol Concert.

Bandmaster Alistair Todd and Songster Leader Karen Cox were in charge and presented a varied and tuneful programme. The Carols were interspersed with bible readings, solo songs and an amusing recitation. The concert ended with a closing prayer.

The Christmas party was held on the Monday before Christmas. A gaily decorated hall, with long tables arranged for a tasty salad meal with trifle and cakes, was ready for the members' arrival. Games and music were provided by Mr George Cooke, the M.C. for the evening, many of the members joined in the dancing.

The competition was for the best home-made cracker and Joan Annett was awarded first prize.

A collection was made by Evelyn Wallis towards the fund for the families bereaved in the Mousehole lifeboat disaster near Lands End.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Members who braved the inclement weather to attend the Christmas party were well rewarded with refreshments and a delicious cake, made by Mrs E. Bryant, and iced by Mrs J. Gosling. Entertainment was provided by Mrs R. Cope accompanying herself on the guitar and singing folk songs from around the world. The programme planned for 1982 includes speakers on various subjects, competitions and theatre trips. The evening ended with carol singing led by Mrs Cope.

CAVERSHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

December was a month of festivities. On the 1st was the Christmas lunch at a local hotel, which fifty members attended and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A party was held at the last meeting before the Christmas recess, again well attended, and the members of the Mothers' Union were invited. Entertainment was provided by Mr H. Sharp. The members had provided the tea for themselves and guests, who also included Mrs Southern and Mrs Turner from W.R.V.S. Headquarters. A large Christmas cake was cut by these two ladies and distributed. Every member received a Christmas card and small parcel.

Before leaving, a vote of thanks was given to the Leader and committee, responsible for

the arrangements and the decorated tables and Christmas tree.

After singing Auld Lang Syne the club closed until early January.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Christmas was the keynote at the December meeting. Mrs R. Painter gave a demonstration of seasonal decorations, including a very elegant arrangement in a brass candlestick for a hall, a simple but very effective table centre resembling a large cracker and an unusual wreath for hanging on a door. Members were most appreciative of the effortless way in which Mrs Painter swiftly transferred flowers, candles and evergreens into living pictures.

The afternoon closed with the singing of carols.

BLAGRAVE WI

The nineteenth birthday of the Institute was celebrated at the December meeting. The President, Mrs J. Price, welcomed Mrs C. Ingram, Chairman of BFWL and Mrs S. Hill, Chairman of Group Links, visitors from Maplewood, Woodley, Loddon, Earley, Rosehill and Mapledurham Institutes, also seven ladies from Blagrove Rest Home.

Everyone joined in the carols played by Mrs E. Iliffe, followed by some delightful poem reading by Mrs Helen Bowlinson.

Tea was provided by the committee and Mrs Reed made and iced the birthday cake most beautifully.

ROSEHILL WI

Mrs Allwright, Vice-President, welcomed members and visitors to the December meeting. After the usual business, with news of rambling, a theatre outing to Farnham for "A Christmas Carol," scrabble, a coffee-morning at Mrs Raines and a successful Jumble Sale in November, Mrs

Annita Blight gave a talk entitled "Round the year in Sweden." It was interesting to learn of the different customs there; she also gave an unusual fish recipe.

CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

At the beginning of December fifty members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at a local hotel, and it was voted excellent by all.

The December meeting was also the usual Christmas party, and very well attended. Before sitting down to tea members were shown a board with

some photos of members when very young, and asked to identify them. This competition was won by Mrs Weal. Several carols were sung and good wishes exchanged. The cake was made by Mrs Wellstead and iced by Mrs Strong. Mrs Nelhams was also thanked for coping with the piano at all meetings and also for the party. Each member received a Christmas card and a box of notelets.

Everybody agreed that the party had been a great success, and the Club then closed for the holiday, to re-open in January.

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PLATT'S STORES

WHEN the shutters went up, metaphorically speaking, on Platt's Stores on Donkin Hill in December, it brought to an end seventy years' service to Caversham by the Platt family. Thomas Platt and his wife Mary arrived here from Richmond in 1911



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and though, with their growing family — eventually four boys and four girls — it might have seemed likely to Thomas that somebody would eventually carry on their grocery business in Gosbrook Road, it's unlikely that he could have foreseen all the changes the next seventy years would bring. At that time small grocery businesses all over the country were being run by hard working people, staff who weighed and packaged almost all the goods themselves, delivered for miles around and generally provided a service which no supermarket ever could.



As far as the Platts were concerned, though only Elsie and Gilbert actually went into the business full-time, the coming of the first World War meant all hands on deck. After that the firm continued to flourish and in 1935 the shop on

Donkin Hill was opened by them as well. Customers drifted away to outlying villages but such was the quality of the goods and service which Platts provided, that they continued to send in their weekly orders and to have them faithfully delivered by the old firm.

Tom himself died in 1951 and his wife only four weeks later, but Gilbert and Elsie, aided by a constant stream of very good assistants, continued to run the business. In 1971 Elsie decided it was time to retire and the Gosbrook Road shop was sold; the business continued to flourish at Donkin Hill under the name of Gilbert Platt (Grocer) Ltd, until Gilbert's death in July last year. To the end they offered very personal service, deliveries over all parts of Caversham and many people will regret the passing of Platts Stores, to so many a feature of Caversham life and spoken of still with great respect.



Elsie, who has been very busy helping to wind up the business, now lives in Mayfield Drive with her sister Clara, who taught in local schools for many years and still goes to Emmer Green Primary School once a week to teach children to play the recorder. They can tell many a story of life in Caversham and of their customers, many of whom continue to keep in touch. They have enjoyed their life here obviously; that they may continue to find satisfaction that their family served Caversham so well and faithfully for so long, is our wish for them.

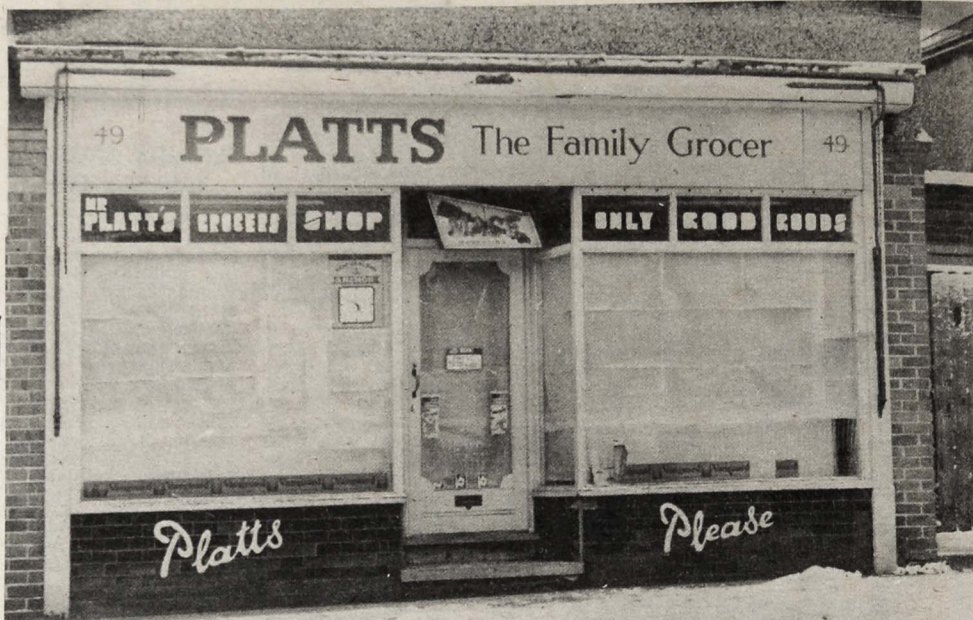


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