

■ Stan Eldon seen on one of his daily training runs

## THE LONG RUN

FORMER international athlete Stan Eldon plans to run 163 miles from Paris to Caversham Bridge in order to raise £8,500 to improve the sports stadium for disabled people at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Stan Eldon is well known in Caversham. He has written a column for the Caversham Bridge for many years. With his family he worships at St Peter's. He is undertaking this run as a member of Caversham Rotary Club. The run is being arranged in connection with the Rotary Club of Meru near Paris. He will start from Meru on April 27 and aims to finish at noon on May 1, his 46th birthday. From Paris his route lies through Rouen to Le Havre and then from Portsmouth to Petersfield and Basingstoke on to Reading. He will be accompanied by other Rotarians on bicycles and for part of the way by disabled sportsmen and women in wheelchairs.

"Having been fortunate enough," says Stan "to have enjoyed a lifetime of sport and still being able to run reasonably well at forty-five, I want to make use of my running ability and fitness to help those who have not been so fortunate."

### WILL YOU SPONSOR HIM IN HIS ATTEMPT TO RAISE £8,500?

If so please fill in the form below and return it to Caversham Parish Office, 59 Church Street, Caversham. The envelope should be marked 'Stan Eldon's Run.'

#### STAN ELDON'S RUN

I undertake to sponsor Stan Eldon on his Meru to Caversham run at ..... per mile

Name .....

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### 'All's well at Gosbrook Road'

WORK is going well at Caversham Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road. New wood has been put in the roof and tie bars have now been fixed into position. This is the first phase in the major repairs being undertaken. By the end of the summer, the Church should have a very new look, with a wide expanse of floor, new chairs, and fresh decorations. So it will enter 1983 (the Centenary Year of the Boys' Brigade) with a new Church to worship in and much more room for the many youth activities to take place.

During any week Gosbrook Road is a hive of activity with over 150 young people meeting on the premises. These include Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Sunday School, Youth Fellowships, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme groups, Youth choir, and the ever-growing Boys' Brigade Band 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade Ambassadors, which has a membership of 50 boys and girls.

The reconstituted building will afford increased possibilities for the maintenance and expansion of the already considerable youth work. It will also ensure the continuance of worship on the spot where the youth work is done and thus perpetuate the chief aim of all church youth work, viz, the bringing of boys and girls

into full relationship with Jesus Christ through his Church.

Gifts of money have come in from near and far, from Dorset, London, Peterborough, Cambridge and Norwich to name but a few. Many local businesses and professional people have very generously given donations. Considerable help has been given by the Reading Methodist Circuit, and it is known that through the excellent fund-raising programme that has been organised, and the goodwill of the people, all the money will eventually be found. The total raised now stands at £21,000. And so the Church will go forward into the future and into 1983 with a building that will be streamlined to fit the needs of the community in general, and tailored to the young people of Caversham in particular.

(This article was unfortunately not received in time for publication in last month's Caversham Bridge. Had it been, further consideration would have been given to the publication of last month's letters on this subject. We regret any misunderstanding that may have been caused and are glad to print replies this month about the valuable work being done at Caversham Methodist Church. Editor).



## The Editor's Column

# THE BASIC QUESTION

ANOTHER Holy Week and Easter has come and gone. Our hearts have been gladdened again by the Gospel of the Resurrection. But have we understood what the Cross is about and what answer would we give if asked by a non-Christian friend tomorrow "What do you mean you are saved from your sins by the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross?" This is the basic question of Christianity and unless we can explain this we have no explanation for the central statement of the Christian Creed.

### What the Jews did

We find in the Old Testament that the Jews had a deep sense of the barriers that sin establish between God and man. The day of atonement was an annual attempt on their part to reach at-one-ment again with God. On this day the Jewish high priest acted as representative of the Jewish people. The sins of the nation were confessed over the head of a goat which was then driven out into the wilderness (hence the word 'scapegoat,' the person on who you put the blame). In addition certain animals were killed and their blood sprinkled on the mercy seat. The blood was reserved for God and was something no Jew would ever drink. This was the best the Jews could do. Behind the observance was a real desire to remove sin and become reconciled to God. The slain animals were surrendered to God and in the releasing of their blood which was regarded as their life force there was a sense of liberation and of escape from sin. But of course these sacrifices did not really remove sin though they did in a sense foreshadow and stand for a type of what was to be done by Christ, who is sacrificer, victim and priest.

### On to the New Testament

We pass from the Old to the New Testament and read in the epistle to the Hebrews "Now Christ has come, high priest of good things already in being, the blood of his sacrifice is his own blood, not the blood of goats and calves and thus he has entered the sanctuary once for all and secured an eternal deliverance. For if the blood of bulls and goats has power to hallow those who have been defiled, how much greater is the blood of Christ; he offered himself without blemish to God."

But how can someone bear responsibility for someone else's sin? A human example may help. A mother of a small child is visiting a friend, and while they are talking the small child wanders into another room and breaks a precious vase. There is a real sense in the way the child's mother can accept responsibility and feel that it is her fault — she literally takes the blame upon herself. This example may help us to see how Jesus on the cross bears our sins. But any human offering of another's sin is always marred by the fact that as we are sinners our motives are never entirely sinless. Our Lord, however, is different — he is the perfect victim because he alone is sinless. At once the sacrifice is raised to a different level; as we are sinners no offering of ours will do but God sends his only Son as perfect Man born of the Virgin Mary to be the perfect victim, and to be obedient to death, the death of the Cross. And this obedience is important for running through the New Testament is the conviction that in the coming of Christ God has touched the hearts of men in a new way and established a new covenant and so a new relationship between himself and man.

### The New Covenant

But we cannot separate Maundy Thursday from Good Friday. On Maundy Thursday night Jesus took his disciples aside to eat the Passover meal when the Jews recalled their flight out of Egypt and their first deliverance. At the end of the meal Jesus took bread and blessed it, broke it and said something that must have sounded very strange. He said: "This bread is my body which is broken for you to eat it. He also took a cup of wine, blessed it and said: "This wine is my blood — drink it — this is the new covenant that God is making with men, and every time you eat and drink bread and wine in this way you will be linking yourselves with my death." This must have seemed strange and terrifying to the disciples as they heard their master say that the wine was his blood and that they were to drink it, for blood was the one thing that a Jew would under no circumstances drink. But this was not the old but the new covenant that was being established and by these tremendous events which were happening once and once only and not like the Jewish day of atonement to be repeated annually, Man was entering into a new relationship with God. So they sang a psalm and went out to the Garden of Gethsemane and a few hours later his body was broken on the Cross and his blood was shed, and in Jerusalem were eleven men more miserable than eleven men had ever been before. But 48 hours later it was as Jesus took bread that two of them recognised him; and we find in the Acts of the Apostles the disciples constantly coming together for the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup. But now they understood the connection between what he had told them to do on Maundy Thursday and what happened at Calvary. They realised, as we do, that in what we call Holy Communion or the Eucharist they were linked with the broken body on the Cross. And as we are linked in this way we become identified with Christ on the Cross and the Church becomes his body. And he who is the sinless victim identifies himself with our sins and like the mother whose child broke the vase our Lord bears our sins for us.

### Identification

Identification matters. Jesus said: "Do this in remembrance of me." The word "remember" means more than recalling something to memory; it carries with it also the idea of identification. So in the Eucharist we do not just recall a past event of some 2,000 years ago; we identify ourselves with Christ who died for us as he identified himself with us. So in this way we enter into the forgiveness that is made available to us as he conquers sin and death by the victory of the Cross.

This is what Good Friday and Easter has been about. This is why it is central in the lives of all Christians, and that is why Paul wrote to the Galatians "God forbid that I should boast of anything but the Cross of Christ."

*John Grimwade*

## CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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## THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE AND THE PARISH OFFICE

NO material received after the deadline of noon on March 31 is printed this month and it is regretted that a number of articles received earlier have not been included owing to lack of space. Material for the June number must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 28.

The Parish Office is no longer able to undertake duplicating for non-Church organisations. The Anglican clergy and the Parish Secretary have been working under great pressure for a long time and the present burden of work has got to be eased if breakdowns are to be avoided.

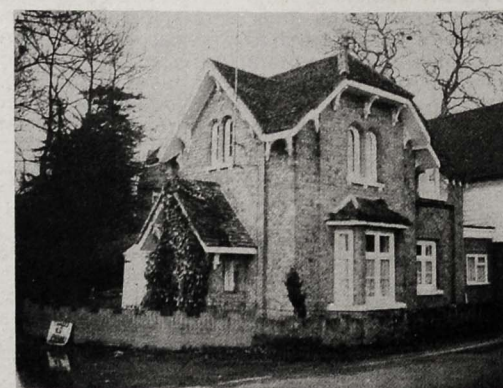
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# YOUR RATES

By Tony Durant, MP for Reading North

RATES and Rate Reform are highly contentious issues, everyone has strong views on the subject. Rate Reform has been the Government's policy since 1979 and they have now issued a Green Paper in order to collect everyone's views. All political parties have now committed themselves to reforming the system.

I have been involved in this subject since I entered parliament. I made my maiden speech in 1974 on the issue and have campaigned ever since. I am determined to alter what is

an unfair system of taxation.

The recent arguments in the Berkshire County Council has highlighted the difficulty local government has in trying to deal with its own expenditure. High rates bring hardship to those on fixed incomes, the small shopkeeper, young married couples in their first home and cause possible job losses in commerce and industry. Local councillors have a duty to keep current costs down whatever their political persuasion. The local authorities must realise that

it is irresponsible to spend money on creating artificial jobs at the same time destroying local business and thereby destroying actual jobs.

The needs of our society have changed over the past decade and we must now ask councillors and officials whether it is still necessary to provide all the services local government undertakes. Consideration ought to be given to letting more of these services out to private contractors.

The reform of the rating

system—a popular policy, is not so easy to implement as it appears. Most of the alternatives seem to be as bad as the old system.

The Government's Green Paper highlights three main alternatives. A Local Sales Tax is a preferred choice of some people. This tax would, however, cause unfair competition between different towns as each town might have a different rate of tax. A Poll Tax, the second main alternative suggested would be a tax on the number of people in each house-

hold over 18 on a certain date in the year. The cost per person per household would work out as much as £150 each. The Electoral Register is suggested as the source of information as to who lives in each household. The dangers of this system are that people would be reluctant to put themselves on the register and it could be thought that people were paying to vote. A Self-Monitoring System might be possible with a form submitted by each householder. A system of fines could be introduced for those who

fail to complete the form.

Local Income Tax, the third option, is a favourite with a lot of people, including the Reading Ratepayers. The reason for its popularity is that it appears to be the fairest system to get all earners in a household.

The problem still remains — how to deal with those in the "Black Economy" they may continue to get away without paying. The system would also take some time to implement.

A number of those who have discussed the matter of Rate Reform with me have suggested that teachers' pay or even the whole of the

local education budget be taken over by central government.

The solution may be a mixture of solutions, for example, moving the payment for certain services to the Central Exchequer, such as education, police, fire brigade with a Poll or Local Income Tax for the rest or even a small percentage raised in rates through a reformed property tax.

I would be interested in people's views on how they would like the system reformed. Please write to me at the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.

TONY DURANT, MP

## Postbag

### CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Dear sir

It's great to be minister at Caversham Methodist Church — especially in these stirring times when a challenge is being met, adversity turned into opportunity and God's approval revealed so

tremendously in support and encouragement of all kinds from all sides! Poor lay reader brethren — if only you had been at our church in these last weeks of prayer and work and enterprise — your letters would have been so different! I have a more apt quotation from Wesley's Journal than yours, Elmslie! "Next evening, came to Reading, where a company of us met... at which the zealous mob was so enraged they were ready to

tear the house down! Therefore, I hope God has a work to do in this place!" A selection of the letters received are published in this issue and indicate the wide conviction held in Caversham that God, indeed, has "a work to do in this place," is CMC!

The letters in this issue emphasise, among other factors, the urgent nature of the repairs, the prompt decisions that had to be taken, the escalating costs and the tremendous response to the challenge which the leaders and people of the Church made. I would emphasise that the extensive youth work of the Church — alone — fully justifies the expenditure and work. The present premises are inadequate and henceforth both hall and reconstituted church will be available for seven-day a week use. However, our Church is a Church and not a glorified youth club, and all the youth work is sustained by the central activity which, of course, is divine worship. The worship of the Church flows naturally into the youth work — worship and work are inextricably combined. It would be a retrograde step to separate them.

So Caversham Methodist Church looks forward to playing its virile part in the Christian life of Caversham for many years to come and it is sustained in this hope by good wishes and gifts — ranging from treasury notes slipped into my hand from a dear soul after a very happy joint meeting with our great friends at St John's to a gift of 1,500 dollars from America! Truly, still, with Wesley we feel that "The World is our Parish!" Our hearts and doors are open to all in the name of Christ!

**RALPH ROGERSON**  
72 Highmoor Road  
Caversham

Dear sir

In reply to the letters in the April Caversham Bridge written by three Anglican lay readers, I would make these comments.

Has any one of these gentlemen bothered to call at Gosbrook Road to see what we are doing and how the work is progressing? Do they realise that the Reading Circuit of the Methodist Church make the decisions in keeping open or closing churches? Do they realise that it is the wish of the Reading Circuit and the Southampton District of the Methodist Church, as well as the Caversham Methodist Church members, that Gosbrook Road should stay open to be a Methodist witness in Lower Caversham?

Where in Caversham is there another building that will house all our many and varied youth activities? Over 150 young people are involved in Christian organisations on our premises in any one week. These young people are all part of our large Church Family, and not just youth organisations who use our premises.

When our new building is complete we will be able to provide better facilities for all the week-night work, and this in turn will help us in our ultimate aim — which is to bring young people to Jesus Christ.

With regard to St John's, relationships with our friends along the road are very good. St John's have been kind enough to offer their premises, should we need to use them, as have our Baptist friends. I have been in contact with the church wardens of St John's who have kindly given all the help

and support that has been needed. We know if we needed any more help we only have to ask.

We are now well on our way with our £28,000 target, which will create a new centre of worship fit for the 1980s. We know that with all the goodwill that surrounds us from local businesses, professional people, Methodist friends and other Methodist churches, the money will be forthcoming. We know this is the way the Lord is leading us and we are sure that we have been moved by His spirit to do this work.

The Church should re-open during the summer when we will be able to continue God's work more fully to the glory of His kingdom.

**EUNICE J. COOPER**  
Senior Steward  
41 All Hallows Road  
Caversham, Reading

Dear sir

Your April issue contained three letters commenting on the repairs to the Methodist Church building in Gosbrook Road. In their individual ways they raise pertinent questions regarding the wisdom of doing so.

At Gosbrook Road Church we have no doubts about the matter; neither do the members of our circuit who are supporting us both morally and practically — something they would not do unless they thought it right to do so. The reason — the range of Christian activities, particularly those associated with young people, which we regard as very important in the life of the local community.

To ease an accommodation problem we have decided that the church building, when repaired, will be a multi-purpose one.

One brief word on ecumenism, its practical application requires the full agreement, active co-operation and understanding of all its participants. My own view is that we are still quite a long way from the ideal situation. However, should we attain this happy state sometime, our church building would be an asset and not a liability.

**E. R. JONES**  
Chairman, Finance and  
Property Committee  
16 Rosehill Park  
Emmer Green

Dear sir

Yes, the Methodists are well on the way to spending more than £20,000 to restore the church building in Gosbrook Road.

This is no reflection on the relationship of the local Methodists and Anglicans; it should not suggest to anyone that St Peter's Parish and the Methodist Circuit are not in favour of the covenanting proposals. Reading Methodism has voted overwhelmingly in favour of them.

The reflection is not on parish relationships at all, but on the wider ones. At the national level Methodists are not optimistic about the acceptance of the proposals; they think that the Church of England will not muster a large enough vote in favour. Already there are reports of deenery votes against their acceptance. Methodism is reluctantly recognising that no further movement towards integration is likely, at a national level, for another generation. This is saddening. I remember

how sad I was when the Anglican-Methodist Unity Scheme could not be implemented in 1972; I had campaigned vigorously and widely in favour of it. I remember too how angry I was, in a Reading Council of Churches meeting last autumn, when it dawned on me that the covenanting proposals would be rejected.

Methodism is forced to continue its separate existence; a pity indeed.

So the Methodist authorities (Circuit, District and Central) have supported the Gosbrook Road Methodists in their wish to retain the option of worshipping in their one hundred year old building.

**HERBERT W. HARRIS**  
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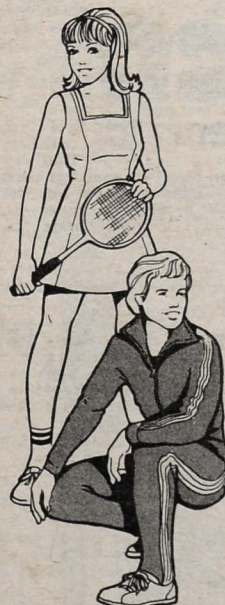
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## TALKING POINT

By Graham Lynch-Watson

MISS Sara Kestelman who is to play Lady Macbeth in this season's RSC production at Stratford looked back in a recent interview to 1960 when, at the age of 16 she played 'a nymph' at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in The Tempest. Speaking of that time she said "it was a different world."

On Trinity Sunday, June 16, 1957, David Milling

and I were ordained priests, David in Bristol Cathedral and myself at Southwark. We'd never met then and it was only a year or two ago that we realised we shared a common ordination date. So in June 1982 we shall each look back over those 25 years to that "different world" in which we made our first tentative steps as newly-ordained priests.

## A REMEMBRANCE OF TIMES PAST

As far as everyday parish life was concerned, in what ways was it a different world? Well, for a start, there were those early mornings. There was a phrase in those days, 'the earlier, the holier,' and there were those who half believed it! In the clergy house in the parish of All Saints, New Eltham, we were a bachelor household; my vicar, my fellow curate, and I were looked after by May, our housekeeper. Soon after 5.30am Douglas Rhymes (now rector of Woldingham, Surrey), my fellow curate Gordon Bates (now a residentiary canon at Liverpool Cathedral) and I would make our way to

the only bathroom in the house. Douglas had the wash-basin to himself and I, since I was marginally senior to Gordon, having been ordained before him, had the taps end of the bath and poor Gordon had to make do with the far end. Gordon and I had plastic bowls and every time he wanted some more hot water he had to ask me nicely. Amidst those cramped circumstances we each put on our morning faces and made our way, on foot of course, to church for 6.15am Matins followed by Holy Communion.

My first Eucharist as a priest remains a vivid memory. It was on St

Barnabas' Day which was transferred that year from June 11 to June 18. This began at 6.30am. There were 94 communicants, many of whom would have gone straight to New Eltham Station to take the Dartford loop line to London Bridge and their daily work.

Evensong

On days like Ash Wednesday and Ascension we'd always have a Sung Eucharist at 6.30am with a full team of servers and all the trimmings. Yes, it was a different world.

And what has become of Evensong? We seem to have lost it somewhere along the line. Although our main service on Sun-

day was the Parish Communion, Evensong was even better attended. We would normally expect about 200, although when the vicar preached a series on the theme 'Sex and Marriage, we went well past that figure! Time and time again on the PCC agenda was an item about the alleged poor behaviour of youngsters at Evensong. It wouldn't be, I suspect, found too frequently on PCC agendas today.

An amusing Evensong memory is of an occasion when my parents were sitting in the congregation. The vicar was about that evening so Gordon and I were doing the honours between us. As we appeared from the vestry my father was amused to hear the lady in front turn to her friend and say "I see we've got the second eleven tonight!"

The annual confirmation was a great event. As a curate it fell to my lot to help prepare many of the younger candidates. A treasured possession still is a list of the 80 candidates presented by the parish for confirmation in 1960. Looking back I'm quite sure the preparation we

gave them was woefully inadequate in many respects. For all that, the infusion of new life and vitality into our congregation year after year was a tonic and inspiration.

And then there was Lent. We took Lent very seriously. I don't think we got up any earlier for that would hardly have been possible but we certainly tightened out belts both literally and metaphorically. Away went the vicar's pipe and his St Bruno flake and the curate's Woodbines and smells of baking from the kitchen no longer permeated the house. We went in for evening devotional services in midweek. In fact the whole accent was on deepening one's devotional and prayer life. Study groups are now all the rage, but sometimes I wonder...

Well, those are just a few of my memories of that different world. I was given a super parish to start in and a vicar who was full of encouragement and laughter.

Twenty-five years have not served to dim the happiness of those early years — nor of my thankfulness for them.

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GROUP members started the year with a social evening for their friends and better halves to mark the end of snows — hopefully.

In characteristic fashion a jumble sale was hurriedly organised (or were members just trying to avoid the deluge of jumble of the previous year) and raised a splendid £70. The group would like to thank everybody involved, donors, helpers and buyers. Also

sincere thanks to people who have given money gifts from their private functions and assure them that every penny is passed to the home at Nettlebed.

Future dates for your diaries:

1 Shetland Show and Highland Fair, Sunday, May 30, 9am-5pm.

2 Summer Fair, Saturday, August 14. Both these are at the Home,

Nettlebed.

3 Christmas Fair, Saturday, November 27, this year at Reading Town Hall.

Also the gardens of the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed are open to the public in conjunction with the National Gardens Scheme, Sunday, May 23, 2pm-7pm, 40p. Sale of plants, books, teas and goods from the shop. Any further information please contact Mrs Ann Deane, 473798.

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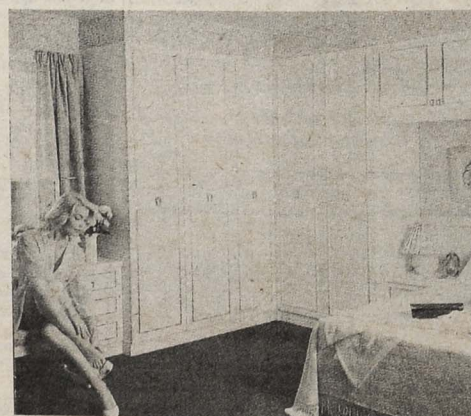
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age of the world's people live.

Apart from emergency relief supplies, Christian Aid is channelled directly to local communities in third world countries to provide food production improvements, fresh water supplies, research against local disease, aid for the disabled and many other pro-

jects that stem from the particular needs of an area which are identified by their local church and passed to Christian Aid headquarters for financing. It may truly be said that Christian Aid gets to the places that other aids cannot reach.

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and will be collected later. Before putting your donation in the envelope and sealing it, please imagine yourself to be without any personal belongings except what you are wearing. You also have had only one meal in the last 24 hours and have always been ill, your life expectancy is about 40 years and your chance of earning money is nil.

When thinking as above, please do not consider the rights and wrongs of public spending on Trident or private spending on office blocks but our attitude to our brother and sister in need. Please consider your minimum donation to be 50p, that is 1p per week from you to your neighbour in the POOR WORLD.

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DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS FROM: Miss M. H. Prentice, 90 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham 471682; Mrs Penny Peirce, 5 Dacre Avenue, Caversham Park 475476; Revd Peter Sear, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green 473095; Revd Derek Spears, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham 472070



A WELL IN THE DESERT supplies water for villagers and their animals in Upper Volta. Droughts in the Sahel are frequent and severe, and are a constant threat to life. (Photo: Margaret Murray/Christian Aid.)

## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

**READING BRIDGE**  
IN SPITE of the name of this publication, Reading Bridge, with its graceful single arch spanning the river, is architecturally the more elegant of the two. Last summer too, its lamp posts were a blaze of glory, each with its hanging basket of flowers. Now alas, unless steps have in the meantime been taken to

remedy it, the lamp-posts are in a sorry state, with scarcely one of them complete and in working order. Nothing looks more like a nation or a city in decline than for its public buildings to be falling into decay. These ornate lamp-posts were put there by a town which was once proud of its splendid new river bridge. Admittedly the fit-

tings are now difficult to replace, but if they had been regularly maintained the damage caused by water leaking in need not have been extensive. Let us hope they can be repaired or suitably replaced. When a place starts looking scruffy, it begets an attitude of not bothering which goes far beyond the individuals concerned.

time now that the question of traffic lights or a roundabout at the Prospect Street-Church Street junction has been settled. Traffic lights won, so now with the addition of the already agreed new set at the top of Wolsey Road to deal with New Ideal Homes development it will be stop-start, stop-start all along Church Street and Gosbrook Road. Being so close together and on a heavily used road this is bound to be the case, whether or not they are computerised.

unsightly, provide a useful service, and produce some very welcome income from an underused piece of land. It is very difficult for the occasional visitor to most of the South and South East of the country to find accommodation, although it has much to recommend it as a holiday area. And, of course, for a family of the impecunious young, a hotel or guest house is far too expensive. Sharing our riverside should help create a cheerful and light-hearted atmosphere.

### VIEW ISLAND

Just downstream from Reading Bridge, View Island has been the subject of planning negotiations for some years now, but at last agreement has been reached and the projected development should soon be getting underway. It will not be to everyone's liking because the feeling still lingers that this public asset should have been publicly maintained for the benefit of the public. However, for years and years it was not, and now with the clamp-down on public expenditure the only sign was that it would have continued to have looked as neglected as the Reading Bridge lamp-posts. At least it should now look cared for and used, and the right of public access, which was one of the conditions for granting the application, must be maintained.

### BIKES

Now that cycle stands have been installed in Chester Street car park and St Martin's Precinct, it is to be hoped good use will be made of them. This is certainly the case with those in the town centre, but so far few cyclists seem to have realised that there are any in Caversham. With a dawning realisation that cyclists are sufficiently numerous to be catered for and should be encouraged, it would be a shame to give the authorities the excuse that special facilities were not really required.

### 'PUT UP YOUR CARAVAN'

A small camping and caravan site is to be established at the Caversham end of Richfield Avenue from Easter until the end of the summer. As it is not intended for it to sprawl over the whole area in the manner of the Rock Festival it should, without being

### REGAL HOUSE

Another subject of lengthy negotiations has been Regal House, and here again building can be expected to start at any

## LINK GROUP

Members were welcomed to the March meeting by their chairman, Mrs Lynda Bates, who gave her report, and this was followed by the treasurer's report. There are usually appeals for practical as well as financial help from local caring organisations. Members are always sympathetic to such appeals, and do their best to respond. Please note the jumble sale on Saturday, May 8, 11am-1pm at Church House, Church Street, Caversham, and Annual General Meeting on Monday, May 24, 1982.

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# CHRISTIAN ST

## THE PATH TO REVIVAL by Eric Smith

It is not easy to find many resemblances between the first century Christians of Macedonia as so described by St Paul and 20th century Christians of England. We have not been tried hard, very few of us

have known the depths of poverty, even fewer have been lavishly open-handed in our giving to Christ and I doubt if our Partners in Mission went away thinking of us as exuberantly happy.

*"THE TROUBLES they have been through have tried them hard; yet in all this they have been so exuberantly happy that from the depths of their poverty they have shown themselves lavishly open-handed."*

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### Lip service — or reality

It is a truism that we place very little value on things that come to us too easily and too cheaply and I believe that that is as valid for our religion as for anything else in life. Certainly history shows that the Christian faith has grown most strongly in times of greatest trial: and for 20th century Anglicans religion has until

now come very cheaply and easily indeed.

But the scene is changing. It is an uncomfortable fact which, in spite of repeated appeals to increase our giving, we have with blinkered obstinacy still not fully recognised, that the Church of England is facing very severe financial difficulties; not just in this parish or in this diocese, but throughout the country.

Why is that? It is too facile to blame

the present economic problems of the country. We all know that some people are going through difficult times but as a nation we enjoy a standard of life immeasurably high by comparison not only with that of the third world but also with that of past generations in this country. Those past generations used to give one tenth of their income to the church; their faith and their giving were together part of their normal way of life.

We still, during our stewardship campaigns, pay lip service to the idea of sacrificial giving; but for how many of us is that a reality. Tithing may not be appropriate in an age when taxes and other compulsory deductions pay for many of the services once provided by the church but the basic need to give at some strictly maintained percentage level must surely be no less important for our

spiritual well-being. During our last stewardship campaign we were asked to ensure that that percentage be not less than two — that of our net income at least one fiftieth part be set aside to justify our claimed commitment to Christ: is it possible that any of us can in conscience more cheaply justify that claim? This is of course very different from seeking to stipulate any minimum cash sum; the widow's mite is as valuable in the sight of God now as it was two thousand years ago and I suspect that those who most truly give sacrificially are likely to be found among those who give least.

### The dangers of wealth

It is my belief that one reason, perhaps the main reason, for the church's present problems is to be found, paradoxically, in its own

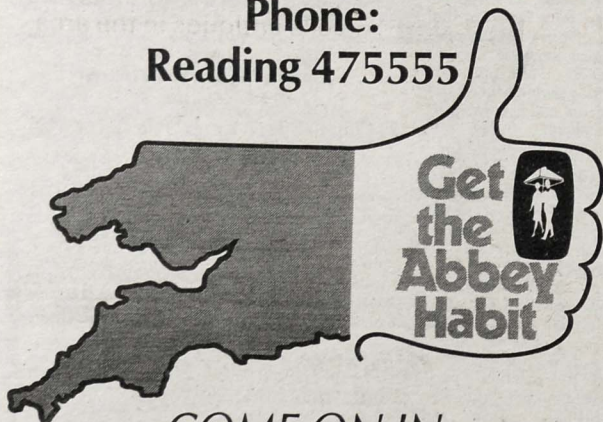
wealth. For so many years the accumulated bequests of past generations, administered by the Church Commissioners, generated sufficient income to cover most of the cost of clergy stipends and from a financial point of view it mattered little if our own giving represented no significant response to our professed membership of Christ's church. But at a deeper level it surely did matter; spiritual joy and fervour do not come from providing for the nuts and bolts of parochial budgets but from participating in the pastoral and evangelical work of Christ and I think it is not too fanciful to link the steady decline in faith which we have witnessed throughout our lives to the paucity of the financial commitment required from us.

For reasons which should be well known, the Church Commissioners now meet a much reduced and decreasing proportion of stipend costs and financial constraints are thus forcing Anglicans — too slowly and too reluctantly — to rethink our standard of giving. If increased giving leads, as I believe it may, to a truer recognition of the value of our church membership and a deeper commitment to our professed beliefs we shall have good cause to rejoice that we are no longer spiritually impoverished by the church's wealth. Through giving lavishly we may find something of the Macedonians' exuberant happiness; I can think of no better way to inspire a general revival of faith.

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### Subsidised ... or how one person came to a new understanding about Christian giving

"I am on, what for these days, is a modest income of £80 a week. I have a wife and young family: and each year because we can't afford to stay in hotels, we have a caravan or similar holiday. I go to church with the family about six times a year, and enjoy it when I do. I suppose that our total contribution to its income, through our giving in the collections, amounts to somewhere about £5. Since each visit cost me about £1 I thought I wasn't doing too badly.

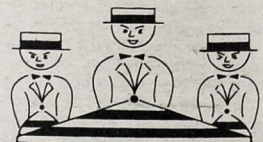
"Now I see my mistake. If everyone gave as I have been giving there wouldn't be a church to go to when I felt like it.

"And another thing, I always thought that my £1 a visit was actually a bonus to the church. Whereas the church really (through those members who subscribe each week in stewardship) is actually subsidising my visits.

"I am sure that there are many who now feel just as I do."

(From Little Missenden Parish Newsletter)

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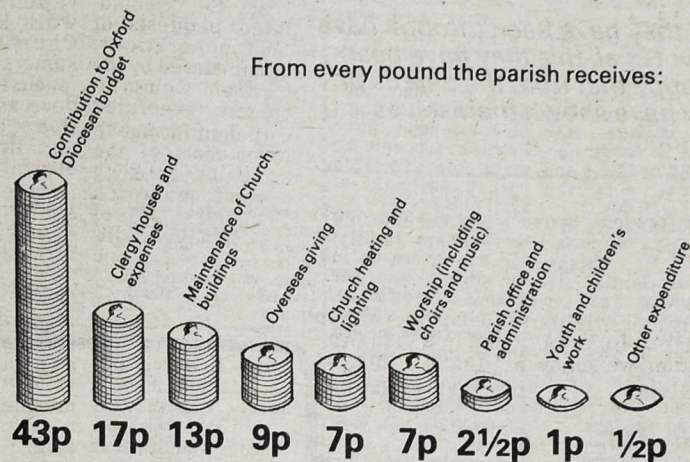
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# STEWARDSHIP

## HOW THE PARISH OF CAVERSHAM AND MAPLEDURHAM SPENDS ITS MONEY



(Approximate figures based on 1982 budget)

- ★ 73% of the contribution to the Diocesan budget (see Fig 2) is spent on providing clergy... this means that about 48% of the parish's money is used for paying or housing clergy.
- ★ The stipend of most parochial clergy is £5,600 pa. A house is provided free (until retirement)
- ★ The parish cannot afford in 1982 to set aside anything for a 'rainy day' to cover unexpected expenditure (eg unforeseen repairs to buildings)

- ★ Overseas giving — not including special collections — has been regarded by the Parochial Church Council as a priority. We may be feeling a heavy financial burden, but we are still wealthy compared with many parts of the overseas church.
- ★ Our church halls aim to be financially independent of parish funds and self-financing; consequently they are not included in the above diagram.

## HOW THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD SPENDS ITS MONEY

Out of every pound the Diocese spends:

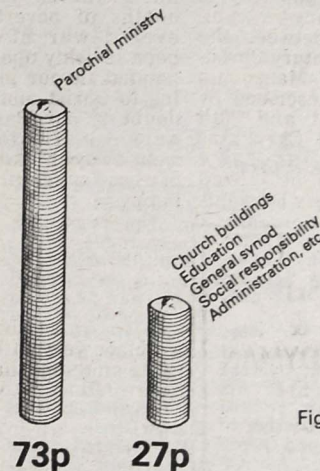
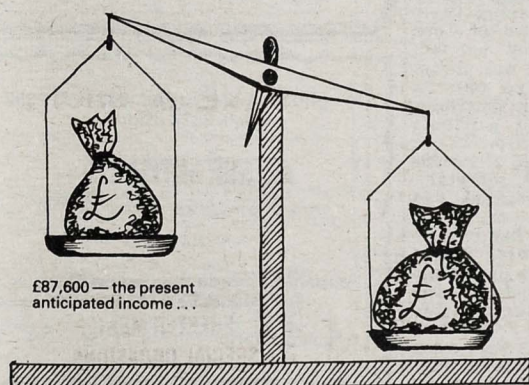


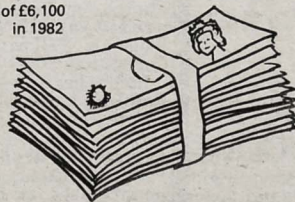
Fig ii.

- ★ Nearly three-quarters of all the money spent by the Diocese is used to pay clergy stipends
- ★ 70p out of every £1 must come from today's church. Only 30p comes from the investments from the generous giving of previous generations. The Church of England can no longer live on inherited wealth.
- ★ Local authorities cannot in future provide grants for the training of clergy at Theological Colleges. Because of this from 1983 parishes will have to pay more for clergy training. It will cost the Church of England an extra £1½m in 1983 — Caversham's share will be £1,500 or £30 per week.

## THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE... THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



... leaving a shortfall of £6,100 in 1982



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### And what about 1983?

- ★ The parish's income anticipated at present will leave a shortfall compared with what will be needed during the year in order to maintain the present work of the church...
- ★ If the present situation continues the shortfall will rapidly increase...
- ★ The work of the Church in Caversham and Mapledurham will have to be cut back — unless giving by each person increases

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## OBITUARIES

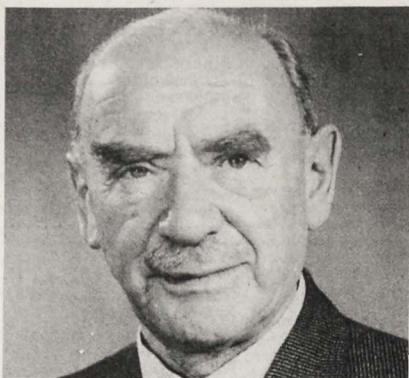
## OSWALD FRANCIS

Oswald Spencer Francis devoted his life to his country, his family and his church. His first ambition was to be a regular soldier, and so from Reading School he went on to Sandhurst Military Academy.

He had a brilliant career in the First World War and was awarded the Military Cross on two separate occasions.

After the war and the death of his elder brother, his father needed his help in the accountancy firm for which he was duly qualified.

Between the wars he undertook a great deal of voluntary work in addition to his accountancy. He became a governor of the Abbey and Queen Anne School, a director of the Thames Valley Trustee Savings



Bank, a Justice of the Peace, and finally chairman of the bench of magistrates.

Unfit for active service in the Second World War, he joined the Home Guard and subsequently commanded in Reading. Following the war he became president of the British Legion in Emmer Green.

He married Doris McFarland in 1921 and in course of time three daughters

arrived. He loved children and was devoted to his family. They were a great comfort to him after the sad death of Doris in 1976. Over the years six grandchildren and three great grandchildren were a source of great joy to him.

Throughout his life he was a devout Christian and a staunch churchman. He loved the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, especially the service of matins, and never missed attendance at St Peter's on Sunday morning when well. He was churchwarden and parish treasurer for

nearly 20 years in Caversham.

For recreation, at first it was tennis on the home grass court, then sailing on the Thames. He loved the sea and playing about with boats, and had one or two skiing holidays in Switzerland. Latterly he went for long walks on the Berkshire Downs and in the Oxfordshire lanes.

He never forgot his Sandhurst training. Everything was always fit for inspection and neatness and tidiness were the order of the day.

Unfortunately his last years were clouded by a succession of painful illnesses which he endured with great fortitude. Reading may well be proud of having produced such a great man.

## MURIEL TOWNER

To many people moving into the district some 20-odd years ago, Mrs Towner who, with her husband, kept the shop at the corner of Westfield Road and Hampden Road, became

one of their first friends. For she was one of the old school of shopkeepers, ever anxious to discover the needs of customers, to fulfil orders and deliver them, to provide first class goods and service but, above all, to be friendly and helpful to everyone who entered the shop. After her husband's death she kept on the shop for some time but even after giving it up, continued to serve Caversham people for many years as a much valued assistant at Platt's Stores.

A member of an old Caversham family, she had grown up in the district and her friends are numerous. Her presence with us will be sadly missed and we should like to send our sincere condolences to her family and friends and to assure them how very much she was appreciated here.

## KATHLEEN CRUTCHLEY

On December 10, 1981, Kathleen Crutchley died and left an empty place in the hearts of her friends at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church. Loved by all, Kathleen had, with her husband, been a member for over 40 years. They had settled in Caversham after leaving their home town of Cove when they married. Kathleen was always an active church member in particular with the Women's Fellowship, where she served at various times as secretary, vice-president and choir member. Through her connections with Cove Church a friendship existed for many years between the two Women's Fellowships and visits were made to each other's meetings. Kath had also worked at circuit level in the Methodist Church, and had been president of the Women's Fellowship Committee.

Before her marriage Kathleen had trained as a teacher and later she used her talents in various Reading Primary Schools but possibly she is best remembered as one of the three founder members of the Hospitals' Home Teaching Service, a group which visited homes in order to teach disabled and ill children. Later Kathleen took up the sport of bowls and soon became a very competent player, she was also made president of the Caversham Ladies' Bowling Club. Kathleen has been sadly missed by all who knew her and we thank God for her life and witness. Kathleen leaves her husband Eric and two sons John and Roger.

## SYNOD BACKS COVENANT PROPOSALS

THE Oxford Diocesan Synod at its Spring meeting on March 21 gave a decisive vote in favour of the proposals for a covenant relationship between the Church of England and a number of the Free Churches. All three houses of bishops, clergy and laity gave a two-thirds majority in favour, the total votes cast being 117 for, 40 against the proposals with two abstentions.

The Bishop of Oxford, in a warmly applauded speech in favour of the covenant, said that the Church of England was quite capable of making up its own mind regardless of Roman Catholic opinion; he listed a num-

ber of matters in which the Church of Rome had come over the years to follow the lead given by the Anglican Communion.

The diocese of Oxford comprises 30 deaneries. Each deanery synod has debated and voted on the proposals. In 28 deaneries a majority of the votes cast were in favour of the covenant scheme. Only in Reading Deanery and one other was this not the case. The General Synod will vote on the proposals in July; the Methodist Conference and the United Reformed Church Assembly will also be reaching decisions this summer.

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

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

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## METHODIST

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

(For Caversham Park Village)

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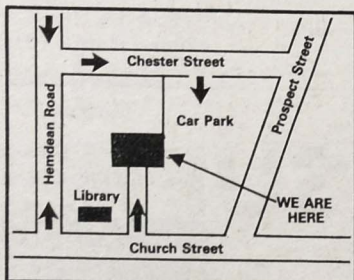
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**Our man in Poland**

Some months ago we carried an article about Kevin Ruane, recently BBC correspondent in Moscow. Our readers will be interested to know that he expects to take up his new post in Poland some time in April and that the book on Poland which he has been working on recently for the BBC will shortly appear in print. We hope to review it in some detail in the near future. In the meantime we look forward to the usual kind of objective reporting from Poland that we have come to expect from Kevin.

**Juliette Durrant**

Several readers have commented on my remarks about the photo of the small girl in a local shop window, so I make no apologies for

**KATY IN CAVERSHAM**

showing this picture which has now come to hand. It shows Juliette two years after the original photograph and I'm happy to see she still has that inquiring look which interested me so much.

**Farnham Drive Shopping Precinct**

It is good to see that all but one of the shops in Farnham Drive are in

business again. Recently Mr B. Carter of Kwik-Chief Ltd has taken over the old Farnham Drive supermarket, which has lain idle for many months. Mr Carter, who has lived most of his life in this area, has opened a freezer/catering shop and hopes also to develop a home delivery bulk-buying service in the Caversham/Reading area. Ample car parking space and a small playground for children make this an attractive and viable shopping area for people living in Caversham Park and beyond.

**Where have all the waste bins gone?**

During the cold weather of the past winter the birds on the river were happy to feed on bread and cake crumbs provided by thoughtful people out for a walk. In many cases this probably helped the birds survive the extreme temperatures. Less welcome,

however, to both birds and passersby, was the refuse left by such kind people — plastic and paper bags to litter the park and pollute the river.

Where, then, are the waste bins to which such rubbish should be thrown? People are notoriously lazy, and there is clearly little point in expecting most people to take their litter home with them — they demonstrably do not!

The Americans are more realistic. Public places and beauty spots in the United States are amply provided with rubbish bins, and as a result, are reasonably clean. We know that bins are liable to be vandalised, but it should not be beyond the pocket of the council to provide some baskets in secure concrete frames that cannot be tossed into the river the following Saturday night.

How much more attractive our riverside walks would be then —

especially if the bins were emptied regularly.

**Prospect Street shops**

There's a considerable change-round of shops going on in this area yet again, and one can't help feeling the shopkeepers in Prospect Street are having a hard time at the moment due to many things over and above the current economic situation. Now that we have a car park in this area — though I don't want to detract from other shops in Caversham which service customers well — I would urge people to remember that we have some excellent shops in this street. Our bookshop is a favourite port of call; they've established a reputation for ordering and supplying books quicker than most of the bigger shops. Then there is the pet shop, currently displaying a cheerful collection of our feathered friends and providing a happy meeting ground for animal lovers. We have a well-established greengrocer, an excellent florist, a friendly newsagent, first-class butchers and

bakers, a branch of Jackson's, a dress shop, Chinese take-aways, a busy post office and two photographers, one of which is our old friend John Anderson who has often acted as our 'Bridge' photographer. And, of course, there's the friendly young man on the corner who owns

the handyman shop. This could still be a thriving area and I for one would like to see it so. And, incidentally, for those who drifted away from the local hairdressers because of staff changes, I'd like to mention that Pauline Duckett is back, as chirpy and friendly as ever.

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**ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY**

THE response to the editorial in the January 1980 issue prompted the Rector,

Canon John Grimwade, to convene a meeting of interested parties in March of that year. Some 16 persons attended in their own right or as representatives of local churches or other organisations. Prominent amongst the latter were Messrs T. Griff Morris and Gilbert Vincent of the Abbeyfield Society.

These gentlemen outlined the aims and objectives of Abbeyfield and gave brief details of its commitment in Reading. At that time a measure of re-organisation was taking place, certain properties were being sold as they had ceased to be viable units and part of the proceeds was being allocated to modernising and extending another home in Maitland Road, Reading. This would leave the branch with liquid funds in the order of £30,000 which it was anxious to re-invest in a property suitable for conversion to sheltered accommodation and they would be happy for this to be in Caversham.

**What is Abbeyfield?**

The society was founded in 1956 by Richard Carr-Gomm as an expression of Christian concern for the elderly. He had been meeting with other interested friends in a house in Abbeyfield Road, Bermondsey, London, hence the name adopted by the society.

**What does it do?**

Currently there are over 800 houses scattered throughout the British Isles providing homely accommodation for over 6,000 lonely elderly people. Each resident has a bedroom which they furnish with their own possessions and look after themselves. Each room is provided with a wash basin and facilities for cooking breakfast and tea. A resident housekeeper watches over the elderly folk and she does the shopping, cooks and serves the midday and evening meals in the communal dining room. The residents are normally of pensionable age and have either lived in the neighbourhood or have family links with it. The residents are expected to be relatively active in that nursing care is not provided beyond that which one would expect within a normal family unit. Independence is preserved but solitude and insecurity, which lead to acute loneliness, is

removed. Each house is self supporting with the residents paying their way with those on basic pension being assisted with supplementary benefits from the Department of Health and Social Security.

**What is happening in Caversham?**

Since that meeting in The Rectory over two years ago the local committee has not been idle. It has looked at a number of properties in the district and while it fell in love with two residences its ambitions were thwarted. Happily a third and very desirable residence in St Peter's Avenue has come to notice and negotiations for its purchase are well advanced. A substantial grant has been allocated by the Housing Corporation, an offshoot of the Department of the Environment, for the necessary adaptation of the property. Planning permission has been obtained to use it as a home for elderly folk — there will even be parking space for their Rolls-Royce runabouts — and all that has to be finalised are the legal niceties of house purchase — with no mortgage problems or weak links in a long chain of would-be buyers and sellers.

**What can you do?**

You can be a 'neighbour.' Abbeyfield Houses are run by a group of local volunteers. There is always a need for friendship and practical help — visiting, car-rides, decorating, cleaning, sewing, gardening, standing-in for the housekeeper and for professional skills — this is what Abbeyfield is all about. Why not get in touch with the society? You will be in good company for the society numbers amongst its patrons HRH The Prince of Wales and The Archbishop of Canterbury. The local representatives — of lesser stock — are Mr Freddie Moore, 7 Haldane Road, telephone 472694, and Mr Jim Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, telephone 474017 — who will be pleased to supply further information. You could become a benefactor, money is always welcome to expand the society's work and to provide those extras which mean real comfort to the elderly. The offer of building land or a property suitable for conversion is not to be despised and many branches have been started by such generosity.

Inevitably there comes a time when an elderly resident can no longer be cared for in a normal Abbeyfield House. The challenge is thus that of providing 'extra care' and to this end the national society, through its local branches, is providing extra-care homes — nursing homes in every day parlance — for the frail. One such home is being built at Windsor and will cater for approximately 20 infirm residents and attendant staff.

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# CHURCH NEWS

## BAPTIST NEWS

**Sweet success**  
At Christmas thoughts were focused on the events in Poland and as an act of faith and goodwill sweets and chocolate were collected and sent to the Baptist Church in Krakow, contact having been established through an intermediary. There was great rejoicing recently

when a postcard arrived at the home of those members, Mr and Mrs Chris Evans, who had acted as "shipping agents" indicating that the consignment had arrived safely.

### Gift day

It had to be a bumper affair for it was the last until March 1988. The sights were on £10,000 to pay off a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation which had enabled

the Church to complete its programme of modernisation. The Minister and Treasurer sat at the "Seat of Custom" for two short sessions on a recent Saturday and at the inevitable tea party with which Baptists are wont to indulge on such occasions it was announced that over £9,300 had been donated. This sum had risen to over £9,600 by the Sunday evening.

Such a target for such a project appeared ambitious in the extreme but the Church has received much blessing since it re-opened 12 months ago. New friends have come into membership and the influence of the church has been extended in the neighbourhood. New avenues of service, both spiritual and practical, have been opened up and the premises are used extensively each day as the focal point of the work and witness.

"question and answer sermon." The sermon finished with a Brownie holding up a placard reminding the congregation that behind the happiness and well being of a family is their mother's life and work.

★ ★ ★

The altar linen is wearing out and has needed renewing for some months. Several ladies who are skilful needlewomen have made the necessary amices, purificators, corporals, etc. This has saved the district a considerable amount of money and St John's would like to say "Thank you."

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

St Andrew's Fête this year will be in aid of the Ken Thomas Appeal. The great day is Saturday, June 19, at 2pm, at St Andrew's Hall. All the usual stalls will be there and a special reminder is given about the children's fancy dress (which proved a very entertaining highlight last year) and the auction. With regard to the latter if anyone has any contribution or the promise of same could they please contact Vic Smith (Tel. 475233) who is going to try and publish a catalogue before the day to whet everyone's appetite. Also, if there is anyone who would like to get involved as a helper or has some brilliant new ideas, the organisers would love to hear from them — contact either Vic Smith or Robin Kitcher (Tel. 472660).

### ST JOHN'S NOTES

There were two memorable services in St John's in the past month. On March 7 Andrew Oliver Stacey Deane was christened at a really happy Family Communion Service. Old friends who had known Andrew's parents, Anne and Ken, since they were children, came back for this service. So did John and Alice Sumner — John was a godfather. Elderly people who know Andrew's grandparents made a particular point of attending. There was such a joyful welcome to the baby that during the week people in the street, and on the bus, said to each other, "Were you in church on Sunday? Wasn't it a lovely service?"

Then on March 21, Mothering Sunday, the church was packed again. Several families who had moved came on a visit, "to go to church with Mum — or Grandma" and there were families with young children. It was Parade Service as well, so the church was full of children, who were ready to reply to Graham Lynch-Watson's questions in his

their very best. Frank, of course, is himself an old parishioner. A special word of thanks must go to the Bank of Ireland, Reading, for paying for all the raffle prizes and for coming along to the dance in force.

The Offertory collections continue to improve weekly.

Father Meagher has 20 names for the Pope's visit to Cardiff with special emphasis on youth. The Mass will be celebrated in the Arms Park. These 20 privileged young people will represent our quota from the Diocese.

This year Maundy Thursday, April 8, the parish was honoured by the presence of Bishop Leo McCartie and the beautiful ceremony of the Washing of Feet came into its own.

At the Heights Chapel men have been asked to come along and help with the gardening. Father Meagher would like anyone who has a small garden shed which they don't need to contact him for use at the chapel. New window frames have been installed.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the month has been the silver jubilee of Father Millard. After the Mass all proceeded to the hall which was suitably decorated for the occasion, and having partaken of liquid refreshment in the form of red or white wine his health was toasted while Tom Jennings made the presentation of a cheque for the handsome sum of over £500.

### ST MARGARET'S NEWS

**Support for Gillian Rose at Mapledurham**

Saturday, March 20, saw several members of St Margaret's Church busy running the usual spring jumble sale in aid of their missionary project, Sister Gillian Rose's clinic in Bangladesh. It is now over six years since the congregation pledged Gillian their support and over four years since they met her when she attended a parish team to meet many of them. It would be good to see her again soon. It is hoped very much she will come on leave once more before

too long. This year it was promised to increase the amount given her by 25 per cent. It is surely the least that could be done for anyone who once gave up her own room to sleep in a broom cupboard under the stairs because more space was needed for the actual clinic. That's the sort of person Gillian is.

The very rewarding result of the jumble sale, over £70, was a great help towards the year's target. All the effort put into the sale was well worthwhile and many thanks to all who supported it. Special thanks to Mrs Newman and Miss Geer who worked so hard and to the latter's family who came many miles to lend a hand and run a book stall. Also to Jane Martyn-Johns who most nobly fetched a trailer along on the back of her car and took all the left-overs, which could not be disposed off, to a local tip. Clearing up after such an occasion is always a nightmare, as those who run jumble sales well know, and it made all the difference to have someone to remove what remained.

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The 1st Emmer Green (St Barnabas) Brownies raised £63 by a sponsored silence. With the money they bought a new flag for their Pack, and with the remainder they bought some tins of food for Caversham Darby and Joan Club and two toys — here being presented to Mrs Eiley — for the Emmer Green Clinic.

—PETER SEAR

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### Caversham Darby and Joan Club

At one of the meetings Lady Hambledon gave a very interesting talk to the members about her life as lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The club also had the pleasure of being entertained by the Reading Afternoon Townswomen's Guild Group, with many old and favourite songs, and at the end of the month Mrs Burden played the piano for singing and dancing for everybody to join in. Arrangements have been completed for a coach trip to Farnham, and the Redgrave Theatre, followed by supper.

### Caversham Community Association

Michael Russell, a warden at Dinton Pastures Country Park, was the visiting speaker on March 8. He explained how the park, situated near Winnersh Crossroads, was run by Wokingham District Council and was open to visitors all the year round. Lakes formed from gravel pits covered a large area and provided wildlife habitats. Opportunities for informal recreation such as walking, fishing and sailing were available and picnicking was permitted. Mr Russell showed photographs on slide film of the park at various seasons of the year and at the conclusion of his talk answered questions from the members.

The whist drive held on March 15 was won by Vicki Steel with Vera

Lunn receiving the consolation prize.

There was a Pippa Dee fashion display the following week. Valerie Clift was the commentator as her mannequins showed the members fashionable garments. Some smart apparel was modelled by three small girls. A group of disco dancers, "Shirl's Girls," performed some lively dancing which was appreciated by the audience.

On March 29 there was much activity at the club-room when Dave, always a welcome visitor to the club, brought a fine selection of blouses and woollens to show the members. At the meeting the members were also pleased to welcome again Suzette and Toni who had a good range of make-up and toiletries on display.

### Caversham Ladies Club

The members were welcomed to the Annual General Meeting by Mrs Weal, in the absence of the chairman, Mrs Harwood. The minutes of the 1981 AGM were read and approved and reports given by the secretary, treasurer, Mrs B. Strong for the Produce Table, and Mrs E. Lock for the Sales Table. In the absence of any other nominations the existing committee agreed to serve again, and it was proposed that they be re-elected en-bloc. They were Mrs M. Harwood, chairman; Mrs G. Weal, vice-chairman; Mrs D. Stockwell, secretary, and Mrs Q. Strong, treasurer. The rest of the committee were Mrs B. Strong, Mrs E. Lock, Mrs I. Man-

## ROUND THE CLUBS

der, Mrs M. Howe, and Mrs H. Mackenzie.

After the business part of the meeting, a large amount of bric-a-brac brought by the members was auctioned very successfully by Mrs Brenda Strong, half the proceeds of which was donated to the Ken Thomas Scanner Appeal.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Most people are afraid of taking something absent-mindedly from a supermarket. At the March meeting Mrs M. Churcher, who was a store detective for 25 years said that sheer greed rather than necessity, was the cause of most shoplifting — stealing was just as rife in well-to-do areas as in poorer ones. Vast sums of money were lost every year by stores; it was the poor customer who had to pay for this, in the shape of dearer goods.

Most people imagined that the majority of shoplifters were women, but Mrs Churcher said that an increasing number of men were turning to stealing from shops. Her "clients" had ranged from an old lady of 90 who had regular customers for the goods she took to a small boy of six who loved going to the police station. She had her own ways of recognising thieves and at times resorted to disguise to

catch her suspects. Goods often "disappeared" during delivery and frequently she had to watch the back doors of shops as closely as the counters. The meeting closed with a bring and buy sale.

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The Zaire River Expedition was the title of the talk given by Richard Snailham to members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild at the March meeting. The illustrated talk was interwoven with humour as members heard of the thrills and spills of the four months expedition.

Following her attendance at the One Day School on the European Community, Mrs C. Lott reported back to the Social Studies meeting.

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their February meeting at Emmer Green Primary School. A demonstration of the Bamix food mixer was given by Mrs Scott who explained the uses and advantages of this gadget, clearly and with humour. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs K. Taplin.

The federation report was given by Miss Brann. The Sales table proved very successful. The raf-

file was won by Mrs Coleman.

### Caversham Women's Institute

At the Annual General Meeting Mrs Hilda Adair was re-elected as president. Also retaining office are Mrs Betty Atherton, vice-president, and Miss Pat Jarratt, treasurer. Mrs Olive Harris was newly elected as secretary. The treasurer gave a satisfactory report on the finances and the assistant secretary presented a detailed report on the varied activities which took place during the year 1981/82. Mrs J. Biggar gave a talk on some of the past and present distinguished members of the Women's Institute.

The competition for a useful home-made bag was won by Mrs Elsie Knight and second Mrs Betty Atherton. Plans were made for a jumble sale at St Barnabas Hall, Emmer Green on April 17 at 2pm.

### Maplewood Women's Institute

Maplewood WI continues to meet on the third Tues of the month in St Andrew's Church Hall, Alber Road, Caversham. 1982 opened with their birthday meeting, and Mrs Frances Slade took members on a very

exciting wildlife safari. There has been a cooking demonstration of mouth watering dishes to make and freeze for later use; a competition for home-made and attractively boxed confectionery, and an exhibition of members' handiwork. This was very well sup-

ported, and there were many beautiful examples of crochet, embroidery, etc, and a fascinating piece of pillow lace with bobbins, which was in the making.

All meetings were taken by Mrs J. Fry, who is president of the institute.

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## RUN FOR FUN By Stan Eldon

No one is happier than I that 'fun' and 'health' running is continuing to expand at a rapid rate. People of all ages, shape and sex are both enjoying and benefiting from running. There are a record number of marathon runs throughout the country this year and the signs are that this great enthusiasm for running will continue. Indeed, this year's London Marathon, with a world record 18,000 entries and four hours TV coverage, will certainly lift many thousands more from the armchair into a pair of shorts and vest. However, the rapid growth in the popularity of running and marathon running in particular, is creating one or two problems and it is time for a little caution.

### Caution

The first problem is that of the very young. There has been a considerable amount of publicity recently about an 11-year-old girl being refused an entry to marathons in this country. It is very proper that she should not be allowed to run the full marathon distance. Although many youngsters can run remarkably well over long-distances, because of their weight and strength ratio the stress and strain of running such long distances have an adverse effect on the health of a youngster who is still growing and developing. So please parents, don't be upset if your child is not allowed to run marathons! They only have to wait until they are 18 and in the meantime there are plenty of runs over shorter distances that the youngsters can do and enjoy without potential harm in later life.

The next most worrying development is the number of running events that are being organised by people who have no experience, although in most cases it is with the best of intentions. There is a real need for an organisation that can advise and help those planning

such events, especially those being run for charity, to ensure the safety and well-being of all those taking part. The AAA have neither the manpower or time, nor, I regret, the inclination to advise. However, anyone organising a running event should at least consult with a local athletic or jogging club to ensure that they fully understand all that is required.

Finally, there is real need for more running events to be staged at distances less than the marathon distance of 26.2 miles. That is why it is good news that Reading's first major running event will be a half marathon. When the event is held early in 1983 we will see thousands of enthusiasts running through the streets of Reading and at least part of this course will be through Caversham. It will certainly be a great fun event and will be the largest participant sporting event ever held in the town. If you haven't started running yet you have plenty of time to prepare for next March.

I was particularly pleased that the British film "Chariots of Fire" came out top in this year's Academy Awards. Harold Abrahams, one of the two runners on whom the film was based was a great and respected friend of mine despite an age gap of some forty years. He took a great interest in my own running career from the time I first made my mark on the British athletic scene. He was an official of the British Amateur Athletic Board and we used to meet frequently at running events in this country and abroad. When we didn't meet he used to write long letters telling me what training I should be doing. In fact, along with one other person, he helped shape my running career. He was always convinced that I should be the first runner in the world to break through 13 minutes for three miles. I didn't do it but I learned a lot from Harold despite the fact that all his experience was as a sprinter.

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# WHO, WHEN, WHERE

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am PARISH COMMUNION  
11.15am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)  
11.15 Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
6.30pm Evensong (not 3rd Sunday)

#### St John's

8.00am Holy Communion (not on 4th Sunday)  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

#### 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 (not 3rd Sunday)

#### St Barnabas

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.00am Service for Parents and Children (last Sunday)  
6.30pm 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, and 5th Sundays)  
7.30pm Holy Communion (2nd, 4th and 5th 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

There is no URC in Caversham. The nearest is in York Road over Caversham Bridge.  
Morning worship 11am  
Evening worship 6.30pm

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

meet at the Friends' Meeting House in Church Street (Reading) for worship at 10.45am. There are classes for children at the same time

## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

#### St John's

March 14 — Freddie Grinter  
Lisa Halsey  
Louise Mackrory  
Daniel Underwood

#### St Barnabas

March 28 — Anna Demarcq

### FUNERALS

#### St Peter's

March 19 — Oswald Francis  
March 24 — Mary Smith

#### St John's

April 6 — Ada Titchener

#### St Andrew's

March 1 — Betty Sullivan

#### St Margaret's

April 7 — Ethel Watkins

### WEDDINGS

#### St Peter's

March 27 — Jeremy Bond and Sandra Dines

#### St Barnabas

March 6 — Trevor Johnson and Jeannette White  
March 20 — Barry Martin and Pamela Harris  
April 3 — Ian Herd and Susan Read

## TO HIRE A HALL

### BALMORE HALL

Secretary: Mr L. Coward, 79 Chazey Road  
Telephone: 472670

### BAPTIST CHURCH CENTRE

Secretary: Mr K. Shield, 27 Albert Road  
Telephone 473709

### CAVERSHAM HALL

Secretary: Mrs C. H. Jordan, 7 St John's Road  
Telephone 478538

### CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

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

Telephone 471703 (Mon - Thurs 9.30am - 3.30pm)

### MAPLEDURHAM PAVILION

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

### ST ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mr J. Tomlin, 3 Wordsworth Court  
Telephone 481749

### ST BARNABAS HALL

Secretary: Mrs G. F. Davies, 11 Eric Avenue  
Telephone 471334

### TRENCH GREEN HALL

Secretary: Mr Martyn-Johns, Greendene Farm,  
Mapledurham

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## ST PETER'S



## FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 26 to Tuesday, June 29, 1982

## REJOICE!

### FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Sat, June 26 10am-6pm. Sun, June 27 12.30-5pm  
Mon, June 28 10am-5pm. Tues, June 29 10am-6pm

The theme of the flower arrangements will be based on seven of the Mystery Play with displays by local flower clubs from all over the Thames Valley and from Caversham Schools.

### MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS

To be staged in traditional style on farm carts in Caversham Court at 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27. These plays, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries, still remain lively and appealing to young and old alike.

THE CREATION, GARDEN OF EDEN, NOAH'S FLOOD, ABRAHAM AND ISAAC, THE ANNUNCIATION, THE CRUCIFIXION, THE RESURRECTION and others

### FESTIVAL VISITING PREACHERS

Sunday, June 27: 9.15am Parish Communion: The Rev D. F. Shaylor  
6.30pm Festival Evensong: The Very Rev Alan Webster, Dean of St Paul's  
Tuesday, June 29, St Peter's Day: 8pm Parish Communion, The Bishop of Oxford

### FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Sat, June 26, 8pm: Reading Phoenix Choir, Norman Morris (conductor). Works by J. S. Bach, Bruckner, Byrd, Camilleri, Finzi and others  
Mon, June 28, 8pm: Arion Orchestra. Brian Stait (conductor), Crisian Steele-Perkins (trumpet). Works by Scarlatti, Purcell, Handel, Mozart and Rossini

### TICKETS FOR PLAYS AND CONCERTS

available from Monday, May 10 from  
John Kitcher and Son, 5a Church Road, Caversham  
Stan Eldon Sports, St Martins Centre  
Church House, 59 Church Street. Tel. 471703  
and from all churches in the parish