

OUR LOCAL LIBRARY

DO ANY of you remember the days when, as a child, you were allowed to enter the local library only on sufferance and, providing you were very good and very very quiet, you could choose and borrow a book from the two or three shelves allocated to children in a corner of the library? Do you remember the big 'SILENCE' notices displayed everywhere and the hushed voices of the assistants?

Today's library is a very different affair and one cannot help noticing the feeling of light, space and freedom in the Caversham library, for example. Gone are the 'Silence' notices and the hushed whispers and assistants no longer act as if they are doing you a favour by lending you books. In fact it's not even unknown for visitors from as far away as America to enter the library, present their own library tickets and exchange them for temporary ones to enable them to use this library while on holiday in the district. I'm told most public libraries will provide these facilities today though, of course, always with the proviso that books are returned to the library from which they are borrowed.

Many facilities
Caversham now has a varied collection of cassettes for borrowing, a feature popular not only with the young but also with those whose sight is failing. There are also an increased number of large print books, and should anyone be so unfortunate as to be house-bound and

have no other way of obtaining library books, a call to the Tilehurst library will ensure that a very personal mobile service swings into operation.

As to the children's library, it is now much more spacious and a far cry from the old days of two or three shelves.

For good measure there is a fine collection of notices in the foyer, covering every local event you can think of. And while the actual reading room has disappeared, the library does carry a stock of periodicals of general interest.

New arrangements

Some people find the new method of separating romances, historical novels, who-done-its, westerns, etc, a bit bewildering but this does serve the needs of many customers who arrive in a hurry and want to pick up a clutch of their favourite type of books.

Roman Iwaschkin

Many of these changes have taken place in the three years since Mr Iwaschkin took over as branch librarian. His aim has been to give the customers what they want and to continue to keep the library a friendly place. For Roman himself change as such means little. Thirty-three year old Mr Iwaschkin was born in Germany, spent most of his youth in Australia and has lived in or visited about seventeen different countries. Before taking library

qualifications he worked in a timber mill, as a postman, a foundry worker and even a cinema cleaner. Coming to England in 1967, he took library qualifications at the Polytechnic of North London, and has been with Reading libraries since 1977.

Friendly assistants

All the same he will be sorry to leave Caversham for Southcote, for he says he has enjoyed getting to know local people and their wishes in the matter of books. Serious novels, he says, make up a large part of the turnover, particularly those of Thomas Hardy; this pleases John Harvey, his assistant, who spent much of his own life in Hardy country. Having worked in Reading libraries for almost 20 years, John is certainly very knowledgeable about local people and about the kind of books they want. Indeed, Roman says without John's assistance he couldn't have achieved half what he has done.

Nor is he unaware that the friendly personalities of his other assistants, Jan Westall, Adrienne White

and Dot Nalder, have gone a long way to keeping Caversham library popular. It's perhaps not surprising that the turnover of books has been steadily increasing and now runs into something like 280,000 books a year.

Opening hours

Some changes, alas, have been inevitable and the library is now closed between 1 and

2 each day as well as being closed all day Wednesdays. Otherwise it is open from 9-7pm except Saturdays when it closes at 5.

Before he left, Mr Iwaschkin expressed the hope that we would allow him to thank both customers and staff for the happy time he has spent with us, and trusts that we will extend the same friendly welcome to the new branch librarian, Kelvin Lacey.



Roman Iwaschkin (right) stamping books for James and Emily White. —Peter Sear

LINK GROUP

MEMBERS were welcomed to the February meeting of Link Group by the chairman, Mrs Lynda Bates, who then introduced the speaker for that evening, Mr Cripps of St John Ambulance. With the capable help of his assistant and a dummy model, he demonstrated mouth to mouth resuscitation, and the compression method for a

heart attack. As a result of this lecture, everyone present felt that if confronted with a life or death situation in the future, one would be able to help whilst waiting for a doctor or ambulance. There was a report from the treasurer, and other business concluded the evening. Diary dates: May 8 Jumble sale and May 22 AGM. Details later.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Golden Jubilee of WWDP in the United Kingdom was celebrated in Reading on March 5 by services, and by the planting of a Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus) in St Mary's churchyard, The Butts. At an evening service in Caversham Baptist Free Church, the address was given by the Rev Constance Payne, of the United Reformed Church.

CONGRATULATIONS

All our readers will wish to congratulate Zoilus who, as many know, is none other than Reading's Mayor elect, Councillor George Robinson. Zoilus' bi-monthly column has been a popular feature of this paper for many years. He begins his term of office as Mayor on May 18 and we look forward in due course to reading in his column his reflections while he holds office as Reading's Chief Citizen.



Photo — Graham Aisbitt

D/EX 1753/19/9

The Editor's Column

CHURCH AND MINISTRY TODAY

AS the early Church began to grow the apostles soon found that business affairs were diverting their attention from the ministry of the Word. So we read in Chapter 6 of the Book of the Acts how they ordained seven men as deacons (the best known of whom is Stephen). The deacons were to deal with business matters thus releasing the apostles again for the task of preaching the Gospel. So it came about that in the early Church deacons were those who were responsible for administration. Chief deacons became known as archdeacons and they were not priests. Today an archdeacon is an important official in church life; he does have to deal with many business matters but he is also a priest of some seniority and standing.

This Lent we have twenty seven house groups whose members are drawn from the different churches associated with this newspaper. The members of these groups are studying the question of the Church's mission and ministry in the 1980's.

A shared ministry

Current thinking in many church circles today takes the view that there should be a greater sharing of Christian ministry. In particular this is seen as involving the laity in more active partnership in worship and in pastoral care. So a number of lay people have already undertaken pastoral visits to the bereaved and some this spring are attending a training course on aspects of bereavement; others are helping to prepare parents for the baptism of their children while for many years the ecumenical Good Neighbour Scheme has been the means of much pastoral visiting to housebound people being undertaken by the laity. All this has relieved the clergy and many lay people are exercising a valuable ministry in these different ways in Caversham. But as lay ministry develops it must make us ask what exactly is the distinctive role of the ordained priest or minister. A modern statement regarding this can, as one church understands it, be found in the Alternative Service Book of the Church of England. Before the act of ordaining a priest this is what the Bishop says.

"A priest is called by God to work with the bishop and with his fellow-priests as servant and shepherd among the people to whom he is sent. He is to proclaim the word of the Lord, to call his hearers to repentance, and in Christ's name to absolve, and to declare the forgiveness of sins. He is to baptise, and prepare the baptised for Confirmation. He is to preside at the celebration of the Holy Communion. He is to lead his people in prayer and worship, to intercede for them, to bless them in the name of the Lord, and to teach and encourage by word and example. He is to minister to the sick, and prepare the dying for their death. He must set the Good Shepherd always before him as the pattern of his calling, caring for the people committed to his charge, and joining with them in a common witness to the world". It should be noted that this is not a medieval document but a statement about the priesthood as understood in the 1980s.

A Chaplain's Ministry

I was talking recently to the chaplain of a boarding school who said that he felt he was able to exercise his priestly ministry in a way that he had not been able to as incumbent of a parish; now however he was free from administration and could spend his time teaching the Christian faith, administering the Sacraments and being a pastor among staff and pupils. In contrast the parish clergy are increasingly caught up in administration, and as their numbers get fewer they still have the same amount of administration to cope with but correspondingly less time for those duties described in the ordination service.

Our Lent house groups need to ask what it is that the clergy should be doing. They also need to discover what it is that the clergy are doing at present which they should not be doing. I know however that modern business and professional life makes heavy demands on many committed lay members of the Church and I have often felt it wrong to ask such people to take on extra tasks; it is not a good advertisement for the Christian faith if we ignore the legitimate claims of home and family life.

Two suggestions

I make therefore two suggestions. I think that at a local level the Christian Church has in many places to consider appointing a bursar who would deal with the business side of church life. This could be a part-time post for a retired man. For many years we have profited enormously from having a parish secretary and a parish office. The office at Church House serves not only the Church of England; the work of this newspaper, of the Good Neighbour scheme, the Link group and other ecumenical activities in Caversham all benefit from it. But few people realise how much time is spent on matters relating to the buildings of the Church. The clergy get involved in these matters because they are around day time but a retired man who could act as bursar and be available to take action at short notice when pipes burst or burglars break in, when property has to be bought and sold and architects need to be consulted would make a very great difference and bring considerable relief to the clergy.

Such a person would have to be paid and would have to be available at short notice. So my second suggestion raises a matter not mentioned in the syllabus of our Lent groups. Very few of us, particularly in the Church of England, have yet come to terms with the real meaning of Christian giving. We cannot really study the ministry and mission of the Church today without facing up to our financial commitments. We in the Church of England need to realise that the contributions to the diocese of Oxford from its parishes last year was £100,000 short of the sum required. We have five Anglican priests in Caversham where a few months ago we had seven and unless we change our giving habits at once the diocese will soon be unable to pay many of its clergy. So long as we who are Christians can enjoy the same pleasures and standard of living as our non-Christian friends who have comparable incomes and commitments it is apparent that we have failed to understand one of the most elementary truths of the Christian faith — we have not come to terms with the meaning of sacrifice. For many people this will mean not just increasing giving by 50p a week but by several pounds a week.

Awkward questions

Perhaps you will disagree with the view of the ministry given in the Alternative Service Book. If so you must set about seeking its revision. But if you think it is saying something of importance we must take some positive steps for it should not only be school, prison, hospital and service chaplains who are able to exercise the ministry for which they are ordained. It should be possible for every priest in a parish to do so. And this presumably applies not only to the priesthood of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches but also to the ministry of the Free Churches. Today the ideals and expectations of the younger clergy are particularly vulnerable as they discover that they are only partially able to exercise the ministry to which they believed they were called by God and for which they offered themselves in ordination. But is our thinking about sharing ministry in keeping with what we find in Acts Chapter 6 or is it in contradiction to it? Are we trying to relieve the clergy of pastoral work so as to set them free for administration rather than relieving them of administration to set them free for the duties defined in the ordination service?

What then is the role of the Church today, and therefore what form of ministry does it require to fulfil that role? And who should exercise that ministry? Is it vital who does what is required so long as the task does not go by default? These are the questions with which we must grapple now and we must seek to find answers at our conference on Sunday May 16th.

John Grindall

OUR INDIAN CORRESPONDENT

WE had intended to publish this month the first of two articles specially written for the Caversham Bridge by Philip Hardy, who, before going to Cambridge University in October, is working for some months with the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ in Delhi. Unfortunately the bicycle belonging to the Parish Secretary, Mrs Vincent was stolen on March 4th when parked in St Martin's shopping precinct and Philip's arti-

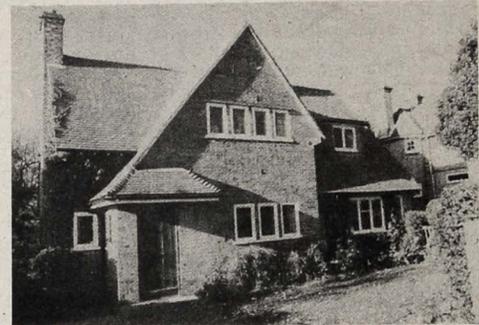
cle which had just been received was in the saddle bag. It is hoped that a fresh article will arrive in time for our next number. In an accompanying letter which was not stolen Philip writes: "I am thoroughly enjoying my time here in Delhi, and the work is giving me a real insight into the problems of the poor and needy. Whilst here I am also taking an opportunity to do some preparatory reading for my philosophy course in Cambridge. I am finding the Brotherhood Library very useful for this. After Easter I shall be travelling around India and plan to visit many places. Eventually I shall end up in Kashmir at the end of June or early July. Whilst I am there I shall be assisting on the school camp of the Tyndale Biscoe School, a former Church Missionary Society school, for two weeks. I shall be returning in early August".

Nicholas Est. 1882

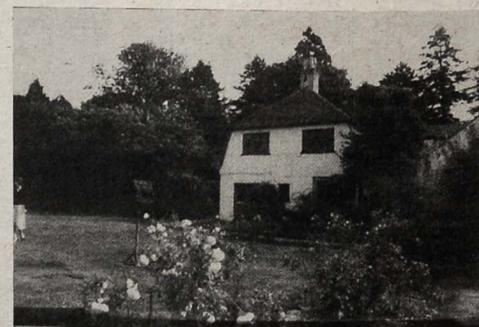
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HIGHDOWN SCHOOL PUPILS WIN TRIP TO DUSSELDORF

AT an early hour on April 8th, two pupils of Highdown School will leave Reading for Dusseldorf by courtesy of two prominent local firms. Lisa Tylee of Haldane Road and Jonathan Newham of Priest Hill were the winners of bursaries awarded by Metal Box Ltd and Courages Ltd for the two best essays, one by a girl and one by a boy, on why they would like to visit Reading's linked town.

Winning the bursaries enables Lisa and Jonathan to take part in the seventeenth exchange of young people between the two towns. These exchanges came about as the result of the initiative of Dr Phoebe Cusden who, when Mayor of Reading 1947, responded to a request from a senior Army officer in Dusseldorf for Reading residents to help the destitute people of that city by sending parcels of food, clothing and toys. The next year Phoebe arranged for six malnourished children to stay with families here, and two years later Dus-



At the presentation: Lisa Tylee and Jonathan Newham with the Mayor, Mr Basil Dunning (foreground) with (left to right) Mr Edward Garling (head of publicity at Metal Box) Mr Martyn Allies (Reading Dusseldorf Association) and Mr David Simonds (public relations director of Courage Brewery).

— PETER SEAR

seldorf had sufficiently recovered from the war-time devastation to invite Reading children back. To organise these exchanges the Reading Dusseldorf Association was formed — the first ever 'town twinning'. Now each year there are cultural, professional and sports exchanges. Whilst in Dusseldorf Lisa and Jonathan will have the opportunity of attending a

concert at which the Reading Phoenix Choir will share the programme with their partner, the Kantorei Oberkassel. Reading, on the other hand, will be welcoming tennis and badminton teams at Easter time and a party of

members of Dusseldorf churches in July.

The Chairman of the Association, Martyn Allies, would be very pleased to provide any readers who are interested with details of its activities. (Reading 472007).

OBITUARY

ALICE OLIVEY

THE death occurred in Barnstaple on March 3rd of Miss Alice Olivey at the age of 85. She will be remembered with affection by hundreds of former pupils of Hemdean House School and by older members of St Peter's congregation who will recall how every Sunday in term time she brought the boarders with her to Church.

Headmistress of the school for over forty years she had attended it as a girl and her death severs a link with the Knighton family who founded the school and then moved it to its present site in 1861. Miss Olivey in fact succeeded Miss Knighton as headmistress in 1927. She had an endless fund of anecdotes about the school and its pupils and nothing delighted her more than hearing from old pupils, many of them scattered throughout the world. She always followed the careers of her former pupils with the greatest of interest.

Miss Olivey retired

in 1972 and moved to Barnstaple with her sister Ethel. Coming from an old Devon family they had many links with the area and soon became involved in Church and community activities in Barnstaple. The Women's Institute and the Badminton Club were special concerns of hers.

Her association with the school however continued and when on her retirement the management of the school was taken over by a Council she served on this and continued to travel from Devon to attend the Council meetings until 1979 when she was appointed a life president of the Council, an office created especially for her.

Many in Caversham will feel the poorer at her passing and realise that they will not easily see the like of her again. To her sister Ethel we extend our sincere sympathy. May she rest in peace.

A memorial service for her is being held at St Peter's on Saturday, April 3 at 3pm.

ST PETER'S FESTIVAL



Saturday, June 26 to Tuesday, June 29 1982

REJOICE!

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MEDIAeval MYSTERY PLAYS in Caversham Court
Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27

CONCERTS at the Church
Saturday, June 26 and Monday, June 28

FESTIVAL OF WORSHIP Special Services at the Church
Sunday, June 27 and St Peter's Day, Tuesday, June 29

ST PETER'S WIVES

'Taking better photographs' was the subject of the February meeting, presented by Peter Cox of Photosparks. During an interesting presentation Mr Cox took photographs of some of those present, which he developed, and the wives, some of whom brought their husbands, heard about the various aspects of successful photography.

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CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Sir,

It is indeed sad to see Peter Sear's photos of Caversham Methodist Church. Although one can appreciate and sympathise with its members who would restore it, one wonders whether they should. Surely if unity means anything, if the Covenant proposals are to be anything but lip-service, they recognise both acceptance of and sharing with each other.

St John's is there. It hasn't got 'abandon hope' written over the entrance. It isn't a mausoleum. It isn't just an Anglican 'church'. It is a centre of worship, a 'power house', for all those who would use it and make it so.

It is of interest to note that on March 3rd 1740, John Wesley recorded in his Journal:

"Rode by Windsor to Reading where I had left two or three full of peace and love. I now found some from London had been there grievously troubling these souls also. After confirming their souls we left Reading and on Wednesday 5th came to Bristol."

I can understand that those who traditionally worship after the manner of their Methodist forebears might well be 'grievously troubled' in their souls, but the facility to continue to so worship is two hundred yards down Gosbrook Road and I trust that, in St John's,

worshipping in their own traditional way, they would find peace and love even if it was under an Anglican roof. At least it won't cost them £25,000 plus to try it!!

Yours etc
E A Perkins
22 Fernbrook Road,
Caversham

Dear Sir,

I refer to the expensive repairs that need to be carried out at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church. What a wonderful opportunity this would be for St John's and the Gosbrook Road churches to get together to share one building. Although Church halls are extensively used, actual church buildings are little used, yet expensive to maintain. Here is a chance to combine co-operation between Anglicans and Methodists with economic good sense: and, at the same time show that the church really is a community of Christians rather than a building.

Yours etc
Ken Etherington
35 Woodcote Road,
Caversham.

Dear Sir,

The 'Bridge' headline for March 'A Sad State', referring to the £25,000 repairs needed at Caversham Methodist Church, is rather profound. The real sadness is surely that Caversham Methodists and worshippers at St John's are not sharing the same building. Could I ask, when the state of Caversham Methodist Church became known,

why did not St John's Committee immediately invite Caversham Methodists to share their building? What is now holding them back in extending such an invitation?

Caversham has fostered ecumenism in many ways during the past few years. But the real test is surely here now. We now have the chance to stop talking about churches working together and actually do something about it. If we fail this test, we should be in a sad state indeed. A building is after all only a building. The church is the people who worship there.

Postbag



Can we call ourselves Christians if £25,000 is spent in these circumstances when such a sum of money would build one hundred village pharmacies in the Third World and save hundreds of lives?

Who is going to make the first move?
Yours etc.

John Madeley
19 Woodford Close,
Caversham

BLenheim ROAD P.O.

Dear Editor,
I really must draw your

attention to the article on Blenheim Road Post Office closing.

1. Those people residing in the Blenheim Road area, had they so valued their local shop/post office, would have supported it. That is why it had declined.

2. A duty of the Post Office is to offer the best service possible for the majority. In this case, Hemdean Road site, replacing Blenheim Road, is without question the best decision. Especially is this true for the elderly and handicapped who now have ease of access, both

walking and parking, and by custom use the other excellent shops in the parade.

Thus the area wins hands down on service, suitability and siting of the new office. Let us therefore be positive for positive changes, especially changes for the better of the Caversham community.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Fussell
Sub-Postmaster,
Hemdean Road, PO

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Dear Sir,

Mr Marshall has written you another long letter. He again makes the mistake of talking about nuclear disarmament as if it were the solution to some abstract problem. But the

world is not like that. The communist legions led by Russia have to try and destroy us, because the example offered by our democratic form of government and the freedom that it gives to the individual is too attractive to their own people and makes them impossible to control (Poland is a recent example). At the end of the day, Mr Marshall, if you really believe in something, you love to defend it, and defend it aggressively if necessary.

If next Sunday you walk to St Andrew's to attend the service at 9.15am and find that money changers have set up their stalls in the north aisle what would you do? I can quote a very aggressive precedent.

Yours faithfully,
John Gant
142 St Peter's Avenue.



On Sunday February 21st Caversham East Rangers Guides and Brownies attended a Thinking Day Service at St Anne's Church. The service was conducted by the Rev Thomas Meagher. Some of the Brownies are seen leaving the Church.

Ben Archer

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AN EASTER MEDITATION

Can the world be saved? Is there a remedy for the world's ills? If so, what is it?

On all sides it is said that the chief root of the evils of mankind is selfishness: individual selfishness, class selfishness, national selfishness. Banish selfishness, and you banish war. Well, evil can only be cast out by good. We cannot banish selfishness by saying "Don't be selfish." Selfishness can be got rid of only by love. Mere horror at mankind's hatred and bitterness will not take us far. We must substitute friendliness for hate. The way to drive out the spirit of strife is to join together in seeking some great purpose in willing co-operation with one another. The old bad spirit can be removed only by a new good spirit. We need a new mind, a new disposition. So for a long time many and varied voices have said. The greatest Teacher of all said long ago that it was vital that people should be born again, that a new nature should be born within them.

But this is more

easily said than done. How are we to manage it? How are we to get this new nature? Well, one came into this world who possessed the spirit of love, friendliness, fellowship, completely — the very spirit wherein lies the only hope of the world today. His name is Jesus. His whole life proceeded from this spirit. He was motivated by only one consideration, and that was love. All His deeds were so many branches of this one motive.

His death was the act in which the spirit of love found its highest, indeed its perfect expression. His Cross stands for evermore as the demonstration of utter, sacrificial love. Because He died on a Cross, the sign of the Cross has become for all time the accepted symbol of perfect love. He died because He would answer hate only with love.

But He rose again. This meant that the gentleness of love proved stronger than any physical force in the world. Physical force killed Him. It can do that today with universally horrific

effect. But it did not prevent the Resurrection.

He told Pilate that He was a King, and a King He is now in this world. No one else has such influence over the lives of men and women. The power that He has over human spirits proves that He is alive. There is no record of anyone else wielding anything like such influence after death. He could not do it if He had not overcome death.

The greatest power He has is to give to others His own Spirit. He soon showed that He had this power. Early in the Acts of the Apostles we read that His disciple Stephen as he was being executed for The Faith cried out "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Was not that exactly the same spirit that prayed, "Father, forgive them?" The Master had obviously breathed His spirit into the disciple.

Some twenty to thirty years after the crucifixion the ex "Pharisee of the Pharisees" wrote his hymn of love in which he exclaims:

"Love bears all things, endures all things, hopes all things. Love never fails." Here is Paul showing his true motivation. And who gave him this spirit? Jesus.

So when we ask, "Who can give the world today the new spirit that is needed to drive out the old bad spirit?" We find that Christ is the only one who is in the running. There are noble ideas in other reli-

gions. But there is no person in them like Jesus. And it is only a person that can raise another person to the heights of God.

It is when ideas are embodied in persons that they have the greatest power. So Jesus is "the Saviour of the world." The ideal of perfect love takes flesh and blood in Him. He is Love incarnate. Our great need, then, is simply to yield ourselves to Him. To give ourselves to Him, each one of us. To determine that by the help of God we shall express in our lives the love of Christ and nothing else.

We must be saved ourselves from selfishness. We must join in fellowship with all who love the same Lord and work toward the same end. This is

the best thing we can do for the salvation of the world from selfishness. This is the meaning of Christian salvation — to be saved from selfishness to love.

If we have His spirit, it will spread from us to others.

Thank God, good is infectious as well as evil, and more so.

Yes, this new spirit will spread more quickly than we think, if only all who profess it also wholeheartedly possess it. It will be invincible. Love never fails.

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— Peter Sear

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■ Amanda Griffiths, Victoria Wall, and Carolyn Owens with brass-rubbings that they did when the Barnacles Youth Group visited the Oxford Brass Rubbing Centre.

— Peter Sear

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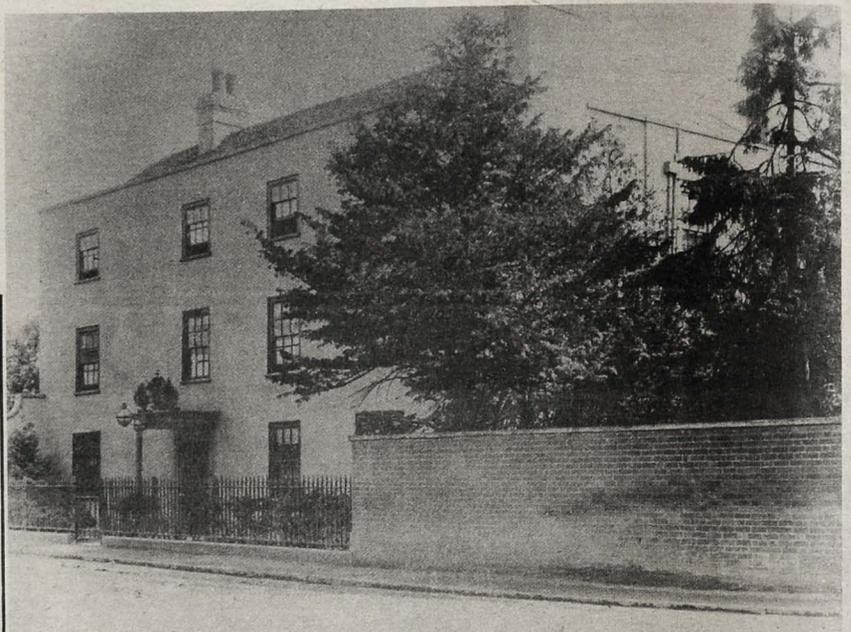
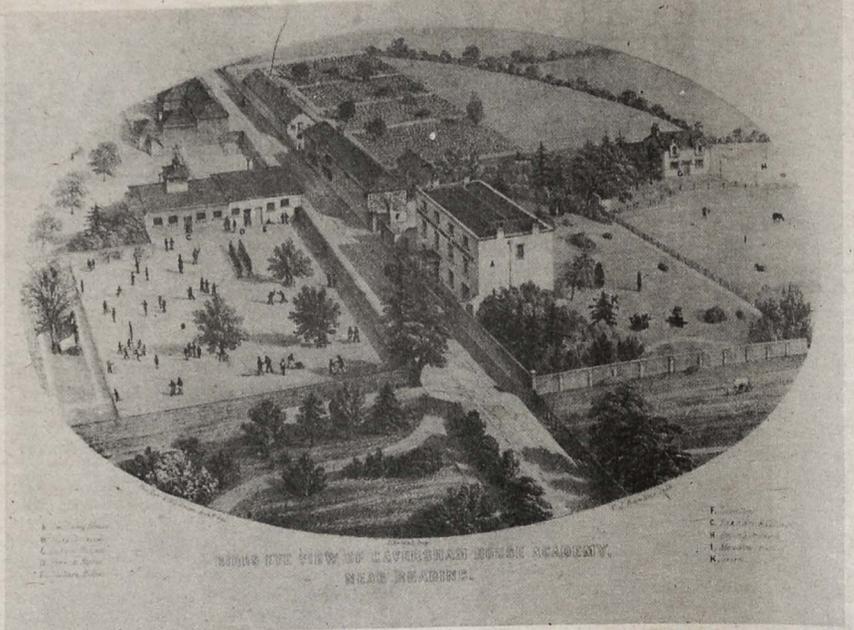
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CAVERSHAM ACADEMY

A bird's eye view of Caversham Academy in 1870. Opposite the main building is the playground with classrooms top left. These buildings are still standing, and the weather vane, over one hundred years old, turns in the wind with FK as decoration. The boys reached the playground by a passage under the road.

Top right is the laundry cottage. In the front centre is the drive and gateway to the Priory and beside the two trees, lower right can be seen the stile and path, known as the Cutting, leading across a field to Caversham Bridge. The tree opposite the Priory entrance, at the corner of Hemdean Road, was very ancient and was taken down c. 1885.

It was once the focal point of the village.



■ The front of Caversham House Academy around c. 1915. No longer a school it was the home of Francis and his sister, both in their eighties. Knights, the newsagents, is now where you see the brick wall.

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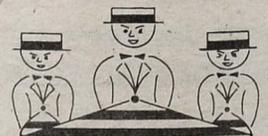
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■ Mr Francis and Miss Clara about 1915. The lady's maid is on the left and cook-housekeeper on the right.

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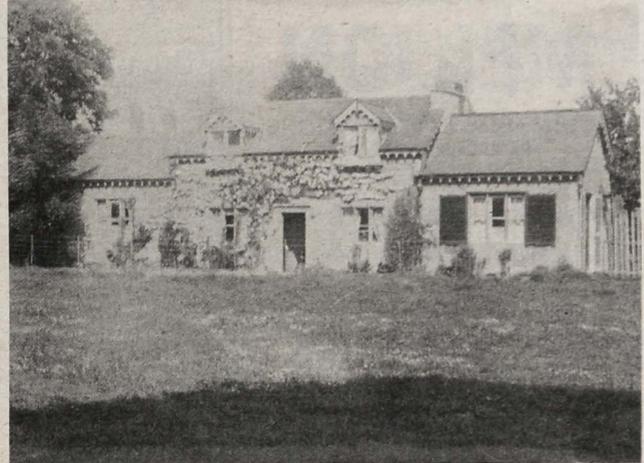
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CAVERSHAM ACADEMY



■ Tea in the garden, c. 1917. Mr Francis is now in a bathchair. A niece pours the tea for Miss Clara, his sister. The lady's maid is on the left.

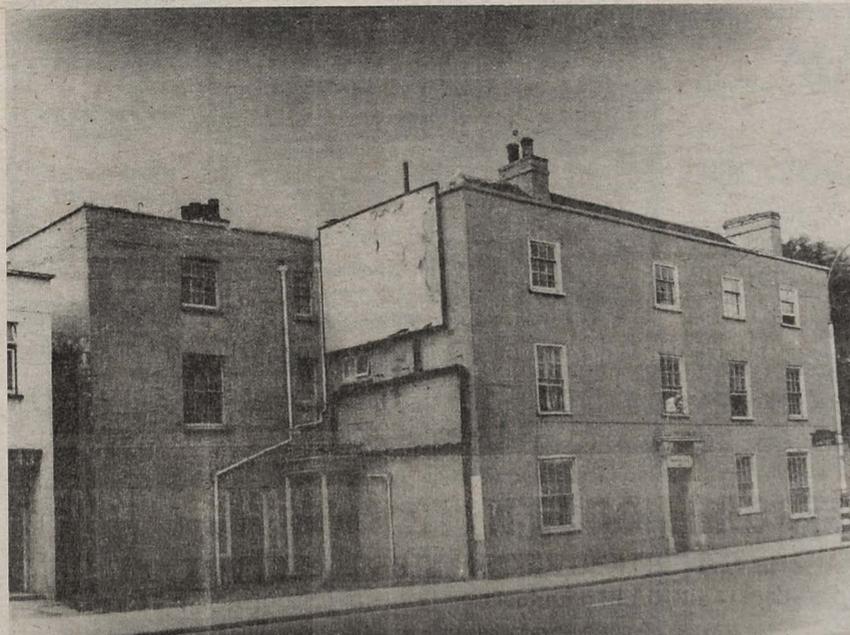


■ The laundry cottage c. 1915.



■ Rear view of the house c. 1915. The car park at the rear of the shopping precinct now covers most of this garden.

▲
 ■ Probably the only photograph of Mr Frank Knighton, principal of Caversham Academy. The picture was taken around 1870 and shows Mr Knighton at the right hand end of the back row. His son, Francis, also bearded, stands three boys away from his father Francis took over the school on the retirement of his father, and was a strict disciplinarian. It is quite likely that the lady in the left hand window is one of Frank Knighton's daughters, also a teacher at the school.



■ Caversham House in 1943, rapidly going to decay

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It is sometimes said that Caversham is nothing but a dormitory suburb, but anyone who is about in it all day knows that this is not true. However, it is true that a large number of its residents commute daily by train to London, and on week day evenings many of the cars waiting in the general melee outside the railway station turn and head for home over the river once having picked up their passengers. For this reason

news about rebuilding Reading Railway Station must be of particular interest to Caversham people. The shortcomings of the present buildings are obvious enough although the Bathstone facade and mid-Victorian clock turret

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT BY WATCHDOG

THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

give a certain period of charm. Most of the rest of it though, however suited it was to nineteenth century needs, falls far short of the requirements of the late twentieth century. Travellers therefore, and those who meet them or take them to the station will have welcomed the news of the new railway station, but unless they have taken a close look at the plans they will find that this new building may well not come up to expectations.

The "bread and butter" traveller is not in fact going to get a fair deal. If you are a rail/air passenger, fine. You are a privileged person and will certainly benefit. No longer need you huddle on the pavement, barely sheltered from the rain let alone the wind, amongst the discarded coke cans, plastic cups and crisp packets that grace the station square, but instead you will have a new lounge to wait in and your coach will leave and draw up right outside the new entrance to the booking hall and platforms. However, if you have arrived by ordinary bus, you will still have to go across the windy station square, humping your luggage with you if you are travelling on more than a day return. When you get to the station you will not find many more booking office positions open than you did in the old station, so you will still hear the

announcer calling out your train whilst you are still fuming and fretting your way down the queue.

If you have driven in, you will have a long walk up hill and down dale from the new multi-storey car park which will be over in the Vastern Road site near Reading Bridge. However, it will be a covered way from there and the exercise will do you good, though again, if you are carrying luggage, unless British Rail are more generous with their supply of passenger trolleys than is their present custom, it will not do your heart and arthritis any good. And do not, by the way, expect a splendid set of escalators, as one set is all British Rail can afford. If you are handicapped, the same arrangements and the same ancient lift as are available now will apply.

For those who meet and drop passengers the arrangements will be even worse than at present. 'How can that be?' you will ask. Well, at present everything is so chaotic that it has produced its own system. You simply ignore all the rules about double yellow lines and blocking someone's exit, stay in or near your car, and move it when required. On the whole it works amicably enough, although taxi drivers sometimes get a bit shirty. Under the proposed arrangements there will be room for five

setting down or picking up cars only, and any others will be expected to use an underground car park which will take sixty three cars, an adequate number, but you are out of sight of the passenger exit and there is much further to hump luggage than at present. There will be no waiting in your car if the train is late, and if you are a woman who dislikes underground car parks, too bad. On the other hand, the Red Star parcel service gets first class treatment, with quick and easy access.

Huge Development

Of course there is much more to the whole development than this, but these matters are of particular interest to Caversham people, who might well feel that an expensive new railway station should cater for the needs of the everyday traveller on whom the railways depend more than the plans at present indicate.

As far as their impact on the Reading scene goes, this is an enormous development stretching from Metal Box right through to the Caversham Road - Vastern Road junction, and including a post office sorting office and the ubiquitous office blocks, some of which will house British Rail staff but the rest of which will be controlled by Prudential. Those facing on to Station Square show some appreciation of architectural merit and will not rival the horrors of Foster Wheeler, but the whole complex will dwarf the old station building with its Brunel associations, and the statue of Edward VII erected by a once proud citizenry.

These plans leave much to be desired, and have in fact met with considerable opposition, but British Rail are intransigent. If they are not accepted, we are told, we shall simply not get a new railway station. Big Brother knows what is good for you, so don't argue.

Taking The Strain

This does not mean to say that there is not a lot of goodwill going for the railways, if only they would consider their travelling public more. On a long straight journey radiating from London, they can be

splendid, but the fun starts when you are trying to go across country or have to change. The other constant complaint is that railway stations are too often trains are dirty, and in winter, too often unheated. Another great deterrent is the cost, though here for certain classes of passenger British Rail have introduced concessionary fares which makes rail travel worth while.

For getting to London, the train certainly beats the car, even on cost when parking charges are taken into account, but it is still expensive. For this reason, the Alder Valley London Link bus which journeys round Caversham on certain of its services and picks you up and drops you down more or less at the end of your road or even outside your house, is becoming increasingly popular. As it goes all the way to Victoria, it saves both time and money at either end, and the scheduled time of an hour and a quarter can hardly be beaten. If you want to use a

bus for an evening theatre visit, the Corporation bus, at £1.60, returns late at night, often in under the scheduled time, and for an extra fifty pence will take you to your suburb, and even drop you outside your house. Who wants the hassle of driving to a service like that, or even paying a train fare, then queuing for a taxi in a cold station square? Slowly public transport is wooing its customers. British Rail must not trail its feet.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Maplewood WI

Mrs Joan Fry, the president was in the chair and asked for nominations for the next committee. The speaker was Mrs Tysoe from the Berkshire College of Agriculture, her subject 'Cooking for tomorrow', not the space age but Port Mexican Cheese-cake and mackerel pate, which are quite happy to be left in the fridge or freezer, looking and smelling delicious.

The competition was for sweet making, four different kinds to be chosen by Mrs Tysoe, which was very difficult as they were all very nice. Mrs Le Mare, Mrs Fenning, Mrs Parcell and Mrs Heaward were all winners and most members had a taste.

The Scrabble competition continues; Mrs Eileen Clarke has won another round and goes on to the final.

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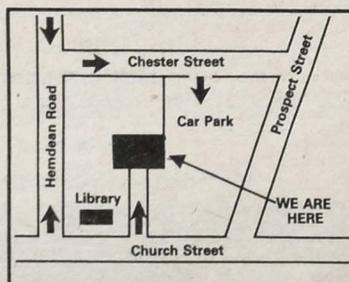
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CHURCH NEWS

BAPTIST NEWS

A fine Acoustic
The mind boggles — what does it mean? Those who were present at the Baptist Church Centre recently made a pleasant discovery. The term was applied to the building by that doyen of vocal art, Mr Gwyn Arch, when he conducted an Informal Concert given by the renowned Bulmershe Girls' Choir. It could equally well have been applied to the Choir and their male supporters, the Bulmershe Brass, for they set the place reverberating with a varied selection of choral and instrumental music. In a programme of such quality it is perhaps invidious to 'pick and choose' but mention must be

made of the solos by Miss Margaret Hayburn (soprano). What a delight it was to hear such richness — truly a fine acoustic — and what a joy it must be to perform to such a high standard with so little — apparent — effort but undoubtedly with much consistent and dedicated practice.

A number by the Choir entitle, 'Sweet and Low' had a novel twist and how well the versatile Mr Arch pulled it off. At one point in the proceedings part of the choir tramped out seemingly declared redundant but a little later the patter of tiny feet was heard coming from the roof space above the Upper Hall. There young ladies formed a heavenly choir as they produced a rich echo effect to the main body remaining on the stage — no mean technical feat for both choir and conductor.

The Bulmershe Brass obviously enjoyed themselves and with impish delight regaled the audience with a cacophony entitled, 'Soft Shoe Shuffle' but in the eyes of the musical connoisseurs they redeemed themselves with other more tuneful numbers not least the stirring martial tones of the RAF March Past by Walford Davies, arranged by their leader, Andrew Foister.

Too Many Cooks

Not really — just a slight problem with the

multiplicity of clocks and controls on the new electric cooker which adorns the Church's modern kitchen. Such was the dilemma which confronted the cooks on the occasion of the luncheon party arranged for the members of the Women's Own. This event had already suffered one set back in that it had been postponed from earlier in the year due to the severe weather. Happily this time the day was saved by sub-contracting the baking of the potatoes to

a good friend along the road. One of the few male guests present acted as runner and when he returned with a tray of potatoes it was reminiscent of 'Pipin in the Haggis' less the bagpipes.

After lunch — and a good one it eventually proved to be — the assembled company enjoyed a trip half way round the world when one of the members spoke of her travels and experiences and illustrated the journey with slides.



■ The Bulmershe Girls Choir with their conductor Gwyn Arch, at Caversham Baptist Church.

— Peter Seer



■ Vi and John Clark with Rev Graham Lynch-Watson.

— Peter Seer

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ST JOHN'S NOTES

St John's Scout and Guide Hut was the site office at the Royal Berkshire Hospital during the building of the extension. St John's uniformed organisations were able to buy the hut with their own funds, and it was moved by volunteers to the church grounds. Then the real work began.

First a concrete base and brick supports had to be laid, there were few volunteers to erect the hut, so the North Reading Scout Association applied for Community Service Workers, to work under skilled voluntary supervision. Now, thanks to the generously given skill and ability of a few volunteers, and these young men, whose supervisors say they have done a thoroughly good job, the hut is standing. The partitions separating the kitchen, offices and

toilets from the main sections are up, and doors are hung. The floor is whole and sound. Electric lights and fittings are being put in, and the electricity will be connected in April, (that trench along the church lawn is for the main cable — not drainage. The plumbing is not quite so far advanced).

All this has cost money, mostly given by the Scouts and Guides, and the British Legion, who will also use the hut, over £500 has been made at fund-raising events and there have been a few donations. It has been very hard work to raise money to keep pace with buying building materials. Even now, paint, plumbing fittings, floor covering and furniture, chairs, tables, desks and cupboards are needed. If anyone can give any of these please ring 477185.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

On February 20th at a St Valentine's Social organised by Caversham Park Church, a presentation was made to Vi and John Clark of Cawsam Gardens, Caversham. For the past six years John and his wife have brought their distinctive contribution as Methodists into the ecumenical life of Caversham Park Church. John, as a Lay Preacher in the Reading Circuit, has regularly led Morning Worship as well as exercising a more general and much valued pastoral ministry. They now feel it is right for them both to return to Caversham Methodist Church and to make that Church the centre of their worship and witness.

The presentation to them was made as an expression of the affection and regard in which Vi and John Clark are held by the congregation at Caversham Park.

It's lovely to know in a local photo-graphers — I was sometimes get read and even nicer to get answers to some of the questions I raise. Some time ago I commented on a particularly attractive portrait of a small child

in a local photo-graphers — I was delighted to be told that the little girl in question is Juliette Durrant who lives in Highdown Hill Road, and is now nearly four years old.

Many of us find our-

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

elves praying for the people of Northern Ireland in church on Sundays. I wonder how many of us actually do something about it. You might ask what can we do. Well, you could try joining the Corrymeela Link for a start; it's a support organisation for the Corrymeela Community founded in the mid 1960s to further the cause of peace in Northern Ireland. Many local people are already involved in this organisation whose headquarters are in Reading; more are needed. If you feel you can help with donations, general support or practical help, secretarial in particular, do get in touch with John Martin (489800). He can supply you with speakers too, if you want to know more about Corrymeela, though you don't need to look further than Caversham because Anne Varma (477413) is the organisation's publicity officer and is very willing to talk on the subject.

About now some secretaries of organisations are anxiously trying to fill programmes for the forthcoming months. If anyone is interested

in 'digging up the past', Gareth Thomas (472864) has a large collection of slides and can talk about local and national excavations; alternatively he has a good selection of slides of old Caversham and Reading buildings.

Local Secretaries

If a new organisation is set up in the district or a new secretary appointed, the local library would like to hear about it and to amend their own list. Alternatively we can always pass on such information through these columns. We don't know if you don't tell us, so please keep us in the picture.

Pavements for Driving

I'm getting thoroughly fed up with drivers who think Caversham pavements are for parking on, or even driving along. The pavement on the east side at the top of Prospect Street is far too narrow for safety when, as happened recently, a driver decides to bypass other traffic by cruising down the road with one wheel on the pavement. And

lorry drivers with overhanging loads should be very careful on this stretch of the road. As to cyclists who think pavements are for them to cycle on, I appreciate their problems with local traffic, but, as a pedestrian, I've got problems too.

Summerdown Singers

Our well known local choir, the Summerdown Singers, who have given pleasure to many people through their concerts are I understand reforming after Easter under new leadership and would welcome new members (ladies). Auditions are being held on April 19 and anyone interested should contact Yvonne Milne — phone 470691.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

February has proved a busy month at St Anne's. Mass attendances continue to improve daily.

The new joint Guild of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Caversham was inaugurated at the beginning of the month. There was a goodly gathering present at which Fr Meagher blessed and distributed the books and medals.

Mr Thompson was elected President (Warden) of the Guild and Mr Asser Secretary. The Guild decided to adopt the Sue Ryder Foundation as its particular charity for this year. This is a cause which does wonderful work. It is hoped that all the parish aged fourteen plus will eventually join the Guild. The requirements are few but the spiritual effect on the parish should be great.

There was a good profit from the St Valentine's Dance which proved a great social event enjoyed by all present, the most popular dance proving to be the Walls of Limerick. The Hall was very well decorated.

The Chapel on the Heights has been rewired and work has been done on the heating. As for the heating system at St Anne's Fr Meagher is delighted to say it may not be necessary to replace it at once. A larger boiler will be needed for the house, and the Church system can be replaced gradually.

The list for the Second Steamer for the Corpus Christi Mass and procession to be held at Mapledurham on June 10 is nearing completion.

The Covenant Drive held this month had very good results.

The Superintendent and Registrar at the Henley Road Cemetery has welcomed Fr Meagher's proposal of a Requiem Mass there on Tuesday May 18 at 7pm. Hopefully there will be a blessing of the graves in the older Roman Catholic part and next year a blessing of the graves in the new part of the cemetery. As the cemetery closes at 8pm, time and distance prevent both being blessed on the same occasion.

WHO'S WHO

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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EDITOR: The Rev Canon J. G. Grimwade, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel. 471703.

ASSISTANT EDITOR: The Rev P. Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LJ. Tel. 473095

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel. 471816

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher, 8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7AW. Tel. 472660

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. J. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel. 474017

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Caversham Ladies' Club

IN the absence of Mrs Harwood, the chair was taken by Mrs G. Weal, vice-chairman, who was pleased to welcome several new members. The speaker was Mrs Tapping on Forensic

Medicine. She said that Britain leads the way in this and gave interesting details as to how clues to various crimes were found in tests on fibres from clothes, soil on shoes, and in blood groups, in the weapons used in the case of murder, and many other small details which lead

ROUND THE CLUBS

to the solving of the crime.

During the month twenty-five members attended the Old Town Hall to see Zena Skinner, the Television Cook, give a demonstration of cookery.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

CAVERSHAM PARK is a link between the past and the present. When Major J P Chadwick spoke at the February meeting he began by recalling some of the families who once owned the estate. He said that it is a misconception that monitors are spying; all the broadcasts are intended to be heard. Radio propaganda started before the last war, but since the advent of the transistor there is a vast potential audience and now most countries broadcast not only to their own nationals, but to other countries in their native languages. The monitors are of many nationalities, some come from our own universities, but they must be able to translate from the headphones straight to the typewriter. They keep a constant ear for items of news and opinion all over the world.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

FEBRUARY brought better weather for the weekly meetings of the Club at Balmore Hall, and at one of these meetings the St Peter's Guides and Brownies entertained the Club with some of their songs, and afterwards provided and served tea to all the members. They laid and decorated the tables, and to round off the afternoon perfectly they also did the washing up.

Blagrove WI

THE President, Mrs J. Rice, opened the February meeting by welcoming four guests and hoped they would soon join the Institute. Mrs J. F. M. Goodchild gave a very interesting demonstration on making hats, starting with blocks and then decorating with material or scarves. A number of members tried them on afterwards and took patterns.

The bedsock competition was won by Mrs Housden, with Mrs Hunter runner up, and Mrs Popplewell third. The raffle given by Mrs K. Maule, was won by Mrs J. Messent.

Very satisfactory reports of the year's activities and financial statement were presented at the AGM on March 2nd, presided over by the President, Mrs J. Price. A new Committee was formed for the forthcoming year. Mrs J. Price was re-elected President; Mrs A. Hunter appointed Secretary, and Mrs J. Messent re-elected Treasurer.

The President paid tribute to Mrs Betty Sullivan whose sad death occurred recently, and members stood in prayerful silence in fond remembrance. A most interesting talk was given by Mrs Joan Smith VC on "What goes on at Watlington House."

The competition for a jar of home-made marmalade was very well supported and was won by Miss Wellstead, second Mrs Housden and third Mrs Wenham. The raffle given by Mrs Benham was won by Mrs Nichols.

Caversham Women's Institute

AT the February meeting there was a grand exhibition of members' own craft work and the President Mrs Hilda Adair congratulated members on the display that included paintings, embroidery, dressmaking and toys etc.

Preparations are well in hand for the Annual Group meeting in May at which Caversham is the Hostess Institute for the Group. After the business members enjoyed a Beetle Drive which was won by Mrs Doris Gillett.

Caversham Community Association

"Berkshire Wild Life" was the subject of the talk Mrs Ruth Wright gave on February 8. During the evening Mrs Wright showed the members some delightful photographs on slide film of birds and their young, animals, wild flowers and butterflies. Many of these photographs had been taken by Mrs Wright in her gar-

den or surrounding Berkshire countryside and gave a fascinating insight into our local wildlife.

A Valentine Party on February 15 was in the form of an American supper. Everyone arrived with a contribution towards the refreshment table and a fine selection of food soon collected. Games and dances were arranged by members of the committee and a competition for the best hand made Valentine card was held during the evening. Mrs Gladys Weal, the club President, was the judge and gave Nancy Nelhams first prize with runners up in the following order:- 2nd Patricia Haines, 3rd Joan Annett, 4th Freda Haines and 5th Dorothy Tracey.

The members met for a Quiz evening on February 22. The committee had been busy compiling questions on general knowledge, television personalities and popular songs. The prizewinners included Ivy Masterman and May Plant. During the evening Stephen Waite visited the club and gave an interesting quiz using slide film photographs for clues. Margaret Cameron was the winner.

A collection was made by Florence Abell on behalf of the handicapped.

Old Tyme Dancing was enjoyed by the members the following week, less experienced dancers are encouraged to take part. The Nearly New Stall was well patronised, a proportion of the proceeds was given to the club funds.

Rosehill WI

The March Meeting was chaired by the President, Mrs Ellingham, who welcomed Mrs Smith VCO and Mrs Drewery, a trainee VCO, who came to assist at the AGM to elect a new committee and president. Mrs Allwright, Vice-president, agreed to be President for this year. The retiring President, Secretary and Treasurer, were presented with orchids as a token of thanks.

The competition for three homemade biscuits was won by Mrs Ellingham.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the February meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, members welcomed Mr H. Ball from the firm of Tate and Lyle and enjoyed the illustrated talk about the development of granulated and speciality sugars and the uses to which they can be put.

A group of members will soon be taking a mini holiday at Bourne-mouth and suggestions for further outings were put forward.

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Denis Gilbert, the conductor of the Singers, would very much like to hear from sopranos who would like to help maintain the Henley Singers' tradition. There may also be vacancies for one or two contraltos and basses. The Singers' next appearance will be in St Mary's Church during the Henley May Fair on May 3. Denis Gilbert may be contacted on Wargrave 3566

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Palm Sunday April 14
8am Holy Communion (PJAB)
9.15am Family Eucharist and distribution of palms (PJAB)
11am Family Eucharist and distribution of palms (M)
11am Holy Communion (CP)
11.15am Holy Communion (PA)
6.30pm "Behold your King" a devotional service of readings and music for Holy Week (J)

Monday in Holy Week. April 5
7.30am Holy Communion (P)
8pm Holy Communion (A)
8pm A meeting for worship after the manner of the Society of Friends (P)

Tuesday in Holy Week. April 6
7.30am Holy Communion (P)
8pm Holy Communion (PA)

Wednesday in Holy Week. April 7
7.30am Holy Communion (P)
9.30am Holy Communion (A)
10am Holy Communion (B)
10.30am Holy Communion (5 Dacre Avenue CP)
8pm Holy Communion (P)

Maudy Thursday. April 8
7.30am Holy Communion (A)
9.30am Holy Communion (P)
8pm Holy Communion (1 Aldenham Close CP)
8pm Sung Eucharist (AB)
8.30pm Sung Eucharist (P)

Good Friday. April 9
9.30am Morning Service (JAM)
10am Morning Service (B)
12 noon to 3pm The Three Hours Devotion (P) conducted by the Rev Neville Smith, Chaplain of Queen Anne's School.
6pm Evening Prayer (P)
8pm Compline (A)

Holy Saturday. April 10
6pm Evening Prayer and preparation for Easter Communion (P)
8pm The Easter Ceremonies (A)

Easter Day. April 11
8am Holy Communion (PJABM)
9.15am Family Eucharist (PJAB)
11am Parish Communion (M)
11am Holy Communion (CP)
11.15am Holy Communion (PA)
6.30pm Festal Evensong (PAB)

The Canons of the Church of England state "It is the duty of all who have been confirmed to receive the Holy Communion regularly and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun".

The clergy would like to know of any sick or housebound communicants who wish to receive the Sacrament in their homes during Easter week.

Times when confessions will be heard during Holy Week will be found in the weekly church notices on Passion and Palm Sundays.

P—St Peter's. A—St Andrew's. M—St Margaret's. J—St John's. B—St Barnabas. CP—Caversham Park.

ST ANNE'S, SOUTH VIEW AVENUE
Palm Sunday
1. Blessing and Procession of Palms before 5.30pm Mass on Saturday, April 3.
2. Morning Masses at 9.00 and 11.00 (Latin)
3. Stations of the Cross and Benediction 6.30
4. Film Show 'Padre Pio'—Parish Hall 7.15

Monday and Tuesday
Masses 7.15 and 9.00am Confessions 7.00-8.00pm

Wednesday
Masses at 9.00am and 7.30pm Confessions before and after Evening Mass

Maudy Thursday
1. Children's Mass at 9.00am
2. Evening Mass at the Lord's Supper 8.00. Principal celebrant Bishop McCartie. Watching at altar of repose until midnight.

Good Friday
1. Stations of the Cross at 10.30am
2. Liturgy of the Passion and death of our Lord at 3.00pm. Confessions afterwards

Holy Saturday
1. Confessions 10.30-12.00, 3.00-4.00 and 5.00-6.30
2. Easter Vigil Ceremonies begin at 8.00pm

Easter Sunday
Morning Masses at 9.00 and 11.00
Our Lady Of Caversham, Richmond Road.
Palm Sunday
Masses at 8.30 and 10.30 Blessing and Procession of Palms before 10.30 Mass.

Good Friday
Liturgy of the Passion and Death of our Lord at 3.00pm
Holy Saturday
Confessions 11.00-12.00 noon only

Easter Sunday
Masses at 8.30 and 10.30

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
February 28 — Lee Hobbs

St John's
February 14 — David Ford
Lisa Sheppard

March 5 — Andrew Deane

St Barnabas
February 14 — Elisabeth Webby

February 28 — Lisa Higgs

St Anne's
February 28 — Hugh Jordan
Matthew Murphy-O'Connor
Kerry Searle
Joseph Freeman
Michael East
Michelle Darby

Our Lady Of Caversham
February 28 — Elizabeth Kavanagh

MARRIED
St Barnabas
February 20 — Stephen Carvell and Susan Gutteridge
Eamon Lambert and Lynn Jewell

St Margaret's
March 5 — John Williams and Mary Ingoldby

St Anne's
March 5 — Carlo Ciarleglio and Denise Wall

FUNERALS

St Peter's
February 15 — Tom Harwood

St Andrew's
March 1 — Betty Sullivan

St Margaret's
February 19 — Diane Silk

St Anne's
Maurice O'Donnell
Doris Sandrock
Harry Davidson
Alfred Cudlip
Dorothy Baker
Albertine Pipon
Iris Doyle
Mary Newsom
Mary Rule
Herbert Tanner
William Goss
Frank Goff
Clive Desmond
Valentine Slater
Ellen Winder
John Reilly

Caversham Park House Communions

Wednesdays 10.30am
April 7 — 5 Dacre Avenue (Penny Peirce)
April 14 — 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews)
April 21 — 20 Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)
April 28 — 10 Netley Close (Joy Abel)
May 5 — 9 Osterley Drive (Sylvia Pickard)

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The influence and effectiveness of the Council depends on the weight of public opinion behind it. Views, ideas, proposals or complaints on any aspect of local health affairs — from individuals or from community or other groups — are welcome

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