



THE ARCHBISHOP'S MAZE

IN HIS enthronement sermon at Canterbury on March 25, 1980, Archbishop Runcie spoke of a maze, with some people close to the centre who could not find a way through; others standing just outside with whom he longed to speak. A letter to "The Times" pointing out the religious significance of mazes was seen by Lady Brunner of Greys Court. She contacted the writer, Mr Adrian Fisher, a member of the congregation of St Albans Abbey and himself a maze-maker, and with his partner, Mr Randall Coate, the maze was built in the grounds of this medieval estate.

Symbolism

Dictated by Christian symbolism, the design of the maze delineates the Crown of Thorns in bricks

laid out in cruciform pattern. The 7 rings of the crown represent the 7 days of Creation. The turf centre of the maze measures 9 times the width of turf between the brick paths and recalls the 9 hours of agony. Laid on the heart of the maze are two crosses, a simple Roman cross of Bath stone within an elaborate Byzantine cross of blue Westmorland stone. They proclaim the reconciliation between East and West, catholic and protestant, Roman and orthodox—a vital aspect of Robert Runcie's life work. The maze is 85ft in diameter and the paths measure a quarter of a mile. A pillar is at the centre, bearing an armillary sundial, and set before the centre is a commemorative

inscription to the effect that the Archbishop of Canterbury dedicated the maze himself on October 24, 1981.

The history of mazes is a continuing work and it is thought that even the Cretan labyrinth was not the earliest. Cretan coins, however, showing the labyrinth made their way round the known world and copies appear carved in stone on rocks at Tintagel and on wooden bosses in Merton College Library and St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. The hedge maze at Hampton Court is included in the survey of ancient mazes. Of interest too is the maze in Chartres Cathedral, which is measured on the floor at an equal distance from the centre of the rose window to the floor, and this is only one of many cathedrals in northern



France which show several medieval Christian turf paths. Today Greys Court at Rotherfield Greys near Henley was

given to the National Trust by Sir Felix and Lady Brunner, who still live in the manor house. The house is open on Monday, Wednesday and Fri-

day from April until the end of September and the garden is open during the same period from Monday to Saturday from 2.15 to 6pm.

THE FUTURE BISHOP OF READING

CANON Foley, at present Vicar of Leeds, is to be consecrated Bishop of Reading in Oxford Cathedral on July 22. We are glad to publish this message from him.



■ CANON FOLEY

"I have been asked to write about myself, and however modest one may be, it is a temptation hard to resist. After reading several rather sensational newspaper articles since my appointment as Bishop of Reading I am happy to be able to say that I am really quite ordinary. Like any other priest or minister I try to say my prayers, read my Bible, and then hope to do what God wants me to do in whatever situation he chooses for me. So far this has included a 'down

town' parish in Lancashire, a country parish, a spell as an 'ecclesiastical civil servant,' and latterly the most demanding post of all as Vicar of Leeds. For more than a hundred years the Vicar of Leeds has been a unique post. He is part of the church's representative within the secular society. To succeed he must never forget he is a servant; he must try to understand and love the secular society; and if he

can fulfil these requirements he may then build bridges. Others who have occupied the post have been more successful than I, but I have had the enormous advantage of regular monthly meetings with the leaders of all denominations so that I have been able to speak for all of us and this has added a new dimension. It has been exciting and I shall be sad to leave the scene.

"Now a challenge awaits and I would be less than human if I were not fearful. On the other hand I should be lacking in faith if I were not full of hope too. What I shall need is the prayers of all good people and I know I shall be assured of this. I look forward also to being part of a team — several teams in

fact. I shall, with my brother bishops, be part of the Bishop of Oxford's team. With the Archdeacon of Berkshire, the Rural Deans, and the priests and people of two hundred parishes I shall lead an area team. With Christians of all the churches I shall be part of a larger team. Above all I shall continue to be what I have always been and nothing will be changed. that is a fellow member with you of God's team in this world and this is the greatest thing of all.

"The Bishop's house will be near Reading. The house suggested is not too big and not too small. It will enable me to have a chapel in the house which will, I think, be essential in this new post. This is where it will all

begin each day. Flo and I will hope to make it a home where many people may come and share friendship with us. Occasionally it will be full for we have seven grandchildren!

"I shall not make the mistake of saying too much about the future. 'hello.' God bless First of all I must

meet, listen, and learn. What I can say is that I shall try and get my priorities right. After that we go forward in faith, together. I look forward to my first visit to Caversham and it is gracious of you to allow me this space in the Caversham Bridge to say 'hello.' God bless you all."



Photo: E. S. Archer

■ Stan Eldon seen at the finish of his Paris to Caversham run in aid of sports facilities for the disabled. So far £6,500 has been received from his sponsors and we are grateful to the many readers of the Caversham Bridge who responded to our appeal last month.

Sunday, June 6, 6.30pm

THE MAYORAL SERVICE

at
ST PETER'S, CAVERSHAM

The Rev T. Meagher (Roman Catholic), The Rev P. Lee-Bapty (URC) and the Anglican clergy of Caversham will be taking part. This is both an ecumenical and community occasion and it is hoped it will be widely representative of the life of Caversham

The Editor's Column

RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE

IT IS fascinating to see how words, in the course of time, acquire quite different meanings. The words "radical" and "conservative" are two examples of this. When the word "radical" is used today to describe someone it implies that he is regarded as impatient with the status quo and anxious to make sweeping changes, while the word "conservative" (in a non-political sense) is applied to someone who digs in his heels and resists change.

The word radical comes from the Latin word radix meaning "root" and when properly used of a person means that he is someone who is anxious to go back to basic principles and reject accretions to the subject in question. So when asked on his appointment to the See of Canterbury how he would describe himself Archbishop Runcie said he was a radical Catholic. Those however who take a theologically conservative position are often found to be maintaining views whose origins go back no further than the 19th century. So it is the conservatives who are commonly defending comparatively new developments in theological thought and the radicals who are concerned to re-state truths that have been obscured in the course of time. And this has to be borne in mind as Anglicans and Roman Catholics study the final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC); it seems that those whom we commonly call conservative will be those who find the thinking of the Commission least acceptable to them.

THE COMMISSION

As a result of the visit of Archbishop Ramsey to Pope John VI in 1966 a joint Preparatory Commission was set up; following valuable meetings ARCIC was brought into being in 1970. The Commission consists of an equal number of Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians of international standing. Among the Roman Catholic delegates is Bishop Christopher Butler known to many of us in Caversham and an Anglican delegate is Professor Henry Chadwick who until recently was dean of our own cathedral, Christ Church. None will lightly underestimate the scholarship of any of the delegates. The Commission first produced a statement on Eucharistic doctrine (1971). Then followed statements on Ministry and Ordination (1973) and Authority in the Church (1976). A remarkable and encouraging measure of agreement was recorded in all these documents but it was left to the most recent report to deal with the question of the papacy. This was perhaps the most difficult matter of all, not least because of real prejudice and misunderstanding which the regrettable but obviously deep-seated opposition to the Pope's visit has shown to exist. The Commission has however gone to the roots of the matter. Its finding will be difficult for many Anglicans who feel they have managed very happily for over 400 years without acknowledging the Pope; its finding will equally be difficult for many Roman Catholics whose understanding of the papacy has been much influenced by 19th century developments. We Anglicans must be understanding over this; if we have seen many changes in the life of our own church during the past twenty or so years we need to remember that these are small compared to the changes which Roman Catholics have had to accept, including the adoption of practices which the Church of England adopted as long ago as the 16th century.

Anglicans and Orthodox Christians commonly call themselves by those titles. But this does not mean that they do not regard themselves as Catholic Christians. The title of the Commission is the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. The Anglican delegates could not have joined an Anglican-Catholic International Commission for that would have implied that the Anglicans are not part of the Catholic church. In reply to the question "What is the Church of England?" the catechism states plainly and unequivocally "The Church of England is the ancient Church of this land, catholic and reformed. It proclaims and holds fast the doctrine and ministry of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church," and the encyclical letters written at the conclusion of Lambeth Conferences customarily begin "We the archbishops and bishops of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church in communion with the see of Canterbury." Anglicans have never claimed an exclusive monopoly of the word catholic, but only that they are part of the Catholic Church. The post-reformation Anglican divines were in no doubt at all that the Reformation had been necessary in order that the church could return to a purer form of catholicism, but that it meant no severance from the church which owed its origin in this country to the work of St Augustine and other early missionaries. In recent statements the Bishop of Norwich who is no high churchman but a well-known evangelical and who clearly finds difficulties in the ARCIC approach to the papacy has none the less pointed out that it is important that the Pope before his visit should fully understand the position of the Church of England as the catechism defines it.

AN EXCITING DOCUMENT

I find the ARCIC report an exciting document though I hope I am not unaware of the difficulties that remain. It is also encouraging to learn that all Roman Catholic episcopal conferences throughout the world have been given the report with a covering letter from Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican's Secretariat for Christian Unity and that they have been asked to make comments. This is a very Anglican way of proceeding and that in itself is significant; consultation of that kind has no long history in the Roman Catholic Church. ARCIC presented its case not as the outcome of a negotiation between opposing sides but as the fruit of a common search. The Times religious affairs correspondent has pointed out what is offered is not a negotiated compromise but something which stands on its own merits. The report has to be seen as the result of much prayer and study by some of the most foremost theologians of our two churches.

Presumably the Lambeth Conference of 1988 will discuss the report and then we may expect it to be referred to the separate Anglican provinces all over the world. Just as any re-union between the Anglican Communion and the Free Churches depends of the Free Church willingness to accept episcopacy so any form of Anglican-Roman Catholic unity depends upon the acceptance of the papacy in some form by Anglicans. Nothing will be decided in a hurry and many points will no doubt require further study and clarification before either communion reaches a decision. We ought all however to realise that once reports of this kind are produced and discussed the situation never returns to what it was before such work began. But our hopes for eventual re-union with our Roman Catholic brethren should not stop us who are Anglicans pressing on with a Covenant relationship with our Free Church brethren. It is not a question of "either-or." Please God it is a question of unity between all separated brethren according to the mind and will of Christ, the Church's Head.

John Grimdale



As we go to print there seems a real possibility that the Pope's long awaited visit to this country will be cancelled or postponed. Should this be the case I would like to assure our Roman Catholic readers how we sympathise with them in their disappointment, especially when they have for so long been preparing for this momentous occasion.



■ A group from Emmer Green setting out to go cherry picking at Stoke Row around the year 1910.



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Indian interlude

WE print this month the first of two articles by Philip Hardy, who between leaving Reading School and going to Cambridge University is working for some months in Delhi.

India is an enormous country, with enormous problems. Over three hundred million people live below the UN poverty level, and another three hundred million live just above it. Much can, and is being done to help alleviate the sufferings of the poor here, who are largely living in conditions which are intolerable. I am fortunate enough to be helping one body, the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ, in Delhi in their work amongst the poor, having time to spare between completing 'A' levels at Reading School and going to University. Long ago I had decided to do something in this time away from England and our 'Western culture,' including a long holiday. The desire to see another part of the world, and how different people live was a strong influence, and I realised that I was unlikely to have a chance like this again. Then I began to realise that, as well as taking a break from life at home, I could also do something useful to help. Following the Rector's visit to India, and the contacts he had made India was the obvious choice. With the help of the Rector and USPG I began to arrange my visit, and the Brotherhood very kindly agreed to provide me with board and lodgings during my work with them. This work would both give me the satisfaction acquired through its interest and also allow me to see in great detail how the people here do live. As such it is proving ideal. After many preparations, and one or two minor setbacks, I set out to India in January of this year. But what was I coming to?

Social work

The Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ, formerly known as the 'Cambridge Brotherhood' has been in and around Delhi since 1877. It is a religious community of the Church of North India, which came about in 1970 as a result of the union of the Anglican Church, the Baptists, the Presbyterians and several other churches in India. The Brothers carry out a wide range of duties throughout the CNI, doing much to augment its resources and growth. The best way to give

an idea of the varied scope of the work of the Brotherhood is to give a short list of the members and their tasks.

Fr Ian Weathrall is the Head of the Brotherhood, and does all the house-keeping, as well as sitting on numerous governing bodies and Commissions. Bishop Christopher Robinson has been Bishop of Lucknow and Bombay Dioceses, and is chairman of the CNI Liturgical Commission responsible for drawing up the new Liturgy for the CNI. He is also guest warden, responsible for the numerous guests who come to stay at the Brotherhood. Fr Kenneth Sharp is the gardener, and through his efforts the Brotherhood garden is always very pleasant, as well as providing many of the vegetables eaten. He is also involved in a Christian Hospital in Ludhiana, and a Retreat centre in the foothills of the Himalayas. Fr James Stuart is the Librarian, as well as being involved in the ISPCK and chaplain to St Stephen's Hospital. He is currently drawing up a three year cycle of readings for use in the CNI services. Bishop Ernest John has been Bishop of Nandyal, and also Episcopal Commissary to Amritsar Diocese. He is currently taking services in the Cathedral for the Tamil speaking congregation, and also carrying out a wide range of Pastoral duties throughout India and the rest of the world. Bishop Eric Nasir was until recently Bishop of Delhi, and Moderator of the CNI. He is currently Chaplain of the St Stephen's College. Fr Amos Rajamoney is the Treasurer, and also highly involved in the social work of the Brotherhood. Fr Collin Theodore is assisting in the Parish of St James, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, and also assists at St Stephen's Hospital. All these duties are shaped around a daily order of seven services in the chapel, and the common life which the Brotherhood all share.

Facilitators

The social work is the aspect in which I am mostly involved, and this takes up a large proportion of the Brotherhood's budget. Receiving no

individual salaries, they are maintained by grants and donations from people and institutions in India and abroad. The Brotherhood has their own registered society, the Delhi Brotherhood Society, which is the agent for all their social work. Governed, run and administered by the Brotherhood themselves, with the aid of social workers drawn from the communities in which they work, this society is able to be highly efficient and also independent, thus enabling them to work in their own way, free from outside pressures, so that they can fulfill their vocation in this branch to the best that their resources allow. Their own way of working is a highly

individual and effective way of charity. In all their social work they see themselves as 'facilitators,' helping the poorest people to help themselves. They realise that charity is often abused if the people being helped do not have any involvement in that charity. Pure giving of money or similar gifts often leads to dependence and a decline in the morale and the growth of frustration in those helped. This then leads to an irremovable burden on the charity concerned, and does little to help those who should be receiving the help. They have chosen to help the poor people they help towards self-help. Not only do they help materially, but they also help to provide a sense of community and involvement in all their schemes. The people being helped are encouraged to administer their own particular aid through democratic discus-



■ Christ as portrayed by an Indian artist

their schemes aim at self-sufficiency, an aim which is not far away in several cases. Through this they are able to constantly increase the number of schemes without over reaching their resources. To choose methods of aid and schemes they never approach a body or community but instead wait to be approached by a community with ideas of their own. In this way they are able to start on a good basis for their particular brand of charity. As they minister to many of the areas which are in need of help they are well known here, and approach is easy. Through all these ways the Brotherhood is involved in a diverse range of schemes helping all ages, and people of all abilities; creches, a school, housing schemes, community education, a library, old people and leprosy rehabilitation are part of their social work.

Photo: E. S. Archer



Caversham Primary Schools' Music Festival

BOTH the Infants and Junior Music Festivals were this year held at Caversham Park County Primary School.

The Infants Festival took "Water" as its theme. All Caversham Infant Schools took part, and only met together for one joint rehearsal before the performance, which was a great success, and enjoyed by the performer and parents. Mr Gwyn Arch of Bulmershe College was the conductor.

The Junior Schools performed an exciting work entitled "Our Island Conquest," which was written, composed and conducted by Mr A. Clayton of Caversham Park School. The majority of Caversham schools took part, again only meeting for one joint

rehearsal, before an energetic and enthusiastic performance which was greatly enjoyed by all lucky enough to see it. The hall was decorated on each occasion by appropriate pictures by the children. Our photo shows Caversham Park Juniors at rehearsal.

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CHURCH NEWS

St Anne's news

THE Easter services this year were particularly beautiful and dignified and Father Meagher writes: "I have never seen so many at an Easter Vigil. Thank you to all who helped in the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, to all who prepared the two churches so beautifully. Good serving and good singing do make a difference."

Starting on April 21 there were six Masses (all on Wednesdays) to prepare for the Pope's visit. Each special Mass considered some aspect of the Holy Father's forthcoming visit.

On Sunday, April 25 there was a Mass for the sick at 3pm which was a very edifying and moving service. About twenty people were anointed. The members of the SVP provided the transport and a nice hot cup of tea

afterwards in the hall, so thanks must go to them for their good services. The prayers said during the Mass were particularly beautiful and suited to the occasion, including those of St Francis of Assisi and Cardinal Newman.

The outside notice board at St Anne's will be permanently re-signaled soon, but there is need for one at the Heights Chapel, great need as many people say that they have passed by the Chapel without even knowing it was a church. The help of a sign-writer is needed for this.

A new Latin-English Missal containing all Propers for Sundays and Holy days (except the

Bible Readings) nuptial and general masses as well as the Order of Mass with appropriate pre-faces is to be published in May by the Association of Latin Liturgy priced £7 including postage. John Eppstein (tel. 472155) will order copies if desired.

On April 4 Father Eltin Daly a Franciscan priest was here to show a film on Padre Pio the Italian Franciscan with the extraordinary privilege of the Stigmata (representations of Christ's wounds). The hall was full for this occasion as also the church as Father Daly led the stations of the cross before the film.

As this moment the men of the parish are working on the Parish Census as Father is compiling a parish index.

There was a most enjoyable parish dance on Friday, April 16 with a very good band whom it is hoped to engage for a return visit next year.

Baptist news

A planner's flight of fancy

IF Gilbert, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame, were around he could make something of the saga of the boundary wall surrounding the church. At one point, near the main entrance, it was badly cracked and dangerous hence during the re-development of the premises it was decided that the builders should be instructed to rebuild it but to a lower height than hitherto and to line up with the section in Prospect Street. It is not known if this crafty move was spotted by someone on the roof of the Civic Centre using a telescope or by a fifth columnist but the upshot was resounding. The church was informed, with no uncertainty, that the

boundary wall was part of a listed building and as such planning permission was required to do anything to it. To rub salt into an open wound the accusation was made that multi-coloured bricks were being used in the rebuilding. Little did the powers-that-be realise that those same bricks had lain there for over a hundred years — they had just been turned round to present a better face to the world. Diplomacy won the day and honour was restored by submitting a planning application for this and the construction of a ramp to the side door for invalid chairs. A condition of the approval — an unconditional approval must be unheard of — was that the

surroundings of the church should be landscaped. This caused hoots of laughter amongst the members but such weighty matters demanded the attention of the Council's Horticultural adviser and it was agreed that a few shrubs — preferably of the vandal-proof type — would be the thing. The main display area was to be the corner around the notice board with a hedge of pyracantha along the Prospect Street wall — good robust stuff which should present a challenge to those vandals who specialise in nipping the heads off daffodils.

The irrepressible Church Secretary, Bernard Miller, having arranged for the concrete around the notice board to be broken up, acquired the necessary arboreal embellishments and together with a gang of both genuine and hypocritical gardening enthusiasts set about the task of 'landscaping'. Following an evening's

navvying the result is quite pleasing and providing that the area does not become a dumping ground for sagging mattresses, exhausted gas cookers or lesser flotsam it should 'blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree.'

Caversham Heights Methodist news

A day to remember

"WE were treated like royalty." This glowing tribute echoed the general appreciation unanimously felt by the members of Highmoor Road 'Stay-a-while Club' who, at the end of March, were the guests of some of the staff of the Prudential Assurance Company.

Informed that they would be taken for a drive and end up with 'tea,' thirty of Caversham's senior citizens left their Highmoor Road headquarters and in brilliant sunshine enjoyed a leisurely and delightful tour through Berkshire's blossoming countryside.

Inside the coach where the spring sunshine streaming through the windows made it warm and cosy, the passengers relaxed and enjoyed the lively commentary of the courier whose fund of miscellaneous information was both amusing and unexpected. Did they know the origin of the name of Nettlebed? Did they know that nettles were once grown there and dried and stuffed into mattresses?

If they looked away to the left, the white house they could see in the distance was the mansion of Lady... who did he say she was? But already the coach was passing the door where the mother of one of England's popular entertainers lived. "Who knows?" he quipped "you might make something out of

that one day." Oh yes, an admirable courier whose natural benevolence was but a foretaste of the welcome reception accorded to the guests upon arrival at the Prudential Assurance's main building. Willing members of the staff came out to shepherd everyone to seats at the many tables, attractively laid with gleaming napery and cutlery, and in place of the expected "cup of tea" an enjoyable meal of hot soup followed by a plate of delicious sandwiches, with mixed salad and a hot sweet with custard was served. The generous hosts provided an assortment of drinks; there was coffee or tea as well, to suit all tastes. A professional accordionist entertained and many of his songs were 'taken up' by the audience who happily joined in the choruses.

An exciting surprise in the evening was the raffle, with twenty magnificent prizes giving great pleasure to the fortunate recipients.

The success of this delightful drive and meal and the equally entertaining evening was due to the admirable efforts and planning of the staff of the Prudential who, throughout the year, had organised ways and means to provide the money for all the delights of this special afternoon and evening, a magnificent example of true altruism.

'Olivet to Calvary'

THE Wednesday of Holy Week saw what is becoming a tradition in the form of a sacred cantata performed by the church choir joined by friends from St Paul's United Reformed Church choir. This year Maude's cantata, 'Olivet to Calvary' was presented, recalling some of the incidents in

the last days of our Saviour's life on earth. Soloists were Gilbert Wale (tenor) and Keith Search (baritone), the conductor Maureen Leekie with Ralph Lascelles at the organ. The church was very glad to welcome the minister of St Paul's, Rev Philip Lee-Baity, who led the opening devotions.

From the first few majestic bars of the opening chorus "When o'er the steep of Olivet the Lord to Salem came" it was obvious that the choir would be taking full advantage of the opportunity to enjoy their singing, and they produced a full, round, balanced sound which was maintained throughout. The dramatic drops from ff to pp in the "March to Calvary" were achieved with apparent ease, but just occasionally there were slight losses of pitch in quiet, low passages — always difficult with organ diapason accompaniment. The tenor entry "And Jesus entered into the Temple" came over with just the right attack — a statement conveying the intent, not just a narrative. Some of the recitatives would probably benefit from a piano or harpsichord accompaniment rather than the sustaining effect of the organ — No 4 "The mount of Olives" is an example where the soloist produced the ideal, gentle tone at the opening of part two "A new commandment"

"O Thou whose sweet compassion" was sung by an excellent semi-chorus from the Heights choir, taken up by the full choir in a repeat of the second section with good effect.

Perhaps the most successful quiet passage of the whole evening came in the larghetto section of the final chorus particularly the counterpoint of "Gaze, mortal, gaze." A memorable part of the Easter celebrations.

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Caversham Methodist Church

Dear Sir,
In their letters Messrs Perkins, Etherington and Madeley, have, I think, missed the real point. Two of them describe the situation at Gosbrook Road as a chance or an opportunity. It does not require dry rot to produce an

opportunity. It already exists. If we or the Methodists really want to join forces, using one church, we can do so now, or tomorrow, or any other time. A time of crisis is probably inopportune for making long term decisions of this kind. Now, how many of your correspondents are presently exercising their minds with plans to close either St Andrew's or Caversham Heights Methodist Church in order to conserve resources? What about St Peter's and the Baptist Free Church joining forces, or St Peter's, and Mapledurham? Do these decisions require another crisis to precipitate them? The suspicion that no such plans are in hand makes the advice of your correspondents sound a little hollow.

Recently, St John's spent £6,000 on one side of the roof alone. I remember no such advice being given by your correspondents on this and similar occasions, and it would be most unfortunate if their views now sour the good relations between St John's and the Gosbrook Road Methodists.

Offers of accommodation have been made by St John's, for church services, band practice, and Guides and Brownies meetings. We shall also be publicising the Methodists' fund raising events, to the full.

At a recent Lent group meeting a Baptist member opined that we should not be contracting but working to fill all our churches. Perhaps this is the real way forward.

Your correspondents I would say "How wilt thou say to thy brother: 'Let me pull the mote out of thine eye,' and behold, a beam is in thine own eye."

PETER W. TIPTON
District Warden, St John's Church
73 Southview Avenue
Caversham

Postbag



Dear Sir,
Our letters in the April edition of the "Bridge" did not in any way seek to suggest that Caversham Methodist Church is anything other than a lively and dynamic church. We queried only whether a sharing of buildings might not be the best way for the mission of our churches to advance. We were not aware, when writing, that Gosbrook Road is to be converted into a multi-purpose building — and we congratulate the church on its foresight.

It was our dismay over the Reading Deanery Synod vote on the Covenant proposals that led us to feel, that whatever was happening elsewhere, we should do more to attempt to promote unity in our community. Readers of the May edition of the "Bridge" may have noticed however that Oxford Diocese has voted decisively in favour of the Covenant proposals. It is our sincere prayer that the national vote is similar to the Oxford vote.

We believe it is legitimate to raise the issue of whether the church in this place needs all the buildings it now has. Between us we have fifteen. If we were starting from scratch in Caversham, how many buildings would we Christians effect? Would we not seek to use school halls and other places which are not used on Sundays? One part of our community, Caversham Park Village, has

started from scratch in the last decade or so and is of course using a school.

Figures in the May "Bridge" show that the Anglican church spends over twice as much on the maintenance, heating and lighting of church buildings as it does on overseas giving. We see little reason to be proud of that.

JOHN MADELEY
KEN ETHERINGTON
ELMSLIE PERKINS

The Dog House
Caversham

Dear Sir,
It was good to see our MP, Mr Tony Durant, given space to explain about our rates situation. He has given excellent support to the non-Party political Reading Ratepayers' Association for some years and was very interested in our views on reform of the present domestic rating system.

We submitted our comments on alternatives to this to the Department of the Environment in March: these broadly suggested some form of local income tax, thereby spreading the now very heavy rates burden among all those with the ability to pay. However, as Mr Durant has said, this may take time to implement, so we also advocated the switch, meanwhile, of all education costs to central government, although the present grants from government, which largely meet education expense, would obviously have to be cut, at least we would then be left with rates payable for purely local services.

As we have told Mr Durant, we are not in favour of a mixture of different alternatives proposed by government — life is complicated enough as it is! Also, a reformed property tax, payable only by

householders, would only perpetuate the inequities of the present system whereby many people who could afford to pay directly towards local services don't do so.

Meanwhile our members, many of them in Caversham, fully support our other aim of trying to see that all ratepayers get value for money, just as all churches are having to seek in an age of ever-rising costs. The difference lies in ratepayers having to pay regardless, whereas the churches rely entirely on voluntary income — a point which some of your readers should please take to heart!

PATRICK BAILY
Chairman
Reading Ratepayers' Association

Dear Sir,
Could Postbag bring some positively cheerful news this month, especially to all the Mother and Toddler Groups, big and small in the Caversham area?

What is a Mother and Toddler Group you may ask? It is a self help support group, often meeting in a church hall where mothers with toddlers at home can meet for a coffee and chat while the children play safely together, learning to mix and share their toys.

The cheerful news is that Reading Branch Pre-school Play Group Association with Mother and Toddler Groups are planning a "Grand Fund day and Picnic," on Wednesday, May 26, 10.30am-2pm in Palmer Park stadium, Reading. There will be lots happening and Toni Arthur will be there. All mothers with under-fives are welcome. Information will be available round the town in the very near future.

MARY WIGGINS
6 Cromwell Road
Caversham

June Festivals

The Rev Leonard Burn, a former priest-in-charge of St Barnabas will be returning there to preach at the Parish Communion on St Barnabas Day, Friday, June 11 at 7.30pm. He is at present a hospital chaplain in Bristol. On St John's Day, Thursday, June 24 the Parish Communion at 7.30pm at St John's will be the occasion when the parish marks the silver jubilee to the priesthood of both the Rev David Milling and the Rev Graham Lynch-Watson. The preacher is to be Canon Douglas Rhymes with whom the Rev Graham Lynch-Watson served when he was first ordained. The Parish Communion on St Peter's Day, Tuesday, June 29 is at 8pm and marks the conclusion of the four day St Peter's Festival. The Bishop of Oxford will be the celebrant and preacher.

The annual meetings of each district and then of the parish were held in the weeks after Easter. As a result of the union of the two parishes of Caversham and Mapledurham some adjustment has been made in the size of the representation of the different districts to the Church Council. The following have been elected to office for the coming year:

Church wardens: Mr W. A. Vincent and Mr K. P. Bennett.
 Deanery Synod: Mr F. C. Moore and Mr E. M. Smith (St Peter's), Miss N. Wheeler (St John's), Mr D. Cooper (St Andrew's), Dr O. Jewiss and Mr D. Miles (St Barnabas), Mr B. A. Martyn-Johns (St Margaret's), Mrs R. Osborne (Caversham Park).
 Church Council: St Peter's Mr R. Gamble, Mr R. J. Stratford. (Wardens) Mrs B. Chapman, Mr M. Coome, Mrs Y. Milne, Mr D. Owen, Mr F. Rule, Mr K. Soden. St John's Mr K. Deane, Mr P. Tipton.

(Wardens) Miss P. Bickford, Mr A. Clark, Miss K. Harris. St Andrew's Mr D. Cooper, Mr P. Marsh. (Wardens) Mrs P. Beabey, Mrs D. Guy, Mr V. Hardcastle, Mr L. Hardy, Mr V. Smith, Mr J. Tomlin. St Barnabas Mr M. Matthew, Mr E. R. Pakenham-Walsh. (Wardens) Dr M. Archer, Mr Williams. St Margaret's, Mr B. A. Martyn-Johns, Mr E. Foster. (Wardens) Mrs D. Smith, Mrs J. Wright. Caversham Park Mr M. Chevallier, Mr M. Hollings, Mrs E. van Dort.

Over one hundred sidesmen were appointed for the different districts. The electoral roll now contains 1,143 names, an overall increase of thirty five for the year.

Mystery donor benefits St Peter's

A handsome legacy from an almost unknown benefactor is virtually a phenomenon nowadays. Recently, the District Wardens of St Peter's were startled to receive notice that a bequest of over £2,300 had been made to the church by a "Miss Steele" of whom little was known. As one with recollections of pre-World War Two days, I well remember this quiet lady who lived in a cosy bungalow in Kidmore Road, facing the Grosvenor House Hotel. She absolutely adored children, and it was around 1936 when she first took up teaching girls at St Peter's Sunday School under the supervision of Mrs Cooke. About two years later, the Boys' and Girls' Sunday Schools were re-organised following the retirement of Mr and Mrs E. C. Cooke, the superintendents of the respective departments and Mr Harbor deputy head of the boys. The assistant curate at the time, the Rev C. R. Willis was deployed in the task of

ANGLICAN NEWS

reforming the Sunday instruction. Miss Pam Steele and her close friend, the late Miss Barbara Chapman, who lived in nearby Highmoor Road were transferred to the Boys' Sunday School to fulfil the need for replacement teachers under the new superintendent, Mr Dawson. Equally popular with her class 2 boys she would occasionally invite them to her home and everyone came away with a big rosy apple from one of the trees in her small back garden orchard. She was truly a Miss Florence Nightingale in the eyes of hungry schoolboys.

The war came, the Sunday Schools for a while

an entry. He did rather wonder what would have happened if he had been seen in the process by a patrolling policeman. Prudence suggests that the precise method used should not be published. However it was found that a stiff piece of cardboard had fallen out of the cupboard, which stands at right angles to the vestry door, and the cupboard was firmly wedged open, and so the vestry door could open that mere two inches.

St John's was full on Palm Sunday evening, when the combined parish choirs sang there; and again on Easter Day when the church was

beautifully decorated with spring flowers.

On May 18 St John's was used when the Reading Methodist Circuit Women's Fellowship held their annual conference. They were joined by St John's Mothers Union for a celebration of Holy Communion in the church. Afterwards both organisations had tea at the Ardler Road Methodist Hall.

St Peter's wives

THE Wives' April meeting took the form of a Beetle Drive and it proved to be very enjoyable. A supper of pate, French bread and wine was served during the evening.



PETER SEAR

were disbanded, and little else seemed to have emerged about Miss Steele's whereabouts. It is known that from time to time she lived in other areas of the country and that she bequeathed her estate equally between the parishes where she had dwelt during her life time.

St John's notes

IT is very encouraging to report the Scout/Guide hut is in use. The Guides began to hold their meetings there on April 28. There is still a great deal of work to be done on the hut, the walls need cladding, the plumbing has to be installed etc. So the hard work of fund raising must continue. Thank you for the furniture which has already been given. Any future offers to telephone 474305.

When St John's vestry door would only open two inches, one district warden discovered a talent for burglary. After what seemed hours of uselessly poking very thin, flat, metal strips under the door, the warden restarted to 'forcing

Good Friday pilgrimage

130 children and adults from every part of Caversham took part in a Good Friday Pilgrimage around the parish of Swallowfield.

In turns they carried a cross on the five mile walk, stopping from time to time to think about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The cross was decorated with flowers and left behind at Farley Hill Chapel where the children had a short service and a hot-cross bun each before returning home.

Some of the children are seen here with the Rev John Sumner, the vicar of Swallowfield and until last year, priest-in-charge at St John's.

Mapledurham news

WITH the recent death of Mrs Ethel Watkins and the departure to Theale of Mrs Crocker, Mapledurham has lost two people who have spent long lives in the rural part of the parish.

Mrs Watkins had lived in her family home at Hodmore House for a very long time and she

will be greatly missed.

Mrs Crocker has moved to a flat in Theale with her husband and will no doubt find life a lot less tiring than it was in the Old Post Office. Mapledurham hopes both Mr and Mrs Crocker will have many happy years together in their new home and sends them their best wishes for the future.

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Visions

Of all the businesses one might start at this time of economic recession, a fancy goods shop seems a very uncertain thing. Or so I thought until I ventured inside Visions in Church Street — when I left a few minutes later there were already several customers in the shop. And well they might be, for Sue Saunders carries a range of beautiful goods most of which are well under £5. With small porcelain thimbles at little over £1, some very attractive china and glass items costing £2 to £5, slightly more expensive Isle of Wight Azurine glass (and if you've not come across this before go and have a look), pictures, Austrian bracelets and rings, there is something to suit most pockets. Just in case you are looking for something, say, for the man in your life, or a retirement gift, there is a fascinating, though expensive, line in glass sculpture. And for good measure delightful greetings cards comparing very favourably pricewise with the unimaginative ones on sale elsewhere.

What's more, it's a delight to talk to Sue who means to enjoy this new venture, doubtless she can be very business-like when necessary, but she's also happy to show people her stock and tell them about it. She hopes to fill a gap in Caversham shops and has

some interesting ideas. The one which appealed to me was that, with the cost and difficulty of postage in mind, she aims to stock many items which could be easily packaged — some indeed carry their own attractive gift boxes. I wish her every success; she's going to save me, at least, trips into Reading when the odd birthday comes round.

Prospect Street craft shop

At the time of going to press this shop is not yet open, so I've no idea of the cost of the attractive pottery and other goods at present being put on display, but I shall call on them too once they open. Like Sue they are advertising picture framing, but as far as I can see their stock will be somewhat different.

Calling all bridesmaids

I'm delighted that the current economic situation is not deterring one go-ahead young woman and to hear about the service which Barbara Scrase, a trained dressmaker from Emmer Green, is aiming to offer people in Berks, Bucks and Oxon. I'm not sure what they will call the business, or service as Barbara prefers to call it, but with weddings so much in the air they have decided to offer a fully

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

comprehensive service for young bridesmaids. Armed with leaflets, samples of Liberty and Laura Ashley prints, small silk floral bouquets from the local florists, dresses and patterns, Barbara is willing to be called in by any bride's mum (usually the person most concerned) and discuss the whole business of kitting out young bridesmaids, making dresses, dying shoes, etc, all the things which keep one running from pillar to post once the date is fixed. They hope to keep prices down and this should be possible at least in the case of children; though prepared to deal with outfits for older people, this may cost a little more because of the expense of extra fittings etc.

Now I know this isn't something you're going to need every day, but if you've a family wedding in the offing you'd do well to keep Barbara's phone number (476279) on hand.

Health foods

And that reminds me — I've just discovered that the greengrocers on the Emmer Green shopping precinct are stocking a wide range of health foods these days. Might save you an unnecessary journey into Reading. They have

also, I'm told, extended their range of flowers, plants, etc.

Dogs and cats

I recently met an attractive young lady with a fascinating, if not always easy, job. Did you know we had a dog warden in Reading? I didn't until the advent of a stray dog causing some trouble in our garden — judging by the way she dealt with the problem, she's a very competent — and tactful — lady, and one day I aim to pin her down and learn more about her work. Meanwhile if you've any problems with dogs, don't be afraid to get in touch with her through the civic offices. It seems there aren't many doggie problems she can't deal with.

And did you know that in the case of a missing

pet Radio 210 are only too happy to put out a call? Alas, our lovely little black Morgana is still missing at the time of going to press, but that's certainly not the fault of the rescue service, the local vets, the pet shop and our friendly neighbours, who've been keeping a weather eye open for her. People can be so nice about things like that.

Selling plants for a good cause

If you are thinking of getting a few plants this summer, you could well go round to 42 Priest Hill and buy some. When you get there you will find a beautifully kept garden with rocks and a pond and just inside the entrance various plants for sale. The garden belongs to Mr Urbanek and for several years he

has raised and sold plants for good causes, mostly for Cancer Research. In three years he has collected about three hundred and fifty pounds — a valiant effort.

Alas the recent severe winter has caused a great deal of loss among the plants in Mr Urbanek's greenhouse but this has not stopped him with his good work.

By the way, he would be very glad to have any plastic flower pots you don't want. Just leave them inside the garden. Paying for plant containers as well as peat and fertilisers takes away from any of the profits.

A bargain at 50p a year

The Youth and Recreation Wing of the Caversham Park Community Association Milestone Centre was officially opened at the end of 1981.

As its name suggests, it is designed to accommodate activities for young-

sters living on Caversham Park. The effort that went into building it would be wasted if there were no helpers to run youth activities. However there have been volunteers and the Milestone Club opens every weekday evening and some Sunday evenings for youngsters (aged 11 plus) — all for 50p a year, activity evenings 20p extra. Provision for children under eleven is covered by the After School Club.

As usual with this type of venture the work falls upon relatively few shoulders. If anyone can help with the general running of the clubs or in the Craft Room, Dave Gambrill (478659) would love to hear from them even if they don't live in Caversham Park.

It is another objective achieved and commitment undertaken by the enterprising Caversham Park Community Association which has done so much to foster a sense of community in the village.

TALKING POINT

BY THE REV T. MEAGHER

The Holy Father's visit

(1) In Prospect (a personal opinion)

"GO forth out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and out of thy father's house, and come into the land which I shall show thee, and I will make of thee a great nation" (Genesis XII, 1 and 2).

These words can be applied to our Polish Pope, and are words that echo in my mind as we prepare for his visit to our shores.

Until recently, I had been wondering whether I would be able to attend any of the functions being arranged for the Pope. Then there was a quickening of interest in the Parish; Cardiff, not Coventry is our venue. Even more surprisingly, the Diocese has appointed me to represent all its priests at the Pope's Mass in Westminster Cathedral on May 28.

The importance of the position of the Holy Father to the Catholic can be misrepresented, but it is something very precious. He was appointed, we believe, by Christ as the infallible teacher of the flock in matters of faith and morals; a little thought will show how necessary this gift is. But we should not expect anything "oracular" he will come as St Peter's successor to "confirm his brethren." I hope also that, like the good shepherd he will "seek out the stray and bind up the wounded."

Three reasons

There are three good reasons why our faith should be strengthened now:

(1) It seems very difficult, in these days of instant communication, to hold to the truth. "O Timothy," warns St Paul, "keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding the profane novelties of words and oppositions of knowledge so-called." Statements are made about faith in general, and the Catholic faith in particular which are totally

illogical. Modern irrationality is appalling.

(2) There is a gross misrepresentation of the Second Vatican Council. Commissions, etc, have proliferated, and enthusiastic young experts much more intolerant of others than any "conservative" look blankly at anyone who is not carried away on their tide of froth; such experts end up on a deserted beach with no water to tread.

(3) Consequently there is an "in" group of theologians solemnly meeting — apparently for ever — to discuss the most sensitive areas of difference between Catholics and Anglicans, engaging in what Dean Edward Norman rightly calls "ecumenical horse-trading" papery over the yawning gulfs with anodyne language, and forgetting that they have destroyed the subject that they are discussing. "Which some promising" goes on St Paul (loc. cit.) "have erred concerning the faith."

All this has been deeply disturbing to the Catholic, but parallel to this is the horrible breakdown of morals. Instead of "keep the Commandments" we have "thou shalt not smoke or drink" as the modern taboos.

Not a moment too soon

Pope John Paul II, you come not a moment too soon! To all his people, and to very many outside his communion, he is a big man. He has experienced a great deal in his life and he radiates love. His philosophy of life, which sees all in relationship to his faith, is the same as ours, but he lives it much better and expresses it more eloquently. He will show his great love for all his fellow men, and will, no doubt,

leave us with much to think about, to pray about and to put into practice in our lives once more.

For this to happen, our preparation must be wholehearted. At St Anne's we are holding some big ceremonies; a Mass for the Sick, a Mass at the Cemetery and Processions of Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament; but also a series of special Masses on Wednesdays and a day of Exposition on May 2. We will pray the Novena leading up to his arrival.

Where, might you ask, in all this is the great ecumenical act, the father will make of us "a spectacular."? I hope that great people."

people do not **always** think like this. Especially do I hope that the Pope's visit will not be seen as a "nine days' wonder." The primary effect **must** be spiritual, and we must all hope that we will accept his message to be better Catholics and better human beings. This is much more likely to have a lasting effect on ourselves and on others; for "example is better than precept," and despite what I wrote about logic, we are reminded by Cardinal Newman that "no one is converted by syllogisms."

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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 Cathedral

Tuesday, June 29, St Peter's Day: 8pm Parish Communion, The Right Rev Patrick Rodger, Bishop of Oxford

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CHANGE
 "WE foresee Caversham remaining predominantly residential but with existing shopping and warehouse/industrial areas remaining as at present." This virtually sums up the

view of the Borough Planning Committee regarding Caversham, according to its chairman, Thames Councillor Brian Fowles, when he spoke at the annual meeting of Caversham Residents' Association. Not that

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

this represents no change at all, and indeed, by the time the New Ideal Homes and Regal sites have been developed, there will be a considerable change to the face of Caversham. However, tower blocks, either for offices or flats, are unlikely to appear and the Church Street-Prospect Street area is to remain as a shopping area.

Councillor Fowles spoke of the eventual re-building of the Caversham Bridge Hotel when the lease of the present building runs out, something which has been

ing such as is appearing in Oxford Road, an immense block of identical cells towering massively over its surroundings.

Anyone who has tried to book a hotel room in Reading, knows the difficulty of doing so. However, although an enlarged Caversham Bridge Hotel may make life easier for those who are staying in Reading for business purposes, it will not necessarily help those who are seeking private accommodation to put up visiting guests for family occasions. Prices at the Ramada

although its tower and the fascinating pattern of its ridge tiles seen against the sky will never be repeated. So perhaps the time has come for it to go and be replaced by smaller units, though Councillor Fowles put in a plea for the retention of its lodge, and local residents have called for strong action to be taken to protect its trees. Avenue House, further along Upper Warren Avenue, is also under threat of demolition from Berkshire County Council, whose Social Services Department

field. It has also improved a building for which there seemed no future. We wish this venture every success.

Amidst all the controversy as to whether the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church should be extensively repaired or not, one point was missed. Pevsner, in his series "Buildings of England" describing Caversham as "a depressing suburb of Reading" (how dare he!) nevertheless commends this church as "quite ambitious," praise indeed, and considers its "stepped gables, small side tower and gothic windows" worthy of mention. Another reason for keeping it.

renamed St Barnabas ward. They have a point. It always was an inappropriate name, with the real Peppard only a mile or so up the road. The Borough however does not like St Barnabas, and would prefer to call it Emmer Green. The snag is that the ward comprises more than Emmer Green, just as St Barnabas's Church, in the physical sense at least, is only a very small part of the whole ward. As comments had to be in by May 17, all those of you with far brighter ideas for a name are unfortunately too late.

And talking of deadlines, the large and detailed Central Reading Structure Plan will be out for public consultation in July and August. It is such a large document that understandably with present financial strictures, copies are not available for interested bodies. But what organisations are going to be able to make meaningful comments on its during July and August, when most of them are either closed or suffering from reduced attendance? The plan has been gestating for heaven-knows how many years. Why this sudden last minute rush? Unfortunately it is not the first time this kind of thing has happened.

BUREAUCRACY

The Boundary Commission, busily beavering away at its never-ending tasks, is now matching up the County Electoral Division with the Borough Wards, which on the whole means no change, except that it has recommended that Peppard Ward be

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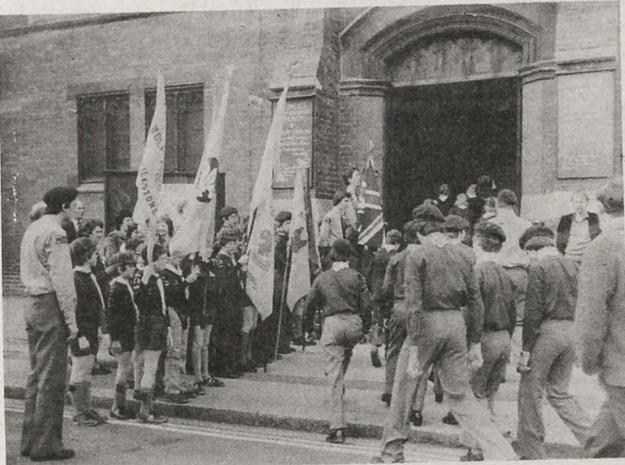
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■ Cubs and Scouts from the North Reading District going into St Paul's United Reformed Church for their St George's Day Parade on April 25. — JOHN NOTTON

on the cards for some time. His view that the riverside frontage at least should be retained found a sympathetic response with his audience, who felt with him that it blended pleasingly with its site. No one wanted, or if they did they kept quiet, a Ramada type of build-

and similar hotels may be acceptable for those staying on expense accounts but are somewhat prohibitive when being paid for out of one's own pocket. We could find the new Caversham Bridge Hotel offering less services than the present rather ageing (though not Olde Worlde) building does.

VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN HERITAGE

One of Caversham's delights are its late Victorian and Edwardian houses, solidly built yet each with its own characteristic flight of fancy. Most of these if not too large have with a little modernisation become useful family houses. Others have converted happily into flats. A few are, however, suitable for neither, and although Chiltern Court in St Peter's Avenue has survived as well maintained offices, this is not a precedent that should be repeated and anyhow is still not practicable in all cases. Warren Towers is a case point. It is a large rambling building, of no particular architectural merit,

has previously been putting it to good use. Reading Borough Council are not happy about the proposal to replace it with houses as they think it is a particularly good example of its kind on the escarpment. Again, if they cannot save the house they would like to see retention of the lodge, and of course the trees.

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A HUNDRED YEARS ON

AS the months roll on and the Reading Borough Council nears annual Mayor Making day, when a new council year starts it seems the right time to assess what success, if any, has attended the deliberations of our chosen representatives.

Somewhere in the vaults of the Civic Centre—if so modern and functional a building can lay claim to vaults—there are several pictures of the Reading Town Council in the late Victorian days. There they stand, in the Council Chamber of the Old Town Hall, resplendent in their heavy robes, bewhiskered, bewatch-chained and most probably, bespatted, the very models of Victorian worthiness and civic pride. What—I wonder—would they make of their successors some hundred years later.

Really, I don't think there is all that much difference. In those days our Councillors were drawn mainly from the successful businessmen and traders, with a garnishing of local gentry whose probable distinction was that they need not soil their hands with trade, and jolly good luck to them! But also there were, I'm sure, one or two radicals, levellers and perhaps even a follower of that dangerous socialist fellow, Keir Hardie. We would like to think that the debates in the chamber of 1890 could be as lively and rumbustious as some of our meetings today.

Which brings us back to this year of grace and what it has brought to the welfare of the

Borough. Thanks to the political set up which has resulted in a "hung council" (no bad jokes about they ought all to be hanged please) there has been a brake on the potential excesses of any side. The two main protagonists, Socialist and Conservative, have followed their fairly predictable lines and the fat pig-in-the-middle, the Liberals, have been able to command events in a way hardly justified by their numbers. But this bears out the only true version of democratic politics as the art of the possible, and the voters have probably got the sort of council they deserve.

As to comparison with their forebears of the end of the last century, today's Councillors may look very different. They don't wear robes and watchchains, more likely T-shirts and jeans, and (shades of the immortal Alderman Foodbottom) there are quite a number of ladies to show that city mothers can call the tune as well as city fathers. It has to be a reasonably short tune nowadays because a very good rule has been introduced limiting supporting speeches to five minutes, the strict enforcement of which has the effect of concentrating the mind most wonderfully and constraining councillors from too obvious a delight in their own verbosity.

The coming year will see the run-up to the Council Elections, the first for four years and this too will concentrate the minds of our representatives. All three parties will be vying with each other to claim the

credit for popular policies and escape the blame for the unpopular—always the majority, in this fallible world.

We can only say, with sober Victorian impartiality "May the best men—or women—win."

Over the past few years I have written about the work done by the Community Health Council. This is a voluntary body

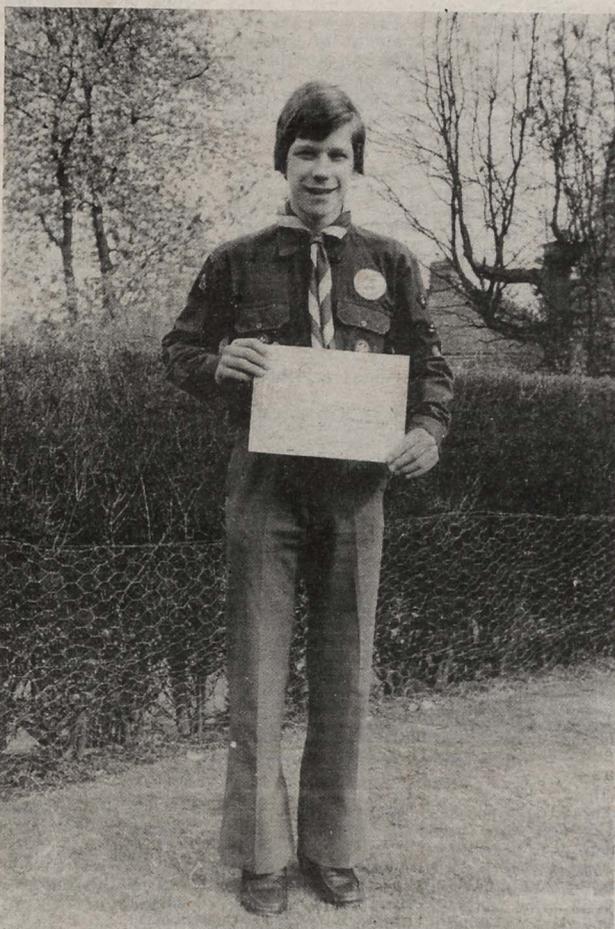
of twenty four members drawn from various sources such as local District Councils, established organisations such as the Red Cross,

the National Health Service. Soon there will be a re-organisation of the establishments linked with the NHS, but the CHC is to remain to fulfil its role as 'patients' friend' and the importance of this link in the chain is well recognised. There are a few seats on the Council available to individuals who don't represent any particular association, and three vacancies remain to be filled. If any readers would like to take part in

this work, which involves visiting local hospitals, or joining one of the groups specialising in

maternity welfare, the mentally handicapped or the disabled, they can apply for consideration by writing to: The Administrator, Regional Health Authority, Old Road, Headington, Oxford, stating their individual interest in the National Health Service.

By Zoilus



— PETER SEAR

CHIEF SCOUT AWARD

IAN Cleare from the 3rd Reading (St Peter's), Scout troop with his Chief Scout Award. The award—the first for the 3rd Reading troop—is the highest award in scouting, and can only be achieved with hard work. To qualify for the award Ian had to complete canoe and mountain walking expeditions, and he has been decorating rooms at the Heathcroft Hostel for mentally handicapped children in Emmer Green.

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SOME time ago I spent a very interesting afternoon talking to the late Mr William Chamberlain of Emmer Green, who at the time was possibly the oldest living person to have been born and lived nearly all his life there. Mr

Chamberlain's father, also William, was born in Emmer Green too, but his grandfather originated from Hampstead Norris, moving to the outskirts of Caversham around the middle of the eighteen hundreds.

THE OLD BRICK KILN, EMMER GREEN

It was from Mr Chamberlain that I learnt a lot more about the Emmer Green brick kiln, for in 1906 he left the little local school at the age of thirteen and went to work there, and he remembered clearly life at the brickyard. Apparently it was a summertime occupation and between ten and twelve thousand bricks were made there each day. Doing piecework a team of nine men could produce a thousand bricks a day and for this each man was paid sixpence. A working day was from 6am till 6pm with three quarters of an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. If you were on piece work, however, you kept on until 7pm. On a Saturday work finished at noon.

The claypits lay behind the kiln works and huge pits were dug out to a depth of some twenty feet. Below that a layer of chalk was reached. The clay was loaded on to little trucks which ran on rails to

the brickyard. Here it was put into a crushing machine to grind up any stone. It was then transferred to a mixer and from here it came out in long bars of clay the thickness of a brick. A hand cutting machine operated by the men cut the lengths of clay into nine bricks at a time. A barrow load was thirty six bricks.

Tiles were also made at the yard and it was on the tile making machine that Mr Chamberlain first worked before going on to make bricks.

There was also a potter up at the kiln and he made ornamental flower pots and gargoyles. Two of the latter can still be seen on the post office. Mr Chandler was the potter and his shed was filled with a variety of moulds from which he

many bricks were used in Caversham houses? Mr Chandler was a kindly man and allowed any interested worker to use the moulds in the dinner hour and many of the men made their own pots which they fired in the kiln and were allowed to keep. Not only was there a brick kiln at Emmer Green, but also a lime kiln, because chalk was plentiful as well as clay. Both Mr Chamberlain's father and grandfather worked in the nearby chalk quarries using candles to light up the darkness in which they worked. Mr Chamberlain remembers his father telling him that one man-made cavern was so large you could drive a horse and cart round in it. When I mentioned the "swallow hole" at Dunsden he felt it could have

about Emmer Green. Once there were six thatched cottages around the pond, which was then much larger. The water supply does not appear to have been as difficult as I was once led to believe. It appears that many groups of houses had a well each and there was also a spring near the pond. The local laundry had a large well. Mr Chamberlain's father was himself a well digger, no doubt his work in the chalk quarry would have given him experience in this specialised occupation.

owner and a brick maker himself. A relation, Mr William Dormer, was a brick-layer.

1844 The kiln changed hands and was owned by Mr John Leach (no doubt a member of the well known Caversham family).

1864 John Leach still owned the kiln at Emmer Green and also one in Reading. The brick kiln cottages (still standing) were built in John's time and he was actually advertising as a builder.

1884 The kiln now owned by Ebenezer Ward.

1891 Mr Brewerton took over the works.

1915 The firm now called Brewerton and Stevens. It was to remain as such till 1928.

1931 No more records.

These notes were given to me by Mr Chris Redfern who lives in one of the kiln cottages and has become most interested in the origins of his house. I am very grateful for the information from his research. M.K.

My afternoon with Mr Chamberlain was one I shall not forget. In his talk he portrayed for me a world I had never known and one, even if it was a good deal less comfortable, which was far more tranquil and unhurried. Something we miss today. It was good to hear about it and record it.

After my meeting with Mr Chamberlain I was given even more information on the kiln which I pass on to anyone who is interested.

1842 Mr Francis Dormer was the

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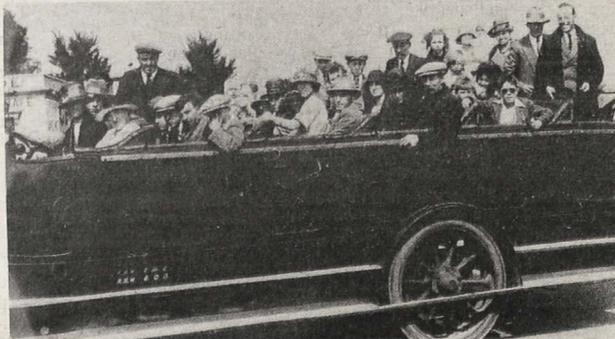
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Emmer Green folk at Southsea enjoying a day's outing there around 1930.

worked. How many of the red brick ferns, scrolls and strange heads that decorate Victorian and Edwardian houses in Caversham were made by Mr Chandler at Emmer Green? How

been made by more quarrying in early centuries.

To Southsea by charabanc, 12mph

As I sat with Mr Chamberlain that October afternoon it wasn't only to talk about the brick kiln. I heard how he had joined the Royal Navy in 1911 to become a member of one of the earliest submarine crews. After World War I it was back to Emmer Green where he was to marry and remain with his family. He told me about Sunday outings to the cherry orchards of Stoke Row by horse and carriage when happy times were spent having picnics and perhaps picking, but certainly buying, cherries. He remembered also a day trip to Southsea around 1930. It was organised by Mr Jack Parker, the local police constable, and it was a most exciting occasion for transport was a charabanc and as it could only go 12mph it took a long time to get there and back.

As we talked I learnt a little more

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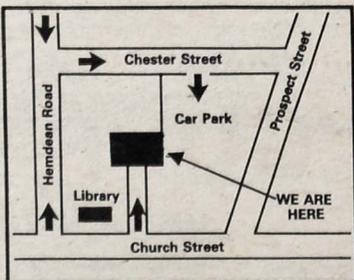
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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

The month started with a visit to The Redgrave Theatre, Farnham to see "The Cat and the Canary" followed by supper in an hotel in Hartley Wintney. The club closed for the Easter break, but resumed for the 40th birthday party, when the members were given tea and entertained on the piano by Mrs Burden.

The competition was an Easter bonnet, and there were several marvellous creations paraded. The three prizes of Easter eggs were won by first Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Leach and Mrs Franklin. The St Andrews Senior Guides presented each member with a bouquet of spring flowers and helped to serve the tea and distribute the birthday cake afterwards. Altogether a very happy afternoon.

Caversham WI Market

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the WI Market Stalls Society. It was started in the days of the great depression in the early thirties and enabled people to sell garden produce, cream, butter, eggs, etc. It grew from small beginnings into the nationwide organisation of today. Caversham is celebrating its third birthday

this month and to mark this there will be a display of some of their goods in the window of the South of England Building Society, Prospect Street from Monday, June 21, for two weeks.

The market is held every Friday morning from 9.30-11am and the organisers are always looking for new producers and new customers. You do not have to be a WI member to participate and both men and women are welcome.

Caversham Ladies' Club

The April meeting was the usual Easter party. The tables were laid when the members arrived, and the Easter cake suitably decorated, made by Mrs Wellstead. The competition was an edible necklace, and the first prize was won by Mrs Baker, the second by Mrs Weal, and the third Mrs Glanfield. Tea was served by the Committee, and each member on leaving was given the traditional new laid egg.

Caversham Women's Institute

Plenty of colour was the theme of the April meeting when Mrs Hilda Adair, the president, welcomed Mrs Thelma Evans who demonstrated her art of painting on stones, after which she invited members to try

their skill at this hobby.

The competition cup was presented to Mrs Lily Hensley for gaining the most points over the past year.

The flower of the month was won by Mrs Doris Gillett.

Before the conclusion of a very happy and interesting evening a warm welcome was extended to Mrs Honor who became a new member.

Chazey WI

A new evening WI has been formed in the Mapledurham area. The meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at the Mapledurham Pavilion, off the Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, starting at 8pm. A celebratory meeting is planned for June with a talk about patchwork, homemade dolls and decorated eggs, to be followed by wine and cake.

The first president is Mrs Marjorie McCombe and anyone wishing to join will be most welcome.

Emmer Green

Townswomen's Guild

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their April meeting at Emmer Green Primary School. "Reminiscences of an Ambulance Driver" was the title of this month's talk given by Mr H. D. Morris. He started his career in 1929 when he got his St John's certificate and joined the Ambulance Service in 1948 until 1956. Some of his stories were very humorous, and some very sad, but told by Mr Morris all were very interesting. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs E. Fuller. A donation from the proceeds of the jumble sale was sent to the Sue Ryder Home.

Caversham Heights

The Easter period with members on holiday accounted for fewer than usual attending the April meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild.

Those who did attend were fortunate to hear a delightful talk given by Mrs Thomas on the history and meaning of icons. Many examples were exhibited and, from the variety asked, it was evident that great interest was shown in the subject.

Blagrave WI

The president, Mrs J. Price, welcomed three visitors from Mapledurham and five new members at the April meeting. Members listened with interest to an amusing talk given by Mr and Mrs Dean on their WI visit to North America and Canada in the autumn of last year, which was well illustrated with a colourful display of photographs and pressed leaves.

The competition for "A decorated egg" was won by Mrs P. Price, second Mrs Housden and third Mrs Popplewell. The raffie prize, given by Mrs Standlike was won by Mrs Hines.

Maplewood WI

It was an open meeting in April, designed to attract new members. Mrs Susan Hill, Hon treasurer of Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes, explained the aims of the movement. It all started way back in 1897 in the small town of Stoney Creek, Canada. Now it is world-wide. There was the delegate's report on the spring council meeting at the Hexagon. An exhibition of smocking excited great interest, and it may be possible to organise a class in this handicraft.

Caversham Community Association

The first meeting in April was for a Movement and Music evening with Peggy Pilkington and her ladies from the Fir Tree Club. The movements are based on remedial exercises carefully chosen by Mrs Pilkington to perform with suitable music. Later in the evening the club members were invited to join the visitors in their routines and did their best to emulate their graceful example.

On April 19 the birthday party of the club was celebrated with a Barn Dance. A delicious smell of cooking pervaded the clubroom when the members arrived and the supper of sausages, beefburgers, chips and beans was very tasty. Birthday cakes were made by May Plant and Evelyn Cook and decorated by Madia Feast. Stan Warren was the MC and caller at the Barn Dance and soon had the members organised for the dances. Mr Warren also gave a nimble display of dancing during the interval. The committee's work in arranging such an enjoyable evening was appreciated.

Mrs G. Weal, the President of the club, opened the Annual General meeting on April 26. In the chairman's report Mrs Muriel Waite said that the club had had an eventful year and was settling down in their new premises. Officers re-elected were Mrs Muriel Waite as chairman, Mrs Madia Feast as secretary and Mrs Florence Haig as treasurer.

Rosehill WI

Mrs Seaby, vice-president, welcomed members to the April meeting when the new committee

was presented. After the usual business, and reports of rambling, craft and scrabble activities, Mrs Evans gave a most fascinating talk about her hobby "Painting on stones," how she started after a long

childhood illness. She showed many lovely examples of her work and encouraged quite a number to have a go. There was also an exhibition of interesting stones found by members.

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LINK GROUP

The first item discussed at the April meeting was "Future aims." Mrs Doreen Bennett said the group was an off-shoot from Family Festival a few years ago, formed to help local charities. It soon became clear that money was not enough. One had to give time and understanding. However, this subject will be discussed again. Meanwhile, the idea of a day centre in Caversham where people of all ages can meet for tea or coffee and companionship is to be tentatively explored.

Mrs Lynda Bates, chairman, gave her report, and said the recent "Good as new sale" raised approximately £430. Everyone was thanked for their hard work. Mr Eric Crutchley deserved a special "thank you" for his work as treasurer on these occasions. Then Miss Celia Beck, the group's treasurer, gave her report.

There were no reports from members who liaise with local charities. No other business, and the meeting ended.

Caversham Players

The group would like to invite interested persons to become patrons who would receive regular news letters informing them of forthcoming productions and social activities, and would enjoy priority booking of reserved seats for all performances. The fee payable would be £1 per annum, or £2 for all the family.

The Players have entered a one-act play "The Cottage at Edmonton," written and directed by Allan Bliss, in the Tilehurst, Shinfield and Woodley Festivals. This play and another produced

by a different company will be performed in St Andrew's Hall on Saturday, June 12 at 7.30pm. At this performance those attending will have the opportunity of becoming patrons for the 1982/3 season.

Tickets for the June 12 performance, 90p for adults and 60p for children, students and senior citizens, can be obtained from members of Caversham Players, including Ken Tillman who will also be pleased to advise those who would like to be patrons. Ken's telephone number is 475711.

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

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion (not on 4th Sunday)
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
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 June 6 or 27)

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

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6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

Caversham
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6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
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11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

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Mapledurham House
6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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BAPTISED

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April 25 — Andrew Duncan, Luke Wyndham-Gittens

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
April 25 — Marion Leitch, Danielle Leitch

St Anne's
April 18 — Madeleine Hamilton, Matthew Lines,
April 25 — Sophie Lehar

MARRIED

St Peter's
April 17 — Malcolm Lucas and Susan Jelliffe
April 24 — David Wills and Anne-Marie Coombes
May 1 — Richard Franklin and Gillian Ansell

Caversham Heights Methodist Church
April 3 — Martin Dodge and Susan Watret
April 17 — Mark Godowski and Sarah Patey

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
March 13 — Ian Orme and Tina Willis

St Anne's
April 3 — Stephen O'Sullivan and Mary Batley

April 16 — John Philip and Mary O'Kane

April 24 — David Walters and Sandra Wallis

FUNERALS

St Peter's
April 20 — Gertrude Cox
April 27 — Amy Wiltshire

St John's
May 14 — Raymond Turner

St Andrew's
April 13 — Ethel Butcher

Caversham Heights Methodist Church
March 23 — Richard Leach
April 23 — Kathleen Nagle

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
April 22 — Christine Wright

St Anne's
February 23 — John Reilly
March 7 — Patrick Rattigan
April 1 — Edwin Dunston
April 19 — Kenneth Horne



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Caversham Park House Communion

Wednesday's at 10.30am

June 2 — 20 Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)

June 9 — 6 Eynsford Close (Vera Wilson)

June 16 — 8 Kirkham Close (Ros Elvin)

June 23 — 7 Ilchester Mews (Geraldine Ashton)

June 30 — 17 Odiham Avenue (Liz Beckett)

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the April meeting account of the bow fronted book shop, before the fire, with its musty smells, second hand books and the ghost of William Penn until today's rebuilt modern, well stocked shop. The Federation report was given by Mrs D. Smith, with her was the new delegate Mrs D. Stockwell. The television quiz was won by Mrs R. Noyes.

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