

P.C. PETER TOWNER

IT is always very reassuring to see a policeman on the beat. Although the policing system has altered considerably in the past 15 years, it is still possible to spot the local bobby. There are three in the Caversham area, on cycle beat, and the longest serving of these is P. C. Peter Towner.

Peter Towner is a local boy. He was born 37 years ago in the then Maternity Hospital in Peppard Road, went to Caversham Nursery School, then Caversham Primary. After 2 years in the Grove School, he passed the 13 plus exam and transferred to Alfred Sutton School, leaving at 17 with 8 "O" levels. He lived over the shop which his parents ran at the corner of Westfield Road. His father died in 1961 and his mother continued alone for another 6 years before retiring to Balmore Drive. Peter was a devoted son until his mother's death last year.

Six months on a building site to fill in the time before he could be accepted as a Police Cadet was an eye opener. He said that if he had continued for 3 years in that sort of work he would have been better equipped, not only in finding out more about the labouring life but also to help him in his own home maintenance!

Training

So at 17½ Peter joined the Berkshire Constabulary as a cadet. For the first 18 months he was at Pangbourne and then at branch HQ at Sulhamstead. Then a year at Windsor. By now Peter was thinking of marrying, and at that time in the Berks Constabulary, PCs were expected to live in police quarters, but as Peter wanted his own house, he transferred to the Reading Borough Police Force, where this was possible. He then married ("the best thing that has ever happened to me") and the couple then moved to their first home off Chiltern Road.

Bravery

Immediately before he transferred to Reading, Peter Towner was on push bike beat by the river at Windsor when four youngsters got into difficulties. It was February and the river was in flood. The boys had been training for a canoe race when the racing current capsized them. Two lives were saved and for his efforts Peter was awarded a commendation by the Royal Humane Society.

Reading

At the time of his joining the Reading Force, 24 constables were on parade at a time, before going off on foot and cycle patrol in Reading. This was in 1967. Traffic cars were doing the rest of the police work. Then in 1968 came the amalgamation of several forces to make up the Thames Valley Police Force. Although this helped as far as pooling of money and resources went, the public could well have suffered as it did take men from the beat. But it was essential to have the specialised groups that were then formed. The crime squad was



■ P. C. Towner on his beat in Peppard Road.

— E. S. ARCHER

Clergy and Ministers of Caversham

ANGLICAN

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

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

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

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

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

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

BAPTIST

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

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

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The Rev Philip Lee-Bapty, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

new, the crime prevention squad, motorway police, collators, the juvenile bureau. All these were manned by the same number of police, so inevitably the beat suffered.

By now, Peter was driving a Panda car in the Oxford Road area. He then had a spell in CID which he did not enjoy, finding it soul destroying and a great strain on married life. He preferred his 18 months in the HQ Patrol room. Then he was in Caversham, in a Panda car, the first time he had worked in his home district. It was when neighbours complained about vandalism in a derelict house in Peppard Road that he first saw it, bought it, restored and renovated it to the attractive home it is today, and he lives there happily with his wife Babs and their two children, Mark and Helen.

Caversham

Five years ago the local PC in East Caversham left and Peter Towner asked if he could take over the area. He has enjoyed it ever since.

He spends his duty time on cycle beat. He follows up on local enquiries from the Central HQ. He follows up complaints from the public. He has an eye on children to and from school. He is eternally vigilant for parking misdemeanours. He overlooks unoccupied houses. He goes into many schools and playgroups, just to show them that a policeman is just like any other man. Some of the 3-4 year olds have been terrified at the sight of him, but once he has settled down with them, drawn a picture or told a story, he gains their confidence and all fear leaves. At primary school level there are set guide lines covering road safety, safety in the home and in water, and reminders to beware of strangers. He even has to talk about crime, as much petty pilfering starts at an early age and he tries to explain that everyone should be involved to try and stamp it out. A film strip is also available to help in this preventive work. All this keeps him in constant touch with a wide range of people.

Peter hasn't much time for hobbies. He has played badminton and has taken a car maintenance course but his main interest is gardening, and he grows sweet peas to show standard, and does as much of his own home maintenance as he can.

Peter has never made promotion. In the early days, 4 years' experience in the job was necessary before exams could be taken. He failed, on the last occasion by only one mark. Then legislation altered and he found it difficult to change to the new and decided he was happy enough as he was. This has by no means soured him — his only criticism of the force is that they are quick to criticise and slow to praise. He has tremendous job satisfaction as a constable and much higher up the ladder would only increase the paper work and lessen the contact with people, and this he likes. He really loves to be accessible to everyone and this is shared by the two other constables in the Caversham area, Peter Stratton and Tim Small. Make the most of them.

M.B.

Local archaeological groups

IN recent years many Caversham people have joined the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group which meets at Langtree School, Woodcote. Lectures are held monthly and talks on Carthage, Saxon coins and the Littlecote Mosaic are planned for this winter. Members take part in excavations, field walking and more distant excursions. A regular messenger and occasional bulletin are published. If anyone is interested in joining, the secretary is Mr Charles Nankivell, of 24 Dukes Ride, Silchester.

Another group which will probably interest some of our readers is the Berkshire Field Research Group which has been dormant for several years but now has a keen new secretary, Steve Ford of 78 Watlington Street, Reading, who is trying to revive it. When you read this a meeting will already have taken place in the Abbey Gateway and an excavation started in

Maidenhead Thicket. Future excavation and field work projects are planned; it is hoped that members will see each project through to publication and perhaps publish results of the group's earlier activities. Reading University will hold a day school on Berkshire archaeology on 5th March 1983. Through the winter many evening classes on different aspects of archaeology will be held in Reading and Woodcote.

AWARD TO ELLIOTTS

19 employees of Elliott's took part in a sponsored swim for the British Heart Foundation. They collected more sponsors than any other firm and raised £402. As a result a shield was presented to Elliotts by Mrs Wilson of the British Heart Foundation. Well done Elliotts. Can you make it £500 next year?

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

THE group would like to extend their thanks to everybody who helped in any way towards the sweet stall which made £125. The Summer Fair overall made £4,000.

Two new ventures this year are the Book Sale on October 30th at Church House and the Christmas Fair on November 27th at the Old Town Hall. At the Book Sale Sue Ryder Christmas gifts and cards will be available. At the Christmas Fair the group is responsible for serving refreshments all day.

Any offers of books and particularly anybody willing to give us two or three hours on November 27th to help, will be very gladly received by Mrs A. Deane, tel. 473798.

The Editor's Column

An open letter to Mr A. Durant MP

Dear Tony,

You invite comment on your article on Church and Parliament in last month's Caversham Bridge. I will not be editing this paper for many more months so I will accept your invitation to comment. But first I would like to acknowledge my appreciation of your ready response to so many letters from me over the years, and to say how I for one have been grateful for your concern in particular with the problems of the Third World, and your interest in such organisations as Amnesty International. For this reason I find some of what you say in your article rather surprising.

Let us first clear away some misunderstandings. If a few individuals choose to rewrite part of the National Anthem it is nothing to do with the Church of England as such. A great many other hymns have at different times been altered — whether for better or worse is a matter of individual opinion. You also mention the report of the working party on nuclear weapons and refer to its having been published. It may have been published by the time this appears in print but when you wrote (and when I am now writing) it has not been. While I expect you would agree with me in deploring leaks, whether of Government proposals or Church working parties, I believe it is wiser to avoid comment until one has a chance to read the actual document, rather than a small section in a press leak: those who publish 'leaks' are often trying to create a sensation for sensation's sake.

So far as the Falkland's Commemorative Service is concerned about which you express uneasiness, it was of course, not as you suggest, a Church of England, but a fully ecumenical occasion, and the letter post of those who took part seems to have been overwhelmingly one of approval, not least from many of the families of the bereaved. The Archbishop's sermon was perhaps all the more remarkable coming from one who won the M.C. in the war. We must wait and see but it may well be that the Falklands war will prove to have been a turning point in the thinking of Christians as a whole about the question of a just war.

Both

But you ask one very important question. You say "Is the Church about human relationships, forgiveness, loving and man's inner self or soul, or is it about his social security, his housing and foreign policy?" The answer clearly can only be is that it is about **both**, for these things are inseparable and human relationships and loving implies

concern for other people's security and housing. Christianity is concerned about all life. The modern state, whether left or right wing, legislates about more and more departments of our daily life; and as it does this, the Church naturally has a duty to speak about those issues which the State concerns itself with. These indeed are matters about which the Christian wants guidance; and the Church was after all concerned with such matters as social security, housing and education long before governments turned their attention to such matters: and although you and I would be critical of many things about the medieval papacy, we must recognise it was often the dominant factor in relations between states.

Speaking out

I must make one final point. I would agree with you in valuing the Establishment. But Establishment must not mean that the Church is not free to speak out and the Established Church of Scotland seems often to have expressed the mind of Scotland better than the more distant parliament at Westminster. But freedom to speak out is not really tied up with the question of the establishment. There are two glaring examples in the history of this century where a Church has failed to speak. The Russian Orthodox Church must take part of the blame for the Communist revolution because over a long period it adopted a pietistic approach and saw Christianity as an escape from the world. The Lutheran Church in Germany failed to speak out and had it done so in the early days of Hitler it would almost certainly have prevented the massacre of the Jews. If you look at the calendar of the saints it contains the names of many who took a stand against the civil powers. We must not forget our Thomas a Becket.

The Church in this country seems to be speaking out more than in the past. That speaking will not be to everyone's liking but it will be a sad day when there is no prophetic voice. You say we all wish to create a successful Church and Parliament. By all means have your successful Parliament, but I shrink from the idea of a successful Church. I find nothing in the Bible about success. I do however find that it is required of us that we be faithful and in the world as it is success and faithfulness are not very likely to go together.

J. S. Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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LINK GROUP

THE Group resumed their monthly meetings in September. Members were welcomed by Mrs Audrey Preston, who gave her report. Regrettably, the outing to Wisley Horticultural Gardens had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. Twelve children from MENCAP were taken on a visit to the Wellington Country Park. Hosts and guests had a very happy time together, sampling the various delights provided at the park. There was a barbecue lunch. The cooks were kept very busy satisfying healthy appetites. Soft drinks, biscuits, sweets and fresh fruit were

also appreciated. The financial report was submitted by Miss Celia Beck, treasurer. There is a healthy cash balance. A request for voluntary help at a residential home for unmarried mothers (aged 16-18 years) and their babies, was discussed. Further details will be obtained in time for the October meeting. The chairman submitted a suggestion for an Ecumenical lunch. A provisional date of **15 January, 1983**, was recorded and the secretary, Mrs Pat Jenkins will make enquiries about a suitable venue. LINK Group would welcome new

members. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday in the month. So, ladies and gentlemen, if you have a little time to spare and are interested, would you please contact the chairman, Mrs Audrey Preston, telephone Reading 477815, or the secretary, Mrs Pat Jenkins, on Reading 478502. The November meeting has been arranged to take place at 195 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, by courtesy of Mrs Mary Bramwell. Date, Monday 22.11.82, time 7.50pm. Coffee is served before the evening's business starts.

Nicholas 1982 1882

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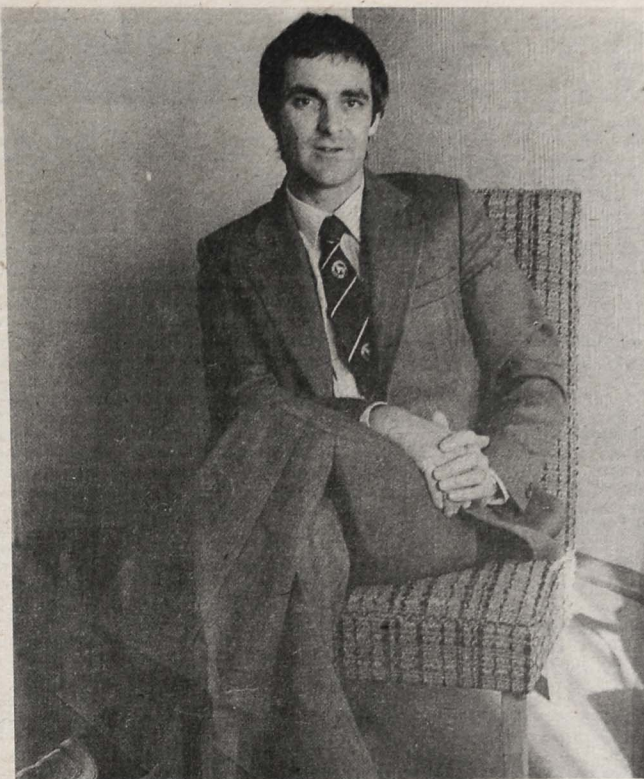
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TWO NEW HEADMASTERS



— E. S. ARCHER

MR Peter Sullivan has succeeded Mr G. W. Haysom as Head Teacher at Caversham Park Primary School. Mr Sullivan comes from Ulster where he has been teaching in Primary schools for sixteen years; he has also been a lecturer in primary education at the new university of Ulster. Mr Sullivan is married with a two year old daughter.



E. S. ARCHER

Mr Allen Hyland is the new Head Teacher of the Hill Primary School. After teaching in Hampshire and Kent schools Mr Hyland moved eight years ago to Berkshire and has recently taught at Falkland C.P. school, Wash Common, Newbury. He is particularly interested in youth work.

Scout camp COUNSELLORS NEEDED

TO celebrate seventy-five years of Scouting, the 3rd Reading St Peter's Scout Group held a special summer camp this year. The twenty-seven scouts and leaders camped from the 31st July until 9th August, the dates chosen by Lord Baden Powell for his first camp on Brownsea Island exactly seventy-five years ago. The camp was at Broadstone Warren in Sussex, a superb wooded site run by the Scout Association.

The nine days were packed with a wide range of exciting activities. Cooking was mainly on wood fires and activities included a whole day of rock climbing, training on the erection of hike tents, building of outdoor shelters and proper use of knives and axes. Visits included the Warnham Museum, the Bluebell Railway, Bodiam Castle, an interesting engineering at Hove and an afternoon at Brighton!

Boys aged eight to twenty who would like to join a flourishing Scout group associated with St Peter's, should in the first instance contact the Group Scout Leader, Dr Peter Asquith at 14 St Peter's Avenue (tel. 479691) who would also be interested to hear from adults who would like to join an active group of leaders.

READING Marriage Guidance Council is badly in need of more counsellors. Selection standards are high and the commitment is a substantial one but the satisfactions too are considerable. Volunteers should be between the age of 25 and 50; the training is spread over two years. When trained counsellors are asked to be prepared to spend a minimum of six hours a week seeing clients. Anyone interested in this very important piece of voluntary social work is asked to contact the Secretary of the Council (phone Reading 57283 10am-4pm Monday-Friday)

CHURCHPERSONS LUNCHEON CLUB

STARTED originally as a monthly gathering of Christian businessmen in Reading this club with members drawn from many different denominations extended its membership some time ago to ladies. It normally meets on the first Thursday each month in St. Laurence Hall, Abbey Square at 1pm. A buffet lunch is followed by a talk from a visiting speaker. New members are always welcome. The next meeting is on Thursday November 4th at 1pm when the speaker will be a former assistant priest of Caversham, the Rev Leonard Burn who will be talking about his work as a hospital chaplain in Bristol.

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CAR PARK AT REAR

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MORE than a little depressed at the sight of so many empty shops in Prospect Street, I decided to treat myself with a visit to one for which I don't expect to have immediate use but of which I've had very favourable reports; I refer to Allwood Furnishings — I'm glad I did; Mr Allwood was most welcoming and only too anxious to talk about the services his firm offers. I knew, of course, about their excellent upholstery service; now it seems they are actually selling upholstered furniture, sticking to two very reliable ranges, Parker Knoll and Outline. But what a tempting variety of patterns and styles they come in.

In the short time the firm has been in Caversham they have built up a very satisfactory local clientele; this isn't surprising for not only do they aim to carry out reupholstery at something considerably less than the bigger firms but, perhaps more important, a call to them (476565) will bring Mr Allwood or his assistant to your door with books of

patterns, ready with expert knowledge to advise and help. There is no hard sell about their methods and customers are given all the time they need to make up their minds about what is probably a large item of expenditure. I like it!

Barry Moore bespoke tailor

After that happy experience, I thought it was time I called on Barry who has been in Prospect Street since 1967. Starting from scratch, at first working from home, he has built up a successful business, catering mainly for professional people but also for others who, for reasons of size, etc., find off-the-peg suits unsatisfactory. He is proud of the fact that he is a true bespoke tailor, all the work being carried out by himself or his assistant, under his supervision. It seems the present trend is to take measurements, choose material and send the item away for cutting and stitching; that Barry is not prepared to do. As he says, he'll never get rich his way, but he is perfectly satisfied if

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

he makes enough to keep himself and his family.

Barry and his wife, Barbara, will be well known to members of St Peter's where they are both involved in various duties. To his work on the social committee, Barry brings a great deal of enthusiasm, while as a sidesman he is particularly concerned to greet new people and make them feel at home.

It is nice to know that in these days of cutbacks here are two firms which are unlikely to disappear from the Caversham scene. They deserve to do well.

Are you unemployed?

I hear that Greyfriars Associates, which meet at Greyfriars Centre, Reading, every Monday at 9.30am have vacancies and would welcome anyone who feels they can use them. This is a self-help group of former managers, execu-

tives and professional men and women who are having to seek a career change. The Manpower Services Commission sponsors lecturers from Slough College Dept of Management Development to replace earlier two-week full-time job change courses. Group members improve their letter-writing and practise interviewing with closed circuit TV; computer familiarisation is also planned. At a private consultancy these services could cost £3,000 but Greyfriars Associates offer them for £10 or free to those on supplementary benefit. So if you're one of the many who have been made redundant, I suggest you turn up on a Monday morning and see if they can help.

Help!

A few months ago I mentioned the Association to Combat Huntington's Chorea and the need to make it known; I've just had a

word with Mr Amos, the Chairman, who tells me they had a very successful meeting in September when they enrolled four new members, and that there is to be a meeting for members and friends at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on 2nd December at 7.30pm, when they will be addressed by the Chairwoman of the Holiday Home Committee. They will also have a stall at the Mayor's Market on 25th November. I make no apologies for publicising this very worthy cause, particularly as it is unknown to many. If you are interested, do ring Mr Amos (663140) evenings or weekends and he'll be happy to tell you what is needed or what help his organisation can give anyone in need.

By the same token I think it's about time I mentioned the Parkinson's Disease Association and the local secretary, Mrs Heiden of 7 Gifford

House, Star Road (481334) who will, I'm sure, be willing to supply information about the organisation for which she has worked so hard since the death of her husband, a victim of this disease.

Our editor himself isn't particularly forthcoming on the subject but I hear that his daughter, Alice, graduated in modern languages this year and has been working as assistant warden at a camping site in France during the summer.

Congratulations

I wish more people would let me have news of the achievements of our young people. After a very entertaining evening recently hearing Philip Hardy talk about his experiences in India where he offered his services for some months prior to going to Cambridge, I realised that some of our young folk are doing fantastic things these days.

I was particularly pleased to hear that Bill Rothwell of Albert Road, who had graduated in physics at Church College, Cambridge, was returning to the college to take his doctorate. He and his wife Katie, who studied at the University of East Anglia, have been offered a flat at the college; while Bill studies, Katie intends to take teacher's training.

Please let us know if you've similar news — it's often the only way our young people keep in touch with each other once they go away to study. And anyway we've every right to be proud of them.

DECEMBER CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

All material for publication in next month's Caversham Bridge must be sent to the Parish Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, by noon on Wednesday, November 3.

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MORE ACCOUNTS FROM ST PETER'S

IN September 1981, I wrote some notes on the early accounts for St Peter's Church. The last comment was dated 1705 and concerned the buying of sixpenny worth of holly for church decorations at Christmas. From there I now continue.

Life went on following the same regular pattern. There were still travellers and seamen to help with a penny or two from the parish purse. Smoke farthings (a form of hearth tax) were still collected, though there appears to have been a lapse of five years in the collection of these at one point, and arrears for this amounted to seven shillings and five pence. Worked out on average there were seventy-one chimneys in Caversham.

Church maintenance continued and a weather cock was set up on the tower for the sum of six shillings. By 1727, this tower, which was wooden and replaced the original spire destroyed in the Civil War fight for Caver-

sham Bridge in 1643, was badly in need of repairs. These were carried out at the huge cost of one hundred and forty pounds, two shillings and four pence three-farthings. Nails were sent from Oxford and lead obtained from Reading. The first mention of a church tower at St Peter's instead of the spire comes in 1693.

Every year the parish, as did all parishes, paid quite considerable sums of money for dead sparrows and each entry in the account book seemed to show a larger number of birds had been caught than the one before until finally on March 27, 1827 came this... "25 dozen sparrow heads, eight shillings and fourpence". As the Spring corn went into the ground the villagers made sure it was not eaten by hungry birds and ensured themselves of a better harvest. It seems that children caught the birds, bringing in extra money for the family. This killing of sparrows went on all

the year round, but especially in Spring and Summer when the birds were breeding and the corn was being sown or ready for harvesting. Whether the little corpses were eaten by some families is not recorded — sparrows were certainly used as a form of food in Norfolk as late as the nineteenth thirties and blackbirds and thrushes were eaten by a worker on Toots farm, Caversham, some eighty years ago.

Birds were not the only creatures to be destroyed. Payment was also given for polecats as late as 1830.

Sparrows or not, there was a bountiful corn harvest in the Summer and Autumn of 1801 and a special form of prayer was bought to be used in Church in thanksgiving. That year life must have seemed a little easier for many families.

Danger of flooding

Mention has been made of "watch at Caversham Bridge". Just why people were paid to do this at certain times was never clear. But in 1795 the answer is given. On February 14 Richard Betteridge was paid to watch Caversham bridge "on account of the bridge being rendered unpassable by flood". No doubt Richard had to stay up all night to warn travellers at the Caversham end if they were attempting to cross over in the dark.

Another special form of prayer was also bought in 1788 when George III became ill in the November. The following March yet another was required to be used in thanksgiving "for his Majesty's recovery from his late indisposition."

That same year there was a little difficulty over the hay

mead gate. It was found in the river! James Freebody and Edward Spencer were each paid five pence for getting it out.

An umbrella for the Rector

The Rector of Caversham during this period was the Reverend Vatas. Much of his work in the parish involved either a journey on horseback or on foot and it appears he (naturally) sometimes got wet, for the parish paid two shillings to buy him an umbrella in 1789. Ten years later Mr Vatas died and someone had to go to Oxford to inform the Dean of Christ Church of his decease. A journey to Oxford by horse was the only way the people of Caversham could tell the Powers that Be what had come to pass, other than by letter. Unfortunately it was mid-winter. The expedition would have been cold and difficult and involved a night's lodging at Oxford.

It may interest readers to know that the cost of sending a letter to London in 1801 was sevenpence in old money. The penny post had not yet commenced so the epistle probably went by the daily passenger coach.

The ancient Griffin inn was run by Mary Clisold early in the eighteenth century and in 1805 she was ordered to provide beer for the ringers "on account of the glorious victory obtained over the combined fleets of France and Spain by Lord Nelson on October 21st".

It came as rather a surprise to learn that St Peter's had a Sunday School as early as 1789. A Mrs Ruby was in charge of its welfare in 1801. Later

Hannah Templer instructed the children (1817-1827). Hannah was also cleaning the church by the latter date. She must have been a good soul.

As there was yet no organ, singing was accompanied by musicians and in 1796 a bass viol and strings provided the music. In 1809 a clarinet and bassoon could be heard on Sundays.

The church was heated by coal fires of some form and Mr Freebody provided half a ton of coals for fifteen shillings in 1825.

A young member of the Freebody family, Peter, became an apprentice and learnt "the art and mystery of a tailor" in 1803. Not for him the family tradition of boat building, ferrying and fishing.

Several young lads from the parish became apprentices to cordwainers (shoemakers), no doubt in Reading where many such businesses flourished. Yet another left home to go to Nettlebed to learn birch laying at the kiln there, while one went in 1800 to Wokingham to train as a wheelwright. He was Nathaniel Green, a member of the Green family who were the local photographers in Caversham between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The account book ends in 1830, some of the last entries telling the beginnings of working life for several young Caversham people. These lads would have been old men if they lived into the last quarter of that century. By then they would have noted the steam launches on the Thames, Nathaniel the steam engines beginning to replace his waggons. The next set of accounts should make interesting reading for the Victorian Age was not far away.

MK

ANGLICAN PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Nov 1st

ALL SAINTS DAY

Sung Eucharist
8pm

St Peter's and St Andrew's

ST BARNABAS

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 27th November
at 2.30pm

FOR TRANSKEI MISSION HOSPITALS

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Jessie and Charles Wood cut the cake at their Golden Wedding party on September 3. Members of Caversham Parish Church for many years. They are continuing their Golden Wedding celebrations by a visit to relations in Australia.

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ANGLICAN NEWS

Round the Parish

WHEN the Church Council met on September 28th it debated a report from the Stewardship Committee. Asked to make recommendations about the future of stewardship in the parish the Committee recommended that instead of a further major campaign a much smaller number of visitors should be recruited but asked to carry on with the work of visiting over a two year period. The Committee was of the opinion that in recent campaigns too many visitors had received too little training and this had led to a low standard of pledging; it would be wiser to have only a quarter of the number of visitors but to ensure that they received the thorough training that was given in the earlier days of stewardship. The report was adopted. Mr Eric Smith, parochial treasurer explained that the Finance Committee had agreed to

use all the interest earned on parish reserves towards paying the diocesan share, but capital would not be touched. Even so it would seem that it would not be possible to pay the share which this year amounted to over £40,000 and which was likely to increase by a further 18% on 1983. The Council meets again on November 11th.

□ □

Young and old his Caversham friends will be interested to hear that the Rev Stephen Jeffrey now living in retirement with his married daughter in Exmouth and in his 92nd year celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on September 18th. Jumping the generations Mrs Joy Mayo, the wife of the Rev Inglis Mayo, a former server at St Andrew's and now curate of Christchurch, Dorset, gave birth to a daughter Kate on September 10th.

St Peter's

ONE beautifully sunny Sunday early in September a coachful set out for Kew Gardens, the venue for this year's parish outing. It was a great success and the organisers are to be congratulated, among other things, for the amount of time they managed to allow us. Five hours did at least give us an opportunity to visit some of the many attractions of the gardens, including the beautifully restored Temperate House.

For those who had not previously visited Kew it was an eye-opener while for those more familiar with the gardens it was a chance to visit some of the many blank spots in their knowledge; members of the group were to be seen, from time to time, in the greenhouses, museums, Kew Palace and, of course, the refreshment rooms. Others seemed to disappear



■ Harvest supper at St John's.

— E. S. ARCHER

St John's News

MOST of the produce used to decorate St John's for Harvest Thanksgiving was homegrown. With their usual skill the decorators arranged all these gifts, so that the flowers, fruit, vegetables and grain were beautifully displayed. The church was full at the Harvest Thanksgiving Communion on 20th September, and the congregation was intrigued by the amusingly illustrated sermon. It was being discussed the next night at the "Bring and Share" Harvest Supper. Anyone who did not enjoy a good meal there was very hard to please — home cooked "specialties" really did cater for every taste. Tea, coffee, squash, cider and homemade plum and elderberry wine (very much appreciated) were available (a four year old chose the lovely colour. The caterers gave her a squash!).

During the next few days the table decorations, and parcels of food, were taken along to old, lonely and housebound neighbours. The Guides organised the food and drink, the Mothers' Union lent crockery and cloths, people worked hard to get the church ready, shopped and washed up. They might not want to be thanked, but all the same "Thank you for a very happy evening".

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Off to college

October habitually means that a number of the younger members of the congregation disappear to college. Philip Hardy, back from his six months in India is now at Jesus College, Cambridge. Simon Jackson has gone nearer home to Portsmouth Polytechnic and Corinne Rule to the Polytechnic at Plymouth. Simon has been a member of the choir for many years and Philip and Corinne have been servers. All good wishes to them for their futures.

St Barnabas news

ST Barnabas celebrated their Harvest Festival on the last weekend in September. On the Saturday evening there was a very enjoyable harvest supper in the newly decorated church hall. After everyone had eaten, a musical entertainment was provided by the Revd Derek Spears and then Joan Allen and Bridget Bowyer accompanied the singing of harvest hymns on piano and viola.

The following morning the church was packed for the harvest festival eucharist and church parade. The blower motor on the organ broke down and 'volunteers', including five of the Guides at the service, were persuaded to pump the organ by hand.

The communion loaf was made from flour ground at Mapledurham Mill. A week before Harvest the children of the Sunday School walked along the Warren from Caversham to Mapledurham and went round the Mill. They brought the flour back with them, and the loaf was baked by Emily White (with a little help from her mother!).

Inevitably at this time of year farewells are said to some of the young people; this year John Westwell has gone off to Cambridge to study maths, Bridget Hicks to York to study English, and Philippa Jewiss has gone to Matlock to begin teacher training. Another leaving is Miss Violet Hopkins, for many years a faithful member of the congregation. She has moved from her home in the Peppard Road to be near relations in the New Forest.

The congregation of St Barnabas will also see less of the Rev Alan Stockbridge. Until this summer he was chaplain at Reading School, and on many occasions led services at St Barnabas, especially the 8 o'clock Communion. Alan has left Reading School to return to being an Army chaplain. His friends will wish him well in his new work.

Postbag



POST BAG

Postbag



CHURCH AND PARLIAMENT

Dear Sir,

Tony Durant asks for readers' view on his article on Church and Parliament and I readily respond by asking him two questions.

Firstly, why has he written this article at such a time? Is it because he is scared that the Church of England is at last expressing its social responsibility and acting as a national conscience in matters affecting the community outside the walls of the church? The points which he raises as being controversial are all in some way critical of some Government attitudes. The Church of England used to be called the "Tory Party at Prayer". Is Tony disturbed because those prayers may now have been answered in a manner not to his liking?

Secondly, what does Tony mean when he says that disestablishment would mean the Church of England would "become just another Church"? There is only one Church, the Church of Christ. The fact that we have many denominations who worship in different ways does not belie the fact that all Christian denominations worship and serve the one Saviour and Lord. Recent ecumenism has over-ridden many of these differences.

I am Secretary of the Reading Section of the National Free Church Council and over the years the Free Church Council has been consulted by Government Departments and Ministers when Bills are being formulated that would be of concern to Christian principles. Changes have been made often after these consultations and included in the final Act. I am sure the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church have acted similarly. Although I am a Methodist I feel that the Church of England would be much

freer in serving Christ if they were disestablished but that must be their concern. It is significant that Tony in his article never mentions Jesus Christ, the reason for the existence of the Church, not Parliament, which brings me to my final point.

I cannot sing the hymn "I vow to thee my country". I love the tune and the second verse. But the first verse, after vowing all earthly things to my country, goes on to that service being "the love that asks no question". As a Christian I must at times ask questions. The German nation could have sung this hymn during the last war, the Argentines could have used it, the white South African Church use it. For fifteen years I was a Reading Councillor, (not paid as today), I have been a J.P. for over twenty years (also unpaid), so I am willing to serve my country. But as a Christian I must ask questions and criticise Governments, local or national, if I feel they are not acting in the mind of Christ, and must urge my Church to "think on these things". It would be most interesting to have a discussion arranged on this topic.

Yours etc.
Charles E. Buck
71 Blenheim Road,
Caversham.

Dear Sir,

As Mr Durant (October "Bridge") clearly favours the church being about "forgiveness, loving" etc., I find it surprising that he criticises the Falklands service! The theme of that service was forgiveness and recon-

ciliation; the vast majority of people, including those who lost loved ones in the Falklands, appeared to think that the service did strike the correct note.

In reply to his point about the church and politics; the church is concerned with people — body, mind and spirit. It therefore must have something to say when people are being abused and exploited. It has a duty to speak out against apartheid in South Africa and about British firms who prop up that evil system with their investment.

The church should speak out about unemployment and the scandal of over three million people out of work. William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke of the church "insisting that the scandal of unemployment be remedied". It would be irresponsible for the church to stand aside and do nothing. There are alternatives to what I believe are the crazy economics that are causing so many people to be out of a job. The church is right to stimulate debate on the alternatives.

Again, it is surely not only right, but prophetic, for the church to warn against the arms race and the nuclear holocaust that could come unless there are more determined efforts to find peace. And it must be right for the church to speak out with vigour against the wasted lives caused by poverty throughout the world and to insist on fairer international economic structures to end

the abominable exploitation of the world's poor.

So yes Mr Durant, the church is about human relationships — it's about the relationship of people in the rich world with people in the poor world, about the relationship of those with a job and those without, etc. It's about loving — loving one's fellow men as ourselves. And what is the church but the millions of Christians who comprise it? A Christian's love for his fellow men will often involve him in working to change structures, i.e. it will involve him in politics, with a large or a small 'p'.

At a time when the world is threatening to destroy itself and eight hundred million are starving, the church should surely be leading a massive campaign for change to restore the dignity of man. That would be the true moral and spiritual leadership that is so badly needed.

One final point: Mr Durant is entitled to his views, but for the second time in four or five months he has written a controversial article in the "Bridge". In order to safeguard the reputation for fairness and impartiality built up over nearly twenty years, the paper ought to invite the prospective candidates or spokesmen of the Liberal/SDP Alliance and Labour parties to put their views. It is important to strike a balance.

Yours etc.
John Madeley
19 Woodford Close
Caversham.

Miss Olivey

Dear Sir,

We feel sure that there are many people living locally who have reason to be grateful to Miss A. I. Olivey, late Headmistress of Hemdean House School, who died earlier this year. The School Council intend to establish an Alice Olivey Prize Fund in her memory.

Miss Olivey's connection with the school goes back to the very beginning of the century when she entered as a young pupil. Her school days ended with a period as a pupil-teacher before she joined the staff, first as a class teacher and then in 1926 as

Headmistress. During her 46 years as Headmistress hundreds of children passed through the school, and all will have benefited from her wisdom, compassion and kindly guidance.

Those wishing to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Headmistress, Hemdean House School, Caversham RG4 7SD. Cheques should be made payable to "The Olivey Memorial Prize Fund".

Yours etc.
Monica K. Ralph
Headmistress

John Grimwade
Chairman of the
School Council

Lighten our Darkness

Dear Sir,

May I endorse Watchdog's comments entitled 'Lighten our Darkness'. The turning into Rokeby Drive from the A4704 Woodcote Road is a most difficult approach due to the alignment of the roads. The signpost to Tokers Green and Dysons Wood is almost obscured by the hedgerow. Perhaps I could suggest a large sign 'Rokeby Drive' similar to the one at 'Mill Lane', 'Shepherds Lane' etc. Street lighting on this corner is a most urgent necessity due to the volume of traffic using Rokeby Drive.

Yours etc.
(Mrs) C. T. Wharton
1 Chazey Close,
Chazey Heath

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A so-far unpublished photo of the opening of St Anne's well in 1908.

ON YER BIKE

Cyclists, taken as a whole, are a pleasant section of the community. They have chosen an unpolluting, quiet, economical and healthy form of transport, that requires both exertion and courage on their part. It is a pity that amongst them there should be a minority such as the one featured on the front page of last month's edition of this newspaper.

One is less surprised when it is a

child cyclist hurtling along the pavement blissfully unaware of the rights of pedestrians, for this is simply a case of childish thoughtlessness and inexperience. A few sharp words from parent or endangered pedestrian will usually stop the practice. Adults should know better. If it is dangerous for cyclists to cycle along our roads, it is also dangerous for pedestrians or cyclists to cycle along the footways.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT BY WATCHDOG

It is therefore welcome news that Reading Borough has agreed in principle to the establishment of seven cycle routes linking the main residential areas with the town centre. In most instances this can be done in part by using tow paths, particularly along the Kennet. The use of tow-paths in undeveloped areas will not be permitted.

From Caversham this would mean the use of the Thames towpath, for Caversham Road, with its parked cars and busy lanes of traffic, deters many cyclists from taking their machines outside Caversham.

Turning a blind eye

An even worse scandal is the gradual taking over of pavements by parked cars and even worse by parked lorries, and, what would have been unheard of a few years ago, by vehicles being driven along it. There is no need to pass a law against it; it already exists. Yet the police, as last month's

front page article stated, largely ignore it. With few exceptions, their policy is not to deal with stationary traffic offences. Responsibility for this has been handed over to traffic wardens, yet these are seriously below strength, in spite of high unemployment and the fact that a traffic warden could earn his or her keep several times over in fines collected. In Caversham you can park where you like. The likelihood of being booked is negligible.

Our roads should be safe for cyclists and our pavements should be safe for pedestrians. Motorists, armed as they are with lethal weapons, should not expect priority.

Lights and mirrors

This does not mean to say that motorists have no rights to consideration at all. Those who have cause to use the Warren will be pleased to see, that as the result of renewed requests, the mirror in St Peter's

Hill has been replaced, the Borough Council having finally run down a source of convex ones. It should be remembered that the mirror does not necessarily reflect speed or distance, but at least it tells you a vehicle is approaching, which is better than finding out by colliding with it.

What do motorists think of the computerised traffic lights in the area? Comments to be heard vary from the motorist who said he liked them because they kept breaking down, and then traffic flowed more freely, to another who said that now you could be sure all the lights would be red regardless of your speed. Some one else simply said she had noticed no difference. Is this expensive piece of equipment going to make no difference to our slow journey along Caversham Road, or is it a case of having the latest toy, regardless of whether it was going to do a useful job?

BAPTIST NEWS

Jean's girls

Otherwise the Girl Guides. Many of the activities of this flourishing organisation—the 11th. Caversham Guides—during the summer months were directed towards camp. The girls practiced tent pitching, gadget making—great things some of those gadgets—and knotting which all added to the success of the camp which was held at Bramber in Sussex. The Company was one of four which took part and one patrol excelled itself by winning the competition related to patrol duties. The other pat-

rol deserved to win something because of their honesty, they wrote an amusing camp fire song detailing their shortcomings.

From the camp site there was a lovely view of the South Downs including Chanctonbury Ring and the guides responded to this by walking there and scrambling up the steep slope to the top.

On Sunday morning the service at Beeding Baptist Church was quite an inspiration as the front was packed with a teenage party from Germany, the 14th. Brighton Boys' Brigade and nearly fifty Guides and helpers from Caversham.

The 11th Caversham Company is now embarked on its thirty-first year and it is to be hoped that the recruits who have enlisted will be as keen as their predecessors. The enthusiasm which pervades the Company is in no small measure due to that of its Captain, Miss Jean Sawyer, who has led the Company throughout its existence. Such devoted service is what Baden-Powell meant when he referred to 'stickability'.

Harvest

On the Saturday evening of Harvest weekend some sixty to seventy guests sat down to a Harvest Supper in the Church. Initially this event was billed as a Brazilian Meal but the all male cast which engineered the event decided that if such

was to be worthwhile the cost would be prohibitive. Wisely they settled for bangers, beans and mash followed by fresh fruit salad and cream. The only Brazilian flavours were perhaps a few nuts and the coffee which followed. The evening concluded with the showing of a Christian Aid film and it was to that organisation that the profits of the evening were devoted.

The display of produce was traditional in layout and lacked nothing for that. The Family Service, however, was not so traditional. With great solemnity and at a very dignified pace the children of the Beginners' Department of the Sunday School led the Young People into Church carrying their gifts. The little ones were attired in brightly coloured crepe paper tabards and the purpose of these was apparent when later in the Service they paraded on the rostrum whilst the congregation sang:-

God Almighty set a Rainbow
Arching in the sky above
And His people understand it
As a sign of His love

to the delightful tune of 'Clementine'.

The older children took a very active part in the Service by reading lessons and one of the lads from the Senior Group led a responsive prayer.

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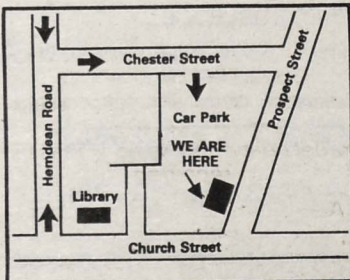
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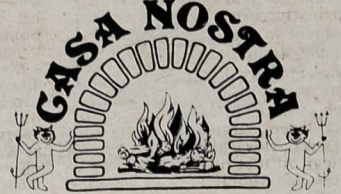
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TALKING POINT

'MINISTRY PAST AND PRESENT'

(Reflections on 25 years as a priest)

By DAVID MILLING

THE first six years of my priestly ministry were spent in the city of Bristol. My first parish was St Mary Redcliffe, a great city church, where I was one of three curates, with Dick Cartwright as my Vicar. At that time, curates of Redcliffe were bachelors, and lived in a charming house, opposite the church, with a kindly and efficient housekeeper to look after us. Never did we have to do our own cooking! Mornings were supposed to be spent at our desks, writing sermons and talks, and keeping our files up-to-date; afternoons and evenings were to be devoted to intensive pastoral visiting. I cannot remember having to attend evening committee meetings, though I suppose I must have done; I do remember vividly some of the evening house-groups, which developed as a result of the parish mission, led by Mark Gibbard, of the Cowley Fathers. I shall never forget the queues of people, who lined up at the end of the mission services, to make their confessions, and to ask for Mark Gibbard's help and advice.

St Mary Redcliffe

St Mary Redcliffe was a most interesting parish; it had a glorious medieval church (rather larger than Bristol Cathedral!) which was cleaned and restored during my time in the parish. The parish was situated between the River Avon and the canal, and included Temple Meads Station and the Bristol General Hospital, where we were the Anglican chaplains. Only about two thousand people actually lived in the parish, but our congregations were drawn from all over Bristol, and the two thousand people on our electoral roll came from seventy different parishes! One Lent, I visited all the people who lived in the parish; the next Lent, I visited everyone on the electoral roll. I discovered that there was almost no overlap between the two! My parish visiting was somewhat impeded by the coming of television; I once visited three houses in succession, for about ten minutes each, and watched a complete programme of Sergeant Bilko, without a word being spoken to me by anyone! The Parish

Communion was the liveliest service, with about three hundred communicants each week, and was always followed by coffee and conversation in the Undercroft. But the really popular service at Redcliffe was Evensong, which (believe it or not) attracted a regular congregation of seven hundred people. It was a great preaching service; I was never allowed to preach at Evensong, during my three years at Redcliffe, lest its reputation should suffer thereby!

A suburban parish

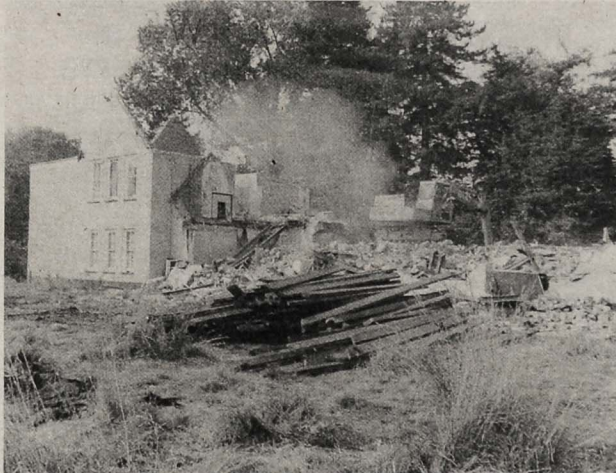
My next three years were spent in the parish of St John the Divine, Fishponds; there I was the only curate, with Dick Bennell as my Vicar. St John's was a suburban parish, which drew its worshippers almost entirely from its own parish boundaries. Dick Bennell encouraged me to develop my interests and abilities in various ways. For example, I helped to run a youth group on a weekday evening; I also started a second youth group, which met after the Parish Communion, called 'the Youth Breakfast'. The young people prepared a 'continental' breakfast of rolls and coffee, and this was followed by a lively discussion, on some topic of current interest. I also wrote a number of Lent courses, generally on religious themes, such as 'the Old Testament Prophets'. I even found time to study the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses. I discovered that a young couple were being given a weekly class by the Jehovah's Witnesses; with the help of a keen, Evangelical layman, I composed a course on the Christian faith, explaining the errors of the Witnesses, and the couple were won back to the Church.

Both of the parishes in which I worked had teams of lay visitors, either to keep in touch with the people on the Electoral Roll (as at St Mary Redcliffe), or to visit those who lived in the parish (as at St John's, Fishponds). I think that both parishes adapted, with some success, to their very different social settings, and ministered to a wide range of people, of different age groups and backgrounds. I have noticed two major differences between parish life in the late 1950's, and parish life in the 1980's.

One difference is that there was a much larger number of people, who came to church to listen to a good sermon, especially in a city parish like Redcliffe, with its astonishing number of Evensong worshippers. I should guess that this is far less true today, with the rival attraction of television, and the more sinister threat of muggers. The

other difference is that the clergy are not now expected to carry the whole burden of the Church's work. Clergy numbers have dropped considerably during the last twenty-five years, and lay readers and deaconesses play a much more important part in the Church's worship and pastoral work, than they once did. Christians live in a

challenging and demanding age, and face a much greater apathy and indifference to the Christian faith and to Christian moral standards. I find that the Church itself is a more lively and exciting fellowship to belong to, and is more open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, than it was when I was ordained.



ABOVE a familiar landmark has gone from the Emmer Green scene with the demolition of St Benet's, for many years one of the homes of the Church of England's Children's Society. It seems strange that with much money having been spent enlarging the building only a few years ago it was not possible to find a use for it. Could it not easily have been converted into a home for the elderly?

Our photographs show St Benet's as it was and the demolition work in progress.

BELOW a photograph taken early this century for the boys at St Benet's. Those in the foreground were about to leave the home to start a new life in Canada.



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IF the postmen delivering in Church Street, Caversham are looking rather tired or overladen at the moment it is because their mail bags are much heavier than normal. Since the distribution of entry forms for the Digital Reading Half Marathon was made towards the end of September, the postmen have had to deliver several hundred letters and packets of entry forms to the Marathon Office each day. The first 1,000 entries were in within the first week and the number grows daily. The event is not being advertised nationally until the end of October so although it is early days it certainly looks as though Reading really is going to get a mass run with 5,000 runners.

Who is entering? In the first batch of entries the ages range from 18 years (the minimum age of entry) through to 66 years old Charles Burt of Caversham, the local swimming coach. The entry includes many husband and wife

teams but if one group is predominant it is the 40 to 45 year old male. Enquiries about the Run have come in from as far away as the United States and from the British Marathon Runners Club, so there should be a few top class runners competing alongside the many first timers taking part in their first ever running event.

If you are hoping to run then by now you should be out jogging three times a week and probably running up to three miles at a time. Don't try and speed up yet, just get used to jogging comfortably on your three runs a week. At this stage the most impor-

tant part of the training is disciplining yourself to go out several times a week come rain or shine. Gradually you will have to increase the distance and the frequency that you go out.

With the advent of winter it can be difficult to run round the streets in safety and so the Recreation Department of Reading Borough Council have arranged for the Palmer Park Track to be available for jogging on both Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm. The Track will be floodlit and there is a special season ticket for £5 which entitles the holder to use the Track on the

two floodlit sessions and at any other time when it is not in use from October to March 1983.

It is refreshing to be involved with a truly amateur and fun event such as the Half Marathon where the entrants will be competing for personal satisfaction and the chance to help others

by sponsorship. What a contrast to the ugly professional sports scene where the greed of the so-called sportsman is killing the sport that made him (or her). Some sports are now paying the price as their spectators dwindle and people have become much more interested in participating themselves.

GLASWEGIAN, GO HOME!



By
**PETER
SHOCK**

I DON'T want to appear racist, but I quote a message I have received from Dr Michael Kelly, Lord Provost of Glasgow. How I emerged as a recipient, I am not positively sure. There are no known traces of Scottish ancestry in my blood — a scantling of Welsh, Irish and even French, but definitely nothing north of Pontefract! He might have procured my identity from a booking slip at Buchanan Street Bus Station, but I think I'll settle for the fact that he wants the word spread through Caversham to Glasgow's exiles to return to their roots in 1983. Several historic anniversaries will be celebrated, among them the Bi-centenary of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, the oldest continuous chamber in the English-speaking world. At the same time one of Britain's most renowned journals, the Glasgow Herald was first printed, and 100 years ago building commenced on the Victorian City chambers adorned with priceless Italian marble, Venetian glass and Mosaics. This special invitation to the 10 million exiles who for one reason or another have forsaken their native city, there is a big welcome waiting. The Lord Provost himself hopes to meet as many people as is humanly possible, and is even offering a prize to the person who travels the farthest. To Caversham's Glaswegians intending to answer the call, he asks, if you belong to the Mothers' Union, Townswomen's Guild, Round Table, Rot-

ary, Men's Clubs, Church, Youth or Social organisations, etc. to let him know and he will put you in touch with the corresponding organisation. Glasgow is foremost in its reputation for sporting links, although I suggest that soccer fans should dig deep underground to locate the Rangers/Celtic Mutual Benevolent Society.

Obviously Dr Kelly hopes that thousands of visitors from all parts, whether Scots or not, will accept his invitation to see Glasgow and the Clyde in 1983, during the Pride of the Clyde Celebrations: for Glasgow greets the world and his wife! Yes, remember the wife! Don't yield to the example of the young Scot who had just been married and travelled to Niagara Falls for the honeymoon. While there he met a friend, who congratulated him on his wedding. "And where is the wife then, Jock?" "Och," grunted young Jock. "I left her back in Glasgow, she's seen this all once before!"

There are many one-time Glaswegians who now live in Caversham, and I know some of them. They are a bonnie lot. Our Festival at St Peter's in June is still vivid in our memories. There must have been more than a few pilgrims from beyond the Cheviots. So, if you wish to reciprocate and journey to Glasgow's biggest-ever Festival, write to the Lord Provost's special team at — Welcome Desk, City Chambers, Glasgow, Scotland.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham afternoon Townswomen's Guild

"DOS" and "Don'ts" played a large part in Miss Alison Bedford's talk in September. She comes from the Electrical Association for Women and was giving advice on safety in the home. Many of the "Don't" were slides of potentially dangerous situations in a house — overloaded sockets, unwise DIY conversions, jumbles of electrical equipment. Her "Dos" were sound advice on the correct use of plugs and fuses, care of electric blankets and other appliances in general household use. Miss Bedford soon established a rapport with her audience when she quizzed them on their general know-

ledge of electrical matters and they in turn plied her with questions. There should now be a number of safer homes in Caversham.

The Guild had gained third place with their entry for the WI Cup at Reading Show. Members were reminded of the Autumn Fayre to be held in Balmore Hall on Saturday 13th November at 2.15. Stalls would include books, bric-a-brac, gifts, handicrafts, cakes and toys.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

AT the September meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, Miss Lois Hibberd demonstrated a talk entitled Mistress and Maid by

dressing up in costumes of periods from the thirteenth to early twentieth centuries. With witty tales of the ladies above and below stairs she performed quick changes of dress, some original, others copied from portraits and made by herself from beautiful materials. Some gowns were heavy and cumbersome whilst others were so elegant and dainty that gasps of delight greeted the wearer. The meeting concluded with final details for the Annual Dinner.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THE September meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green. On display was the exhibit entered for the Reading Show and for which the Guild was awarded first prize. Thanks to all the ladies involved in this project was given by the Vice Chairman, Mrs S. Gudgeon.

The main speaker of the evening was Barbara from Waves Hairdressing Salon, who gave a very interesting talk on "Hair Care". The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Emin. The Drama Group were in charge of the Harvest Stall which was very well supported.

A Jumble Sale was held at St Barnabas Church Hall on 25th September, the proceeds being in aid of Cancer Research.

Blagrove WI

THE President, Mrs J. Price, welcomed Mrs Sheila Critchley at the September meeting. Her subject, "Antiques for Beginners" proved very popular with the members. After giving some sound advice on collecting, Mrs Critchley told of her own experiences and gave an amusing history of the many treasures she had brought with her which were on display in the hall. The competition "My favourite antique" was judged by Mrs Critchley and won by Mrs Reed from a large number of interesting entries.

The Raffle Prize kindly donated by Mrs Bowring was won by Mrs Moran.

Caversham Ladies Club

WHEN the club resumed in September it was the Harvest meeting. Many members were present and had brought a large quantity of harvest produce. The Harvest Queen for the after-

noon was Mrs Brenda Strong, and she auctioned the fruit and vegetables after the business part of the meeting was over. Preparations were put in hand for the Christmas lunch.

Caversham Community Association

THE first meeting in September was a Tramps Supper when members were asked to dress in suitable clothes for the open road. Bread, cheese and pickled onions were served at refreshment time. A competition was held for the best dressed tramp, Evelyn Cook won first prize with Muriel Waite in second place.

Entertainment was provided by the Crescent Players who gave an Old Time Music Hall concert with songs and amusing sketches. Mrs Wendy Huntley was the producer and at the end of the performance presented Mrs Cowdery, the pianist, with flowers. A collection was made for the Ken Thomas Scanner Appeal. Mrs Waite, the club's Chairman, thanked the Company for giving the members an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

The annual 'Mini' Arts and Crafts evening was held on the 13th September — resulting in a good display of the members' work. The Muriel Rampton Rose Bowl and a first prize for her floral arrangement was won by Muriel Waite. Joan Tarrant retained the Joe Rampton Cup and won first prize for her arrangement in a jam jar. Other first prize winners were: Cookery - Julie Hancock, Anne Wright, Muriel Waite. Flower

arrangement - Anne Wright, Margaret Cameron. Photography - Nancy Nelhams, Betty Petherbridge, Margaret Payne. Crochet - Mrs Rackley. Embroidery - Ivy Masterman. Knitwear - Ada Wyles, Margaret Cameron.

The judges were Mrs Painter for flowers, Mr F. Masterman for the cakes, Dorothy Maskell - knitwear and Stephen Waite, photography.

The following week Mrs Elaine Campbell demonstrated Yoga and invited the members to accompany her in various movements.

The month's activities ended with the Harvest Supper. The club room looked colourful with the harvest produce and attractively set tables. The prayers and harvest hymns were led by the Rev. Chris Justice from the Hill Chapel, before the appetising meal, which included the traditional apple pie, was partaken.

Rose Hill WI

MRS Allwright presided at the September meeting and welcomed members and two visitors. After the usual business a talk was given by Mr G. R. Hawthorne on "Horse Brasses". Certainly an expert, he kept members interested by showing many different brasses used in the past, which are now enjoyed by enthusiastic collectors. Members brought their own horse brasses to exhibit.

On July 22nd there was a very special treat, a visit to Rose Farm, on the Mapledurham Estate, which is the home of the President and her

husband, who helped to make the afternoon interesting and enjoyable by explaining farming methods etc. on the way round the various farms on a hay wagon. Later a delicious farm tea was partaken.

Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD WI met in St Andrew's Hall, Caversham Heights, in September after the summer break. Mrs Joan Fry, their president, took the meeting. The speaker was Principal Officer Allan — his subject "About Reading Prison", which was drawn, and this concluded the afternoon's business.

tively, and elicited a lively response at question time. There was an exhibition of scrap books which members had made up for the children at Bishopwood Special School. Each book was beautifully produced and will be treasured by the recipients. Mr Allen accepted the books on behalf of the school, in which he has a particular interest. After tea, the secretary, Mrs Joy LeMare read out the delegate's report on the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall. The raffle was drawn, and this concluded the afternoon's business.

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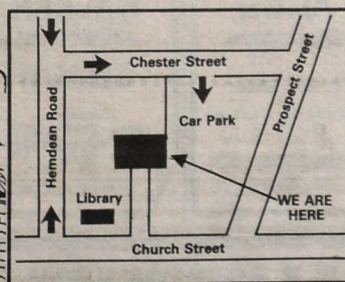
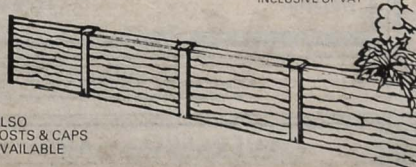
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11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15 Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
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

St Barnabas

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
4.00pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

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

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

Caversham

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)

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St Martin's School

9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House

6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN

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

ST BARNABAS Sunday School in the Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598).

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

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

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

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

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

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WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
August 29th — Alison Watts

St Margaret's
August 15th — Mark Preston

St John's
September 12th — Lucy Cruse, Sally Randall

St Andrew's
September 5th — Emma Tarrant

St Barnabas
August 15 — Victoria Scott
August 22 — David Small
October 3 — Justyn Stevens, Richard Mandry

Caversham Park
September 19 — Robert John

FUNERALS

St Andrew's
August 26th — William Evans

St Barnabas
September 24th — Tom Burton.

MARRIED

St Peter's
August 7th — David Longstaffe and Caroline Fry
August 21st — William Rothwell and Laura Pollock
September 4th — William Black and Sharon Barber, Christopher Balmont and Sonia Evans

September 11th — Adrian Hooper and Julia Farrant, Graham Lange and Sharon Wright

September 25th — David Brown and Alison Heyes, Peter Carey and Jennifer Dick

St John's
September 18th — Philip Lever and Susan Lethbridge

St Andrew's
July 17th — Geoffrey Monks and Pauline Morgan

St Barnabas
September 18th — Sean Barrington and Lesley Hewitt

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