

DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS IN ALBERT ROAD

CONGRATULATIONS were certainly the order of the day when, on February 7, Mr and Mrs Tom Benger celebrated their Diamond Wedding with their daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Ken Shield, and other members of their family, at 27 Albert Road.

Married in Christ Church, Stafford, in 1921, Tom and Clare Benger had been teenage sweethearts. In his career with the Post Office Tom was at one time Head Postmaster for Northampton. After a few years of retirement he and Clare moved into the granny flat beside their daughter in Albert Road. Tom has been a very keen bowls player, and for many years was an active member of Caversham Bowls Club, while Clare has been a member of St Andrew's Ladies Working Party, sewing and knitting to raise money for various good causes.



Congratulations too to their son-in-law Ken Shield who was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours, for services to education. He is headmaster of Theale Green Comprehensive School, a post which he has held for eighteen years. He and his wife are active members of Caversham Baptist Free Church where he is Church secretary and his wife has served seven years as a deacon. Ken has seen Theale Green School grow in size from fifty-two pupils in 1963 to the present number of 1,270.

In addition to school and church Ken has been a member of Caversham Rotary Club for fifteen years and is at present President. But he does find time to relax, enjoys gardening and makes models of ships. As members of the Caravan Club of Great Britain the Shields also manage "to get away from it all" in their caravan, and see this as one way of escaping from the telephone.



Photo: John Williamson

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2.45pm Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication
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4.00pm Tea and Greetings

Sunday, March 29

11.00 Family Service and Holy Communion
Preacher: The Revd Dennis E. Weller

6.30 Ecumenical Service
Worship led by Revd Ralph Rogerson
Preacher: The Revd Canon John Grimwade

The Editor's Column

AN ALTERNATIVE BOOK

THE PUBLICATION of a new prayer book for use in the Church of England is of concern to others than members of that Church. In these ecumenical days all Christians learn from each other, and from time to time attend worship in each others' churches. Over the centuries the character of Anglican worship has left its mark on other Christians and many prayers from the Book of Common Prayer are used in other than Anglican worship. So the publication of the Alternative Services Book concerns us all.

It is important to note the words that appear on the title page of the new book — "Services authorised for use in the Church of England in conjunction with the Book of Common Prayer". The new book is not intended to replace the Prayer Book. In the preface it is stated: "It is intended to supplement the Book of Common Prayer, not to supersede it." In a parish which has so many worshippers as Caversham it would be curious if there was not provision for the use of both books.

FIFTEEN YEARS WORK

The publication of the Alternative Services Book completes a process of revision that has been going on for some fifteen years. This Lent Anglicans (and I hope some others as well) will be spending time in Caversham on a study of Christian worship. This is a necessary prelude before any decisions are taken about the use of the new book. We need to consider why man needs to worship God, and then how he should do so. We need to consider the place of both Sacramental and non-sacramental worship, what the ingredients of worship are, what are the advantages and disadvantages of variety, what is the place of music and silence. These and no doubt many other questions must be discussed.

ST PAUL'S FOUR C'S

In Chapter 14 of the first letter to the Corinthians St Paul gives us certain guidelines. In verses 15-17 he raises the question of comprehension in worship, then in verses 23-25 he points to the converting power that worship should have; in verse 26 he refers to the corporate nature and in verse 36 he touches on the question of catholicity. We could profitably test our worship by St Paul's four C's.

"How," says St Paul, "will the plain man who is present be able to say Amen to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?" One of the great achievements of the Book of Common Prayer, when it first appeared in 1549, was that it gave the English people the opportunity to worship in English instead of in Latin. We have after four centuries to ask again what orders of service stand up best to the test of comprehensibility.

Then St Paul refers to the converting power of worship and wonders if the stranger present "will fall down and worship God, crying 'God is certainly among you'." Do we in our ordering of the Eucharist also remember that St Paul said: "Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes"? I recall being told how on one occasion a stranger at Evensong in a parish church was so struck by the way the congregation said the General Confession that she stayed behind afterwards seeking baptism and confirmation. What are the elements in our worship that give it a converting power? For while most of the people who attend public worship are already members of the Church there are frequently some present who are not.

Thirdly, St Paul goes on to suggest that each person has something to contribute to the whole worship, and in this way to build up the church. There are still some people who think of worship as merely a personal matter. But the word Common in the title of the Prayer Book in the 16th century was making it plain even then that worship is something we do together or in common. So any changes that are made should bear in mind the importance of making our worship more and not less corporate.

Lastly, St Paul asks in irony: "Did the word of God originate with you, or are you the people to whom it came?" While each congregation will rightly have its own character we are not free to follow every whim of our own. Our 16th Century Reformers appealed to the fathers of the Church and to such liturgical knowledge as they could then command. Four centuries later we can rejoice that all parts of the Church have moved forward together in liturgical thinking and we cannot ignore what we can learn from each other. While Anglican worship has its own flavour and characteristics, just as Orthodox or Methodist worship does, we are concerned in the Church of England that our worship must be in tune with the worship of the rest of the Catholic Church.

After Easter, when some assessment can be made of the outcome of our Lent study it will be for the Parochial Church Council to make decisions about the order of worship to be used in the different parts of the parish (and what is done in one part does not necessarily have to be done in another). If we opt out of studying this matter we shall not be entitled to feel resentment if the decisions which are made are not to our liking. For that reason if for no other it is important that as many people as possible share in the Lent groups.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mr H. Hitchman, 153 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, RG4 7JR. Tel: 472542.

NEW PRIEST FOR ST ANNE'S

WE EXTEND a very warm welcome to Fr Meagher who returned to St Anne's as Parish Priest in January.

Fr Meagher was born at Brewood in Staffordshire, one of five children. He was at Cotton College from 1941-48 and was then one of the first students at the new seminary in Grove Park from 1948-49. He studied until 1955 at the Diocesan Seminary in Oscott after which he came to Caversham as curate. In 1961 he was moved to Holy Trinity in Sutton Coldfield and then worked with the Schools Commission for two years.

In 1964 he became curate to St Augustine's at Meir in Stoke-on-Trent and in 1966 went as curate to St Patrick's in Stafford where he also acted as prison and hospital chaplain. In 1969 he was made Parish Priest of Our Lady's in Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, where he had the misfortune, as he says, to fall off a ladder and break his back.

He was out of action for three months and was then



Photo: John Williamson

put in charge of the smaller parish of St Christopher's at Codsall while he fully recuperated.

Fr Meagher says he always liked Caversham and is delighted to be back. He

is pleased to find some of the people he used to know still here and looks forward to getting to know everybody in the parish so that it will come together as a real community.

Nicholas Est. 1882

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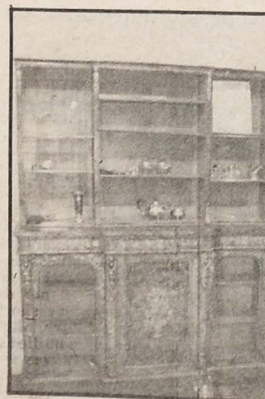
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NEW YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 40,000 at European meeting of Taize community

ON CHRISTMAS night while many people were settling down to watch James Bond on the television, Sherry Beabe, Tim Wale and Peter Boulding set off on the first stage of their 1,200-mile pilgrimage to Rome. They spent the first night with the Lay Community at Douai near Theale. Before going to bed the fourteen travellers who had gathered there, plus the two Brothers who would drive them to London, joined in the School Chapel for prayer.

Next morning they were awoken by the sound of Tim's alarm and a loud crash — in his wild attempts to switch off the alarm he had knocked a picture off the wall on to the floor right beside fellow-traveller Mike — it was 4.40am and felt like it!

At 6am they set off for the Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre to join others from this country in a short service before getting into three large coaches to take them to Folkestone (no BR trains on Boxing Day); then by boat to Calais and train on to Paris. It was another 20 hours before they reached Rome and the cathedral church of St John Lateran. They were welcomed (in a way reminiscent of earlier trips to Taize) at the Pontifical University. Peter chose to join with a group of musicians (he had taken his trombone especially!); others chose to join work groups or spend their stay in silence.

The musicians rehearsed in the Aula Magna (The "Great Hall") of the university from 8.30 to 12 noon,

then played and sang at a service at 1 o'clock. The afternoon rehearsal was from 2.30 to 6pm, then they returned to St John Lateran for the 7 o'clock service. Between the rehearsals they shared hot soup and pasta al fresco in the Lateran courtyard.

During the morning of December 30 the entire 1,500-strong choir and orchestra gathered in the Aula Magna for a full rehearsal for the evening service. The service was in St Peter's with Pope John-Paul II. That afternoon the buses to the Vatican were more than usually packed. By four o'clock a large crowd, more reminiscent of a football crowd than a church congregation, had gathered in the famous St Peter's Square. Eventually they were allowed in by the Swiss Papal Guards. The orchestra and choir set-up behind the altar.

The worship began with the "chants repetitifs" familiar to visitors to the Taize community — "Veni Sancte Spiritus" and "Adoramus te Domine". Suddenly the tranquillity of the singing was broken by tumultuous applause and photo-flashes that signified the Papal entry at the west end of the Basilica. The Pope's progress up the church took him half-an-hour during which time the music and the singing continued. Eventually he arrived in his plain white robes at the altar dais.

The Prior's address

The most significant moment of the service was when Frere Roger (the Prior of the Taize community) spoke. His address was simple and moving, expressing the now familiar Taize

theme of unity "... today, for the younger generation, reconciliation can tolerate no further delay". The Pope's response was a little disappointing: he gave a theological discourse (in five languages) about the life and teachings of St Peter — the theme of reconciliation hardly entered his talk. At the end of the service Pope John-Paul went round behind the altar to greet the members of the orchestra; he shook hands with many of them, including Peter Boulding.

On Wednesday morning (New Year's Eve) they went down into the Catacombs. It sounded very exciting — more so than it actually was; the route through the catacombs was too well lit and signposted for anyone to get lost!

By 11 o'clock on January 1 (following a night of celebrating!) most of the choir had somehow managed to get to the Colosseum for a special service in memory of Christian martyrs.

After that the day passed all too rapidly and soon they were sitting on a train at Rome's Tuscolano Station. There they sat for five hours while the train lights were repaired — a welcome delay in that it meant that they passed through the Alps in brilliant sunshine rather than darkness.

It was a wonderful experience to share in a powerful and unified Christian gathering on so large a scale. No one asked or cared if you were Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, labels didn't matter. All that mattered was making friends, the sincere joy, the sharing together in so open an atmosphere.



POSTBAG

The Brandt Report, Disarmament etc

THE January Caversham Bridge contained a major front page report on the well attended meeting, three letters, a report on the meeting addressed by Monsgr Bruce Kent, a book review by John Madeley, and some comments from Katy. The general sense of all these seems to be that if we disarm every one else will do likewise! That possession of a deterrent is basically wicked and if we bared our bosom to the enemy all would be well and all the money could be used for the needs of the Third World.

What are the facts, not opinions, facts: There has been no war between major powers for thirty-five years. This is entirely because of the existence of the deterrent. As the west has no intention of using it except as a reply to a strike from elsewhere it is important to retain it and to make it clear to a potential aggressor it would be used.

Mr Shurlock is happy that the Russian populace under their Godless gangsters should not be threatened by annihilation from the West; it seems he would prefer that we, like Afghanistan, should pass under that same Godless

rule. It will have been noticed by all your correspondents that the Russian invasion of that country used conventional arms. They may also realise that Russia outstrips the whole of NATO with tanks, guns, aircraft and ships. Why? They are not at risk of invasion and the countries they occupy are unlikely to rise up as did Hungary; even at this moment brave Poland is in grave danger, and Russia may well intervene, again with conventional arms.

The question of siting Cruise Missiles is raised. There seems a feeling that if we are to have a deterrent we should use the U.S. umbrella but play no part in it. Arising out of this "Katy" seems to believe the days of Gun Boat diplomacy were all bad. Historically they were so rarely needed they averted a number of wrongs by their very availability, or for immediate help in cases of disaster through storm, earthquake and other natural disasters. It is interesting that those who are so moved by the Brandt Report seemed quite undismayed by the slaughter of thousands of Sudanese and Somalis; could this be because that slaughter came from Communists?

A final remark on John Madeley's book review; Joyce, an International

Lawyer, is quoted as though his statements are the authentic truth, instead of "loaded opinion". The dangerous events described still left safe-guards.

What worries many of us is what seems a concerted effort to link the problems of the Third World with an attempt to press unilateral disarmament. We disarmed to a dangerous degree up to 1937/38. It was only by the Grace of God, yes I mean that, that we, for too long alone, prevented this Country becoming a Nazi state, with all that implies. Does our Church, or we, who are the Church, feel we have insufficient problems that we would wish to pass under Godless rule and have to start from scratch with martyrdoms and all that? It is what we are talking about.

Just one final remark on "AID". We are reminded recently of Cardinal Hume's remark: "One less fighter plane would pay for many thousand units of aid." This was applied to India; has anyone told Mrs Gandhi? Only the previous week she had contracted for numerous warplanes and other equipment from Russia.

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OBITUARY

IVY BEECH

THERE were few people in Cromwell Road so well liked as Ivy, and it was with great sadness that neighbours heard of her death, following a very short illness, in January. She and her husband, who died some years ago, were very valued neighbours, having lived here for many years. However ill they might have been themselves, they always found time to be interested in other people.

Though not able to take a very active part, Ivy was a regular attendee at St Peter's Church, and was a very friendly person to have around. A keen gardener, she liked nothing better than to talk about growing things. Many people will miss her very much.

IN A SOMEWHAT unhappy month when only news of deaths, illnesses, unemployment and domestic upheavals seemed to reach me, two very cheerful items came my way.

Ruby weddings

In January BRUCE and WIN BAILEY, of South View Avenue, celebrated their ruby wedding with a grand party, attended by over 100 guests, in St Anne's Hall. Bruce will probably be best known as

our friendly butcher, now at a shop in Emmer Green. His "lovely ladies" in Prospect Street still miss him, but he tells me there are some very lovely ladies in Emmer Green too.

Married at Holy Trinity Church, Win and Bruce have lived in Caversham ever since and have no intention of leaving it for, as Win says, it's such a friendly place and the neighbours are so helpful. I venture to suggest the neighbours would say the same about them.

Boxing Day saw the 40th wedding anniversary of

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

GLADYS and ARTHUR SOUTH, who now live in Newport Road. Married at St Mark's Church, it is nice to know that Canon Derek Perkins, who performed the ceremony, was able to be present at the party their three children gave for them at the Grosvenor Hotel. Present also were many members of their family (they now have eight grandchildren including recently-arrived twins) and, as a keen member of St Peter's Church choir, Arthur also had considerable support from members of the congregation.

May we offer all these popular people our sincere congratulations and good wishes for many happy years to come.

is pointless and sometimes very distasteful. Is it always the younger generation who are the culprits, I wonder; if so somebody really should tell them that they didn't invent sex or parts of the human anatomy.

Lorry drivers please note

And won't somebody do something about lorries parking on pavements? Seeing a lorry draw up firmly on a pavement when the driver got out and approached a nearby traffic warden, I waited to hear him firmly ticked off. I don't think it happened. I'm not kidding — it is not only this kind of thing which is responsible for

Our friendly reporter

Many years ago I attended two events at which a local reporter was in attendance and I remember at the time thinking how very odd that she never bothered to speak to anybody and disappeared as quickly as possible. Having occasion recently to meet a very charming young reporter from the "Chronicle", I was pleased to see that she was totally different; obviously interested in people, she had an attention for what might seem trivia in Fleet Street but what is surely vital to a local newspaper. She should go far and I wish her well — incidentally, like me, she does like to be told what is happening in Caversham, which she covers regularly, and a call to the "Chronicle" could make her work a lot easier.

And talking of local papers, it amazes me how many people say they never take one. If you're interested in

local affairs — and who isn't, they are worth the money.

The big secret

Which reminds me, why did I have to ask at the Post Office counter about the new postal charges? The local people said no posters had been issued — if not, why not? Having run out of excuses for what I consider to be exorbitant postal costs, is the GPO trying to avoid the subject altogether and pretend it never happened? If so, they've only got themselves to blame if mail is understamped.

Window cleaners

Just one more thing for those of you who actually read this column — yes, the window cleaners I mentioned last month did turn up about a month after their first call. They look like being more reliable than those we've had in recent years. Give them a try!

D. H. WATTS

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Caversham refurbished

I'm told the steps down to the river by Caversham Bridge Hotel have been cleaned and painted and are now a delight, or were before the graffiti merchants started to work on them. I admit to having a soft spot for the wittier items scrawled on walls (eg the obviously women's lib comment: "When God made man She made a mistake") but these are few and far between. Most of it

THE CAVERSHAM QUOIT CLUB 1907



Back row, from left: J. Taylor, H. Patey, W. Roland, E. James, J. Barfield, A. Fisher, W. Cox (Secretary). Centre row, from left: E. Burnham, G. King, E. Bradley (Asst Sec), H. Winter (Capt). Front: H. Hiscock, H. Kent. The club met at the Griffin, where this photo was taken. Mine host, J. Taylor, is in the picture. Mr Green, the village photographer, took the photograph.

much of the wear and tear on our pavements, but it is very dangerous. A pavement should be a less hazardous spot to stand on and one gets a rude awakening when a lorry comes charging across it. Has the driver, you wonder, got out of control and should you leap for the nearest window, or is he merely exercising what he, at least, considers to be his rights?

Are crossings safe?

I'd like five minutes with the lady who shot across the Church Street crossing recently when the lights were against her. It's a hazardous enough crossing at the best of times, for the time allowed for pedestrians is still not nearly long enough for anyone except a sprinter.

And talking of crossings, just how is one supposed to cross Gosbrook Road when alighting from a bus, particularly at busy times? It amazes me that nobody has been killed there yet. There are no houses on the south side at that spot where the bus stops, so one presumes anyone alighting there has got to cross the road. How about some thought to the problems by the powers that be?

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I AM a Puppy Walker for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and this is the question I am asked most often. How can you possibly part with a puppy after you have had it for ten to twelve months? It is not easy!

A tiny ball of fluff is brought to you at six weeks old and leaves you at twelve months as a big, handsome dog. During this period you have cuddled it, fed it, excused it, taught it principles of good behaviour and how to behave on buses, in cars, amongst people, in shops and buildings, then chastised it when it decided that pieces of clothing were better things to chew than the toys and bones provided. But, how difficult to be cross when you look into those appealing eyes that say: "I'm sorry, I really didn't mean to do it."

Most of the puppies are bred at a Breeding Centre in Warwickshire where Derek Freeman is in charge. (He has appeared several times on the Blue Peter programme.) The puppies are all of the highest quality and have delightful and reliable characters — a must for the work they hopefully will have to do.

I first read an article on Puppy Walking in the Reading Chronicle in 1968 and decided this was for me, as long as my husband approved. I have always enjoyed having a dog but as we go abroad for the whole of the school summer holiday, it was not realistic to have a dog of our own. So here was my chance to have a dog and do a service for someone else at the same time.

Mark

After a gentleman representing the GDBA was satisfied that our surroundings were suitable, we eagerly awaited the arrival of a puppy. He came in November 1968; a delightful German Shepherd called Mark. He was already 11 weeks old so had quickly to learn to be clean in the house. I have found that for the first two weeks you must really watch the puppy and encourage him to "go busy" outside. They sleep a lot at this age so once they awake they must quickly be ushered outside with the word "busy".

By Pru Sharp

At night it was like having a baby again. The puppy sleeps in our room. I am conscious of any movement and am quick to gather him up and take him out to the garden. This does not go on for too long fortunately and they soon learn to control their bladders during the night — thank goodness! Mark was rather a nervous puppy and needed much encouragement. He did not fancy having a collar around his neck and being taken out into the big wide world.

to go near. All these strange things were soon overcome and in fact he discovered the carpet sweeper and mop were great things to have a game with.

Gradually he was introduced to people, traffic, shops and buses. He travelled well fortunately but people with whom he had to travel were not always happy to have him amongst them. People have a great aversion to German Shepherds which I always find is rather sad because

extremely helpful and drove one of the buses out on to the forecourt of the garage and then stopped it to let Ambie on.

As is often the way, Ambie went up the steps as if he had been doing it all his short life and obviously enjoyed the exercise. So that was that problem solved thanks to Reading Corporation. Ambie grew into a big, affectionate dog. He went to start his intensive training in July and we were very sorry to hear a few weeks later that he would not be able to be a Guide Dog as he, together with the rest of his litter, had suspect cataracts behind their eyes.

So that meant Ambie could now become a family dog and friends of ours had him. We were therefore able to see Ambie every so often which was most pleasing. Sadly, he died on New Year's Day aged 11 years.

Envoy was the next Labrador to arrive. A very independent character from the very beginning. He did not like to be fussed and in turn did not fuss us. He went on to qualify but had to have a change of owner after a few months and then became the happy Guide Dog of the Association Area Representative for South West England and Wales.

We then had another beautiful German Shepherd called Quell, who qualified successfully. The next arrival was our first bitch, a small, black Labrador called Bonny. She had been given to the Guide Dogs together with her sisters to see if she would be suitable for the work. She was rather underweight but soon developed into a plump puppy and we had our usual enjoyable months with her without too many problems. She duly qualified and I had a most delightful letter from the lady who became her proud owner. She had not long been blind and said it was so wonderful to have Bonny to take her about and be such a faithful companion.

Our third German Shepherd, Gable, was a very friendly fellow but, oh, what energy he had. His biggest delight was to get to his free run area of the

day as quickly as possible and then to find sticks and have them thrown for him. He proved to be far too busy a dog and would not concentrate on his training, so he went to one of the girl trainers as her pet.

After all the hard work with Gable, I asked for another bitch and Wendy, another Golden Labrador, duly arrived in September 1975. She was a placid, easily trainable puppy and became the Guide Dog of a young man in Nottingham. Our next Labrador was called Mason. He is now guiding in Wokingham.

In 1977, we were delighted to have a Sable and White Border Collie called Binley. Very quick and agile. One only had to ask him to do something and he would respond immediately — not always quite the way you wanted but in his own way! He hardly ever sat down but took up the typical Collie down position.

He is now a Guide Dog and companion to a young lecturer in Suffolk. We then had our second black Labrador, a dog called Bruce. He was another very active, happy dog and is now working in the London area with an outgoing and energetic young man who is a telephonist.

Next came Ellis, a yellow Labrador, who is now going through his intensive training and is progressing well. We now have our second Border Collie, Usher, and for the twelfth time my life is revolving around yet another delightful puppy. He is six months old and learning well.

Perhaps now you can understand why, even though it is sad when a puppy leaves, it is so worthwhile for all the enjoyment one gets from helping a small puppy grow up and do such a marvellous job for one of our blind fellows.



■ Mrs Pru Sharp, of Matlock Road, with Usher, a six months old Border Collie, being puppy walked.

Photo: John Williamson

At first we only made it a few feet down the road and I ended up carrying him for his walk just so that he could see it was not too bad when a car came dashing down the road. Mark also had to get used to household noises, like the carpet sweeper.

He needed to learn too that the fire was not a thing

one could not have wished for a more gentle character than Mark. I took him to Obedience Classes and he learnt well there, and when we went to Puppy Walkers' Day at Leamington Spa we came second in the Obedience Competition out of about 50 other competitors. It was a great thrill.

We had to leave Mark at the Centre during July and August whilst we went on holiday but he returned to us until the end of October when he was ready to go for his intensive training down at the Exeter Centre. I will never forget that day. I was so sad — Mark had become such a splendid companion and I was going to miss him dreadfully.

It didn't help when he did not want to get into the car that was to take him away. I couldn't get back into the house quickly enough as tears were streaming down my face. It took me about two weeks to settle down again to normal life. It would have helped to have had another puppy but owing to family commitments we were not able to do so that year.

Ambie and the buses

In September the following year, Ambie, a Golden Labrador, joined us. A very much more confident puppy who learnt very quickly but had a dislike of buses; no amount of encouragement would make him board one. So I decided to speak to the Manager at the bus depot in Mill Lane and explain my problem. He was

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16 YEARS OF BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

1980 WAS the 16th year of the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme. People at the Scheme's AGM were told that other areas in Reading envied what was being done in Caversham.

It is a voluntary organisation sponsored by the local churches which grew out of a stewardship campaign in the parish. It covers all of Caversham north of the Thames, Mapledurham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. Its aim is neighbourliness — each to help one another. It does not compete with, but co-operates with the Social Services Department. Anyone can offer to help, and anyone may ask for help.

Transport needed

The Scheme is administered by six area organisers: Mrs Russell in Emmer Green, Mrs S. Smith in Central Caversham, Mrs Lorenc in East Caversham, Mrs Hickox in West Caversham, Mrs Pynn in Mapledurham and Mrs Davies in Caversham Park Village. It is they who contact the volunteers in their own locality when a call for help comes from a neighbour, relative, doctor, the clergy, Social Services etc.

In 1980 there were over 300 calls for help of one sort or another. Much of the help required involves transport. This is for those who are unable easily to use public transport, very often it means taking someone to visit a close relative in hospital. A case in one area has recently finished; a relative was taken to visit in hospital twice a week — it continued for 20 months. A lot of work is involved in arranging a rota; there is the goodwill of the drivers waiting around for the return journey. Then

there are regular visits to the foot clinic or the optician — though none to the dentist!

Emergencies

Some trips involve going as far as the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, but they are mostly to more local hospitals. There are 15 people who are taken shopping each week, and in Emmer Green there are four or five drivers who convey people to the OAP Leisure Time Club and take them home afterwards. In Mapledurham a team

of drivers delivers the Meals-on-Wheels twice a week.

The Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme needs more volunteer drivers if the same people are not going to be asked too frequently.

Emergency calls go from one extreme to another: from a lady who wanted help to unscrew a nut on her lawnmower, another who needs more firewood chopping — and has no chopper — to a young wife in an Intensive Care Unit where her husband is on a life support machine following a serious accident — she urgently needs someone to be with her for four hours when no one else is available.

Babysitting

There are calls from patients who have just returned from hospital and need some help at home — sometimes someone to call in and make sure that all is well while relatives are out, or at other times there may be someone

needed to go out for some shopping.

Much of the help given is to elderly people — but not all. One young mother was given a lot of help. She had a small baby and was being treated at the time for depression. She needed someone to be with her from 1-5pm Monday to Friday for about a fortnight. Two young mothers, between them, visited her each day until she was better. Another young mother had a 20-month-old daughter and twin babies. She needed a babysitter so that she could occasionally take the little girl out for a walk. At the time she had no twin pram. Both these requests came from health visitors.

Every now and then volunteers are needed to sit with the housebound, and so relieve a relative and allow him or her to get out of the house for a while — a necessary break for them both.

Then there are lonely and housebound people who want a regular visit; someone who will

just pop in for a friendly chat and a cup of tea.

During the year the Good Neighbour Scheme was able to help three elderly ladies who needed a holiday. Thanks to the help of volunteers and the generosity of the Caversham Consolidated Charities they were able to get away. They were most grateful.

Once again in 1980 four of the helpers organised the distribution of the Christmas parcels in Caversham and Mapledurham, with the help of Mrs Anne Sear who compiled the list.

This will have given some idea of the scope of the work carried out by the Good Neighbour Scheme. It gets done because of the dedication of the Area organisers — it is they who get on the phone and stay on it until they have found someone who can help — and the wonderful volunteers who offer to drive or visit. The people of Caversham have much to be thankful for.



■ Mrs Kate Besley, the organiser for the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme, talking to Mr

Hunt, the guest speaker at the Scheme's Annual Meeting in Balmore Hall.

Photo: Graham Aisbitt

GUY AND MARGARET WILLIAMS MOVE TO FAWLEY

IT WAS in February 1972 that Guy Williams came as estate steward to Mapledurham House. Now he and his wife, Margaret, are leaving the village to live in yet another attractive rural corner of Oxfordshire, at Fawley, near Henley.

The nine years at Mapledurham have been a time of many changes on the Estate with which Guy and Margaret have been involved to greater or lesser degrees.

The main restoration of Mapledurham House had already been completed and it was open to the public when Mr and Mrs Williams arrived. However, much more remained to be achieved. Guy was greatly involved with the restoration and opening of the Bardolph Aisle, adjoining St Margaret's Church, and later the original old Manor House.

When part of the film "The Eagle Has Landed" was shot at Mapledurham Guy had to liaise between the Estate and the film company which proved an interesting experience.

There was also the restoration of the lovely old mill which is now grinding corn once again, as it did for so many centuries.

Summer boat trips to Mapledurham House from Caversham and the opening of the Country Park were two more projects which came to fruition during the last few years, so life has been full and rewarding for both Guy and his wife.

With her City and Guilds Certificate in handicraft, Margaret was able to help restore many lovely pieces of furniture in Mapledurham House. She covered the six fine

gilt Louis XVI chairs in the boudoir, also all the dining room chairs and made the drapes for the four poster bed. She was also involved with the gift shop at Mapledurham House and dealt with the catering for Open Days and a number of people will have enjoyed some of her delicious home made teas. In conjunction with Lady Anne she arranged many lovely flower decorations and recently helped to create a small gift shop in the mill and took charge of the furnishing and domestic care of the holiday cottages on the Estate.

Both Guy and Margaret are members of the Caversham Heights Methodist Church where Guy is a Church Steward. He is also a local preacher and has several times joined in village

worship at St Margaret's, where he has preached. Indeed a few days after his departure to Fawley he gave the sermon there on the Sunday for Christian Unity and everyone was delighted to have him and Margaret back again so soon.

Their many friends are glad they are not moving far away and will be very happy to see them whenever they can manage to join in village worship. As Guy intends to keep his link with the Methodist Church in Highmoor Road he and Margaret will not completely leave the district.

For the benefit of their many friends we enclose their new address: Churchfield Cottage, Fawley, near Henley. May they enjoy many, many years of great happiness in their new home.

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WHEN the Church Council met on January 13 some lively and constructive discussion took place. The Rev David Milling spoke of plans for Lenten study on worship. Members suggested that as this was a difficult topic some main meetings were needed to precede the discussion in the smaller house groups.

Mr Ken Bennett moved some resolutions to be sent to the Reading Deanery Synod. After various amendments had been approved the Council agreed to submit the following to the February meeting of the Deanery Synod:

(i) That this Synod, deeply conscious of the need for Anglicans to rethink the level of their financial commitment, requests the Archbishops of the Church of England to ensure that nationwide teaching is given by them about the real meaning of Christian giving.

(ii) That this Synod requests the Diocesan Synod to formulate and publish before 31 December, 1981, contingency plans of action to be put into effect forthwith in the event of the parish shares being substantially underpaid.

(iii) That this Synod requests that those who are coming to us as visitors in the Partners for Mission project this autumn be asked specifically to comment as to whether they see our expenditure as relevant to the work of the Church in the 1980s.

The Parochial Treasurer, Mr Eric Smith, gave a favourable report of the accounts for 1980 but warned members of the need for a greatly increased income in 1981. The parish share to the diocese which in 1980 had been

£19,596 was fixed in 1981 at £32,731 and might exceed £40,000 next year. The Rev John Sumner explained that the British Legion had agreed to make a substantial financial contribution towards the hut to be erected on St John's Church grounds and it was agreed that the Legion should therefore be allowed to share with the Scouts and Guides in the use of the hut. The Council meets again on March 18.

Singing at Guildford. The choirs of the parish are to sing Evensong in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, October 25. Mr L. Bacon has been appointed assistant organist in the parish in succession to Mr John Dussek who has taken up the appointment at St Peter's as parish organist and choir-master.

ST PETER'S NEWS

FOR the first time for three years the feast of the Epiphany did not fall at the weekend so the Eucharist was sung on the evening of the feast (January 6) and mince pies and refreshments were served after the service. Musical items then followed contributed by Bridget and Sarah Bowyer, Charles Croft, Anne Grimwade, Nigel Smith and Derek Spears and the evening ended with the congregation joining in carol singing.

Mrs Gillard. Her many friends will be sorry to learn of the recent death of Mrs Gillard. She and her husband, who died last year, had been living with their married daughter near Carlisle. The Rector and Mrs Grimwade were able to visit Mrs Gillard when on holiday last autumn in Cumbria.

ST JOHN'S NOTES

IT WAS party time for St John's in January. The Mothers' Union gave a party for their own members and the local old age pensioners. Seventy guests were entertained by the Newtown singers. After a (needless to say) excellent tea, they were all given a small present.

There were about two dozen people at the parties held by the Nomads, the youth group, and the 10 to 13's group. They were separate occasions, but both were discos, held in the Upper Vestry and everyone brought a contribution towards the refreshments. The Nomads danced to heavy metal music and the 10-13's to heavy rock, provided by three boys from the Nomads.

There was a party for under 11s at the Methodist Hall in Ardler Road, on

ANGLICAN NEWS

January 17. This was a combined Methodist-Church of England event, and one which it is hoped to continue organising together. About seventy children played games, all the old favourites, and ate an enormous tea. They finished by dancing to disco music provided by Neville Keating while coloured lights were flashing. During this session one child found a penny on the floor! The children went home, telling their parents, nineteen to the dozen, what a good party it was. The helpers enjoyed it too.

During January, St John's had been full of spring flowers from Edith Evetts funeral. The congregation remembers, with thankfulness, the cheerful friendly witness of her life, while she could still come to church, and in her long illness, during which she was devotedly cared for by her family.

Mrs Godwin hands over. The Annual General Meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in Caversham Hall on January 27. Twenty-seven members were present. Mrs Hilda Godwin, who had completed her six-year term of office as enrolling member was warmly thanked for all she had done for the branch and a presentation was made to her by Mrs Whiteway. Mrs Billingham succeeds Mrs Godwin as enrolling member and was admitted to office by the Rector at the Family Eucharist on Sunday, February 1.

ST PETER'S AND ST BARNABAS MOTHERS' UNION

THE January meeting should have been an open one to hear the Rector speak on his visit to India. Unfortunately owing to illness this had to be postponed until the following week. However, members discussed the programme for the coming year and other matters concerning the Mothers' Union in general.

Mrs Moore, who had faithfully made the tea for some time, felt she could no longer carry on and Mrs May Harwood said she would continue to do so, and Mrs D. Dawkins agreed to help her as and when necessary.

ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION

ST ANDREW'S Mothers' Union members have had some most interesting meetings which have been appreciated very much.

In November Mr D. Clarke gave a talk and showed slides of a number of English cathedrals.

Members were happy in December to give an annual party to twenty-four young people from Borocourt. It was a thoroughly enjoyable

afternoon, beginning with musical games and competitions, and followed by a really delicious tea. After tea, favourite carols were chosen and sung by all. Before leaving, every visitor had jelly and ice cream, and also a gift of chocolate and apples from the Christmas tree.

In January an Epiphany party was enjoyed by those members who were not unlucky victims of flu. Before tea Mr Perkins showed his own film of places in America which he and Mrs Perkins visited recently on holiday.

ST ANDREW'S

ST ANDREW'S Epiphany party was a four-course sit down meal, organised by Messrs Vic Smith, Mike Payne and Robin Kitcher, with a certain amount of help shanghaied from District Wardens, wives, etc. Peter Watsham was in charge of the entertainment, organising an anagram competition and charades. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and look forward to the next!

ST BARNABAS NEWS

WORK should soon have started repairing the structural damage caused to the hall by the fire last autumn. Temporary repairs carried out immediately after the fire have allowed the hall to be used in the meantime. Prompted by the fire and with the knowledge that the hall (which was erected as a temporary building 90 years ago) is starting to show its age, the District Committee has started discussing what sort of buildings the church in Emmer

Green will need in years to come.

The District Committee heard that nearly £1,800 from St Barnabas had been given to the wider mission of the church — St Lucy's Hospital, Transkei, £315; Umzimkulu Hospital, Transkei, £320 (these include £331 raised at the Christmas Fair); USPG General fund £275; Scholarship to Blind School in India, £120; Train-a-priest fund, £50; Samaritans, £35; Lent Appeal for USPG Transport Project and European Council of Churches, £94; Advent Fast for Christian Aid, £97; Crisis at Christmas (Christmas Collections), £245; Algerian Earthquake Appeal, £58; Guide Dogs for the Blind (carol singing by Barnacles

Youth Group), £36; Corrymeela Community (cake stall run by the Sunday School), £36; Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme, £10.

BBC-2 FROM PEPPARD ROAD

The Chiltern Nursery Training College in Peppard Road will be featured by the Open University in a programme, entitled "Who'll be mother?", at 7.40am, on Saturday, March 14. The programme is to be repeated on March 27 at 4.50pm.

HOUSE COMMUNIONS CAVERSHAM PARK

Wednesdays 10.30am

March 4 — 6 Eynsford Close (Vera Wilson)
March 11 — 10 Netley Close (Joy Abel)
March 18 — 72 Kingsway (Betty Lewis)
March 25 — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Jane Lynch-Watson)

ST MARGARET'S

Thursdays 10.30am

March 12 — 4 Hilltop Road (Heather Robinson)
March 26 — 69 Woodcote Way (Jean Hodson)

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Friday, February 20, 8pm

St John's in St John's Church

Tuesday, February 24, 8pm

St Barnabas' in St Barnabas' Hall

Wednesday, February 25, 8pm

St Andrew's in St Andrew's Hall

Friday, February 27, 8pm

St Peter's in Balmore Hall

Sunday, March 1, 12 noon

Caversham Park in Caversham Park Primary School

PAROCHIAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 7.45pm

Balmore Hall

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PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 4

Holy Communion

St Peter's — 8am,
9.30am, 8pm
St John's — 8pm
St Andrew's — 9.30am,
8pm
St Barnabas' — 10am,
8pm

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

CINEMA TO SUPERMARKET

CHANGE and expansion continue to take place in Caversham. It is almost certain that the old Regal Cinema building, long an eyesore, will soon have disappeared and its place have been taken by a building complex of which a Waitrose Supermarket will be the chief part.

These supermarkets have a good name so most people are pleased that there is most likely going to be one in Caversham. However, what its effect will be in attracting extra traffic to an already congested area or on existing supermarkets is another matter. Extra parking spaces and a new access road are what developers and planners are hoping will take care of the former, and if one of the latter is forced to close, that will be its headache, though it could also mean simply swapping one derelict building for another.

Those who have looked at the plans are not happy about the position of the new access road which is not aligned with Prospect Street. Neither are they convinced that this will provide the solution to central Caversham's traffic problems. In fact it remains to be seen whether we have paid too high a price to have a good (and it had better be) supermarket in Caversham.

SHOPPERS' PARKING

Meanwhile, customers of the newly expanded Co-op

appreciate the convenience of being able to go out of the rear door straight into the car park; at least if they have been able to find a space there in the first place. The Borough Council is considering making this a short term car park for the convenience of shoppers, which was the original intention, although whether personnel will be available to implement this is another matter. If it is no more effective than yellow lines, it will be a waste of time to institute it. There is also the point of what daylong parkers should do with their cars. Walk to work or use public transport cannot be the answer for all of them.

Little relief can be found in the St Martin's precinct car park, where the unnecessary and ill-sited bollards (those that have been knocked down have even been replaced) reduce the amount of space available as well as causing users much annoyance. In wet weather further areas are rendered useless by the deep lagoons which cover the surface. Complaints to the owners, and this is a privately owned car park, always fall on deaf ears.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

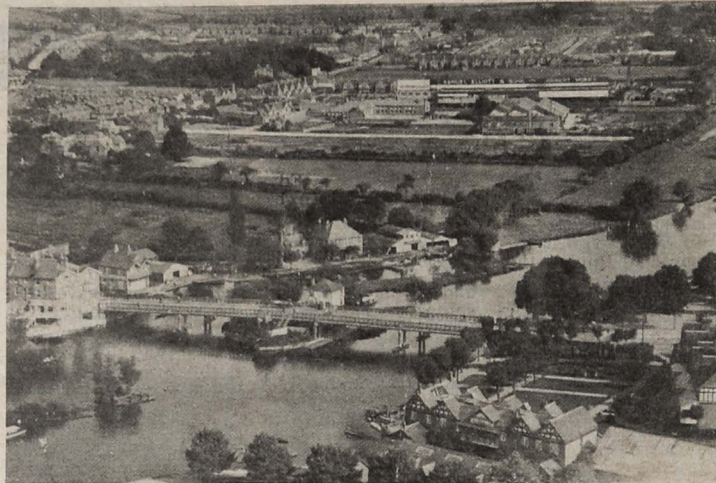
The new Parliament boundary changes being proposed will have the effect of taking Caversham (all wards, not just the one of that name) out of North

Reading and putting it into what is now South Reading, but will be renamed East Reading. It all probably makes sense to some mandarin sitting in Whitehall with a set of statistics and a map on which to draw lines, but it is being received with less than enthusiasm in the places to which it applies. It does not actually make much difference one way or the other to Caversham, although we may feel we have little in common with our new bedfellows of Finchampstead, Swallowfield and Barkham. These and other villages which are being absorbed into the Reading Constituencies feel they are being swallowed up and will lose their identity.

Parliamentary boundaries, where the representatives deal with national issues, are not of course the same as local government ones, but even so, names do matter where identity is concerned. It might make the proposals more acceptable if names other than Reading, which after all they are not, were given to these two constituencies. In fact, of all the new constituencies in this area, Slough is the only one that is a recognisable place and is what it says it is.

RECYCLING

Following up the success of Reading's bottle banks, the Borough Council is about to launch a paper-recycling scheme. These have often proved difficult to organise effectively, but



Recent aerial photos of Caversham have interested many readers of this paper, so they may like to see a very early picture from the air taken before 1925 and showing the iron bridge.

the number of people who doggedly put their paper separately for the dustbin collection even though they know it will be churned up with the rest of the refuse shows that there are plenty of people ready and willing to co-operate.

Caversham's bottle bank (now in the plural) goes from strength to strength. The heady smell in the region of the skips over the New Year period suggested the source of bottles on that occasion, but as the stuff is too expensive to be inhibited freely all the year round it must be assumed that glass containers with less exotic contents provide the bulk of the material. There's no doubt people don't like throwing something away which they feel still has a use.

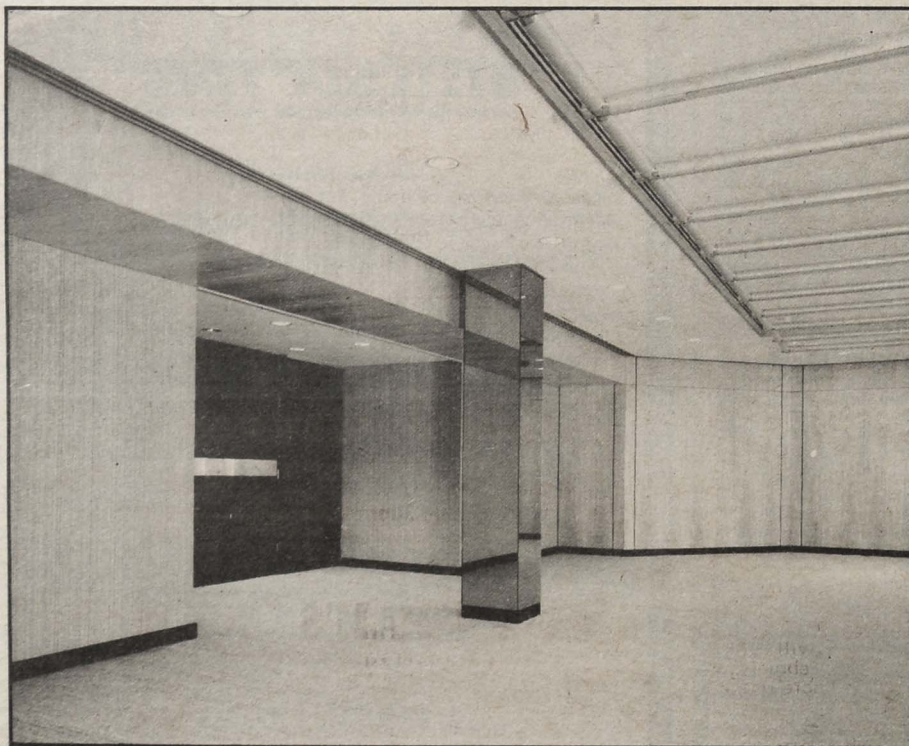
Sue Ryder Group Caversham

IT IS with regret the Sue Ryder Group announces the death of Mr Colin Middleton-Stewart who from the beginning has chaired the combined support groups committee and guided the open events at Joyce Grove. The Group extend their sympathy to his wife and family and also to Mrs Camilla Kapton (Matron's Secretary) on the death of her husband.

The Group has great pleasure in announcing that the profits from the Christmas Concert at St

John's Church have reached £70 and thank everybody for their support and participation, particularly Mrs Yvonne Milne, who organised the musical entertainment. Thanks also to many friends who have sold their produce and sent us their donations and made gifts, especially the ladies of Caversham Methodist Church.

The Group's Jumble Sale will be on April 11 at the Methodist Hall, Ardler Road. Further details in the next issue.



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FREE CHURCH NEWS

BAPTIST NEWS

Looking to our future
THE re-opening of the Church looms large — too large some are tempted to think as they view the volume of work which has to be done by both the professional builders, the talented amateurs and those not so talented before the great day — Saturday, March 28, 1981. Some considered it the height of folly for the Minister, Deacons and Leaders of organisations to decamp for a whole day just to talk about the future. This, however, is what they did when they held a Conference at Ufton Court — an ideal setting for such an event. The theme of the conference was "Looking to our Future" and the programme was divided into four sessions: — Our Worship, Christian Education, Caring for our Church Family and Caring for the Caversham Community. As one might expect with such wide ranging terms of reference views and opinion were equally diverse — kites were flown and kites were sniped at in a good natured and sometimes hilarious way.

Worship

Whilst red herrings were in evidence the consensus of opinion was that the pattern of Worship needed to move with the times whilst maintaining a recognisable order and structure which required adequate thoughtful preparation rather than spontaneity. Such demanding prerequisites would call for toleration and flexibility from young, old and not-so-old alike.

Christian Education

The profundity expressed on Christian Education seemed to be echoes from the past in that learning requires organisation, continuation, contentment with, and commitment to the subject in hand — and what doesn't? Fortunately the Church is able to number amongst its members the Revd Philip Webb who is Head of the Baptist Union's Christian Training Programme and it was he who manfully kept the deliberations on an even keel and straight course. Indeed he was able to fill the commercial slots with novel ideas from his Department at Baptist Church House.

Food for the Body

After a beautifully prepared and presented lunch served by the staff at Ufton Court the assembled company stoically resisted the temptation to nod-off and indulged in a lively discussion on caring within the Church and in the community in which the Church is set.

As could be anticipated some of the ideas put forward have been kicked around since Adam was a small lad but in the final analysis it was agreed that the first priority was to identify a need and then to act upon it. Furthermore it was considered pointless to go-it-alone if the available resources were inadequate for an effective impact — indeed it was evident that there was a need to co-operate with other likeminded agencies.

Heretics

At the end of the day one heretic, seconded by another, dared to suggest that a "new"

building would not necessarily produce a "new" spirit and they were smartly reminded that if the latter was not forthcoming then the former would have been a waste of resources.

In essence it was a very enjoyable and profitable day which produced a "think tank" giving scope for further discussion but above all an incentive to positive action.

The late Laurie Farmer

It is with regret that we report the passing of Mr Laurie Farmer at his home at Newtown, Powys. During the short time in which he lived in Upper Woodcote Road he became known to a wide circle of friends not least those of the Link Group, in which he and his wife, Betty, to whom we offer Christian sympathy, served and represented the Baptists of Caversham.

LINK GROUP

AT THE January meeting, held at Mary Bramwell's house, the evening of Carol Singing just before Christmas was reported. A large party of members with their families and friends had enjoyed singing under the lamp-posts of Caversham Park Village, to the accompaniment of Pete Boulding's trombone and Jim Plunkett's mobile organ. A collection was made for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and everyone later trooped into Paula Andrew's home for mincepies and coffee.

The main part of the evening was taken up by final planning for the Open Meeting to be held on February 5.

Plans were also made for the Annual Good-as-New Sale to raise money for the Link Group Charities. The Group was delighted to be offered the use of the new Baptist Hall for the Sale, and their coffee lounge for serving refreshments. This will take place on Saturday, April 25.

The next Link Group meeting will be on Monday, February 23, at 77 Kidmore Road, at 8pm.

LINK GROUP GOOD-AS-NEW SALE

Saturday, April 25
in the new Baptist Hall

Members will be glad to receive saleable goods at any time.
Please ring 471715 for details

METHODIST NEWS

To Padam and Margaret — a son

THE congregation of Caversham Heights Methodist Church shared in the joy of Padam and Margaret Agrawal when they gave thanks for their baby son, David Narain, in a special service of Dedication on January 11. Padam, as an adherent of Arya Samaj, a reformed movement within Hinduism which seeks to reveal "the purest Record of the highest form of Monotheism that can be conceived", was unable to take Christian vows on David's behalf. Despite the wide divergencies in their respective faiths, it was against a background of their common faith in God that Padam and Margaret were able to share this act of Dedication.

When the congregation affirmed their love for all the human race of every creed and class, and endorsed the dedication of David Narain with the words "we do, God being our helper", Padam and Margaret offered their son to God's care promising to do all in their power to lead him into all "Truth, love and conduct as God would reveal." David was then carried through the church to be welcomed by the congregation, in accordance with the church's tradition, before being returned to his parents.

"We pray God's blessing upon this baby, his sister Sheila and their parents. Bless their home and all who, in it, share something of its life. Lead them and us all we beseech Thee, into all Truth."

Counselling Group

The Counselling Group met twice in January in its on-going programme of following up the initial weekend on Counselling which was held last September.

Firstly a Saturday morning conference considered the problems presented by "Bereavement and Adolescence". This was led by the team from Southampton University Adult Education Department who were making a welcome return visit. The session on bereavement included analysis of feelings arising from loss; the consideration of case histories which were presented on film, and the ways in which counsellors could respond and help. It was shown that the feelings of loss in bereavement were not dissimilar from feelings arising in redundancy and divorce.

At the start of the session on Adolescence members recalled what that time in their lives

had meant to them and what problems had arisen. These memories were portrayed in drawings and then discussed. Comparison was made with the problems facing adolescents today, their hopes and aspirations, their relationships with each other and with older generations.

The second meeting was with Ken Humphreys of Unit 5, Reading Youth Counselling Service. He talked about the practicalities of matching resources to needs and of the desirability of establishing structures to meet the problems and pressures society cannot deal with. He sketched in the background to the rise in Counselling Services in the last few years, showing how society has changed and fragmented the family unit, making less available the support that was previously given in time of crisis, and how and why the sense of community has declined, giving people fewer opportunities to talk about their problems.

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CAVERSHAM AND THE BRANDT REPORT

IN OUR January edition we reported the overwhelming response to the meeting at Reading University when Dame Judith Hart MP spoke about the report of a Commission of 18 elder statesmen from all five continents who had met for two years under the chairmanship of former West German Chancellor Herr Willy Brandt.

Instigated by the President of the World Bank, Robert McNamara, the Commission, of which Edward Heath was a member, produced a powerful analysis of the problems which face the industrial countries of the North and the developing countries of the South.

So that more people could hear about the report, the Caversham One World Group organised a meeting in January in St Andrew's Hall. Chairing the meeting, the



■ Caversham's Member of Parliament Mr Tony Durant speaking at the meeting in St Andrew's Hall about the Brandt report.

Photo: John Williamson.

Rector said that after his visit to India, he was even more con-

vinced that the Brandt Report was of immense importance and that the British Government must set out to implement its recommendations.

John Madeley outlined the chief recommendations. The report, he said pointed out that the international economy was working badly for the countries of both North and South and that changes were needed that would help both. Brandt stressed how it would pay the North to give the South more aid and trading opportunities, for this would help the South out of poverty and that in turn would benefit the economies of the North.

One Commission member had pointed out that any system which kept millions in poverty was immoral but that it was not only the immorality but also the inefficiency of the system which needed changing.

Tony Durant MP gave his reaction to the report and dealt with the political implications for Britain in implementing its recommendations. He broadly supported the Commission's analysis but said that increasing overseas aid was not easy at a time of public spending cuts. But the Government would take into account the support for Brandt as shown by the general public. He stressed too the importance of training as part of the country's overall aid programme.

A lively exchange of views followed during question time. Copies of the Brandt report, "North-South: A Programme for Survival", are available price £1.95 from Caversham Bookshop.

★ ★ ★

■ On Tuesday, May 5, there is to be a national lobby of Parliament about the Brandt report to urge the Government to back its recommendations at a North-South summit at Mexico in June. The lobby will be from 3.00pm-9.00pm. Please reserve the date in your diary!



STAN ELTON'S COLUMN

LIFETIME OF TENNIS

Jack Stacey, a stalwart of tennis in Caversham and Berkshire for so many years, died at his home in Peppard Road, Caversham, at the end of last month, at the age of 81 years.

He had been involved with Caversham Tennis Club from 1919 until his death, as a player, Club Captain, Secretary and as its President.

From 1957 to 1975 he was also secretary of the Berkshire Lawn Tennis Association, being made a life Vice-President on his retirement. At the end of last year he was elected President of the Berkshire LTA.

Jack's influence and enthusiasm will be sadly missed by the Caversham Club, as he took a very active part in club affairs right up to the time of his death.

RE-ELECTED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Caversham man Leslie Strong, a member of the local water-ski club, Burghfield Aqua Sports Club, has been re-elected Chairman of the British Water-Ski Federation.

Over 300 delegates, from all over the United Kingdom, attended the Annual General Meeting held in London, in January, and re-elected Les to this important office, in what will be a very full year for Water Ski-ing. The World Championships will be

held at Thorpe Water Park in Surrey, in September and in addition to these there is a full calendar of events in Tournament ski-ing, racing and barefoot ski-ing.

Leslie Strong is a partner in the old established family builders J. Strong & Sons, of Caversham.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PEOPLE

In this year set aside to focus on the plight of the disabled, it is hoped that Sports people, Clubs and organisations, will play their part and help the handicapped to lead full lives.

Many disabled people, including the blind, can, and do, enjoy sport and it is up to all sports clubs to make sure that they go out of their way to help and encourage any handicapped person to take part in their sport.

If you play sport, why not try and find a handicapped person to take along to your club and give them the opportunity to play or take part in your sport.

The Reading and District Sports Council hopes to give a lead by including some events for the disabled in this year's local "superstars" competition.

This year's "Skillmaster" and "Sportsman" competitions will be under way in the next few months and the finals will be held at Palmer Park in July, after two years at Smallmead Stadium, whilst the new All-weather track was being laid.

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Caversham WI

THE January meeting was well attended. In the absence of the president, Mrs Hilda Adair, the vice-president, took the chair and welcomed the speaker Mrs A. Mates who gave an interesting talk with coloured slides on her visit to the charming island of Nantucket. This Atlantic island which was once inhabited by the Quakers in the 18th century, lies north of New York, the name Nantucket is an Indian word meaning Faraway Island.

The competition for a miniature flower arrangement was won by Mrs Hilda MacKenzie, second Mrs Kathleen Fullbrook and third Mrs Doris Gillett.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 19.

The competition will be a Paper Collage.

Caversham Community Association

THE first meeting in the New Year was for a cheese and wine party. Walter Dickinson was invited and provided the music for community singing. The yearly subscriptions were collected as these are due in January.

A whistdrive was held the following week, January 12. All grades of players take part in these whistdrives and friendly advice is given to the less experienced. The dual winners were Nancy Nelhams and Beryl Latham, the consolation prizewinners being Lee Hammond and Joan Tarrant.

On January 19 a Bring and Buy evening was arranged for the members. A good selection of articles and foodstuffs were brought by the members and sold in aid of club funds.

The members were informed that instead of the Rummage Sales previously held it was intended that nearly new articles and garments were to be available one evening a month for the members to purchase.

January's programme

ended with an Old Tyme dancing evening with a few modern dances included for variety. May Plant led the dancing and, after demonstrating the steps, encouraged everyone to take part.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

THE club re-assembled in the New Year for the regular weekly meetings at Balmore Hall, which were well attended.

During the month members were invited to St John's Mothers' Union New Year party, which was very much enjoyed by those who were able to go. At the last meeting the Rev Derek Spears gave a very interesting talk on his journey up the Nile, illustrated with slides.

Members were saddened to hear of the deaths of two of their members Mrs Hulse and Mr Chris Chandler, who had been with them for a long time, and a collection was made and the proceeds sent to the Physically Handicapped Association in their memory.

Maplewood WI

THERE was a sad start to the January meeting with a moment's silence in memory of a valued founder member Mrs Kathleen Bubb who died just after Christmas.

The president, Mrs Barbara Belfield-Smith welcomed the speaker Lady Brunner and visitors to the twenty-sixth birthday party. Lady Brunner told of the early days and the setting up of Denman College. A delicious birthday cake, made by Mrs Betty Carden and iced by Mrs Osborne, was much enjoyed.

Rosehill WI

MRS RUSSELL welcomed members and one visitor to the January meeting on a very wet and stormy afternoon. After the usual business, Major Chadwick, of the BBC Caversham Listening Station, gave a most interesting talk about this

ROUND THE CLUBS

most important establishment at Emmer Green. The competition was for homegrown bulbs, won by Mrs Stockhill.

Caversham Ladies Club

ALTHOUGH January is usually a bad month for weather, a good number of members attended the monthly meeting in Balmore Hall. They were sad to hear that Mrs Abel had lost her husband and mother within a few days of each other. The Club agreed to participate in the "Plant a Tree for Reading" scheme and special efforts would be made to raise the necessary £30.

Mrs D. Stockwell gave a talk on "How I became a Parish Clerk". She described how on moving to a village in Dorset on her husband's retirement she was asked to be Parish Clerk. Never before had they had a woman Parish Clerk and the salary was £12 per annum to look after the parish and the cemetery. She told of some of the difficulties she had to overcome as a newcomer and the satisfaction of doing such a job, but eventually held the post for five years before moving to Reading.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

A PARTNERSHIP whose brilliance has not dimmed over the years is that of Gilbert and Sullivan. Devotees among members were delighted when Mr Frank Terry, of the Sainsbury Singers, illustrated his talk at their January meeting with excerpts from the operas. He and Freda Clarke, accompanied by Marion Holmes at the piano, sang tenor and soprano solos and duets, some old favourites and others less well known.

Gilbert loved poking fun at the Establishment, while Sullivan regarded himself as a serious composer and would have liked to write grand opera. Fortunately, comic operas made more money and, in spite of some stormy quarrels, the impresario, Doyly Carte, persuaded them to keep writing what have become known as the Savoy Operas.

The chairman thanked Mr Terry for his talk and reminded members of forthcoming events, including the Jumble Sale to be held on Saturday, March 14, at Caversham Hall.

Blagrove WI

AT THE first meeting of the New Year reports were given by several members who had attended Christmas parties given by neighbouring Institutes. The president, Mrs M. Haigh, welcomed twenty-seven members and visitors.

Mrs Phil Duckworth gave an interesting talk on the "Royal National Lifeboat Institution". The knitting competition — A Lifeboatmen's Hat, was won by Mrs Reed, second Mrs Benham, third Mrs Housden.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

HAVING enjoyed their annual dinner at Chiltern Chase early in January the Guild met for the first meeting of 1981 to hear Mrs Margaret Churcher talking about her job while she was a Store Detective.

Although in these days it

chasing old ladies round stores for a few beads (£90 worth).

The listeners' questions showed a certain amount of concern for certain people who were unable to help themselves, but Mrs Churcher said these persistent offenders did not need sympathy — they were thieves pure and simple — sick kleptomaniacs go for bright, shiny, colourful baubles not John West's salmon or fillet steak — which two are the most common on the shoplifters list.

Management is greatly to blame. The thieving goes on even up to Managing Director level and most managements are careless of security. If all managers

were as diligent of security as the present manager of Reading's Littlewoods' store the level of shoplifting and staff pilfering would be greatly reduced.

The members did enjoy the talk but were a bit worried about being suspected of shoplifting when wandering round these open stores, but Mrs Churcher

assured everyone that thieves gave themselves away and most well-trained detectives could tell pretty quickly who made a genuine mistake and who did it purposely.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THE January meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was well attended in spite of the snowy weather. The speaker, Mrs Harmer, gave a talk on Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and spoke of her very interesting life there and of her challenging jobs in teaching and guiding. Her talk was illustrated with colour slides of the beautiful countryside and the wild life. Mrs Fuller gave the vote of thanks.

The Guild nominated "Research into Arthritis and the Stoke Mandeville Appeal" as their two charities for the year and Mrs J. Allen, the treasurer, was pleased with members' efforts so far in raising money towards the Jimmy Savile Stoke Mandeville Appeal.

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9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
11.15am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong (not March 29)

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Family Service (1st Sunday)
4.00pm Evensong (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong (not March 29)

St Barnabas

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Service for Parents and Children (Last Sunday in the month)
4.00pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15am PARISH COMMUNION

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

(March 29, see front page)
11.00am Morning Service (in Balmore Hall)
6.30pm Evening Service (in Church House)

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)
MORNING WORSHIP (2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays)
7.30pm Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

Caversham
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights

11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's
8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 5.00pm Mass

Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30am Mass

St Martin's School

9.15am Mass

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Anne's
January 18 — Theresa Carroll
Caversham Heights Methodist Church
November 13 — Philip Hawkins
Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
December 14 — John Holloway
January 25 — Matthew Mann, Vincent Mann, Courtenay Mann, Rebecca Mann, Richard Mann, Stephen Mann

INFANT DEDICATION

Caversham Heights Methodist Church
January 11 — David Agrawal

WEDDINGS

St Barnabas
January 31 — Salma Ibrahim and Stephen Randall
Caversham Heights Baptist Church
December 6 — Rosemary Wilson and Gerald Lake
Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
December 6 — Joan Ellis and Terry Allcroft

FUNERALS

St Peter's: January 30 — Ivy Beech
St John's: January 30 — Ellen Drewett
St Andrew's: January 7 — Arthur Emmons
January 16 — Bob Cunningham, Dorothy Seville
January 21 — Bill Morgan
January 26 — Irene Christie
January 30 — Jack Stacey
February 3 — Olive Chennell
St Barnabas: January 30 — Marion Brill
St Margaret's: January 21 — George Streamer
January 22 — Noel Moodie
Caversham Heights Methodist Church:
December 22 — Nora Leach

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The Rev David Milling, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel: 471605.

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

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

BAPTIST

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

METHODIST

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

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

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The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View
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The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel:
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OBITUARY

ARTHUR EMMONS

ARTHUR (Wig) Emmons, who died at the end of December after a long illness, was one of the first local people to be mentioned in the "Brigade" in connection with Scouting, and his name was to occur with considerable regularity in these columns until he retired and ill-health forced him to give up many of his activities. At the age of nine he joined a local Cub pack and later became a Rover Scout but it is probably as founder of the St John's pack that he will best be remembered. He lived for the movement and his wife, Gladys, has many photographs of camp groups taken throughout the years. Needless to say, both she and their son John were highly involved and though she held no official position

in the movement, it would be true to say that she contributed much to making the camps a success.

Mr Emmons also found time to serve for 21 years with the St John's Ambulance Brigade; he took a keen interest in sports, particularly cricket, and was at one time verger of both St Andrew's and St Peter's Church. He will not soon be forgotten in Caversham.

PHOEBE CUSDEN

CAVERSHAM people will have read with sadness of the death in January of one of Reading's truly great ladies, Dr Phoebe Cusden, MBE, holder of the Verdienstplakett, one time counsellor, alderman, mayor and JP; few people have served Reading so well or done more to further the cause of peace and international relations. To those who knew her she was invariably known as "dear Phoebe". Grand titles and awards meant less to her than those in whose service they were won. A socialist and a Quaker, Phoebe never lost sight of the individual in the cause.

I have in my possession a picture of her as mayor serving tea in a flooded Caversham Street in 1947. Nothing special about that you might think until you remember that this was around 6 o'clock in the morning, and she was already well over 60. And I wonder how many of Caversham's young people have visited Germany with the Reading-Dusseldorf Association, an organisation founded by Phoebe and her husband, Albert, and a fore-runner of the twin-towns movement. Going back even further there are probably those who still remember the camps she helped establish before the first war for young people who might not otherwise have a holiday.

W.D.

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