

POOR WORLD PETITION

More than 500 members of Caversham's Anglican and Free Churches and members of the public added their names to the World Development Movement's petition asking for a better deal from the Common Market for the developing nations. More than 3,000 signatures have now been collected from the Reading area. These will be presented to Reading's two new M.P.s after the General Election.

Featured in the picture of the public sign-in in Caversham are Mrs. J. Hooper, the Revd. P. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Casey and Mr. P. Gerrard, organiser of the World Development Movement in Reading.



— Reading Chronicle



DR. JAMES ROTHWELL

The 'Caversham Bridge' congratulates Dr. James Rothwell of 16, Albert Road on his election to the Presidency of the Society of Dairy Technology for 1974. Dr. Rothwell, who is a lecturer in Food Science at Reading University, is an authority on ice cream and co-author of a standard text book on the subject.

Dr. Rothwell is an active member of the Baptist Church where he is a deacon, deputy organist, leader of the cub scouts and was, until recently, the super-intendent of the Sunday School for many years. He is also well known in the affairs of the Bridge Social Service Scheme of which he is the secretary.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Sunday, March 3rd at 12 noon
Caversham Park District
at Caversham Park School

at 8 p.m.

Monday, March 4th	Tuesday, March 5th
St. Barnabas District	St. Peter's District
in	in
St. Barnabas Hall	Baltimore Hall

Wednesday, March 6th	Thursday, March 7th
St. Andrew's District	St. John's District
in	in
St. Andrew's Hall	St. John's Hall

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

7.30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MARCH 14th
in
BALMORE HALL

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

A CHRISTIAN AND HIS VOTE

Another General Election Campaign is upon us, and for the next few days candidates in every constituency will be doing their utmost to persuade electors to give them their vote. But what are the principles which a Christian should have in mind when he decides how to cast his vote?

GOD, THE CREATOR

I suggest that we do well to remind ourselves of the great truth in the opening chapter of the Bible, where God is clearly seen as the creator of the universe. The book of Genesis starts by saying "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." St. John says the same thing in the first chapter of his gospel "All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made." Many people today reject such a view, and see the universe as a matter of chance. But the Christian sees the world and nature as God's handiwork, with man placed in a special position, entrusted with the use of God's creation.

When however we look at the world we inevitably contrast the beauty and majesty of God's work with the effect that sin has had: the poverty and squalor to be found in India and many other countries; the hatred between Arab and Jew; the tragedy of Ulster. But we do not have to look even as far as Ulster. We see enough in our own country and town which should make us sad. Human greed and sin has left its mark. Yet the Christian must none the less assert that God is creator, that there is a purpose in all this, and that there is enough for everyone if we are prepared to use God's gifts rightly. But if greed enters in, then God's universe is spoilt. And it is spoilt because so many people do not recognise that God is the giver: not recognising the giver, they do not use his gifts in a responsible way.

WHAT SORT OF PROMISES?

A Christian has to beware of those politicians who hold out promises of greater ease, more leisure and higher standards of living. These sort of promises have been made too often in the past. Such statements essentially appeal to our self-interest, and result in an abuse of the Creator's gifts. Only last month several hundred Christians in Caversham signed a petition on behalf of the World Development Movement which pleaded for a fairer share of the basic necessities of life for all mankind. We need to see which of the political parties are going to take seriously the problems of ecology and of the fair sharing of the natural resources of God's good earth.

These are the questions I want answered before I decide how I cast my vote, and these are the questions which I suggest Christians should be considering.

I give below some prayers of William Temple which I have recently come across. I do not imagine that he wrote them with an election in mind, but they seem to me to be apt for these days, and some of you may like to use them in the days leading up to February 28th.

John Grimwade

WILLIAM TEMPLE'S PRAYERS

Let us pray that all men may learn to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, caring for justice more than for gain, and for fellowship more than for domination.

Let us pray that all may have the courage and the energy to think for themselves strongly and clearly, and to seek for the truth and follow whatever the cost.

Let us pray for deliverance from prejudice and for a desire to appreciate what is just and true in the opinions of those who differ from us.

Let us pray that all may have the faith to believe that whatever is right is always possible, and that what is according to the mind of Christ is upheld by the limitless resources of omnipotence.

Let us pray that in ourselves and in others suspicion may give place to trust, and bitterness to goodwill: and that we may all become trustworthy, whether we work with hand or brain.

Let us pray that God will grant peace in our time, and give us abundantly of his Holy Spirit, whose fruits are love and joy and peace.

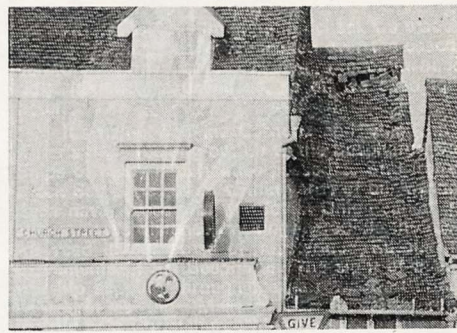
O God the King of righteousness, lead us, we pray thee, in ways of justice and peace; inspire us to break down all tyranny and oppression, to gain for every man his due reward, and from every man his due service: that each may live for all, and all may care for each, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

I have sent you this photograph which I took recently to indicate the poor state of the roof of the little cottage adjoining the premises of Oakeshotts in Caversham. The buildings to the left and right of Oakeshott's shop,



together with the shop itself make up essentially all that remains of the old centre of Caversham and are extremely attractive. They also represent a plum site for a developer, which is the reason for my concern about the condition of the little cottage in the photograph. Once this build-

ing and the ones to the right of it have reached a certain state of decay, this may be used as a lever for the demolition of the buildings on this site. I hope that some interested local body will take steps to prevent this from happening, as it would be a

great loss. Only recently another of Caversham's old buildings, a small riverside cottage, has disappeared, to be replaced by unnecessary and ugly developments.

Yours etc,
(Dr.) M. W. Vincent
12 Albert Road,
Caversham, Reading.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article in the February edition of 'Caversham Bridge' relating to St. Benet's Home with particular reference to the needs of the home. Your readers may not be aware that a group known as the Friends of St. Benet's has recently been formed to assist the Local House Committee in providing for the various needs of the home and to give their support to any fund raising activities.

One way therefore, for those of your readers who feel that they would like to take some part in the running of the home is for them to become a Friend of St. Benet's and for a small subscription of 25p Mrs. Barbara Dennis of 29 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green will be pleased to add their names to the "Friends of St. Benet's."

Yours etc,
Harry Gray
Chairman of St. Benet's House Committee
17 Greenleas Avenue,
Emmer Green.

Dear Sir,

May I be permitted to reply to an article which has appeared in the January issue on the subject of the proposed re-development of a part of Minster Street by Heelas.

Your writer Zolius gives the distinct impression that the Berkshire Society of Architects holds views different to those of the Borough Planning Committee as to what should or should not be permitted in this pleasant part of Minster Street. This is not the case.

As a member of the Environmental Sub-Committee invited by the Borough to comment on the proposals, I would like to make it clear that whilst we had no objections to the scheme in principle, in detail we had many objections which obviously matched those raised by the Council members.

Whilst it is vital for the future of the store that there must be modernisation of the

facilities, nevertheless the charm and character of this point of the street before entering the Church precinct formed by Gun Street must not be allowed to disappear.

In making this point very clear in a written report with associated sketches and photographs, that society listed the following points:

1. That road widening should not take place, particularly on the South side.
2. The height of the buildings on the South side should be restricted to about 45 feet.
3. The use of a pedestrian and goods tunnel rather than a bridge across the road should be the first consideration.
4. The design of any new buildings on the South side of the street should be in sympathy with those existing.

In common with the vast majority of public opinion, the Society aims to see the modernisation of Reading linked with a sensible and adequate preservation policy.

Yours etc,

Nick Whiteley
B. N. L. Whiteley, ARIBA
"Old Hockings,"
144 Kidmore Road,
Caversham, Reading.

Dear Sir,

A virtue of necessity?

In the early days of Christianity there were no buildings specifically used as centres of worship after the break with Judaism and members met in the homes of the community. During the early persecutions there might have been a secret chapel but the word church means a community, not the focus of the community's religious activity. Only when Christianity became the accepted state religion of the Roman Empire did the tradition of bricks and mortar enter.

At Caversham Park there is no church building. However, unlike the early Christians,

this is not due to fear of persecution, but rather fear of over-reaching the diocesan circuit purse strings which makes an interesting contrast with the acts of faith of previous generations. It has been argued that money must be controlled our worship. I would like to expand on this discussion point. Firstly, do we need a church building or chapel?

Many people consider not, since money tied up in bricks and mortar cannot be used for charitable purposes either at home or abroad. Secondly, do we need full-time clergy? I would point out that I hold great admiration for anyone who gives his whole life to organised religion, but I feel that it should be examined as a natural extension of question one.

The Church in the early days was entrusted to ordained men who worked for their living alongside their community. Any funds collected were either used for charitable purposes or to support a very modest hierarchy of travelling evangelists (e.g. St. Paul). In several countries this principle has been examined with the "worker-priest" over the last few years. Organised religion in this country, in particular the Anglican Church, is a matter of high finance, with very substantial sums of money invested to pay salaries. Surely, taking the argument a stage further, the best way for us to prevent money controlling our worship is to release this capital for charities both at home and overseas. This would have the added advantage that the sometimes embarrassing placing of investments (e.g. South African subsidiaries) would not occur. Following this argument to its logical conclusion, it would be at the discretion of the Christian community whether they want (or can afford) the full-time services of a clergyman or indeed those of a part-time or spare-time clergyman. This would transfer the burden of finance from hierarchy to local level, but only the large community would support a full-time priest. Regrettably money

would control worship to an even greater extent.

I believe that I have extended the point to its logical conclusion. Is this the kind of religious organisation that we want? It does not appeal to me, but then the lack of faith in acts of faith such as building for future generations does not appeal to me either.

Caversham Park Village is not a church but a large potential mission field waiting for attack. I understand that a wayside pulpit or ecclesiastical notice board is to be erected, and I sincerely hope that it will be erected in a prominent position. This could be a great step forward as was the establishment of a Church House, but is it enough?

Yours etc,
John Outhwaite
4 Goodrich Close,
Caversham Park.

FULL WELSH CAP

Clive Rees, a sportsmaster at Highdown, has gained his first cap for Wales for the match against Ireland in Dublin. At the start of the season he was considered to be very much an outsider for the Welsh team but has rapidly made his mark in rugby and well deserves his honour.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At their first meeting of the year, Caversham Afternoon Guild welcomed five new members at their new regular meeting place, Church House, Church Street. Mrs. Molly Casey gave a talk on the history of Caversham, and showed some fossils of a bygone age which had been found in various gardens in and around Caversham.

Owing to the National Emergency, the December meeting was cancelled, but members were invited to meet at Mrs. Stratford's house where they sang carols and generally prepared for Christmas.

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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Blenheim Road to North Woolwich

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN UNDER A YEAR
BLENHEIM ROAD LOSES A POPULAR AND ACTIVE
FAMILY IN THE DISTRICT.

Last August Caversham said farewell to Des and Joy Saunders and their family when they left for the Border Country. Now Nick and Pam Nicholls and their five children will shortly be moving to the North Woolwich area where Nick is to become Warden and Youth Leader at St. John's Centre. This total complex of buildings includes Michael Atkinson's Vicarage and church so Nick and Michael will be working together in many ways.

Both Nick and Pam have been energetic members of St. Andrew's Church. Pam has been secretary of the hall committee and a member of her church's district committee. The three eldest boys have all sung in the choir and then become servers and Ben and Vicky, the two youngest, attended Sunday School.

Eighty-two Blenheim Road has always been open house and people popping in and out all the time. Almost weekly a prayer and praise meeting has been held there attended by an average of 30 to 40 people from Caversham of varying denominations.

Nick has been a Scoutmaster for St. Peter's Scouts for many years and through his energy and tenacity this group has almost reached the commendable achievement of having its own headquarters. Readers may remember reading about this project in last year's May issue of the 'Caversham Bridge.' Nick is determined the headquarters shall be opened before he leaves. It certainly would be a pity if he moved away before this came into being after all the hard work he has put into it.

This appointment to St. John's Centre is viewed by Nick and Pam very much as a joint venture and this is why they are both being commissioned on March 20th by the Bishop of Barking at a special Communion Service in Michael Atkinson's Church.

'Caversham Bridge' wish them every joy in their new life and work at Woolwich.



—Walton Adams

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, January 10th, 1974. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. E. J. Sell, vice-chairman of the Council, presided. The Council were informed that it is the intention of the Boundary Commission shortly to review the boundaries in the vicinity of Reading. As the boundaries of the parish would obviously be closely considered by the Boundary Commission, the Council appointed a committee to make an examination of the effects of any proposals that could relate to Mapledurham.

As the Parish Council have previously stated that the parish should remain in Oxfordshire, the committee are to put forward proposals why the Council has no desire to be absorbed into Berkshire. It is anticipated that a Parish Meeting will be called to discuss the matter.

The Council were informed that Reading Corporation are unable to give any special priority to the improvement of the unmade-up part of Chazey Road within the Reading borough boundary. The Parish Council have been pressing for improvements to this section of Chazey Road for many years, consequently this news was received with considerable regret.

A letter was received from Oxfordshire C.C. stating that the development proposed by Henley R.D.C. to build approximately 20-25 dwellings adjacent to the existing Council houses at Chazey Heath has not been approved.

The Council were informed that the A.4074 (Reading-Woodcote road) had been suggested as being designated a heavy lorry route. As this is contrary to the views frequently expressed by the Parish Council concerning the use of this road it was agreed that the Oxfordshire C.C. be informed of the Parish Council's very strong opposition to such a proposal.

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AMETHYST TOURS, 1974

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We regret the delay in producing a programme for the new season. This is due to Inflation, War in the Middle East, V.A.T. complications, Fuel problems, Staff problems, etc. — Please call or write for brochure.

CORNWALL—Centred at Newquay—

8 days from June 8th to 15th £35

St. Ives, Polperro, Perranporth, Lostwithiel, Bedruthan Steps, St. Michael's Mount, Lands End, Mevagissey, etc.
Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. R. Chewter.

DERBYSHIRE PEAK DISTRICT—Centred at Ashover—

8 days from June 29th to July 6th £34

Matlock, Buxton, Castleford, Dovedale, Bakewell, Calver, Cromford, Chatsworth, Derwent Reservoir, etc.

PRAGUE (Czechoslovakia)—By Air from Heathrow

8 Days from July 13th-20th £65 plus airport charges (if any)

Leader: Fred Jackman.

PENSIONERS' HOLIDAY—NIEUWPOORT, Belgian Coast

8 days commencing September 30th. By coach, ship and train.
Leader: Fred Jackman. From £31 to £37

INNELLAN (Western Highlands)—9 days from September 6th £49

By coach via Loch Lomond, with one overnight stop each way, visiting beauty spots in lovely Cowall Peninsula, Inverary, Tighnabruich, Kyles of Bute, etc.

GERMAN/BELGIAN BORDER for Rhineland etc. (May 25th-June

1st—Bank Holiday week). By Coach, 8 Days from Reading. Including full excursion programme—Cologne, Bonn, Luxembourg, Grotto de Han, etc. £54 inclusive
Leaders: Fred and Betty Jackman.

NORTH SWITZERLAND, St. Chrischona Bettingen—July 2nd to 11th

By coach. Including sightseeing £69.50

SWISS ALPS. Centre Haus. Viktoria.

12 days from August 22nd to September 2nd
By coach from Reading.

£79.50

AN UNLIKELY FABLE?

by ZOILUS

"Once upon a time there was a great King Juggernaut who lived on the Continent across the sea and was a mighty trader. The people of the British Islands were famous merchants also and they made a treaty with King Juggernaut so they might easily exchange goods with each other and they built great chariots to carry the merchandise from one country to another.

"But it was found that above the village of Caversham the roads were narrow and winding, there were woods and cottages of the peasantry, and other unnecessary impediments to the speedy progress of the trading vehicles—so it was decreed that a great concrete highway should be built which would allow the 'juggernauts,' as they were named, to proceed at a great pace towards the bridge of Caversham, where they could wait the company of their own kind for many a happy hour until there was opportunity to cross over.

"It is true that certain inhabitants of the region raised their voices against this beneficent plan, saying they loved the crooked lanes and did not mind their old-fashioned way of transport. But the authorities invoked the name of the great god Progress which, in those days, no man dare speak against, and they were silent."

An unlikely fable per-traffic and although the haps. But Oxfordshire able for heavy goods County Council have re-suggestion may be yet but commended that the a twinkle in a planner's A4074, leading from Caversham to Crowmarsh, possible resurrection of shall be classed as suit-

through Caversham Court and the Warren, then link up with the Crowmarsh-Woodcote road, much of which has already been widened. And, even if this ultimate horror is avoided, the encouragement of heavy goods vehicles to use the A4074 as a route to Reading would be bound to bring devastation to the wooded area around Cane End and Mapledurham, and further damage to our environment.

Like almost every topic under the sun, there is another point of view. Turning Devil's Advocate, it must be admitted that it is necessary to the country's economy that goods should be moved expeditiously and cheaply. In country areas farms must be supplied and shops serviced, and each year the goods vans tend to get bigger. Oxfordshire Council's edict is not that certain roads must have an increase in goods traffic, but that they should be

kept from lanes even more unsuitable. But the inference is fairly obvious.

Under the new system of local government, many decisions will be made by bodies remote from the area affected, but local councillors are on the spot and they will watch over the interests of their constituents.

Now that this plan has been put forward, people in the area must make up their minds if it is likely to be the forerunner of more undesirable developments and make their views known. Of course, it's easy to say, "We don't want your juggernauts near our parish, take them somewhere else!" and that would be the answer of nearly every community. Nevertheless, there must be a very strong case for restricting heavy goods traffic in the approaches to Caversham.

89th READING (Milestone Wood) SCOUT GROUP

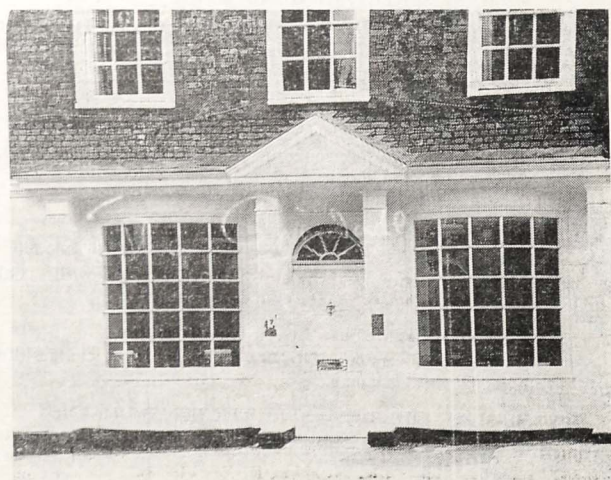
The new buildings forming the Group Headquarters accommodation in Kilm Road are now nearing completion. They have cost about £7,700 of which 75 per cent. was contributed overall by the Local Authority and Department of Education and Science.

The accommodation virtually doubles the area previously available. The larger building measuring 62ft. x 26ft. forms the main hall and two rooms for Scout and Cub Leaders' use. The other building is slightly smaller. It has a workshop, kitchen, toilets, Venture Scout room and storage area. Some of the work in the building will not be finally completed until the summer.

The scheme has been undertaken by the 89th Group Council. Project manager, J. Nicholson, assisted by Messrs. Miles and Waltham. Parental working parties have been organised to carry out certain work particularly painting, woodwork, etc.

It is intended to improve the range of facilities in the new accommodation to meet the expanding needs of the group which now totals some 160, of which 100 are Cubs. Schemes which include newspaper collection, are being devised to raise additional income. If any reader would like a regular collection, please contact any Scout or

Cub of the 89th Group or the Group Council Secretary — Alan Branch — Reading 476291—and the appropriate arrangements will be made. The next Jumble Sale will be held at Emmer Green Primary School on Saturday, 9th March. The annual fete on Saturday, 1st June will also be held there.



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AWAY FROM IT ALL

As the heavy door of the Convent retreat wing slammed behind me, I felt a surge of panic. What the dickens was I doing there? True I regularly attended my local church, but nobody could call me devout, as far as I could remember I'd never spoken to a nun in my life and as to silence, well even my best friends couldn't accuse me of being quiet, let alone silent.

I still had one eye on the door when a gentle voice at my elbow enquired if this was my first visit and before I could say "Jack Robinson" I was whisked off by its owner, a remarkably attractive young nun, shown my small but comfortable bedroom, the bathrooms, mod. cons. etc. (where were the bare boards and cold water of my imagination?) and taken to tea. Over buttered buns and home-made cakes we chattered furiously; nothing could have been more natural.

Please turn up for meals

After tea the Sister in charge gave us a brief resumé of the programme — Holy Communion each morning, two half-hour talks each day and as many services in the Sisters' chapel as we cared to attend. None of this, she assured us, was compulsory, though they did like us to turn up for meals. As to the silence, this was no penance but merely imposed to enable those who wished it to have complete peace; if we found it too irksome we could go and talk in her office or in the garden, right away from the building.

But my first real reassurance came during the half-hour talk that evening. Expecting to be told to turn our thoughts to "higher things" I was both surprised and relieved when the retreat leader told us that we were there first and foremost to rest and relax—bed, he suggested, was a good idea on a cold winter afternoon.

No washing up

I settled down to enjoy my week-end away from it all. One visit to the main chapel convinced me that I wasn't and any praying I did was in the retreatants' own chapel, much smaller and more my cup of tea. Most of the time I haunted the large comfortable lounge, sometimes reading, sometimes just doing nothing. It took some time to get used to the idea that I mustn't offer to wash up after meals but by Sunday I'd got the hang of this relaxing business. It was bliss—no telephones screaming, no newspapers shouting the latest world crisis, no radios or TVs, no guilty thoughts of washing or mend-

ing waiting to be done, the sick and elderly to be visited. At home with so much ritual Nor was it necessary to write postcards to send to Aunt Mary or our next-door neighbours.

Monday morning came too quickly and I returned to the noisy bustling world outside with great reluctance, but more rested in mind and body than I'd been for years.

All different

That was several years ago. Now retreats, conducted and private, have become part of my life and take priority over formal holidays. They aren't, of course, always like the first one. I have learned to go without any preconceived ideas of how I'm going to spend my spare time, but, instead, am content to be led, as it were. Sometimes, indeed, I have spent a great deal of time in prayer, while on other occasions I have been catching up on lost sleep. One retreat was spent mainly—no chore this—on preparing for an English exam. Once learned to relax and it is amazing what two short days can do; it is surprising too how much one comes to appreciate the silence, the lack of necessity to make social chit-chat. On the other hand, friendships sometimes start with a smile from another retreatant—no words exchanged, but how much can be implied in a smile!

Watch the calories

Most retreat houses offer an unexpected degree of comfort. Don't worry—if you feel this is wrong nobody will stop you sleeping on the floor or washing in cold water. But do watch the calories—personally I always reckon on putting on three pounds at least. W.D.

BACK TO FRONT

We apologise for the fact that the drawing of Caversham's first bridge which was reproduced in last month's Caversham Bridge appeared in reverse. It also implied that the chapel of St. Anne was still in existence at the time of the drawing. This is not so: it had disappeared at an earlier date.

WITH THE LADIES

St. John's Wednesday Group

The Wednesday Group for young wives continues to provide a varied and interesting programme, as well as the opportunity to get out of the house and make new friends. Meeting weekly in each others homes, members recently heard an unusual talk about gemstones illustrated from the speaker's large collection. Activities for March include breadmaking, crochet and a speaker from Caversham Fabrics.

Any young wives or mothers who are new to the area and perhaps want to make new friends should phone 479740 or 478209.

St. Andrew's Women's Group

At the last meeting of 1973 the audience were treated to a real excursion into the past by Miss L. Hibbard with a talk entitled "Hats Through the Ages." Members of the audience were transformed into medieval princesses, Roundheads or Royalists, Victorian matrons or elegant Edwardians with the aid of the headgear Miss Hibbard brought with her. It is hoped it may be possible to invite Miss Hibbard again to hear her give a similar talk on "Underwear."

On 5th December 33 members much enjoyed a dinner at the George Inn.

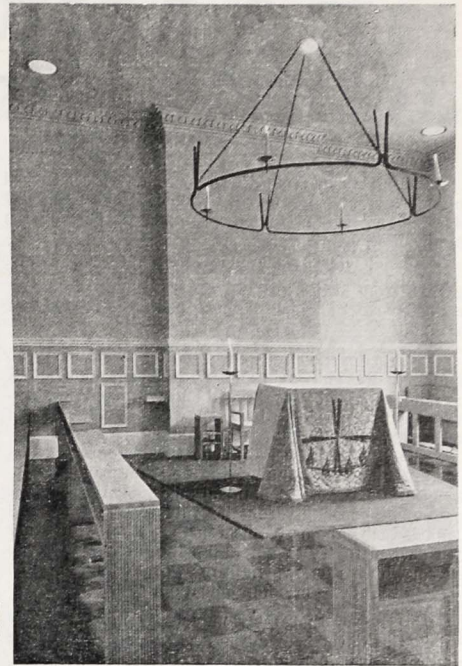
The January meeting was very well attended despite an unheated hall due to the energy crisis. Mr. C. Palmer, a redoubtable expert on his subject, talked on "Hair." His alarmingly personal criticisms addressed directly to individual members of the audience had many people looking nervous but his jovial and racy manner in imparting many do's and don'ts of hair care, provided a really entertaining evening. The next meeting is on 28th March when an illustrated talk by the Green Shield Stamp Trading Co. will be given.

St. Peter's & St. Barnabas' Mothers' Union

Despite a very wet afternoon, there was a good attendance at the January meeting to hear an interesting talk given by the Revd. Bernard Metcalfe. There was

QUIET WEEK END

The quiet Hampshire town of Alresford is full of charm and of splendid houses. One of the loveliest of them, a fine 18th century building, is the Old Vicarage that is now maintained by the diocese of Winchester as a retreat house. And members of the parish of Caversham have the opportunity to spend a week-end there at the end of March when the Rev. Pat Stacy Waddy, formerly chaplain of Queen Anne's School, will be leading the retreat. The retreat will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 9th and end after tea on the Sunday. The house accommodates twenty-seven people: at the time of going to print there were only six vacant places. Anyone else wishing to go should contact the Rector without delay.



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FAMILY FESTIVAL

FAMILY FESTIVAL SCHOOLS' PROJECT

Schools throughout Caversham have been asked to undertake a project on the theme of "The Family of Man" between now and the summer as part of the Family Festival.

A study plan for the project has been drawn up by teachers from local churches, and it is divided into four sections, each of which explores a different aspect of the Family.

The first section asks the children to establish the identity of the individual and his role as a member of the family unit. The local social and civic community is the subject for the second section, which it is hoped will awaken an interest in the local community as a larger "Family" with its needs. The third section centres around the national family, with the intention of fostering an awareness of our national inheritance of the past and our responsibility for the future. The "World Family" is the theme of the fourth section, which has been devised to try to emphasise the inter-relationship of Man with his fellowmen in the world community, by studying his means of communication.

It is hoped that the completed projects will be exhibited in Caversham during the second week of the Family Festival fortnight.



YOUNG PEOPLE . . . BRING YOUR IDEAS

Young people are being asked to help in events planned by adults. What the organisers would like to know is what young people themselves think about the Festival programme. There will be an open meeting on Sunday, March 10th at 7.45 p.m. in Church House. If you are between 15 and 25 years of age (or thereabouts) and would like to come and find out about Family Festival and make comments and criticisms then come to this meeting.

SCHOOL LANE PLAYGROUP

School Lane Playgroup meets at the West Memorial Institute each morning from 9 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. There are vacancies for children between 2½ and 5 years. The cost is 28p per session or 25p if paid in advance.

If you are interested please contact Mrs. Pat Jenkins, 17, South Street, Tel. 478502.

OVERSIGHT

By an oversight it was mistakenly stated in the January issue that Miss E. Hawthorne was a co-organiser of the Family Festival Fair to be held in the summer. The Editor wishes to apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

WE RECORD . . .

BAPTISED

St. Barnabas'

January 6 Samantha May

MARRIED

St. Peter's

January 26 Garry Palmer and Gaynor Eggleton

FUNERALS

St. Peter's

January 30 Frank Ortnier

St. John's

January 10 George Wheeler

St. Barnabas'

January 9 Hilda Tame

18 Hilda Smith

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THE SHOP

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Beacroft of Lilley Farm, Mapledurham, representatives of local organisations and many other ladies of Caversham and Mapledurham, will be meeting regularly during the next few months to arrange details of a charity shop. An important feature of the forthcoming Family Festival, the shop will be in operation from Saturday, June 29th to Saturday, July 6th. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. daily with a half day on the Wednesday.

HOW TO HELP

All offers of help, either by donating saleable items, or by serving in the shop will be more than welcome. Goods for sale can include home made and garden produce, plants, household items, jewellery, china, glass, brass, copper and silverware. Nearly new clothes in first class condition will also be accepted.

Further details will be printed in future editions of this paper. Offers of help should be made to Mrs. Beacroft of Lilley Farm, Mapledurham (Kidmore End 2218) or to Miss Kift, 2 Darell Road, Caversham (471143).

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The land where Caversham Primary School is built used to be fields, bordered by Bottom Lane—now Hemdean Road—and belonging to either Ashcroft Farm, near "The Grosvenor," or to Bugg's (Shipnell's) Farm. In 1911 the Reading authorities, extending their boundaries into what had been a Rural District, acquired the land and it eventually became used as allotments. The houses on the school side of Hemdean Road, the Cemetery (probably), Queen Street and Victoria Road, as the names suggest, would have been in existence by 1900, but opposite was fairly open hillside, reaching to Emmer Green pond.

The school was built at the end of 1936 in a period not noted for the brilliance of its architectural style. Public works tended to be, at best, plain, with no nonsense beyond a few Classical reminiscences; or, at worst, in the modernistic "Odeon" style. Caversham Primary School comes in the first category, and is adequate and functional, though not inspired. However, the plan is a vast improvement on those of many earlier schools in which all classrooms led into the central hall. After "extras," such as a meals centre and hot water in the cloakrooms had been added, the building cost £17,500—the cost today of a not-too-new three-bedroomed house in "the Heights."

The first head teacher was Mrs. Webb, who came from what is now Thameside School, and brought with her Miss Brewster, who took the admission class. Mrs. Webb seems to have been a splendidly maternal character, able and willing to deal with problems far beyond her pupils' educational needs. She had trees planted, flower beds dug and rockeries built wherever they would fit, for the enhancement of the grounds. Only a small area of grass was available at first, lovingly mowed by Mr. Neville (who had to be groundsman as well as caretaker) till it was fit for small-scale football and athletics. The rest of the present grass was gradually won from the allotments up to Victoria Road, though a semi-circle

had to be left to enable the horse-drawn hearses to turn at the Cemetery.

The 500 children were in ten classes with ten teachers but only about 30 stayed to lunch. So the meals centre was not used, but the food was brought in containers by horse and cart and dished up by the caretaker in the hall. One cannot help speculating as to its temperature by that time, but I am assured that it "wasn't bad, considering..." In 1939 a contingent of evacuees arrived for "dispersal" among local families and for several nights the hall became a rather crowded dormitory, while relays of babies were bathed in a classroom. In the effort to keep brothers and sisters together, one family of five pre-

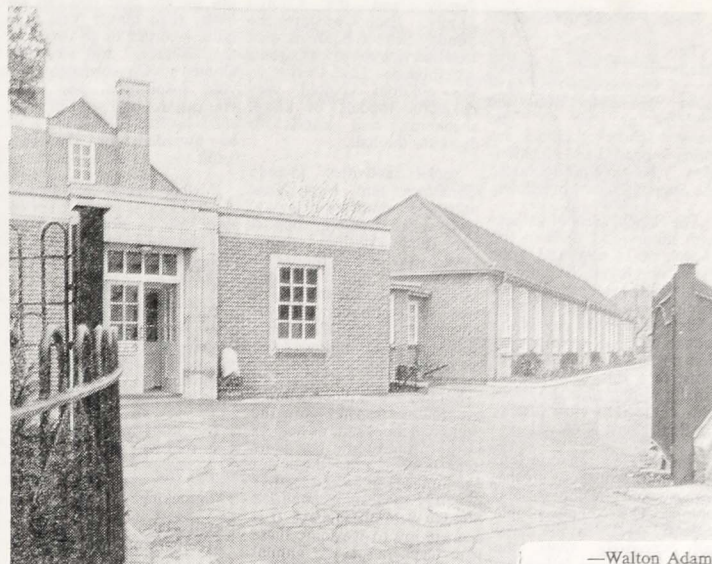
Guard, as a lady cleaner learned to her discomfort. Crossing the playground on her way home (appropriately in the Cemetery lodge), she found herself in the centre of a platoon of Dad's Army practising a bayonet charge. There was a more serious incident on February 10th, 1943, when the enemy plane that had caused such slaughter in the Arcade with its final home-ward bombs machine-gunned Hemdean Road. Mercifully the only casualties were pots of jam in the house opposite.

After the war more rooms were needed and at one point the hall had a class in it, curtailed off. This meant that dancing and other P.E. had to be done in classrooms or the playground. Much dancing was done by girls, who gave several displays in costumes they had made in lessons. Music was provided by Mrs. Clarke's own H.M.V. portable, manhandled from room to room and rewound frantically each time the drop in its tone and speed indicated that the spring had reached the end of its allotted span. The top class went swimming at Kings Meadow Baths (then unheated). Other competitive sports were practised at "the Grove" (now Highdown), but by the time the children had trekked thither through fields that are now Rotherfield Way, even pursued on one occasion by menacing geese, they had probably used half their energy. Nevertheless the sports record was good and we even produced a girls' local high jump champion.

by ANNE BETTS

sented a considerable problem until a kind soul in Queen Street said she would "take the lot," and did. The evacuated schools had brought their own teachers and fitted their lessons about the existing timetable as best they could. Although there was some inevitable friction, tact and hard work prevented any real show-down.

Firewatchers, usually staff or neighbours, slept on the premises, and various parties from the Pay Corps and A.T.S. domiciled in huts on Balmore Hill, used the playground for drilling. So did the Home



—Walton Adams

There have not been many structural changes to the school since the war; an art room and extra classrooms have come, and the meal hall was built in 1948 to take the increasing numbers of lunch-eaters.

Mrs. Webb retired in 1954 when Mr. Turner came, and any disquiet conventional parents may have felt about a male head of a mixed school was quickly dispelled.

Many people have provided me with interesting details of Caversham Primary School's early life; in particular I am indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Brewster and Mrs. Emmons.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

ARMAGGEDON

"Aren't you rather fiddling whilst Rome is burning?" asked the trendy young Oxford economist as he leaned over my shoulder as I sorted through some Residents' Association papers. "Don't you think you're being irrelevant, going on about trees and roads and blocks of flats when the whole economy is about to collapse?"

Spoken as they were in the

dark days of winter, with the fuel and power crisis, rapidly rising prices and a growing shortage of raw materials threatening to engulf the nation and the highly specialised society we have become accustomed to, his remarks seemed to have some justification.

But on reflection, are those matters with which residents' associations and amenity

societies up and down the country are concerning themselves so irrelevant after all? Only too often their work is concerned with the use of that diminishing resource but basic necessity, land. As pressure on it becomes greater, speculators move in and force up the price. Never before has so much building gone on, yet never before has the price of homes been so far beyond the reach of those who need them most. New blocks of prestige offices and ubiquitous shopping centres command high rents which push up the prices of everything produced in them, while gobbling up in their construction the diminishing supplies of raw materials. Meanwhile the demolition machinery moves in to smash down the old buildings which do not bring in such high rents. The only people to benefit are the property speculators, while for the rest of society, prices and wages chase each other in a hopeless attempt to survive in the jungle.

Maybe this isn't the whole of what our crisis is about, but it is certainly part of what it is about. When residents' associations concern themselves about what is going on on their own doorsteps, it is not just parish pump politics. It is part of a much wider problem facing all the advanced societies, but cut down to a size that ordinary people can understand.

Caversham Residents' Asso-

ciation doesn't pretend to have all the answers. It certainly isn't a pompous and portentous body, but it does not feel it is irrelevant. It will be taking its annual look at itself at its A.G.M. on Monday, March 18th, at Church House at 8 p.m. And in a world of rising prices, it has managed to keep its annual subscription at 25p — a small sum to ensure participation at grass roots level.

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CHURCH NEWS

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School Extension

People passing the Methodist Church in Woodcote Road recently may have been wondering what the builders are up to. The answer—church facilities are being improved and an extension is being built to house the Sunday School overflow.

The Sunday School gathers with mums and dads in the church at 11 a.m. and after the second hymn the children and young people file out through the ministers' vestry whilst the organist covers the retreat with an extemporisation on the hymn tune. No mean feat this—there are usually a few tiny stragglers who come into view just as the final chord is played.

The children separate into three main groups—creche, primary and beginners, and juniors. The young people presently meet in the large hall separately from the juniors. All grades follow the "Partners in Learning" series, sometimes modified to present a topical or local interest. Visiting preachers are aware of the theme for the morning and are thus able to use the opening devotions in the church to underline the thought for the day.

Children and young people study for the annual scripture examination and the school has succeeded in winning the examination shield. Tuition is also available to children wishing to take the temperance examination. Many of the children are regular collectors for the Missionary Association (IMA) and also sell "Sunny Smiles" in aid of the National Children's Home.

Highlights of the year include the anniversary in June when the children present special items ranging from pop cantatas (Creation Jazz, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat) to tableaux and pageants. The

1973 theme "The Family" included items illustrating biblical families, the Wesley family, and the Church family. Each Christmas the Sunday School holds its own carol service to which parents are invited. Last Christmas the children created very colourful models of kings, shepherds, and angels to decorate the hall.

Social activities include Christmas and New Year parties, a summer sports day, and various events in support of fund raising efforts towards the cost of the building extension and missionary work. At the end of 1973 a very successful concert was given at which the many talents of the children were on display.

Some of the older seniors eventually transfer to the Sunday School staff as helpers in the primary and beginners department, and they are encouraged to take a course of study to become qualified Sunday School teachers. It is a great joy to welcome these new teachers at the annual dedication service at the beginning of each Sunday School year.

The building extension will ease the accommodation problem, but this is seen only as a tool to enable a much more important extension work to proceed—the reason that the Sunday School exists—the extension of Christ's Kingdom among boys and girls.

Womens' Fellowship

"Seasonal Fare" the dookery book produced by the Womens' Fellowship in aid of the Hall Improvement Fund continues to sell well. Apart from the dishes classified under times of the year mentioned in the January "Caversham Bridge," the final page is devoted to a recipe for a "Biblical cake." The reader is asked to find references in the Bible for all the ingredients used, and then to think up the best possible text for the completed cake.

(2 Kings 4, 40 "O man of God, there is death in the pot...") has been suggested, but we are sure you can do better than that! Yes, it is quite in order to go down to the library and consult Cruden's Concordance for your inspiration. See what you can do, and send in your entry by Easter. A prize is to be awarded for the best result.

Further details and copies of "Seasonal Fare" (price 40p) can be obtained from Mrs. M. Beek, 29 Morecambe Avenue, Caversham (Reading 477428).

The Womens' Fellowship meets in the Church Hall in Highmoor Road at 2 o'clock on alternate Thursdays. It is open to ladies of all ages, and welcomes new members.

The programme for March is as follows:

March 7th
"Smocking" Mrs. H. Rolfe
March 21st
Members magazine
afternoon

Home Mission Anniversary

On Sunday, 3rd March at 11 a.m. the Reverend George W. Sails, General Secretary, Division of Home Mission, Vice-Chairman of the World Methodist Council Committee on Evangelism, will be conducting the Service. On Tuesday, 5th March at 8 p.m. the Home Mission Anniversary will continue when an 18-minute film will be shown, "Time to Care." The film is an investigation into how Christian groups can offer a real service to the community. Opportunity for discussion will be available when important questions about what the Church really stands for in the community will be examined.

BAPTISTS GAVE AWAY MORE THAN EVER

Presenting the accounts for the previous year, Mr. Bernard Miller, Church Treasurer, told members of Caversham Baptist Free Church that a record sum of £920 had been given through

the church for other causes last year. Nearly half of that total had been for overseas relief and missionary work, and in all, the church had given away more than a fifth of its income.

The new year had started encouragingly with a new all-in budget scheme, and in spite of an increased target, the indications were that it would be reached.

New Lady Deacon Elected

Following the retirement of Mr. "Alf" Short after fourteen years service as a deacon, Mrs. Joan Shield had been elected. She is the first lady deacon for several years.

Operation Sparkle

Was the name given to a very necessary spring-clean given to the Church buildings after the boiler had belched soot and smoke just before Christmas. About thirty volunteers brought back the "sparkle" in less than a week. One piece of "rubbish" discovered in the accumulations of many years was an old gas lamp which has now been offered to the Great Western Railway Society at Didcot for their museum.

MUSIC AT ST. ANDREW'S

On the Epiphany the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held. The Congregation and Choir joined in the carols and readings in the traditional manner.

On Passion Sunday (March 31st) there will be another musical service for Congregation and Choir—"God so loved the World," a Passion-tide Devotion, and on Easter Day the evening service will be of a special musical character. It is hoped that a large number will take part in both these services. They will entail a considerable amount of preparation on the part of the choir who, in spite of this, are ever conscious of the need to maintain the highest possible standards in the regular week by week services. To do this additional singers in the alto, tenor and bass parts are needed. If there are any singers in the congregation who could offer their services they are asked to speak to the Priest-in-charge or the organist.

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

March is the month of annual Church meetings. Every year towards the end of February over 800 electors of the parish of Caversham are sent an agenda paper inviting them to attend the annual district meeting of the church in the parish at which they normally worship, and the annual parochial meeting of the whole parish in the following week.

These are important occasions, and there is a direct link for members of the Church of England from parish meeting to deanery, diocesan and national synod through to Parliament. Each year about 250 people in all attend the four district meetings; the best meeting may be attended by about 80 people, the smallest by about 30. The following week about 100 people attend the parochial meeting, mostly consisting of those who have attended their district meeting in the previous week. This means that probably more than 500 electors do not attend any meeting. Illness, absence from home and other genuine reasons will account for a proportion of this number, but after making allowance in this way it is a sad fact that a large number of people apparently are not sufficiently interested in the work of God's church to attend either of the two meetings when they have an opportunity to vote for Churchwardens, District wardens, Church Councillors and other officers, to ask questions about the fabric and finances of the church in Caversham, and to raise any other matters concerning the life of the church here.

Over 800 notices will shortly be sent out. The dates of the meetings are printed elsewhere in this edition of the Caversham Bridge. If your name is on the electoral roll will you make a real effort to be present this year?

January Church Council Meeting

Members of the Church Council were confronted in January with a long agenda, and it was necessary to hold over two matters of importance to February so that they could be given the time that they clearly need for discussion: these two matters were the future of the Church in East Caversham in the light of the recommendations of the Anglican-

Methodist working party set up last year, and the consideration of the 358 replies received to the questionnaire about the different orders of Holy Communion.

The Council adopted the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the holding of a stewardship renewal campaign in the autumn of 1975. Following on the successful week-end visit of the Rev. Bob Precious on behalf of the Missions to Seamen it set up a sub-committee to consider ways in which interest could be stimulated in the work of the mission. The Rev. D. F. Shaylor reported on a gift of £500 from the late Miss Marjorie Cole and the Rector and Churchwardens together with Mr. Shaylor were appointed trustees to administer the Marjorie Cole fund to be used for grants to any young person under the age of 21 resident in the parish of Caversham or Mapledurham according to the letter of intent which was accepted by the Church Council.

The Rector drew attention to the fact that bodies such as the Church Council could submit names of persons suitable for appointment as Justices of the Peace and it was agreed that each year names should be considered and submitted to the appropriate authority.

Lady Day

The Mothers Union Festival service for Lady Day, Monday, March 25th, will this year be held in St. Peter's at 2.45 p.m. The preacher will be the Rev. Peter Symes, vicar of St. Luke's, Reading. Tea will be served in Balmore Hall.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Some of the problems facing the people and the churches of Rhodesia were highlighted at St. John's family Eucharist on the last Sunday in January when the Bishop of Matabeleland, the Rt. Revd. Mark Wood, was the preacher. Africa was a continent of great opportunity he believed and the church had the vital task of trying to build bridges of reconciliation and understanding between both sides in the racial conflict. A symbol of this role was the way in which his own diocese in Rhodesia straddled both sides of the Zambezi.

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TALKING POINT by TERENCE HARRIS

THIS IS THE NEWS

What crisis are we going to hear about now? You may well breathe a sigh of relief when I tell you that we are going to talk about the "Good News." The Old English word for it was "Godspell." This was the title given to a great musical supposedly based on the "Gospel" according to St. Matthew.

The word "Gospel" almost certainly came into the Christian vocabulary from the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus, in His first sermon, used the word when he quoted the prophet Isaiah, who wrote, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach GOOD NEWS to the poor." (Luke 14.18).

The good news which Isaiah proclaimed was God's sovereignty in bringing His people home from exile, in other words making them free and bringing them to life. The good news which the New Testament evangelists proclaimed was prefaced with another quotation from Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3). In the Person and activities of the Lord Jesus, God was doing a new thing. What this new thing was we discover as we read the Gospel narratives.

HOUSE GROUPS

There is every reason why we should take some time to look at the Gospel writings for ourselves. During Lent the churches have agreed to set up ecumenical house groups which will study together the Gospel according to St. Luke, with the help of a book specially written for this purpose by Dr. William Barclay. Many people have let it be known that they wish to learn more about the Bible. This is why the Caversham Churches' Co-ordinating Committee planned these ses-

sions. Besides the house groups there will be a series of lectures on Thursdays at 8 p.m. during Lent to introduce folk to the Old Testament. You will undoubtedly recall the enthusiastic support given to the courses held last year on the New Testament and also on Theology. It is hoped these two projects will help us read the Bible with understanding.

FREE TO LIVE

This article has place only for a few comments and we shall therefore confine ourselves to thoughts of the house group project. Here members of the groups will read the Bible according to St. Luke. It will be advisable to read this book like any other book. This means reading it straight through. St. Luke was writing in the manner of the best Greek historians. He quotes blocks of material from St. Mark's earlier work, interspersing with blocks of his own material. He deals with the birth, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus. We recall how God of old released His people from

bondage and brought them into a new land. He was making them free and bringing them to life. Now, here was the Lord Jesus releasing people and making them into the people they were always intended to be.

The effect of the Lord Jesus upon people did not end with the close of the Gospel according to St. Luke. St. Luke had to go on and write another book, "The Acts of the Apostles." Who knows what might happen if we are helped to see Jesus more clearly? It might mean that we shall start a new page, a new chapter, a new life. The Lord Jesus effects the whole of one's life.

DECISION

Let us refer to an incident in the closing chapter of St. Luke's Gospel. There are two people who have been talking over the Scriptures and have broken bread together. St. Luke records their words, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" May this become part of our experience too.

We began by considering the "Good News," which after all has brought us to a moment of crisis. For like the whole of the New Testament it is not mere information, it demands decision and calls for commitment on the part of all who take and read. So we end this article with the words of Richard of Chichester, made popular by the musical "Godspell": "Help us to see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day."

(The book referred to in this article is "JESUS CHRIST FOR TODAY" by William Barclay D.D. published for Methodist Home Mission, 1 Central Buildings, London, S.W.1.)

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DIAMOND WEDDING

MR. & MRS. LEONARD STEVENS

On January 14th Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Stevens, of 148 Upper Woodcote Road, celebrated their diamond wedding. Leonard, at nearly 88 years, is still young in heart and, until he was 84, regularly rode his bicycle around the busy streets of Beckenham, in Kent, where he and his wife Winnie had their home for 58 years. Winnie, two years older than her husband, is never happier than when she is working, housework and weeding being high on her list of pleasures.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were married at Beckenham Baptist Church and until moving to Caversham with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. L. Farmer, were active members of the church. Mrs. Stevens worked hard to raise money for missionary projects, one of her achievements being the making of patchwork quilts which were masterpieces in great demand. Mr. Stevens was a station-master with British Rail and assisted at Dover with the transportation of troops evacuated from Dunkirk during the last war. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were victims of Hitler's bombing in that their home was badly damaged and on more than one occasion had narrow escapes. Mr. Stevens, a lifelong keen gardener, can no longer enjoy that activity because of acute arthritis in his hip.

On moving to Caversham the Stevens quickly joined the local Baptist Fellowship and are regular worshippers at morning service. Faith and trust in Jesus Christ is their confidence and strength and to Him they give daily thanks. The 'Caversham Bridge' wishes them continued happiness in the years ahead.



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WHO, WHEN & WHERE

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
4.00 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday).

St. Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.00 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (4th Sunday, Matins)
10.00 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday)

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service.

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

Caversham

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.

Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th
Holy Communion—7 a.m.: St. Peter's; St. Andrew's.
9.30 a.m.: St. Peter's; St. Andrew's.
10 a.m.: St. Barnabas'.
Sung Eucharist—8 p.m.: All Churches.

CLERGY & MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM

ANGLICAN

The Rev. John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.
The Rev. John Stevinson, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.
The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.
The Rev. Brian Gardiner, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.
The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.
The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.
The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas' House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 17 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.
The Rev. Plunkett Shannon, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

Church of England

St. Peter's Hemdean House School, 11 a.m., aged 4 to 7 years.

Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Balmore Hall, tel. 476494, 11 a.m., age 7 upwards (not 3rd Sunday of the month).

St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m., age 4 years and upwards.

St. Barnabas' — Church Hall, 11 a.m. (1st, 4th and 5th Sundays).

Methodist

Caversham Heights — In Church, 11 a.m., age 3 years and upwards.

Superintendent: Mr. D. Tutty, 5 Carlton Road. Tel. 477384.

Baptist

11 a.m., aged 3 years and upwards.

Secretary: Miss I. Marshall, 16 Albert Road. Tel. 474478.

East Caversham — Age 3 to 7, St. John's Hall, 11 a.m. to noon.

Enquiries to Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent tel. 472084; or Mrs. S. Holley, 41 Briants Avenue, tel. 477142.

Age 7 upwards, Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11 a.m. to noon (in Methodist Church for first 15 minutes). Enquiries to Mrs. J. Trevis, 40 All Hallows' Road.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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BALMORE HALL

Secretary: Mr. D. F. Osbourn, 15 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472953.

CAVERSHAM HALL

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

CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

Secretary: Mr. V. T. Smith, 62 Woodcote Road. Tel. 476388.

MAPLEDURHAM MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mrs. L. F. T. Bartlett, 143 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471863.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Secretary: Mr. J. Tomlin, 32 Kidmore Road. Tel. 473809.

ST. BARNABAS HALL

Secretary: Mr. C. H. Cox, 160 Hemdean Road.

ST. JOHN'S HALL

Secretary: Mrs. O. Stockwell, 89 Briants Avenue. Tel. 477465.

TRENCH GREEN HALL

Secretary: Mr. V. Tanner, 4 Bardolph Close, Mapledurham. Kidmore End 2550.

WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Secretary: Mr. N. S. Ide, 3 Ibbstone Avenue. Tel. 477007.

CAVERSHAM PARK

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

March 3rd: Family Service, followed by bread-and-cheese lunch. The Rev. John Wallace from Oxfam will be the preacher.

March 10th and 17th: Family Service with teaching groups for children.

March 24th: Family Communion Service with teaching groups for children.

March 31st: Family Service with teaching group for children.

The services are at 11.15 a.m. in the School Hall.

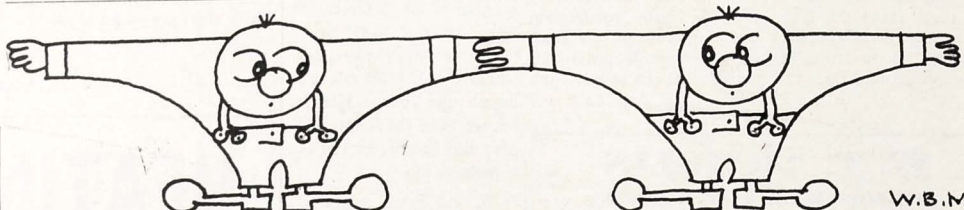
WEDNESDAY HOUSE COMMUNIONS at 10.30 a.m.

March 6th: Sue Bould, 11 Holyrood Close.

March 13th: Valerie Garfoot, 6 Devon Drive.

March 20th: Penny Pearce, 7 Earlsfield Close.

March 27th: Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close.



CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

WHOM TO CONTACT

Central Organiser:

Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close. Tel. 472374.

Area Organisers:

Dr. E. V. Beale (North Caversham) 1 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green. Tel. 471644.

Mrs. M. Coombs (Sth. Caversham), 5 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472689.

Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham), 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.

Mr. D. E. Thomas (West Caversham), 15 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472364.

Mrs. G. Thompson (Mapledurham), 205 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471328.

Mrs. S. Bould (Caversham Park Village), 18 Holyrood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 476126.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Maplewood W.I.

Over a hundred members and guests from other institutes attended the birthday meeting. Mrs. Margaret Powell was to have been the speaker, but owing to the railway strike was unable to come from Brighton, so Mrs. Hens kindly stood in at short notice and gave a most enjoyable demonstration on "Hedgerow basketry." Social time consisted of amusing newspaper cuttings. Tea was served by the committee on flower decorated small tables.

Rosehill Emmer Green W.I.

Mrs. Sansum presided at the monthly meeting. Mrs. Bayford was co-opted to the Committee in place of the retiring Secretary. A new member, Mrs. Lewis, was welcomed. An interesting talk with slides was given on cruising and travel in South Africa. The competition, "My favourite Christmas card" was won by Mrs. Bovey.

Blagrove W.I.

Owing to the fuel crisis the members meeting took place at 13 Upper Woodcote Road by courtesy of Mrs. Sholl. Mrs. Plumridge was in the chair and Mrs. Davy, Secretary. Members were reminded of forthcoming county events. Mrs. Price announced a theatre outing to Swindon in April. The afternoon finished with tea after a Beetle Drive won by Mrs. Messent. The raffle was won by Mrs. Benham.

At the January meeting the original speaker was unable to attend and Miss Plumby very kindly filled the gap. She has recently returned from two years V.S.O. in Indonesia and spoke of the various islands she visited both in her

work and her holidays and showed some very colourful slides which brought it all to life. The contrast between the primitive peoples and the developed parts showed up very clearly. A funeral for instance can take up to four years while they build special houses for the coffin and the mourners.

Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild

With over 86 stores in this country Debenhams are the largest store group, and Mr. W. Prunty, manager of our local Debenhams, spoke to our Guild at the last meeting and explained how most retail stores worked. He brought with him Miss Cooper of the Coat Department and Mrs. Nixie of the Dress Department, who answered customer complaints and queries, together with a very attractive model who braved the rigours of a cold hall to show a few examples of clothing to illustrate the speech. Much to some members surprise Mr. Prunty told them that Well-steds had been a Debenhams store since 1928, and it says much for the present management that many people have seen great strides forward in this store recently. There are many plans in the pipeline, most attractive of which is the innovation of a high fashion department.

Mr. Prunty tried to explain the reasons for customers' main complaint, which is going in to buy some item previously seen only to find it is sold out and the assistant is unable to say when fresh stock can be expected. Clothes buyers of course have to order goods at least six months in advance, and must ensure as far as possible that these goods will prove popular and not be left over at the end of the season. When a department sells an item very well they try to re-order but this is often impossible as the factories have then gone over to the next season's clothes; so unless another store in the group cannot sell their stocks customers have to be disappointed. This situation has recently been aggravated by the shortage of raw materials, i.e. wool, cotton, etc. It was because local management realised these shortages were going to exist for the foreseeable future that they ensured when ordering the winter season's coats that they would have plenty. Thus it was that the Reading store sold the highest number of coats throughout the Debenhams group and won for Miss Cooper a holiday in Jamaica.

This Spring's colours will be mainly browns and creams, with some acid yellow and orange. Accessories will be brown and cream. Camel coats are in fashion with a faintly military look, square shoulders and sometimes epaulettes and usually well fitted and belted. Jackets are still 'in,' mostly blazers or shirt types, suitable to be worn with either trousers or skirts. The long cardigan with no collar is also very popular. Harris Tweed is making a return in creams and off-white, also Donegal tweed.

In the Dress department cornflower blue is expected to be available in the summer. Shirt waisters are still liked but the look to be seen will be the Gatsby. Mainly a twenties look but in modern materials. Pleated skirts, pointed shoes with the T-bar. Floating materials, backless dresses with skirts cut on the bias; more or less straight but fitting on the hips and swirling out again.

In the separate department the twinset is making a comeback with a short sleeveless jumper and long cardigan.

Handbags will probably have adjustable shoulder straps and the fashion material, denim, leather and suede or a combination of two. Shoes will get even higher but the platform will be abandoned. Hats are still remarkably popular and this season stetson type, replaced by the cloche, well fitting style. On the whole the fashion scene should be a great deal more elegant than it has been in recent years.

Mrs. Valerie Birtwhistle gave the vote of thanks and conveyed to our visitors the Guild's appreciation of the Debenhams management's helpful and informative talk.

Reading Writers' Circle

Reading Writers' Circle met in the Reading Room of the Central Library on 25th January for a Manuscript evening; members reading their own work for criticism and discussion. The Chairman, Mr. Coles, was thanked for the lovely party enjoyed at his house the previous Friday. The meeting on 8th February took the form of a Writers' Workshop on dialogue.

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SCHOOLGIRL — INTERNATIONAL GOALKEEPER

Andrea Lewis, a pupil at Highdown School, Caversham, has been playing International hockey since she was thirteen years old and now at only seventeen she is something of a hockey veteran with fifteen International matches already played.

Born in Jamaica she attended St. Hugh's High School for Girls and started on her hockey career when some friends asked her to stand in goal for them when they were having a knock-about on the pitch near her home. They soon found that she could keep the ball out of the net and took her along for a trial with the local team. From there success came quickly,

although not without some disappointments. At thirteen she played in the trials to select the Jamaican School-girls team and as it turned out was surprisingly not selected to play for them. However, only weeks later she was selected to play for the Jamaican Womens Team and was their regular goalkeeper until she left to come to England with her parents in October, 1972. During that three years she played against all the other West Indian teams, Canada, U.S.A., West Germany, Holland (the best Ladies team in the World) and toured here in England including a full International against England.

Andrea's father is the Director of the Youth

Development Agency in Jamaica and as such is responsible for Sport. He was himself a good sprinter and footballer and is at present taking a post-graduate course with his wife at Reading University.

In June Andrea, who with her parents and sister attends St. Peters regularly, hopes to be returning to Jamaica to play for them again on their West Indian Tour. Until then Ranelagh Ladies and Berkshire Ladies will continue to have the benefit of her experience in goal. As a good all-rounder, being also very keen on tennis and swimming, she hopes to return to this country later this year to take a place at one of the Physical Training Colleges.

SPORTS SPECIAL

by

STAN ELDON

SCHOOLBOY — FUTURE GOLF STAR

Also at Highdown is fifteen-year-old Phil Morley of Buxton Avenue, Caversham, who is already making his mark as a top golfer.

At only nine years old and while still at Caversham Primary School Phil started playing golf regularly at Reading Golf Club where his father, Derek, is a member. Then he had special lessons from Roy Mason, the professional at the Goring and Streteley Club. He then started playing in, and winning, tournaments, rapidly bringing his handicap down

from the beginners 36 to his now very low 3.

Up until about eleven he was a keen swimmer with Reading Swimming Club but since that time his dedication has been directed solely to golf. He practices every day and is out in all weathers, sometimes from 8 a.m. until dark. His dedication and enthusiasm are reaping their rewards and he has numerous trophies, medals, clocks and watches to prove it.

In the last year he has won both the Berkshire Colts

championship (in golf this is up to 25 years of age) and also the Reading Golf Club championship. He has already met and played many of the top golfers in Pro-Am tournaments and he is determined that by the time he reaches 18 or 19 he will be a star tournament player.

As is so often the case with champions in all sports, Phil is the only member of his family to have excelled at golf but he does have an older brother David who is seeking his own fame as a racing car driver.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM by PETER SHOCK

Some readers have been asking why no 'Young Caversham' appeared in last month's 'Bridge.' It is not a question of your being deserted, but the editorial policy is to drop one of the regular monthly contributions occasionally. This allows scope for more variety, at the same time giving the column writers a chance to regenerate.

The February issue, even without this column featured several items of the local youth scene. 'W.D.'s' article on St. Benet's Home provided some interesting reading. I remember the home forty years ago, when the boys, all dressed in brown velvet shorts and heavy blue cotton jerseys, marched in double file from Emmer Green to Caversham Council School (now Thameside). The 1½ miles trot had to be accomplished four times each school day. This was long before school dinners were ever thought of. Some of the Home boys were among my earliest school chums. Wilson Ware, who used to sit next to me in Miss Hume's class was a special friend, and I remember Peter Dove, Gerald Marshall and Peter Constable. I wonder what has become of them now!

TURKISH DELIGHT

"Passengers for Turkish Airlines Flight Number TK 986 to Istanbul, please proceed immediately to the departure lounge." This Tannoy message relayed over Heathrow Airport was no streak of fantasy, but an actual reality for four local schoolboys, Simon Robey, Adam Simmonds, Marc Harries, Martin Hibbs

and an ex-Caversham Park boy, Robert How (recently moved to Bolton). It signalled the beginning of a memorable trip to the bustling city of Istanbul. The boys, aged between 13 and 16 jumped at the unusual opportunity available, after I had made arrangements for such a visit six months previously.

The aircraft provided was a DC 10, having a carrying capacity of over 300 passengers. The flight altitude of 30,000 feet across the whole continent of Europe took about 3½ hours. Pity the arrival at Istanbul was not exactly an inspiration.

After a tedious immigration check we made our way to the coach park. We looked over the coach for comfort (as travellers to Turkey are recommended to do!). It almost satisfied us, so off we sped to our hotel.

It's name was the Carlton, and stood on the water's edge looking out on to the Bosphorus Strait. Ships of many nationalities passed to and from the Black Sea ports, often within yards of our windows. Even naval vessels of the Soviet Union sailed by at almost arm's distance, making incredible the reports we read in our press of mysterious Russian fleet movements in the Bosphorus. The sight of a Soviet warship slipping through the narrow Strait is about as secret as the "Maid of the Thames" cruising merrily past Christchurch Meadows!

BRIDGE OF SIZE

Our first expedition in this fabulous city, was to cross the new Bosphorus Bridge to the Asian part. The bridge is now the longest suspension bridge in Europe, and was designed by British and German architects. Opened last October to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the new Turkish Republic it serves as a much-needed road connection between southern Europe and Asia. Florence Nightingale's hospital, where the gracious lady tended the wounded in the Crimean War, is situated in the Asian quarter, and is now a barracks. The hills surrounding this side of Istanbul are an example of how the Turks solved their housing problems. Until last October, when the Government introduced new legislation, it was permissible for anyone to seize unoccupied land, cover it with a "habitable" dwelling-place between sunset and sunrise, and the occupation was theirs for ever. The Turks were proving themselves marathon home-builders—quality and craftsmanship aside!

SIGHTSEEING

Istanbul abounds in mosques and minarets. The most impressive example of Ottoman architecture is the Blue Mosque. At the entrance-gate little boys tout visitors with picture postcards and coloured slides. The rascals concentrate on a victim apiece, and my tantaliser was a dark-eyed chico of about eleven years of age. He introduced himself as Ali. So there was Ali escorting me to the steps of the Mosque, even offering to remove my shoes, a sacred ritual before entering the building. I courteously refused his assistance, but how I wished I hadn't! Close to the big doors stood the tall rack for depositing shoes. I placed my right foot on the bottom shelf to untie my lace. Beelzebub! The whole frame went over backwards with a deafening crash, shoes and all. Would Mohammed ever forgive me? In exasperation I peered behind me. Ali was standing there amused, and muttering something like—"I told gentleman so; now gentleman buy pretty postcard."

The drama over, I caught up with the others in the richly carpeted Blue Mosque. It gets its name from the 21,000 pieces of glazed earthenware (called faience) with which the walls are covered. Moslem art adorns the ceiling which is supported by massive pillars which do not quite harmonise. A grandfather's clock stands against one of these supports. Most mosques have these old time-keepers, their faces dotted with Arabic characters.

We had a friendly and capable guide in Mr. Muzaffer, translated it means 'Victorious.' He was a retired insurance official in his mid-fifties—you can retire at a ripe old age of 55 in Turkey! He took us into the Topkapi Palace, the centuries-old residence of the Turkish sultans, and explained the fabulous displays of oriental porcelain, embroidery, armoury and jewellery, reckoned as the world's most priceless collection.

BARGAINS GALORE

On through the congested streets we finally arrived at the famous Grand Bazaar, a maze of arcades containing over 4,000 individual shops. The art of the game is to bargain. One particularly suc-

cessful marketer was our second youngest in the group, Simon. The quantities of Turkish Delight he was accumulating at about a third of the bargainer's price! I asked him about his secret technique. He said he learnt it from his elder sister. With that I quizzed no further. It was as easy to sell as to buy. Someone was always hanging around evaluating the clothes you stood up in. My weary overcoat could have found a buyer ten times over, and I wondered whether my pullover, having at one time escaped from a Balmore Hall jumble sale might end its chequered life protecting the body of Freydown the Fisherman from the Bosphorus breezes.

Turkish cuisine is "tops." We sampled the dishes of the tourist restaurants, but the perfect delicacies are to be found in the waterside cafes strung along the Bosphorus. You will not fathom out the à la carte, but you will be invited into the kitchen, where you can take your pick. Our favourite was the fish of the season, delicious Swordfish with all the extras.

New Year was approaching, when the Turks celebrated the Killing of the Sheep Festival. The farmers close in on the city streets with their flocks of sheep. They sell to the rich, who in turn, order the animals to be killed and the meat given to the poor. The event lasts about three days and upholds an annual love-thy-neighbour tradition.

The expedition for Simon, Adam, Marc, Martin and Robert had to come to an end. The departure from Istanbul Airport was less imaginative than the arrival. To summon us to our waiting aircraft a groundstaff employee biffed on the window, hailing "Lonn-donn," then bade us farewell to Istanbul.

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