

Wonderful Response to Family Festival



—Walton Adams

Lady Brunner with Mrs. P. Beacroft and the Rev. Stephen Bartlett at the opening of the Festival Shop.

The 'Caversham Bridge' goes to print while Family Festival is in full swing. All events held to date have met with a magnificent response and revealed the strong community sense that exists in Caversham.

THE SHOP

Takings at the Festival Shop exceeded all expectations. Opened by Lady Brunner on June 29th, £360 was banked after the first day's trading, and when the shop closed on July 6th it had produced £1,300 for the Festival Charities. A splendid band of helpers drawn from different local organisations under the leadership of Mrs. Phyllis Beacroft are to be congratulated on this achievement.



NEARLY 2,000 AT FLOWER FESTIVAL

For three days St. Peter's Church, superbly decorated by members of the Thames Valley Flower Club under the direction of Mrs. Strang, was thronged with people of all ages as they came to the Flower Festival. Soon after the doors opened on Friday, June 28th, parties of children from local schools began to arrive, and continued all the morning. During the afternoon, in spite of pouring rain, Bridge Scheme car drivers, assisted by pupils from Highdown School, brought large numbers of old and usually housebound people to see the flowers. Later the same day the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading were present when the Clerkes of Oxenford delighted their large audience with their clear and superbly restrained singing. All present heard a fascinating programme of music from the Middle Ages sung either unaccompanied or accompanied by lutes, harp, the portive organ and other unusual instruments.

On Saturday morning of Caversham, the Rev. T. Harris and the Rev. L. Stevens, took part in the service with the Rector. More than 100 married couples were present and the lesson was read by Mrs. Cecily Hawthorn, who was married in St. Peter's on June 11th, 1924, and whose golden wedding was reported in last month's 'Caversham Bridge.' Evensong was sung by the choir of St. Mary's, Redbourn, whose ringers also rang the bells. During the three days hundreds of teas were served by ladies of the congregation from a marquee in Caversham Court. Over £250 was received in donations at the Flower Festival.

The Parish Church continued to be thronged on Sunday. During the afternoon Canon Keith de Berry, Rector of St. Aldate's, Oxford, preached at a service for the renewal of marriage vows. The Free Church ministers

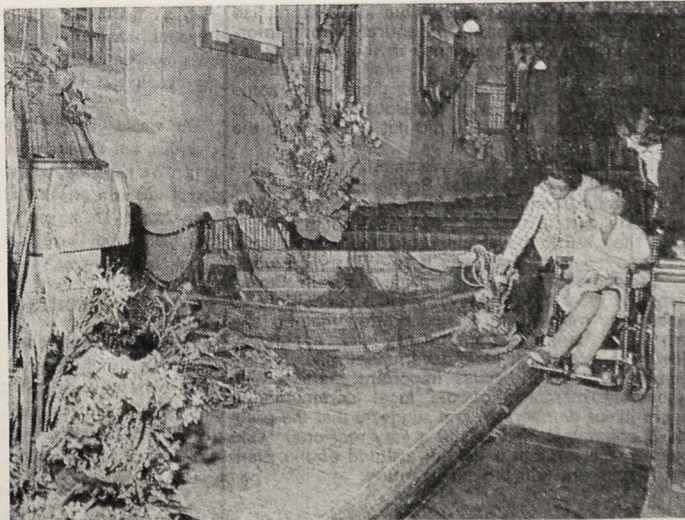
5p

The Editorial Board regrets that the price of the 'Caversham Bridge' has to be increased next month to 5p. This is because of the very heavy increase in the price of newsprint. It is the first change in price since decimalisation took place. When the 'Caversham Bridge' first appeared in 1964 the price was 6d. (2½p). Very few newspapers have been able to increase prices as little as that during a ten-year period. Those who have paid an annual subscription until December will continue to receive it without increased charge.



—Walton Adams

Mrs. Brenda Lewis and Mrs. K. Tillman with cushions made in flowers.



—Walton Adams

Assisted by a pupil of Highdown School, a senior citizen admires the flowers.

The Editor's Column

YES-- We are a Community

I write this during the first week of Family Festival knowing that these lines will not appear in print until the remaining events have been held. But I have been very conscious of the wonderful community sense that is appearing in Caversham. It appeared four years ago in Mayday Week and it is evident once again.

The splendid concert at Highdown School was very much a community event, with groups representative of different aspects of Emmer Green life taking part. The Festival Shop has been humming with life and a wonderful meeting spot. How grateful we are to the manager of Barclays Bank for making 6 Church Road available for this purpose. And for three days Caversham residents, whether they were members of the Church of England or not, flocked to their parish church to worship together, to listen to outstanding music and to enjoy the artistry of the flower arrangements. As they walked round St. Peter's in the interval of the concert, or as husbands and wives stopped to talk to old friends after renewing their marriage vows, one was aware that it is still meaningful to think in terms of Christian community.

BEHIND THE SCENES

But all that has been going on has only been achieved as a result of a lot of hard work by a great many people. Quite apart from the flower arrangers themselves, nearly 150 people were involved in helping with the Flower Festival alone: the united fete has occupied a great many others, and so did the festival shop. The whole operation has been an encouraging piece of teamwork for which the committee deserve our thanks—not least its chairman and indefatigable secretary.

The clergy and ministers of Caversham have also devoted a lot of time preparing for the festival: inevitably this has meant that certain things have gone undone; there has, for example, been less time for pastoral visiting. If anyone feels they have been neglected I hope they will forgive us, and realise that through the festival we have been trying to emphasise some important Christian truths about home and family life while also focusing attention on four charities which seek to serve those less fortunate than ourselves.

A FAREWELL

After the summer holidays we may expect to return to more normal activities without, I hope, losing the spirit of Christian fellowship and co-operation that has been such a happy and significant feature of these recent weeks. But we have sadly to say Goodbye to the Rev. Terence Harris, whose arrival in 1969 made possible that greater co-operation between Anglicans and Methodists which many had longed for. The 'Caversham Bridge' wishes him and his family every blessing in their new home in Gloucester.

No. 20 PRIEST HILL

Good communication is essential for establishing a healthy community life. The story behind No. 20 Priest Hill shows a failure of communication between different departments of the local authority from which there is a lesson to learn. There was a failure by a section of the Press to report accurately what was proposed and consequently well-meaning people objected to something, but did not realise their objections were based on entirely wrong information. There was inefficiency in the arranging of a public meeting (though I am glad to say those concerned have apologised) and there were some remarks of the chairman of the Housing Committee which, if reported correctly, did not exactly help the situation.

The Christians of Caversham, through the 'Bridge' Scheme of Social Service, and in other ways, practise some of the compassion of Christ. I am quite certain that had the facts not been distorted they would have supported the work that it was intended to do and seen it as a Christian work.

Members of the caring professions in Caversham met recently with several local councillors to discuss the matter, and they regretted that no one from the Planning Department was apparently allowed to attend. If local government officials continue to refuse to discuss important matters with responsible members of the local community it augurs ill for democracy, and suggests that the problem of communication is still a very real one. One hopes that the hitherto helpful attitude of the Planning Department will prevail in future.

John Grimdall



—Walton Adams

Brisk trade at the Festival Shop

Postbag

THANK YOU!

As we are writing this, the first weekend of Family Festival is just over. Hundreds of people have admired the magnificent flower displays in St. Peter's Church, enjoyed lunches and teas (in spite of the rain!) in Caversham Court, been thrilled by the music of the Clerkes of Oxenford. The Shop, after the opening by Lady Brunner on Saturday morning, has had a tremendously successful beginning—£360 taken on the first day!

OVER BY NOW

By the time you read this, the fortnight of events will be over—the concerts, the cricket match, the schools' projects, the art exhibition, the fair, the final Communion. And all the joys in Caversham will be laid out end to end!

We do appreciate that these things do not just happen! They are the results of a tremendous amount of hard work and unstinting generosity by a great many people.

We would like to name everyone, but the list is very long. We hope that you will accept this as a personal and very sincere "Thank you" for everything you have done during the past year.

YOUR EFFORTS

Your efforts have made the idea of a Family Festival a reality, and we hope that the effect of Family Festival on the life of Caversham will be real, and of long duration.

Stephen Bartlett,
Chairman.

Doreen Bennett,
Secretary.

10th BIRTHDAY COMPETITION

The first number of the Caversham Bridge appeared in October, 1964, so that the September number sees the completion of ten years of Caversham's own newspaper.

Caversham has changed a great deal in those ten years. What will it be like in 1984?

The Editorial Board offers a prize of a £2 book token for an imaginary article which might appear in the Caversham Bridge in October, 1984. Entries, which must not exceed 200 words, may be parodies of one of our regular features or can be entirely original. They should be sent to the Editor at Church House, Caversham, by Thursday, August 15th, and the prize entry will be published in our October edition.

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THE SAGA OF 20 PRIEST HILL AND THE PROPOSAL BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT that this house should be used as a residence for men without homes of their own is a sad tale of a failure in communication and of public prejudice being created through lack of information.

It all began with such high hopes, for it was recognised that there was a desperate need for residential accommodation for men, without families or homes, who had been discharged from hospitals or who had applied to the Social Services Department for help. From time to time over the past 11 years the Social Workers had been directing such men to Mrs. Thompson in Reading, who had cared for them in a homely atmosphere which in due course enabled them to become independent. It was felt that if Mrs. Thompson would take over 20 Priest Hill as a tenant of the Council while still maintaining the present house in Reading, that a very pressing need would be met. The kind of persons who would have been able to live there would have been men needing companionship and security, not discharged criminals or maladjusted social misfits, but men in need of help, of compassion and of a chance to settle in a family atmosphere. The property on Priest Hill was for sale and seemed a suitable house for such a project.

ALARMIST ARTICLES

The first that the public knew about the scheme seems to have come through some alarmist headline articles in the local Press referring to "An Uproar" of protests by local residents. Local residents also saw notice of an application for change of use in respect of the property, to a men's "Lodging House." Later the Press carried news of a proposed public meeting, called by the Borough Council, to discuss the matter on May 29th. Owing to an administrative error, letters to interested local persons and associations, originally dated early in May, giving notice of the date, time and place of the meeting, were not despatched until four days before the meeting. Naturally residents of Priest Hill were concerned lest objections would not be considered at such short notice and protests were sent to the Council. As a result the Council then sent notices out on the very day when the meeting was to have been held, warning as many people as possible that it would not take place on the 29th but at a later date. According to the report in the "Reading Chronicle" of June 7th, the Reading Council's Public Relations Officer explained that the proposed tenants were no longer able or willing to carry on with the Priest Hill conversion. He is quoted as saying, "In trying to meet as many objections as possible we reduced the number of rooms from a potential of 12 to a maximum of seven, because we were concerned about the objections, we decided to make the lease for only a year, in the first instance, in case of any trouble that might arise. This would have meant that Mrs. Thompson would furnish the place from top to bottom and we would carry out certain alterations, such as putting in additional wash basins and toilets, with the danger of the lease being terminated at the end of 12 months. It was thought that this made it financially unviable."

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

The Council's Housing Committee then withdrew the application and the Council gave notice that the public meeting to discuss the proposal would not be held. Thus it appears that there has been no opportunity for the public to discuss the matter with the Council officers and the real situation, including the needs of the homeless, has not been put to the objectors. The views of residents who were prepared to support the scheme have not been heard. The general impression is that Council officers have acted as small children, so afraid of the bogies on the dark landing that they were too frightened to switch on the light, so they have cut off their own noses to spite their faces.

O, the pity of the muddle, the failure to communicate in these days of sophisticated communication. Pity we didn't have a Town Crier. Its the Poor wot stays the Homeless! Its the Rich wot gets the Blame!

D.F.S.

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METHODIST MINISTER ON THE MOVE



The Harris family.

—Walton Adams

Following the traditional custom of itinerancy, the Rev. Terence Harris, who has been for five years the minister of the two Methodist churches in Caversham, will be moving on to a new circuit this month. The article in this paper which announced his coming in 1969 mentioned his enthusiasm for Anglican-Methodist unity, and he has moved freely about the Christian community here and made his contribution to the remarkable growth in understanding and co-operation that has embraced all the churches.

His ministry in his own churches has been notable for his assiduous pastoral care of his people, and many remember his visits and his concern in times of illness and trouble. Others will speak of his endeavour to present the faith and worship in terms appropriate to the 20th century.

LOOKING AFTER THE FAMILY

In the Reading Methodist circuit Mr. Harris has been the minister in charge of youth work. He has also been a tutor at St. Mary's Centre in Reading, where he conducted a course for Sunday School and youth workers. The certificate awarded for this course is recognised by both the Oxford Diocese and the Southampton Methodist District Synod. Mr. Harris is a manager at Thameside School. As a member of the Council for the Ordained Ministry, he has shared with Anglican and Roman Catholic priests the task of visiting schools to talk to school-leavers about the Christian ministry as a vocation.

For Mrs. Harris the years in Caversham have been governed largely by the needs of a young family. The Young Wives' group has been a natural sphere of work and fellowship for her. She told us that one reason why she will be sorry to leave Caversham is the ample provision for the needs of little children. She herself has helped with the playgroups. Daughter Rachel, who was less than three months old when she came to Caversham, will be starting school soon after arrival at her new home in Gloucester. Son James is three, and Mrs. Harris spoke warmly of the help so freely given from all quarters when he was born. She also praised the way the churches of Caversham worked together, and particularly the "Bridge." Working as a distributor in St. Anne's Road has given her a great opportunity to get to know the people who lived near her.

ON TRIAL

Mr. Harris's new charge will be St. Luke's Methodist Church, on the south side of Gloucester, together with churches in the villages of Tibberton and Birdwood. He grew up in Gloucester (although St. Luke's was not his home church) and it was at Tibberton that he first conducted an entire service when he was a local preacher on trial.

NEW ADDRESS

We have been asked to say that the family will welcome visits from their Reading friends at their new address—109 Stroud Road, Gloucester.

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NEW WAY WITH YOUTH

Brian Slater, Director of the Reading Area Youth Counselling Service (known as "Number Five") would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in working with young people in a new and somewhat unusual way.

For the past three years Number Five has been offering a confidential counselling and support agency from premises at 5 Sackville Street, Reading, operating mainly during weekday evenings. A considerable number of young people and some adults have been using Number Five and now plans are being made to extend the service in two ways.

OUTREACH

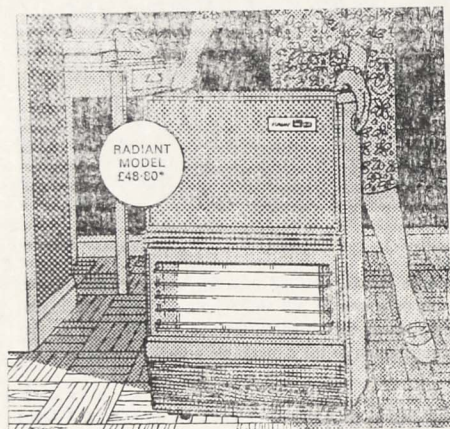
First it is intended to set up a Counselling/Advisory/Information Centre for young people which will be open during the day as well as in the evenings. Second it is planned to draw together a group of outreach workers who will work with those young people who are not usually attracted to traditional forms of the youth service such as youth clubs, but who are likely to be found in coffee bars, pubs, discotheques and on street corners; young people, in fact, who are often referred to as the unattached. The work of Number Five has always been carried out by volunteers and it is the intention to expand the present team so that both parts of the development can go ahead.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Number Five therefore needs:

- (1) Counsellors to work in the evenings.
- (2) Counsellors to work during the day and at weekends.
- (3) Outreach workers to work with unattached people, either during the day, in the evenings or at weekends.

All Number Five workers undergo an initial selection process, followed by appropriate training in conjunction with the Berkshire Training Agency. Anyone interested and who would like to know more is invited to contact the Director, Brian Slater, at 5 Sackville Street, Reading (Tel. 585858). Mr. Slater will be pleased to arrange an informal meeting for further discussion.



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"89th" SCOUTING SUMMER

Venture Scouts Peter Gamble of the 89th Reading (Milestone Wood) and Martin Elbourne of the 3rd St. Peter's are two of a group of 14 Venture Scouts from the U.K. who are leaving London Airport at the end of July to spend three weeks in the U.S.A. They will be taking part in a project leading to a Scout Association award known as the Explorer Belt 1974, which includes a 14-day hike. For part of the time they will stay with American Scouts.

Back at home the Milestone Wood Group have been having a successful summer. The June fete produced a record profit of £300 and an attendance of 800. The money will be used to provide additional facilities in the group's new headquarters.

Another record is the number of Scouts and Cubs who have been camping this year. Some 50 Cubs went to Perry Wood Scout camp, near Gatwick Airport, and a similar number of Scouts have been to Beaulieu in Hampshire. The additional equipment needed for both camps was bought from money raised by the collection of newspapers, periodicals and Post Office directories. Anyone who would like to have newspapers collected should contact the Group's secretary, Mr. Alan Branch—telephone 476291.

**What did
FAMILY
FESTIVAL
mean to
you and
your
family?**

Send your letter to
the Editor.



Keith Phillips and Jane Taphouse were married at St. John's Church on June 22nd.

—Walton Adams

Belfast Young People to Visit Reading

The Reading Y.M.C.A. is soon to start a scheme under which members of the Belfast Y.M.C.A.s will be able to live for periods of a week or ten days in Reading away from the everyday fears and anxieties of that divided city.

Belfast's four Y.M.C.A.s provide an ecumenical focal point and the programme of visits has been planned with the advice and help of the Irish Council of Y.M.C.A.s. The young people coming to Reading will be in the 17-25 age range because experience is thought to indicate that reconciliation is most likely amongst that age group. It is hoped that these visits will be "on-going" for as long as they are felt to be of value.

Such a project cannot succeed without the co-operation of local people. Some parties will be accommodated in the Y.M.C.A. hostel but members of local churches are being encouraged to invite the visitors to stay in their homes for a week or so. During their stay some will be taken to weekend conferences and places of interest.

The Y.M.C.A. is therefore looking for offers of facilities for programme work and of accommodation. It also needs money if it is to be able to foot the bill. It is estimated that £15 per head will cover expenses.

All inquiries and offers of help should be made to Mr. Brian Hall, general secretary of the Reading Y.M.C.A.—telephone 55746/7.

September Edition

All contributions for the September edition of the 'Caversham Bridge' must be sent to Church House, Caversham, by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31st. It is regretted that material received after that time cannot be published.

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THE THAMES IN HIS BLOOD

CAVERSHAM SINGERS

Just as the sea has bred generations of sailors and fishermen, so the Thames has seen many families of watermen who from father to son have carried on a living on or beside its great waterway.

Mr. Edgar Light comes from such a Thames background. For ten years he was lock-keeper at Boveney and before that at Blakes. Even during his years in the Air Force he found himself stationed somewhere along its banks.

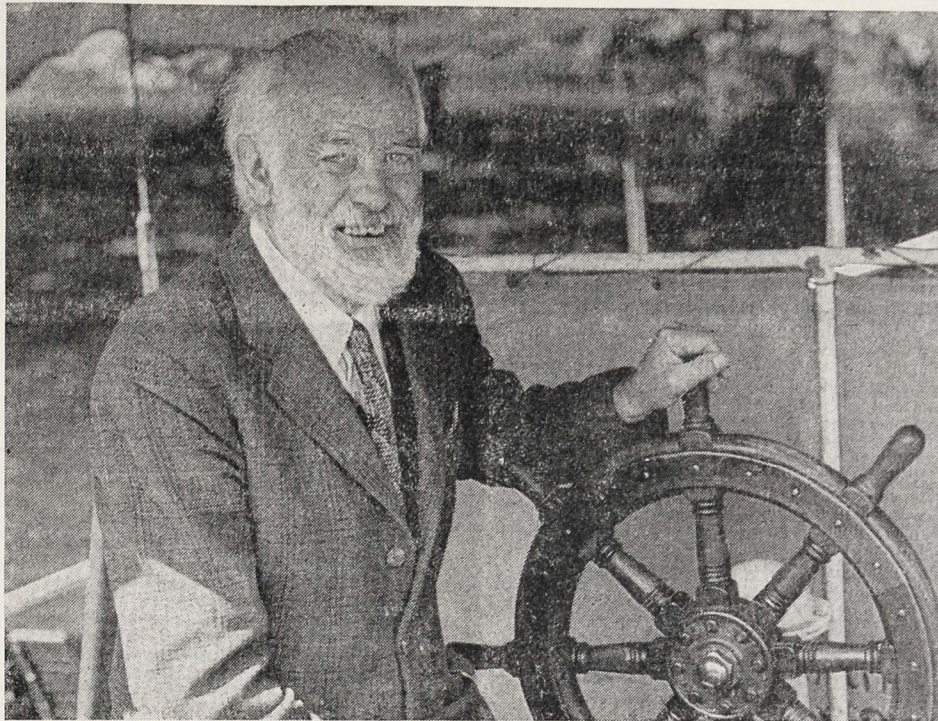
Although retired he still works beside the river in charge of Salter's steam office over the Reading side of Caversham Bridge.

Born at Culham, he went to live at Sonning Lock with his parents in 1912, where his father, Edward Light, won first prize for the division with his lock gardens for almost 30 years and gained the Hanson Challenge Cup for another 14.

BLACK SWANS ONCE BRED WILD BESIDE THE THAMES

Edgar Light is a mine of information on the Thames. He remembers the old wharves along the Reading bank where the timber barges tied up. He remembers, too, that in the more remote reaches of the river black swans once bred wild. In the 1920s one lost its mate and kept company with a pair of mute swans. Great crested grebes are on the increase, he says, and in his view the Thames is one of the cleanest rivers in the country. Both heartening pieces of news.

Years ago rodents almost reached from one side of the river to the other between Whitechurch and Mapledurham with only a deep, narrow channel in the middle. An ait or eyot, as it is called in the Thames Valley, is the word for an island and these rod islands were just covered with withy or willow which was cut yearly for hurdles, basket-work and other uses. In those days the water tended to filter



Mr. Light at the helm.

—Walton Adams

through these willow beds and it probably looked cleaner, all decaying matter becoming deposited on the aits or eyots. Women and children used to strip the willow wands with a special tool, then it was bundled up and carried across the water in punt-like boats called "flats." These can often be seen in old river prints of the 18th and 19th centuries.

EDWARDIAN STEAMERS

Today the Thames has almost reached the maximum amount of traffic it can take. Gone are the days of the Three Men in a Boat type of travel, alas. But Salter's steamers are still a reminder of such times. They continue making the journeys they

have done for over 60 years. The Sonning was built in 1902. The Henley is even older and the Goring and Marlow are both pre-1914. Why not capture a little of the past with a steamer trip to Wallingford or Henley this summer? They run daily to Wallingford from July 21st to August 18th, from Caversham Bridge at 10.15 and daily to Henley from May 18th to September 15th from the same spot at 2.45. Mr. Light will be able to help you at the office (Tel. 52388) and probably chat for a moment about the good old days.

If you haven't read "Three Men in a Boat," by Jerome K. Jerome, it is certainly amusing and might interest many readers who love the Thames.

M.K.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, June 13th, 1974. Mr. E. J. Sell, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed in a letter from Oxfordshire C.C. that the County Council were well aware of the problems that currently relate to the running of country buses, and that they have agreed to maintain in broad terms the existing levels of public transport. However, to maintain an adequate service means higher subsidies and this was currently being done. It is hoped therefore that services passing through Mapledurham will continue and that there will be no reduction in the service.

Adverse comments were made that the refuse collection service had deteriorated since the amalgamation of local Councils last April. On both Bank Holiday weeks since then parts of the parish did not have their dustbins emptied for two weeks. The Council expressed its dissatisfaction to the District Council and regret that the collections cannot be made as previously existed.

Improved Press coverage was another factor the Council felt the District Council should concentrate upon in this matter if there have to be these changes, as there had been a complete lack of Press information on each of the two holidays, Easter and Spring.

A letter is to be sent to the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Heseltine, following his comments that householders who are not connected to the main sewer cannot be made to pay their sewerage and service charge. A number of persons in the parish are not connected to the main sewer and many of these residents feel that to impose such a charge for a service not provided to be an imposition.

The Council were informed that the South Oxon District Council have agreed to operate a concessionary fares scheme throughout the district. The scheme applies to men over 65 and women over the age of 60, certain disabled persons are also able to participate in the scheme.

An order to control dogs on designated roads within the parish is expected to be put into operation by the District Council.

The Caversham Singers, a ladies' choir, is an adult education class with a difference. It is not a class for a course of instruction lasting one or two terms like other adult education groups, though the same fees apply. In fact some of the 20 or so singers have been members for as long as ten years.

ALWAYS LEARNING

Wednesday night is music night for the choir when it practises between 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. at Thameside School. Mrs. Audrey Cowland, the secretary, says that these are always very happy gatherings under the guidance of Christopher Griffiths, the conductor, and Valerie Andrews, accompanist. "We are always learning," says Mrs. Cowland, "as judges at music festivals set high standards."

The singers have reason to be pleased with themselves, having done well in competition. They gained the highest marks for ladies' choirs at the Woodley Festival earlier this year and won a cup presented by Mrs. B. M. Hawkes at the Tilehurst Eisteddfod. Next in line is the Maidenhead Music Festival in October; practice for this starts on September 18th.

ENTERTAINING

It isn't all competition work, however. The choir welcomes invitations to sing at almost any kind of function. Recently it entertained at a party for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and also took part in a programme of music and verse at St. Peter's in aid of the bells' restoration fund. Any group or organisation that would like to book the singers should contact Mrs. Cowland (Tel. 471019).

Mrs. Cowland would also like to hear from anyone who would like to become a member of the choir. Any range of voice would be welcomed but there is a particular need of contraltos now that two members of that section have moved from Caversham. A basic ability to read music is desirable.

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NINETY YEARS AGO

THE FIRST NUMBER OF THE 'CAVERSHAM BRIDGE' APPEARED IN OCTOBER, 1964. ITS PREDECESSOR WAS THE CAVERSHAM PARISH MAGAZINE, WHICH WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN JULY, 1884, AND WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF THE NUMBER FOR AUGUST, 1884, A COMPLETE SET OF COPIES IS STILL IN EXISTENCE. IN THOSE 80 YEARS CAVERSHAM CHANGED FROM BEING AN OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGE TO THE CAVERSHAM WE KNOW TODAY. WE PUBLISH THIS MONTH SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF 1884.

JULY, 1884

New Curate. The arrival of the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, who was ordained on Trinity Sunday, may be said to mark an epoch in the ecclesiastical history of Caversham. The necessity for a second Assistant Curate tells of the growing importance of a parish which must now be regarded rather as a suburb than a village. May he find here a congenial sphere of work.

SEPTEMBER, 1884

The Ringers. The state of affairs in the belfry having long been in a very unsatisfactory condition, a meeting of the Ringers was held on June 21st, the Vicar in the chair, to consider what was best to be done; it was then determined that the ringers should be more punctual at practices, and should attend Divine Service at least once on Sundays, after summoning the worshippers: this they unanimously assented to. Four weeks, however, passed, and the solemn promises of the ringers remained unfulfilled; hence it was found necessary to start a new Society, the members of which bind themselves to observe a few simple rules, which chiefly require punctuality of attendances at practices and Divine Service. This Society entered on its work on Sunday, July 20th, and already bids fair to take up the true position of ringers, viz. church-workers, a ringer being a Church-worker quite as much as the Organist and Choir, though at times past they have not been regarded in their true light. It is true we have but six bells, but on these 720 different changes can be produced in an almost endless variety of methods, many of which, owing to their extreme intricacy, are beyond the ordinary scope of ringers. May the ringers persevere in their difficult art; the office of a ringer is a holy office, and should ever be performed in a reverent manner.

OCTOBER, 1884

The Annual Services in recognition of the safe ingathering of the Harvest were held on Sunday, September 21st (St. Matthew's Day). The Church had been prettily decorated for the occasion. The Chancel showed to great advantage, more especially in the evening, when illuminated by the gas, while the exquisite taste in which the Font had been adorned reflected the greatest credit upon the lady to whom that part of the work had been entrusted. The Festival was marked very early in the morning by joyous peals from the ringers at 6 a.m. The musical portion of the service was exceedingly well performed by the Choir, whose rendering of a new anthem composed by the Organist (Mr. S. C. Cooke) was worthy of all praise. Not the least encouraging part of the Festival Services were the offertories on behalf of the Berkshire County Hospital. Subjoined is a list of the number of coins which together made up the sum collected in the Parish Church. Statistics of this kind are sometimes interesting to our readers. The Offertory at the 11 o'clock Service (£24 3s.2d.) consisted of 1 note (£10), 3 sovereigns, 5 half-sovereigns, 10 half-crowns, 13 florins, 42 shillings, 61 sixpences, 44 threepences, 122 pence, 73 half-pence and 10 farthings. The Offertory in the evening (£4 3s. 11d.) was made up of 2 half-crowns, 5 florins, 28 shillings, 35 sixpences, 1 fourpence, 24 threepences, 160 pence, 88 half-pence and 5 farthings.

Cottagers' Horticultural Show. The Annual Show was held on August 27th, in the large carriage shed at Caversham Park, kindly lent by Mrs. Crawshaw. It was tastefully decorated by Mr. Hall, who also undertook the arranging of the exhibits, placing the vegetables on tables round the building, the nosegays of wild flowers and window plants on a centre table, and the needlework on a cross table. The quality of the vegetables, as a whole, was remarkably good, particularly in the various classes of potatoes, but the number of exhibits was not so large as last year. The prizes offered by Messrs. Sutton and Sons were keenly contested for, and gave the Judges some trouble to decide. There was a considerable falling off in the number of nosegays. The Committee hope that the ladies in the Parish will use their influence in future among the cottagers, with a view to ensure greater success in this department of the Show. The Berks Bee-Keepers' Association erected their tent in the Park, and their expert at intervals delivered Lectures on Bee Culture, and manipulated with living bees.

NOVEMBER, 1884

Emmer Green. The School was inspected in Religious Knowledge on October 15th by the Rev. C. E. Adams, Diocesan Inspector of Schools. It is pleasant to think that our teachers take so much pains with a subject that is not enforced by Government and for which no Grant is given. The Report says, "The Religious Knowledge and tone are very satisfactory. The infants answered brightly and well, and their repetition was careful and intelligent. The upper class have all been well taught and their written work was neat and accurate."

Thirty-Five Years Working For The Red Cross

Ever since the outbreak of the Second World War Mrs. Pond, of St. Anne's, 100 Albert Road, Caversham, has worked quietly but untiringly for the Red Cross. Now in recognition of such devoted service she has been awarded the Badge of Honour and the Badge Class III from the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society. She was presented with her awards at the Annual General Meeting in Reading on June 12th.

From 1939 until the end of hostilities Mrs. Pond was in charge of all communications at the first aid post in Caversham. Then in 1945 she became assistant commandant of "Berks 88" and in 1947 commandant.

During the war years she became a blood donor and received a silver medal for giving over 30 blood donations. After well over 30 years working hard for the Red Cross Mrs. Pond is still interested in taking an active part and is the member group leader for the Caversham branch. The awards she has received this June have been well and truly deserved. She has given great service to the local community.

RESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT by Watchdog

It was perhaps only to be expected that the impression given outside Caversham of those who objected or had reservations about the proposal to establish a lodging house in Priest Hill was that Caversham was inhabited by middle-class, callous, un-Christian hypocrites. Fortunately those who had taken the trouble to familiarise themselves with the background know that this is not true of the majority of the objectors.

Now that various other proposals are being examined for the use of the house, the opportunity to redeem our name might be presented, for there are many socially useful purposes to which this house could be put. Perhaps the one good thing to come out of this whole unhappy episode is the realisation that social problems cannot be swept under the carpet or dealt with on the cheap.

CAVERSHAM CENTRE PLAN

It is hoped that the District Council will hold a meeting in the early autumn to explain the new Caversham Centre plan. This is the one that involves widening Reading Bridge and supersedes the one explained at a meeting organised by the Residents' Association in March, 1973, which a correspondent recalled in last month's 'Bridge.' As soon as the District Council agrees to do this, the Residents' Association will be pleased to give it publicity, so look out for an announcement in what it is hoped will be the not too distant future.

PARTICIPATION

Although the District Council has been slow to respond to this request for a public meeting, they have regularly sent a flow of Council reports and minutes to the Residents' Association, from which all kinds of useful information can be gained. This makes it all the more surprising that it was made so difficult to find out exactly what were the proposals being made for local government boundary changes, when there was only a month available for commenting on them. Perhaps the working party referred to by Zolus in his column last month will see that such an omission is not repeated.

DECEMBER, 1884

The New Burial Ground. Our readers will be glad to hear that the efforts of the Caversham Burial Board to secure a convenient site for a new Burial Ground have at last been successful. A plot of 4 acres, belonging to Mr. Blount, lying on the slope of the hill to the left of Hemdean Lane, will shortly be conveyed to the Board, who are now authorised by the Ratepayers to raise a sum not exceeding £2,500 for the purchase of the land, the erection of a Lych-Gate, and also to defray such necessary expenses as must be incurred in preparing and laying out the ground for the required purpose. The Government Inspector, Dr. Hoffman, who visited the spot a few weeks since, expressed his entire approval of the selection, and congratulated the Board on the prospect of securing a site so convenient and so well adapted for a Burial Ground.

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HOME SWEET HOME

by ZOILUS

JUST BEFORE THE START OF OUR FAMILY FESTIVAL IN CAVERSHAM THE FINAL EPISODE OF ANOTHER, DIFFERENT, FAMILY SAGA CAME INTO THE LIVING ROOMS OF ANYONE TUNED IN TO BBC-1. The Wilkins of Whitley performed the last sequence of the domestic striptease that has captivated, enraged or bored various sections of the viewing audience.

DEPRESSING

It's hard to know what stand to take about this peculiar programme. Straight away I must admit that due to other commitments I saw only a quarter of the dozen episodes. Those I did see were equally spaced through the series and left the same depressing reaction that if the scene had not been set in Reading I would rather be watching a serial about suffragettes which was on the other channel. The day-to-day activities of all ordinary families—as the Wilkins are reputed to be—can be of interest to the outsider only if there is a striving to achieve some worthwhile objective, original and thought-provoking attitudes, a loving background or even the excuse for titillating voyeurism. On none of these counts did "The Family" score enough points to save it from being that dead end of the entertainment world—both tasteless and boring.

CONTROVERSY

But the programme planners of the BBC, astute entrepreneurs that they are, have notched up one success. Like it or hate it, the series has caused talk and controversy, life-blood to show business. Speaking to quite a lot of people in Caversham, I found two predominant areas of opinion. The first and largest section had watched only one or two episodes, and been turned off, usually by the swearing, the family's unorthodox sexual behaviour and an understandable distaste that it should be inferred that such a group were a normal Reading family. On the other hand a number of my friends have watched avidly from the start to the finish and have ended up by praising the series as first-class entertainment and the Wilkins as an honest and worthwhile family.

TELLY FARE

Even the newspaper reviews have gradually veered around from haughty disapproval to guarded commendation of the programme's general value. I don't know what the man on the "Morning Star" said—probably something about downtrodden workers letting themselves be marionettes dancing to the entertainment bosses' tune—but most others paid tribute to the skilful manipulation of the producer, who made acceptable telly fare from such unpromising material. It's true there was an average of 12 takes for every picture that got on to the screen, but this is cinema-verite compared with the normal feature and the editing, although necessarily obvious, fell smoothly into place.

How much was "your real actual Wilkins" and how much were creatures of the producer's expertise may be debatable. What was strange, in a series that made much of past marital infidelities and other questionable attitudes, was the wall of silence built around the two police charges in which members of the family became involved while filming was in progress. So all-revealing with the rest of their conversation, such coyness did seem right out of character.

FAMILY LIFE

Having offered themselves up as willing sacrifices to the god of the goggle box it would be silly of the family to resent criticism and I'm sure they are too resilient to do so. It would be rash to say the programme was entirely without worth or interest, as it would to deny most of the Wilkins' troubles were brought on by themselves. When they went abroad they insulated themselves in a Butlin-style holiday camp. It seemed there wasn't a book in the house, and the church was just a convenient place in which to get married or buried. But they lived in a muddled sort of happiness and if their portrayal of family life seems to lack much that we celebrated in the Family Festival, it may be that the Wilkins of Whitley are content to be left with the life style for which they have become famous.

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Continuing our series on local church organists and choirmasters, this month we feature **GEORGE PRIOR**, choir-master at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church.

Fifteen years of service to one church is no mean record and Mr. George Prior, of 114 Mayfield Drive, should be proud of his achievement. Born in Burghfield, Mr. Prior began his musical activities at an early age by learning the piano. After moving on to the harmonium he started taking organ lessons at the age of 13 from the organist at Burghfield Church and soon became deputy organist at that church.

KEEN SINGERS

Although lacking a musical education Mr. Prior's parents possessed good voices and were keen members of the local choral society. This background, plus a wife who was equally interested in singing, inspired him to take singing lessons and his life-long interest in choral music began. He joined the Reading Temperance Choral Society and for several years was its secretary. Then in 1947 he founded the Mortimer and Burghfield Choral Society, which he still conducts. In 1959, after moving to Caversham, he took over as choirmaster at Gosbrook Road.

FAVOURITES

Despite the fact that he holds no musical qualifications, Mr. Prior has taken part in many competitions in solo singing. Retirement, after 40 years as a carpenter with a local firm, now leaves him more time for his favourite hobby—indeed his only hobby—music. Ask him to name his favourite piece of music and you are sure of a clear answer—Bach's St. Matthew Passion, just one step ahead of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. But he also has great affection for brass bands.

As for music in the church today, Mr. Prior has this to say: "One has to move with the times. There is much that is good in the new as well as in the old."

Calling the tune



Mr. George Prior

—Walton Adams

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TALKING POINT

by REV. TERENCE R. HARRIS

SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

"PREACH AS A DYING MAN TO DYING MEN." THIS OLD ADAGE TAKES ON A NEW SIGNIFICANCE AS I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO WRITE MY LAST "TALKING POINT." WHAT FEW WORDS CAN I SAY BEFORE MY FAMILY AND I MOVE TO GLOUCESTER?

First of all, my wife and I have appreciated the fact that, over the period of five years in Caversham, faces have become names, and names have become persons, and persons have become people with real personalities. All too often relationships can be shallow and never grow and deepen. It has been a joy to see a growing together of the churches here in recent years, but there is still far to go. A little has been achieved through pulpit exchanges and united services. It does appear to me that more has been gained through ecumenical house groups and study sessions where people have met together and prayed, and read the Bible together, and then sought to relate their faith to life and action. People matter to me. I hope that more ways will be

discovered and used to help person to person communication and integration.

THE MARVEL

Secondly, I am a minister in the Methodist Church, and I hold this office because I feel and know that God matters. God is personal, and has made a person to person contact in Jesus Christ. The more we allow Jesus to reveal Himself to us, the more fully do we become persons in a growing relationship with Him. There can be many a crisis in relationships, as we are all probably aware. It is not always easy to see the way through. But, just as a long-married couple can grow accustomed to each other, and it would not occur to them to express in words what they mean to each other, so it can happen in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We must always remember the marvel of God's gracious act upon our life. This never really dawns upon us unless we render thanks to Him every day. No relationship should ever be taken for granted or it will have lost its very spring and wonder and freshness.

IS IT TRUE FOR YOU?

Finally, I would make a parting appeal. Let each one of us examine our relationship with God, and with ourselves, and with other people. Samuel Wesley's dying words to his son, John, were: "The inward witness, the inward witness, my son, that is the strongest witness for Christianity." Is it true for you? I would dare to add another statement: "The greatest proof for Christianity is to be found in the lives of those who live it out day by day." Is it true for you? I am asking each one of us to make sure that there is both an inward and outward witness in our Christian life. Remember that Christianity has to do with relationships. In the First Letter of St. John, which is among some of the last New Testament letters to be included in the Canon, he writes: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." So be it!

POSTBAG

THE FAMILY

Dear Sir,

As a former resident of Reading I have noted with interest the reactions sparked off among some Reading people by the BBC television series, 'The Family,' of which I have seen a few episodes myself.

I happened to hear part of a radio phone-in programme on which Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins were answering questions. One of them came from a Mrs. Marriott, who described herself as coming from "the Caversham side." Though I cannot quote her exactly, the gist of her reply to a return question put to her by the programme compere was that very few people from her side of Reading i.e. "the Caversham side") knew or cared very much about what goes on on the other side—where the Wilkins family live.

Would the Editor and readers of the 'Caversham Bridge' agree with Mrs. Marriott's remarks (vaguely quoted here)? And if so, as Caversham Christians, do you find this an acceptable local attitude towards those who live in another part of the same town?

I have read with great interest of your Family Festival. Surely it has been a happy coincidence for you that the BBC series coincided with the preparation period for that Festival? Or wouldn't you agree?

Yours sincerely,

Fred Dawson.

HYPOCRISY

Dear Sir,

I hate hypocrisy. The enthusiasm with which the parishioners of Caversham attended the many public demonstrations of Christianity, faith and charity during the Family Festival seems strangely incompatible with the zeal shown by many of the same people in seeking to prevent an equally Christian enterprise on their own doorsteps—because it was their doorsteps, namely the proposed use of No. 20 in this road.

Yours,

Anne Betts.

46 Priest Hill, Caversham.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

SIGNED FOR PORTSMOUTH F.C.

Portsmouth Football Club, who are trying to rebuild a team capable of gaining a First Division place once more, have just signed Highdown schoolboy Steven Reed. Steve, who is 15 years old, lives at Tilehurst and has been playing schoolboy representative football for a number of years, having captained the Berkshire and Reading Under 14 teams and last season the Under 15 teams. He has enthusiastic and helpful support from his father Ken, who is a local Fire Brigade officer and is himself a qualified football coach who has coached both Wokingham Town Football Club and the National Fire Brigade team. Steve, who plays centre-half, will have a lot of hard work ahead of him before he will get the chance of signing professional forms when he is 17.

DISAPPOINTMENT FOR CLIVE REES

Caversham schoolmaster Clive Rees has not had the best of luck in his first overseas tour with the British Lions Rugby touring team in South Africa. Having been playing very well on the fast pitches out there, which incidentally suit him as a top-class sprinter, he broke a bone in his finger which kept him out of games for a month, during which time the team won the first two Tests. Having recovered, he played another game and unfortunately the bone broke again so Clive will not be able to play for the rest of the tour, which robs him of an almost certain selection for one of the Tests. However, most sportsmen have some disappointments on the way to the top and at 22 years old he has plenty of time to make further trips with the British Lions in the future.

WORLD CUP

The World Cup competition is now behind us for another four years until Argentina in 1978. By then it looks very much as though some of the African countries could be dominating the competition. The Kenyans and other African athletes have, in a very few years, matured from novices on the running track to the present position where in the last Olympics they were able to dominate most track events. In football the Europeans and the South Americans have had their time at the top and although Zaire had a lot of goals scored against them in Germany, they showed that they have talent and fitness which in a very few years will take a lot of stopping.

Another interesting point from the World Cup was how it once again showed up the farce of so-called amateur and professional football. The Olympic champions, Poland, did very well but, of course, they are not amateur, as they should be under the present Olympic amateur code. It is a very good thing that in this country the old amateur/professional tags have gone for ever and all footballers are players as in cricket and free to choose whether they play for fun or money. This rule should apply in all sport—world-wide, including the Olympic Games.

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CHURCH NEWS

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

PARISH ORGANIST

Mr. John Dussek has been appointed parish organist and choirmaster and will succeed Mr. R. J. Brind, who is retiring in October. Mr. Dussek is at present head of the Music Department of Kendrick School. A graduate of Oxford University and associate of the Royal College of Organists, Mr. Dussek has been organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's, Harrow, and Sherborne Abbey. From 1959 until moving to Reading in 1969 he was director of music at Oakham School. His wife is also well known in Reading music circles as a violin teacher.

PATRONAL FESTIVALS

If anyone thought that the preparations for Family Festival would affect attendance at St. Barnabas' and St. John's for their festivals on June 11th and June 24th he was proved wrong. Two fine evenings saw joyous acts of worship on both these occasions. It was a delight to welcome back to Caversham after nearly ten years Professor Brian Morris, who spoke of the influence of John Mair, a former worshipper of St. Barnabas', on him, and of the importance of the Church using modern media of evangelism in the form of radio and television. At St. John's the preacher was the Rev. John Deuchar, Vicar of Christ Church. The blue delphiniums, so much a feature of St. John's at this festival each year, were once again delightfully in evidence.

Church Council Meetings

Two meetings of the Council were held in June, and some important decisions taken in regard to the use of buildings. It was decided that as from January 1st, 1975, the maintenance of clergy houses should fall on the expense of the parish and not of the districts. This will be of financial advantage to the less prosperous parts of the parish as well as making it easier to standardise the maintenance of houses. In view of the growing cost involved it was agreed to bring to an end the arrangement by which St. John's District has been able to use Newbridge Nursery School Hall outside school hours. The activities which used to take place there will as far as possible be held either in St. John's Church or in Caversham Hall.

A resolution was also sent to the Deanery Synod urging that a reassessment of all



Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cropp with some of the kneelers embroidered by members of St. Peter's congregation for the Lady Chapel, which were dedicated at the Eucharist on St. Peter's Day.

parishes in the diocese be made for the purposes of the diocesan share, and not limited to reassessment within individual deaneries: although this might mean Caversham having to pay a larger share it was felt that this would be a much more equitable way of assessment.

1ST CAVERSHAM BOYS' BRIGADE JUNIOR SECTION

What's got two legs, two arms, makes lots of noise and has bags of enthusiasm? It's a boy, of course. And one of the joys of life is to watch boys running, competing and enjoying themselves.

Recently, thanks to the headmaster, Mr. J. Lane, the 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade Junior Section held their own sports evening at Micklands School. Competing against each other, over 30 boys ran and jumped in many events and of course did a lot of shouting as well. Seemingly all in after running 200 metres, a boy would five minutes later be running 400 metres. At the end of 1½ hours of competition the helpers were more tired than the boys, but luckily all the events were finished. When the results were calculated Allister Keating had won the prize for the boy with most

points and Ian Savin was second. It seemed to be a good evening.

But three days later this was overshadowed by even more success. The Reading Battalion held its sports at Palmer Park, and thanks to Allister Keating, plus, of course, the efforts of the other boys in the team, the 1st Caversham Section won the sports cup for Juniors. After all this running you'd think the boys would be tired, but no—they still had to run a lap of honour round the track with the cup. It must be nice to be a boy.

Among the Boys

Good news from the Cubs—Terry Williams has gained his Golden Arrow. We are proud of him for he is the first Cub who has gone 'through the ranks' of the 75th Reading Pack to achieve this distinction. As part of his 'Service to Others' he made and baked a cake each week for four weeks and presented the cakes to an elderly neighbour, where they were greatly appreciated—well done, Terry.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

At the beginning of June St. Peter's Wives, having suffered a convincing defeat, handed over the skittles challenge cup to the Marian Group. About 40 members and friends from both groups met at Balmore Hall and skittles went flying in all directions—an evening greatly enjoyed by all present.

Later in the same month the group had their regular meeting at Church House and the evening had a very happy beginning with the presentation of a gift to their chairman, Edith Hawkins, who had recently given birth to a daughter. Mrs. Collins, of The Flower Corner, Caversham Road, gave a talk and demonstration on flower arranging. She had brought flower arrangements with her and after demonstrating how these beautiful arrangements had been created, members were able, with the help and advice of Mrs. Collins, to arrange their own flowers. An extremely instructive evening, brought to a delightful conclusion when Mrs. Collins presented one of her flower arrangements, appropriately pink, to Edith.

Looking ahead to August, the Wives, complete with children, will meet at Mapledurham Playing Fields for a picnic.

church makes many demands upon a man and after five years Norman felt that he was ready to stand down, a decision which was precipitated by increasing business commitments. The church is grateful to him for the lead he has taken and discharged in a friendly and willing way.

The membership is fortunate in having such an able successor as Ken Shield to hand. Ken is widely known in various circles of Caversham life and brings to the task many Christian talents and virtues.

New Vessels for Old

Some people are great, others have greatness thrust upon them. It is problematical into which class the ladies of the Baptist Church should be placed but they seem to have established a reputation in the catering field. A cooked Harvest Supper for 100 members and friends is an annual event taken in their stride, to say nothing of buffet receptions for any occasion which calls for a nibble. Coffee mornings are mere details to such experts and they have recently held another, the purpose of which was to reach a self-imposed target of £100 to re-equip the church with crockery and cutlery. Well done, ladies, you have done well, the males confidently look forward to bigger and better banquets now that you are so well equipped.

Sunday School Success

The Reading and District Sunday School Union, to which most nonconformist schools in the area are affiliated, participates in the National Sunday School Union Scripture Examination each spring. In bygone days Caversham Baptist Sunday School has figured prominently with no small number

of first, second and third places in the national honours list. This year the Sunday School has to content itself with being placed third in the local results and in gaining the shield awarded to the school which makes the greatest improvement over the previous year's result.

Educational Outing

In latter years the Baptist Church has made an effort, as part of its Home Missions Educational Programme, to visit another church in the denomination. This year a party visited Millmead Baptist Church, Guildford, and enjoyed not only the fellowship but gained an appreciation of the vast work which is being done in that place in Christ's name. Whilst the Commandments give good advice envious eyes were nevertheless cast by many upon the sophisticated complex which comprises the Church Centre.

CAVERSHAM PARK House Communion

Every Wednesday at 10.30 a.m.

August 7th: Elke Handford, 4 Redberry Close.

August 14th: Anne Keene, 8 Barnard Close.

August 21st: Pat Gray, 20 Osterley Drive.

August 28th: Betty Bartlett, 2 Blackwater Close.

Sunday worship at 11.15 in the School Hall. Family Service.

On the fourth Sunday (August 25th), Family Communion. During August there is no Sunday Circle or bread-and-cheese lunch.

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 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. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas' House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
 The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.
 The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.

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.

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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.

TRENCH GREEN HALL

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

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST

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.

St. John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
 6.30 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.

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 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)

11.00 a.m. Morning 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

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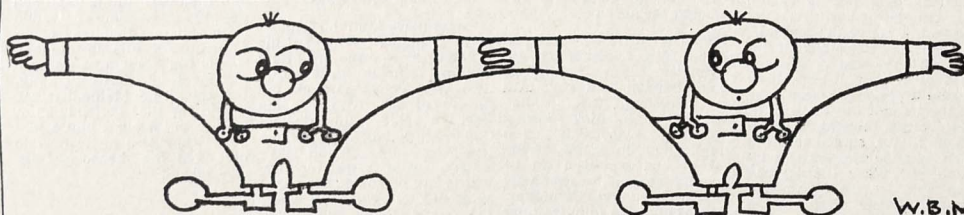
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Area Organisers:

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

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

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

Mrs. 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), 11 Holyrood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 478906.

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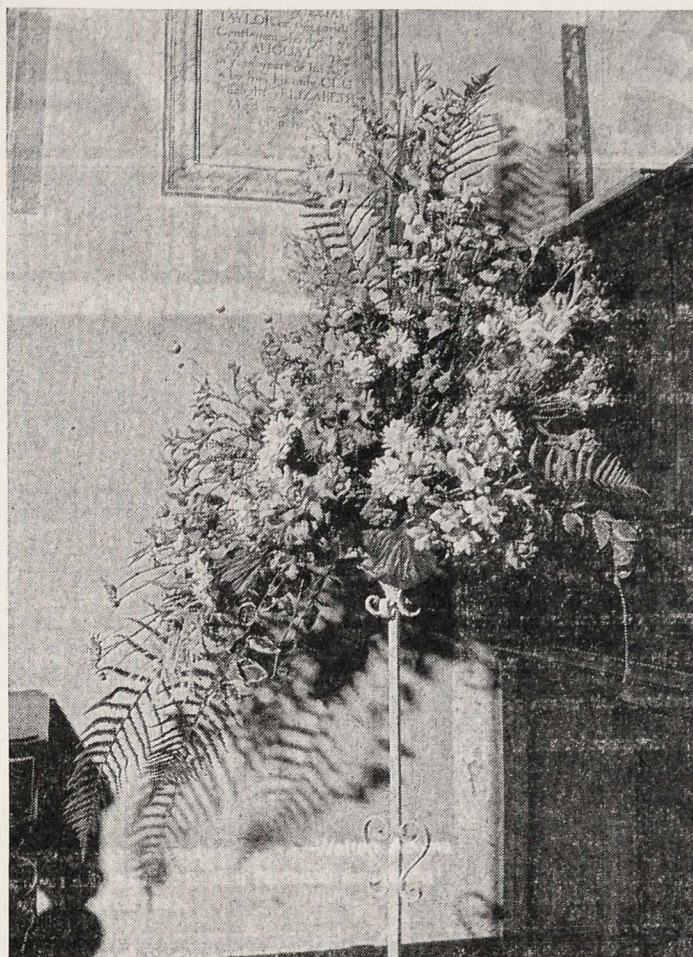
Mrs. Sansum presided and welcomed four new members, Mrs. Vaughan, Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Mansfield and Mrs. Allen, also two visitors. Mrs. Ellingham was congratulated on her report of the N.F.W.I. annual meeting. Mr. House gave a most interesting talk, illustrated by slides, on "The National Trust." The Bursary draw was won by Mrs. Ellingham and Mrs. Bradley. Competition winner was Mrs. Record.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The last meeting of the Guild was the 13th birthday party—celebrated in suitable style with a splendid fork buffet and cold punch brewed by our chairman, Mrs. Connie Griffith. The competition of "Whose Baby Are You?" was won by Mrs. Betty Johnson, the prettiest decorated hat by Mrs. Griffith and the most novel hat by Mrs. Birtwhistle. Later the Guild was entertained by the Shinfield Bell Ringers, who turned out not only to ring splendid chimes but to be a four-man concert party with a comedian to boot and an excellent male quartet. Soon most members were tapping their feet and joining in the choruses and it is hoped that the Guild's small contribution helps these worthy gentlemen towards their target for the Shinfield Church bells.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

In her talk entitled "How the Other Half Lives," Mrs. Jean Austin, mother of five, journalist and writer of a "personal problems column" in a



—Walton Adams

One of the many fine flower arrangements at St. Peter's Flower Festival.

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local newspaper, told of the many present-day anxieties she is confronted with in her work. Her claim is not to give advice, for nobody takes advice anyway, but to search for the reason behind the problems in the first instance.

Mrs. Mitchell, chairman, gave a colourful report on the National Council meeting she had attended with Mrs. Harris at the Albert Hall in London.

ROSEHILL W.I.

The 11th anniversary was celebrated with a party to which 24 guests were invited. An entertaining and mystifying performance was given by magician and mind reader Mr. Ted Wilson. This was followed by a short sketch by members. Tea was then served; Mrs. Neil had made the birthday cake, which Mrs. Buckle had iced. Mrs. Ellingham was awarded the silver salver for the third year running for most points won in competitions. This month's competition, a floral arrangement in blue and silver, was won by Mrs. Combes.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

The July meeting of Blaggrave W.I. was well attended and the president, Mrs. Wilkie, welcomed two visitors. During the preceding month a party had visited Windsor to see the Garter ceremony. Miss Latham had very kindly arranged to lead a country walk to Mapledurham village, ending with a picnic near the river, and as

this event was so enjoyed it was proposed to have another walk in the near future.

Mrs. Ellingham from Rosehill (our link delegate) gave a most interesting and comprehensive report on her visit to the Albert Hall for the A.G.M.

The guest speaker was Mr. R. W. Hill, a Trading Standards Officer, who spoke on Consumer Protection. He explained the history of this from Magna Carta to the present day and gave some very valuable advice on how to cope with any complaints of shoddy or overpriced goods.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

The president, Mrs. B. Osbourn, presided at the June meeting and welcomed Mrs. Shepherd, who spoke and demonstrated the art of enamel jewellery and stone polishing; attractive wall pictures made with enamel were also on show. She told members that at the Wokingham Craft Centre, of which she is an instructress, many other activities are taught such as silversmithing, basketry, weaving and embroidery. Lack of funds, however, are a problem in keeping the centre alive.

Mrs. Warwick's coffee morning raised £15.21, which went to the W.I., and the proceeds from our cake stall at the Hospital Fete amounted to £36.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The speaker at the June meeting was Mr. Tom Campbell, a steward with British Airways Overseas Division. He gave a very entertaining talk containing many facts about flight details but mixed with amusing anecdotes. About 30 members recently enjoyed an outing to Compton Acres gardens and Bournemouth.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the June meeting of Blaggrave W.I. Mrs. Wilkie, the president, welcomed four new members and the rota of helpers for the Family Festival Shop was arranged.

The speaker was Mrs. Hurst, who is well known to many members who have attended her classes in both Soft Furnishing and Upholstery. A most interesting talk and demonstration was given on the making of a quilt, a douvet, and on the recovering of a pouffe. The competition for the best apron was won by Mrs. Benham and Mrs. Wilkie won the raffle.

CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

The June meeting was well attended and new members were welcomed by the President. Mrs. Mills gave an interesting talk on "Carling for Jewellery" and the AGM delegate reported on the resolutions. Members were asked to support forthcoming functions, particularly those associated with fund-raising activities.

The 1974/75 programme of the Micklands and Caversham Park Adult Education Centre includes a variety of classes and activities which should appeal to all tastes.

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YES, WE ARE A

COMMUNITY 1

Turn to Page 2

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by PETER SHOCK

SHEEP are fascinating creatures. To the human eye, a whole flock of the woolly beasts may appear identical. But observe carefully and just notice the individual differences in characteristics and temperament! I used to spend my holidays at a farm on the Isle of Wight when I was young, and loved to watch the annual sheep-shearing ceremony in progress. One hot day last month I accompanied Mr. Holt, deputy head of Caversham Park Primary School, and a class of his pupils to witness again this pastoral spectacle, which took place at Poors Farm, Ipsden. Two experienced shearers were fully occupied all morning, shaving fronts, backs and sides to customers' seasonal necessities. Some responded without fuss, while others displayed an obstinacy rivaling the tantrums of a rest-

less three-year-old homo sapiens on his first trip to the barber's shop. The responsive clientele took about four minutes each, the non-co-operative twice that time. Just like we humans!

LOST, IN WONDERLAND, ALISON. She had reached the crossroads. The finger-posts were blank. She had completely lost her direction; which way should she go? This enthralling story of a little girl searching amidst the harshness of the real world to find the right path to seek beauty, truth, contentment and happiness was unfolded in scenes from a Cantata performed by children of Sonning Common Primary School at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Sunday, June 9th. As Alison waited and won-

dered, well-meaning wayfarers tried in vain to put her on the rapturous trail. Even Mr. Answer-Master could not provide the answer. Then suddenly the Holy Spirit came to Alison's rescue, and guided her to the haven of serenity for which she had been searching.

The performance was a most moving occasion, and was supported by a delightful choir of young soprano voices. The music was composed by Mr. Gwyn Arch, well known locally in connection with his television musical productions. The libretto was the work of Mr. Patrick Rooke.

A second performance was staged before a packed congregation at St. John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End, on the following Wednesday evening.

WE RECORD . . .

BAPTISED

St. Peter's

June 30 Duncan Horner
Charles Morrison

Caversham Park

June 9 Duncan Spring
Helen Snell
Janine Wilkins

MARRIED

St. Peter's

June 15 Kevin Brooks and Rosemary Tomkins
22 Peter Parnell and Kathleen Marshall
22 Kenneth Pottinger and Rosalind Mitchell
July 6 John Kao and Jacqueline Amor

St. John's

June 22 Keith Phillips and Jane Taphouse
July 6 Stephen Finney and Chairmaine Wood

St. Andrew's

June 29 Anthony Guy and Diane Marsh

St. Margaret's

May 12 David Buck and Margaret Silk
July 6 Michael Bamber and Elizabeth Brettell

FUNERALS

St. John's

June 11 Stanley Palmer

St. Andrew's

June 14 Mervyn Franklin

NOW THAT THE FAMILY FESTIVAL IS OVER some of your assumptions, beliefs, prejudices, commitments, may have been CHALLENGED

What about me and the charities—Mencap, Simon, Help the Aged, Housing Trust and others?

What about me and organisations in the community—Marriage Guidance Council, Samaritans, Playgroups, Council for Community Relations, Reading 5, Gingerbread and Cruse Clubs?

What about me and my family—time together, church together?

What about my family and people in Caversham without a family?

What about my own marriage—praying together, reading the Bible together?

WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT?