

# 1,000 at Eucharist in Caversham Court

## *All Roads Led to Caversham Court*

All roads led to Caversham Court on Sunday, July 14th, when a congregation estimated in excess of 1,000 people came to give thanks to God and to share in the most joyful act of Christian worship that they have ever taken part in, as the Eucharist was celebrated in Caversham Court for what is believed to have been the first time.

With the ringers of St. Peter's summoning worshippers as they rang a quarter peal, and the flag of St. George flying from the tower, Christians of many denominations made their way to the beautiful riverside lawns of Caversham Court. The Mayor of Reading, Cllr. J. Bristow, who is a resident of Caversham, and Lady Brunner, Patron of Family Festival, were among those present.

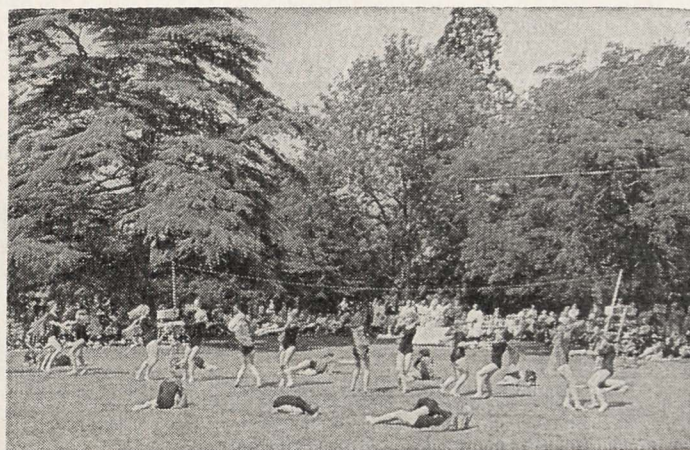
### BISHOP CELEBRATES

The Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Rev. Eric Wild, vested in cope and mitre, was the celebrant. Holy Communion was administered to the congregation at eight different points by clergy and laity of several denominations. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Laurence Stevens. The hymns were accompanied by the band of Highdown School, and girls from the school took part in the Liturgical dancing which illustrated the gospel story of the Prodigal Son, which was read by Mrs. Barbara Justham.

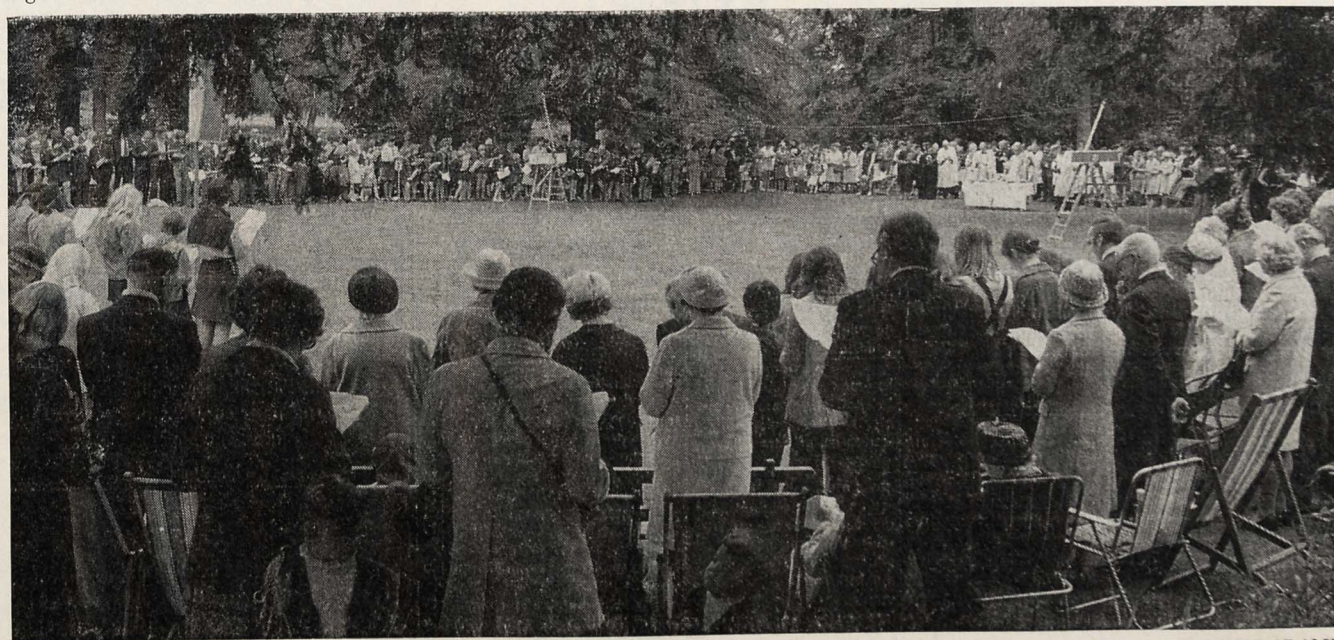
### RELEASE OF BALLOONS

At the conclusion of the service the children present released hundreds of gas-filled balloons, each bearing on a label the single word "Peace." As these floated off in the sunlight in the direction of Clifton Park Road there was spontaneous applause from the congregation. The collection at the service for the Family Festival charities amounted to about £120. After the service was over many families remained behind to have coffee and to talk to friends from other churches.

The entire service was a most moving experience as well as being a great act of Christian worship and a demonstration of Christian unity. It has clearly left a most profound impression on all who were privileged to be in Caversham Court on that morning.



Dancers from Highdown School.



Part of the huge congregation in Caversham Court.

Photos — WALTON ADAMS



## The Editor's Column

## Helping us to Pray

WE ALL NEED HELP IN SAYING OUR PERSONAL PRAYERS; it is so easy to pray parrot-wise and consequently there is a real danger in our prayers becoming so formalised that they go dead on us. Whether or not we prefer to pray in our own words we can all benefit by having available collections of prayers by other people, which we can either adapt or make our own. Although book prices have recently risen very steeply there are many good collections of prayers available in paperbacks for modest sums.

Those who know earlier books by George Appleton, who has recently retired from the Jerusalem archbishopric, will be anxious to get his latest volume, "Jerusalem prayers for the world to-day" (S.P.C.K., 60p). Perhaps the best way of recommending this book is to quote two examples of the prayers it contains.

## "FOOD FOR TODAY"

"O Lord my God, I bring to you the duties already arranged for today . . . guide and strengthen me for each. There are other things, O Lord, which will come to me today unplanned by me: visitors, letters, telephone calls, unforeseen happenings. Let me be so aware of your abiding presence with me that I may respond to each in dependence on you, asking your will, infused with your love and strengthened by your grace, O blessed Lord."

Then there is "Holding On"—"O God, I bring this situation to Thee and hold it to Thee, refusing to let it get away from Thee, believing that by Thy grace, in answer to my prayer, it will change, that something will turn up that was not there before, that the mountain of difficulty will be removed or Thy wisdom show me the way to go round or Thy grace strengthen me to climb over it or tunnel through it. Let me hold on in faith and love, O Lord my God."

While all the prayers in this book are by the author himself, Michael Hollings, a Roman Catholic priest, and Etta Gullick, an Anglican, have collaborated in producing two books of prayers, some of their own composition but others drawn from a variety of sources. These are truly catholic collections both in range of authors and of subjects. Their earlier volume is called "The One Who Listens"; their more recent one, "The Shade of His Hand," is described as a book of prayers and readings for times of sorrow and times of joy.

## LESS FORMAL STYLE

For those who look for prayer in a less formal style there is "Prayers for Today's Church," edited by Dick Williams. This is not a paperback and costs £1.25. I give one brief example, a prayer entitled "Our Homes": "Be with us, Lord, where people see us at our best and at our worst. Make our homes places where we can speak of God without hypocrisy and serve our loved ones without self-interest; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

William Barclay is known principally for his writings on the New Testament. But Fontana Books have published a number of collections of his prayers—"Prayers for the plain man," "More prayers for the plain man," "Prayers for help and healing," "Prayers for young people." There is another Fontana book of prayers which Rita Snowden has produced, called "A woman's book of prayers," which gives morning and evening prayers for a month.

Many will know and have found helpful the prayers of Michael Quoist. Less well known are those of Marjorie Holmes. Her little volume published by Hodder & Stoughton, "I've got to talk to somebody, God," starts from domestic situations and has such titles as "A psalm for shopping," "The coffee party," "The quarrel." Then Margaret Stevens, who visited Caversham recently as leader of the Reigate Liturgical Dancers at the time of the Flower Festival, has produced a paperback published by Mayhew-McCrimmon, entitled "In life eternal." This is a preparation for our weekly receiving of the Sacrament based on the new Anglican lectionary.

Finally, a book not of prayers but about the Lord's Prayer. No one can read Kenneth Slack's "Praying the Lord's Prayer Today" without coming to that prayer with fresh insight. It is published by the S.C.M. Press (50p).

## A CAVERSHAM NEED

Mentioning these books brings home the need for a book shop in Caversham. A community our size badly needs a shop where literature of a less ephemeral nature than all that can be obtained at present could be on sale. At present it is even impossible to buy a book token without having to go into Reading. I hope someone will be enterprising and open up a really good bookshop for our community.

JOHN GRIMWADE.

## Educated at Llanelli

CAVERSHAM'S NEW METHODIST MINISTER IS AN ALL-ROUND SPORTSMAN. He is the Rev. Leslie Griffiths, and in his own words he was "educated at the best rugby-playing school in Britain" at Llanelli. He also admits to playing cricket, badminton, and a little tennis, golf and croquet. He is a Welsh Rugby Union referee.

Next to his duties as a minister he takes a special interest in education and comes to Caversham after four years in Haiti, of which three were spent as deputy headmaster of Nouveau College, Bird, a Methodist school in Port-au-Prince which has 1,000 pupils.

He will be quite at ease in the inter-church co-operation he finds here, as this has always been a normal and natural dimension for him. While at Cambridge reading theology, he was President of the Theological Colleges Union. On the other hand, he is not content with superficial oneness. "A feeling of deep unity as one family with common interests," he says, "is much more difficult to create."

The Methodist Church is engaged in restructuring its administrative functions, and when asked a question about this, Mr. Griffiths wrote, "I hope it will lend itself to my view of ministry, where the minister is much less dominant in the day-to-day life of the church. I hope it lends itself to much more lay participation."

Mrs. Griffiths is naturally preoccupied with their two sons, Timothy and Jonathan, but she is looking forward to attending worship and occasional meetings.



—Staffordshire Sentinel

The Rev. Leslie Griffiths and his family

## WE RECORD . . .

<b>BAPTISED</b>	
St. Peter's	
July 28	Charlotte Hawkins
<b>MARRIED</b>	
St. Peter's	
July 27	Richard Smee and Elizabeth Howman
Aug. 3	David Hargood and Lyn Fisher
St. John's	
July 6	Stephen Finney and Charmaine Wood
St. Andrew's	
July 20	Andrew Palmer and Linda Horler
July 27	John Stubbs and Marilyn Furst
St. Barnabas'	
July 6	John Colton and Gillian Waller
July 20	Stuart Thomson and Linda Werrell
<b>FUNERALS</b>	
St. Peter's	
July 12	Thomas White
St. Andrew's	
July 18	Kathleen Metzner

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# TALKING POINT

by BRIAN GARDINER

NOW THAT FAMILY FESTIVAL HAS REACHED ITS DRAMATIC 'FINALE' IN THE GREAT AND SPLENDID COMBINED EUCHARIST HELD IN CAVERSHAM COURT, thus bringing to an end a long period of preparation and heart-aches, a general sigh of relief has been experienced by all concerned. Life will not seem the same without it. My own feelings on that Sunday evening were those of emptiness. No, life will not seem the same without seeing that familiar Family Festival symbol and of hearing week after week of the various meetings and events. Surely, that is how it should be. If the Festival were not missed then it could be counted as a dismal failure.

There is now before us the time of assessment, reflection, reappraisal and criticism. We can be sure that critics will abound.

I believe that Family Festival had a threefold purpose: (a) To promote family life in a society where family values and standards are being put to a severe test; (b) To support charities which care for INDIVIDUALS; (c) To provide an opportunity for projecting the image of the Church onto the outsider, that is the great mass of people upon whom the church impinges only occasionally in their lives, if at all, and who generally speaking fail to grasp its relevance in the 20th century.

## NOT JUST FINANCIAL

Family Festival may have appeared to many as an exercise designed to extract a great deal of money out of peoples pockets. That obviously is a purely superficial point of view. The Festival had a far deeper significance. The question, however, must be posed, "Is there a place for massive church campaigns?" There have been a great many of these over the years on both national and local levels, all of which no doubt fulfilled a purpose by contributing in some measure to the life of both church and community.

A Sales Manager once told me that what the Church needed was a good Publicity Manager — she had some wonderful goods to sell but such a rotten band of salesmen. If this is true, and I see no reason to doubt it, then Festivals and the like do have a place in our life today. The Church must be kept alive and her image brought constantly to the forefront of peoples minds. Having said that, it has also to be clearly stated and accepted that once launched a Festival or Mission must not be forgotten. The impact made must not be allowed to fade into gentle oblivion for two clear reasons: (a) A waste of effort and resources; (b) Loss of credibility. Results and advantages gained must at all costs be sustained, if they are not then the event is rightly labelled as a 'gimmick'.

## PERSONAL CONTACT

Loud drum banging and trumpet blowing have a place in church life and are necessary, but on the other hand they must not be considered as the "be all and end all." The Collect for Trinity 5 reminds us that there still has to be personal contact of one Christian to another, and quiet devoted Christian service day by day, year by year. Quiet Christian service is what in the final analysis really counts. "That thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness."

St. Peter reminds us that if Christians cannot live as a family in complete harmony, both as single units and local churches, if in practice they fail to show love and tolerance which they profess, how can they expect to serve God properly and bring the joy of the Gospel to a distracted and often quarrelsome world.

Peter warns also that neither fear nor threat should detract us from what we sincerely believe. Personal devotion and service day by day is the corner stone of true Christianity. Individuals should concentrate on being complete and devout Christians, working in the service of their Master.

Family Festival has been planned and executed, the overall results are awaited almost with baited breath — but each one of us should remind ourselves of the services of the church, the weekly opportunities of praising God as a family and of receiving the all life-giving Sacrament of the Holy Communion. It is through the services of the church that Christians, as it were, recharge their batteries. It is through the Daily Offices and Celebrations that a parish ticks and gets on with the job of proclaiming the message of Salvation and hope of Eternal Life. It is through these that Repentance and Forgiveness are offered and received. It is through them that Christian Family solidarity is produced and exercised.

## A LITTLE WISER

As the dust settles down once again on Caversham and families return to their normal daily routine, it is to be hoped that all as a result of Family Festival are a little wiser and a little more enthusiastic for the splendour and joy of Christian living, of living together in unity as a Christian Family. That all will be as one Family under God as Christ Himself prayed that they might

'It is not for these alone that I pray, but for those also who through their words put their faith in me; may they all be one: as thou, Father, are in me, and I in thee'. (John 17:20-21)

## NO LONGER ON THE ROUND

THERE WILL BE MANY PEOPLE IN CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT WHO WILL BE SORRY NOT TO SEE THE FAMILIAR FACE OF MR. WILLIAMS ON THE READING AND CAVERSHAM LAUNDRY'S DELIVERY VAN ANY MORE. He retired at the end of June and he retired with a bang. Several bangs in fact, for when I visited him at his home in Gosbrook Road early in July he was busy, as he put it, "knocking the house down!!" Actually it wasn't as bad as that. He was just removing an old fireplace and replastering the walls. Quite an energetic start to retirement.

## IT ALL BEGAN WITH CHARLIE

For nearly fifty-one years Mr. Williams has worked for the local laundry and has seen families grow up and grand-children arrive on the scene. I can remember him calling at home for at least twenty-five years. He started as a van boy with a horse and cart. The horse, a chestnut called Charlie, was inclined to bite. However, luckily Mr. Williams never fell out with his four-legged companion. On the day of the opening of Reading Bridge Mr. Williams had orders to be first over it. So he did his call at the Caversham Bridge Hotel and then drove up to the King's Meadow end of Vastern Road and there he waited. It worked out as planned. As soon as the tape was cut he drove Charlie across the new bridge in state with a traction engine going on before.

## A CAREFUL DRIVER

In the nineteen-twenties when gradually horse-driven delivery carts gave way to the motor, Mr. Williams said goodbye to Charlie and found himself at the wheel of an old T Ford van. The original Reading and Caversham Laundry belonged to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Mr. Williams achieved thirty consecutive years of safe driving and so qualified for the thirty years' medal. Actually he drove for forty-eight years without a mishap. A fine record.

Last June his work friends and the management of the laundry met together to say goodbye and present him with a radio and a gold watch.

You'll be missed, Mr. Williams, especially by the old inhabitants of the area. Thank you for all you have done for us and a happy retirement among the flowers in your lovely garden. M.K.



—Photos: Walton Adams

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# Your Parish Church

ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A PLACE OF WORSHIP EARLIER THAN 1162 ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT CHURCH, THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION OF ST. PETER'S. In that year the Earl and Countess of Buckingham, Walter Giffard and his wife Ermengarde, gave it to the Augustinian Canons of Notley Abbey, which they had founded on their Buckingham estate a few years previously. It seems that the monks of Notley leased the rectorial property to a layman, who took the profits accruing from the living upon condition that he found "a sufficient, able priest to serve the church." Sometimes this priest was appointed by Notley, sometimes by the lay rector and for 400 years no regular incumbent was appointed to the parish. Whoever it was he had to be content with very poor accommodation and equally poor income.

## FARMER AND PRIEST

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries the rectorial property passed into the hands of Christchurch, Oxford, the present patrons of the living. Under this body the leasing of the property to laymen continued until 1799, the only condition being that the leaseholder should provide a priest to conduct services and pay him £40 yearly. The chaplain was also permitted to reap the second crop of hay from King's Meadow and he lived in a small half-timbered cottage at the top of Buckside, which was pulled down in 1866 and probably stood where the garages are today. One can imagine the poor fellow in a borrowed cart going over Caversham Bridge to gather in his autumn crop of hay, which he had scythed himself a few days earlier.

In the Middle Ages there was also a "Warden of Caversham," a monk from Notley, who was in charge of St. Mary's Chapel, the Lady Chapel on the north side of this mediaeval holy place was purchased by the Brigham family from the Crown after the Dissolution in 1538. Murals to the Brighams and their descendants by marriage, the Vanderstegens, can be seen in the existing north chapel side of the church, which housed many relics and was a place of pilgrimage. The built on this former ancient place. The warden is also said to have been in charge of St. Anne's well.

With at least four alterations or extensions, often unenlightened, in the 19th century, much of the original old church was destroyed, such as the Dole boards, which were lost in 1878. The battle for Caversham Bridge in the Civil War cannot have helped matters either, for St. Peter's took a fair battering and the tower was destroyed by cannon shot. However, the Purbeck marble Norman font was recovered from years of burial in Caversham Court and set up once again in its rightful place and the inner doorway in the south porch, which is also Norman, remained intact. Two other interesting items have also survived. One is the wrought iron wind-vane with its pattern of Stuart thistles and date 1663. It stood on the old tower and is now seen in the chancel at the entrance to the north chapel. The other is a very beautiful candelabrum hanging in the south chapel and found among rubbish in the tower. On it is written — "This branch was the gift of Simon Wallace, late clerk of this parish A.D. 1743."



A picture of St. Peter's before the Lady Chapel was built and the sanctuary extended in 1924.

—Walton Adams

## A NEW DISCOVERY?

Recently, while helping on a British Museum survey of mediaeval tiles, I came across several which, though not of such antiquity, are, I believe, of quite an age. They have obviously been taken from their original site, which may have been in front of the altar, and hastily used as flooring in a dark corner to the right of the steps up to the bell tower. Having made a tracing of the complete picture, the Dove surrounded by tongues of fire, I discovered that in the hurry it had been put with the outer wing feathers used for the tail and the tail set against the wing. The whole picture took seven tiles roughly six inches square. There may have been an eighth. If anyone more knowledgeable than I am about this has any comments I should be interested to hear them. I have an idea they are 15th or 16th century and am certain they are hand-made.

M.K.

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## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

### PARTICIPATION (continued)

OUR LOCAL COUNCILS MUST FEEL THAT IT IS VERY UNFAIR THAT when they are really trying with their efforts at public participation, there should be so many complaints about the lack of it. As far as Reading District Council goes, it must seem difficult to accept that sending out a regular flow of minutes and reports, setting up a working party and appointing a Public Relations Officer just isn't enough.

It's no good asking people what they want and then interpreting the deafening silence that results as a sign that everyone is happy. As a speaker in Caversham recently said, people want to know specific things when they want to know them.

Examples of the kind of thing that has been occurring spring quickly to mind. This column has already aired complaints about the lack of information on the Priest Hill Hostel and Local Government boundary changes. Since then, a third meeting on the former matter has been arranged with no one from the local authority turning up for it.

On a smaller scale, what is happening about those ill-sited posts in South Street? After innumerable letters and phone calls, it appears that the Highways Department's right-hand doesn't know what its left hand is doing.

The Residents' Association is, by public request, currently trying to arrange a meeting on the Caversham Centre Plan. All it has received to date, not to put too fine a point on it, is a brush-off—more than one, in fact. We know there is a staff shortage, but the hard-pressed ratepayers are not going to accept with equanimity the fact that an expensively commissioned plan was accepted in principle in February and six months later is lying on the shelf forgotten, with no one in a position to take it down and give it an airing.

Turning to the County Council, we find them doing a really big exercise in public participation. They have produced a preliminary report for the Central Berkshire Structure Plan, which they have distributed to organisations throughout the central part of the county. They have also made available at local libraries and such like

(Continued on Page Five)

by WATCHDOG

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# CHURCH NEWS

## ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

**Retirement of Mr. R. J. Brind.** Organist and choir-master at St. Peter's since 1947, Mr. R. J. Brind will be retiring on October 6th. He will play for the last time at the Parish Dedication Festival Evensong that day, when the preacher will be the Rev. Colin Scott-Dempster, a former curate of Caversham and now of Chieveley.

A presentation will be made

to Mr. Brind at the conclusion of the service that evening. Contributions may be sent to the churchwardens or to Mr. H. Burton at 2a Matlock Road. It is hoped that many who have been members of the choir of St. Peter's while Mr. Brind has been organist will endeavour to be present on October 6th.

### ST. PETER'S WIVES

With two events during the first week, July was a busy month for the Wives. On the

Tuesday members, together with playgroup children and mothers, met in the Rectory gardens for coffee. The weather was rather unsettled, but the children were able to enjoy some playtime. On the Friday members and husbands met at the Chiltern Chase Lodge for an excellent dinner with dancing afterwards.

During September the Wives will be holding their autumn clothing exchange and the regular monthly

meeting at Church House will be a talk by Mr. Ferguson entitled "Kennet and Avon Canal."

## METHODIST NEWS AMETHYST SPORTS DAY (CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS)

At the Amethyst Sports Day on June 15th at Palmer Park Track, the Caversham Heights Methodist Sunday school was awarded the cup for the highest average points. The Springer family (8 Hemdean Hill) were responsible for much of this success and mention must also be made of the Keating boys (76 Sheridan Avenue), the Sutton family (59 Matlock Road) and Colin Simpson (77 St. Peter's Avenue).

The shield for the highest total points went to Kennet School, Thatcham, and the cup for the second highest total points to the United Reformed Church, Thatcham.

## ST. BARNABAS' NEWS

St. Barnabas' congregation will be sorry to say goodbye to Dickon and Christine Snell and to Richard and Margaret Satchell this summer. The Snells are moving to Brackley, where Dickon has a new job as Head of Languages in a comprehensive school. During their time here Dickon and Christine have done a great deal on the St. Benet's House Committee, of which Dickon has been treasurer. He has also served on the P.C.C. and was responsible for the "Full House" Family Festival event. Until the arrival of their second daughter, Helen, Christine was closely involved in St. Barnabas' Playgroup.

The Satchells are moving to Knowle as Richard has a new job in the Birmingham area. Margaret has served on the Coffee Pot committee and Richard has given a great

deal of time and energy to the Sunday school.

Through the kind invitation of the Perrin family, the Choir Club had a very enjoyable games and barbecue evening at 12 St. Barnabas' Road this month.

## ST. PETER'S NEWS CHOIRBOY IN 1906

Seeing a picture in the 'Church Times' of the service in Caversham Court that was held at the end of Family Festival, the Rev. P. D. Godfrey wrote to the Rector. He was a choirboy at St. Peter's in 1906, when the late Fred Hounsom was head boy and Mr. Garrett the organist. He studies.

## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT (Continued from Page Four)

places, thousands of leaflets summarising the plan, and in the back of the report and leaflet is a form on which the reader is asked to make his comments. Absolutely splendid and thoroughly praiseworthy, except for one thing. The reports and leaflets became available in July, and comments were asked for by August 31st.

Has the County not heard that the great British public takes its holidays in the latter part of July and August and even if inflation means it is a stay-at-home one, organisations mostly do not meet then and individuals tend to be in a less watchful and somewhat soporific mood? That well-known watchdog of Caversham's interests, the committee of the Residents' Association, received its hefty package shortly before what was to have been its last meeting before September, but its members, selfless as ever and mindful of their public duty, took away the reports to absorb in the quiet of their homes and arranged to hold a special meeting right in the middle of August, on a day when a reasonable number seemed to be available.

It is hoped that readers of this newspaper will have seen the explanatory leaflets in the local library and filled them in with their comments, because if they haven't they will now be too late.

If you want to know what the Central Berkshire Structure Plan is, keep your eyes open for notice of a meeting on the subject which Caversham Residents' Association is arranging. If you are likely to be around in the South-East at the end of the century, it's all about how you are going to live.



—K.G. Studios

A happy scene at St. Andrew's Playgroup, which meets three mornings a week in St. Andrew's Hall, 9.15-11.45 a.m. Mothers interested in their children attending in September should contact Mrs. C. Robinson at 38 Buxton Avenue (Tel. 472562). Enquiries about this should be made to Mrs. S. Hunter, 59 Albert Road (Tel. 478431).

## Wedding at St. Andrew's



Andrew Palmer and Linda Horler

—Walton Adams

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# FAMILY FESTIVAL

## Art Exhibition

Many local residents revealed hidden talents by submitting material for the exhibition of local art which was held at Caversham Baptist Free Church during Family Festival.



—Walton Adams

## A Methodist Eye-View of the Family Festival

By LES COOPER

Well, it's over. The Family Festival, I mean. Rather like an underground train, it seemed a long time in coming but it was soon over and is now fast receding into the distance.

What has it meant to most people? I don't know, I can only say what it has meant to me and what I shall remember.

Certainly I shall remember the committee meetings I attended, when Stephen Bartlett and Doreen Bennett bubbled with enthusiasm and carried us along.

I don't think I can forget the night I spent guarding the marquees in Caversham Court from likely vandals. None came, but we had walkie-talkie radios and my younger colleagues whiled away the night sending messages to each other.

"Hullo, this is Number One calling Number Two. Are you receiving me? Over."

"Hullo, this is Number One. You are Number Two, you fool. Over."

"My apologies, Number Two—I mean Number One."

It will be difficult to erase the memory of the preparing of the Art Exhibition, when several of us worked until 2 a.m. If your painting was hanging crookedly, blame me. Your artistic taste begins to wear at 2 o'clock in the morning. My thoughts were merely to stick the rotten things up. Sorry, but they all looked nice after a night's sleep.

I shall remember the morning of the fete as the rain steadily fell and we tried hard to get reassurance from the Local Weather Forecast. "The Weather Forecast said it'll clear up". It did clear, but by George it left it late. But wasn't it marvellous how people turned up to the fete. Perhaps it was sympathy but it redeemed my faith in human nature.

Lastly I shall remember the United Service with all those multi-coloured balloons floating into the blue sky. It had seemed such a daft idea to me at the committee meetings — I mean to say — balloons at a service. Luckily I kept quiet.

Most of all I shall think of the Festival as the Friendly Festival. Every event I attended I felt welcome — every meeting meant another acquaintance. And I don't believe I'm alone in this feeling of friendliness. For two weeks it didn't matter which church you represented, we became members of a Caversham community. The charities gained financially and I'm glad for that, but we Family Festivalers have gained too, we have been drawn closer together.

## Charities Evening Teach-In

An excellently arranged evening Teach-In was held in St. Andrew's Hall during Family Festival to give the four Family Festivals a chance to explain the nature of their work. Those present divided up into four groups so that there could be informal discussion with the representatives of the different charities.



—Walton Adams

## Caversham Schools Exhibition

Girls from Hemdean House School looking at some of the material submitted by pupils of five Caversham schools at the exhibition in Church House. The theme of the exhibition was the Family of Man.



—Walton Adams



# ROUND-UP

## THE UNITED FETE

### FAMILY FESTIVAL FETE

IN VIEW OF THE APPALLING WEATHER the organisers of the Combined Churches Fete at Caversham Court on July 13th feel very pleased that they can report a profit of about £600 for the afternoon.

The Black Knights Morris Men gave a very interesting programme of traditional dances from different parts of the country which was most enjoyable. The Stoneham School Band played twice, and there was a Punch and Judy show for the youngsters.

The fete was opened by Lady Elizabeth Brunner.

#### Competition Winners

Winner of Gammon: Mrs. Beecham, 47 Buxton Avenue. Correct weight 13lb. 10½ozs.

Horseshoes: Mr. P. Stevens, 35 Woodcote Road.

Number of halfpennies on table: 4,664—Dr. O. Jewwiss, 12 The Ridings.

Name of Rabbit: Esmerelda. Mrs. L. Hill, 7 St. Peter's Avenue.

Golf: Master A. Bone, 13 Fraser Avenue, Caversham Park.

Name of doll: Miranda. Mrs. Leatham, 7 Highmoor Road.

Weight of cake: 5lb. 1oz. Mrs. Neal.

Number of sweets in jar: 121. Mr. Colin Andrews.



—Walton Adams

Punch and Judy—an ever-popular favourite with children—provided a large and youthful audience, with parents looking on discreetly from a distance.

## EDWARDIAN EVENING

ST. ANDREW'S HALL was packed to capacity on Saturday, July 13th, for the Edwardian Evening of Gaslight Gaieties, produced by Caversham Park Church and Caversham Park Drama Group as their contribution towards Family Festival funds.



—Walton Adams

### Festival Cricket

By N. O'BALL

A SPLENDIDLY LIGHT-HEARTED GAME OF CRICKET took place on Mapledurham Playing Fields during Family Festival, between teams of laymen and clergy. There was perhaps a certain difference of approach to the game by members of the two teams. This was in some measure reflected in the varying sartorial attire, some of the clergy wearing clothes not habitually connected with the cricket field. This difference was perhaps best summed up in the remark of one member of the clergy team, who is reported to have said: "It wasn't cricket. Some of our opponents seemed to be in danger of taking the game seriously."

The captain of the clergy team, uncertain as to whether members of his team were capable of getting a ball 22 yards from one end of the pitch to the other, gave each player in turn an over to bowl with the understanding that if anyone took a wicket he would have a second over. With Messrs. Coates and Barber scoring 80 together in the first-wicket partnership it was some time before any of the clergy had the extra exertion of bowling a second over. As it was, some of them took a long time to complete a single over, not because of the length of their run but because of the number of wides and no-balls they were inclined to bowl. Some brisk hitting by Bob Allies, who mercifully retired when he had scored 54, helped the laity to score 244 in the two hours' play before tea.

After an excellent tea provided by the ladies of Caversham Heights Methodist Church the clergy went out to bat. So aggressive was some of the bowling that one of their number felt compelled to wear a fencing mask. Most of the 61 runs that the clergy team scraped up were made by some of the laity who completed their eleven.

No record of the match would be complete without thanking the umpires who, in spite of various distractions, usually counted the number of balls in each over correctly, and who courageously resisted many intimidating appeals from certain fielders whose knowledge of the law was perhaps more vociferous than correct. Thanks are also due to members of the Mapledurham Cricket Club for having the courage to let such an assortment of players use their pitch.

### £3,000 for FESTIVAL CHARITIES

Although final figures are not yet available, it would seem that Family Festival will have raised not less than £3,000 for the four Festival charities. The Festival Shop and the United Churches' Fete between them produced about £2,000, and the other events will have produced the remaining £1,000. The money will be shared between Help the Aged, the Simon Community, the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and the Reading and District Council of Churches Housing Trust.

### A Great Many Half Pennies

Young members of St. Peter's congregation worked hard collecting halfpennies for their Family Festival effort. They set themselves a hard target—to get a mile of them, and this would have meant collecting over £460. They managed to get about 250 yards of these small coins, a total of some £70—no mean achievement. Congratulations.

### FOR FUTURE RECORD

Mrs. Doreen Bennett, secretary of the Festival Committee, is hoping to compile an album recording all the events of the Festival. She would be grateful if anyone with photographs of any of the events could let her have a copy. She would also be grateful to have impressions of any of the events and stories of any notable incidents. If readers can help in any way, please write to Mrs. Bennett at 157 Upper Woodcote Road.



## MR. AND MRS. G. S. HAWTHORNE

We are asked to add to the note which appeared in our July edition about the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Hawthorne that Mr. Hawthorne spent the whole of his business career in local government service. He served in the Army during the 1914-18 war. When war broke out again in 1939, he was a senior member of the Public Health Department of Reading responsible for duties in connection with air-raid precautions in the control room at Whitley Rise in addition to his other full-time duties. Mrs. Hawthorne continues to take an active interest in children's work at St. Barnabas' Church.

## CAVERSHAM NURSERY SCHOOL

SO SUCCESSFUL WAS LAST YEAR'S VENTURE that the teachers and parents of Caversham Nursery School have organised another autumn fair to be held in the grounds of the nursery in Gosbrook Road ("behind the flats") on Saturday, October 5th, at 2 p.m. An encouraging response has come from local traders and many worthwhile prizes are to be won, as well as fun and games on 'the day.' The money realised from the fair will buy outdoor equipment for the school.

Anyone visiting Caversham Nursery during term time will be enthusiastically greeted by some 60 inquisitive three- to five-year-olds. Typical of any group of small children, their energy and enthusiasm for life and learning is a tonic to any adult, although their teachers may not agree with this all the time. Five very patient and untiring teachers cope with the children each day and their understanding of little minds is repaid by respect and affection from them.

Caversham Nursery School has a homely atmosphere: one only has to look through the door any morning and smell the tempting lunch being prepared in the kitchen. Small upturned faces are always to be seen in the kitchen, asking what is for lunch, and none is ever hushed out without a friendly word and a chat.

Children learn at nursery through supervised play. Educational toys are popular and lots of time is spent with the children, encouraging their communicative skills and their artistic interest in music, painting and making things out of odds and ends. Fine weather, of course, finds the children and their teachers out in the garden, where play is more vocal. And if they do not perhaps appreciate the lovely setting of their nursery at least their parents can be grateful for the opportunity afforded to their children to spend a little of their pre-school days in such happy surroundings.

### OVER £1,000 FOR CHRISTIAN AID

For the first time the amount collected locally in Christian Aid Week passed the £1,000 figure, and a total of £1,020 was received. There was an increase in the amount collected at Caversham Park and Emmer Green, but in most parts of Caversham the total was lower than last year. Thanks, however, to a generous donation of £100 the sum received was slightly larger than that for 1973.



Two scenes at the Nursery School

### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At a recent meeting Mrs. S. H. Symons, a native of Holland married to an Englishman, came and told members of the differences between the two nations, illustrating her talk with some lovely coloured slides.

When Mrs. Symons came here about 20 years ago the first thing that struck her was that people were very friendly when they realised she was Dutch and not German, as we seem to be of the opinion that the Dutch and English are alike and this is a good thing — for the Dutch. Holland is a small country without a great opinion of itself, whereas we believe there is nothing like the British!

Holland has great resources of natural gas and at present exports to France and Italy. During the oil crisis the large greenhouse industry which had previously used oil for heating immediately put in hand the changeover to gas — not waiting and waiting for government subsidies.

Husband and wife do not usually go out on their own. There are few organisations like the T.G. which women attend on their own, and the men are not inclined to go to football matches and drinks with the boys on their own. The home is very important and birthdays are big occasions in the home. They do not send cards but always a letter.

The Dutch have small gardens but many have allotments out of town where they build very comfortable week-end huts. If they do grow flowers they are more inclined to large splashes of colour rather than their own habit of mixing species and shades.

Holland seems to abound in water. Mrs. Symons herself was born near the Rhine and she well remembers being able to swim in the river with her friends. Nowadays if a child inadvertently falls in he has to be rushed to hospital for injections to prevent some fatal illness. Despite such a thought of pollution Holland is obviously a lovely country and Mrs. Symons made members feel that they would like nothing better than to visit her homeland.

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## HELP FOR SHELTER

A house-to-house collection will be held during the week beginning October 5th on behalf of Shelter. Anyone willing to help is asked to contact Miss Thompson, Flat 2, 28 Harrogate Road (Tel. 474206).

## POSTBAG

### Thank You

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend gratitude to my most hard-working and cheerful committee, and all others involved in making it possible for the Charity Shop to be such a success.

May I also mention Messrs. Crutchley, Sholl and Tiffen, who gave up most of their time during those eight days to help us in so many ways. Mention should also be made of Mr. Martyn-Johns, who fetched and carried and did so many of the extra jobs.

We know we have made over £1,000 at the time of writing but as the account is not closed the exact amount is not yet available.

Not only has the shop been a success financially, but it has also achieved a much closer relation with the community. Everyone involved has thoroughly enjoyed the happy atmosphere and companionship.

Yours, etc.

Joyce Beacroft.

Lilley Farm, Mapledurham. July, 1974.

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## GOLDEN WEDDING IN AUGUST



—Walton Adams

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. POND, OF 100 ALBERT ROAD, CAVERSHAM, who celebrated their golden wedding on August 16th.

They were married at St. Peter's in 1924 by the Reverend Dr. Longford, assisted by the Reverend R. Mullinger.

Mr. and Mrs. Pond have lived all their married life in Caversham. The 'Bridge' wishes them many more years of happiness enjoying their lovely garden and their family.

## THE KNIGHTON TRADITION

WITH THE RECENT DEATH OF MISS ETHEL KNIGHTON AT SANDOWN, ISLE OF WIGHT, the long association of the Knighton family with education in Reading and, more especially, in Caversham, comes to an end. Frank Knighton, born in 1803, founded a boys' boarding school in Reading known as the Friar Street Boarding School, which seems to have been well known as long ago as 1831. In the year 1848 Mr. Knighton acquired Caversham House in Church Street and the Caversham Academy for Young Gentlemen came into being. By 1853 there were 100 boarders and some 60 day pupils attending the school. Mr. Knighton had a family of three sons and four daughters and of these a son, Francis, and Clara, his daughter, helped him at the Academy and then continued to after their father's death in 1883. The school eventually closed shortly before the first World War. Two of the founder's daughters, Miss Rosa Knighton and Miss Matilda Knighton, established a small boarding school for girls at Verona Cottage in Church Street. Verona Cottage was on the site of the present Post Office telephone exchange. Their father, however, built Hemdean House for a girls' school in 1861 and Miss Rosa and Miss Matilda Knighton were responsible for this until Miss Rosa married M. Desmont, a French master at the Academy, and with him went to live at "Fontainebleau," No. 40 Priest Hill, leaving Miss Matilda Knighton to continue as Principal of Hemdean House School until her death in 1926. In 1875 a Miss Elizabeth Kennett came to Hemdean House and stayed on as mistress and later as joint Principal for some 60 years. Another daughter of Mr. Frank Knighton married a Mr. Johnson and lived in Priest Hill at the house next to the Pillar Box. Miss A. I. Olivey, who was head girl at Hemdean House School, succeeded Miss Kennett as Headmistress and has only recently retired.

### HEMDEAN HOUSE SCHOOL

Miss Ethel Knighton was a granddaughter of the original Frank Knighton and always maintained a very great interest in Hemdean House School. She became the owner of the School House and grounds until it was acquired by a limited company registered as a Charitable Trust in 1972. She came up from Sandown to attend the school council meetings and with the aid of her very generous financial gifts the school and the playing fields have been modernised to cope with the 120 pupils who attend there today. Many Caversham residents of differing generations have received schooling at Hemdean House and look back on the happy years spent there. Caversham owes a great debt of gratitude to the Knighton family for the sound education which has been provided and maintained for more than 125 years and the family name of Knighton will be remembered with affection for the part which its members have played in educating many generations of local boys and girls.

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SUNDAY SERVICES  
IN SEPTEMBER

## ANGLICAN

## St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (not 2nd  
Sunday).

10.30 a.m. Family Service (not 3rd Sunday).  
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 2nd and 3rd Sundays).  
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 (not 2nd  
Sunday).

6.30 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday only).

## St. Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (not 2nd  
Sunday).

6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

## St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (not 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 (not 2nd  
Sunday). (4th Sunday, Matins)

## 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 (not 2nd Sunday).  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

## CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service  
(not 2nd Sunday).

## METHODIST CHURCHES

## Caversham Heights

11.00 a.m. Morning Service (not 2nd Sunday).  
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## Caversham

11.00 a.m. Morning Service (not 2nd Sunday).  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

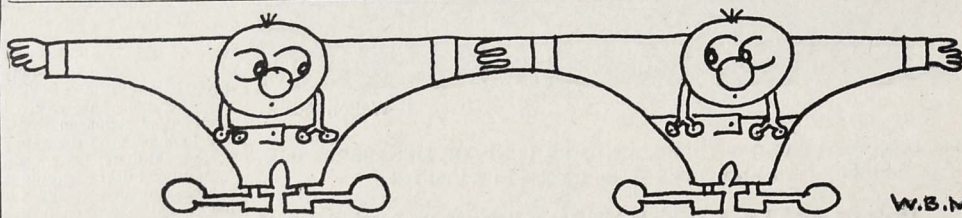
## ROMAN CATHOLIC

## 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.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF  
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## HOW TO HELP

## 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 (South 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), 11 Holy-  
rood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel.  
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—Walton Adams

## CHARLES EVANS WAY

A tribute to a Caversham resident. The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, themselves Caversham residents, with Mr. Charles Evans as one of Caversham's new roads is named after him.

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## ROUND THE CLUBS

### CAVERSHAM PARK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The business of the July meeting highlighted the many activities in which members have participated and will take part in in the forthcoming months. Miss Kimberley, the Deputy Organiser of the Reading Citizens' Advice Bureau, gave a very interesting account of the work of this voluntary body and with her colleague, Mrs. Brook, gave many examples of the type of advice which is sought from the Bureau by persons from all walks of life. It was evident that the Bureau provides a very ready source of help to those in distress.

"A rose from your garden" proved to be a popular choice for this month's competition.

### MAPLEWOOD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the July meeting members enjoyed a lively and amusing talk given by Mrs. E. Wilson, introduced by the President, Mrs. B. Osborn. Mrs. Wilson, who teaches elocution, spoke on many aspects of public speaking, quoting Aristotle and Ben Johnson. Good advice was given on how to relax, sincerity and clear thinking when preparing and making a speech. The coach trip to see the son-et-lumiere at Sutton Courtney on August 21st has been arranged, as was the outing to Berkshire Agriculture Day at Birchetts Green. Members were thanked by Mrs. B. Lewis for the help given during Family Festival weeks. Mrs. P. Ridley is Maplewood's prospective candidate for the Executive Com-

mittee of Berkshire Federation of W.I. Mrs. J. Townsend's tea party raised £8 for W.I. funds.

### EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. M. Turnbull gave a 'Lighthearted History of Lingerie' at the July meeting. All members present must have been glad that they no longer have to wear the artificial means to a good figure worn in past centuries as illustrated by Mrs. Turnbull.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month except August at Emmer Green Primary School at 7.30 p.m. New members would be made very welcome.

### CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The July meeting was programmed as 'Guess Who' but the speaker was a very well-known member of the Guild, Mrs. Stratford, who gave her impressions of a holiday in America with slides she had taken on the journey.

The guild had been some of the first visitors to the Duke of Wellington's house at Stratfield Saye, which was much appreciated.

A group of ladies were given the opportunity to be taken behind the scenes at the Reading General Post Office. Mr. Russell was their guide and he showed them all the intricate workings of the machinery used to sort the letters and parcels for the whole of the country.

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# YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by PETER SHOCK

NO DOUBT DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS MANY OF YOU WILL HAVE TRAVELLED ON A BOAT OF SOME SHAPE OR OTHER. Although the popularity of air travel has increased in recent years, boating in its many varieties still seems to hold its own. Probably the earliest record of a floating vessel can be found in the Bible—the famous Noah's Ark. Even its construction is well described. God said to Noah, "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood, make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. . . . The length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, its height thirty cubits; make a roof for the ark . . . make it with lower, second and third decks."

## MERCHANT NAVY

King Solomon it was who really got sea trade moving. His merchant navy, consisting mainly of rough wooden rafts or inflated goatskins, and manned by Phoenicians, plied up and down the Gulf of Akabah. Much of the merchandise comprised materials and jewels for the building and adornment of the Temple. He also imported horses from Egypt, and in John Masefield's words we are told of the ships "rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine, with cargoes of ivory, apes and peacocks, sandalwood, cedarwood and sweet white wine." These were the ships of Tarshish, which operated a shuttle run between Spain and the Chosen

Land once every three years. These primitive vessels would have been about the same size as a modern dhow. The sails were lateen (triangular) type, and oars provided the usual means of propulsion.

## SHIPWRECKED APOSTLE

In the New Testament we read more about ships and boats. Much of Jesus' ministry was spent around the lake of Galilee. The fishing boats could, in fact, accommodate quite a number of people. As time went on, boats began to get bigger, and that well-seasoned voyager and multi-shipwrecked Apostle, Paul, once found he had over 300 fellow-passengers on one of his voyages from Caesarea to Puteoli. On two occasions he sailed out of Alexandria in wheat ships, with water displacements of over 1,000 tons. These vessels were 180 feet long and usually carried one great sail and sometimes a topsail. The bulwarks, bow and stern curved upwards and were well-ornamented. The rudder paddles went through holes in the deck and sides of the ship; an ingenious system permitted the paddles to be withdrawn when anchoring, and the holes became hawse-pipes for the anchor cable. Thus firmly anchored astern.

Now ask the young members of Caversham Boys' Brigade Company to interpret their insignia. They will proudly quote Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 19—"Anchor of the Soul" (symbol); "Sure and Steadfast" (motto).

## E. P. COLLIER MAGAZINE

I was presented with a copy of the first issue of the new E. P. Collier Magazine. On the first page I read of the old days when many schools had a large sign nailed to the outside wall saying: NO PARENT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT WITHOUT THE HEAD TEACHER'S PERMISSION. Quite appropriately, the Headmaster replies: "Parents, if you are not coming into your school you must have a good reason." The word "your" is emphasised, as the magazine's foremost aim is to establish a relationship between the home and the school, the teachers and parents. Its contents comprise numerous short paragraphs and verses from the pupils, reports on school events and interesting visits made by pupils. Mrs. Fry's and Mrs. Hurst's groups will tell you that they have discovered Caversham's busiest traffic periods are 7.00-9 a.m., 11.00-1.00 p.m. and 5.00-7.00 p.m. Their detective work produced evidence that cars travelling through Caversham Road came from as far south as Plymouth and as far north as Glasgow.

I am looking forward to reading the next issue, due to appear in December. Good luck in your new enterprise, E. P. Collier!

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# Stan Eldon's Column

## HOPING FOR SUCCESS

THE FOX AND HOUNDS FOOTBALL CLUB OF CAVERSHAM ARE NOW EMBARKING ON THEIR FOURTH SEASON AS A CLUB. Formed just over three years ago by their present chairman, Graham Pearce, they have been training throughout the close season to try to improve on their last season's lowly position in the Fourth Division of the Reading Combination League.

### A YOUNG SIDE

The club's new manager, who took over for the last few games of last season, is Alan Squires, and he is having his first attempt at managing a team after playing as a goalkeeper in the Wednesday League for the past 13 years. Under his watchful eye the team started to play well together last year and he has concentrated on building a young side with most of the players aged between 16 and 21 years and just three or four older, experienced men in the squad of 18. He hopes that the friendly competition to get into the team will make all the players work hard for their places and so improve the standard of the team. He emphasises, however, that they all enjoy their football and this is their main concern.

## SYNTHETIC PITCHES ? ?

A team like the Fox and Hounds does highlight the problems of all small clubs with regard to a regular pitch on which to play. They are able to train at Christchurch Meadow but most of their matches last year were played at Clayhill Copse, Emmer Green. However, as a Fourth Division team it is a case of playing where there is a pitch available and having no permanent 'home.'

### PROBLEM

It is a growing problem in all local football as the number of teams increase and the spare ground around the big towns diminishes. Over most weekends nearly all local pitches have to have a number of games played on them but there is a limit to how much wear and tear the grass can stand with consistent use, especially during the bad weather in the middle of the season. The groundsmen around the town do a good job keeping them up to the present standard but the time cannot be very far off when a much wider use will have to be made of the synthetic type of playing area.

### ADVANTAGES

There are a number of problems with this, such as the initial cost, and at the moment footballers do not relish the thought of relinquishing play on the soft, muddy turf to play on a firmer, more consistent surface. And not without good reason, for it could change the game in several ways and also presents the additional hazard of friction burns. However, improvements are continually being made in these synthetic pitches and the many advantages they have must outweigh the few problems that could arise with

their general use. It is important to bear in mind that after the initial outlay the upkeep cost is minimal, but the great advantage lies in the fact that a man-made pitch could be played on all day and every day without deterioration.

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