

# IT'S FAREWELL TO

## *The Hanging Gardens of Caversham*

WHEN BILL AND VERA GOOD GAVE UP THEIR BUSINESS at 10 Church Street at the end of September a host of people from Caversham and beyond were genuinely sorry to see them depart. Probably they will be the last to live in the attractive old cottage. Certainly they were just the right people to have had it for their home, because since they moved into its ancient rooms in 1940 they have given loving care to the old place.

### A COTTAGE GARDEN

Theirs must have been quite the most interesting shop to go into in Caversham, for on entering one immediately felt a link with the past, that there was still something of old Caversham left. You were, in fact, stepping down into a real village shop. It could have been miles from a large town, but here it was in noisy, crowded, suburban Caversham, and what a joy it gave to those who made time to notice and appreciate. Even before you entered the doorway there was a cottage garden to walk through with its little patch of grass and shady apple tree. On the timber and plaster walls grew roses and brightly berried creepers. Gay window boxes and tubs were everywhere, filled with flowers, while from oak beams hanging baskets cascaded lobelia, geraniums and fuchsias. To stand for a minute and look at it all was a real pleasure.

Stepping down you came into the passage, its walls covered with many photos of the village as it used to be. Bill Good is one of the most knowledgeable people on Old Caversham. As a young boy he began his schooling at St. Peter's church school down Church Lane, close to Church House. When he came to live at 10 Church Street he immediately set to work to uncover the beams inside and out, and restore the building to its former self. While he was engaged in this task he found, stuffed along with straw, behind the beams, sheets of paper. On one was written the following.

"What quantity of barley at nineteen shillings and six pence a quarter should be given in exchange for forty-seven and a half quarters of malt at thirty-two shillings and sixpence per quarter?" On another sheet was written another problem: "What is the value of one and a half hogshead of brandy at eleven shillings and sixpence a gallon?" On yet another, in beautiful copper plate handwriting, were fifteen rows of: "Deaths are dangerous", signed Stevens, March 22, 1771. While yet another sheet of practice writing, or could it have been punishment lines, reads: "Consume not precious . . ." the rest un-

### END OF A CHAPTER

One thing is certain, according to a previous owner known to Bill Good, the deeds went back before the Fire of London. Bill himself reckons the cottage was once a farm as the kitchen which is the oldest part, is so large, and before Oakeshott's warehouse was built an old L-shaped barn stood in its place and joined on to the cottage. Coffins were made here before the



The Good Life

—Walton Adams

Second World War when the property belonged to the local undertaker.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Good regret leaving their old home and the shop. Bill has done so much to it and Vera will surely miss planting and tending all her flowers. There is bound to be sadness for it is the end of a chapter in their lives which has spanned many years. The grown-ups of to-day were the children who once brought in the accumulators to be charged. However, they will not be far from their friends as they are now living in Hemdean Road. The windows there are diamond paned, the sizeable garden slopes up to grassland and trees and there is still a country flavour around. M.K.

## Tragic Death

Jonathan Miles Jelf, nearing his 21st birthday, was tragically killed in a road accident on Saturday, September 7th, at Karnal, near Delhi, India. He was on a trip of his own planning and travelled alone across Europe, through Asia to Afghanistan and on to Kashmir, where he stayed some weeks, and was on his way to Delhi.

He wanted to discover how other people lived and particularly wished to acquire an understanding of the Eastern religions.

Sincerest sympathy goes out to his parents, Len and Ruby, also Alison and Nicholas, who lived in Caversham from 1956 to 1966. They moved to Bridgewater, Somerset, and later to Bristol.

Many of his contemporaries remember Jonathan and respected him as a caring sensitive person. In Bristol he had been working in the Barrow Gurney Mental Hospital in the geriatric female ward, and was sensitive in his care of the patients and respected by the staff.

The Editor's Column

## WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN . . . ?

THE RECENT BBC TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY "In the midst of Life" revealed not only how ill prepared for death are most people, but also how reluctant they are to even talk about it. The need to talk surely is there, but modern Western society prefers to ignore anything that reminds it of its mortal nature. Instead people today are in danger of becoming obsessed with physical health and length of years. There are new commandments: thou shalt not smoke, eat animal fats or sugar or starch. Such are the miracles of modern medicine that it is felt that people must be kept alive at all costs, regardless of their condition.

### IMMORTAL

It is interesting that it is only in the last hundred years or so that life expectancy in the West has increased and already, some would argue, there are signs that the present generation is beginning to live as though it were immortal, especially in the way in which wealth and material possessions are being amassed. A film released earlier this year called "Zardoz" raises this very question. Without going into details it shows an idyllic looking world some time in the future inhabited by an élite known as the Eternals who, as the name suggests, have discovered immortality. Outside their small world, the Vortex, are the Outlands, the home of the Brutals and the Exterminators, whose job it is to control the Brutals. In the film Zed, one of the Exterminators, secretly finds his way to the Vortex, where he finds the Eternals living in immortal boredom. Punishment in this sterile society consists in being allowed to age. But nobody dies. Even occasional suicides are immediately followed by resurrection. The upshot of the story is that Zed becomes the means of confronting the forces that control the Vortex and restores to the Eternals the ability to remain dead when they die—something for which they long. So the natural history of man resumes its course.

### QUALITY

Stripped to its bones the story may sound rather comic, but it is significant that a contemporary film director should have felt moved to suggest that somehow death must be seen and accepted as a natural part of experience. More than that, it is seen as being necessary to give life purpose, shape, direction and urgency.

All the do's and don't's from today's experts and the very costly lengths to which the community goes to prolong life suggest that sometimes the cost of avoiding death can be too high. Instead of being obsessed with health and longevity wouldn't it be better to consider the quality and the purpose of life? Christians certainly ought to put quality and purpose first. After all, they claim to follow the Christ who tells them not to be anxious about tomorrow.

### HIDDEN MISERY

Elsewhere in this issue we draw attention to the campaign locally of the Reading Women's Rights Group to set up a Women's Aid Centre in the town. This would provide advice and accommodation for battered wives. Other centres already established have shown that there is a need for this kind of facility and anyone who saw the recent report on "Nationwide" cannot fail to have been moved by the plight many wives find themselves in. There are some critics, however, who say that such centres are not in the best interests of families; providing such a refuge is thought by some to preclude any possible reconciliation. It should be made clear, therefore, that centres such as the Women's Rights Group wants are intended to give a breathing space for wives who can't take any more. And what evidence there is suggests that many cases are a cry for help rather than a complete breakdown of marriage.

One of the wives in the "Nationwide" report related how her husband had broken down and wept while he was beating her, which prompts the question: apart from the need to provide an emergency service for wives, isn't it time someone came up with a scheme to help battering husbands?

Peter Atkinson,  
Assistant Editor.

## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

# European Architectural Heritage Year

## 1975 IS TO BE ANOTHER SPECIAL YEAR,

European Architectural Heritage year, when throughout Europe efforts will be made to save buildings of architectural merit whose futures are threatened. Looking back to 1973, the Year of the Tree, when an unholy alliance of the demolitionists and Dutch Elm disease wrought more damage than anything since the time when iron ceased to be smelted by charcoal and hearts of oak supplied "the wooden walls of England", one can be forgiven for shuddering at the prospect of what a year dedicated to the preservation of our architectural heritage might do to our traditional old buildings.

Here in Caversham, our fears are certainly justified. The old row of cottages owned and partly occupied by Oakeshotts, is falling steadily into disrepair, in spite of promises and a somewhat half-hearted attempt to halt the decay. Now that Mr. and Mrs. Good have left their shop in the end cottage, its future indeed seems bleak. Whatever impression the rest of the row has latterly given, over more years than most care to remember or

can even remember Mr. and Mrs. Good have kept their premises fresh and bright, gay with flowers from spring to autumn, and friendly with lights during the dark days of winter. The affection for Caversham, exemplified by their care for their premises, was borne out by the fascinating collection of photographs of old Caversham which greeted the customer entering their shop. We shall miss them not only for themselves, but for their contribution towards making Caversham a friendly and attractive place.

## RESTORATION

On the opposite side of the road, a pair of old cottages faces a very uncertain future, though if it were not for the traffic pouring past their front doors, one feels they would easily find willing owners. (Oh, for that third bridge). Someone, whose name pressure of time and innate laziness prevents me from checking, said that the role today's architects should seek to play was the restoration and bringing up to modern requirements of our old buildings, and indeed some of the best work of modern architects can be seen in this field. It is not a cheap

alternative to building something new, but there are indications that it is fulfilling a growing demand.

## GAZEBO

There is, however, one good piece of news on the architectural front, and that is concerning the Caversham Court gazebo. A trust has been set up with two representatives of the Civic Society and two representatives from the Borough Council, supported by representatives from Caversham Residents' Association, to finance the restoration of this neglected little seventeenth century building, overlooked by the short-sighted borough council which demolished the beautiful house of Caversham Court in the early nineteen thirties, but now falling victim to the inroads of time and weather. Unfortunately

the fund set up in connection with European Architectural Heritage Year to make grants to assist with the restoration of such buildings as this is unable to help because one of the conditions of making a grant is that the building must be in a conservation area. In spite of repeated requests to have the area between the Parish Church

and Caversham Bridge declared a Conservation Area the local council has dragged its feet. If steps are not taken soon to give this area the measure of protection that such a step would bestow, there will soon be little worth conserving.

At this point it may be instructive to reiterate that a conservation area is not an area where all the buildings are preserved. It is an area with some historical associations in which the individual buildings may or may not be of outstanding architectural merit, but grouped together form a pleasing whole. Some of the buildings may not merit preservation, but any rebuilding in the area would be subject to strict control to see that it was both fitting and an enhancement to its surroundings.

Locally we could do worse than marking European Architectural Heritage Year by designating this area a Conservation Area. And perhaps among all the other good causes Caversham supports, a little money or help could be spared to restoring our Gazebo, unique it is believed, on the Thames.

## POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

With reference to your article in September's 'Caversham Bridge' with regard to a really good bookshop in Caversham, perhaps I could make the following observations:

1. In order to run a bookshop on a profitable basis it must provide for all sorts and conditions of men.

2. The overheads in book-selling are very considerable. The general public, on the whole, expect to go into a shop and find the book they are seeking on the bookshelf immediately. The only way to run a bookshop successfully is, in fact, exactly the opposite nowadays to that which people expect. Overheads are so high that a small bookseller would undoubtedly run at a loss if he fully stocked his shelves. He cannot, for economic reasons, do this as the high price of books precludes it.

3. I agree that it is impossible to buy a book token in Caversham, but there is no need for this situation. If one of our booksellers-cum-newsagents joined the Booksellers' Association (which is at a very small charge), then they would be entitled to apply to Booktokens Limited in order to both sell and exchange book tokens.

4. Apart from the above observations, the only way in which a good bookshop could possibly be opened in Caversham is for someone who has another profitable business to open a bookshop as a sideline and be dedicated enough to lose money on the shop and yet stock good religious and secular books which are so needed in our area.

Yours, etc.

Joyce E. Green  
22 Newlands Avenue,  
Caversham, Reading.

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# CYRIL BURNSIDE

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE FROM THE

REVD. D. F. SHAYLOR

THE INEVITABLE AND INESCAPABLE FOR ALL OF US HAS COME TO CYRIL BURNSIDE, who died in Battle Hospital on September 8th. The 'Caversham Bridge' edition for May 1973 carried the news of his retirement from the post of Treasurer to the Parish Church Council, under the heading "Cyril Burnside — A Contented Life". It appeared at a time when Cyril and Marjorie knew that time for him was running out. The Burnsides chose to meet the months which lay ahead with a gay courage and no slacking off from helping wherever they could — despite the fact that there was a considerable amount of pain and discomfort to be endured by Cyril. The cancer which he had was inoperably close to Cyril's heart and gradually affected his voice and his breathing, but never his spirit. He made no secret of the situation but did not choose

to ignore it so much as to confront it without fear. The parish owes a tremendous debt to Cyril for the tireless work he did, first as a sidesman at St. Andrew's, then as Assistant Treasurer to the P.C.C., and then for the next twenty-one years as Parish Treasurer, during which he guided us through many a financial difficulty. Characteristically, when he was compelled to relinquish his office by the pressure of his illness, he handed to his successor a wealth of detailed experience and wisdom which he had acquired over the years — all meticulously recorded. Caversham Parish and its Clergy have known no more faithful servant, adviser and friend. The last days in hospital had a deal of pain to be borne; Cyril met them with a cheery countenance, at the same time deeply conscious that his strength came from

his unshakable faith. Perhaps his leaving us is best set forth by a comment from one who visited him daily during the last ten days in Battle — "Visiting Cyril was a unique experience — unlike any other visit I have ever made to the dying — always I came away from these visits conscious that I had received and was the richer". The funeral service, conducted by the Reverend Guy Armstrong, formerly Priest in Charge of St. Andrew's, and the address preached by Archdeacon W. R. Birt, a former Curate at St. Peter's, was an occasion of inspiration to the great congregation which filled St. Peter's, gathered together to pay a last tribute to a man who has showed us how to live and how to die in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our deepest and most sincere sympathy go to Marjorie and to the family.



—Walton Adams  
Cyril at last year's presentation marking his retirement as Parish Treasurer.

## The Address Given at Cyril Burnside's Funeral Service

BY THE ARCHDEACON OF BERKSHIRE, THE VEN. RAYMOND BIRT, A FORMER CURATE OF CAVERSHAM

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TO MAKE THE GREAT CHRISTIAN AFFIRMATIONS ABOUT THE TRIUMPH OF LIFE OVER DEATH through Jesus Christ: and to do so in terms of the life and death of Cyril Burnside. We are here to demonstrate our solidarity, our love and our sympathy with Marjorie and her children and all the family. We are also here as the family of St. Peter's, Caversham, of which Cyril was for so long one of the heads.

Cyril was a Mr. Great-heart. To him was given the challenge and the opportunity in the last years of his life to show us how death should be faced, and with what weapons precisely the fear of death may be put down. I will return to that in a moment. But let us now say that the qualities that shone so clearly before us all in these last years were those of the whole man. And of the whole manner of his life.

Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle, asked the psalmist and answered:

Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life and doeth the thing which is right and speaketh the truth from his heart.

He that hath used no deceit in his tongue nor done evil to his neighbour. He that sweareth unto his neighbour and disappointeth him not.

Cyril was such a man: a righteous and an upright man. Open in all his dealings. A man of such limpid integrity and honesty and compassion that trust was

immediately placed in him, and the consequent demands upon it freely and generously met. People and organisations innumerable asked of Cyril, and were never disappointed.

### SUPREME GIFT

He was, therefore, a most loyal friend. I cannot be alone in feeling that when Cyril was around things not only became secure and capable of solution, but also were warmed with laughter and fun. He had the supreme gift in friendship, too, of rejoicing without envy or reserve in the joys and successes of his friends. For he was ever a giver, and not a taker in the game of life.

All these qualities were of use to the church — and not only to his much-loved parish of St. Peter's, Caversham, but to the Church in Reading and the Diocese as a whole. I think for my part that at the root of all his conduct, whether within the loves and togetherness of his family life, his business career, and his many friendships, lay the Christian faith by which he was shaped. Cyril's faith was quite open and simple. He believed profoundly that the moral and ethical teaching of Jesus Christ offered the only way by which life could best be savoured, enjoyed, and fulfilled. Consequently he believed wholly in the institutions of the Church of England both as the appointed vehicle of that teaching within the nation and of the chief means of the nation's good. Not, of course, that he denied for a moment the place or validity of other churches. Never. He was impatient of our many divisions. But he was a Church of England

man through and through — even if sorely tempted to wonder what on earth its leaders and parish priests were up to, and the odd directions it sometimes appeared to be taking.

### COURAGE

Which reminds me to add about Cyril that he was a forthright man: never afraid to speak his mind about anything. He never hedged, or cautiously made reservations about his views. God be praised: You always knew where you were with him.

All of us here know that the elements of Cyril's character that I have sketched for you came into burning fire of focus in the ordeal of his long-standing illness. It is the paradox and mystery of human life that the moment we are born into life we are also born into death. In that sense all of us are under sentence of the last enemy. But from most of us the certainty is veiled until the hour comes. For Cyril it was otherwise. We have been witnesses in him of a very special kind of courage in these last years, for he knew perfectly well the nature of his illness, knew that he was living on borrowed time — and accepted it with the invincible determination that it should not deflect him from carrying on as he always had done: in cheerfulness, in service, in full enjoyment of every aspect of his busy life.

### LIVING FAITH

Partly this was the natural man in action. He was born resilient, courageous, unputdownable. But all this was also the product of the discipline of the faith by

which he lived: that Christ-like acceptance of suffering as something to be accepted and fought with — and so, by virtue of the fight itself, turned to victory and glory.

We have seen this in him, and are witnesses. We give thanks for so greathearted an example. We shall never forget it. Let us therefore resolve that the example be not wasted: but that we may take heart ourselves from the example he has set before us, and so be the means of setting before others the true values of an uncorrupt and righteous life.

May he rest in peace: and may those who mourn be comforted.

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# CABBAGES FOR THE REST OF OUR ALLOTMENT?

RETIREMENT IS A GROWING PROBLEM IN SOCIETY and many firms are beginning to recognise the need to provide pre-retirement courses for their employees. But what are the problems and what can you do to get the best out of retirement? We asked Mr. R. H. Gostage, a Caversham resident and chairman of the Berkshire Retirement Association, to give some of the answers. Mr. Gostage is also a W.E.A. Course Tutor.

"There are three major changes in our life-style: starting school, embarking on a career and retiring. In the first two situations we receive tremendous help, but in the last we are left to our own devices. This is why the Berkshire Retirement Association, in conjunction with the Workers' Educational Association, provide courses on 'Thinking about Retirement'.

No-one plans to fail, but it is a fact that among those who fail to plan are thousands who do not derive the contentment expected from retirement, while far too many never come to terms with it.



Branching out in retirement

—Reading Chronicle

## ALL DIFFERENT

Health is important, so is income. The greatest problems, however, are likely to be concerned with newfound leisure and the golden opportunities it offers. This is the most important area needing our greatest attention. With adequate thought and preparation, people not enjoying the best of health are enjoying retirement, while others, with plenty of money, are surprisingly miserable, relying too heavily on cash.

We are, of course, as different as the shapes of our ears and thumbprints, and therefore our life-styles will be as varied. At one extreme is that restless, talkative person, who can neither keep quiet or still. At the other end is the hermit type 'concreted' into an armchair, with a calendar in one hand and an undertaker's price list in the other. Planning must cover the two distinct periods, up to eighty years and over eighty years when mobility might be restricted. Gardening is fine to

start with, but bridge may be better later on; art most satisfying as long as sight is good; music splendid, though dependent on hearing. groups (beginners' French, current affairs and art), bridge, lectures, movement to music, dancing, bowling, rambling and coach trips.

## DISCIPLINE

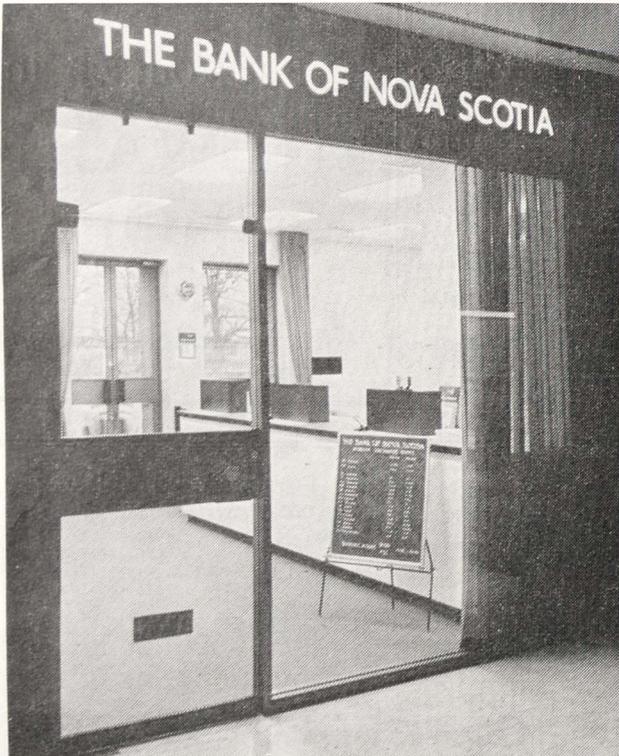
Once the vitamins of work (punctuality, discipline, status) are lost, the desperate need is an injection of self-discipline, a draught of adventurousness and physiotherapy in the form of a new vision. There is plenty to think about, many plans to be made. What about exercise, diet, income, accommodation, safety in the home, a change of living pattern, interests that are intellectually stimulating, hobbies which are easy to handle, relaxing, pleasing? What about the need to have both indoor and outdoor activities, and also to join some social group?

At 'Firtree' retirement centre (Friends in Retirement Taking Relaxation Education and Exercise) facilities are provided to help solve many of the problems. It offers study

## CAN THE CHURCH HELP?

Christians should, perhaps, solve some of the problems easier than most, because they would pray about them. Even during non-praying hours the problems would be in mind and on the way to solution. On the other hand, belief in God's guidance could result in some procrastination in planning on our side of the fence.

'Old Age', said Plato, 'is not necessarily a cause of unhappiness. The discontents of old age have their roots in character, more than in events'. The church could help considerably in this work and in our own retirement, especially by providing courses in sustained bible study and comparative religion when we have time to study and assimilate."



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Talking Point

# IRON CURTAIN RAISER

THE FODOR GUIDE TO EUROPE claims that in Hungary "when the formalities are over the fun begins." It also says that Budapest is a city full of carefree people who spend their entire lives singing, dancing and enjoying themselves in colourful restaurants. This is not the usual picture we have in our minds concerning Communist countries, so it was very interesting to see what Hungary really was like this summer. The first contrast was the border itself. The usual form in Europe is a thin wooden barrier, permanently raised, and a friendly official who waves you through. The Hungarian barrier was made of heavy iron and was kept closed; it being raised by two heavily armed men to let one car in at a time. After a search of the car and caravan another barrier was raised and we were in.

magazines in that there are no Western papers to be seen, and there is one State magazine for a particular interest. Queuing for basic foodstuffs is a part of Hungarian life, though essential foods are very cheap and controlled by the State, hence our steak in the hotel restaurant cost about 25p.

### INSECURITY

These features are insignificant in comparison to two other factors. The first is the insecurity of the

munist countries are like prison camps, with mindless zombies for people. It is true that one does see people literally driven out of their mind at the side of the road, but we have similar casualties in the West in our mental hospitals. However, it cannot be denied that the people are different; there is a lack of spontaneity and an almost absence of laughter. There is a general listlessness and children do not seem to play in the streets. The only time people seem to come alive is on Sunday, when they queue to get into the churches.

by  
**Leonard  
Burn**

### HUMAN RIGHTS

It is easy to concentrate on external things and paint the sort of picture we want to create, but it is very difficult for us to understand the implications of a loss of liberty and its subsequent State interference. A recent documentary on Poland highlighted various aspects of their national life and featured the building of a new church in a new town. Various aspects of life were given considerable attention, such as the increase in industry, the rising standard of living and perhaps a growing resemblance to our Western form of life, but it was just mentioned in passing that the priest in the new town had had his passport confiscated to stop him raising funds abroad, and the architect for the church had lost his job because of his involvement in the project.

authorities. If their life style is right, and there is a great deal which is good and positive, it seems strange that the Westerner is treated with such suspicion and that Western papers should be suppressed. There is also the fierceness of the border, notices forbidding photography, and the presence of the Red Flag and Hungarian flag on every block of flats.

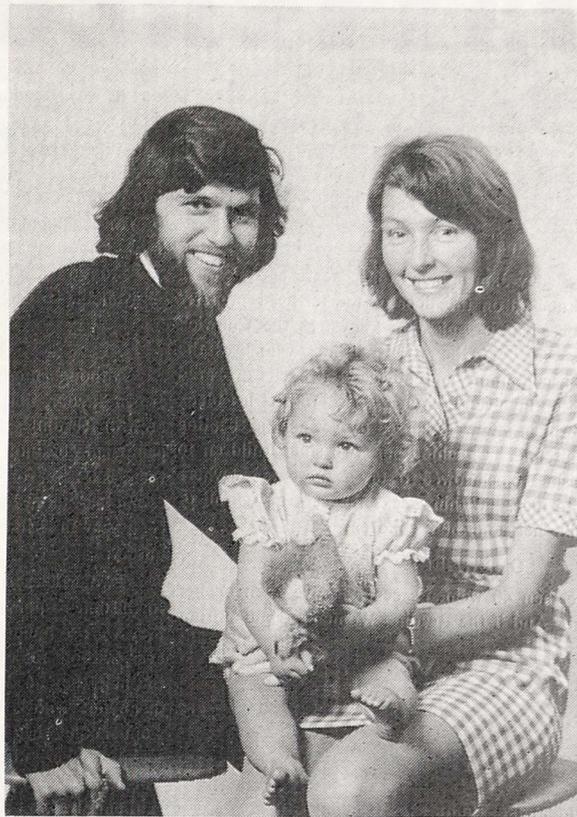
The second factor is the loss of liberty to talk, express an opinion, and think by the people. Cold war propagandists do a great disservice to everybody when they imply that Com-

But these factors are the really important ones and illustrate the root difference between East and West in Europe. This fundamental difference is one which Christians cannot ignore as freedom and individual responsibility are of ultimate importance in Christian doctrine. The fact that our brothers less than a thousand miles away have to live denied this freedom must affect the way we view our world. In the first place our alleged economic and allied troubles diminish in the face of this precious gift of freedom which we have and so often take for granted. In the second place our attitude to the Common Market is affected in that its importance is seen to be not so much in economic gains but a politically united Western Europe. Thirdly, in a more general sense the situation is intolerable and Christians cannot rest from prayer and action until the human rights which we enjoy are the rights of all people.

### LITTLE CHOICE

There was no room at the camp site in Budapest so we had to stay in a hotel. Here one could have been anywhere in the world as there were the usual Diners Club and American Express card signs—somewhat surprising in the light of Communist ideology—plus thick carpets, uniformed porters and so on. However, beyond this oasis provided for tourists and businessmen it was immediately clear that we were in a country unlike any in the West. The shops had very little to choose from; they resembled the shops of Britain and Germany during the '40s. This lack of choice was also evident in newspapers and

## New Priest For Mapledurham



Michael, Christine and Clare —Hymor Photographers

WELCOME TO MICHAEL AND CHRISTINE KITCHENER and their baby daughter, Clare. Now living at Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road, Michael is the new priest in charge at St. Margaret's, Mapledurham.

grateful if he could be told as soon as possible when anyone in the district is in trouble, or has just moved in or just needs a chat. His telephone number is 471605.

A graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, Michael went on to train for the ministry at Cuddesdon Theological College. From there he and Christine went to their first parish at Aldwick, Bognor Regis. It was partly his deep concern for Christian unity which made him decide to join the staff here.

Both the Kitcheners are keen on camping and rambing and should enjoy some of the attractive local walks. The parish hopes they will be very happy in their new home. Michael also wishes to make it clear to parishioners that he would be very

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(Mary Hooper and Patricia Collins)

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# BATTERED WIVES WHERE CAN THEY GO?

The problems of battered wives are beginning to emerge in the Press, and as the Reading Women's Rights Group is campaigning to set up a Women's Aid Centre locally to help such wives we are pleased to carry an article this month outlining some of the difficulties involved. We also print a report of the meeting recently held in Caversham to plan for a centre at Reading.

On a grey January day three years ago a young woman knocked on the door of the terraced property which housed an organisation known as the Chiswick Women's Aid. To the women inside, who used the house as a community and advice centre, she appeared to have been involved in an accident. In fact her black eye and broken jaw were caused by yet another beating by her husband. Clutching her two small children to her, she asked to be allowed to stay as there was nowhere safe left to hide. Within weeks the centre was full of women like her, and their children.

## SOMEWHERE TO STAY

Since then 40 women's centres have been opened in Britain. And if the Reading Women's Rights Group

has its way, Reading will have its own centre in the near future.

What they want are premises where women can stay, with their children, to work out their problems in safety and peace. They would be provided with expert help on legal and other matters. The centre would offer only temporary accommodation and as most women in this situation are not classified as homeless, help would be available to find them permanent accommodation.

## NO EASY TASK

Although most people who have been approached are in favour, and this includes many councillors and both of Reading's M.P.s, the working party heading the campaign does not have an easy task. Establishing that there is a need for the centre is not easy—although it is estimated that at least 25,000 women are in this position each year in Britain, they do not seek to publicise their misery.

Two articles in the 'Reading Evening Post' brought forth some response, but when women did come forward they were reluctant to give names and details. However, without the evidence required they cannot be given the help they need. It would help if readers who know of anyone who is being battered were to persuade the women concerned to confide in someone—family doctor, social worker, minister or Samaritans. Their privacy will be respected and they will be helping others as well as themselves.

About 40 women attended the meeting recently held in Caversham organised by the Reading Women's Rights Group to discuss plans for a Women's Aid Centre. Among them were members of the National Council of Women and the National Housewives Register. Also present were Councillor Margaret McEwen and June Sparey of the 'Evening Post.'

## HELP NEEDED

The meeting had been called to involve other women's organisations in the area in the hope of assisting the already overworked working party. An appeal was made for help in setting up a finance committee. Members from other Women's Rights Groups spoke about centres which have recently been set up at Wandsworth, Newcastle and Cardiff. Members of the working party will be visiting centres at Chiswick and Wandsworth to see how they are run and to gain experience for the Reading centre.

## INFORMATION

Many offers of help have been received but a finance officer with experience of fund-raising is still badly needed. It is hoped that women's organisations may like to contribute towards the campaign by donating the proceeds of coffee mornings or other activities. If anyone feels they can offer to help in any way, they should contact Jackie at Reading 56475, who will provide further information.

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## AROUND THE CLUBS

### CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The Guild was fortunate in choosing good weather for both their garden parties in August. Mrs. Tiffin held her annual party for new members, and Mrs. Bennett kindly offered her lovely garden for the Guild fete. The first speaker after the summer recess was Mr. Gordon Langsbury, who delighted his audience with colour slides of wild birds found in and around Reading.

### EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The speaker at the September meeting was Mrs. L. Otterwell, who spoke of her life in Hong Kong. She spent 2½ years there with her husband, who was in the Forces in troubled times. The slides which were shown afterwards gave a very colourful idea of Hong Kong with its poverty and very crowded living conditions, including the boat people. The vote of thanks was given by Miss Sidford, who had worked in nearby China.

### MAPLEWOOD W.I.

Maplewood W.I. met as usual in St. Andrew's Hall for the September meeting, which was well attended after the August break. New members were welcomed. The speaker, introduced by the president, Mrs. B. Osborn, was Mrs. M. Cundel, who studied the art of flower arrangement with Constance Spry, and gave a demonstration of this art with dried and pressed flowers, ferns and leaves, seaweed and even

toadstools. The autumn designs were very effective, as were place mats and various other articles. Valuable instruction was given on how to preserve garden flowers and weeds and grasses from the hedgerows. Maplewood was well represented at the exhibition held in Reading Town Hall depicting heirlooms for the future. Out of 23 entries Maplewood gained 21 awards. Arrangements were made for members to attend the autumn group meeting at Bradfield on October 22nd at 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. B. Osborn's garden party raised £22 and Mrs. Matthews' £16, both amounts donated to W.I. funds.

Mrs. P. Duckworth started a class at her home during October for pressed flower pictures.

### CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

Members were pleased to celebrate their homecoming to the newly built and spacious Micklands School Hall with a harvest supper and mini-produce show. The freshness of the hall blended with that of the produce and handicrafts, and the judges carried out their job meticulously.

A sad note was the loss of one of our members, Mrs. Loram, who had been a faithful and active member for many years, and everyone present stood in silence as a token of remembrance. Another member, Mrs. Davis, recently underwent an operation and is progressing satisfactorily.

Mrs. Fricker, a V.C.O., recalled the history of Watlington House, the 'hub' of the Berkshire Federation, and extended an invitation to members to visit.

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# With Katy In Caversham

## Successes

Owing to domestic problems, Katy has been absent from these columns for some months; she has not, however, been absent from Caversham—and what a lot has been going on recently.

June brought the usual crop of success stories from schools and many of our youngsters—too numerous to mention—are now setting out for universities in all parts of the country. From colleges and universities we have had many successes, among them Matthew Vincent, who got his Ph.D. and is now back home and working outside Reading; Stephen Pick, who qualified as a doctor and is working in a London hospital; and a double celebration for the Doonan family, where Sheila and Simon both obtained degrees at their respective universities. Bernard Casey, from Albert Road, graduated at Oxford and our one-time archaeological reporter, Gareth Thomas, gained his B.A. in History and Archaeology at Reading University. We also hear that Cornelius Katona took time off from his medical studies at Cambridge to do voluntary work with OXFAM in Ethiopia—no easy thing at this stage in Ethiopian history.

### NEWS FROM AWAY

Lincoln seems a popular place for ex-Cavershamites and these past months have brought news of Tony Orme, remembered as 'that nice young assistant at Davies' greengrocers, in Boston, bought two old cottages which they are con-

verting and are thoroughly enjoying life out in the sticks. Their old school-mates will be interested to hear that, judging from the snaps, Damien and Jason are literally blooming in the country air; Celia herself has enrolled for a university course next year, while Simon—in between doing up the house—is boat-build-

ing. A NEW DUCK Many readers will remember Penny Nott—or Penny Wilkinson, as she was known for most of her life in Caversham. They may even have noticed a mention of her husband, Hugh, in the newspapers recently, in connection with the breeding of a new kind of duck for the animal feedingstuff firm for which he works. Penny and her husband are about to move into a farmhouse at Cais-tor, where she herself plans to set up cottage industries, in particular pottery. We hear that her sister, Jane, now has two children, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson are

very happy with their life in East Anglia.

### SADDER NEWS

These last months have, alas, brought news of many deaths, among them Cyril Burnside; an appreciation of his life appears elsewhere in this copy. One of our saddest losses is that of Miss Alison McGregor, of Washington Road. She will be remembered by older residents in that area as the lady who, with her sister, used to run the corner shop and make ice lollies for the children in the days when such things were almost unheard of. A member of the United Reformed Church, she will also be remembered by those who attended ecumenical groups as a quiet person who said little but when she did, it was always with so much tact and consideration for the views of other members of the group. As a good neighbour she will be mourned by many and Katy herself will always recall her walking in her quiet, unassuming way, up Washington Road, to spend yet another night with a neighbour who needed her.

### LOCAL TRADERS

Past months have seen the disappearance, too, of yet more of our local traders. The closing down of Prospect Hardware is a sad loss to many of us, particularly those who knew Alan New personally and had come to appreciate his

very helpful service. He is, we understand, still running his shop in Sonning Common and no doubt many Caversham people will find their way out there from time to time.

And the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Good, electricians in Church Street, is yet another break with the past. In a strange old-world atmosphere in their very old building, they ran an efficient business for many years, attending to our wants in a most helpful way. We shall miss them very much.

### OTHER PEOPLE

There are so many others worth mentioning, many more stories of success, departures, arrivals, births, marriages and deaths. Yet they seldom reach the columns of this paper simply because nobody tells us about them. So please, please, drop a note through the letter-box of Church Street about anything or anyone you know.

### ASSISTANT EDITOR TO MOVE

It is reported that the Rev. Peter Atkinson, Priest-in-charge at St. John's, Caversham, and Assistant Editor of the 'Caversham Bridge,' has been offered the post of priest-in-charge of the parish of St. Mark, Millfield, in Sunderland. Mr. Atkinson and his family will be moving early next year.

## Tenth Anniversary



Happy sand boys (and girls) outside Balmore Hall

—Walton Adams

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ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st, THE ST. PETER'S WIVES' PLAY GROUP IS HOLDING AN OPEN DAY for everyone with pre-school age children to come and see just what goes on in Balmore Hall between 9.30 a.m. and 12 midday. The occasion is to mark the group's tenth anniversary.

One of the first play groups to be started in Caversham, it is now under the leadership

of Mrs. Pugh, a fully qualified health visitor, and her band of helpers. At the moment this very happy little play centre has about a dozen children attending under the care of a fully qualified supervisor and several interested mothers, who themselves have been or are about to start on play group courses. The number of children could be doubled so there are about 12 vacancies. Not only is it invaluable to the three- to five-year-olds who come, but it enables some mothers to become involved in a community activity and gets them out of the home for a few hours each week, giving them a chance to meet new faces and make new contacts. All the parents who help enjoy their mornings very much.

The group takes three- to five-year-olds on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays the four- to five-year-olds have the morning to themselves. Each session begins at 9.30 and ends at midday and the termly fee is £2.25 or 25p a morning. Anyone interested in the Balmore Hall area should ring Mrs. Pugh, 472949, or Mrs. Collins, 475925. Children under three can be accepted in special circumstances.

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# GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by Zoilus

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee is one of the most important of the Borough Council's main committees, and certainly provides the most varied fare for anyone who attends one of its sessions, all of which are open to the public. Matters discussed at the last meeting in September ranged from the relocation of local industry to the granting of permits for Morris dancing. Street cleansing, car parks, inspection of food premises, smoke control, open markets, pop festivals, the preservation of notable buildings and planning permissions are just some of the activities covered by the wide spread of environmental affairs.

Noise is one of the constant irritations of urban life and any day there is the prospect of the comparative calm of a residential road being shattered by the sudden clanking cacophony of pneumatic drills ripping up concrete in the course of the repair of some underground plumbing. Noise is as undesirable as any other form of environmental pollution and it has been decided that in future a new type of hydraulic equipment which is comparatively silent shall be used, and existing drills must be fitted with mufflers.

## COMPLAINTS

The organisers of the recent pop festival got good marks from the Health Officer for their successful efforts in confining the sounds of rhythmic exuberance to the arena and pleased the people of Tilehurst, last year's sufferers. But there were complaints from residents in the Warren when the prevailing wind wafted unsolicited entertainment across the river on Saturday night. But this will be remedied next time, we are told.

The annual report of the Consumer Protection Department was submitted to the Committee and revealed that during the year over 700 complaints were dealt with claiming that goods bought in local shops were not of reasonable quality or fit for the purpose for which they were purchased. A large number of these complaints without the need for legal action—so it's not always necessary to write to Jimmy Young!

The Department has compiled a complaints' league table of the 13 wards of the borough. Up at the top with the highest percentage of dissatisfied shoppers is Abbey Ward, in the centre of the town, and at the bottom, with less than three complaints per thousand voters, is Caversham. Does this mean that we to the north of the Thames are more discerning in our purchases, and so have less cause to complain—or better fitted to pursue our own complaints—or more reluctant to complain—or just ignorant of the existence of the Consumer Protection Department?

cafes and take-away food stores to ensure that the hygiene regulations are being observed, and now that these establishments are opening all over the place the need for strict inspection is obvious, as shown by the horrifying tale of a chicken and chips take-away shop visited in August. The inspector found foul sewage flooding the food preparation room, the meat was rotten and altogether there were 58 contraventions of the regulations. All the food stock was removed as unfit for human consumption.

The owner, with some foresight, was many miles away in sunnier climes, and the investigation ended on a tragi-comic note when the staff, told that they might be held responsible for several hundred pounds' worth of fines, grabbed their belongings and made a hasty getaway, leaving the health inspector to turn off all the switches and lock up the shop.

One would hope this is a unique case, but there are fears that it could be the tip of the iceberg. At any rate, the Environment Committee must ensure that there are sufficient food inspectors to make certain that every food establishment complies with the food hygiene regulations.

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## HYGIENE

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## St. Andrew's Playgroup

### FIRST-CLASS CONCERN

In September the 'Caversham Bridge' printed a happy picture of children at the St. Andrew's Play Group. This church play group was reopened in September, 1968, by Mrs. Stella Shepherd, but it had existed for a time before. It was Stella Shepherd who made it such a first-class concern. Now it is under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Gladys Fowles, appointed by the priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's Church last Easter. Gladys Fowles has a wonderful band of helpers. Sue Branfoot, Celia Robinson and Ann Gray have all assisted the group for several years and all are on duty each day. The play group meets three mornings a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9.15 till 11.45 in St. Andrew's Hall. During each session the supervisor, Sue Branfoot, the two permanent helpers and two mothers are on duty. This works out at five children per adult. Great emphasis is laid on dialogue with the children.

### VACANCIES

The general policy of the organisers is to have the children once a week when

they are three years old and gradually to extend their number of sessions as they get older till at four they are making a full attendance. Of course this is not a hard and fast ruling. Fees are accepted for half a term or a term in advance and are 25p a session. The group can take around 25 children at a time and at the moment there are one or two vacancies. Anyone wanting more information please contact Celia Robinson, 472562.

### NEW GROUP

Early in September a new venture was also launched by Gladys Fowles and her team. It is the Mothers' and Toddlers' Group and enables mothers and their young children to meet on alternate Thursday afternoons at St. Andrew's Hall from 2.00 till 3.30. It is a social occasion when the play material is used and the mothers supervise while having a cup of tea. It should fulfil an important need, helping young mothers new to the area to meet each other and form friendships. Jane Burt, a trained Norland Nanny, is running it and anyone wishing to know more should ring her at 318 Kidmore Road, Tel. 471771.

## CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel. 471703.

ASST. EDITOR: The Rev. P. D. Atkinson  
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Sheila Cooper



Inglis Mayo

## St. Andrew's Personalities

In October the people of St. Andrew's bade 'farewell' to two of its young members as they left to start college life.

Sheila Cooper started her training for the teaching profession last month at the Lady Spencer Churchill College of Education, Oxford. The course will last for three years and at the end of it Sheila intends to teach children of primary school age. She will be much missed at St. Andrew's for she has, with her family, played a full part in the life of the church. Her activities have included singing in the choir for some four years and assisting with the Teen Action Youth Group.

Inglis Mayo has also left to enter Ripon Hall Theological College, where he will train for the Ministry. Inglis joins the long line of Ordinands that have come out of St. Andrew's over the years. He has been associated with the church for many years, acting as Sacristan until September of last year when he left to spend a year with the Church Army, working in their Hostel Division.

Their friends wish both Sheila and Inglis every blessing and happiness as they embark on their respective training courses.

## A Double Silver Wedding

READERS OF THE 'BRIDGE' WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO JOIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF ST. ANDREW'S IN CONGRATULATING Mr 'BILLY' HOLE AND HIS WIFE MABEL ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SILVER WEDDING, which they celebrated last month. For Billy it is something of a record for it was his second silver wedding anniversary. The first was celebrated in 1945 but unfortunately he was widowed shortly afterwards. Then he met Mabel, the present Mrs. Hole, and they were married in Christ Church, Barnet, in 1949.

Mabel and Billy are both faithful communicants at St. Andrew's, where they have been attending since 1954.

Billy started his church life at St. John's, Lower Caversham, where he joined the choir at the age of ten. Later on he became Sacristan. Billy, also, keeps another anniversary this month when he celebrates 41 years as a lay reader.

We hope that both Mabel and Billy continue to keep in good health and have many more years of happiness in front of them.

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 12th September, 1974. Mr. E. J. Sell, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council view with concern the proposals as indicated by the Boundary Commission in their recent report that the parish of Mapledurham may be divided so that the built-up area will be absorbed into Reading and Berkshire whilst the rural area will remain in Oxfordshire. It was agreed that the Parish Council must investigate and consider putting forward counter observations to ensure that the identity of Mapledurham is not lost. The Council in no way accept the Boundary Commission's proposals, especially as the Commission have given no valid reason for the necessity of the proposed change.

The Parish Council are therefore to consider putting forward representations that the rural area should continue as a Parish with its own Council, and the built-up area should also if possible be permitted to retain a form of Council to safeguard the interests of those residents living in these areas.

A Special Council Meeting is to be held on 26th September for the purpose of putting forward counter proposals for submission to the Boundary Commission.

The Council were informed that the swings and slides on the children's playground on the Playing Fields are in a dangerous condition, and there is a strong possibility that the equipment may have to be dismantled to prevent serious accident.

It was noted that the planning application proposed for the erection of a terrapin building for a scout headquarters at the rear of properties in Hilltop Road has been rejected by the S. Oxfordshire D.C.

Letters are to be sent to the Highway Authority regarding the overgrown state of the footpaths in Rokeby Drive.

## NATIONAL NURSERY EDUCATION TRAINEES

This autumn sees Judy Wright and Julie Durrant, both of Mapledurham Village, beginning National Nursery Education Board courses at the Reading Technical College. Judy is taking a one year training for mature students and Julie a two-year course. Both won places for these trainings in competition with many others and it will be quite an undertaking for each of them as neither of them drives and they will have to find transport from the village each day, which will require quite a bit of effort on their part.

## EDITOR RECOVERING

After his recent eye operation, the Editor, Canon John Grimwade, has been convalescing. He has now returned to Caversham and is beginning to undertake light duties.

It is good to have him with us again and we are sure that everyone joins with us in wishing him a complete recovery.

— And that goes for the printers of this newspaper also!

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 Secretary: Mrs. C. H. Jordan, 7 St. John's Road. Tel. 478538

**CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET**  
 Secretary: Mr. V. T. Smith, 62 Woodcote Road. Tel. 476388.

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 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. Martyn-Johns, Greendene Farm, Mapledurham. Kidmore End 2198.

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

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**SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER**

**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.  
 4.00 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday).

**St. Andrew's**  
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.  
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.  
 6.30 p.m. Evensong

**St. Barnabas'**  
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.  
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.  
 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)**  
 11.15 a.m. Family Service (1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays).  
 FAMILY COMMUNION (4th Sunday)

**METHODIST CHURCHES**

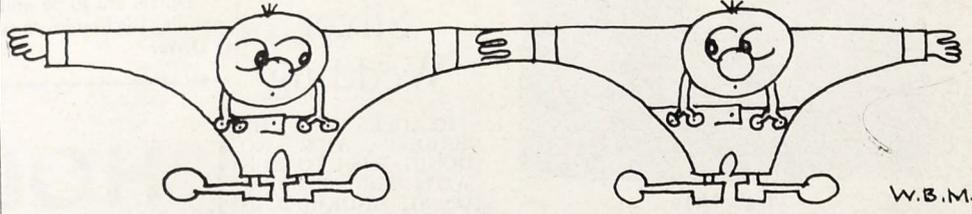
**Caversham Heights**  
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service  
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

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

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**

**St. Anne's**  
 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.

**Our Lady of Caversham**  
 8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.



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 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. 472889.  
 Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham), 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.  
 Mrs. R. Edwards (West Caversham), 4 Harrogate Road. Tel. 476893.  
 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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2. Provide transport for elderly or disabled
3. Look after children
4. Assist in the home

Fill in your name and address and post this slip to Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close, Caversham Telephone 472374.

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

# CHURCH NEWS

## VILLAGE CHURCH VISIT

A group of people from Caversham Park Village recently enjoyed a visit to Grange Village near Newnham-on-Severn, Gloucestershire. Consisting of two estates, one of 33 acres at Newnham and a smaller one at Blakeney which grows fruit, the village was established by the Camp-hill Village Trust to provide work and family and social life for handicapped adolescents and adults.

Having chosen an Open Day for their visit, the group was able to see the villagers at work in various workshops, including a weavery and pottery and craftshop. Organically grown produce from the village was also on sale at a vegetable stall.

### Self-Supporting

Family groups comprising villagers and co-workers form the basis of village life which will soon find a focus in the village hall now, thanks to generous donations, being built. The visitors from Caversham, greatly impressed by the beauty of the village's setting in the horseshoe bend of the Severn, were pleased to dis-

cover that handicapped old people who perhaps would not be able to work in today's busy world, are finding fulfilment in using their many talents to create a self-supporting community.

## GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship resumed its monthly meetings in September after the summer break, with a variety of items including an evening of recorded music and song, which was followed by the sampling of several Amethyst non-alcoholic wines obtained from the Reading Temperance Society, of Palmer Hall. It had been intended to introduce a talking point for discussion, but owing to lack of time it was deferred to the October meeting.

It is hoped that future meetings will be lively and instructive, with an emphasis on the relation between the Christian faith and everyday life. A warm invitation is extended to any men who would like to share in the fellowship's activities. The next meeting is on November 19th at 8 p.m., in the Methodist Hall.

## METHODIST CHURCH CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS Your Questions, Please

Christian Fellowship Sunday, November 17th, is being marked this year at Caversham Heights Methodist Church by the visit of the Rev. John S. Stephens, Social Responsibility Secretary of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church, for both morning and evening services.

After a shortened evening service, which will be one of the series of united services with the Anglican parish, there will be a forum. Members of the panel will be the Rev. John S. Stephens, Miss Joyce King-chington, M.B.E., of the Ministry of Overseas Development, and the Rev. Peter Atkinson, curate of St. John's, Caversham. The chairman will be Group Captain Martyn Allies.

The forum will discuss a wide range of topics in the field of social responsibility, including human rights, world development, community relations, the environment, housing, gambling and the use of drugs. There will be a discussion from the floor, and questions will be invited during the forum, but it would be helpful to have some beforehand. Send your questions to Mr. D. A. Cox, 354 Hemdean Road, by post or through your minister.

## ST. ANDREW'S NEWS

### Sad Loss

It is with regret that St. Andrew's records the deaths last month of two former members, Miss Daisy Hutchings and Mr. Ewart Masser, both of whom were staunch supporters of the church.

Daisy Laura Hutchings had been a familiar figure among the congregation until comparatively recently when she moved away to live in Reading. By profession Daisy Hutchings had been a nurse, working at the Royal Berks. for many years and reaching the position of ward sister. Her knowledge of both medicine and human nature were often called upon by her friends at St. Andrew's Church and frequently by the successive occupants of St. Andrew's House.

Ewart Masser will be better known to the older residents of Caversham, having been organist at St. Andrew's from 1918 until 1930 and later for a short period at St. Peter's. In 1947 he was appointed organist to St. Mary the Virgin, Reading.

## CAVERSHAM PARK SERVICES ON SUNDAYS at 11.15 in the School Hall.

November 3rd—Family Service, followed by bread-and-cheese lunch.

November 10th and 17th—Family Service with Sunday Circle for children.

November 24th—Holy Communion with Sunday Circle for children.

HOUSE COMMUNIONS on Wednesdays at 10.30.

November 6th—Cath Pynn, 158 Lowfield Road.

November 13th—Ann Darlington, 1 Holyrood Close.

November 20th—Vera Wilson, 63 Kingsway.

November 27th—Sue Bould, 11 Holyrood Close.

## St. Andrew's Women's Group

The first meeting of the new season got off to a lively start with a talk on Home Decorating by a representative from Radiant Wallpapers, in St. Martin's shopping precinct. By the end of the evening everyone felt very knowledgeable on the subject without having had to learn by painful experience. It was pleasant to see a number of new faces at this meeting, especially with several regular members away on holiday. After coffee and biscuits a raffle was held, with prizes of house decorating equipment presented by Radiant Wallpapers and packets of sugar and salt provided by the chairman, Mrs. Pamela Keetch.

At the November meeting on Thursday, November 28th, at 8 p.m., Mrs. Bowie will give a talk on Christmas floral decorations. Everyone is welcome. A Christmas dinner is being arranged for December at the Weldale Restaurant in Chatham Street.

## St. Andrew's Young People

G.A.S. (St. Andrew's Group in reverse) is the title adopted by the recently formed Young People's Group. The group, started in September, hopes to attract the younger members of the congregation and intends to embark upon a programme of not only enjoyment but also of outward-looking social activity. Already they have been asked to co-operate in two such events.

It is hoped that the group will enjoy the success experienced by its forerunner, St. Andrew's 'Teen Action.

## ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, MAPLEDURHAM

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, November 10th, 1974. 9.15 a.m., The Parish Communion. 10.15 a.m., The Remembrance Day Service of commemoration and rededication to service.

## BAPTIST CHURCH OUTING The Sun Shines on the Righteous I

The day was beautifully warm and the sky clear as a coach and mini-bus left Chester Street Car Park with 60 members and friends of the Baptist Church to cruise down the motorway to explore Tintern Abbey. Having done this the party made for Symonds Yat Rock, where a picnic lunch was enjoyed. The youthful and the energetic but less youthful then spent the afternoon following nature trails and generally exploring the Forest of Dean while the less agile enjoyed the beautiful Wye Valley scenery from the view point. Tea, for food is never far from thought on such occasions, was taken at Coleford Baptist Church, which was closely inspected and much appreciated in that it is a Victorian building which has been skillfully modernised inside. The sanctuary is upstairs and the ground floor given over to halls, vestries and ancillary facilities. The impact was such that given the necessary funds and planning permission the local Baptist Church could similarly be adapted to great advantage.

### Harvest

Time and tide wait for no man and the harvest, be it

acres of grain from the prairies, tons of fish from the bottomless ocean, or a handful of carrots from the back garden, is safely gathered in. Harvest Festivals have been held in churches throughout the land and the Baptist Church has conformed with tradition. The church was recently decorated with fruit, flowers and vegetables for the Thanksgiving Service. The display was enhanced by the inclusion of 'tools': a cultivator, a milk churn, a wheelbarrow and a plain wooden cross to focus attention on the One behind it all. Such occasions are family affairs and the children were prominent as they trundled their gifts down the aisle in a wheelbarrow and a shopping trolley kindly loaned by a friendly supermarket manager—all very impressive and worthwhile.

The celebrations continued on the Monday following, when the Harvest Supper took place. Over 100 guests attended and enjoyed a substantial meal of soup, salad with potatoes baked in their jackets, apple and ice-cream prepared and served by the ladies' catering committee. Following this the company was content to sit—they wanted to do little else—while members of the staff of Theala Green School gave a lively and somewhat impromptu entertainment.

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## We Record . . .

- BAPTISED**  
**ST. ANDREW'S**  
Sept. 1 Claire OSBORNE  
**ST. BARNABAS'**  
Sept. 29 Katherine STANDING  
**MARRIED**  
**ST. JOHN'S**  
Sept. 14 David JONES and Valerie YOUNGER  
**ST. ANDREW'S**  
Aug. 10 Hugh JUPP and Linda HICKS  
Ian VARDY and Mary FOWLES  
Sept. 7 Kevin TERRY and Mary BURT  
Sept. 21 John LUCKOW and Lynne BEABEY  
Sept. 28 Maurice TAYLOR and Hilary NASH  
**ST. BARNABAS'**  
Sept. 21 Ian QUIGLEY and Bettina SHORT  
Alan GALE and Penelope WILLIS  
**ST. MARGARET'S**  
Sept. 7 John COLLINS and Sarah GEORGE  
Peter FORD and Lynda NOYES  
Sept. 14 Christopher WILKINS and Pamela AYRES  
**FUNERALS**  
**ST. JOHN'S**  
Sept. 19 Emily LORAM  
Oct. 7 Winifred HULSE  
**ST. ANDREW'S**  
Sept. 23 Daisy HUTCHINGS

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# YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by Peter Shock

'Ullo, 'Ullo, 'Ullo! What's this, then? Beethoven creeping up on the pop charts? It has just been reported that some 40 million records of the great composers were sold to British people last year. And top place goes to Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony". Just shows what a TV advert can do with a catchy piece of classical ding-dong. Whether Beethoven himself would approve of this publicity technique is wide open to speculation. But this Master is one of my favourites. Twice I have enjoyed myself visiting his birthplace in a narrow street in Bonn, Germany, a stone's throw from the Rhine. On the latter occasion four years ago, by a stroke of good fortune and a bit of audacity, I manipulated the opportunity to actually play on his favourite piano, which now stands as a guarded museum piece. Convincing the lady attendant I was a genuine Beethoven disciple, my chosen repertoire just had to be the very composition which today "pips" the classical "pops". As some of you know, this is his Sixth Symphony. It is most remarkable that such fine works flowed from a man not actually endeared for his lack of good manners and his argumentative attitude. In

his later years, Beethoven fell victim to acute deafness, and experimented with weird ideas and inventions to enable himself to hear the music he was composing!

I am glad you young people are taking to the "classics". One thing, though, I don't think the old composers had the modern 'disco' in mind when compiling their works. Keep that where it rightly belongs!

\* \* \*

When you are not looking, I have a suspicion that your parents have a quick peep at the 'Young Caversham' column. So for those adults who have now been caught out, may I, on behalf of the Lowfield and West Caversham Boys' Clubs, thank you for your support in their Jumble Sale held on September 28th at Caversham Hall. Many of you from all parts of Caversham, Emmer Green and Tokers Green helped supply articles, provisions, and gave assistance on the day. The event raised a sum of about £60, which was badly needed for equipment, renting of premises, and a host of other items necessary for the running of boys' clubs. When it comes to public support and generosity, boys' clubs frequently appear at the tail-end of the list, so it was most gratifying to see that many people do regard this objective as one of importance in the community life of today. We also thank the large crowd of customers who spent their hard-earned fortunes on the many tempting bargains on display.



—John Huntley

## SPORTS SPECIAL

By STAN ELDON

AMBITION —

ARSENAL

A young Caversham boy hopes one day to play football for Arsenal. John Huntley, of Valentine Crescent, Caversham, is just thirteen years old and attends Highdown School.

A fanatical football enthusiast since he started to walk, he has already had a very good start to his football career. He has played for both the Reading Primary Schools and the Reading Under-12 Teams as an inside forward and last season was top goal scorer for his school team and the very successful Caversham Boys Under-13 team, where he scored 33 goals.

As a result of this very good last season he was picked to play for North Berkshire against Oxford in a 4-4 drawn match, and he also played at Bisham Abbey in a friendly match against an American International Youth Team. This season he has advanced his career one step further with a trial for Reading Football Club at Elm Park.

John's most treasured possession is a letter from Arsenal manager, Bertie Mee.

### NEARLY THERE!!!

The squash courts being built at Highdown School are nearing completion and anyone interested in using them should contact the school.

## FUN AND GAMES

In October 120 members of St. Andrew's Church sat down to a splendid Harvest Supper held in the Church Hall. After the meal, organised by Mrs. Tomlin and Mrs. Gardiner, ably aided by other ladies of the church, excellent entertainment was provided by Norman Kent and his happy band of volunteers, including the choir from Wurzle on the Twizzlethorpe.

In November church members are much looking forward to the Tramp Supper, then in January the annual Epiphany Party.

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