

MEN OF GOODWILL

*The Editor
wishes all readers,
advertisers and
distributors of
the 'Bridge'*

A Joyous Christmas



—Denys Williamson



—Walton Adams

★

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Representatives of four charities receiving their cheques from the Family Festival Committee.

Pictured left to right are: Mrs. D. Bennett (Festival Secretary), the Rev. S. Bartlett (Festival Chairman), Mr. J. James (Simon Community), Mr. N. Brown (Reading Council of Churches Housing Trust), Mr. B. Harris (Help the Aged) and Mrs. S. Fulford Dobson (Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children). (Story inside.)



The Editor's Column

PICKING UP THE THREADS

I never find it very easy to get to work again after a holiday, and having found myself in hospital a few hours after coming home from holiday this year, I am finding it extra hard after two months to get back into harness. Normally I try to avoid writing in this column from a personal angle: this month I hope I may be pardoned for departing from my usual practice in this way.

THE PLIGHT OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

In these days we are apt to take so many things for granted. Having never before been a patient in an English Hospital I want to pay tribute to the work of the Royal Berkshire Hospital and to the devotion of the staff. One thing in particular which impressed me was the way in which so many people seemed to be working together as members of a team. I also became very aware of the shortage of nurses, a shortage that would be even more severe (Mr. Powell please note) but for the presence on the Ward I was in of five nurses from Africa and Asia by day and others at night. I also realised that we spend a far smaller proportion of our national income on our health service than do many European countries. One thing we can all do is to press Members of Parliament to see that we get our priorities right. The recent closure for five weeks of the intensive care unit at the Battle Hospital because of a shortage of nursing staff has made it very plain that, though it would be a mistake to entice men and women into the health service by large salaries, too often in the past we have traded on their sense of vocation and neglected giving them their due. It was a pleasure to find many members of Caversham congregations caring for me either in a professional or voluntary capacity in the Eye Department and I would like to think that yet more will find a vocation in different aspects of the health service.

I want also to record my thanks to the many people for whom my illness meant extra work. I think particularly of the clergy staff of Caversham, of many of the Church Officers and of the other members of the editorial board of this paper. Finally I am most grateful for the prayers of so many of you, and for innumerable letters, kind enquiries and help in many practical ways.

FAMILY FESTIVAL — WHAT NEXT?

Elsewhere in this issue appears a report of the meeting that was held to consider the way forward after Family Festival, and the Reverend Stephen Bartlett makes some suggestions. An undertaking of this kind is only possible when a great many people are prepared to do a great deal of work.

In making future plans we want to give scope to the great community sense which appeared during Mayday Week in 1970 and which was even more apparent this summer. At the same time we must be aware of taking on more than we can properly manage. I do not say this just because a number of us who were much involved in Family Festival have recently been in hospital, but because it is inevitable that when such a project is undertaken, much routine pastoral work of the Church does get temporarily neglected. A balance has to be struck and just as after Mayday Week we took time to reflect, we shall be wise to follow such a course again.

My hope is that readers will send us their views on this subject for us to publish in our correspondence columns, and that we can then really discover what it is that the Holy Spirit is prodding us into undertaking next. But one thing is certain after our work and worship together Caversham and Mapledurham will never be quite the same again. Our roads have converged and the Christian congregations that worshipped together in Caversham Court on July 14th can hardly go back to their old separate ways.

John Grimwade

THE WRAPPING OR THE GIFT?

by LAURENCE STEVENS

FOR SOME, CHRISTMAS MEANS DOING SOME SPECIAL ACT OF KINDNESS. For others it means a temporary cessation of hostilities, in the office, or over the garden wall, while for yet others it is an innocent escape for a day or two to family and friends, with a chance to turn one's back on national gloom and indulge for a while in a children's world of fantasy in which Father Christmas, angel choirs, robins in snow, Christmas pudding and animals round the manger all fuse in a rosy glow.

At a school carol service some time ago, a minister acted out a parable of our celebration of Christmas. He opened a present in front of the children. He undid the pretty paper and string, opened the box, and took out an attractive tie. Then he threw the tie on the floor and dressed himself in the paper, string and box. His point was simple yet true. Many people do only regard the frills—the "mas" and disregard the gift—Christ.

Perhaps one could be forgiven for losing the gift among all the wrappings, for many of them are attrac-

tive, and the Christian point about Christmas does not unfold its truth to the casual recipient. If past ages wondered that God should come in the child in the manger, the question has now veered to the opposite extreme. "Why not see God in all babies equally?" The answer comes from the end of the story, not the beginning. It comes from Christ the man, rather than Christ the babe. For whatever premonitions people may have had before his birth, it was after His death, and the cruel hours of mental and physical agony, that his friends were convinced that they saw him alive, and coupled with all that they knew of his wonderful life, were convinced that God must have been there in a special way. Christmas, like life itself, can only be interpreted by running the film backwards. In this case, from all that Christ has inspired and made possible, through his life, back to the babe in the manger. Yet this may seem as great a fantasy as any of the Christmas wrappings, if we do not also remember that if life is only understood backwards, it must equally be "lived forwards". Perhaps we all appreciate a certain amount of Christmas escapism, yet life still waits to be lived and interpreted. The world troubled by the inhuman, the acquisitive and the violent needs more than Christmas fantasy. It needs the hope and challenge of Christ, the "gift for all seasons".

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

May I take this opportunity to express my great appreciation to all who contributed to my retirement presentation and the warm wishes and tributes paid to me as parish organist. I was most overcome by the unexpected gifts from all the members of my junior choir. I must also thank most warmly the choirs of the parish and my fellow organists for the wonderful service on the evening of October 6th, together with the clergy and my old friend Colin Scott-Dempster. I am pleased to say that I have a recording of the whole service which I shall always treasure.

My twenty-seven years at St. Peter's have been very happy ones and I thank the Rector and Mrs. Grimwade and the clergy for their un-failing help.

With all good wishes to my successor.

R. Brind

Dear Sir,

During the weekend of this year's rock festival the whole family were staying here, ten in all, ages ranging from one upwards, so we were not all elderly and neither are we bigoted. But we did complain about the noise from the festival — it was deafening. Actually this was the first time I have complained. Watchdog must live in a different area.

Yours, etc.

Margery Reed

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Grass Hill,
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SQUIRE FOR A YEAR

Now the title sounds a bit odd — but Richard Wright, of 55 St. John's Road, Caversham, has been just that, for he was Squire or Leader of the Kennet Morris Men for the twelve months which ended in November. His last appearance with the Club as Squire was at Mapledurham's Harvest Supper and the first function at which he held office was Valerie Harbor's wedding at St. Peter's Church.

The duties of a Squire are to organise and lead shows and also run practice nights. He wears a top hat decorated with two bunches of flowers, and Richard insists on a couple of fresh posies each time, none of those plastic efforts — good for him! Another item is the staff of office. A three-foot white stick decorated with a red spiral stripe, rather like a barber's pole.

Morris dancing is more popular today than ever before and there are a great many Clubs all over the country.

WHITTLES AND DUBS

Each Club has a Squire, Musician and Bagman. The latter is the secretary and treasurer. There is sometimes a Foreman who teaches the dances, and usually an Animal. The Kennet Side have a horse, and a very fine horse too. Often the Club has a Fool. To become a Fool you have to enjoy people, making contact with them, getting them to join in the fun and knowing just what to do when. In bygone days if the Musician had no fiddle he usually played the pipe or tabor (known in Oxfordshire as the Whittle and Dub). Each Club is independent, making its own plans and having its own variation of the Morris costume. You will find a badge with the stag of Royal Berkshire on the baldricks (a type of braces) worn by the Kennet men.

In 1934 members from six of the earliest clubs decided to institute the Morris Ring, a federation of Morris Clubs all over the country. Its membership is now well over eighty and it, too, has its own Squire and Bagman. The Ring holds around five weekend gatherings each year at which a Feast is held and dancing takes place in the surrounding villages, with a final grand display in the central town or city.

HEYS AND GYPS

Morris dancing reaches far back into ancient times and much of its origin



The Kennet Morris Men dancing in Caversham Churchyard

—The Studio, Bucklebury

is obscure. Many of the dances come from the Cotswolds, each village having its own variant of steps and tunes, some contain clapping with hands or sticks, others use handkerchiefs. The sticks are used either to bang the ground or clash against a partner's. Used either way it is done with great gusto, especially in the latter case. In one season the Kennet Morris Men will break as many as forty sticks. When a stick has been discarded Richard Wright cuts it into short sections and paints delightful little figures of Morris dancers on each piece. With a final coat of transparent varnish and a hole pierced through it at an end so that it can be hung up as an ornament, Richard has made many attractive and amusing little mementos.

discovering the Morris Dances. From 1899, when he first came in contact with the Morris Men at Oxford, he toured the Cotswold villages learning from them the steps and tunes of their dances and teaching them others. Later he visited the North-East of England where he found many traditional sword dances as well.

Costumes are gayer north of Manchester and here the footwear often becomes fancy clogs. Instead of handkerchiefs and sticks "slings" or "tiddlers" of untwisted cotton rope are used.

OFF TO BELGRADE

On December 27th our very expert team of local dances are off to Belgrade with the Reading Step and Clog Dance Group, and the Reading Scottish Pipe Band. They will perform to the people of Yugoslavia music, songs and dances taken from Dorset to the Shetland Isles. On arrival they will be met by the television and press and are to be hosted by the Yugoslavian Folk Club. As well as dancing in theatres, halls and the streets, two grand processions will take place in Belgrade. The Kennet Morris Team are probably the first of their kind to entertain in Yugoslavia and it all promises to be a very gay and exciting new experience for all concerned.

OWN NAME

Each step in the dances has its own special name. A whole gyp is two opposite sides of dancers crossing and returning backwards to their first position. A half gyp leaves the dancers on the opposite side. A hey is a figure of eight.

Every September the performers in a Staffordshire village carry reindeer antlers, which when not in use are kept in Abbots Bromley church.

Cecil Sharpe, the Folk Dance expert, played an important part in re-



Keith and Valerie Woodward and the Morris Dancers

—The Studio, Bucklebury

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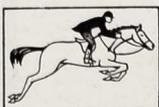
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by Watchdog

RELIEF AT LAST?

Where should it go and do we want it anyhow? These were the questions that were being asked when the Director of Technical Services for the borough came to speak to a meeting organised by the Caversham Residents' Association. "It" was the Caversham local relief road, a road designed to remove traffic from Church Street and to improve traffic flow leading to the bridges. It must not be confused with the Caversham Centre Plan (the new one, that is, not the old one), of which it is only a part, or not necessarily even a part, since it could stand in its own right if the centre plan was not after all adopted. And people who say that surely this must be in some way related to whether or not the centre plan is implemented had better stop asking awkward questions.

Mr. Burke was at pains to emphasise that no positive plans existed at that moment, but only proposals, which were still awaiting comment from the committees concerned. Meanwhile he was prepared to listen to residents' comments, which they were not reticent in making. The gist of this seemed to be that whilst traffic congestion was a matter of concern, the destruction of homes and danger to school-children rated equally highly. Coupled with this, there was some doubt as to how much relief the proposed road would afford, particularly in relation to its still inflating cost. It is going to be very hard to persuade Caversham people that a third bridge to the east of the borough boundary, linking up with present

road structures, would not do far more to benefit Caversham and its surroundings than ever this road could, and at the same time cause less environmental damage.

As soon as the appropriate Council Committees have made their comments, the proposals will be put before a public meeting which the Borough Council would be arranging in the New Year. Mr. Burke will in the meantime doubtless have conveyed to the Borough Council the general trend of the remarks made at the meeting, which were less along the lines of "your car is a nuisance, mine is a necessity," than is often the case where traffic is the subject under discussion.

MAZE

Mr. J. B. Parker, the Borough Secretary, who accompanied Mr. Burke, gave a useful rundown of the workings of the County and District Councils under the new administration, and the work for which these committees are responsible. The District (for Reading, read 'Borough,' a courtesy title) is concerned with the smaller and more personal spenders, environment, housing, leisure and local transport (which they like to call transportation), though these have various sub-committees to deal with different aspects of their work. There is also an agency system, whereby district councils carry out certain duties on behalf of the County. It's all a bit of a maze to find one's way round in, but with familiarity it will all probably become clearer.

'BUSES, BIKES AND FEET

The 'Bridge's' birthday competition entrant who submitted a parody of this column was doubtless interested to see that a cycle shop had opened in the centre of Caversham which also repairs bicycles and sells second-hand ones. The cyclists who pass the waiting traffic queues, such as the chairman of the Residents' Association, get to work sooner, save money and improve their health in doing so . . . though on a wet morning the attractions are less obvious.

A similar welcome is due to the Conservation Society's publication, 'Mobility for Whom?' It is a credit to a voluntary organisation to have produced such a well-documented and researched report, and as a Borough Councillor said, it is the kind of exercise the local authority should have undertaken. In so far as this column represents the views of Caversham Residents' Association, it is not in a position to endorse all the report's conclusions, but there is no doubt that the over-use of the private car has been responsible for many of our urban, and many of Caversham's problems, as the subject of the meeting mentioned earlier indicated. Any suggestions, then, to make public transport an attractive alternative must be carefully examined. There is room for discussion about such approaches as a positive improvement in public transport or discrimination against the private motorist and it is hoped that the Conservation Society will, in the not too distant future, arrange some kind of conference to take the matter further.

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SAME NEEDS

Times have changed but the needs are the same. People still seek the help and guidance of the Church Army. You will find it in parish work with its evangelistic mission teams. Or you may have seen one of its beach missions during your summer holiday. But you will also find it helping the homeless and elderly, running holiday homes and homes for unmarried schoolgirl mothers, in youth work, the prison service Forces' chaplaincies, as well as printing and publishing.

Prospective captains and sisters do a three-year training course at the Church Army Training College in Blackheath before being admitted to the office of Evangelist by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

CARING MINISTRY

From September, 1973, I worked in three of the twenty Men's Welfare Hostels run by the Church Army in this country—Liverpool, Westminster and Middlesbrough. As assistant warden in each hostel I came face to face with the two major problems of 1974—loneliness and homelessness. All too often the statutory services do little for those in dire need and it is left to voluntary bodies to try to remedy the situation. The Welfare Hostels aim to provide accommodation at a reasonable price plus a supportive environment for those in need of additional assistance. Both are given in the framework of a Christian caring community.

By working in three different hostels I was able to experience how each one has to cater for the specific needs of its area. Liverpool already has a number of hostels and lodging houses so the Church Army there aims to provide a supportive environment rather than just basic accommodation. Westminster also serves a specific need—reasonably priced lodging for men working in central London. Each day almost all the men were out at work; unlike Liverpool and Middlesbrough where, because of unemployment, many remained in the hostel. With no other hostels in the area the Church Army hostel in Middlesbrough has to cater for all men in need. Many of them were former residents of psychiatric hospitals. Some were referred by prisons and social workers, but many just turned up on the doorstep. Each hostel has its share of men from broken marriages and a number of chronic alcoholics and compulsive gamblers. Some residents had lived in institutions for many years and had never known what family life is.

CHANCE TO START AGAIN

By providing shelter or a place of refuge each hostel can offer the opportunity for a fresh start in life to those who want it, or simply the chance to settle down in peace. Wherever possible, extras like television and games facilities are provided and the usual festivities at Christmas. With each hostel having its own chapel, a regular round of services is maintained.

Someone is on duty at all times, and in addition to running the hostel is always available should a resident want to discuss his problems or ask for help—perhaps the need for clothes from the hostel store or assistance in filling in a form or writing a letter.

ALL IN A YEAR'S WORK

Naturally, over a period of 12 months certain incidents stand out clearly. In Liverpool it was not uncommon for some residents to take overdoses of tablets—sometimes we had to drive them to hospital ourselves. One resident threw a fit, became violent and then slashed his wrist by smashing his fist through a window. There were also several deaths; some in hospitals, but one man was found dead in bed and another collapsed and died in the hostel. I saw little actual violence but I was threatened on a few occasions—usually by a man under the influence of alcohol.

There were also happier times—notably Christmas and the New Year and the celebrations at Liverpool of our eldest resident's 80th birthday, with cards, presents and a cake; all the more meaningful since he had no known relatives.

Wherever possible, the Church Army gives men the opportunity of helping themselves to regain their place in society, though many do not seem to want it and for others the help has come too late. Some men are able to straighten themselves out. But frequent disappointments teach you not to expect too much from the men and not to be too optimistic. In work such as this it is impossible to define success. Every little counts, but often men slip back again after a steady improvement. Perhaps the greatest comfort is that for many men the hostel is home.

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INGLIS MAYO, OF BUXTON AVENUE, RECENTLY COMPLETED A YEAR WORKING WITH THE CHURCH ARMY BEFORE BEGINNING HIS TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY. WE ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON HIS YEAR'S EXPERIENCE.



The Church Army Hostel in Liverpool.

English Woodlands In Mapledurham

BEHIND THE HOUSES OF UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD LIES QUITE A SMALL OFFICE BUILD-

ING. Originally belonging to the English Forestry Association, it is now owned by English Woodlands Ltd. Many people in the Caversham district avail themselves of the services this company has to offer with its tree surgery and preservation departments. Few, however, realise the extent to which English Woodlands is involved with forestry in this country. They have many centres in the South-East of England. Wealden Landscapes Ltd. at Godalming, as the name implies, deals with gardening and landscaping. Wealden Woodlands (Kent) Ltd., at Herne Bay, manufactures garden furniture, sawmill products and deals with woodland management, while Marketing and Produce has its headquarters in Alton. Three nurseries produce hundreds of thousands of trees from seed, the one at Hermitage in Berkshire growing mainly forest trees. With only 8 per cent. of Britain covered with forest and the country in the E.E.C. with the third lowest acreage covered by trees, Eire and Holland have even less, and the average is 24 per cent., the help and encouragement of such experts as English Woodlands is needed—so is advice in planning for the future, for trees are a long-term investment and a valuable commodity. Ninety per cent. of Britain's wood is imported. This needs serious thought.

Mr. Mooney is one of the driving forces behind English Woodlands. Enthusiastic and dedicated to the work of forestry and all it entails, he even finds time to take groups

of West End London school-children round a farm estate not far from the City, helping them to grasp the real fundamentals that lie behind life on the land.

As Mr. Mooney put it, "The people who are prepared to work in woods are a bit unusual." They must often be able to work on their own and need to be reliable. The pay is poor and the work often hard with long hours. Most of the work force is made up of young men between 20 and 40; anyone older would not be able to stand the pace of contract work. The jobs are varied and include timber felling and hauling as well as reforestation for, in the general estate

work-service provided, trees need to be cut down as well as planted. Landscaping includes dredging and cleaning lakes and ponds or even creating one, as well as the careful planting of specimen trees or destruction of unwanted stumps with a special grinding machine. Recent landscaping work has been done for the new wing of Battle Hospital, Reading, and along the Berkshire section of the Marlow to Bisham by-pass. Add to this the ancient craft of oak cleaving for fencing, the making of hop poles and the latest venture, the construction of hard tennis courts and life with trees offers a variety of work.

M.K.

METHODIST MOVES

Among the recent departures from Caversham were Eric Beckley and his wife, who in October removed to Norfolk, where they will be near their married daughter. The Beckleys also have one son.

Eric will be very much missed, not only in Caversham but in the whole of the Reading area. A keen Methodist local preacher since 1927, he has been a member of both Caversham (Gosbrook Road) and Caversham Heights Methodist Churches. His competence as an accountant led to his becoming treasurer of the Reading Methodist Circuit and adviser on many committees. In 1962 he was appointed a magistrate on the Reading bench. He was also connected with many local firms and his help and advice will be missed by many. The "Bridge" wishes Eric and his wife every happiness in their new surroundings.

OBITUARY

STEPHEN HOLLEY

Caversham Methodist Church suffered an immeasurable loss with the passing of Mr. Stephen Holley.

He was loved and respected by all who knew him, and this included people whose connection with the church was remote, as well as the members themselves, who each claimed him as their friend. He was choir member, trustee, committee member and steward. The fact that the church had not a paid caretaker meant that as Chapel Steward Mr. Holley's activities were exceptionally arduous.

He came to Caversham as a boy from East Reading, and with his parents and sister became an active member of the church in Gosbrook Road. He joined his father in working at Elliotts, the joiners and shopfitters, and also in his father's trades union and political activities.

Eloquent tributes were paid to him both at the funeral service by the Rev. Leslie Griffiths and at the evening service on the following Sunday by the Rev. P. W. Luxton.

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TALKING POINT

by STEPHEN BARTLETT OBITUARY

FULL STEAM AHEAD

FAMILY FESTIVAL IS FINISHED. THE MONEY WE RAISED HAS BEEN DIVIDED UP AND THE CHEQUES PRESENTED. THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DISBANDED.

What will happen to the spirit of enthusiasm is another matter. To some extent it must be allowed to go to ground. And like seeds in the ground left quietly to die or germinate as God wills.

It was possible, however, that the Festival committee could have carried on. We thought we might try to keep the ball rolling and the spirit alive. But the Festival committee (or its successor) is not the right body to do this.

The decision about whether to carry on and make use of the groundswell of interest energised by Family Festival must rest with the governing bodies of the individual churches in Caversham — the deacons' meeting, the leaders' meetings, the elders' meeting, the Parochial Church Council. These are

the people charged with the planning and organisation of the churches' mission in Caversham. The Festival committee was set up to organise Family Festival. This it has done. It is not the appropriate body to decide how the institutional churches in Caversham now make use of the event of Family Festival in their ongoing life.

EXPLORATION

What I want to do in this talking point is ask the deacons' meeting, the leaders' meeting, the elders' meeting and the Parochial Church Council this question: "Will you now, together, explore ways in which the Caversham churches can go forward together, in the light of everything that has happened in Family Festival?"

By and large the ecumenical movement in the churches seems to be at a fairly critical point. It's rather like the water in a kettle. You put it on the stove or plug it in, and the water gradually heats up. Whether it's cold, warm or hot, it's still water. But then all of a sudden there comes a drastic change of state—the water turns into steam.

LEAP OF FAITH

We have for years now been praying for God's guidance in our moves towards unity. We have been exploring ways in which we can do things together. We have the Caversham Churches' Co-ordinating Committee. We have Caversham Park, where an attempt is being made to be the Church across denominational boundaries. We have been nodding our heads and saying, "Yes, isn't ecumenism a good thing." Like water in the kettle, things have been hotting up.

PARISH ORGANIST RETIRES

A presentation to mark his retirement after 27 years as St. Peter's organist was made to Mr. Reg Brind after the parish Dedication Festival Evensong in October. Seen in the picture (left to right) are Mr. F. Moore (Parish Warden), Mr. D. Birtwhistle (St. Peter's Warden), three members of the junior choir, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brind and Mr. H. Burton.



—Walton Adams

DEATH AT 102

Caversham's most senior lady, Miss Mabel Margaret Graham, died on October 16th at the Arthur Clarke Memorial Home, where she had been cared for so lovingly and faithfully. Miss Graham had moved there from her flat in Westfield Road only some 18 months before. At the Arthur Clarke Home she was very happy and was greatly loved by her fellow residents.

So ends a life span of more than 102 years—crammed with activity and interest. She was born at Carlisle on August 26th, 1872, and when her parents moved to Maryport on the Cumbrian coast she became a boarder at a school for girls in Keswick. She soon came south to live with an uncle at Mitcham and later in Wimbledon. She began her nursing training in London when only 17. After some years of private nursing in London, she joined a friend in Canada and later travelled to various nursing posts in the United States and the West Indies.

If only some of the incidents could have been recorded—her being booked to sail on the ill-fated Titanic, before the First World War, and the last-minute cancellation of her passage, her nursing in hospitals in the Western world which would seem very primitive compared with our modern ones—all would have made a wonderful and colourful story. Caversham has lost one of its most unforgettable characters, who enjoyed her long life and had many forthright and salty opinions on life as she saw it.

The funeral service for Miss Graham was conducted by the Rev. Leonard Burn at St. Peter's on October 21st.

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AFTER FAMILY FESTIVAL ... WHAT NEXT?

At a meeting in St. Andrew's Hall in October, cheques were presented to representatives of the four charities adopted by Family Festival. The charities, Help the Aged, Simon Community, Reading Mencap and the Council of Churches Housing Trust, each received £715.

After the presentation of the cheques, Mrs. Doreen Bennett and the Rev. Stephen Bartlett spoke of possible lines of development and follow-up from the Festival. Stephen Bartlett began by saying that the meeting had been called to determine just how much support there was for any kind of follow-up. He read out a report from the recently formed Gingerbread Group in Reading for one-parent families. This report stressed particularly the loneliness felt by such people. Caversham contact for this group is Mrs. Mary Coope. Stephen Bartlett went on to remind people of the possibility of carrying on discussion on Family Life in modern society begun at the conference on May 12th and then to report on the Quiet Day held at Springfield St. Luke on October 5th. Doreen Bennett spoke of the urgent needs of the four charities in several practical ways.

SCHOOL LINKS

After speaking about possibilities for the churches staging exhibitions and concerts, Stephen Bartlett read out a report from Miss Elizabeth Hawthorne on possible ways in which the churches in Caversham could link up with the life of local schools. She envisaged "schools link persons," who could do much to develop the contact which exists at present. The way in which the local church used (or failed to use) the energies of their young people was next referred to. Family Festival had 'laid on' things for young people but had failed to include young people in the planning from the start. Finally, Stephen Bartlett asked the meeting for their feelings about large ecumenical acts of worship like the Eucharist on July 14th.

CO-ORDINATION

After a break for tea, the meeting discussed each of the points raised by the two speakers. Most of the available time was spent on support for the four

charities. Enough support was given at the meeting to ensure the setting up of a group in Caversham to co-ordinate this work. Of the other items discussed, most of the interest centred on ecumenical acts of worship. A number of people spoke in favour of such an event, although a warning was sounded about trying merely to repeat something which belonged properly to Family Festival and the past.

Everyone present at the meeting was asked to write down what they were specifically interested in seeing carried on. Of the 80 or so people present, 31 replied. Nineteen people wished to support work for the charities. Eight people wanted some follow-up of the May 12th conference. Three people wanted to help stage concerts or exhibitions. Nineteen people wanted another large ecumenical act of worship.

A group has been set up under Mrs. Doreen Bennett to develop work in support of the charities. Other developments will depend upon further discussion amongst the clergy and church members, since the Family Festival Committee itself is now disbanded.

CHAIRMAN OF READING MENCAP SAYS FAMILY FESTIVAL CHARITIES... "THANK YOU, CAVERSHAM" ... HOW TO HELP THEM

THOSE OF YOU WHO PLANNED THE FAMILY FESTIVAL ARE LOOKING, I KNOW AT THE TASK OF HOW TO ENSURE THAT THE INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT CAN BE CARRIED FURTHER. Those of you who took part must be proud of the results and concerned, too, that the resources and ideas realised should continue to be available to the charities who benefited.

I write as chairman of one of the charities that received the magnificent sum of £715. Our society, too, has to look further and, more important, ensure that the money is well spent.

Indeed we can guarantee that it will be well spent, for we are actively involved with the 600 families in Reading who need our resources—baby-sitting service, nursery school, our two youth clubs, Saturday playgroup, holiday and counselling service.

(Full details are in our handbook — copies from Brock Barracks, Oxford Road.)

SUPPORT

In expressing our warmest thanks for the gift, may I seek your continuing support? We are hoping to establish in Caversham, Reading's FIRST hostel for handicapped children. This will be a short stay hostel providing an opportunity for parents to have a break from constant strain, or perhaps when mother is ill. Other towns the size of Reading already have such a service, and so shall we, but help will be needed, from taking the children on walks to sewing and cooking and helping at the table. All the normal needs of youngsters will have to be met. Can you offer your services?

May I ask, too, for help with driving? The majority of our activities are either in the town centre or on the south-eastern fringe. Only one or two of the handicapped

for whom our services are provided can actually use public transport, and some that might handle getting on and off the right bus, learning, for example, the number, colour and name of the bus, cannot always cope with the thing we take for granted—the paying of the fare. They simply do not understand money. (This would be one less worry if we could have a pass or voucher system in the town for the handicapped so youngsters would not need to pay money for tickets—but until that day...) What these deficiencies add up to is that drivers are needed to take children to and from their various activities.

If you would like to help, please get in touch either with Sue Dobson (472855) or myself (692417), and I am sure that something can be worked out. On behalf of the town's mentally handicapped children, thank you.

Alfred Boom,
Chairman, Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FAMILY FESTIVAL WERE PRESENT AT THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN OCTOBER TO RECEIVE THEIR CHEQUES. Each thanked all concerned for the money and the keen interest shown in their work and problems.

Sue Fulford Dobson (Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children) reported that a short stay hostel for handicapped children would shortly be opened in St. Peter's Avenue and that the money received would be used for equipment needed there. John James (Simon Community) spoke of the money needed in the reception centres in London, Hastings and Thanet. Bernard Harris said that Help the Aged would be naming a flat in a Newbury block after Family Festival and would

use the money there. Norman Brown, representing the Reading Council of Churches Housing Trust, reported that their first house, comprising four flatlets, would be opened in Caversham in March and the cash raised would be spent on furnishings.

All representatives spoke of the long-term help they needed.

Society for Mentally Handicapped Children

Drivers (to take children to youth clubs and nursery).

Helpers in youth clubs, nursery and playgroups.

Teenagers for baby-sitting. Helpers in the new short stay hostel.

Visiting and befriending families.

Simon Community
Clothing (especially men's). Bedding and blankets.

Transport to take goods to London.

Used postage stamps. Accommodation for helpers to rest up (for a night or week).

Christmas cards available. New projects in Reading suggested.

Help the Aged

Clothing for overseas. Blankets (knitted squares).

Council of Churches

£1 shares available. Furnishings for flatlets.

A number of people at the meeting offered help and a committee is being set up.

Will anyone interested please contact:

Mrs. Doreen Bennett,
157 Upper Woodcote Road.
Tel. 473096.

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THANKS FROM SIMON

"On behalf of all of us in the Community I would like to express our thanks to all those involved in the remarkable fund-raising effort in July. To us, despite inflation, £715 is a small fortune. I would also like to thank those at the follow-up meeting who showed interest in our work and warmth in their welcome. It was very much appreciated."

John James,
Simon Community.

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August 11 Clair Carman
18 Caroline Leatham

October 27 Sarah Wadman
Zarron Phillips
Daniel Downes

ST. JOHN'S

October 27 Michelle Saunders

ST. ANDREW'S

October 20 Rebecca Parsons

CAVERSHAM PARK

July 7 James Macbeth
Paul Milsom
Miles Gallagher
Simon Eastlake

August 18 Charlotte Christison

WEDDINGS ST. PETER'S

August 7 Dennis Trebble and Janice Leahy
10 Ian Robinson and Marie Griffin
17 Duncan Walker and Heather Pickersgill
Philip Gulliford and Elizabeth Mann
Robert Tounsin and Carol Willis
31 David Mettham and Gillian Branch

September 7 David Parker and Ann Gibson
13 Brian Allen and Susan Hilliam
14 David Hawkins and Sarah Moon
14 Keith Patrick and Pauline Essex

October 12 Jeffrey Lawrence and Anna Zaslawska

November 2 David Hutchison and Sally Baker

ST. JOHN'S

October 26 Michael Vaughan and Teresa Szajnar

October 5 Nicholas Wells and Sharman Stringer
19 Graham Jones and Bridget Barker
26 John Youngman and Cynthia Stenning

ST. BARNABAS'

October 19 Malcolm Simmonds and Marilyn Austin

FUNERALS ST. PETER'S

September 12 Cyril Burnsidge

October 21 Mabel Graham
Winifred Simmonds
24 Elsie McLeonard

November 1 Frederick Biggs

ST. JOHN'S

October 11 Hilda Jarman
23 Laura Fleetwood

ST. ANDREW'S

October 14 Ethel Hole

ST. BARNABAS'

November 1 Richard Lloyd

ST. MARGARET'S

October 10 Jennifer Mercier

SUNDAY SERVICES December 22nd

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.
6.30 p.m. Evensong.

St. John's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

St. Andrew's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong.

St. Barnabas'
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.00 Family Service.

St. Margaret's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Matins.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
11.00 a.m. Children's Toy Service.
6.30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols.

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights
11.00 a.m. Toy Service.
4.00 p.m. Carols.

Gosbrook Road
11.00 a.m. Service.
6.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)
11.15 a.m. Family Communion.
4.30 p.m. Carol 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 a.m., 10.30 a.m. Mass,

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
There is no United Reformed Church in Caversham. The nearest is at York Road, Reading.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun., Dec. 15 11.00 a.m. Children's Toy Service.
Fri., Dec. 20 7.30 p.m. Carol Concert, Church Hall.
Sun., Dec. 22 11.00 a.m. Family Service.
6.30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Day, 11.00 a.m. Christmas Morning Service.
Normal Sunday Worship 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
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Christmas Day Services

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's
7.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.

St. John's
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.00 a.m. Carol Service for Children.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

St. Andrew's
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

St. Barnabas'
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

St. Margaret's
11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.
9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.

The clergy would be glad to know of any sick or housebound communicants who wish to receive the Sacrament in their homes in the days following Christmas. Times when confessions will be heard will be announced in the church notices on Sundays, December 15th and 22nd.

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH
10.30 a.m. Family Service.
CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)
11.15 a.m. Family Service.

METHODIST

Caversham Heights
11.45 p.m. Christmas Communion.
10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Service.

Gosbrook Road
10.30 a.m. Joint Christmas Day Service with Caversham Heights.

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SPORTS SPECIAL

by STAN ELDON

OLYMPIC SENSE

THE SPORTING WORLD SHOULD, AND I AM SURE WILL BE, DELIGHTED THAT THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES ARE TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW. The Russians have been trying to stage an Olympics for many years but at each attempt have been foiled, largely because of pressure from the American Continent and parts of Europe. Apart from the political reasons there have been genuine objections to Moscow or any other major Eastern European city as an Olympic venue.

The main objections were very real, in particular being the very great restrictions of movement that have been imposed in the past, the lack of suitable hotel or other accommodation for the likely one million visitors. And last but not least, the very stubborn attitude the Russians can adopt against anything they might consider outside interference—with the size of the modern Olympiad any staging nation has to seek and receive a certain amount of outside help.

At the recent meeting in Vienna the Russians were able to put their case very forcibly and very professionally. In fact, although the U.S. wanted the Games for Los Angeles, it seems their attempt to win approval was only lukewarm. Even if they did vote against Moscow it is likely they were not really disappointed to see the vote go to the Russians because out

of all the cities that could stage a modern Olympiad, Moscow is likely to be the most free of interference from bombers and any sort of political demonstration.

From the point of view of the competitor or spectator, Moscow will be a very exciting and interesting Olympic centre. It already has some splendid sports centres and arenas for all sorts of sport, most of which are set conveniently close to each other in a park next to Moscow River and right opposite the magnificent tall and white University building. The main athletic and football stadium is the Lenin Stadium, which seats over 100,000 people and with its splendid facilities including underground warm-up track it will need very little adaptation to make it an ideal Olympic arena.

Moscow has exciting and happy memories for me as I had one of my most successful races in front of the packed Lenin Stadium—I for one will be endeavouring to revisit Moscow in 1980.

CRUISING DOWN THE CHANNEL

Nick Dart and Nick Tipton, both pupils at Highdown and members of St. John's Church, recently had the good fortune to go on one of the Sail Training Association cruises, which are given financial backing by Caversham Parochial Council. Though they were on different ships they both have similar stories to tell.

Nick Dart joined the three-masted schooner 'Sir Winston Churchill' at Weymouth. Sailing was delayed for two days because, he says, "the captain decided that a force 9 gale in the Channel wouldn't do anybody any good." So the time in port was devoted to learning the theory of sailing such a craft. However, theory soon had to be put into practice in difficult conditions because on reaching the open sea they had to contend with winds of gale force 8, "which seems very rough in a small sailing ship; it goes up and down just as the sea pleases, one minute you are up on the crest of a wave and the next you are down in the waves, leaving your stomach in the air."

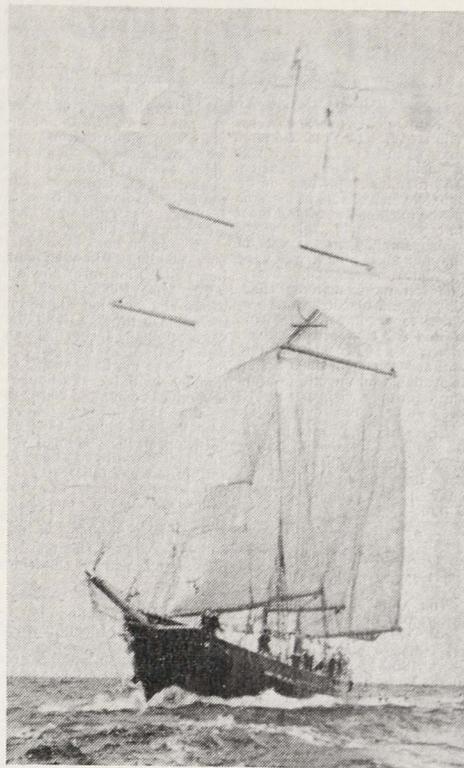
LEARNING THE ROPES

What about sea sickness? "Well," says Nick Dart, "they say that if there is anything in a lad the sea will bring it out. Shortly after we set out

half the trainees were leaning over the leeward rail wishing they had never come, but after a day or two they all wondered why they were sick in the first place." The first two nights were spent sheltering in Torbay, but eventually they crossed the Channel and reached the French coast. On the return journey they were able to have some time in Alderney before finally arriving at Dartmouth.

Nick Tipton's experience was also a rough one, with his vessel, the 'Malcolm Miller,' apparently spending half its voyage at an angle of 45 degrees. "Being in your bunk was like riding a bucking bronco." The ship sailed from Swansea and called in at a French port and up the Channel as far as Margate. He also had the dubious pleasure of being one of "the mugs who were picked to go down into the chain locker to clean out all the muck of the last 20 years; two of us climbed down into each locker, which was about eight feet deep, two feet wide and six feet long, and buckets were passed down to us which we filled and passed up again; by the time we had finished we were filthy." The bo'sun's mate hosed them down with the fire hose.

Looking back both Nicks say it was all very hard work but a great experience, which makes up for the sea sickness or getting only four hours' sleep each night.



The Sail Training Association's schooner "Sir Winston Churchill."

ZOILUS GOES TO THE PICTURES

Two films had a return showing in Reading recently. Different in theme, they still had much in common; both striking examples of cinematic craft in direction, acting and pictorial impact.

"The Sting," reappearing for the umpteenth time, is a brittle evocation of what might be a dozen pre-war gangster films, portrayed with the cynical savagery of the '70s, and acted out to the background music of Scott Joplin's nostalgic piano rags. Some people have seen it half a dozen times, the critics gave it almost unstinted

praise, but for me the story of two small-time hoodlums out to fleece and ridicule a very big-time hoodlum was enough for strictly one showing. The setting was sleazy down-town America in the '30s — garbage-strewn sidewalks, forlorn, half-empty diners and tatty houses—with frequent excursions into the tawdry opulence of the phoney betting clubs from which rackets operated. The acting was more than competent throughout, though hardly testing to the talents of Paul Newman and Robert Shaw, and the carnage was enough for a minor civil war, ending with the blood bath of a twist ending which was as effective as it was implausible.

ITALIAN CHAUCER

"Canterbury Tales," the other film, was a brave effort by Italian director Pasolini that just missed being a minor masterpiece. In this case an 'X' certificate was awarded (if that's the right word) for sex, though there was a scene of execution by burning on the trivet which was as raw as anything in "The Sting." But it was the enthusiastic bouncing in and out of bed by a bevy of mediaeval sex groups that contributed to the picture's attraction. On celluloid a whimple and doublet seem to make acceptable any amount of questionable behaviour rendering the situations risqué rather than smutty. The film was always attractive to the eye and some of the outdoor scenes were strikingly beautiful.

MORAL CONFUSION

But the common denominator in these two films was not so much a lack of moral standards as a refusal to accept that the old established code has any meaning at all. Once upon a time the cops and robbers were clearly on different sides of the fence and villains were certain to be confounded after a series of exciting cliff-hangers. It

was the good little girl who got the millionaire and her wanton sister who collected the wages of sin.

Nowadays the division between goodies and baddies is so blurred as to be non-existent. Would it be pompous to suggest that it might be a good thing to ask if this is a healthy symptom for the future?

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ROUND THE CLUBS

ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP

The October meeting was a talk on Wine by Peter Dominic and, as to be expected, it was a most successful occasion. The promised film was unfortunately unavailable at the time of the meeting but after a most informative talk, plenty of wine sampling on the part of the audience, plus a free copy of WineMine magazine, everyone felt more than satisfied. Cheese and biscuits were provided to accompany the wine tasting and coffee was served afterwards. At this meeting and at subsequent ones a stall is available for anyone to bring any item they wish to sell (10 per cent to go to Group funds).

There is no meeting in December, as usual. 1975 meetings begin with some Holiday Films shown by Pickford's on Thursday, January 23rd, at 8 p.m.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS' TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The October meeting saw the return of Miss Lois Hibbard. This time her talk was on ladies' clothes during the years 1900-1930 and her remarks were illustrated by costumes modelled by Guild members. Members always enjoy Miss Hibbard's visits and this time of course the clothes were well within the memories of many ladies watching. The satin evening gowns, Louis-heeled shoes, hand-made lace, the artificial flowered hats, the feathers, kiss curls and camiknickers, all this and much more brought back those years very vividly. Although some items did bring forth howls of mirth, Miss Hibbard said that when she and her sister had worn these dresses (and they were originally in her personal wardrobe) they had thought themselves the bees knees, extremely 'with-it'. Particularly attractive costumes were the hobble skirt in grey stripes, with the peg hipped skirt and bat-wing sleeves, teamed with the feather-stripped box hat and furled umbrella; also the fully beaded dress of 1927, which, because of the weight and the flat-chested fashion, fell straight to about 6 inch below the knees. This last was topped off with a matching bandeau.

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting which it is hoped as many members as possible will attend. For any other ladies who would like to join, the Guild meets every third Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham, and new members are always welcome.

parties were thanked and Miss M. Stevenson was congratulated on gaining a green star for her exhibit in "Tomorrow's Heirlooms". The meeting was then thrown open for discussion; many fruitful suggestions were made. A new Drama Group was formed. Mrs. Andrew was appointed Secretary to organise a Handicraft Guild. The competition, a hat from a colander, was won by Mrs. Ellingham.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The October meeting took the form of a debate. The motion was 'This House considers the Townswomen's Guild movement has become outdated'. Mrs. E. Risius proposed and Mrs. G. Williams seconded the motion, which was opposed by Mrs. P. Bannon and Mrs. H. Russell, with Mrs. W. Allen in the chair. The members obviously didn't agree as it was defeated by a large majority.

October also saw the 22nd birthday of the Emmer Green guild, which was celebrated with a birthday party. Guests included the Federation Chairman, Mrs. Livingstone, and members of other local guilds.

ROSEHILL W.I.

Mrs. Sansum presided. Arrangements for the Jumble Sale on October 26th were made. Members giving coffee

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the October meeting of Blagrave W.I. Mrs. Wilkie welcomed members back after the summer break and presented the birthday posies. Details were finalised for the Jumble Sale and a draw was made for the Denman Bursary, which was won by Miss Chapman.

The speaker was Mr. Clark, who spoke on the History of Transport in Reading from Stage Coaches in the 16th century through to the development of the Railways in the last century and up to the present day with Reading now an important centre as a link for Air Travel.

The competition for the most attractive autumn leaf was won by Miss Reynolds.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. Peter's—Balmore Hall: 11 a.m. (not 3rd Sunday of the month). Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Tel. 476494.

St. Andrew's—St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m. Age four years and upwards.

St. Barnabas—Church Hall, 9.15 a.m.

METHODIST

Caversham Heights—in Church, 11 a.m. Age three years and upwards. Superintendent: Mr. D. Tutty, 5 Carlton Road. Tel. 477384.

BAPTIST

11 a.m. Age 3 years and upwards. Secretary: Miss I. Marshall, 16 Albert Road. Tel. 474478.

East Caversham—Age three to seven, Caversham Hall, 11 a.m. to noon. Enquiries to Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent, Tel. 472084, or Mrs. S. Holley, 41 Briants Avenue. Tel. 477142.

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

ST. ANDREW'S DAY AT ST. ANDREW'S

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th

7.30 and 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

5.30 p.m. FESTAL EVENSONG

Preacher—The Rt. Rev. E. Knell,

lately Bishop of Reading

Tea will be served in St. Andrew's Hall from 4.30.

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SUNDAY SERVICES December 1, 8, 15 and 29

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 (1st Sunday: Advent Carol Service)

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 (Christmas Carol Service)

St. Barnabas
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. (15th: Youth Service)

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
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.

CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DEC. 24th

St. Peter's
4.00 p.m. Christmas Gift Service, with Blessing of Crib and Lighting of the Christmas Tree

St. Andrew's
6.30 p.m. Solemn Evensong with Blessing of Crib.

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CHURCH NEWS

ST. BARNABAS'

The party season started early this year on October 9th at St. Barnabas Hall, with the fifth visit of patients from Borocourt Hospital. Mrs. Goodworth's piano playing, and her two friends singing popular songs was the main attraction, and struck a very happy note! "Passing the Parcel" and other games pleased them all. Members of the Mothers' Union, who so generously provided refreshments, and gifts, made buttonholes, and pretty bags for each lady, were amply rewarded by the obvious enjoyment of everyone.

It was a lovely afternoon, and before the eighteen ladies left in their coach, a group photograph was taken.

ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Wednesday Group is alive and well and meeting each week with Mrs. Sue Lucas as chairman. Sue recently took over from Freda Savin, who made a good job of running the group previously. The group, as the name implies, meets every Wednesday evening in the informal surroundings of members' homes. Recent meetings have included a joint meeting with the Methodist Wives Group, which took place at the Southern Gas Showrooms when the subject was "Natural Gas Conversions and what to expect when the workmen arrive".

Anyone wishing to join the group should contact Sue at 476860.

ST. PETER'S

The usual service of Advent Carols will take place on Advent Sunday, December 1st, at 6.30 p.m., when the choir of Queen Anne's School combines with the church choir. This will be the first special music service since Mr. J. Dussek became organist and choirmaster. The two choirs will be singing a number of carols not previously heard at this service. Those who intend to be present are reminded that it is usually difficult to find a seat after 6 p.m.

Congratulations to District Warden Kenneth Bennett on his appointment as managing director of Lebus Upholstery Ltd.

Getting on for a hundred 'locals' gathered together on October 5th in Trench Green Hall to enjoy a cheerful evening country style. The home cooking was greatly appreciated and soon disappeared, and when the refreshments were over the hall resounded to the merry bells of the Ken-net Morris Men as they performed ancient village dances often accompanied by song and a hefty whacking of their sticks. It was then time for the children to have a few games and a short programme on the church hand-bells rounded off a very successful and happy evening.

introducing a "Mother and Toddler" session on Thursday mornings, catering for the younger children, i.e. 0-3 years. Jean Pugh (Reading 472949) will be pleased to give further information to any mother who has a "new recruit". This will also provide an excellent opportunity for mothers to get together and make new friends.

On December 17th the Group will be "around and about" Carol singing again in aid of The Avenue School and hopes for readers' support.

CAVERSHAM PARK

Sunday Services at 11.15 a.m. in the School Hall.

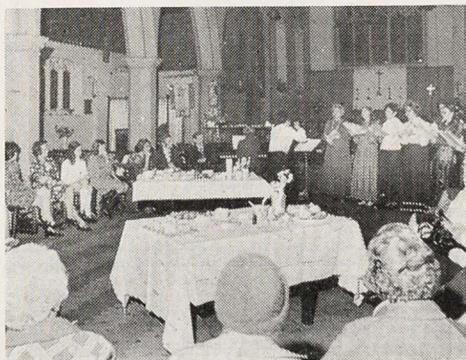
December

- 1 Family Service followed by bread-and-cheese lunch, Sunday Circle for children.
- 8 & 15 Family Service with Sunday Circle for children.
- 22 Family Communion with Carol Service at 4.30 p.m.
- 25 Family Service.
- 29 Covenant Service with Holy Communion.

ST. JOHN'S HARVEST SUPPER

St. John's Harvest Supper was something of a novelty this year and proved to be a great success. For the first time it was held in church. The fact that the church has chairs rather than fixed pews made it easy to clear a space for the tables of bread and English cheeses and fruit pies prepared by Mrs. Anne Atkinson.

During the evening there was entertainment from the Summerdown Singers conducted by Mrs. Yvonne Milne and accompanied by Mrs. Payne. To round off everyone joined in singing some popular songs of an earlier generation. Already plans are afoot for a Christmas party — also in church.



— Walton Adams

METHODIST GIFT DAY

This year's Gift Day at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church was marked by a number of "firsts". Not only was the amount raised the highest ever, but a lot of help came from people who were involved for the first time.

On the other hand, the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Les Cooper, and the opener, Miss Mary Prior, were chosen from the ranks of those who year by year carry the hard work of events of this kind. The new minister and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Griffiths, were welcome figures in the opening ceremony, and in the early evening there was, as always, a steady stream of members and friends visiting the minister in his vestry to hand him their gifts for church funds.

The concert which ended the day was of the very highest standard, and was clearly appreciated by the packed audience. It was given jointly by the Bulmershe Girls' Choir and the Reading Male Voice Choir, both conducted and compered by Mr. Gwyn Arch, not forgetting a group of young instrumentalists from Sonning Common.

This concert was held in the church, and much movement of furnishings and fittings was necessary. The Gift Day Secretaries were therefore agreeably surprised on returning after bidding goodbye to the singers to find that a number of people had spontaneously set to work and restored the church to its customary condition for Sunday worship.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Peter's Wives Group was held on October 15th. The Rev. D. Shaylor kindly took the chair in place of the Rector, who was indisposed.

The Group reported that it had had a good year with fairly well-attended meetings, although new members were always being sought. (Details and programmes obtainable from Edith Hawkins, Reading 47741.

The Playgroup run by the Group in Balmore Hall reported that the numbers had been seriously depleted owing to the extremely good Nursery School facilities in Caversham. They are therefore

WEDDING

Malcolm Simmonds and Marilyn Austin married recently at St. Barnabas' Church



— Walton Adams

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th

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ST. MARGARET'S HARVEST SUPPER

To begin with it wasn't just the annual Mapledurham Harvest Supper; it was also a chance for people in the parish to meet their new priest-in-charge, Michael Kit-chener and his wife Christine.

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HARVEST HOME AT THAMESIDE SCHOOL TURNED OUT TO BE A COLOURFUL AND IMPRESSIVE OCCASION ON OCTOBER 22nd. The children had been looking forward to the day ever since term began. Invitations had been sent out to all for gifts to be brought to the school. There was a fabulous display in the hall, and after the singing of joyful harvest hymns the produce was distributed by the pupils to some 150 homes of elderly people. These names were provided to the school by local societies and organisations.

Harvest should be a time for rejoicing and thanksgiving. Land was created by God, and its use granted to man. The autumnal festival is the big show of the year, revealing the fruits of our labours and God's supernal blessing on mankind.

Many of us expect Mother Nature to till the soil, fertilise the plants and make ripe the fruit without any enthusiasm on our part. This lazy attitude can quickly become endemic in our daily lives if we don't watch out. I once met an industrious and enterprising Italian priest. You may have heard of him—his name is Father Mario Borrelli. He is known all over the world for his work in rescuing and caring for the street urchins of Naples. He did not just look on and SAY what OUGHT to be done; he discarded his priestly gown, donned a cloth cap and joined the ragged set. Disguised as an urchin himself, he slept in the gutters and begged for food and cigarettes just like the rest. How little they knew what his real mission! Eventually a large tenement building was found, hundreds of young vagabonds were plucked from

the streets and alleyways of Naples, and a respectable habitat was provided for them. The seeds had at last been sown, but the Harvest was still a long way off. Big things are always happening at the 'Casa,' in the city where 30 per cent. of the population is condemned to slum conditions. But Father Borrelli is not deterred by the task ahead. His words—"How much use is it to save only a few wild flowers when a whole forest is dying?"

★ ★ ★
 If you live in Caversham, the Berkshire bit—or, in fact, anywhere in Reading, there are a lot of things you are allowed to do on a Friday. You may go to school, make a purchase in a shop, visit the library, or eat fish and chips from a soggy newspaper. But one thing you cannot do is to play an organised match in a

public park! During the October half-term holiday I thought it would be a good idea to arrange a football match between two local teams. As I was expecting to be away for much of the week, Friday was the only day at my disposal. So with the District Parks Office only a telephone call away, what could be more simple to arrange? After all, I was giving them a week's notice to get the goalposts up. But alas, my hopes were shattered. At the other end of the line an apologetic voice retorted, "Sorry, no football, sir. Never on a Friday!" Inquiring what sanctity was attached to a Friday, I was told that the ground had to rest before the weekend onslaught! I sympathise with the grass roots that they need a day off, but I would have thought Monday would have been the appropriate day, if not the appropriate day, if

SIXTY YEARS ON

ON DECEMBER 12th STANLEY AND ELLA TEGG, BOTH 83, OF 67 SOUTH VIEW AVENUE, WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR DIAMOND WEDDING. But they can hardly be said to have got off to a promising start. Not only had war broken out, but the weather also seemed to be against them. "I remember crying on my wedding day—there was a thick, black fog," says Ella. But 60 years later they feel they have a lot to be grateful for, despite the hard times, and believe that hard work and good cooking are part of the secret. They have two children and two married grandchildren.

RAN AWAY
 Stanley, though born in Yattendon, spent his early days in Upper Basildon and it was there that he met Ella, who was in service locally, though her home was in Devon. They recall that initially Ella ignored Stanley's advances—she didn't care for being whistled after! By the time he was 16 Stanley was in boy service in the Navy; he ran away from home, but call her "the little maid from Devon who never speaks above a whisper." It was during that period that she spent his time on destroyers

and submarines, ending up as leading stoker. By one of those odd coincidences Stanley recalls that he was one of the crew of the destroyer "Arun," who rescued the survivors of a mined hospital ship near Le Havre. Among those survivors was the late James Eves, the parish lay reader who died last year and used to live in Wrenfield Drive.

GARDENING
 After the war he became a gardener at Basildon Park. In fact Stanley spent his life in gardening. At one time, while running a market garden in Bristol, he was also under contract to Suttons and grew flower crops to commercialise their product. He still spends a lot of his time in the garden and at his allotment, growing flowers for market or to give away. He has also lectured on flowering shrubs.

Ella's days in service are a reminder of an age gone by. She was at Pangbourne when she met her husband, but for a time she was under-parlourmaid for the then Dean of St. Paul's, Dean Gregory. She remembers that he used to call her "the little maid from Devon who never speaks above a whisper." It was during that period that she waited on the grandfather of

Nelson Rockefeller, the Vice-President of the U.S.A.

What about marriage today? The Teggs think that in some respects young married people now have an easier time than used to be the case. But it is still tough for some.

Ella feels that many young marrieds expect too much. "In our day we didn't expect miracles." And she remembers with gratitude some lines she learned at school: "Contentment with little is true riches."

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