



# “A DRINK FOR THE NEEDY”

1981-1990 HAS BEEN declared by the United Nations, to be the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Clean water for all is the aim. We have the technology, and the cost in itself is not immense. If just three weeks' world spending on arms and armies were used for water and sanitation during each year of the decade, everyone could have clean water. But, although the Decade began with great enthusiasm from all parts of Western Society, the momentum will quickly dissipate unless we continue to make a united effort.

Some 1.8 billion people are without adequate water supplies, and 2.4 billion lack sanitation. The World Bank estimates that the total cost of supplying clean water and sanitation works out to be in the region of £53 million per day for every day of the decade. CHRISTIAN AID makes regular grants to local projects, for example £16,667 to the Christian Commission on Development in Bangladesh for irrigation of up to 30,000 acres in Rajshahi and Pabna Districts; £2,430 for four drinking wells in four tribal villages in Visakhapatnam District in India; £35,000 for a gravity water sup-

ply to serve in Milo village in Tanzania the primary school, dispensary, mission and village population; £20,000 towards a village water supply in Malawi; £4,419 for construction of a water tank and distribution system in Guatemala — and so the list goes on and on, each grant providing not luxuries but basic necessities towards improving health and well-being. But Christian Aid's resources are limited to the extent that they depend entirely upon the voluntary giving and fund raising of concerned folk, like you.

If only we could appreciate the value of water

more, and not just take it for granted, as we so often do, then we would feel more inclined to give more and encourage others to do the same, so that we "bought a drink for someone who really needs it". Look again at those muddy ditches around our countryside, and ask yourself, would you like your family to have to live on such contaminated water? Such water causes 80% of all illnesses in developing countries, it causes some ten million people to die each year from diarrhoea, whilst over 200 million people in seventy countries are afflicted by Bilharzia, a debilitating illness.

### Unacceptable suffering

Such suffering must be unacceptable to every decent living human being, and money is one of the most practical means whereby we can show our concern and compassion. So will you help in seeing that 1984's quota for Water Projects is of a magnitude, capable of alleviating further areas of this world of water shortage and sanitation? Every £1 which is donated this year to Christian Aid in the Reading Area will be divided into 50p for Water Projects and 50p to General Funds to meet other projects and emergencies.



Christian Aid, P.O. Box 1, SW9 8BH

## GOOD WORKS

Christian Aid Week May 14th-20th

A CHILD receives a pat on the back from a relation, a friend or a teacher for something which has been completed or worked out; a small acknowledgement of something well done or bravely attempted. In more subtle ways adults, too, need encouraging. They have a need to know that whatever they do is valued. Jesus said to his followers "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven". That is our reward.

Christian Aid week is here again. This year half the money raised in the Reading Area will go to Water Projects. Clean fresh water gushing from a new pump or standpipe in India, water to drink, water to irrigate parched crops. That is their

reward. And it is our reward too because in giving the pump, we also give glory to God.

Christian Aid is not just a provider. It is more like a pump primer, an enabler. It is a partnership of people reaching across all sorts of frontiers, supporting local groups and families in what they can do to improve their food and water supply, their jobs, their health, their ability to live life to the full.

World news is often depressing. But there is an antidote of hope in much of what the churches in areas of poverty and strife manage to achieve. Good works. Good is seen to work. It is our privileged task to contribute money to it and in Christian Aid Week to invite our whole community to do the same.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1984 ORGAN RECITAL

by Andrew Evans — Organ Scholar at Merton College Oxford, former Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral and Organist at St Andrew's Caversham Heights.

Friday May 11th at 7.30pm

at Reading Town Hall

Tickets £1 (OAPs and students 50p)

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1984 ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK Saturday May 19th

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Postal applications to Philip Wickens, 467 Basingstoke Road, Reading RG2 0JG (please include 16p stamp).

# TALKING POINT

The meaning of Mission and evangelism is open to much debate in the Church today. Below we print the views from opposite ends of the spectrum, which we hope will stimulate interest and create discussion.

## OF 'MISSION' AND MISSIONS

### GO PREACH THE GOSPEL

THE FIRST question we must consider here is 'why use the word 'Mission'?

The Church has, from the time of Our Lord, been a missionary Church, obeying the Divine Command, 'Go out to the whole world and preach the gospel'. So, going out, or being sent ('missus') involves evangelising, teaching and preaching the gospel—the good news. Our Lord told his Apostles to go out in His name, 'he that heareth you, heareth me'. He reminded his disciples that the 'fields were ripe for the harvest, but needed labourers'.

It is significant that in the reading for the feast of St Andrew on November 30th St Paul reminds us 'They will not ask his (the Lord's) help unless they believe in him, and they will not believe in him unless they have heard of him, and they will not

hear of him unless they get a preacher, and they will never have a preacher unless one is sent... so faith comes from what is preached, and what is preached comes from the word of Christ.' (Romans, Chapter X).

The book of the Acts of the Apostles shows us in a most inspiring way how the Church carried out Our Lord's command. From then on missionaries abounded. Preachers travelled, not only through their own particular district, but over whole countries and over the world. There are so many, but we could single out St Martin of Tours in France, St Patrick in Ireland, St Columba and Aidan in Scotland and England respectively, and St Columbanus in Germany, Switzerland and Northern Italy. We have that great Englishman, St Boniface working in Northern Europe. Later on we have St Dominic in France, St Francis

Xavier in India and the Far East, St Peter Canisius throughout Germany, St Francis de Sales, St Peter Fourier, St Vincent Ferrer and St Vincent de Paul. In the New World we have the Canadian Jesuits and we could easily mention Mother Teresa.

### The Church and the Gospel Mission

These, and a host of other men and women testified to Christ by their outstanding Missionary lives and often by their deaths. If the Church ever ceased to be a missionary Church, it would cease to be the Church altogether.

For there are always parts of the world which we think of as 'missions'. We always go first in our minds to Africa, then probably India, South America or Oceania, and almost certainly the Inuit (Eskimo) peoples. But 'mission countries' have often been European—much of the Continent in the Dark Ages—and it is not far-fetched to

include England as very much a 'mission country'. We have possibly thought of Missions as being those countries where Christianity has not been preached at all, or has not been fully preached; but they can include countries where the faith has become dead, and which need to be rechristianised. We will return to the first category of countries later.

Let us turn now to the personal aspect. In a very real sense we are all missionaries. Christ has given us the grace of the Gospel and we are bound to transmit it by word, or at least by the manner of our lives. It is a facet of the Christian life which we often, too often neglect, but how much of this country really needs reconversion—and what are we doing about it?

### The Parish and the Mission

We also have the duty (because the Church is world-wide) to think of others sometimes many thousands of miles away. What do we do about them? Some of the things that our people do in St Anne's could be multiplied in every parish, but let us list a few:—

Every year there is a Collection for the African Missions on the appropriate day of the Epiphany (January 6th). Every year on one designated Sunday there is an appeal by a Missioner. Let it be thought that this might be the easiest way of helping. I would stress that people make a conscious effort for the Missions, and are particularly generous in their regard.

Many people contribute annually to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith by means of family money boxes or annual subscriptions, and children are encouraged to give through the schools to the Missions. People pray very often for the missionary work of the Church.

The individual and the Mission  
And what of the Mis-

## MISSION TO SUBURBIA

ON A WET wintry weekend early in March a group of people met for a weekend conference. There were men and women from differing parts of the country — from Glasgow to the South Coast, from Bristol to Cambridge. Among them was a strong contingent from Caversham, from the Baptist and Methodist Churches. Their meeting place was Luton Industrial College — an impressive modern complex in a run-down area of Luton — not the usual rundown Church in a modern setting — indicating that there the Church was leading the way forward.

The purpose of the conference was the Churches' Mission to Suburbia — a subject very relevant to the situation in Caversham. Three themes were the subject of lecture and discussion. □ □

The first was entitled 'Theological Tensions in Suburbia' but the content was wider ranging than its title suggests. There was a look at the make up of suburbia and the place of the Church Community in it. This led naturally to considering the evangelical role of the Church. The fact that Free Churches are no longer only societies of believers seeking perfection but, like the established churches, are a microcosm of the society they are in caused some soul searching. Suburban churches were challenged to reconsider their doctrines of God, of Man, of Ministry, in sum, their faith. The conference was reminded that sin and evil are still very real — sin is not just being less than good. Interest was aroused by the sorts of problems to be found in Churches falling short of the mark and the sorts of indicators that showed a live healthy congregation.

There must be an equally urgent need for people to go out and help in the medical, teaching and agricultural spheres.

The evidence is available to show that some countries, especially in Africa, being young and vital, are surging forward in Catholicism, and it may well be that with Europe tired, generally effete and becoming decadent, the future of the Church will develop from Africa. Certainly the structure of the Church there becomes sounder with each passing year, with the number of indigenous Bishops and Priests growing.

The thought of the Missions and the great energy, dynamism, faith and love which is going into them should revive our own sense of Mission—the Mission of Christ, to preach the good news, which has been preached to us in the past, and which we have a duty to promote by our lives and our words.

The second subject was the matter of 'Worship in Suburbia'. This was an analytical session which pinpointed the needs mainly for the Methodists but it provided a

challenge for all denominations represented to look afresh at the worship offered Sunday by Sunday and to examine whether it was fulfilling its purpose. It was a call to the people of God to be alert and not to be seduced by satisfaction with existing worship patterns.

The third session was entitled 'Mission in Today's World' and was a challenge to experience the excitement of the message of Christ in our developing world. It was a call to accept and thrill in the new developments God is revealing through technology and to emphasise that the Church has an important role to play in helping man to use those revelations aright. It can help by defining the social goals of the new technologies, establishing ethical and moral base lines and helping decide who should benefit. Man cannot survive by retreating into his past. He must constantly set his vision ahead and be prepared to stretch his mental and physical frontiers. □ □

It is the mission of the Church to support and guide mankind forward into the fullness of the life that God wants the human race to have. This was a far cry from the suburbia where the conference started but that is where we in Caversham can begin in order to appreciate and share a vision of the Glory of God.

REV. T. MEAGHER  
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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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# THE ABBEYFIELD SOCIETY

In a previous article the 'Caversham Bridge' outlined in general terms the work of the Abbeyfield Society in the interest of lonely elderly people. This month we focus attention on its activities in Reading and, in particular, Caversham.

## A short history

The Abbeyfield (Reading) Society was founded in 1961 and in its early years it acquired, with the aid of council mortgages, three houses. Two of these were in Maitland Road and the third in College Road. These houses were operated successfully until more recent times when inflation took its toll. The house in College Road was too small to support a housekeeper and remain viable. This was sold, as was one of the houses in Maitland Road which was also proving costly to operate.

The inflation, which had been the death knell of these houses, provided the impetus and, in part, the means by which the Society was able to branch out again. Property values had appreciated over the years and the net proceeds from the sales left the Society with appreciable liquid assets. With this new found wealth it extended and modernised the remaining house and with some cash still in hand the search for another house was soon under way.

The Society's executive turned its eyes to Caversham in that the former Rector, Canon John Grimwade, had expressed an interest in the problem of housing accommodation for the elderly. Two houses in the locality were considered, the first was lost to a buyer unfettered by the chains of bureaucracy and the second fell victim to

'gazumping' as the Society endeavoured to negotiate a price commensurate with the structural condition as revealed by a detailed survey. All was not lost, for a friend of the Society mentioned that there was a large house in St. Peter's Avenue which appeared to have potential. Enquiries revealed No. 62 and one enterprising firm of estate agents indicated that they held the keys and would be pleased to arrange a survey conducted tour. A cursory inspection confirmed the friend's view. A 'Committee of Inspection' was ordered to muster at the house on the morning of Saturday 12th December 1981 when Caversham awoke to find itself nine inches deep in snow. Would the members make it? They did and decided that the property had potential. A purchase price, subject to contract, was agreed and the wheels were turning but how slowly as subsequent events were to reveal.

## An avalanche

What followed the snow was an avalanche — of paper. Additional finance to complete the purchase and modernise the house to the requisite standard was required. This could, hopefully, be obtained from the Housing Corporation — a Government quango designed for the purpose — subject to that body granting 'Project Approval'. This was obtained after much form-filling with a stringent financial

limit and subject to successful completion of the legal formalities.

Planning consent for 'Change of Use' was the first hurdle — the house would be assuming a new status, that of a home for elderly persons as distinct from a dwelling house — somewhere there must be a subtle distinction. Approval was obtained without too much hassle — it all seemed too easy but our 'brothers-in-law', the solicitors, had yet to dig their ditches and build their fences. Many readers of the 'Caversham Bridge' will be painfully aware of the frustrations when just two legal adversaries make sporadic forays into the housing market. Imagine, if you can, a three cornered contest in which the Housing Corporation solicitors had to have a finger, if not both hands, in the pie and they had a penchant for a seemingly unending series of points. Was the property to be used in connection with a trade or business likely to cause offence or a nuisance? No, it was not to be used as a slaughter house. Were the drains big enough? The Borough Drainage Officer said they were and he should know. Had the Society passed a resolution, pedantically and precisely worded, empowering it to acquire the property and to operate it? This was soon organised. And yet more legal argument, a truly frustrating experience and more so for the vendor who was

anxious to get his money. After eight months the winning post was reached and if the horses were not exhausted the riders were but the Society had the key to the front door.

An architect was appointed and he proved to be most helpful and understanding. A conversion plan evolved whereby seven residents could be accommodated in separate rooms with a self-contained flatlet for the housekeeper. Drawings and specifications were prepared and approved for the purposes of the building regulations. Planning consent was also required, for the place was no longer a dwelling house — remember? Tenders for the work were invited and they all exceeded the financial limit which had been approved by the Housing Corporation and a 'cost reduction' exercise had to be undertaken. The committee agreed that the prime task was to get the house operational and that economies could be effected by removing from the specification desirable, but non-essential items such as resurfacing the car parking area. This, and the construction of a patio at the rear, remain in abeyance until the Society can see its way clear to meeting the costs from its own funds. The building contract was signed and work was scheduled to start in two weeks.

## Wonder of wonders

Work started as planned and the contractor's workmen proved to be a most understanding and helpful team. With relatively few hiccups over details which could not have been foreseen before the work started, it was completed within the agreed period. Abbeyfield was in business in Caversham — or nearly so. The communal areas had to be furnished and equipped. Members of the house committee relished this task and their efforts were rewarded by an economic and pleasing result — there is little to equal bargain hunting with someone else's money.

Whilst all the feverish activity was in progress the applications officers were quietly sifting through some eighty requests for accommodation. Some, regrettably, were eliminated on health grounds in that



■ The Abbeyfield House in St. Peter's Avenue

—E. S. Archer

the Society could only provide supportive care and not the facilities of a nursing home. Others disqualified themselves in that they had applied as a form of 'insurance against that day' when they would need the help which was on offer. The remaining applicants were invited to the house to look-round and to determine their suitability, for it was essential that those who were to form this new community would be amenable to living

harmoniously together. No mean task for the applications officers but they have achieved a commendable degree of success.

A housekeeper was also required and Abbeyfield headquarters were able to introduce one with previous experience in running Abbeyfield homes. She was interviewed and invited to take the post. A part-time deputy was also appointed and these ladies, supported by the house committee,

organised the smooth intake of the residents who now live happily together.

The Society is most grateful for the support which it has received since it was first mooted that it was seeking to set up a home in Caversham. Many individuals, organisations and business houses — a list too long to record here — have 'chipped-in' with generous donations which have ensured that a house has been converted into a family home.

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# BACK TO THE BALLOT BOX

I DON'T know if "Caversham Bridge" readers are hooked on those Parliamentary Sketchbook pieces that most papers run (such as the Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Evening Post!) You know what I mean — a condensed and witty sideline about the goings on in the House which concentrates more on personalities than pure politics and casts a whimsical, if jaundiced, eye on the way our masters conduct their daily business.

It may be that my own eyes are becoming a bit jaundiced about the realities and frailties of local government, which after all is only national government writ small. When I first set foot on the primrose path of political progress, I didn't know if the treasure at the end was going to be an Holy Grail or a can of worms. Like human nature, Council is a grand and glorious mixture of would be saints and cynical sinners and it's the latter that get most space in the Sketchbook writer's

article. But then, vice has always been more newsworthy than virtue.

But enough of this fanciful hyperbole. What I'm leading up to is the solemn fact that by the time this copy of "The Bridge" is in your hands you will have undergone the annual Ordeal by candidates and been assailed from all sides by frantic pleas of "Please, please, vote for Me!" at the Borough elections. And the pleader is right, because it really is important to cast a vote. We might think of the Council as a bit of a busybo-

by Zoilus

dies club but it has quite a power over the quality of life in Reading and the overwhelming majority of councillors are decent, wise and caring people who want to do the best for us all and succeed in doing good work for the community.

It's a foible of mine to think that in many ways the man you vote for (or with due deference to the mighty sex equality industry should I say "the Council person") is more important than his political creed, and I'm darn sure that local councils could be run far better if they were free from the chains of political dogma. What the majority of subjects on a council's agenda need most is a sensible business approach with a good leavening of social awareness, rather than a politi-

cal textbook.

However, as things are there's precious little room for real independents, so in your patch there will be at least three candidates from which to choose — in Caversham there are three ladies doing battle (and what does the sex equality lobby think of that?) — so let's hope all of us north of the river will take the job seriously and plump for someone who will, maybe, add a bit of individuality to Reading Council. Anyhow, vote for somebody if it's only Screaming Lord Sutch!

Emmer Green Youth and Community Club is going from strength to strength under its new leader, Linda Chandler, and one reason is its very efficient and forward looking band of managers, made up of local people who each have a

special expertise. The Club reached the national final of the Disco Dancing Championship. The membership is increasing very nicely, and as the home of the Rendezvous Club, where youngsters and oldsters get together for a weekly session of dancing and entertainment, it is fulfilling a community need.

Incidentally, apart from its use at weekends for wedding receptions and other social functions, it can be hired at a quite moderate fee for any reasonably respectable occasion on most afternoons between 2pm and 6pm. So if anyone wants a venue for anything from a babies creche to a Sunset Home party, ring Linda at Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre, Grove Road, Emmer Green, Tel Reading 476794.

Dear Sir,

The serious issues surrounding the siting of Cruise missiles at Greenham Common deserve better treatment than the superficial remarks of your anonymous 'Zoilus' (March edition: 'The Ladies of Greenham').

Zoilus found Greenham a 'dreary', 'dismal' experience. A first century Zoilus may well have found the scene on a hill called Calvary, one dark Friday afternoon, rather 'dreary': A man on a cross testifying to a 'pathetic belief' that his willingness to suffer humiliation and death at the hands of the political and religious authorities of his day would have some 'significant bearing' on human affairs.



### Postbag

Zoilus' piece made no attempt to confront the moral issues involved either in the deployment of the missiles or in the women's peaceful protest and demonstration. He (or she?) was content with attempts to belittle the women of Greenham and their stance with disparaging remarks and allusions — the 'repulsive looking stew' that they were cooking on their fires, the 'crowd of half-baked hoydens', the 'famed Rent-a-Mob organisation'.

Should we not rather bring out the real issues, the deeply held convictions, the fears and uncertainties on all sides of the debates about Cruise, about protest, about the Christian understanding of peace? Should we not go beyond surface impressions and cynical prejudice to ask what and who are the real disruptive elements in Berkshire's 'green and pleasant land'? Or to ask which is the real patent absurdity — the women's protest or a defence policy that relies on first-strike nuclear weapons, the peace camps or the missiles themselves?

I for one thank God for the women of Greenham Common. I thank God that they are continuing to draw attention to the evil that has been planted on our soil; that they at least are not content to leave the military strategists and the politicians, protected by our apathy, to get on with their deadly games undisturbed.

We should think carefully before dismis-

sing as 'dreary', 'dismal' and 'disruptive' those who challenge our cosy view of the world; who insist on thrusting before us issues which we would rather ignore. For we run the risk of dismissing our Saviour himself, the One who urged us to love our enemies and to be peacemakers. We are Christians. We proclaim a gospel of love and peace and hope. Let us confront the issues of our day with that gospel and not with conventional secular cynicism and wisdom.

Yours etc,  
Chris Garforth  
15 Clifton Park Road  
Caversham.

Dear Sir,

**The Scout Holiday Homes Trust**

With a handicapped member in the family, getting away for a holiday can present difficulties the rest of us never experience. Apart from possible extra expense, it may not be easy to find places designed for people using wheelchairs and crutches, to stay.

To answer such problems, some 15 years ago, The Scout Holiday Homes Trust was formed as a charity to provide holiday facilities for handicapped people and their families or for under-privileged families desperately in need of respite. They need have no connection with the Scout movement.

Today, the Trust manages caravans or chalets at 12 resorts. All are fully equipped. Approach ramps, modified toilets and bathrooms and other facilities meet the needs

of the handicapped visitors. Hundreds of folk have enjoyed holidays that, but for the Trust, would not have been possible.

Among the Trust's fund-raising activities are collecting trading stamps, cigarette coupons, used postage stamps, old and foreign money and cards from tea packets. May I appeal to those of your readers who have any of these items at any time, not to throw them away, but to send them please to me or to The Scout Holiday Homes Trust, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7 5J5, from where full details of the work and services of the Trust may be obtained.

Support of any kind will be greatly appreciated.

Yours etc,  
(Mrs) B. M. Fowler  
20 Grosvenor Road  
Caversham, Reading.

Dear Sir,

My husband and I would like to thank all people from the various churches of Caversham who help exercise our handicapped son, Jake.

His progress has been phenomenal, but to keep his exercises going a few more helpers are needed. If you can spare one hour in a fortnight and would like to help, please ring me on 478136.

Yours etc,  
Iris Elson  
19 Albert Road  
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# CAVERSHAM RISE



— E. S. Archer

ACCORDING to the Reading Post Office directory, part II 1842, — 3 Caversham Rise was the home of John Stevens Esq. He was very probably the wealthy J. Stevens who helped so much with the little Congregational chapel in Rokeby Drive, Chazey Heath, for he too, lived in Caversham. It was said that Mr J. Stevens "laboured long at Sunday School in Mapledurham... sometimes clothing the children and in other ways doing great good".

Later the Rise, which is in Peppard Road on the right

just before reaching the top of the hill, was the home of two Miss Turners. These sisters ran a small library in their house for the children of the village. There may still be a few people in Caversham today who can remember going to the Rise to borrow a book.

As yet, I have been unable to find out the name of any owner before Mr Stevens, but there may well have been someone else before him.

M. K.

## ST. PETER'S SCOUTS

### ANNIVERSARY

THERE has been considerable interest and reaction to St. Peter's Scout Group's search for some of its early members.

Many veteran Scouts still live here in Caversham and though sadly many of their comrades are no longer with us, memories are still sharp among the seventy-year olds who survive.

They have many an amusing anecdote to relate as well as reminiscences of voluntary work during the first World War. St. Peter's Cubs were responsible for blackout drill in

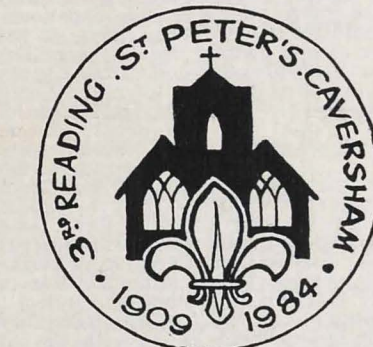
Caversham; they had a rota to turn off the new electric street lighting — Reading still being gas lit.

Many cubs gave up forty of their Saturdays to help make splints and crutch handles for a military medical supplies centre in Duke Street. A badge was awarded.

Mr George Sharp who, with wife Rosalie, still lives in Washington Road has many such memories. George was a choirboy at St. Peter's in 1914 and then became a Tele-

gram Boy in 1920 at age fourteen. He finally retired from G.P.O. Engineering Department in 1966.

Many of George Sharp's old Scout and school mates must have similar tales to tell. Messrs Bob Christie, Alan Blackall, Arthur Hayes, Fred May and Ronald Dawson are just some of those early Scouting pioneers who we hope to see at the Gala Service



and open afternoon at Grove Hill HQ on Saturday May 5th.

There may be tickets still available for the Anniversary Barn Dance on Friday

May 4th or the Gala Supper Saturday Evening. Please ring 475419, 471106 or 471754.

## THE CAVERSHAM PLAYERS 'Busybody'

THE reputation of the Caversham Players has now grown to the point where one goes to their performances with eager anticipation of a good evening's entertainment. The large audience at the first night of "Busybody" was in no way disappointed.

The cast was led by Anne Bliss as Mrs Piper, the "busybody" of the title in a beautifully characterised performance as the cleaning lady who guides the exasperated detective

superintendent — splendidly played by Tom Chadwick — towards solving the murder mystery.

The other parts were in very capable hands, perhaps a special mention for the suave murderer of Ray Hammond and the devoted secretary of Marion Thwaite. But really one should congratulate all the players and the producer for a well integrated and polished performance of a play that was not quite worthy of their talents.

## CAVERSHAM GUIDES AND BROWNIES

GUIDES and Brownies in Caversham are flourishing. All Companies and Packs are full and in many cases there are waiting lists for new members. Unfortunately, there is an acute shortage of Guiders and Leaders, especially as several are due to leave the district in the near future. This could mean that many youngsters may shortly find themselves without a group if closures take place. But the high standard of guiding in Caversham must be main-

tained. New Leaders must be found. They must be over eighteen years of age but need not have had experience or even been a guide as long as they are keen and interested. Anyone with a little time to spare in the evening and who would like to help run a Company or Pack should contact the District Commissioner (Caversham West) — Mrs. H. Ault (Telephone: 470485). The District Commissioner for Caversham East is Mrs. A. Sanford (Telephone: 470034).

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

AT THE beginning of March, Mrs Joy Bosier, (Home Missions Secretary) for Caversham Methodist Church, organised a lunch in aid of Methodist Home Missions. Rev. Peter Hudson from the Maidenhead Circuit gave a very interesting talk after the lunch.

The Women's Fellowship celebrated their Anniversary with a weekday service on Tuesday March 6th.

when they were joined by ladies from other Caversham Churches — about 70 sat down to tea. The service was led by Mrs. Elsie Rogerson and the speaker was Brigadier Kathleen Corsie of the Salvation Army. During the following weekend the Women's Fellowship held a Coffee Morning, and on the Sunday the Brigadier led the evening service. The ladies had a

very successful anniversary and enjoyed the fellowship with their visiting speaker.

Several members of the Church have joined one of the Lent Groups and are enjoying the fellowship and discussion which takes place at these meetings. It is hoped that the group will continue to meet as a fellowship group on a regular basis.

The young people have been busy with various kinds of training. The 14 year olds have been to Leighton Park School for a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Training

Day. Some of the more senior members of the Band went to Thurrock, to the home of 'Thurrock Marching Brass' for a training day. Each member went on a course for his or her own instrument, or for field commanding or flag work. The girls were able to put into practise some of the more intricate moves they had seen at the Colour Guard Finals at Aston Villa Sports Centre the day before.

Table Tennis matches, junior football and team games have been entered into during the month. There has been some winning and some losing — but all have

enjoyed taking part.

The Ambassadors are getting to grips with their new instruments. On Sunday March 10th, Mr Fred Croft of Professional Percussion was kind enough to come to Caversham to give the band two hours tuition. This proved a worthwhile enterprise and it is hoped to repeat the exercise at a later date. The Band were able to use the new trumpets for the first time when they went to Southlands School to play a fanfare for the Festival of Queens for the National Children's Home.

On Sunday March 18th the General Church Meeting was held. Among people who were thanked and re-elected was Mr David Herbert, who



■ P.C. Peter Stratton and his bride, Elizabeth Bodle, at their wedding at St. Peter's on March 17th.

—Walton Adams

as senior steward members are looking forward to another year under David's kind and caring leadership.

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## ST JOHN'S NOTES

IT IS said that lay people must take more responsibility in pastoral work, so St John's lay people are helping to prepare their young candidates for confirmation. These young people are mostly rising ten to eleven.



First the whole group met with Alan Wilson to talk about confirmation and the Bible. Then they split up into smaller groups, and each group meets regularly with a lay person. Each group sets their own time scale, but the course usually lasts eight to nine weeks. During these weeks

they learn about prayer, and different ways of praying. They undertake Bible study with daily reading and notes. Then there is the practical organisation of the Church to learn about, and they meet some of the people who do the different work necessary to run the Church, such as a warden or treasurer. Each one chooses a famous Christian, or Christian organisation to study for a project.

During Lent they meet with the St Barnabas candidates for recreation and to pray together. Lastly, Alan Wilson goes through the Confirmation and Communion services with them, and explains the actual practicalities.



There are so few people arranging the flowers on a regular weekly rota, that it is very hard work. Please come and help. There is now a district fund for buying flowers, and people with gardens often offer blooms in season. You only need to be willing to try — you do not have to be expert. Anyone of the far too few arrangers will help, and helping with the extra decorations at the big festivals is great fun. Please help — offers to Alan Wilson, tel 477639 or 472084.

## Caversham Heights Methodist Church News

### BULMERSHE GIRLS' CHOIR

UNDER the auspices of the Rotary Club of Reading the Bulmershe Girls' Choir gave a concert in the church on Wednesday 14th March under their conductor Gwyn Arch, accompanied by John Johnson with David Stannard (organ).

The programme included several items which the choir is preparing for a BBC broadcast on Radio 3. A large audience were treated to a comprehensive assortment of pieces for ladies choirs including several arrangements by the conductor himself. Folk songs, spirituals, music from West Side Story as well as more serious work by Gustav Holst showed the great versatility of the choir. It's a brave choir which starts a programme in unfamiliar acoustics with a quiet contemplative folk song but the Hebridian "Aignish on the Machair" showed what a well rehearsed choir can achieve. The Choral Hymns from "Rid Veda" the Indian holy book were very beautiful and varied. The hymn to the waters was very expressive and made considerable

demands on the accompanist John Johnson. The section of four American Songs included works by Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland and concluded with a rousing reading of "America" by Leonard Bernstein.

David Stannard again showed his mastery of the organ in a variety of pieces. The registration in his arrangement of a minuet from a John Stanley flute sonata was particularly suitable. No organ recital is complete without some Bach and it was appropriate in Lent to hear a Bach prelude on the "Passion Chorale". Again the registration in the Scherzo from Louis Vierne's

symphonie I was ideal but the final movement from the symphonie sounded top heavy — the great reeds can sound very harsh when coupled to swell super octave oboe.

The evening concluded with a varied group by the choir including "Bridge over Troubled Water" by Paul Simon and a very spirited rendering of Ride the Chariot during which the choir was joined by a small brass ensemble. The introductions by Gwyn Arch were delightfully informal and clearly he has an excellent rapport with his choir.

Proceeds were in aid of Save The Children Fund and other charities.

## St Peter's Wives

THE OWNER of not only in promoting healthy individuals, but in helping those with allergic reactions to milk or present day preservatives or colourings. All these foods and a number of recipe books sold well as members requested more information on this interesting subject.

On May 15th, a representative from Reading Police Force will address members on the subject of security in the home.

## WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

The West Berkshire Community Health Council represents the public's interest in Health Service affairs in Caversham, Reading and West Berkshire.

The twenty-four members of the Council are drawn from local authorities, voluntary organisations and other sections of the community. They form an experienced independent group, representing your health care interests.

Council meetings held regularly are open to the public and notes are put in the local press

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The more views that come to hand the better the Council can act on your behalf.

For further information, call or telephone our friendly staff  
John Stevens (Secretary), 10 Gun Street, Reading  
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## ROUND THE CHURCHES

# Derek's last service in Caversham

**DEREK SPEARS** "came over all unnecessary" on three separate occasions on April 1st, his last day in Caversham. The first and last were at St. Peter's, and at the 9.15am service, a crowded church applauded the District Wardens who presented him with a silver travelling communion set and a cheque. The choir sang a traditional chant (words by John Stratford) which has now become a feature on such special occasions. It was a happy coincidence that it was Mothering Sunday, and the flower posies for all mothers made the sadness of Derek's leaving that little bit more cheerful.

Again at St. Peter's, the whole parish met for Evensong. Derek preached on his college's motto: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear", and the choir sang Wesley's anthem "Love one another". After the service, more presentations were made on behalf of

other churches in the parish and the gifts were displayed afterwards. Bill Vincent, senior churchwarden, reminded those present of Derek's special contributions — giving up his own holiday time to be with the young; his ministering at Springfield St. Luke and work with all ages in

between; taking over with great success and at short notice the running of the Embley Park holiday and his tremendous help during the interregnum. He said that his only disappointment was the Derek had arrived as a bachelor and was leaving in the same single state — one gift he was taking with him was a food processor, hardly a substitute for a wife as it could be switched off and wouldn't answer back. Ken Bennett, the other churchwarden, gave the sincere wishes of all that God would prosper and bless Derek's Ministry in



John Stratford and Bob Gamble, District Wardens, presenting the Rev. Derek Spears with a travelling communion set and a cheque at St. Peter's own farewell service.

Photo — E. S. Archer

Southcote, and the Rector endorsed all this with his own good wishes. The choir repeated its morning chant and Derek mod-

elled his presentation Tee-shirt and gave his own thanks. Then with Lionel Bourne, the organist, played a duet on the piano to con-

clude the formalities. In between these two services, Derek went to Mapledurham, and Mary Kift's own words will describe the farewells there.

**MEMBERS** of St. Margaret's, Mapledurham, and their friends had two chances to bid Derek Spears God's speed before he left us to take over the parish of St. Matthew's at Southcote.

On Friday, March 30th, John and Cathy Pynn gave a farewell party for him at their house in Geoffreyson Road. It was a very happy gathering and most kind of John, Cathy and family to welcome so many of us into their home.

Then on Mothering Sunday it really was a very special occasion at our little village church. There have been many goodbyes to departing clergy over the last twenty-five years but never such as this. From the tower our bells rang out before the Family Service and for the first time for many a year some of our own bellringers took their part. Inside the church was filled with daffodils. By eleven o'clock it was spare chairs only and St. Margaret's had as large a congregation as any at a patronal festival. Because it

was the Family Service we once again listened to one of Derek's wonderful little stories especially for big and little children. There will be many of us old and young who will remember the mice in the piano and Mrs O'Flaherty. Then after mothers had received their own special posies and the younger members of the congregation had delighted us with their recorder playing, the service ended, and we finally said farewell to Derek, and to make sure he will always remember St. Margaret's we gave him a painting of our little church where together we shared so many happy Sundays in worship and fellowship.

There is no doubt that we have been very blessed to have Derek care for us over the last two years, for care he did, turning up on a Saturday to play the piano at Workshop, calling in at the Jubilee Club to chat to the ladies and helping out at concerts and parties with his wonderful musical talents and his sense of fun. Nothing was too much trouble for him. You have won an affectionate place in all our hearts, Derek, and there you will long remain.

## BAPTIST NEWS

**GOING PLACES**  
**THE MEMBERS** of the Baptist Church have learned — with mixed feelings — that the Revd. Philip Webb, a member of the editorial board of the "Caversham Bridge", has been invited to the pastorate of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans and that he expects to leave Caversham in the early autumn. A profile of Philip will appear in a later issue. In the meantime suffice it to comment that another eminent churchman was domiciled at St. Albans but Philip's wife Jane, need have no fears for she is unlikely to be required to do the chores at Lambeth Palace.

**Taking the plunge**  
We bemoan our aches and pains but it is truly amazing what some people do in the face of adversity. Miss Joy Payne is one such person for she spends most of her waking hours in a wheel-chair. It appears, however, that she likes the water — obviously a true Baptist — and one of her great pleasures is that of swimming. Recently, with her friends from the Andrew Duncan Home at Shiplake, she took part in the Reading Disabled Sports Association's Swimming Gala and excelled herself by gaining two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze Medals in various competitive events.

## Thank you from the N.S.P.C.C.

A warm thank you to all the collectors and those who gave so generously to make the house-to-house and flag day collections such a great success.

## CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

Wednesdays at 10.30am

May 2 — 8 Harlech Avenue (Margaret Dimmick)  
May 9 — 72 Kingsway (Betty Lewis)  
May 16 — 1 Lomond Avenue (Carol Alder)  
May 23 — 2 Osterley Drive (Mildred Samuel)  
May 30 — 8 Kirkham Close (Ros Elvin)

## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel: 479130 (Office: 471703)  
The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.  
The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.  
The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.  
The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

### BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

### METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

### UNITED REFORMED

The Rev Philip Lee-Bapty, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.  
(For Caversham Park Village)  
The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

## LINK GROUP

**THE MONTHLY** meeting of the Link Group on 26th March was mainly concerned with finalising the preparations for the Nearly New Sale to be held on 14th April. As this is the main fund raising effort of the year, the representatives of all the charities with which the Group are in contact each gave brief reports. The home at Priest Hill for single parents is flourishing. The Link Group hope to give further support in the future.

Both Katesgrove House (Family Aid) and R.E.A.P. (Reading Emergency Accommodation Centre), were delighted with the response to their appeal for more blankets and clothes. Clothes, particularly for men, are still needed, as well as blankets, which are always welcome. The other organisations sup-

ported by the Link Group each reported that they were thriving, namely Mencap, Victim Support, Battered Wives, Peppard House for severely handicapped children, Heathcroft Hostel for short stay mentally handicapped children, and the N.S.P.C.C. It is hoped to make a contact with the new Abbeyfield Home in St Peter's Avenue in the near future. The children from Mencap enjoyed their outing so much last year that plans are being made for another outing this year.

The Link Group is an ecumenical association of members who come from almost all of the denominations in Caversham. More members who can take an active part are always needed, particularly as the opportunities to help more and more organisations or individual people are continually grow-

ing. Anyone interested in helping should phone Doreen Bennett, tel. 473096.

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

## END OF AN ERA

THE FIGHT to save Balmore Hall ended when the demolition men moved in and started to take it apart. They didn't brutally bash it but removed its materials carefully, for as its supporters had pointed out, it was constructed of sound timbers, good solid bricks and tiles of a style that will never be manufactured again. Even those who felt that it had had its day experienced a pang of regret as a building that had played such a prominent part in Caversham life slowly disappeared, whilst there were plenty of others who would have echoed the words of one of its supporters who said he felt as if a limb had been severed.

The doctors were not unsympathetic to the idea of building behind the hall, but decided that all in all it was a non-starter. Soon a new surgery will occupy the site and as time goes on it will be accepted as a useful part of the Caversham scene. Alternatives to Balmore Hall will be found, though not with all the advantages it possessed in the way of position, size and accessibility.

The parish church authorities have not in fact given up the idea of a hall near the Rectory, though there are many hurdles to be overcome before this can be realised. How far it would replace Balmore Hall is still a matter of conjecture. There is an idea being mooted that the useful meeting room in the Caversham Court stable block could be leased by the Church and brought up to the Fire Officer's requirements with the money now available, thus bringing an existing building back into full use which could offer more than a smaller building.

**More demolition**  
Balmore Hall is not the only building to disappear. The Caversham Bridge Service Station has become a building site whilst being completely redeveloped. Most people thought the work would be done in bits rather than in one fell swoop and were caught on the hop

when going to get some petrol. Because of its convenient position its former customers who have now gone elsewhere will doubtless return. Meanwhile residents of Priory Avenue and Rectory Road, with rows of cars outside their front gardens, will find little peace in their back gardens either, until the work is completed and the wall rebuilt.

### Hemdean Valley under threat

Meanwhile on the outskirts, the site at the end of the built-up section of Hemdean Valley is a centre of attention. As reported in last month's issue, the Borough Council is seeking a revocation order on the outline planning permission granted some years ago, on the grounds of a mistake having been made. This move would normally be welcomed by all those who want to see an end to further development in the valley, but the estimated cost in compensation to the builders seems unjustifiably high at £1m. It looks as if they will do as well by building on it as by building on it. They were taking a calculated risk by starting work on it before the plans had finally been passed, so it is hardly the rate-payers' place to have to pick up the bill. As Cllr. Rush said, it would be cheaper for the Council to buy the land outright. Without

that it will eventually be built over in a way that will please no one except the developers.

Meanwhile, news has just come in of an application to build five hundred houses at the far end of the valley. This part was the subject of countless applications and public enquiries in the '60's and '70's. At the final public enquiry the inspector gave as his main reason for rejecting the application that the view was of such a high quality that no further view of any kind should be allowed. That was final, for whereas pressures on public services, weak design and such like could eventually be overcome, that reason would still hold. Nothing more was heard until now. The Borough Council will certainly turn the application down. If it is still pursued, it can confidently be predicted that there will be the same massive opposition that occurred on previous occasions.

### Lawns and trees

In spite of everything there are still publicly owned open spaces for all to enjoy. Caversham Court is one of these. Last month the Borough gardener conducted a tour round it, whilst offering useful gardening hints as he went. Advice on how to prune or not to prune, what to do with daffodils or with daisies on the lawn,

what fertilisers and pesticides to use (BOG gardeners would doubtless differ here) were interspersed with explanations of plans that had been, were being or were about to be carried out. The section near the Gazebo has been upgraded from its rather neglected state, and it is even to have a pond, close to the water though it is, with water loving plants round it. Trees have been planted to replace the much mourned poplars and old trees whose life is coming to a close. The branches of the big beech tree are held up by wires, but even so, it cannot last much more than another ten years. Towards the back of the gardens the formal garden with its sundial has created a new interest and fits in perfectly with its setting. Latest news is that the money to carry out further work on restoring the Gazebo is to be made available, but perhaps it would be better to believe that when it actually happens.

Adrian the gardener will be missed. His enthusiasm for his work brought him well earned popularity. His care for the gardens went well beyond the requirements of duty as he saw small improvements that could be carried out at no extra cost to the Council. He always had time for a chat without neglecting his work and his cheery company will be much missed.

## Long Links Broken

FOR 47 years, the Dent family has kept the Post Office and shop at the Henley Road/Chiltern Road corner. This remarkable record was started in 1937, when Mr Edwin Dent bought the premises and lived over the shop with his wife and children. At the end of March this year, his son Roland Dent and his daughter, Mrs. Kirchstein (and her husband), will be breaking that long family link and retiring. To be in one family for 47 years makes Dents Newsgents a firm anchor for the shifting population — although there is a surprising nucleus of those around who have grown up and on with the family.

Mrs. Kirchstein was sub-postmistress for 31 years, and her successor, Mr Goodwin, has only just left after doing the job for 10 years. The shop has expanded over the years; 20 boys and girls are needed for the paper rounds. Mr. Dent and the Kirchsteins have been real friends to their customers, and the steady stream who say a sometimes tearful farewell never seemed to stop and shows how acutely they will be missed. Have a happy retirement!

## NEW TO CAVERSHAM



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## Adrian Gordon leaves Caversham Court — A tribute

WHEN THE warm weather brings out local people into Caversham Court once again to find a deckchair or wander around this attractive riverside garden they will no longer find Adrian Gordon tending the flowers or keeping the lawn so smart. Many will be sad to find him gone. For several years he looked after these lovely old grounds and put hours of loving care into his work. He also kept St. Peter's churchyard beautiful. During his time in Caversham this old burial place has never looked so

well kept. We are most grateful for all he has done for us in Caversham. Many thanks, Adrian. You will not be forgotten for you have left behind those gay flowerbeds beside the river bank and a new herb garden as a reminder of your time with us. We wish you every happiness in your new work with the Purley Park Trust teaching young people how to work on the land, surely a very worthwhile and rewarding new chapter in your life. Come and walk in our lovely old garden again one day.

# Caversham Christian Peace Fellowship

THE CAVERSHAM Christian Peace Fellowship continues to hold a series of bible studies on the search for Christian peace. Its most recent meeting was led by Mr. Mike Kane on 'The Christian and Civil Disobedience', and the group would like to share with the readers of The Caversham Bridge a letter from Mr. H. Marshall who was unable to be present.

Mr. Marshall wrote as follows: "I regret not being able to be with you on March 7th, so offer a few thoughts on civil disobedience, the act of breaking civil law in pursuit of truth and justice in a non-violent manner after normal methods have failed.



"Much injustice has been overcome in the past through civil disobedience, such as Mahatma Gandhi obtaining independence for India; of the Suffragette movement to obtain women's franchise; of Martin Luther King and the human rights movement, to mention but a few.

"Likewise the Peace women of Greenham Common and others have a moral right to tear down the fences surrounding the nuclear missiles capable of destroying vast areas, and many human beings,

because reasoning and argument, combined with the immorality of these weapons has failed to prevent their installation. These heroic women need our support and prayers.

"Winston Churchill made it an offence during the war period of 1939-45 for anyone to do or say anything that might undermine the morale of servicemen, which was tantamount to forbidding the mention of that part of the Gospel which says: 'Love and pray for your enemies; return good for evil', in case he, the servant man, refused to join in the killing.

"Jesus, with righteous anger, upset the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple, but there the matter ended with no one getting hurt save the pride and pockets of the money-changers.

"Civil laws are made by local and central governments, therefore one has the moral right to question, and if necessary, to break them in the cause of justice and true freedom, or to uphold a moral principle after other legitimate ways have failed, provided one is prepared to take the consequences of such action, bearing in mind the effect it could have on one's family. Jesus has something to say in that respect that 'he who loved family more than Him', was not worthy of

Him. Moral laws are made by God, and must be obeyed.



"I was unable to join in the Peace procession around the churches last autumn, but did attend the final service held at the Heights, and I would like to share with the Group my spiritual experience. As we joined hands around the cross I felt very much akin to those first Christians standing at the foot of the cross on which their Lord hung, witnessing to their faith in a hostile world, and we, pledging ourselves to the cause of peace through that same Jesus, the Prince of Peace, in a world that is in chaos and mostly despises and rejects this form of approach. For me it was an extremely moving experience. As I thought of this kinship with those early Christians, and the cause we pursued I could not restrain the tears. There, two thousand years ago, Jesus was still on the cross; here He was down among us, manifested in the smiling faces, encouraging, strengthening, blessing. The strong grip of a hand on my left, and another on my right was evidence of the confidence and firm purpose on which we were embarked; not a phoney peace resulting from a faith in armaments that perpetuates fear, suspicion, and hate, but a Christ-inspired love and compassion for a war-torn, suffering, lost humanity. If we are merely concerned with our safety, what hope is there for the Gospel?"

"My prayers for you all in the search for justice, truth and peace. Yet there can be no peace till truth and justice are estab-



Four nurses from Royal Berks Hospital getting a few tips from Stan Eldon. Miss Libby Long, 21, of Highdown Hill Road, Caversham, Mrs Becky Wilkinson, 23, of Mortimer, Miss Miriam Plaskett 21, of Reading, Miss Louise Smith, of Caversham. Louise and Becky are both members of St. Andrew's Church. In addition to the four nurses shown in the picture, there were three men in the Save the Children Fund Team. Mr Mark Falkner, a male nurse, of Reading, Mr John Acteson, British Telecom Engineer, Mr Digby Stringer, of St. Andrew's Church. Between them the team will have raised in the region of £500 for Save the Children.

Photo: Courtesy Evening Post

## Corrymeela Ecumenical Service

THE TWIN themes of hope and reconciliation dominated the Corrymeela Service at the Central Salvation Army Citadel, on Sunday 18th March. Present were members of different Christian communities in Reading and representatives of these communities led prayers for peace and reconciliation. Beryl Cox, for the Anglican, Dr Jeanette Krame for the Society of Friends and Mary Kelly for the Roman Catholics, all Caversham residents, were involved in this part of the service.

Major Lincoln Parkhouse of the Salvation Army introduced the service during which the Reverend Dr. Ray Davey, founder of Corrymeela and the Rt. Rev. Graham Foley, Bishop of Reading, both gave the message of hope and Christian

reconciliation, for only through reconciliation within ourselves and between Christians can there be hope for a wider peace in the world.

Music was provided by the Salvation Army Band and the Corrymeela Link Folk Group. After the service Father Confrey, chairman of the Corrymeela Link, a priest at English Martyrs Church, Tilehurst, presented a cheque for £20,000 to the Rev. R. Davey. This represented half of the total raised in the last fifteen months for the purchase of a house in Northern Ireland for the Corrymeela Community.

The Corrymeela Link appeals for support in the work of reconciliation. Anyone interested can get in touch with them at P.O. Box 118, Reading RG1 1CC.

lished in the world. The fight will be hard and long, but, said Jesus, 'I am with you, even unto the end'. So be of good cheer, and never give up."

The group's next meeting will be on April 25th, at 15 Clifton Park Road at 7.45pm, when they will plan a Christian Peace event for Pentecost.

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**Rosehill W.I.**

AT the annual general meeting Mrs Allwright welcomed members, one visitor, and Mrs Biggar, V.C.O. After thanks to the old committee and several presentations the new committee for 1984-85 and a new president (Miss Nancy Vincent) were elected. Mrs Biggar then gave a most interesting talk, explaining the history of the W.I. and the way it works.

After tea the raffle was drawn and members were able to view their own exhibition of 'Items from the seashore'.

**Caversham Darby and Joan Club**

THE CLUB met in the Dance Centre for the usual meeting with a quiet afternoon. Mrs Rankin gave a talk with various slides showing her colourful garden.

The following week there was a presentation for 'Our Derek' and also a little tea. Mrs Rankin came again to give a series of exercises to help all members with their aches and pains.

Finally, all members wish to send their love and good wishes to Mrs Barbara Jackson and hope she will be well soon.

**Blagrove W.I.**

AT THE annual meeting the retiring president, Mrs J.Price, gave a report on the past

year which had been a happy and successful one with a steady increase in membership. Mrs Price was presented with a suitable retiring gift by Mrs A.Hunter, secretary, in recognition of her years of hard work. Elected for the forthcoming year were Mrs M.Poplewell, president, Mrs J.Ford, vice-president, Mrs A.Hunter, secretary and Mrs J. Messent, treasurer.

Mrs I. Sizer, V.C.O. spoke on the many opportunities for service within the Federation and suggested that members might like to become more involved and take an active interest in some of the committee work available. Mrs Sizer unveiled the banner recently completed by members of the craft group and designed by Mrs Peggy Thomas.

The Publicity Stall, held during the past two months attracted a great deal of interest and reported a brisk trade.

**Caversham Community Association**

A 'QUIZ' evening on the 5th March kept the members busy finding the answers to various quiz games arranged by the committee. The winners were Patricia Haines, May Plant, Wendy and Betty Colton, Muriel Waite, Margaret Reeves, Irma Bernal and Freda Haines.

**ROUND THE CLUBS**

On March 12th an interesting talk was given by Jean Sawyer on 'Our Shop'. The shop was a village store owned by her family at Eynsham, Oxford, since 1856. The speaker's great-grandfather founded the Victorian shop and it had been expanded over the years until its closure in 1972. A wide range of goods was sold, from baked beans to linoleum by the yard. Prices from one of the shop's old catalogues, dated 1891, included face flannels at a penny each and six cups and saucers for a shilling. Sadly the attractive shop has now been demolished.

A Beetle Drive was held on the 19th March. Muriel Waite had the highest score and received first prize, and the consolation prize was won by Florence Abell.

The following week Mr W. Partridge of Englefield Garden Centre was the visiting speaker and brought some beautiful pot plants to illustrate his talk on 'House Plants'. Mr Partridge gave useful advice on the correct treatment of the various plants. He said that March onwards was a good time for repotting, using not too large a pot for the root system and advised members to feed their plants with a liquid feed every 10 days between March and October. The evening ended with Mr Partridge answering the members' questions on their plant problems.

Thanks were extended to Mrs Hilda Adair, the retiring president after holding office so faithfully over the past four years. Mrs Phyllis Colley was elected the new president — also elected was Mrs Jane Stockill as secretary and Mrs Sylvia Myszor as treasurer.

The retiring secretary presented a detailed report on the varied activities of the Institute over the past year and the treasurer Mrs Sylvia Myszor gave a very satisfactory report on the healthy state of the finances.

The competition for a decorated egg was won by Mrs B.Atherton. At the May 17th meeting, resolutions for the

Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall will be discussed.

The competition will be a 'flower arrangement in a saucer'.

**Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild**

MISS ANN Duffy, Education Employers' Liaison Officer, for Reading, spoke about liaison between schools and industry, at the February meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild.

The organisation was started in 1977 as a charity and recognised as a scientific and technical association. Its aims are to encourage contact between industry, employers, schools, teachers and parents and has proved to be very successful. She stressed the importance of getting employers into the schools, to see the management and teaching difficulties.

Efforts are made to make the curriculum more related to real everyday problems, rather than purely academical theories.

Mrs B. Jepson gave a full account of a most interesting consumer conference which she had attended at Fleet. Speakers from Marks and Spencer and Tesco provided a valuable insight into various aspects of good consumer services.

**Caversham Ladies Club**

THE March meeting of the Club was the A.G.M. and held in the Baptist Church Centre. After a resume of the year's activities by the secretary, reports were given by the treasurer and other members of the committee. The chairman thanked all the committee and everybody who had worked to make the club meetings such pleasant occasions, not forgetting May Leach who had dealt with all the birthday cards, and Mrs Bray who had made the Christmas and Easter cakes.

Donations had been given to several charities. The new officers and committee were: — Chairman May Har-

wood, Vice-Chairman Gladys Weal, Treasurer Queenie Strong, Secretary Dora Stockwell, and committee members, Irene Mander, Edie Lock, Brenda Strong, Marjorie Howe and Nan Nelhams. The afternoon closed with a bric-a-brac auction very ably conducted by Brenda Strong, assisted by Hilda McKenzie.

**Maplewood WI**

MAPLEWOOD WI held their Annual Meeting on March 20th. A new president Mrs J. le Mare was elected. The retiring president, Mrs J. Fry, was thanked for the work she had so ably done during her three years' presidency and presented with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

After the business that is necessary on these occasions was satisfactorily concluded, Mrs E. Clarke gave a brief account of the interesting week she had spent at Denman College, 'The Monarchy' being the subject of the course she had chosen. Mrs Heather Baker then gave an illustrated talk on 'Moor Copse — the story of a nature reserve'.

An exhibition of members handiwork produced, as always, many attractive and well-executed items.

**"Wildlife around us"**

Mr G. Langsbury, who came along with his wife to the March meeting in St Andrew's Hall of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, showed photographs taken by them both, in England and Scotland, over a period of 12 years.

There were photographs of butterflies and moths. The painted lady butterfly migrates to the coast from the Mediterranean. A brimstone butterfly in a wood was shown. Tortoiseshell ones might be killed off by too much weeding. "Comma" and peacock butterflies can be seen besides. Wasps can eat a rose, as a picture showed. Damselflies fold their wings down their backs, unlike dragonflies. There were pictures of

Turn to page 11

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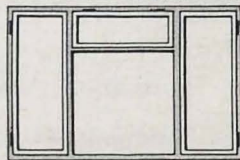
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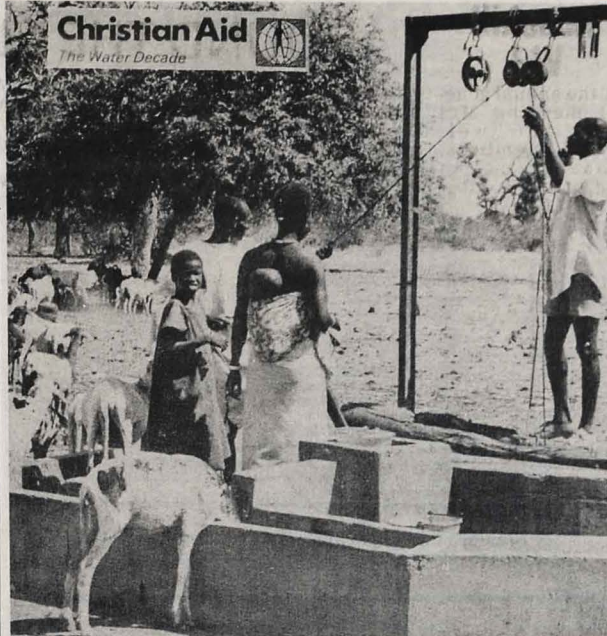
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## ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

caterpillars, water voles, adders, foxes, deer, badgers, and many wild flowers, besides the poisonous bryony and some of the 4,000 fungi which are edible except for some 17. The sight of bluebells and the new beech leaves can only be a matter of a few weeks away now, Mr Langsbury said. As regards birds do people know that the robin is our national bird? There were some remarkable pictures of birds on their nests, including owls, sparrow-hawks and a cuckoo being fed by a willow warbler. The yellowhammer is our only yellow bird. Ladybirds have 3 or 7 spots on their wing cases and will eat the

aphids on your fruit trees. Hedgehogs can be saved from falling down cattle grids if a run is made for them. Red squirrels in this country are on the edge of their range of habitat and are not threatened by grey squirrels, contrary to popular belief. Sphagnum moss yields a dye for the famous Harris tweed. Mark whether the rose bay willow blooms on 21st June!

At the Social Studies meeting Mr I. Frew related an interesting journey by boat from Tyneside to Bergen in Norway. He then made a round tour with his wife of about 500 miles by car making use of many ferry boats across the fjords.

The weather two years ago was remarkably dry and wild flowers and grass were as yet uncut.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THIS has been quite an eventful month. On the 24th February members went to the Consumer Conference at Fleet. It was a most enjoyable day with quite exciting glimpses into the high technology future of the retail trade. On the 6th March members visited the Shire Hall where we sat in on the Depart-

ment of the Environment Committee Meeting. An interesting experience which was followed by a tour of the building including the beautiful council chamber, thence to lunch. A memorable outing much enjoyed by all. The speaker at the March meeting was Mrs M. Elkington. She gave us much food for thought on Age Concern. The next meeting is at Church House on April 19th at 2.00pm.

### Chazey WI

AT the AGM in March, the President, Mrs Marjorie McCombe, welcomed VCO Mrs Biggar. The Secretary reported that the Institute had enjoyed a second very successful year with membership increasing from 68 to 86. It had been a busy time with members taking part in many county events, including the Southern Area Tennis Final, which our members, Elizabeth Holland and Marilyn Ball had won. Speakers at monthly meetings had been diverse, entertaining and interesting.

Chazey's second year had seen solidarity within the three interest groups and two courses, one in lace making and the other on First Aid had proved very popular.

Mrs Judith Coleman, the retiring secretary, was presented with a gift in appreciation of all her work by

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11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)  
11.15am Matins (2nd, 4th Sundays)  
6.30pm Evensong

**St John's**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

**St Andrew's**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)  
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)  
6.30pm Evensong

**St Barnabas**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.00am Service for Parents and Children (last Sunday)  
6.30pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH**  
10.30am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

**CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)**  
11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)  
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**CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL**

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6.30pm Evening Service

**METHODIST**

**Caversham**  
11.00am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

**Caversham Heights**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
11.00am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

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The "Caversham Bridge" apologises that some Holy Week and Easter services were omitted in the April edition

## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

**St John's**  
July 3 — Lorna Cox, Tracie Baldock, Amanda Gomez-Fantao, Natalie Gomez-Fantao  
August 14 — Joanne Folley, Daniel McKiernan, Christopher Phillips  
October 9 — Natalie Parrish, Michael Watson and Katharine Boothroyd  
November 13 — Rachel Western, Emly Western, Joanne Wester, Andrew Carlton

December 11 — Louise Holloway

**St Andrew's**  
March 11 — Charlotte Beard, James Button, Matthew Potter

### FUNERALS

**St John's**  
March — Albert Stroud

**St Andrew's**  
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January 25 — Leslie Hunter

**St Barnabas**  
March 30 — George Hawthorne

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**ST BARNABAS** Sunday School in the Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). (Also Children's Service last Sunday in the month).

**ST JOHN'S** Nursery Church (for children up to 8 years) in church during the Sunday eucharist at 9.15am. Family Service 1st Sunday in the month at 11am (mainly for children over 4 years).

**ST PETER'S** Sunday School meets in the Rectory at 9.15am (except 2nd Sunday which is Parade Service).

**ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM)** Family Workshop 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-12 noon. Contact Mrs Heather Robinson, 4 Hilltop Road (476873).

**CAVERSHAM PARK** At Caversham Park School 11am. Contact Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close (478430).

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST Junior Church** — Sundays 11am. Youth Squash — Sundays 8pm.

**GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH** Bee-Gees — Sundays 10.15am. Sunday School — Sundays 11am Young Peoples Club — Sundays 7.30pm.

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