

BIRDS IN DISTRESS

ONE of the last houses along Hemdean Bottom is the home of Mr and Mrs Chandler. The back of their garden ends in a field and away at the side the ancient track from Caversham leads between the hills towards Shipnell's farm. At the bottom of this garden David Chandler has several bird houses and pens, for he is a keen ornithologist and for a long time has cared for injured birds. He has lived in Caversham for some fifteen years and during this period many local people have come to him with problems over birds in distress — mostly owls and birds of prey. Indeed it was through a friend who had picked up a young owl on the road and taken it to David Chandler that I first heard of him. So with the Caversham Bridge in mind I arranged to go along and meet Mr Chandler and hear at first hand about his work and meet some of the birds he was helping.

David Chandler is a mine of information on wild life in general and birds in particular. Before we had been chatting for long I learned that the collared doves in this part of England have been dying in hundreds over the last few months from a parasite. How lucky I was able to say that my pair of these charming little birds were still happy in my garden where they are almost pets.

David Chandler thinks he first became interested in helping birds when he tried, as a boy, to save an injured thrush. Sadly, it died, but whereas years ago some ninety per cent of birds in trouble died, today the story is reversed and only about ten per cent are lost. So much more is known about dealing with such problems that the chances of survival are far greater. Any dead bird that Mr Chandler acquires he sends to Liverpool University's field study centre and they send him a full report on the cause of its death.

If a fledgling has to be cared for it means feeding it every thirty minutes and a baby bird has often been taken to work in David Chandler's car so that he could give it the care and attention necessary to keep it alive. Apparently feeding most birds is not difficult these days; for all birds, except owls and birds of prey, can be reared on a dog food called Chow. It comes in hard nuts, but if soaked overnight and squeezed out can be given to both young and old, though ducks and gulls like it sloppy! Owls and birds of prey are fed on dead baby chicks

from a local hatchery.

As already mentioned Mr Chandler deals mainly with birds of prey and owls. The rarest hawk he has handled has been a hobby. Mostly kestrels and sparrowhawks come into his care.

Nicky, the owl and Jim Crow

When I visited him he had two black-headed gulls and two owls in the pens. One of the gulls had lost a wing and was a permanent member of the household. The owls were only two of many that have been befriended. Perhaps the longest friendship has been with Nicky. He has now settled in the locality and been around for some nine years. He nests up in the wood behind Highdown School. Late on summer evenings when Mr Chandler stands in his garden and calls, Nicky will fly down from the trees just skimming over his friend's head. A baby owl mews like a kitten and I am told that adults can also talk with their eyes. These birds are very territorial.

Apparently, when handling birds, there is only one of which to be wary — the heron. Its foot-long bill is viciously sharp at the end and once caused an RSPCA officer the loss of an eye. A young heron was found at the gravel pits at Sonning and had to be cared for by David Chandler who got a fisherman to give him some live fish. These were put into a bowl of water and soon gobbled up by the hungry youngster. The story has a happy ending, for the bird was released on Theale gravel pits near five

other young ones, but not before the dangerous bill had been carefully wrapped up prior to transporting him to his new home.

Jim Crow is another of Mr Chandler's feathered friends. I also saw him that morning, sitting on a fence post beside the old trackway. He and his family have Hemdean Bottom as their territory. Several years ago, as a young bird, Jim nearly died because of a gape-worm in his throat, but David Chandler got rid of it and J.C. lived to raise a family. Crows are apparently easily killed by gape-worms which affect them when young. Unless the worm is removed death will surely follow. The strange part of this tale is that during May in each of the last three years Mr Chandler has found a young crow on his lawn with a gape-worm and in each case he has been able to help the bird survive. It does rather look as though Jim brought along his youngster each year for help. Crows only have one offspring annually and the young stay with the family for at least a year before going away on their own. Certainly Jim seems to realise he has a good friend in David Chandler for he brings him gifts of rusty nails, bottle tops and all manner of oddments. Like a magpie he is always picking up anything he fancies.

No doubt there will have been many birds in need of help during the past very severe spell of weather and no doubt Mr Chandler will have been kept very busy caring for them. Lucky birds!

M.K.



Mr David Chandler with one of his owls

— E. S. Archer

COSTLY POLLUTION

By Margaret Dimmick, Secretary, Kennet Branch National Council of Women

THE questions posed at a conference convened by the Reading and Kennet Branches of the National Council of Women recently concerned our attitudes to the effect of industrial pollution on our environment. The conference was held at Shire Hall, when one hundred and fifty members and guests, including Mr Tony Durant, MP, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading filled the Council Chamber.

Over the last one hundred and forty years, the chemicals produced by our industrial processes in factories and power stations have threatened our forests and buildings, from dissolving the pointing between house bricks to splitting the stone carvings on famous historic buildings. Rivers and lakes are becoming acid, which means that fish are dying. The breathing of winter mists is

aggravating chest troubles of the elderly.

What is more, some of this pollution is being exported to Germany and Scandinavia, which is giving us a bad name in Europe.

Professor Bryce-Smith of Reading, our opening speaker clearly explained the chemical result of industrial processes and put the idea that various governments had recently counted the cost of action, but had ignored the cost of doing nothing.

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Dr Deborah Buckley explained that much research is still needed before investment is made in ways to cut pollution, suggesting that some forests may be dying naturally and fish stocks declining due to natural causes. Perhaps it was better to spend money on more research now, rather than risk a

short term solution which would fail to combat the problem.

Mr Clarke, representing the CEBG, thought to be the main culprit of Acid Rain pollution, outlined methods of burning fuels more efficiently to reduce sulphur and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere. He also suggested that one third of pollutants came from transport fumes or domestic fires.

Baroness Elles, chairman of the meeting, stressed that it was not just a national problem, but an international one. It was very important to solve it to our mutual benefit and was therefore being studied by the European Parliament.

The cost of solving the problem of Acid Rain may have to be counted carefully, but the cost of inaction could be great in human terms and threaten our environment seriously.

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TALKING POINT

By Rev David Milling, St Andrews Church, Caversham



'PEACE' AND 'THE PEACE'

JESUS came and stood amongst them, and said, "Peace be with you". It was a familiar, conventional greeting — but not on this occasion. Their Master had died, and was now alive again — and he was proving the reality of his physical presence with them, by showing his side, with the mark of the spear in it. He even invited the sceptical Thomas to put his fingers in the nail marks in his hands and feet, and to thrust his hand into the wound in his side. "Peace be with you", said Jesus to them. It was the peace which he had promised them, the peace that overcame their fears, the peace that would give them courage to venture outside their locked doors, and face the hostile, unbelieving world, and boldly witness to Jesus, and even suffer and die for him. Jesus had told them at the Last Supper, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you . . . let not your heart be troubled or afraid". Now it was coming true — the peace of Jesus was real, and it involved his presence with them, and indeed within them, through his Spirit. Jesus was present with his disciples, in their hearts, and in the midst of their fellowship, and his presence gave them peace from all their fears, and courage to face and overcome them.

A new relationship with God

The peace of Jesus meant a new relationship with Jesus, and with God, through faith. "By faith," says St Paul, "we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." "Faith" means a new and positive relationship with God, which overcomes fear. "Peace" involves being reconciled to God, instead of enemies. That is what "peace" is; we are now friends of God, instead of being alienated from him. In Jesus we experience the love of God for us, and supremely on the cross; we see the Son of God suffer and die for us, so that we may be reconciled to God, and to one another. Peace is not a cheap, easy option, which leaves us calm and unmoved; it involves pain and suffering, both for Jesus and for us. It means that barriers are broken down, barriers between ourselves and God, and barriers between ourselves and other people.

Not just a personal experience

The peace of God is not something that is purely between God and ourselves. It is something which we have to share with other people. We cannot keep God's peace to ourselves, for private or personal enjoyment, because God's peace is not a feeling, but a relationship. God's peace is God's love. Eastern religions put great emphasis on "peace" — but their peace is fundamentally self-centred. It is an attempt to escape from the world of sin and suffering, and to enter into a higher state of God-consciousness. The Christian idea of peace is quite different from the Hindu or Buddhist idea; it involves getting away from ourselves, and our own feelings, and entering into a personal relationship with God and with other people. "Peace" in the New Testament flows from love, and has no meaning apart from love. If we try to keep the peace of God to ourselves, as an experience of calm and serenity in the presence of God, we are missing the whole point of what God's peace is about. Let us beware of the "peace" which

is not God's peace, but our own natural desire for calm and serenity. God's peace is the outflow of God's love, to us and to everyone, and we must allow God's love to flow through us to others.

A sign of love and fellowship

"The Peace" is a particular expression of Christian fellowship, in the setting of the Holy Communion service. It is meant to be an expression of our unity in Christ, and of the fact that Jesus has reconciled us to God, and to one another, through his death on the cross. As St Paul put it, "Christ is our peace, who has made us one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between us . . . he makes peace, by reconciling us to God in one body through the cross, and so bringing our natural hostility to an end". "The Peace" is a way of expressing our fellowship in Christ, and showing that we are reconciled to God and to one another. It reminds us that we have to be "in love and charity with our neighbours", and especially with our fellow-Christians.

Giving 'the Peace'

There are various ways of expressing the Peace, as a greeting within the Eucharist. In the early church, which used to meet in people's houses, and not in church buildings, the Peace was an embrace. "Greet one another with a holy kiss", said St Paul to the Corinthians, to the Romans, and to the Thessalonians. "Greet one another with the kiss of love", said the writer of the First Letter of Peter. For most of us, the handshake, rather than the kiss, would be the natural form of social greeting, and so we generally shake hands at the Peace. What matters is not the exact form of the greeting, but the spirit of friendship and fellowship which it expresses. For some people, the word of "peace" may be enough, without any need for a physical action. Let us try to be sensitive to each other's feelings, in the way we give the Peace to one another. And let us not try to force the Peace upon those who are not ready to receive it. The Peace, as a form of greeting, has only quite recently been re-discovered, so far as most congregations are concerned. I first met it in South India, where it takes the form of a clasping of hands, accompanied by a respectful bow to one another. It has become more popular in the context of the Parish Communion or Family Eucharist, because that is the service where fellowship is most strongly emphasised. It is, I believe, something which has great value for many people, but it must be allowed to grow naturally and spontaneously, and it cannot be forced artificially.

Finally, let us remember that the Peace is an expression of God's reconciling love, and of the presence of the Risen Lord amongst us. It has a deep religious value for a Christian, and is not just an expression of social fellowship. It expresses God's peace, a peace which passes all human understanding, and which keeps our hearts and minds, in union with Christ. May the Peace truly express God's love for us, and our love for one another, a love which breaks down all the barriers of human selfishness, and unites us with the Risen Christ.

DIGITAL HALF MARATHON



■ 1985 runners passing Scotts corner

— E. S. Archer

THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN

ST ANDREW'S Sunday School meets in St Andrew's Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Sheila Ivens (477180) or Mr Peter Watsham (478744).

ST BARNABAS Sunday School meets in the Hall 9.30am. (Not 2nd Sunday in the month). Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). The children join in the 9.30am Family Service on 2nd 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). "Cherubim" Club for babies and pre-school children in church every Thursday at 2.30pm

ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM) Family Workshop 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-12 noon. Contact Mrs Heather Robinson, 4 Hilltop Road (476873). Sunday School meets at Trench Green Hall 10.45 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.

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.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH 10.30am Creche — up to three years. Beginners, juniors and seniors three to 14 years. Fourteen Plus Group. Secretary: Mrs V. Stott, 6A Hazel Road, Purley, Reading. Tel: 419186.

CHAPEL ON THE HILL: Children's Activities. Sunday 9.30-11am Boy and Girl Jucos (10-12 years); Boy and Girl Covenanters (12-15 years). 10.25-11.15am Nursery (3 and 4 years); Primary (5 and 6 years); Adventurers (7-9 years). During the second part of the morning worship there is a baby creche available. 8.30pm 16+ group meets. For more information please contact the Pastor: Chris Justice. Tel. 474529.

Nicholas 1882

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

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All contributions for the July issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, June 5. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, May 31

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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SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

ON Saturday, February 9, the Caversham Branch of Save the Children held their annual Valentine Party at St Andrew's Hall, Caversham; entertainment was provided by the "Rogues Gallery Quartet" from the Reading Barbershop Harmony Group.

As well as being the occasion when all those who worked or contributed to the SCF throughout the year gathered together for a social evening, it was the time when the local branch said farewell to Air Vice Marshal J. Cox, CB, OBE, DFC, who retired as President of the Caversham Branch, a position he has held since the branch was founded ten years ago. A small presentation was made on behalf of the Branch by Air Marshal Sir Alan Davies, KCB, OBE, RAF. Sir Alan has now taken over as the new President.

Air Marshal Cox had an outstanding career with the RAF and is well known for his association with the late Douglas Bader. He was born in Wimbledon in October 1904 and in 1909 his family moved to Basingstoke where he grew up, often cycling to Reading, where he loved to visit the old Palace Theatre in Cheapside. He attended Peter Symonds School, Winchester from 1914 to 1920 and regularly attends their annual reunions achieving the great distinction of being the first "old boy" to be elected President of the Old Symondians Association three years ago.

In 1920 he went to work with Estate agents, later joining Thomas Cook in London at the magnificent wage of £3 per week. He always had the desire to fly and applied for a short service commission with the RAF but sadly twice failed his medical. However in 1928 the RAF contacted him again and invited him to re-apply and this time he passed his medical. He was posted to Egypt where he learnt to fly Avro's and DH 9A's. He was then posted to Aden from May 1929 to December 1930 after which he returned to the UK to join No 2 Flying Training School at Digby as a Flying Instructor. It was at Digby that he met his wife Dorothy and they were married in Lincoln in September 1933. Air Marshal Cox is very proud of the fact that his permanent commission, which he received in 1936, was signed by King Edward VIII, one of the very few commissions signed by the King

during his very short reign.

In all Air Marshal Cox flew seventy different types of aircraft. From May to December 1940 he served as Commander of No 15 Bomber Squadron at Wyton which was a base for Blenheim IV bombers, and in October 1940 took part in the first combined RAF and Royal Navy operation in the bombardment of Cherbourg. It was in 1955 whilst serving in Ceylon that he was promoted to Air Vice Marshal. Also in 1955 he was posted to HQ Flying Training Command RAF, Shinfield Park, as Senior Air Staff Officer. It was then that he moved into his first home in Highmoor Road, Caversham, which was then called The Gay House. Joe Cox was quite definite that this was not the name he would have chosen for his new house and after a lot of discussion it was his daughter, Paddy, who came up with the suggestion "Call it Pippins, Daddy, after all there are two Cox's Pippins trees in the garden and this is the Cox's first home". So Pippins it was and, after living in married quarters in various parts of the world, they were able to settle down with a garden of their own which was Joe Cox's joy. His privet hedge was always trimmed with such precision you would have thought it had been cased in concrete. It was in 1982 that they moved to a smaller house in Ellesmere Close, where they now live, on a day they will never forget; it snowed all night and damp and snow got into everything as they moved.

Sitting in his small tidy study, surrounded by mementos of his RAF days — fourteen wall plaques of the different units he had served with, a fine oil painting of himself by a German artist presented to him by his officers, a collection of cartoons, a picture of a Blenheim Bomber, and many other treasures, Joe Cox told how he first met the famous Douglas Bader. After twice being detached to Cambridge University Air Squadron Summer Camp in '31 and '32, at Netheravon, Wilts, he was posted to them in January 1933 as a Flying Instructor, based at Duxford and it was here that he and Douglas Bader met and became lifelong friends, for almost fifty years. In March '33 after his accident Douglas Bader

asked Joe Cox to take him up in an aircraft. Once in the air Douglas asked "Will you let me fly it?" Joe replied "Yes, provided you hand over to me immediately if I say so." Douglas agreed, and a brilliant session of aerobatics was followed by a perfect landing by Douglas. In the Officers Mess no one would believe that Douglas had flown and landed the aircraft, neither would they believe Joe Cox when he affirmed it.

Two days later, at Douglas's request Joe took him up once again and again Douglas brought the

SAVE THE CHILDREN CAVERSHAM BRANCH

AGM

Monday, May 20
at
Church House
at 7.30pm

All welcome — Coffee and biscuits
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aircraft down to a perfect landing with Joe Cox holding his two hands high above his head to prove that it was not him at the controls. Sadly the Station Commander got to hear of the episode and they were both "on the carpet". Douglas Bader was eventually invalided out in 1933, but returned to the RAF at the outbreak of war when he was sent to the Central Flying School at Upavon for a report on his ability to fly. It was here that he met once again with his old friend Joe Cox, who had been posted back from Iraq where he had been serving with No 70 Bomber Squadron. Joe took Douglas up and confirmed that he could fly perfectly, tin legs or no tin legs, putting a report in to this effect. The rest is history. Years later Joe Cox was to surprise his old friend once again when he joined him on the This Is Your Life programme, when Douglas was the celebrity to be confronted by Eamonn Andrews.

It was ten years ago on its formation that the Caversham Branch SCF approached Air Marshal Cox and asked him to become their first President. At that time he was already President of the Thames Valley Aircrew Association; a Helper with the RAF Benevolent Fund; Patron of the Mildenhall Register comprising Nos 15, 142 and 622 Squadrons



Left to right: Mr Norman Kent, Lady Davies, Sir Alan Davies, Air Vice Marshal J. Cox, Mrs Cox and Mr John Mullaney.

(who hold their reunions in May at Mildenhall), President of 381 ATC Squadron (now Vice President) and President RAF Association, Reading Branch (now Vice President). Yet despite this he agreed to become President of Caversham SCF always ready to turn out to receive large donations or cheques or to make presentations. He worked hard on the two occasions we held our big Carnival at Woodcote. In June 1979, accompanied by his wife he represented the Branch at the Save the Children Fund's Diamond Jubilee Garden Party at Chelsea in the presence of the Fund's Patron Her Majesty the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. Our President HRH the Princess Anne was also there. As he said at the time, it was an occasion to remember. Air Marshal Cox was always interested in the welfare and achievements of the Branch Officers, always wanting to be kept informed if anyone fell ill. However a couple of years back he himself had to enter the RAF Hospital at Halton for a hip operation after which his Doctor was hard put to keep him off his little Honda Scooter and he was soon pottering about again; there was no holding him back.

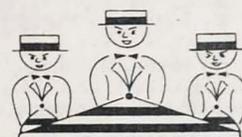
He always did and still does take a keen interest in all the Branch activities. We were all delighted when he and his family joined us for the trip up to Hampton Court Palace last year for the SCF's Son et Lumiere.

In the meantime the Caversham Branch continues to raise funds in every possible way. The sponsored sermon given for nine hours by the Rector of Caversham, the Reverend Richard Kingsbury, last December has so far raised £1,902 and Richard hopes the final total will reach £2,000. Some people have not yet handed in their sponsor money; if you are one of these, PLEASE DO SO NOW. Other sponsored events to take place are a

parachute jump by a team of twelve led by Mrs Becky Wilkinson on March 17; a team of three running in the Reading Half Marathon on March 24, while Mr Rodney Oliver of Highmoor Road will be running for the SCF in the London Marathon, twenty-six miles. A sponsored slim is taking place with the "Diet Philosophy" Club, Woodcote, run by Mrs Wise and plans are already in hand for an ALL DAY sponsored psalm singing on September 21, here in Caversham (more details of this event later). On May 20 the Branch AGM will be held at Church House, Caversham when the latest slides of our work at home and abroad will be shown. On April 27, also at Church House, and during the SCF week there will be a spring sale; make a note to call in. If you have something for us to sell be it cakes, jam, or bric-a-brac we shall be grateful. *Save The Children Fund does save children's lives — please help us.* Phone: 475472, 479378 or 470903.

Norman Kent
PRO Caversham Branch SCF

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THE LINK GROUP

A MEETING of the Group was held on March 25 at the home of Mrs Audrey Preston. The Chairman, Mrs Doreen Bennett, gave members details of the progress made towards the setting up of the office and "Pop-in" Centre in Church House. This has now been handed over and will be opened officially by the Mayor on April 30 at 10.30am, though the office will be open for the first-time on April 29 at 9.30am.

□□

Mrs Bennett said that there had been a good response to the leaflets distributed in the Churches, asking for volunteers to help in the Centre and for information to be included in the office files. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mrs Susie Robinson for all her work in preparing the files.

After discussion with the officers of the Good Neighbour Scheme the Centre is to be called the Caversham Care Centre. A steering committee has been formed to organise the Centre, consisting of two members each from the Link Group and the Good Neighbour Scheme and two outside members.

□□

The furnishing of the "Pop-in" Centre was discussed. At present it is a little bleak and needs cushions, floor covering etc. Offers of help have been received.

Interest in various charities supported by the Link Group was maintained through reports from members concerned. Blankets and bed linen had been taken to the Reading Emergency Aid Project and some furniture had been distributed but storage of large items donated and not immediately

needed remains a problem.

The fortnightly tea parties for the elderly and housebound have continued. Members were told that from the very successful concert by the Phoenix Choir £250 was raised for the work of the Centre. Thanks are due to Mrs Angela Kingsbury for arranging the Concert.

Finally, the annual sale at the Baptist Centre on May 11 was discussed. (See separate notice).

Let's link up — the Caversham Care Centre

THE proposed co-ordinating office to be run by the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Link Group, and the "Pop-in" centre opened by the Mayor, Mr Ron Jewett on Tuesday April 30 is a centre which will put those needing help in touch with those prepared to give it, and coffee and a sympathetic ear will be available to anyone who feels lonely.

Office Open — 9.30-11.30am Monday to Friday.

"Pop-In Centre open 10-12 noon Tuesday and Thursday.

Telephone 483466 (From April 29)

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE?

THE LINK GROUP

Annual Sale

At Caversham Baptist Centre

On Saturday May 11, 10.30am to 3.30pm

- ★ Toys ★ Plants ★ Produce ★ Bric-a-Brac
- ★ Good As New clothes
- ★ Teas
- ★ Coffee

WELLCLOSE HOUSE

By Kathrene Solly

A MEMBER of St Andrew's writes of Wellclose House in Birmingham, supported for many years by the congregation when Angela Butler was warden there. The house is now owned and run by COPEC, one of the first housing associations.

The first house was founded by Father Joe Williamson in 1955, in Church House, Wellclose Square, when he was Vicar of St Paul's, Dock Street and found that there were many teenage prostitutes in his parish. Many of these were not "professional" prostitutes but young girls who had come to London, hitching lifts on lorries, in search of a job or running away from home. It was as a refuge for these girls that Father Joe founded the first house in London, soon to be followed by another in Essex and, in 1971 by Wellclose House, Birmingham. As a matter of interest Father Joe is now nearly ninety and lives in retirement in Sussex, still taking a keen interest in the work. He has written a number of books which are still obtainable from him.

The cleaning up of Stepney, and the

removal of prostitution to other areas as well as the expiry of the lease, led to the closure of the London and Essex houses. The Birmingham one has almost doubled in size and a new one is currently being got ready to open early in 1985. In the meantime a field worker has been active in London for a year now.

In the Birmingham House the girls are now accommodated in four single and three double rooms; the number of residents is ten, the smallest number a hostel may accommodate in order to receive a grant. The staff consists of five; there are three (Anglican) Franciscans, and Sister Clare who was there in Angela's time and who is a trained nurse as well as a nun is in charge. Most of the time the staff no longer wear their habit as it is thought that to some girls a "place run by nuns" would be off-putting although of course they all KNOW that they are nuns and see them in habit sometimes.

Only one of the girls is working, and one on a Youth Training Course, the rest being

paid for by DHSS; although the house is mainly funded through a grant from the Local Authority, each girl receives £8pw pocket money. This may sound a lot but out of it they have to buy their clothes — they are taught to get them from Oxfam and similar shops — and most smoke a lot; this is not encouraged, neither is it forbidden.

□□

The girls are encouraged to cook, shop for the food and help plan the meals, as this is part of their training towards the time when they set up for themselves in bed-sits. Few of the girls are sent by the Police nowadays, but chiefly by the Probation Service and other Social Workers, and from a Roman Catholic Night Shelter run by the Society of St Vincent de Paul where girls can only stay two nights and so have to be "moved on", and of course some come via the grapevine. So great is the demand for beds at Wellclose House that in the twenty-four hours before the visit, five girls had had to be turned away through

lack of beds; this is why as soon as possible the girls are sent out to bed-sits, but still given maximum support by the staff at Wellclose House.

Bed linen, night-wear, slippers, dressing gowns etc which had been given were gratefully received. These items are still needed in great quantities — bed linen soon wears out — plus china, cutlery and cooking utensils for the girls moving to bed-sits. Wellclose House needs all this equipment but most of all they need our

prayers for the tiring but worthwhile work which is being done there among the "not so fortunate" of this world. The type of girl has changed but the need is still there. They used to be termed "prostitutes or girls in moral danger" and in some ways that term may be out of date. ANY homeless girl is really in moral danger.

If Miss Solly returns to Birmingham again this year she will gladly take any of these. Please get in touch with her at St Andrew's.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

It's a boy!
JUST back from shopping (I write this just before Easter) I noticed one or two interesting things. First, congratulations to John and Lindsay Mullaney on the birth of a son. John, as you probably know, is one of our editors, which is probably why he had the good sense to put a notice in his bookshop window — that's the kind of thing that makes Caversham still much of a community. People are genuinely interested and it makes a pleasant change from the only news which never fails to go the rounds rapidly — you know, the kind of "Have you heard, so-and-so's died?" sort of thing. Let's keep the good news coming in, as well as the bad.

Good Friday — Or Is It?

Another thing I noticed was the number of shops opening on Good Friday. Not everyone will agree with me when I say I don't like it. It's one thing for people to be able to buy urgent food items like bread and milk, or even pet food, but quite another to make Good Friday yet another day for a gorgeous spending spree. Even these days a large number of people in

this country would claim to be Christian, so couldn't we possibly keep what is the most important day in the Christian calendar free from commercial activity? Quite apart from anything else, it isn't fair to shop assistants — in these

at all they had taken over the shop next door and turned it into a gardening shop. They've been two of the most popular shops in Caversham, where one could get any amount of helpful advice on purchases. Don Birch,

her vacuum cleaner, and she really was most grateful.

Painting and Decorating

I for one am very glad to see a shop selling paints and wallpaper back on St Martin's precinct; I popped in

restaurant (did we really need another?). Work is going ahead, too, on Parslows old shop, which the bookshop is taking over; I look forward to seeing that when it is finished.

Play Groups

I've been having a word with Pat Jenkins, supervisor — for the past 14 years — of the play group which is held at the Baptist Church in Prospect Street, every morning between 9.15 and 12. It seems they've suffered a number of losses due to youngsters moving on to primary schools, and they would like to hear from anyone with a child between three and five who they would like to send along for 60p per morning. Children can attend anything between one and five sessions a week. They have attractive and well-fitted up premises with plenty of equipment and a good staff, so if you're interested, don't hesitate to ring Pat (478502) and discuss it. With nursery school places in such short supply, there would appear to be a great need for play groups, so it's important to keep them flourishing.



■ The late lamented Hardware shop

— E. S. Archer

days, when employers have pretty well got their employees where they want them, it would be difficult to refuse to work on Good Friday if asked.

Another Landmark Disappears

There has been a hardware shop in Church Road ever since 1914, and before that it was a forge — in fact the old anvil is still in the back of the shop. Seventeen years ago, Roy and Don Birch, with their wives, Gill and Iris, bought the shop and in no time

who many will remember well, died in 1983 and now the family have decided it is time to retire; alas, they've been unable to find a purchaser willing to carry on the hardware tradition. One part of the shop is to become a computer shop, while the fate of the other is, at the time of going to press, unknown. The shops and their owners will be much missed, but we would like to thank them for their excellent service all these years and to wish them all the best in their retirement.

the other day and see they have a whole stack of books from which to order wallpaper. I don't know about you, but I find it difficult to carry wallpaper from Reading and on the whole the larger DIY shops seem to carry a very poor range of papers and no opportunity, as far as I can see, of ordering anything else. I welcome the new shop; if they turn out to be as friendly and helpful as the people who used to run FADS, they'll be much appreciated.

Health Foods

In case you've noticed, Scotts, the bakers, are now carrying a very large and attractive range of health foods. With so much interest being taken in these items these days, I'm sure this, too, is going to save many a Caversham resident a trip into town.

Shop fronts

I'm glad to see some shops are smartening up their fronts these days, and particularly noticed Parkers, next door to the new Chinese

More Helpful Service

Fortunately we still have a hardware shop in Caversham; it does not carry the same attractive range of kitchen goods, but it does give excellent and knowledgeable service. In fact I've been asked by a reader to say how very much she appreciated the help of the young man who owns it. It seems he recently went to considerable lengths to enable her to attach a sander to

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE HILL CHAPEL

YOU may remember that last month we shared something of the work of Tom Hamblin, Tom, whose home is in Reading, has been working with the Church in Borneo for some ten years now. After hearing his exciting testimony we were very pleased to welcome him to one of our Sunday morning services this month.

Amongst other things, Tom came armed with a blow-pipe (but no poisoned darts!) He told the children a modern day parable, set in the jungles of Borneo. The children were captivated as he told them of a bird who covered its nest with one particular kind of leaf, to protect it from its enemy, the snake. It was a very vivid reminder that only Jesus can protect us from our enemy, the devil.

Following the morning service we met for a fellowship lunch in the old chapel. No, it wasn't roast beef and Yorkshire pud for one hundred! It was a very simple meal of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. As we ate together it was a good opportunity for members of the "family" to get to know each other better, and an offering was given especially for the Church in Borneo.

Housegroups

As well as the Sunday Services, many of us meet together fortnightly in housegroups. There are five

housegroups in the chapel, meeting at various locations around Caversham.

Each group contains a cross-section of people — young and old male and female, married and unmarried. The meetings tend to vary quite a lot — depending on the leader and the particular needs of the moment. But usually there is a time of Bible Study (recently we have been looking at Colossians), sharing of the needs of individuals and, of course, prayer. We always squeeze in coffee and biscuits, too! Like the ladies coffee mornings, these are often times of great encouragement. Many find it helpful to be part of a small group in a home, where it is easier to get to know others really well.

Occasionally, in the summer, a group may organise a picnic, treasure hunt or walk, and the rest of the church can join it. It's good to have fun together, as well as learning to be a more effective part of God's family.

BAPTIST NEWS

Little time for boogey-woogey

Following a recent Sunday evening service the Church Organist, Mr Philip Bowcock, gave an interesting and highly amusing talk by way of marking the 300th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's



Junior Missionary Collectors at Caversham Heights Methodist Church with certificates presented recently. — P. J. Bean

birth. The talk, which was illustrated, or otherwise garnished with recorded excerpts from the vast collection of the composer's works which still exist, revealed much about his professional and private life. Both seem to have been a test of stamina in that as a church organist and choirmaster in various German cities, Bach was required to compose and to perform his work at services which appear to have started at or before the crack of dawn and dragged-on for hours on end. His gluttony for punishment overflowed into the realms of domesticity in that he had two wives who produced no fewer than twenty children between them — presumably music must have had its charms.

Sally-Ann on safari

In the autumn of last year features and reports on Sally-Ann Ousley appeared in the "Caversham

Bridge". Sally-Ann, it will be recalled, had been accepted by The Evangelical Alliance Relief — TEAR — Fund for service in Bangladesh where she was destined to instruct local people in the art of weaving and to act as their management consultant. Interesting snippets of information on Sally-Ann's subsequent activities have filtered through and these were brought together by her parents, Pat and Peter, when they gave a talk, illustrated by slides taken by Sally-Ann and her new found friends in Bangladesh. It was good to see her again — and what a delightful picture she made in her colourful sari — and to hear her voice on tape. It was obvious that in coming to terms with a new way of life with more than its share of frustrations, disappointments and difficulties she was not looking back.

The End is nigh

It could be the prophesy of doom but on this occasion the end is awaited with eager anticipation and expectancy, the end being the liquidation of the outstanding loans of £8,500 to the Building Fund. When the Church embarked on the redevelopment of its premises in 1980 it was necessary to raise loans from the Baptist Union, the Baptist Building Fund and from individual church members. The loans to the Baptist Union and the Baptist Building Fund have been cleared and it is the personal loans which still remain. It is hoped to clear these with a Gift Day on May 18 and such is the confidence of the membership that a target not of £8,500 but of £13,000 has been set. The achievement of such would not only

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

Thanksgiving for the life of Sybil Martyn-Johns

WHAT better day to have a thanksgiving service for the life of Sybil Martyn-Johns than the eve of Mothering Sunday. In the morning the flower ladies had filled St Margaret's with daffodils and other spring flowers, for the church is always decorated for this special Sunday in Lent. Later the flowers are taken to anyone in the parish who is felt to need them. This year the blooms welcomed the numerous friends of Granny Martyn-Johns, as many affectionately called her, and added their beauty to a very lovely and joyful thanksgiving for a Christian life lived to its very fullest in every way.

The Annual District Meeting

Things are happening at St Margaret's. They have been happening for quite a while now. Nearly every Sunday more

clear the loans but enable a worthy contribution, by way of a thank offering, to be made to the Berkshire Baptist Association's "Four Churches" Appeal which is to finance the establishment of new churches at Basingstoke, Frimley, Thatcham and Woodley.

The Gift Day will be followed by Thanksgiving Services on the Sunday when the preacher will be the Secretary of the Berkshire Baptist Association, the Revd Gordon Thomas.

ST PETER'S WIVES GROUP

FOR their March meeting a record number of members and friends welcomed Mrs Peggy Makins, who enthralled the meeting with the reminiscences of her working life as Evelyn Home.

Members were reminded of the Group's activities during May to celebrate its Twenty-first year and plans are well in hand to invite present and past members to a Celebration Party at the monthly meeting on May 21.

Highdown's £3,000 target for annual show on May 18

HIGHDOWN School Fete — now a major show in its third year has become a very successful community and family event. This year the organisers are hoping to attract 5,000 people and to raise over £3,000. It is hoped to be able to use this to buy extra equipment for the school and to benefit local charities.

The show demonstrates a remarkable example of co-operation between 80 or so school staff, about 150 parents helping, many more who make contributions and the school pupils. This year Scotchbrooks are the sponsors and it is expected that the show will be bigger and better. There will be over 100 selling stalls including a Street Market. Among the other attractions will be an action Bouncing Castle, Marching Bands, pony rides and displays of all kinds.

There is little doubt that the show is a big event in the local calendar and is helping to benefit the school and local community.

THAMESIDE SCHOOL "SPY IN THE WOODS"



A Scene from "Spy in the Woods" presented by pupils at Thameside School — Photo: E. S. Archer

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST PETER'S WIVES GROUP—21!



■ St Peter's Wives

— E. S. Archer

ONCE upon a time — in fact, just over twenty-one years ago, Caversham had a new Rector, John Grimwade. He arrived to find a Mothers Union but no Young Wives Group. He invited five young wives from different areas of the Parish to a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up a Group at St Peter's. They decided to go ahead and went off to persuade their friends and neighbours to come to an inaugural meeting at Church House.

It must be pointed out that this was also the time of the infancy of the Caversham Bridge, high ecumenical hopes and the curacy of the Rev David Clift. His wife, the late Mary Clift was active in the production of this newspaper and was also one of the founder members of St Peter's Wives.

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There was a very promising response and after much deliberation it was decided to start an open and unaffiliated Group with no membership restrictions on religious or marital grounds. The Group was also to be called "St Peter's Wives" without the addition of "Young". At that first meeting a committee was elected with Barbara Vowles as its Chairman, Jean Fry as Secretary, Marie Smith as Treasurer, Mary Clift for her general inspiration and enthusiasm and last but by no means least Kathleen Hardy as Organiser and Leader of St Peter's Playgroup in Balmore Hall.

Four of the original committee produced daughters during the first year of the Group and hardly a year has gone by without at least one birth to celebrate.

The Playgroup flourished under

Kathleen's leadership — expanding from one to four mornings a week with a healthy waiting list. Over the years several others took their turn at running the Playgroup until sadly in the late 1970's with a falling birthrate and more nursery places available, numbers dwindled until it was no longer economically viable. However those who helped there made many lasting friendships and still have the pleasure of seeing the wedding photos and exam successes in the local paper of some of the "children".

Apart from sponsoring the Playgroup, St Peter's Wives have raised money, mainly for local charities, by holding Bring and Buy Sales, Jumble Sales, Clothing Exchanges and Carol Singing. Something is given every year to the Avenue School and donations have also been made to Wakefield Lodge, Ken Thomas Scanner Appeal, Peppard Trust, Brookfield School and the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed. Other charities learnt about at meetings and to which contributions have been made are the Samaritans, the Red Cross, Multiple Sclerosis Fund, the NSPCC, the National Children's Home, Save The Children Fund, the British Heart Foundation, RNLI, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Mary Rose Trust and the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ in India.

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On the lighter side meetings have ranged through walks, river trips, Wild West and French evenings as well as the more conventional Dinner Dances, Barn Dances and Skittle evenings. Memorable musical evenings have been enjoyed with Barbara Justham, Peter Allwood and Derek Spear. The Group

have watched cake icers and flower arrangers, shared the pangs of creativity with authors and agony aunts, followed adventurers to far flung parts of the globe and learnt of the past glories of Reading Abbey and the Mary Rose, the Royal Maundy Service and peeped into the Archives of the BBC — but perhaps the most enjoyable of all was the delightfully entertaining glimpse into the history of underwear as Mrs Hibbert dressed up in some of her amazing collection.

□□

In 1964 milk was 10d a pint and subscriptions were five shillings per year — members were charged 6d a session (including biscuit and orange) for Playgroup — now that is 23p and subscriptions are £2 per annum — the charge for coffee and biscuits is 10p — pretty good value! Many original members have left the district, some have just drifted away or found something more pressing or interesting to do on the third Tuesday of the month — in spite of this there are still over forty members including the founder members, who are all twenty-one years older. New arrivals to the district have joined us, mothers have brought their daughters along and daughters have brought their mothers along, so the Group now has an age range from twenty to sixty-five plus and is always ready to welcome new members.

On this Twenty-first Birthday may the Group say thank you to John Grimwade and Mary Clift for giving the original inspiration, to all past Chairman and committees for keeping the Group going and to Richard Kingsbury for letting the Group continue upon its unconventional way.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

MARCH brought the conclusion of the African Famine Relief Appeal after many weeks' sustained efforts with varied and ingenious fund raising events. The final total was £3,515 which was sent as a cheque.

Another "final total" declared this month was that raised by the Parish on behalf of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith over the last year: £767.10.

After many parishioners had signed a petition

against passing the recommendations of the Warnock report on embryo experimentation into law, it was good to hear that both Reading MPs, Sir Gerard Vaughan and Mr Tony Durant, voted for Enoch Powell's unborn children (protection) Bill in its recent reading.

Let's hope all these very successful concrete efforts of the parish were equalled by spiritual ones and enriched the great Easter celebrations.

BISHOP OF READING



■ The Bishop of Reading with the Rev Adrian Dorber at St Barnabas' at his licensing on March 25
— Photo: G. Aisbitt

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
March 17

Nicol Lowry
Clare Haydon
Lianne Bennett

St Anne's
March

Caroline Cullen
Timothy Joyce
Nicola Tonner

MARRIED

St Peter's
March 9

Neil Mansfield and
Carolyn Higham

March 23

Ricky Goodchild and
Sara Harris

St Anne's
March

Timothy Collins and
May McDonagh

Bernard Gallagher
and Nora Joyce

FUNERALS

St Margaret's
March 16

Sybil Martyn-Johns
(Thanksgiving Service)

March 19

Peter Cumming-Bruce

The Rev F. R. S. Byfield
THE death of Francis Byfield was reported recently. He was a curate at St Peter's in the 1930s. He was born in 1900 and after a short army career and a spell of teaching, was ordained in 1929. He had been retired for 12 years and lived in Dorset.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM AND MAPLEDURHAM



■ Alif Martyn-Johns

— Photo: Walton Adams

CONGRATULATIONS to Alif Martyn-Johns who was elected Parish Churchwarden at the Annual Parish Meeting. Among his local involvements he is a local JP, correspondent of Kidmore End Church Primary School; he helps to run both halls in Mapledurham and is on the committee of the PCC as a the Trench Green Hall and helps with the Pavilion in the other Mapledurham Play- ing. It was clearly a good move to join Mapledurham to

the parish of Caversham!

Mr Martyn-Johns replaces Mr Bill Vincent, who served a splendid term of nine years, giving much time and valuable experience. His expertise was much in evidence during the interregnum and it is good to know that he remains a member of the PCC as a Deanery Synod representative.

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WHOM SHALL I SEND?

"HELLO, my name's Pauline and I'm with Campus Crusade for Christ. We're doing a survey on education and Christianity. Would you like to answer some questions?" So begins a typical afternoon at Reading University, taking the gospel to students.

My name is Pauline Tuttle and I have been living in Caversham for two years since I moved to Reading to work with Campus Crusade for Christ. Since Caversham is at the other side of town to the University, a daily bike-ride keeps me slim!

I am really a Northerner; my family lives in Middlesbrough, Cleveland, and I went to the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It was there that I met Campus Crusade for Christ and through their ministry gave my life to the Lord Jesus. I had always gone to church, but had never realised that belonging to Christ required an active step of commitment on my part. I was involved in the work of Campus Crusade for Christ during the rest of my time at university and by the end of three years, knew that I would not be happy in any work other than that of spreading the gospel. As Mark 4:21 says: "Do you bring in a lamp and put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?" I wanted to let the light of the gospel shine! The Lord seemed to

be calling me to do this through Campus Crusade for Christ, so in September 1982 I joined the team in Reading — and became a Southerner!

For those of you who are not familiar with our organisation, Campus Crusade for Christ is an evangelical, interdenominational Christian movement committed to Christ's Great Commission (Matt 28: 18-20) that we are to preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations. As the name implies, we work primarily amongst students (at Newcastle, Birmingham, Leeds, Reading and Belfast) but there are other ministries too, in schools, amongst business and professional people, acting as a resource to local churches and sending people overseas to minister using their vocational skills. Our "strategy" could be described simply as: Proclaiming the gospel, winning people to Christ, building Christians in their faith and then sending them to be witnesses for Christ in all walks of life.

Practically, "proclaiming" at Reading means meeting students daily in the halls of residence, usually using a survey to help stimulate thought and discussion, so as to open the way for a clear presentation of the gospel. It may also mean a public event or meeting; this term two Irish ex-terrorists will be explaining how their conversion to faith in Jesus Christ changed them to men of peace.

"Winning" is the Holy Spirit's job! But He uses us in people's lives, perhaps over a period of time, studying the Bible together, discussing, building relationships of trust and love. When a person puts his or her trust in Christ, we continue those relationships so that the student can be built up in the Christian life and learn some basic principles of a walk with the Lord. It isn't all study; going to the theatre together, days out and attend-

ing church are all parts of sharing one's life in a discipleship context. Although Caversham is outside the normal "sphere" of the University, I like to bring friends over to church with me, and definitely encourage them to attend a church in town regularly.

One exciting thing about sharing the good news at University is that you meet many foreign students. Last year a girl from Thailand and one from Singapore gave their lives to Christ and have now returned to their own countries, to live out their new faith there. It's lovely to be able to reach other parts of the world in such a way.

Growing up in the Lord involves us in witnessing for Him, so there comes a time when the girls I'm working with accompany me in speaking to others. We run a weekly course in how to share our faith and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, which is usually a great help to all who come along. It's a very practical course and will be taught as part of "God's World Congress", December 28, 1985-January 2, 1986. If you are in the 16-30 age bracket, why not join us?

The "we" I've mentioned from time to time refers to my four team-mates in Reading, one of whom — Juliet — shares a house with me in Caversham. The five of us meet weekly as a team to pray, plan and study the Bible together. I can see how the Lord uses the different gifts He has given us to complement each other and build up His body. Campus Crusade for Christ has sixty full-time staff nationwide

and we meet together twice a year for fellowship and biblical training. Our national headquarters is in Friar Street, Reading, so do contact us if you would like more information about our work.

As a member of the larger Christian family, I have greatly appreciated the fellowship at Caversham Baptist Free Church. It is lovely to meet for worship with Christians of all ages and I enjoyed getting to know fellow-

believers from other Caversham churches during the Lent groups this year.

I have been learning recently the importance of being like Christ, letting the Holy Spirit produce Christ-like qualities in me. Our witness in words must always be backed up by a witness in character and my prayer is that the Lord will make me, and all His people locally, more like Him daily.

So that's a little about me and the work of Campus Crusade for Christ. Next time you see a figure setting off by bike in the early afternoon, heading in a direction across town, why not say hello?

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

BRIDGE TO THE EAST

A THIRD river bridge to the east of the borough boundary is now the choice of Caversham Residents' Association. A vote taken at the Annual General Meeting showed this very decisively, though of the two possible positions, opinion was divided, as it was difficult for lay people to be aware of all the factors to be taken into consideration. It was finally agreed that the less intrusive of the two should be supported.

A solitary vote went in favour of a bridge to the West, and there were a few members who preferred not to see a bridge at all. These were chiefly influenced by the fear that another bridge would attract extra traffic and would spoil the rural character of Caversham.

On the cross-town route, a vote was taken on the Caversham Road section and this led to a firm majority in favour of four lanes even though it involved the felling of plane trees. However, the minority opposed to

this choice was sufficient enough to warn any council to give re-planting priority and to mitigate any other disadvantages as far as possible.

The County Council conclusion that what is required is a local bridge for local needs is based on the results of the survey they carried out and anyone refuting these would have problems producing alternative figures. Those who insist that the bridge and cross-town route should cater for a heavy increase in future traffic are

probably living in cloud cuckoo land. Both documents emphasise that "the Reading Highways Strategy is based on an explicit proviso that unrestrained traffic growth cannot — and should not — be catered for".

This cannot be said too often. The unrestricted use of the private car is already making urban life intolerable. Towns have been ripped apart to cater for it. Whether moving or stationary it is greedy for space. When town centres simply become the centres of a huge roundabout, when the nearest place to park your car is your own garden if you have one big enough, or whatever inches of kerb side you can lay claim to if you haven't and which you are terrified to move from in case someone else snafles it, the position will have been reached when we shall demolish our towns in order to get in and out of them and to park our vehicles to do business with any firms or organisations that have managed to stay in them.

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

Another matter that was brought up by a member speaking from the floor at the Annual General Meeting and which immediately attracted mass support, was the short amount of time allowed for pedestrians to cross the road at the crossing in Church Street. Everyone agreed that unless you are

young, fit and first off the mark, you will not get across in the allotted time. If one of these conditions is missing you stand a good chance of being mown down. Motorists, and particularly those who regard the flashing yellow lights as meaning pedestrians are fair game once more, may fret and fume if the period is extended, but the poor pedestrian, who is gradually being forced to cross at the particular spot, whether it is convenient or not, deserves at least enough time to make the journey in safety.

□ □

It was pleasing to see pedestrians having priority on the highway when Stan Eldon's thousands came pouring over Caversham Bridge. A few pea-brained motorists still managed not to get the message and were amazed to find both bridges closed. A lorry driver, unable to turn his large vehicle round, resigned himself to watching the race from the grandstand view of his cab, and almost looked as if he was enjoying it.

C. E. BUCK

The meeting was also saddened to hear of the death two days earlier of Charles Buck. Charles was a former Chairman of the Association and one of his last public acts was to audit its accounts. This newspaper carried a fuller tribute to Charles, so here suffice it to say that

Caversham to lose another Priest

AS we go to press we hear of the move of the Revd Graham Lynch-Watson, priest-in-charge at Caversham Park, where he has been since 1977. Graham will take up the position of priest-in-charge of St Paul's, Warwick and will be commissioned there on Tuesday, July 16 at 8pm. His last service here will be on Sunday, July 7. A full appreciation of Jane and Graham Lynch-Watson will appear next month.

it was not surprising to find someone whose wide-ranging interests all stemmed from his desire to serve the community in which he lived, playing a leading part in his local Residents' Association. Charlie's characteristic as a chairman was to get through the agenda in good time and with good humour. He is going to be sadly missed in many organisations. Such as he are the salt of the earth.

HEMDEAN VALLEY

Cheers loud and long rose as the news went round that the application to build on land adjacent to the built-up area of Hemdean Road had been refused on appeal. This site already has outline consent, so we have not heard the last of applications to build there, but the news is cheering because of its implications for the bigger site which has not even got outline consent. At the time of going to press the date of the Public Inquiry has not been announced.

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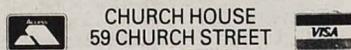
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11.15am Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

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
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
4.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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Queen Anne's sixth form conference

ON FRIDAY, February 8, Queen Anne's held a conference on Northern Ireland which was attended by about one hundred and eighty sixth formers from schools in the area.

The Conference opened with short talks by Mr Edward Bickham, Lady Ewart-Biggs and Lord Hylton, which provided an outline of the current situation and some account of continuing attempts at reconciliation, and underlined the fact that the problem is one which involves everyone in the United Kingdom, not only those who happen to live in Northern Ireland.

These talks were followed by an hour when the young people divided into a dozen small discussion groups

each led by an adult with a particular knowledge of, or interest in, the Northern Ireland problem. For many this was the most valuable part of the proceedings because it not only enabled them to gain more accurate information on the subject but, by giving them an opportunity to express their own opinions, it encouraged them to clarify their own ideas.

After supper there was an open forum when a panel, on which the main speakers were joined by some of the group leaders whose experience qualified them to speak from the inside on the attitudes of the Churches, the Media and Educationalists, answered questions prepared earlier by the

groups. Supplementary questions and comments from the floor were welcomed and there was a great deal of lively and interesting discussion on subjects ranging from the advantages and disadvantages of sectarian education to the responsibilities of the media, and from the importance of religion to the part played in the conflict by class.

It is not to be expected that at such a conference anyone will offer a blue print for the solution of Northern Ireland's problems, but, in as far as it helps to prevent those of us who live here from brushing those problems under the carpet and promotes awareness and concern, we feel that it served a valuable purpose.

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The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.
The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.
The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham. Tel: 472070.
The Rev Adrian Dorber, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 473095.

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

METHODIST
The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 Allhallows Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530

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