

POPIELUSZKO—WARSAW

It was in September 1984 that I made my first trip to Warsaw, shortly before returning to the University in Leeds to begin my final year of studies. I hadn't been able to be in Poland during the heady days of Solidarity, but was determined and lucky enough to get there last autumn.

At first sight Warsaw was as I'd expected, many of its buildings were grey and depressing and tram-cars slowly made their way along the wide main roads of the city. This general appearance of gloom was soon dispelled though by the bustling commercial centre of the city, the Old Town, completely rebuilt after the last war, and by the people, many tastefully and fashionably dressed, people who wouldn't look out of place in any Western capital, worlds apart from the inhabitants of Moscow that I'd known some years previously. The Police and the posters however, proclaimed that this was indeed part of the Eastern Bloc.

Momentous meeting

In the main I spent my first visit to Warsaw merely sight-seeing, but it was also an eventful visit as I attended one of the regular press conferences for foreign journalists given by the Government Press Spokesman Jerzy Urban, and also a mass said by a priest who was one of the most outspoken supporters of the banned Solidarity trade union movement, Fr Jerzy Popieluszko.

Only weeks later on October 19, he was kidnapped and brutally murdered by members of the state security service, and his death produced a reaction worldwide.

At that time of course, the significance of my meeting the priest was not apparent to me. Only later did I realise the privilege I'd had.

On that day in Warsaw, my father and I had gone to the church of St Stanislaw Kostka in the pleasant leafy district of Zoliborz, to witness a mass being said to celebrate the release, only days previously, of several prominent political prisoners, under the amnesty announced by the Government that July.

Amongst them Seweryn Jaworski, one of the top Solidarity leaders before his arrest and subsequent imprisonment.

The church was packed with a congregation that spilled out into the yard and street outside where people followed the mass by way of the loudspeakers installed on the front of the building.

It was remarkable to see everyone fully participating in the service and listening to the sermon with unwavering attention. No discreet whispering in the crowds, just the occasional cough or clearing of the throat. This was the kind of service that clergyman the world over dream of conducting.

The Church's impact

The importance of the Church in the lives of the Polish people was already self-evident to me from the previous days of my visit, but the size of the crowds at the church that day went beyond all my expectations. According to my father and the others I knew in Warsaw Fr Popieluszko's sermons never failed to draw enormous crowds like this.

My only, and understandable wish at the time was that I could speak Polish and understand what was being said.

We spent the latter part of the proceedings in the sacristy accompanied by several foreign journalists, the cameramen and three nuns, where, through the open door we could watch Fr Popieluszko at the altar, the men from Solidarity to one side.

Personal charisma

Once the service was over, we were joined there by the altar boys, the heroes from Solidarity, the helpers who'd been collecting money from the congregation, displaying religious and pro-Solidarity badges on their jacket lapels,

A YEAR ago this October Fr Jerzy Popieluszko was kidnapped and brutally murdered by members of the Polish state security service.

Vincent Ruane, son of Kevin Ruane, the BBC's correspondent in Poland, remembers the mass said by Fr Popieluszko that he attended in Warsaw last September, a month before the priest's death.

the parish priest Fr Bogucki and Fr Popieluszko himself.

For a fair while greetings were exchanged, hands shaken and I was introduced to a pale thoughtful looking Fr Popieluszko. Shortly

and then suddenly we were free.

I was not prepared for what happened next. Outside hundreds of people had gathered round to cheer on Jaworski and Fr Popieluszko as we emerged from the

towards the priest's house next door, grinning like a complete fool. Perhaps it had something to do with the beard that made me look slightly like the man from Solidarity. It was with great relief that I caught

every news bulletin since I heard of his abduction, and like so many others I was hoping against hope that he would be found safe, whilst at the same time fearing the worst.

After his murder I since learnt that Fr Popieluszko was very much aware, as were his colleagues, his supporters from the banned Solidarity trade union movement and his friends that he was treading a very dangerous tight-rope indeed. This is something I cannot help thinking of as I vividly remember him coming into the sacristy after the service and kneeling in a corner, where he remained alone for what must have been a good five minutes engaged in deep prayer.

It is a great tribute to the man that he carried on with his work, preaching sermons that continued to infuriate the Polish authorities throughout his tragically brief but distinguished career in Zoliborz.

Return to the scene

I had already decided that I wanted to see Warsaw again, but now I wanted to return for another reason as well.

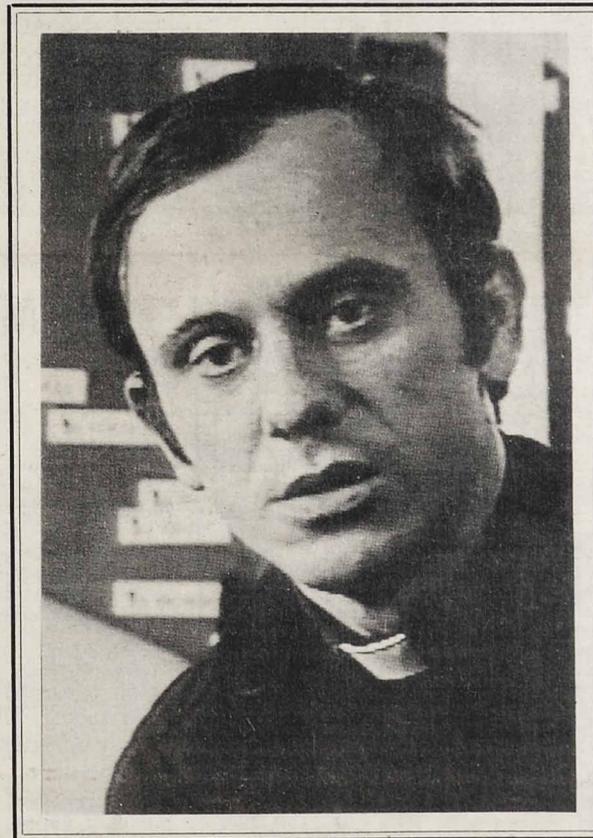
This past Easter, six months after Fr Popieluszko's funeral, I returned to Poland. By this time my father had moved house, and

was now living just round the corner from St Stanislaw Kostka in Zoliborz where I had heard Fr Popieluszko deliver his sermon the year before, and where he was now buried.

Late on that first night back in Warsaw, it must have been well after midnight, we walked over to the church to look at the grave through the railings that surrounded the churchyard. Inside a dozen or so men and one woman were guarding the grave, relighting any of the vast spread of candles around it that went out. My father told me how there had been a guard here night and day since the burial. Many workers would spend the night watching over the grave before going to work on their early morning shifts. He exchanged a few words with some of them and they asked us if we would like to come in. We thanked them as they drew back the thick planks of wood they were using to secure the gate.

Once inside I walked up to the grave that had become a shrine. It was surrounded by masses of flowers stretching yards to each side and banners of every description stood beyond.

As my father talked with the sentries I stood contemplating the grave into the night.



beforehand I'd met Janusz Onyszkiewicz, the former Spokesman for Solidarity who strangely enough had lectured at my own University in Leeds before his return to Poland.

Eventually it was time to leave. I lost sight of my father and the group I was with in the crush to get out of the church and I found myself with Jaworski and Fr Popieluszko right behind me in the corridor. We had to struggle for a minute or so to get to the side exit,

building. In a frantic moment I searched with my eyes for anyone I knew, but could see no-one and had no option but to walk down the steps into the rapidly forming gangway that lead away through the crowds to the presbytery. To my surprise, as I stepped out the crowd began to cheer wildly. By the time I realised that they were mistakenly cheering me as well as the famous pair behind it was too late to turn back, and I had to walk on helplessly

sight of my father standing to the side of the church door doubled up with laughter, my ordeal over.

Murder

And so it was, back at university in Leeds a few weeks later that year, that I heard the terrible news that Fr Popieluszko's body had been discovered, badly beaten and weighed down with stones, by police divers deep down in a reservoir to the north-west of Warsaw. I had been listening to

STOP PRESS

AT THE time of going to press, results of national elections to the General Synod of the Church of England are coming in. They show over 10 per cent of Oxford diocese new members are from Caversham! In fact the two new members are from St Peter's: John Madeley (House of Laity) and Richard Kingsbury (House of Clergy). Such is the fine communication at St Peter's that neither originally knew the other was standing for election — but John and Richard express themselves delighted in each other's success! Both took a firm stand in favour of women being allowed to offer themselves for ordination to the priesthood.

St Peter's Church, Caversham

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Advent Sunday, December 1, 6.30pm

A presentation of the Advent liturgy in lights, music and words

TALKING POINT

By the Revd Ralph Rogerson
Caversham Heights Methodist Church



THIS THING CALLED SIN

THE trouble with "SIN" is that it is too blanket a term, and we often use it because its generality makes confession less painful. Maybe even our revered forefathers in the faith, to whom we address our ritualistic admiration for their knee-cap bashing propensities at the penitent stool, share our impression in this respect. Regularly those forefathers claimed to be "Chief of Sinners" but would have been greatly discomfited if you had requested them to name three nice juicy sins to support that claim!

Once, in a state of passion,
I cried in desperate grief,
"O Lord my soul is black with guilt
Of sinners I am chief."

Then stooped my guardian angel
And whispered from behind
"Nonsense you silly little man,
You're nothing of the kind."

The foregoing is a plea for us to take sin more seriously and therefore "concretely".

Sin, certainly, is not primarily a matter of doing wrong deeds. It is a state of being out of line with God's holy purpose. Nevertheless SIN is first known in concrete sins and people begin the walk towards light and peace when they are willing to confess that they are liars, gluttons, cheats, scandal-mongers, lazy, covetous, jealous, lustful, glad when others go wrong etc, etc. Such confession is more than a psychological catharsis; it is an act by which we can alone enter into reality. It is painful, but not degrading, and when sincere, receives from God that forgiveness and cleansing which are surely the most breathtakingly marvellous experiences known to human beings.

Pride is the "tap-root" of sin. It is the complete anti-God state of mind. As C. S. Lewis has said "a proud man is always looking down on things and people and therefore cannot see the God above him."

As with all the deadly sins, pride has its basis in a natural and right human instinct. "It is an absolutely basic human instinct to feel that you have value, that you matter" (Kenneth Slack: "The Seven Deadly Sins".) We can no more label as a sin a desire to know we matter, than we can label all eating as gluttony or all exercise of the sex instinct as expressions of lust.

The debasing of this basic instinct comes when we see all others only in their ministering to our needs and look down from a height of superiority upon them.

Perhaps this tap-root of all sin, and its sinister consequences, is best seen in relation to the pride of nations. There is nothing wrong in loving one's own country. There is every reason to feel enriched by a particular heritage, countryside, history. The disaster of nationalism occurs when we look down on other nations and cultures and exalt our own national heritage "to the contemptuous detriment of other nations" (Kenneth Slack, *ibid*). When Britain sent a Task Force to the Falklands in 1982 much of the popular press produced a despicable jingoism and sneered as unpatriotic those who did not share it. Indeed, with some morally-blind sections of the press and public, even to question certain actions, or "inactions" of one's Government is to be treacherous to one's country. Surely, it is because we really care for our country that we ask, as Christian citizens in it, "Does my nation truly care and provide for the sick, poor, disadvantaged?"; "Does justice, in my country, roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream, and are the democratic rights of all her citizens and institutions stoutly defended and upheld?"; and "Do I share Glenda Jackson's deep distress that, whilst £67 million has been contributed spontaneously by British people to Live Aid, nothing in real terms has been added to the official Government help for the distressed areas of the world?"

The antidote to the Sin of Pride is the Saving Power of the Cross of Christ. When each Christian sees every other person as actual or potential receivers of that glorious liberating experience of Christ's saving power, which they themselves have known, there will be no disdain of anyone by Christ's followers.

When our Nation sees all other Nations as under the Sovereignty and Love of God, then England will become again a Land of Hope — and Glory will be given to the Lord.

A Personal Message

... thanking God for enabling us to receive so much love in our sufferings since our son Hugh died.

So many practical acts of kindness, so many acts of prayer for us, so many friends staying by our side — and from so wonderfully wide a family of God, both within and beyond the church.



It felt like being ministered to by a whole band of angels, quietly, firmly, unquestioningly, gently moving and leading us through a dark valley to safety — God's most wonderful, infinite love in action in both a contemplative and a practical way. I thank God for you all. For being channels of his divine love flowing out to us.

Sheila Ivens

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Revd Peter Mullins, who was ordained priest in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on St Michael's Day, September 29. Many people from the parish were there to support him, and also at his first communion service at St Peter's on Friday, October 4. We wish him well in his ministry and hope that his stay in the parish will be a long and happy one.

Emmer Green Primary School Association

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at Emmer Green School, Grove Road on Saturday, November 23 at 2pm



Carol Joyce and Keith Buckell after their marriage in St Peter's Church, where Carol has been a member of the choir for many years.

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More details from
Martin Cooper
474974

GOING UP

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors agreed that from January 1, 1986 the price of this newspaper will be increased to 15p, due to the higher cost of printing. As it has been four years since the last increase, we hope our readers will find the new charge acceptable.

Churchpeople's Luncheon Club

An apology from Sally Hallett.

I apologise for the mistake in the name of the speaker for the November meeting of the club. The fault was entirely mine — I misread my own diary note. However, come along and hear Dr Max Peberdy, Area Organiser for Christian Aid, at St Laurence's Hall on Thursday, November 7 at 1pm.

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EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Nigel Wright, 40 Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703
ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel. 471816
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher, 8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RS. Tel. 472660
COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel. 474017
POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel. 473045.

All contributions for the December issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, November 6. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, November 1.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Save Bugs Bottom

THE campaign to save Hemdean Bottom, in the vernacular Bugs Bottom, has now come to an end and the whole matter is in the hands of the Department of the Environment. What will the outcome be? If the strength of local feeling counts for anything, then the appeal must be dismissed. The public meeting at Caversham Primary School was packed to capacity, with standing room only for many. Over six thousand leaflets were distributed, hundreds of letters were written to the Inspector and thousands signed the petition. On the official side, all the Council's concerned opposed it, as well as all organisations in any way concerned with the environment.

In face of this, the developers' concluding remarks that "the

proposed development would not cause harm to any interests of acknowledged importance" was both cynical and arrogant. If the applications are permitted, it will not only be another piece of green countryside that is lost. It will also mean that a blow has been struck at democracy leaving the whole structure of our society the poorer.

Trees gone and to go

Vastern Road's trees have already gone all along the south side. They took decades to grow but only minutes to go. Traffic must take precedence and what are trees compared with slicing a few minutes off your journey? Those plane trees were tough. The Victorians knew they would withstand the soot and fumes of their cities and they have proved equally resistant to the mod-

ern forms of pollution.

But the powers that be have decided that they and their almost equally resilient companions, the limes, require too much maintenance and are not really suitable for urban conditions. They are to go, or rather, every other one is, and to be replaced with something "more suitable". All right, limes drop sticky stuff at certain times of the year, but Berlin would not dream of getting rid of its Unter den Linden for such a petty reason. Big trees contribute to the street

mer it suddenly turned up its toes and died. Having survived two attacks by vandals it seemed odd and even odder that in this year's soaking summer the diagnosis should be drought. It was of course, last summer's drought that was the offender.

However, the Parks and Open Spaces Department has promised to replace it and, there right hand apparently not knowing what their left hand is doing, may even put one or two more in that stretch of pavement if the

It is for this reason that Berkshire County Council, the highways authority, have instructed Reading Borough Council to turn down the plan. This site has had various plans made for it over the years. Fingers itch to develop this large open space in the inner area of the town, yet it belongs to the Borough who even in these days retains a residual feeling that it should be used for the benefit of the people of Reading, whom it is felt on the whole would like a leisure centre there.



— N. Wright
Toodle-loo! Last sight of the Victorian lavatory before its move to the Chiltern Open Air Museum

scene in a way little trees never can. You have only to look at famous European cities to see that. Why then should Reading's planes and limes which give so many of its streets their special character be subject to the cost accountancy of a philosophy that sees local government's primary purpose as saving money rather than providing services? We're lucky in Caversham as most of our trees are in private gardens rather than along the kerbside. It will be a sad day if alternate ones of these are felled for each one of them is right for its site. We want more of them, not fewer.

Victim of drought

A few years ago, under the Borough's Plant-a-Tree Scheme Caversham Residents' Association planted a Norway maple in Henley Road near the Peppard Road traffic lights, where a bleak stretch of pavement was calling out for some greenery. It flourished at first and was really beginning to make something of itself, when this sum-

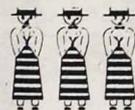
mer it suddenly turned up its toes and died. Having survived two attacks by vandals it seemed odd and even odder that in this year's soaking summer the diagnosis should be drought. It was of course, last summer's drought that was the offender.

Richfield Avenue

The proposed Sport, Leisure and Hotel complex in Richfield Avenue, once more up for public comment, leaves no excuse for double yellow line or pavement parking, not that excuses are required by most offenders. There is to be a total of 1,340 parking spaces on the site, which must overcome one of the most frequent objections to any kind of development. But stay. If provision is made for that number of vehicles, then it is presumably envisaged that most of them will, at least on certain occasions, be occupied. What then will happen when all those cars converge on to Richfield Avenue, with at least half of them queuing to get under the two railway bridges?

Whether they'll get one remains to be seen. There is however only one acceptable alternative to a leisure centre and that is to leave it as permanent open space for informal leisure, cheap to run and attracting minimal traffic to the area.

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GOD WILL PROVIDE

A Stewardship Report by John Wilson

"GOD will provide", how often have we heard or read these words and how many times have we learned of God doing just that?

I remember one of our former curates telling me of a time when he was at theological college and found himself completely out of money and no food for the morrow. He put himself in God's hands and next morning there on the doormat was an envelope containing a sum of money and a note saying: "Thought you might find this useful."

That is an experience known to me of a friend of mine.

I have also read many books in which the writers record many saving miracles where God has provided.

How does He do it? Does He have an account in the High Street Banks? Has anyone ever seen a cheque signed by God, or someone looking

like an angel pushing an envelope through a letter box?

The answer to both those questions must be no. Certainly your Bank Manager would confirm that he doesn't hold an account in the name of God. Although we see many strange reports in our daily papers, I cannot recall seeing one reporting the sighting of a person in shining white with wings sprouting from his shoulders walking down any of our streets.

Who then are God's bankers and who are his postmen? The answer to those two questions is that you and I are His bankers and postmen.

God has invested one hundred per cent in us His people and expects us to be wise and careful stewards of His investment.

To each and every one of us He keeps a

direct line open and hopes that we will listen to His guidance when He calls us to use His investment.

Some of us hear His directions and respond regularly and with increasing awareness. Others are sometimes so busy that we do not always hear the message, whilst there are those who have to be told "the phone is ringing".

Sometimes God has to shout out to His people that there is a need that must be answered and then His message bursts upon us through the media.

This has happened this year with the wide publicity over the famine in Ethiopia.

What a shout that must have been to be heard over the noise that is made in the "Pop World"!!

God bless Bob Gelford for hearing that

call and for the way he has responded to great effect.

This has been a crisis call and is not over yet, not by a long way. But, crises can often be averted by the proper use of resources and prompt and generous response to God's everyday calls to us all.

We should not need constant reminders by our Stewardship Committee of the need to review our giving. If we all met our responsibilities without prompting and gave God a proper return on His investment, then the Stewardship

Committee could turn their attention to the proper use of all our giving, instead of expending so much time and effort in encouraging us to think again.

God is a business man and like all good business men, needs to see His investments

paying dividends. He does not demand a lot from us. Ten per cent would be magnificent, but He could work wonders on five per cent.

I know that some people shudder at such a suggestion, but consider how little this is against everything God has given us. After all, His Son asked one hundred per cent. Remember the story when Christ told the rich man to sell all his goods and give the proceeds to the poor, then follow Him.

That sounds pretty demanding, but then Christ had a big job to do and little time to do it. He had to be tough.

So let us clear the lines to God and listen more carefully to His call.

You might ask how this article came to be written. Well, I was cutting the lawn one

day, when I heard a buzzing sound and "picked up the phone ..."

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

En-route for the Half Marathon

THE annual battle is currently being fought for the Reading Half Marathon route. As always, the main argument centres around our Parish of Caversham and the use of the two bridges.

As a sensible alternative it was suggested that the course was reversed so that Caversham came within the first three miles rather than the last, thus the bridges would be closed for a considerably shorter period of time (less than thirty minutes) but this suggestion did not meet with universal approval. Several other routes have been suggested that do not come anywhere near the river and Caversham but this is one of the most attractive as well as best supported part of the course as far as spectators are concerned so the organisers and most councillors are still trying to find a way of keeping Caversham on the route.



Travelling around Reading during a working week, especially during the frequent periods of road works, becomes more and more difficult. Roads are often closed without warning (St Peter's Hill recently) and our traffic planners seem

to be able to do little about it — but close a few roads on one Sunday morning a year for a few hours and they will move heaven and earth to keep the traffic flowing!!! I wonder what happens in New York, London, Paris, Glasgow, Birmingham and any other large city where they have full marathons of over 26.2 miles which necessitate much longer closures? Perhaps bigger cities have bigger people to make the decisions.

Reading leads the way in inviting the wheelchair athletes to take part in the sport of road racing and any course accepted must be suitable for wheelchairs so that these brave men and women can also enjoy the Race.

To give or not to give?

Continuing with the sport of athletics I am very concerned that the "begging bowl" is again being passed round to schools and other organisations to raise money for the 1986 Commonwealth Games due to take place in Edinburgh.

Why do I object to this four yearly request for money to enable the Games to take place??? It is because the main sporting events of the Games centre on athletics with the majority of people taking part being

athletes. Athletics is now a professional sport and vast sums of money are available within the sport for prize money, "appearance" money and training grants, etc. So with sponsorship money pouring into

athletics in particular, it should not be necessary to continue this fundraising amongst the youngsters. There are far more important charities that they could and should be learning to support.

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BIG NOSES IN DECLINE

Problems of a Wildlife biologist in Sarawak by Liz Bennett

"OH NO — the boat's sunk again!", I called out to Tony, my Sarawakian assistant. Then as I tried to manoeuvre down the slippery logs which were a mere excuse for a jetty, I slipped and slid none too gracefully into the muddy water of the Samunsam River. "I hope that crocodile we saw yesterday isn't still around", Tony managed to call out between bursts of laughter. As I clambered out of the water, I laughed further at the thought that we were supposedly engaged in a scientific management exercise, and wondered whether all the contributors to and trustees of our backing organisations really had any idea of the day-to-day workings of their field projects.

No place like home...

The reason why I was wallowing around in this tropical swamp in the first place is because it is the habitat of the endangered and bizarrely unusual animal, the proboscis monkey. This monkey, with its outsize pendulous nose and stomach which would do credit to a champion real ale drinker, is only found in Borneo, and even there it is restricted to mangrove swamps and forest around river mouths near to the coast. Unfortunately for it, those are the very areas which are the most inhabited and developed by humans, which is the major reason for the species' decline and why it is now faced with extinction. Since nobody has

ever studied the species in detail and very little is known of its habits, my job is to find out as much as possible about it. The aim of this is to work out the best ways of conserving it in the Malaysian state of Sarawak in north-western Borneo, taking into account both the needs of the animals and also those of the local communities. This is being sponsored by World Wildlife Fund Malaysia and the New York Zoological Society, the whole thing being conducted in collaboration with the National Parks and Wildlife Office (NPWO) of the Sarawak Forest Department.

And what is home?

There are very many different stages to a conservation management

project of this kind. First, there's the problem of finding out some basic information about the animals concerned — what sized area they need to live in, what are the vital resources such an area must contain, what is the minimum number of animals needed to maintain a population which will be viable in the long-term — all of which are essential when designing and planning a reserve to protect the animals. This is the side of things which involves weeks and months of wallowing around in swamps and mud, searching out in the trees above shy and unco-operative animals — who obviously have no appreciation of the fact that I'm here to help them, as evidenced by the fact that they honk in total horror and flee as quickly as possible whenever they see me. Between the animals' elusiveness and the dreadful swamp forest in which they live, it is not difficult to see why nobody has ever studied proboscis monkeys in detail before now!

Armed then, with basic information on what sort of things these animals need in an area in order to survive, the next task is to identify areas which might make good reserves for the species. The first stage of this is tremendous fun as it involves flying around in a small helicopter over areas near to the coast to find out which bits are cultivated or severely damaged by logging, and which look as though they might contain good proboscis monkey habitat. Normally, the astronomical cost of helicopter flying would mean that it would just not be possible for us to do it, but in this case we're remarkably lucky because the Royal Malaysian Air Force offer us free flying time for such surveys. Over the years, they have helped conservation efforts in Sarawak enormously by flying people and equipment around, thereby allowing us to do many things we could not otherwise do — not to mention the fact that such helicoptering is enormously exciting!

Down to the mangrove swamps

After identifying sites of potential value to the animals, the next step is to get into the areas at ground level to see in detail what's there. For example, do they actually contain any proboscis monkeys? The ground surveys are generally done by boat, with observers from NPWO as well as myself. When we go into an area, we have to find out all sorts of information of relevance to its potential as a reserve, not only about the animals and the forest, but also about the local people: do they fish and hunt there, do they use the forest for collecting firewood or building materials, and to what extent would their lifestyle be compatible with the establishment of a reserve there?

As an example as to how this works, the last area we surveyed was a large area of pure mangrove swamp called the Sarawak Mangrove area quite near to Kuching, Sarawak's capital. There were some proboscis monkeys and other primates there, but they had been wiped out in much of the area by day trippers from Kuching who go up there in speedboats and hunt (quite illegally) for sport. The area is also used extensively by local people for two main things, firstly for collecting poles for



burning charcoal, there being several long-established charcoal burning kilns in the area. Secondly, there are several small villages in the area whose inhabitants are dependent for their livelihood on fishing there.

Neither of these activities need interfere with the area's wildlife, and indeed both would suffer irreparably if the area was exploited or damaged in other ways. For example, timber is often extracted on a large scale from mangrove to produce wood chips for export, mainly to Japan. This means that there is insufficient timber left for charcoal burning to be sustainable in the long term. Moreover, it upsets the delicate balance of tides, trees and their root systems in mangroves which is so essential to provide spawning grounds for marine fish and prawns. This directly causes a decline both in the local and also commercial marine fish stocks. Not to mention the fact that the revenue from exporting marine prawns from Sarawak (which are totally dependent on intact mangroves for breeding) is something like ten times that from exporting mangrove wood chips! So it is clear that the local communities would benefit just as much as the wildlife in having a reserve which protects the area from outsiders coming in to hunt or extract timber, while still allowing the local residents to continue their traditional charcoal burning and fishing.

Towards all systems go

So then it's back to Kuching for report writing, and getting reserve proposals into the system while trying also to persuade people in government and such a reserve in Sarawak Mangrove would be the best thing since sliced bread (or more appropriately



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL HILL

IT has been both a joy and a privilege to welcome Paul and Vala Jarosz, with their little son Michal, to the Chapel this month. Paul's father Tadeusz, is the pastor of the United Evangelical Church in Warsaw. You may remember that our pastor, Chris, spent some time ministering to the Church there earlier this

year. We were so pleased that the whole family was able to come over, as often the Polish authorities are reluctant to allow a family to leave the country, fearing that they may not return. But Paul and Vala have their

hearts in Poland and love their own people. God has called them to serve Him there, and that is their desire.

It was Paul and Vala's first time away from Poland, and they found life here very different. At home they live in a small flat and were very impressed by our houses surrounded by gardens — something we very much take for granted. Vala finds shopping at home hard work, as the quantity and variety of goods available is very, very limited.

Although generally the Church in Poland does not suffer persecution, we have much more freedom here to evangelise. House-to-house visiting would be allowed in Warsaw, but the open-air evangelistic meeting would not.

As Paul, Vala and Michael return home, we must pray that the Lord would enable them to put into practice many of the things they have discovered here, that the Polish Church would grow together in love, able to reach out effectively to the millions who are still in darkness.

ON Sunday 29th September we celebrated Harvest at the Chapel. As we praised the Lord for his abundant provision to us through nature, the message reflected the generosity of God revealed to us in Ephesians 1 v. 7 "the riches of God's grace".

Following our morning worship, we met together for lunch in and around the old chapel.

But, of course, there is more than one harvest to be collected. There is also the harvest of men and women to be brought into God's Kingdom. Because of this, it seemed appropriate to spend some time in the afternoon hearing up to date news of the missionaries which we support, both here in Reading and abroad.

BAPTIST NEWS

PHEW!

THE autumn session started at gale force — reminiscent of the autumn sales when the doors open but hopefully to a nobler purpose than that of securing a few cut-price bargains. A capacity crowd witnessed the Service of Believer's Baptism of an Anglican, Mrs Kathleen Pannell, the first such event in the history of the Baptist Church and, as far as is known, of the Anglican Church in Caversham, but hopefully not the last. On that occasion the Church

was delighted to welcome the Rector, the Revd. Richard Kingsbury, who shared with the Minister, the Revd. Dennis Weller, in the conduct of the Service and gave his blessing to Kathleen's wish to be baptised by a total immersion thereby making public her acceptance of Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour and her desire to follow Him. Kathleen gave testimony in a well prepared and reasoned statement, free from emotion, which indicated her conviction in the step which she

was taking. In order that the Service should not conflict with the Sunday commitments of the respective clergy the Service was held on a Tuesday evening — another first.

This Baptism was followed — this time on a Sunday evening — by that of three more friends, Mrs Cecily Eeles, Mr Geoffrey and Mrs Sheila Goldsmith — a truly momentous occasion for which the Church gives thanks and rejoices.

Fifty not out

The Church also rejoiced with its senior member, Mr Leslie Wyeth, who during September celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of his induction as lay pastor of the Baptist Church at Brimpton. In recognition of Leslie's tenacity of purpose and of his devotion to the small community at the Brimpton Church a commemorative service was held in the tiny Church. This was conducted by the Revd. Gordon Thomas, Pastor-Secretary of the Berkshire Baptist Association and attended by, amongst others, the Area Superintendent, the Revd. Geoffrey Reynolds and the Rector of Brimpton, the Revd. Richard Miller, both of whom spoke in glowing terms of Leslie's work. The story of those fifty years is one to thrill the heart and, in parts, hilarious to the point where one could be forgiven for rolling in the aisle with laughter.

Ambassadors extraordinary

The Church rang to the voices of some thirty-two Ugandan children and their bongo drums when 'Ambassadors of Aid', a Christian Group having roots in

Vancouver, Canada, presented the African Children's Choir in concert. The professionalism — free from affectation — of these children, whose ages ranged from 6 to 13 years, and their abounding energy and delight in what they were doing had to be seen to be believed as did their discipline both on and off stage. The children were staying in the district for a few days as guests of the members of Henley Baptist Church and it was to the credit of the Revd. Frank Payne, the Baptist Minister at Henley, that we, in Caversham, were privileged to enjoy a talented performance and to have the opportunity of contributing £520 to the 'Ambassadors of Aid' Fund to establish an orphanage and schools in their tragic and war-torn country.

Harvest

In keeping with tradition the Festival of Harvest was celebrated, albeit less ostentatiously than of yesteryear, in the time-honoured manner. The weekend opened with a Barn Dance, the 'barn', being the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsey Road. This provided opportunity to 'let off steam' and shed a little weight prior to indulging in a well prepared and presented supper organised by the Monday Night Youth Club. The Sunday Services were orientated to the work of Christian Aid and Tear Fund, the highlight of which was probably the children's address given by Mr Bob Ponchaud. Mr Ponchaud shared a chocolate cake between the children in a way which illustrated very poignantly that one-third of the world's people enjoy three-quarters of the available produce whilst the remaining two-thirds barely subsist on the remaining quarter.



Paul Davies and Julie Anne Jenkins, married at Caversham Baptist Free Church, where they are both active members. Julie is a Sunday School teacher and together with Paul, helps with the 11-14 years Youth Club. They will be living in Calcot.

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CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

CAMPUS Crusade for Christ, whose work was featured in an earlier issue of the "Bridge", are putting on "Explo 85" — the world's first intercontinental satellite congress. From the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, to sites as far afield as the Olympic Stadium in Seoul, Korea, Explo 85 will take place from 27-31 December at 91 locations in 53 countries. Evening speakers will include

Jash McDowell and George Verwer, with Billy Graham and Luis Palau appearing by satellite. Worship will be led by David Pope and Saltmine Band. Explo staff are available to tell your church about Explo 85. If you would like more information, please contact Pauline Tuttle, Explo 85, 103 Friar Street, Reading, Tel: 589461 (or 481913 after office hours).

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

THE September weather has proved long and lazy — but the days have increased with business as the Church calendar has got underway.

Harvests have come and gone, when worship and fellowship were enjoyed. Friends at the Harvest supper were entertained by the Shinfield Handbell Ringers.

New sessions of the different organisations have begun. New

programmes have been arranged for the Fellowship meetings and the Youth Groups. The Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corps are beginning to practise new music. In amongst all these activities a new baby is about to be born in the shape of a Saturday Night Youth Club. This will be run by Mike & Lynne Richmond and will fill a need for young people who want to enjoy a relaxing evening together. Table Ten-

nis, Snooker, Board Games, Music & Television will be on offer with maybe burgers and chips as well. It sounds like a worthwhile piece of youth work and we wish all concerned well in this new venture.

Friends will be looking forward to the end of October when there will be a Gift Day Dinner. The after dinner speaker will be Rev. Laurence Ashman, chairman of the Southampton District.

LINK GROUP

THE Link Group held the first meeting of the new session at the home of Mrs Mary Bramwell.

The Chairman, Mrs Pat Jenkins, thanked all the members who had helped with the outing for mentally handicapped children. This was a great success judging by the children's obvious enjoyment. Games and then a picnic lunch were held in Mr and Mrs Bennett's garden and then children and helpers went to the Child Beale Wildlife Trust where the adventure playground proved most popular and the various birds and animals were visited.

A report on the Care Centre showed that after a quiet August numbers of visitors and calls are building up again slowly, in the office and the Pop-in Centre. An open morning was held at the Pop-in Centre to show how this is run with new ideas such as a corner for card games and facilities for knitting blanket squares or other handwork. Charity Christmas cards will be on sale by mid-

October in the Pop-in Centre it is hoped. There will also be, some time in the future, a corner with facilities for mothers with babies for nappy-changing with equipment donated by the National Childbirth Trust. Furniture offered has been supplied to those in need partly through the Care Office and partly through the Link Group representative Mrs Anthea Prescott. The fortnightly tea parties continue and extra drivers have come forward as a result of appeals through the Care Centre.

Mrs Pat Jenkins told members that a joint Church Choir with which she herself sings is to give a performance of the musical play 'Greater than Gold' on Saturday December 7th at the Baptist Church in Caversham with the proceeds being given to the Link Group Charities.

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Sponsored Psalm Sing



Half-way through! Saturday, 21st September, and some of the joint choir are well on the way to sing all 150 psalms. The event, in aid of Save the Children Fund, started at 7.30pm and finished 12 hours later and was organised by Andrew Bosley and David Sidwell.

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The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

The Rev Adrian Dorber, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 473095.

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham. Tel: 472070.

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.

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: 723418

Christmas cards

A selection of charity Christmas cards are now on sale in the Pop-In Centre at Church House on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

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FIVE YEARS AGO THIS SEPTEMBER Elsie Gutteridge (nee Dufield) died. She was born just before the turn of this century and lived much of her life in Mapledurham and although she had just a simple village schooling, she was a born writer. Some twelve years ago she wrote down the remembrance of her country childhood. It was as if she was telling it all by word of mouth and I now record this as she wrote it for me. She came from an old local family. Her mother worked in Mapledurham House and her father had a smallholding until he gave it up and then took on the task of keeping the Warren banks tidy for the Estate. He and his wife were by then living in one of the almshouses as pensioners.

A Hamlet in the Trees

Tucked away in a corner of Mapledurham Parish lies Nuney Green. There are many ways of spelling it. In a very ancient map I saw it was spelt Newney — a most delightful, peaceful place — a hamlet in the trees; for it was, and still is, surrounded by woods. At the turn of the century there was only a handful of houses on The Green and no road leading to them, only two old cart tracks, one called Phillips Hill and the other Batch-

elors Hill. (The latter is still an old lane near Cross Lanes Fruit Farm. The former, now a metalled road, is not far from The King Charles' Head at Goring Heath. MK)

Six Miles to shop and back

No tradespeople called so all our shopping was done in Reading, about six miles away, as Goring Heath shop and post office was non-existent. There were no buses; only the carrier from Goring passed by two or three times a

A COUNTRY CHILDHOOD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

week. You could go in with him but you were never quite sure of his time of arrival, so had to wait about on the Goring road for him. Once a week my mother would walk into town and back to shop, often after working several hours at Mapledurham House. Then she went along the Warren or crossed the river by the ferry and went into Reading from the Tilehurst side. After doing all her shopping she would then walk all the way home laden with two baskets, unless she caught the carrier back.

Pond water and skimmed milk to drink

Drinking water was fetched from an open pond at the

bottom of the field, but after the death of a little girl we had nine water-butts installed and at another house a pump was put in. When there was a drought my mother used to carry bottles of water back from where she worked.

We had butter and milk from a smallholding owned by Mr Simmonds at Nuney Green. I helped churn the butter and you could buy skimmed milk for a halfpenny a pint.

Busy little girl

My father kept about a hundred hens and I used to deliver eggs to customers. I was always busy as a child. When I was

eight my mother gave me a key to our cottage, which I wore on a string so that if she was out I could get in and prepare the evening meal. In holidays I was sent to help the elderly. I wrote their letters, read to them and did any little jobs, and for a whole month was house-keeper to an old man who was dying. I never went stone picking but I can remember some women doing it locally.

A Brick in the bed

Life in the country was good. We watched the fox cubs in a nearby pit and went wooding. I only remember us having one load of coal. Every Good

Friday we went primrosing. (This seems to have been an old custom — it is mentioned in Kilvert's Diary, and we also did it as children. MK) Some Easters I had a new cotton frock, but clothes had to last. I was the sewer in our family. In winter we had a brick put in the oven. When it was really hot it was wrapped in a flannel and put in our beds to warm them. Once a white owl came down the chimney. We were sitting round the fire; there was a noise and down it fell into the hearth.

Liquorice ribbons

Like all the other children I walked to Mapledurham school. Miss Butler was the headmistress and there were between sixty and seventy pupils. We took midday sandwiches and had a cup of cocoa every morning during winter for

which we paid half a penny a week. I also had another halfpenny a week to spend in school, for Miss Butler sold liquorice ribbons. That was all we had for a treat until my mother went shopping and then she would say — "Would you like a banana or a few sweets? You can't have both". But sometimes we did!

When my people moved to Nuney Green I was four-teen months old. It was my home for twenty years until I moved to Mapledurham Village with father and mother. How it has altered, with a few more houses and a made up road to them! At Goring Heath, a mile away, is a general store and post office and there is a bus service into Reading. All this makes it more comfortable and easier, but give me old Nuney Green. Those days of my childhood were a truly happy time.

M.K.

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A LIFE-LONG CAMPAIGNER FOR LOST CAUSES, I'd sworn never to take part in petitioning or canvassing again. But I couldn't keep out of the campaign to prevent the proposed development of Hemdean Valley, could I?

Never have I known so much enthusiasm. For weeks the phone has been constantly ringing with people asking what they can do to help, and

Katy in Caversham

Caversham Priorities

the last Saturday in September found me standing in Waitrose car park with a petition. Naturally a few odd ones scurried past trying to pretend they hadn't seen us — I wonder what they are frightened of — but most people were unbelievably anxious to sign and we collected a large number of signatures in record time. I do hope this means Caversham people have got their priorities right and really know the value of having the countryside so near at least on this side of town.

Strangely enough the same day found me near the Ramada Hotel with a petition calling on the Government to do something to stop the imports of staple foods from countries whose peoples are themselves starving, and to exert pressure on the EEC to do something about those infamous 'food mountains'. Those who did stop to sign up were really keen, but far too many gave us a wide berth. One didn't have to be a Christian to find the cry: "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by" echoing in one's head.

All creatures...

I seem to get more and more involved with animals and the people and organisations who care for them and recently had a visit from the Deputy Appeals Director of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. Naturally I asked why there was no animal treatment centre anywhere near here. Unfortunately, though it seems Reading had been mentioned as a possible site for the future, it's a question of cash. There is an auxiliary service at Oxford but if one can't afford to pay a local vet — and heaven knows veterinary service, in the case of a very sick animal can be expensive — it is highly unlikely an owner could afford a trip to Oxford. If enough local vets could be induced to take an interest (they would, of course, get paid for their pains) something might be done. So if you feel like approaching any of them and asking, it might help. Otherwise well, if you are feeling altruistic, donations, however small, could be sent to Sir Mark Tennant, PDSA House, South Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2LB. And they would appreciate it if anyone, especially shop owners, would send for a collecting box, a gift catalogue or some of their attractive posters at only 50p each. Recently Katy Boyle appealed for funds on TV and it is obvious that where these centres exist they do a wonderful job; it would be nice to think one day we might have a centre here.

Meanwhile the Cats' Protection League and Petwatch are doing yeoman service. I've been asked to repeat the Petwatch numbers for those who missed them and have missing or found animals — 665918 (for cats) and 26340 (dogs). If it's to do with cats I can't think of a better person to advise you than Mrs Cook in Smith's News-

agents, Prospect Street. Needless to say, the local vets and the Pet Food Shop are always willing to advise and pass on phone numbers etc.

Some months ago we featured an article on David Chandler who helps to care for birds in distress. The number to ring is 477107. The local pet food shop also supplied me with the name of Trevor Goff (471626) who does a lot of rescue work with rabbits, guinea pigs etc, and will also board some during the holidays. And, of course, there is the rescue centre in Queen's Road (475514). All are doing excellent work, largely at their own expense, so if you feel like running, say, a coffee morning or a bridge afternoon in aid of any of them, it would be much appreciated. Every pound helps. It's great to live in an area where pets and their owners really matter, so I don't apologise for devoting space to the subject.

Missed out

I've been taken to task for missing Jacksons in my round up of local shops. Possibly it's because I don't knit much myself, but it's really unforgivable for if there is one shop in Caversham which gives customers the kind of old-fashioned service one, alas, doesn't get much these days, it is this one. The assistants don't mind how long you take choosing wool — and they do have a great range, including a lot of mohair. I particularly like the Chameleon wools with their beautiful colours. Incidentally one customer comes from London about every six weeks since she says she can do better here — you can't have a better recommendation than that.

Stitchin' Time

Just as Jacksons makes me wish I did knit, this shop in Church Road makes me envious of those who make their own clothes. Every time I pass the window I see the most beautiful materials. A dress length would make a lovely Christmas present, wouldn't it?

Christmas Shopping

Unless you need a very specialised item, there's no need to leave Caversham this year for Christmas shopping. We've got a bookshop, a florists, a gift shop and an antique shop all equal to anything in Reading — I don't know about you, but frankly I don't go much on the large stores in Reading with their so-called modern layout and I'd swop the new Woolworths any day for the old-fashioned kind of store. In all the shops I've mentioned you'll get very personal service and can browse as much as you like — I find them all tempting and could spend a fortune, for instance, on the lovely range of room fragrances or Country Diary items in the Gift Shop. And don't forget to support our new arrivals among the traders — they need a good

start and they are worth it.

Useful people

Having spent several fruitless hours in Reading trying to find a small engraved cup to give as an award, I could kick myself. It seems I've been walking past the very place here in Caversham — Prospect Engraving in Chester Street, where David, Valerie and Tim May are only too anxious to help and will obtain cups or shields on approval before engraving them according to your needs; they also engrave glass. Not, perhaps a thing one wants every day, but worth making a note of. And I regret to say I forgot to pass on the name of a firm of French polishers, which I obtained from the local upholstery shop for a reader some time ago — they recommend Bullion and Colebrooke, 2a Valentia Road (584087). Again, it might come in handy some time.

J & P Motors

I've never refused to pass on compliments given me by readers and I've been asked to say how very much one reader appreciates the service of these people in the Henley Road. It is easy enough to choose a garage if you are knowledgeable about cars but for this reader — who knows so little about them that she once tried to pour a pint of oil down the dipstick hole — to find mechanics who can be completely trusted, whose charges are reasonable and who will put themselves out to finish a job on time, is a great relief.

Christmas Mail

I do miss an awful lot of people out and I'm sorry. But I must just mention Mr and Mrs Syal and staff at the Prospect Street Post Office who recently saved me a couple of pounds on postage to New Zealand simply by showing me how to leave an opening in a package. They are very efficient while, at the same time, anxious to help customers as much as possible. I'm sure they'll come through the Christmas rush with flying colours, as usual.

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GIRL GUIDES — PAST AND FUTURE

WHAT WOULD THEY THINK OF IT ALL TODAY, that handful of "girl scouts" who appeared among the boys at the Scouts' Crystal Palace rally in 1910? The Girl Guide movement set in motion by those daring young ladies has come a long way in the seventy-five years since then. And the world has changed dramatically.

Would they be envious, those early pioneers, to see all the opportunities open to the Brownies, Guides and Rangers in the 1980s — not only in their Guiding activities, but in their choice of careers, and in taking part in society generally? Or would they be glad they did not grow up in a world surrounded

by machines and gadgets, drug abuse, sexual licence, street violence, and overshadowed by the threat of atomic annihilation? Would they feel the modern pressures outweighed all the advances made in three-quarters of a century?

Today's world

In that time the Guide movement has grown and spread world-wide, and is still growing, but does something founded way back before the first world war still have relevance today? Or is it a quaint remnant of another patriotic time and place? Perhaps the fact of its survival provides all the answer needed. Girls still do join Guiding, so it must have something to offer. It has changed with the times, but its basic principles still hold true, ie. the requirement to do one's best to do one's duty to God, to serve the Queen and to obey the Guide Laws all of which set out a code of behaviour for the

Among those asked for reflections of the past and a look ahead to the future was Mrs Pamela Robotham, County Commissioner for Berkshire Girl Guides. She and Kathy Staff, Outdoor Activities Adviser for Berks. GGA, have contributed this article.

upbringing of a decent citizen.

Guiding today, as always, gives its young members the chance to have fun and find adventure within a group, to learn useful and interesting skills, and to discover themselves in combination with learning to consider others around them in family, school and eventually working life. While the content of the programmes may have changed for the different age groups, the aims and objectives have not.

All-round opportunities...

All three age groups — Brownie (7-10), Guide (10-15), and Ranger (14-18) — take part in activities which fit into one or more of eight categories: keeping themselves fit and healthy, enjoying the out of

doors, developing creative skills in the arts, learning to use their minds for themselves, working at their relationships with other people, learning to be ready and able to give service to others, acquiring homecraft skills, and through all of this developing their own characters.

The girls can work as individuals for personal achievement of badges and certificates, or within varied sizes of groups. But gone are the days when there was a set syllabus to follow at every stage. Today there is a great deal of choice within the skeleton framework, and every encouragement to develop self-management among the girls.

...and in outdoor life

The pleasure and challenge of living together away from

a campfire at the end of a tiring but fulfilling day.

A fixture in a changing world

Perhaps one of the most important things Guiding offers, and something which is growing more scarce today, is a sense of belonging. When society is changing so rapidly, when careers require ever more frequent movement of families around the country, and when family stability itself is threatened as the growing divorce rate illustrates, membership of something with continuity such as Guiding, can become so valuable to a youngster whose world seems constantly in flux.

Far from being outdated, it seems from the way society is shaping towards the future, Guiding has more and more to offer youngsters who are beginning to feel alienated by life around them, by family splits, and by the prospects of a school career that

ends in unemployment. There are pressures that the girls of 1910 cannot even have dreamed about. Equally it is just as hard to imagine what changes there will be in life over the next quarter-century up to the one hundredth anniversary of Guiding, let alone the next seventy-five years up to its one hundred and fiftieth.

But unless there is some human revolution which wipes out all belief in the benefit of encouraging people to develop their individual abilities and their concern for each other, there is a certain feeling that organisations like the Girl Guide Association will survive with the changing times.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Blgrave WI

IT was more like mid-summer than Harvest on October 1st when about forty-five people, members and their guests, attended the Harvest Lunch. The meal provided by the members was sumptuous and had the speaker who followed been anything other than very interesting, a few might have been tempted to nod off. Mrs Wright spoke about "History and Story of Fabric Pictures" and brought along many fine examples of her work. A competition for a decorated wooden spoon was won by Mrs Aldiss, second Mrs Housden. The general verdict was a most pleasant meeting from start to finish.

Caversham Ladies Club

THE Chairman welcomed back three members who had been in hospital undergoing operations. The meeting was the Annual Harvest Home, and proved an enormous success. Members were duly thanked for their generous contribution, which made this Harvest such a success. The outing to Blenheim Palace on the 17th September was an enjoyable

occasion, the gardens, lake and railway adding to the splendour of the Palace. The next meeting on 10th October will be slides shown by Mr Niass on Old Reading.

St. Peter's Wives Group

ST. Peter's Wives Group met at Church House in September when the Revd. Richard Kingsbury shared with thirty members and friends his experiences during four years as a member of the Parole Board. The Group's thanks were expressed to Richard for such an entertaining and enjoyable evening. The Group's AGM is on the 19th November and Edna Fitzstace will be making a return visit to entertain members with her poetry reading.

Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD WI recently celebrated their thirtieth Anniversary with a luncheon party held in Mrs Heather Baker's house, guests of honour being founder members of the Institute. It was a very happy and successful occasion, and grateful thanks were expressed to Mrs Baker

for her organisation and hospitality. Three enjoyable coffee mornings have been held in the gardens of Mrs Eleanor Alford, Mrs Diana Appleton and Mrs Win Morgan.

At the September meeting Mrs Barbara Aird of "Age Concern" gave an informative talk. The local branch of this voluntary organisation was set up after the last war, in 1947, for the welfare of elderly people, and covers all areas where help or advice is needed. Loneliness is the greatest problem, and volunteers can help by visiting, shopping, gardening etc. Mrs Aird was given a number of craft items, made by members, for her fund raising bazaar to be held in November. Mrs Doris Tittle gave the vote of thanks.

Caversham Community Association

THE September meetings commenced with a visit to the club by Elaine Campbell, a Yoga teacher. Mrs Campbell demonstrated various exercises, some suitable for the less experienced, members were invited to take part and many availed themselves of the opportunity.

An Arts and Crafts competition was held on the 9th September when members were asked to bring samples of their work, to be judged by Joyce Feeny for Cookery, Dorothy Maskell for knitting and crochet, Rose Painter for

flower arranging and Stephen Waite the photography. Mrs Maskell and Mr Waite also judged the art section. First prizewinners as follows: Photography — Portrait, Marjorie Absolom; View, Barbara Benham; Humorous, Betty Colton. Cookery — Cherry Cake, Maida Feast; Fruit Tart, Muriel Waite; Biscuits, Anne Wright; Cheese Straws, Maida Feast; Sweets, Margaret Cameron. Needlecraft — Child's knitted garment, May Plant; Adult's knitted garment, Betty Johnson; Crochet, Margaret Cameron; Embroidery, Wendy Colton. Art — Painting, Wendy Colton. Flowers — Jam Jar arrangement, Nancy Nelhams who also won the Joe Rampton Cup; General arrangement, Maida Feast; Miniature arrangement, Dorothy Tracey; Arrangement with candle, Margaret Cameron who retained the Muriel Rampton Rose-bowl.

A successful event was the Autumn Fair which took place on the 14th September. There were stalls for fancy goods, books, cakes, competitions etc. for the visitors to browse over. Refreshments were also available.

The following Monday the members met for a social evening.

At the friendly whistdrive the next week Peggy Martin and Betty Petherbridge had the highest number of points and were awarded prizes.

The members brought gifts of produce and goods to make a fine display when they arrived at the Harvest Supper on 30th September. After the harvest hymns and readings by members of the club the supper was partaken by the appreciative members. Thanks were expressed to the committee and members who had arranged and prepared the appetising meal.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

MR Turner from the Reading Library Service was the speaker at the September meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild. He gave a brief history of libraries in this country, going back to the monastery libraries of the Middle Ages. The first free public libraries

were instituted in the nineteenth century, and began in Manchester. A rate of one halfpenny in the pound was levied to provide the buildings, but the books had to come from elsewhere. Reading Central library opened in 1872 with nine thousand books, and the Caversham Library in 1907, at a cost of £2,275 for the building and £500 for the site, given by Mr Williams.

There are thirteen libraries in the Reading area, and two and a quarter million books were issued last year. New books are ordered by computer and suppliers are nationwide, one of the important factors being that the bindings must be very strong. At the new Reading Library books are issued by computer, and can also be located by a View Data System, the best in the country. It is hoped to be able to link this up with home computers to reserve books in the future. A great many other services are also offered including mobiles to visit the Elderly and Housebound; Children's Story Time and Quizzes, availability of archive records, one of the finest in the country, especially helpful in tracing one's family tree, displays and exhibitions, just to mention a few.

Members were welcomed back after the summer break, and arrangements were made for the September Jumble Sale and the Birthday Party in October. New members are always welcome, as are visitors, and details of the meetings can be found in the Reading and Caversham Libraries.

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 11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th 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)
 4.00pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
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 11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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 FAMILY SERVICE (5th Sunday)

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 6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
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 6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
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 11.00am Morning Service
 6.30pm Evening Service

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 Sept 15 James Oake

St John's
 July 7 Robert Dighton, Leah Stoute
 Peter Holloway
 Mark Boucher

July 14 Jennifer Cox, Carla Hewitson
 August 4 Sean Simmonds, Ryan Marcham
 August 11 Nathan Hageman, Jodie Hageman, Natalie Ferris, Amy Ferris

Caversham Park
 July 28 Sarah Halsey
 Sept 22 Michelle Talbot, Iain McKnight

St Anne's

Sept Noel Campbell and Janice McDermott
 Martin Rogers and Patricia Durkan
 Ian Dunn and Margaret Gratrix
 Giulio Chiarleglio and Sandra Stokes

FUNERALS

St John's
 April 11 George Perkins
 May 2 Nan Henderson
 May 7 Maureen Bicknell
 May 20 Lillian Lock
 June 7 Walter Moth
 June 10 Frederick Bates
 June 13 Annie Grantham
 June 26 Stanley Palmer
 June 28 John Russell
 July 29 Arthur Masterman

St Anne's

Sept Anne Hopley

MARRIED

St Peter's
 Sept 14 Charles Dennes and Berenice Bramwell
 Sept 7 Paul Frank and Tracey Benham
 Sept 14 David Sanderson and Deborah Longstaffe
 Sept 28 Russell Gardner and Sally Woodhouse
 David Orford and Deborah Chapman
 Bruce Honey and Diane White

St John's

May 18 Barry Maslen and Debbie Peters
 June 1 Nigel Smith and Tracey Tame
 June 29 Stephen Goodchild and Helen Mackenzie
 July 13 Martin Hinckley and Lyn Graham
 July 20 Neil Horne and Karen Ingram
 Aug 3 Graham Duffus and Sandra Dyer

Caversham Park House Communion

Wednesday 10.30am
 November 6
 6 Eynsford Close (Vera Wilson)

November 13
 51 Galsworthy Drive (Clare Kenchington)

November 20
 8 Kelso Mews (Caroline Fraser)

November 27
 7 Ilchester Mews (Gerry Ashton)

CAVERSHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

THE Club's Autumn Session began on Wednesday September 4. Mrs Bunting was the "Caller" for the afternoons lively Bingo. Prizes are now of a more practical nature, such as provisions for the store cupboard.

Forty members enjoyed a hastily arranged Garden Party on September 11, which took place at 34 Woodcote Road. The weather was too good to be missed and the tea, scones and cream tasted especially good on the lawn in the brilliant sunshine. On September 18 Mrs Anne Gardner gave a fascinating talk about her glass engraving work. Mrs Gardner used to be with The Calthness Glass Company and she brought along items, sketches and pictures of her interesting career. Mr Martyn Allies treated members to a feast of history on September 25. His very informative talk on Joan of Arc was accompanied by beautiful slides of the French countryside, towns and cathedrals where Saint Joan's short brave life took place. Thank you to all those

mentioned for giving members such entertaining and interesting meetings.

Future events include a visit to the Hexagon to see The Sainsbury Singers in The Pyjama Game and talks on Old Reading and Caversham Court Gardens, also a visit from The Firtree Singers and a Christmas lunch at Hungerford.

The Club is held every Wednesday afternoon from 2.15pm until 3.30pm at Church House, Church Street, Caversham and we extend a warm welcome to all newcomers.

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