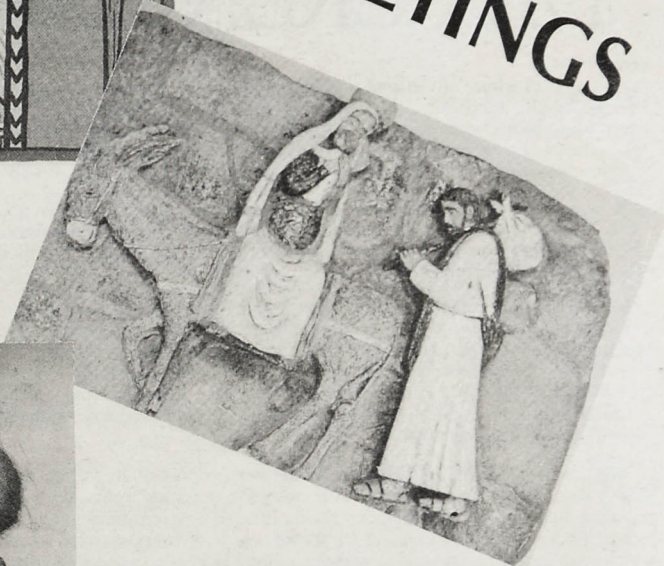
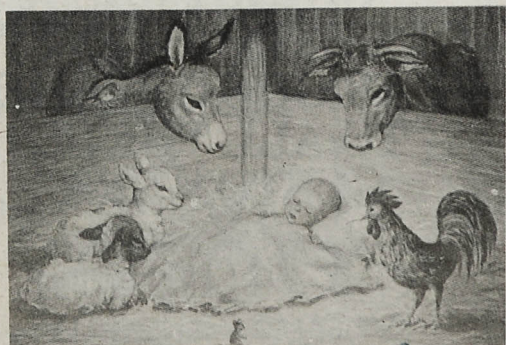


CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS



A selection of Charity Christmas Cards available in Caversham from the Pop-In Centre (Church House, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 to 12 noon) and Oxfam in Prospect Street.





# TALKING POINT

By Richard Kingsbury



## 'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!'

Dear Friends,

I have a brochure advertising a "Peace and Quiet Christmas" at a local deluxe hotel. "Hopefully, since you are reading this brochure, you are planning to take a break over the Christmas period and are looking for a hotel ... with one or two extra touches of luxury that will make your Christmas break relaxing, enjoyable and, above all, memorable."

It explains what you'll get for only £180 per person December 24-27: "You'll have a number of feature films on our special 45in video television screen, a games room, a new indoor leisure centre with its own indoor jacuzzi style spa bath" and so on and so on.

Good grief, £60 a day in a hotel with a number of feature films on a 45in video television screen — I think I'd want to end it all in their "jacuzzi style spa bath"! Good luck to them, if that's their idea of a peace and quiet Christmas. The "champagne breakfast on the morning of the 25th, a 7-course Christmas Day luncheon and Scottish-style breakfast (the mind boggles) on Saturday morning" would drive me screaming to commit indictable offences in the male and female saunas.

I wonder whether it has occurred to the perpetrators of this three day assault course that what they are offering has a delicious irony. Without revealing the hotel's identity (incidentally it offers quite decent food and not a hundred miles from M4's junction 11) it stands in stark contrast to the scene which gave birth to Christmas. The original hotel lacked four-star amenities, jacuzzis and champagne breakfast. It didn't even have room for a couple of weary travellers, but its landlord kindly offered his stable. First to celebrate were not there because they had nowhere else to go that Christmas but because they — rough and ready men of the hill country — were impelled by a force greater than themselves.

Oh yes, you murmur, another parson sneering at "commercialisation of Christmas". Listen. Parsons are just as prone to miss out on the Real Thing at Christmas as anyone else. Maybe we don't open our pressies, see the family, or even get anything to eat until Christmas Day is more than half gone, but we can get caught up in the same cynicism as the four-star hoteliers. "Hey ho, seven carol services down, two to go. Any post this morning? More cards? Keep them in a pile somewhere — I'll get a moment to look at them once we've got Christmas over ..." We'll be racing round the shops and to the post on December 23 like everyone else. We too risk missing out on Love — divine and human!

So what's new? This "Talking Point" could have been written just the same ten, twenty years ago. What's the difference? Precisely — what IS the difference *this* year? How will *this* Christmas be different from all the others?

Christmas is bound to be "the same" if all we do is commemorate what God once did all those centuries ago. When will we get it into our heads that God is *not* a God who acted but a God who *acts*; not a God who did, but a God who *does*? What are we celebrating? A birth 1,986 years ago? Or a birth *today*?

"O come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for thee!"

Or, to paraphrase a greeting from Taizé's Prior Roger Schutz:

Within each person there exists a realm of solitude which no relationship can fill, not even the closest love between two humans. There — at the utmost depth of your being, at the point where no two people are alike — CHRIST WAITS. And the unexpected HAPPENS!

A memorably happy New Christmas and Love to you all!

RICHARD KINGSBURY

PS: Mind you, even in that indoor jacuzzi style spa bath, you are you and God is God. The Incarnate Word isn't restricted to churchgoers. The Prince of Peace could presumably break through in breakfast champagne bubbles just as He does in Cranmer's prose at 8am on Christmas Day. Or *could* he? (Now where did I put that brochure?)

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

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Bailey, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Nigel Wright, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703  
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All contributions for the February issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, January 7.  
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, January 2.

## CHRISTMAS SCOUTPOST

THE Emmer Green Scouts are continuing their service of distributing Christmas cards throughout Caversham for the very small sum of 5p each card. Look around for posting boxes, which at the time of going to press will be at:

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## LOCAL NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME COLLECTION

LOCAL Secretary, Mr Ted Curling of Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road, wishes to thank all residents in lower Caversham for the marvellous response to The National Children's Home house to house appeal. The total received was £561.94 which is an increase of £50 on 1985. Many thanks to all concerned.

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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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# BLAKE'S LOCK MUSEUM

THREE Caversham people have lately been involved in the creation of a new museum in Reading. Blakes Lock Museum is situated on the banks of the Kennet near the site of the old Huntley and Palmers factory. It opened in the summer of 1985 largely due to the efforts of Sue Read, Martin Andrews and Leslie Cram. (Sue Read is assistant keeper of Archaeology and Social History and Martin Andrews is the designer at Reading Museum) and together they led the project. Sue researched the historical details using her specialist knowledge of the collections and local photography to tell the story of Reading. Martin designed and co-ordinated the project. Leslie Cram is keeper of Archaeology at Reading Museum and had a very important supportive role in the project culminating in the organising of press and publicity events and the grand opening day of entertainment.

## GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

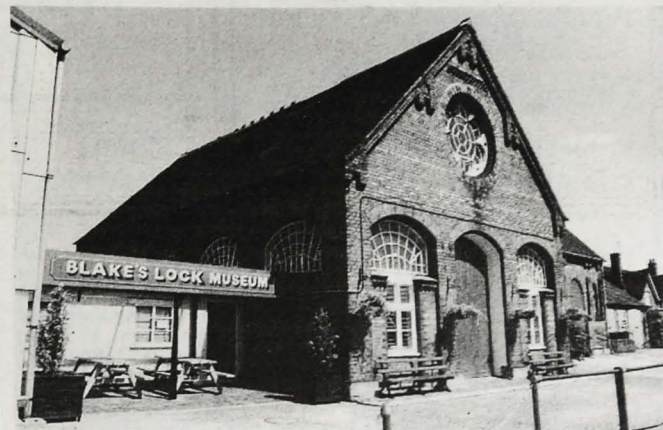
Martin and Sue worked closely on the plan of the museum providing the displays with both atmosphere and historical accuracy. The displays were

designed to complement and enhance the Victorian character of the building. A variety of the smaller businesses of the town are shown and three — a gentleman's hairdressers, a printers and a bakers — are full scale

reconstructions. Because of a lack of space, material from other trades, for example a sweet-shop, a photographers and a chemists, are housed in small cases to give a feeling of a glimpse through a shop window.

Due to a very small budget the team was also involved in raising money from a wide variety of local firms and sponsors. Many local firms provided special mate-

by Leslie Cram. It was a day of events and the public of Reading was cordially invited to join in. The Transport Department provided a vintage bus to transport the public from Broad Street and from then on the Museum resounded with the voices of a Barber Shop quartet while outside clog dancers and Punch and Judy entertained the onlookers. Trips on the Kennet Canal were offered by a



Exterior view of Blakes Lock Museum

— Martin Andrews

## A PLACE FOR MEMORIES

The museum has been created by people with a close and intimate knowledge of the history of Reading which is reflected in the displays. Martin and Sue have been gratified by the pleasure expressed by people of all ages when they have visited Blakes Lock. Older people often recognise places or people in the hundreds of old photographs and printed memorabilia on display. There are many photographs of old Caversham including Caversham Bridge and Washington Road submerged in the floods of the 1940s. The wooden milk cart on display came from the Reading and Caversham Dairy. Many people have said how they enjoy the atmosphere, the exhibits bring back many memories for them.

## A PLACE FOR THE YOUNG

The young people have been very anxious to show their

pleasure and interest in the museum. Class after class of school children have enjoyed sitting on the seats taken out of an old pleasure steamer and "steering" with the boat's wheel. They have also enjoyed the street scene with the old bench and Victorian gas lamp. It is a place well worth visiting if

you are interested in the history of Reading and its people.

The museum is situated in Gas Works Road, off Kenavon Drive and is open on Wednesday-Friday from 10.00-5.00, Saturdays and Sundays from 2.00-5.00. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free.



Milk cart which belonged to "Reading and Caversham Dairy".

— Martin Andrews

rials, and along with business groups and societies, helped to finance displays relevant to their trade or profession. Many evenings were spent hard at work with local volunteers who played an important role restoring items for display. This involvement added to the feeling of a community museum.

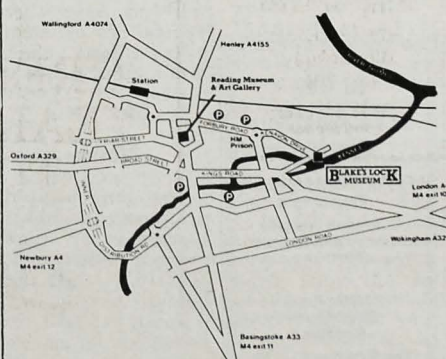
narrow boat and ice creams were purchased from a "genuine" Edwardian ice cream seller on his bike!

It was a wonderful day and the numbers of people attending and enjoying the museum have increased by the month. In fact, the total for the first year was in the region of twenty-five thousand visitors. Since then a new temporary exhibition area has been created with the first exhibition being "Milling on the Thames and Kennet". One of the mills featured in this exhibition was the one at Mapledurham.

## A MEMORABLE OPENING

This new museum was created in only six months and on a glorious sunny day at the end of June last year a "grand opening" was organised

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

**By Watchdog**

### In the doghhouse

THIS dog was certainly given a bad name in last month's correspondence columns. Amongst the sticks used to beat the poor creature were accusations of being misleading, inaccurate, personally prejudiced, abrasive (can put up with that one), patronising (don't like that one bit), doing a disservice on more than one local issue and even causing a dangerous upsurge in the Rector's blood pressure. And what was the cause of this onslaught? Just one sentence in last October's issue in which I remarked that it was a pity the solution of using Caversham Court Stable Block as an alternative to building a new hall had not been pursued with more vigour.

I think I can claim to have followed this matter of a new church hall as carefully as anyone could without actually being privy to the negotiations between the Parochial Church Council and the architect and both of these and the Borough Planning Office. When I spoke of lack of vigour it was meant to apply as much to the Borough Council who had, from all reports presented to the public, thrown cold water over the idea, as to the Parochial Church Council who, by their enthusiasm for their planning application, gave the impression that they were not seriously put out by the Borough's attitude. This was apparently not the case. They expounded much blood, sweat and tears in trying to persuade the Borough Council to allow them the use of a restored stable block and I fully accept this statement of their case.



However, a backward glance at the October and May issues in which this column commented on the church hall proposals, will show that, far from trying to mislead readers into believing that the project was totally undesirable and misconceived, the difficulties facing the church in coming to a decision were fully acknowledged. The point however had to be made that there was

serious concern, and this is not just my personal prejudice but a view shared by very many others, as to whether the churchyard was the right place for this building, however carefully it had been designed. As nowhere else was available, this made the stable block the obvious solution, as the Rector also points out in his letter.

As far as Caversham Residents' Association's views go, as distinct from Watchdog's, in their letter to the Planning Office they expressed concern about the finishing materials, preferring the brick to the original choice of Bath Stone, but feeling that flint would be more in keeping. They also said they would feel happier if the building could be moved to the far south-west corner of the churchyard. And that is as far as their, and come to that Watchdog's, influence in high places goes.



However, what matters in the end is the long-term solution and that surely must be Caversham Court Stables, however frustrating the attitude of the Borough Council may have been. And frustrating indeed it can be. After apparently favouring the idea, if late in the day, the latest report on the state of play has had the same effect on Watchdog's blood pressure as Watchdog's comments had on the Rector's. Whilst being prepared to restore the Stable Block, they say St Peter's cannot be allowed to have priority in its use because the Council wants to see a wide range of Reading's community using it. Most of Reading, as opposed to Caversham, based groups will not wish to cross the river

for their regular occasions, so for general use Caversham will be the chief beneficiary and St Peter's is certainly an important part of the community.

The report, however, seems to suggest, and here I choose my words carefully, that St Peter's had asked for exclusive use. There is a difference between exclusive and priority use, and even at this late stage, negotiations should be re-opened on that basis.

This matter is too important for a decision to be reached simply because one side or the other has, however justifiably, run out of patience. Future generations will not thank us if we reach a wrong decision.

### Wuff-wuff

After all that, Watchdog could only wuff gratefully at the friendly pat from Cllr Dimmock for remarks made on the subject of litter and potholes. Readers will be interested to know that by the time this article appears, the potholes and rough surfaces marked, as they have been for some time, with white or yellow paint, will have been repaired. This will have to lead to a revision of the Residents' Association's survey. At the risk of sounding abrasive, it is difficult to resist observing that the choice of potholes for treatment seems, to say the least, rather odd. I can think of a particular splendid row of eight, of which half only have been chosen for treatment, and another, already several inches deep and growing at a steady rate which will only accelerate when the winter frosts start to bite, that has been left untouched. Many indeed have been called, but few have been chosen. But it is a start that must be welcomed. Real progress will only come when central government gives this more priority than it allocates to it at present.

### Notice

The long-awaited public notice board has appeared in St Martin's precinct, courtesy of St Martin's and the Borough Council, and is already well used. No excuse now for pinning notices to the trees and especially to the new

oak we have been promised for this autumn. The board itself is useful rather than beautiful, but one must not look gift horses in the mouth, particularly when they come from hard-pressed stables like Borough Councils. It could do with a little sort of roof to keep off the worst of the rain, and I cannot imagine anyone objecting if someone handy with wood put one on.

enough as it is, do not wish their road to become a speedway, neither do the latter wish to lose trade because no one can stop outside their premises. Can a solution be found that would please all parties, including pedestrians, or is this an insoluble problem?

### Caversham Pageant

A Caversham Pageant is mooted for next Spring, to be held at the Arthur Legge Centre. A group of young workers from the Reading Adult College is hoping to arouse a sense of community in Caversham by getting people to work together to produce a pageant of Victorian Caversham. Their idea is to base it on a day in the life of a school in 1896. If it is to get off the ground and to reach the standards Caversham has come to expect, a lot of work lies ahead, and the group will be glad of any offers of help and participation.

### Caversham Road's troubles

A little publicised Public Inquiry took place recently into the proposals to make Caversham Road an urban clearway in order to introduce tidal flow. Not surprisingly there is a severe conflict of interest here. Motorists who fume and fret as they crawl along this congested stretch of road cannot see why their way should be impeded by a few parked cars. Residents and traders, suffering

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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I REALLY don't much like the word "Antiques"; for one thing I understand that strictly speaking in this particular field an antique is something more than 100 years old. Furthermore, it conjures up visions of people only concerned with market value. I prefer to say "collections", and I defy anyone not to be caught by the bug of collecting. I think my own interest really got off the ground when, at a High-down Fete, Mr Paris, then art teacher, sold me a piece of carnival glass; always a lover of glass from then on I found myself anxiously searching for small pieces of Victorian or Edwardian glass items and trying to discover all I could about them — not an easy task with glass.

Recently I enrolled at a class on antiques and collectors items at a local evening class and currently find

myself drawn into the world of ceramics. With this in mind I set out to find what Caversham had to offer in the way of small and inexpensive examples of what we were studying — and was agreeably surprised.

## Prospect Furnishings

Harry Ellis, for instance, at Prospect Furnishings, is probably better known for his upholstery and furniture repair work — as he should be since he has been in the business for 34 years and became a member of the Master Upholsters' Association in 1967. Like others, he undertakes house clearance, so some interesting and amusing items come his way and since he makes a point of selling in Caversham everything he collects from Caversham, there's hope for some of it remaining here; though one does rather wonder about the

ultimate destination of an enormous pipe organ he recently acquired. Mr Ellis does have some very nice and often inexpensive items, doesn't mind anyone browsing, will talk for ages about various aspects of his trade and will show you things like a book of cheque stubs which was recently found stuffed down behind a settee and containing, for instance — item, three lambs bought from Mr Allaway in June 1881, for £6.

## A promising lass

But for my money the most interesting item I found in the shop was one 22-year-old, Penny

## A long job

This was obviously going to be a longer job than I thought, so this month I'll cut it short and hopefully do some more ferreting in the coming months. Meanwhile I repaired to Pat Howard's to pick her brains about antiques and collectors items.

## Pat Howard

Pat is an old friend and I'm always sure of a welcome there. She is a lovely friendly person — she started the local Gingerbread Group in 1974 — and provides chairs for her customers and makes no objection to browsers. Although she only came into antiques about eight years ago she's learned an awful lot and tells me she has

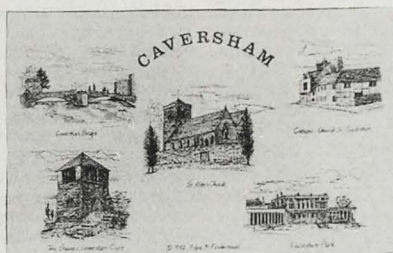
really works like that — though there are other exceptions. But my advice is, be like Pat — she collects only what she likes except by special request and finds the business an extension of her home life.

She loves selling and meeting people and will spend hours giving you the benefit of what she's learned herself. Even those who don't go into the shop will be familiar with her collection of linen items, all beautifully laundered by Pat herself, but go inside and you will find furniture, china, glass — a special interest of Pat's — pictures, books and so on, in a wide range of prices. Just the place to pick up an unusual, but probably inexpensive, china dish, for a Christmas gift for somebody who has everything or, preferably, for somebody who collects themselves.

## Conjuring up the past

As I said, I hope to continue this hunt in the future. For now I will leave you with the suggestion that if you've not tried it before you might well find a new interest in "collecting"; as Pat says, it's wonderful to pick up a piece of dirty old glass, wash it, see it sparkle and come back to life. If it does nothing else it will probably remind you of the ornaments on Granny's mantelpiece.

## CAVERSHAM TEATOWEL



Just a reminder — Christmas is coming and the postage on a teatowel, even if sent abroad, is minimal. This teatowel, on sale for St Peter's Church funds, costs £1.95 and is obtainable from Church House (Monday-Thursday mornings) or at Caversham Bookshop, 18 Prospect Street.

Sheldrake, who answered her husband gets dragged in too, but loves it. She too clears houses, not always an easy task and often requiring a sympathetic approach. She has a lot of advice for collectors and very definitely believes in buying what one likes and, she says, if you study your subject there are still bargains to be had. For instance, some of the most collectable and, currently, expensive, things on the market at the moment are bowls, pots, tea services etc which once graced Woolworth's counters. If they appeal to you — and there's a lot of nostalgia about this collecting business — then look for them, but don't kid yourself that they will necessarily stand the test of time or become an investment for your grandchildren. As Pat says gold, and to some extent silver,

really works like that — though there are other exceptions. But my advice is, be like Pat — she collects only what she likes except by special request and finds the business an extension of her home life.

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## ROUND THE CHURCHES

### HARMLESS AND INNOCENT?

ON WEDNESDAY, October 8, 1986, the Rector, Rev Richard Kingsbury, met with a group of Caversham residents — the like of whom were described in the year 1660 as, "The harmless and innocent people of God."



Richard, it soon became apparent, knew a great detail about such people, and was already aware that we did not dress only in grey, nor do we eat great quantities of porridge. I could go on, knocking on the head the preconceived ideas which many people hold, but, dear reader, I wonder if you have identified this group? We are members of the Society of Friends, popularly known

as the Quakers. In the course of the evening we were never short of topics to discuss, never short of common ground, never short of understanding and respect for one another's viewpoints, opinions and values. Considering that we Quakers find our strength in silent worship, words flowed without let or hindrance! It was because of the depth of sharing, and the quality of listening that our short, gathered silence before parting was of great value. We had met at different levels and it was a time of thanksgiving and real blessing.



There are about thirty people in the Caversham area who attend Reading Meeting and

who take part in our regular Neighbourhood and Study Groups, the latter groups meet in homes in Caversham.



Through this paper, and with Richard's encouragement, we want you to know that we exist and would welcome anyone who would like to meet with us. As a "weighty" Quaker once said to me, "You will find many strange fish swimming in the Quaker pool, but there is always room for another!"

If you would like to find out more, please phone Duncan Brodie, 475783... or me, Ann Varma on 477413. Thank you for giving of your time to read this.

### ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION

OCTOBER was an eventful month for the Branch. Some were privileged to attend a conference at Abingdon to hear at first hand how the Mothers' Union are busy in the Diocese on the social scene helping with the Hospital Hostess Scheme, the Prison Tea Room Service, helping to provide holidays for families under stress, also the help being given to drug addicts. Others were able to attend a Quiet Day at Springfield St Luke, and found the peaceful tranquility of Springfield very refreshing. At the Annual

General Meeting two new members were welcomed to the committee and heartfelt thanks were given to those whose turn had come to "stand down" after many years of service to the branch.

The highlight of the month was the admission service which took place at the Family Eucharist when the Rector admitted seven new members to the Branch. They are warmly welcomed among the members and the Enrolling Member rejoices that she is no longer the youngest member of the Branch!!!

### BAPTIST NEWS

JAMES Chapter two teaches us that as Christians we need both faith and action in our lives. Like other fellowships we seek to do this and Friday mornings at Caversham Baptist Church are an example of how we try to follow the teaching of James:

#### Faith

Every Friday morning at 10.45 a small group of ladies meet to pray. One will bring a short passage of scripture, and then the group brings before the Lord in prayer the needs of the fellowship, Caversham and the outer world. We know for a fact that God loves and cares about each one of us, and wants us to talk to Him. We have seen many answers to prayer in both our individual and corporate lives, and we can praise Him for this.

#### Action

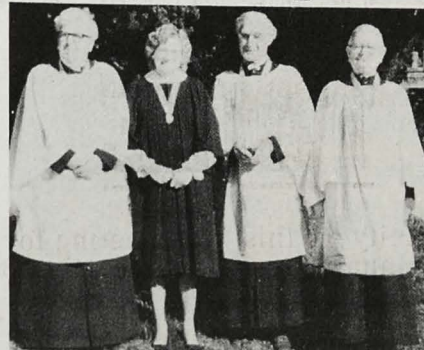
On Fridays the church is open to the public for both lunches and teas, and everyone is welcome — from babies to old folk. Two teams of eleven ladies work to provide hot and cold light snacks between 12.00-1.45pm. Following on from this is Meeting Point when teas are served until 4.00pm. Meeting Point has been going on for many years, and it was the folk who ran this who felt that there was a need for lunches also to be provided. Once the fellowship moved back into the re-developed church in 1981 it had the facilities

to do this, and November 1981 saw the commencement of Friday lunches. Both the lunches and Meeting Point have proved very popular — do come and join us if you can.

#### Welcome return

Sunday, October 12 was the one hundred and fourteenth Church Anniversary and the congregation were pleased to welcome back for the day the Revd Philip Webb. Philip was a former editor of the Caversham Bridge and a member of the fellowship; then two years ago he moved to St Albans to take up the pastorate of Dagnall Street Baptist Church. The congregation were pleased to see both him and his wife Jane and their two children when Philip conducted both morning and evening services.

### 150 years plus



Four members of St Peter's choir were presented with the Royal School of Church Music's long-service singing award. Between them, they clock up well over 150 years' service. Well done to — from the left — Wilf Woolley, Ruth Eves, Charles Lorenc and Arthur South.

### ST PETER'S WIVES GROUP

TWO events were programmed for the Wives enjoyment in October.

At the beginning of the month the Group held a Dinner with Cabaret at the Chiltern Chase Lodge, Woodcote. The numbers were not as many as in past years, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening — Chiltern Chase Lodge serving an excellent meal. The after-dinner entertainment was provided by Caversham Players and the Group's thanks to them for the excellent performance of an original and entertaining playlet. Mr Harry Cole from Harwell talked and showed slides to the

Group at their monthly meeting. The subject of the talk was Renewable Energy Research in Britain. Mr Cole gave an enlightening talk and answered the many questions that were asked of him.



The Wives' December meeting will be held in Church House at 8pm on December 9 and is programmed "A Christmas Cracker" — planned to be full of surprises and a week later, on December 16, the Wives will by tradition be carol singing in the Caversham area.

### HARVEST TIME AT ST PETER'S

AN APPARENTLY unending stream of people followed the choir's procession in church to hand their Harvest gifts to the Rector. They came from the smallest Cherubim to the oldest pensioner. The result was a mountain of goodies — a real bounty — all taken to REAP the following day and received there with much thanks.

On the following Saturday, the Harvest Supper was held in St Andrew's Hall, producing a bumper turn out. Splendid hot food was provided, with opportunities for seconds and even thirds — and even then plenty was left over to be taken to REAP. The highly successful evening ended with a Barn Dance for all to join in.

### LINK GROUP

"GETTING to know you" was the theme agreed upon at the meeting of the Link Group held at the home of Mrs Mary Dennis on Monday, October 27, when planning an Ecumenical Lunch to be held early in 1987. It is now several years since the Link last ran such a lunch

— always previously held at a Saturday lunch-time during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and it was decided that the time had come to offer again this opportunity for members of all denominations in Caversham to sit together at a meal and get to know one another better. There have been quite a few changes in clergy and congregations during the past few years, and it is surely a good time to draw closer together. The Link Group, as in the past, will do their best to provide a friendly background for communication over a nice wholesome hot lunch on a cold winter Saturday.

The date being planned for is January 24, at the Baptist Centre, and tickets will be available through the churches early in the new year. Do put it in your diary — a happy occasion is promised!



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# CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 1986



Children watching the plays "Robin Hood and Friar Tuck" and "Marion and the Witch's Charm" presented by the Centipede Theatre Company at Caversham Children's Library on Monday October 6.

— E. S. Archer



About seventy children under five years old (and seventy Teddy Bears) attended Winnie The Pooh's sixtieth Birthday Party at Caversham Children's Library on Thursday, October 9. They listened to stories, had games, then had "tea" (organised by the staff of Caversham Library).

— E. S. Archer

## TAIZE

The Taize Community is this year holding its annual European Meeting in London from December 29 to January 2. Some 15,000 people, mostly but not all young in age, will come for common prayer and group discussion.

Several people have expressed interest in joining in

the meeting for a day — Tuesday December 30 has been suggested. If there is enough support we could travel up from Caversham and Mapledurham as a group.

If you are interested please ring Veronica Armstrong, 481795 or John Madeley, 476063.

# CARNIVAL OF PRAISE — EASTER 1987

"NEW Light" is an Evangelical singing group who up till now have led worship and praise in church and other buildings. As a group we have been seeking to learn from the Lord how we could and should extend this ministry of praise outside buildings to a wider congregation who could have an opportunity of seeing and joining in joyful Christian songs and praise.

We have been led after much prayer over this to launch a "Carnival of Praise" procession through the streets of Caversham on Easter Saturday morning April 18, 1987. This would be partly based on Graham Kendrick's songbook "Make Way" with other suitable songs and music.

We consider it essential for this "Carnival" witness

to be completely ecumenical and we would hope and pray for many friends from all Caversham Churches to join us in this act of witness at Easter-time.

It is proposed to start singing rehearsals on Wednesday, January 7, 1987 at Caversham Baptist Church at 7.45pm and we invite all who would like to join in this great outdoor joyful act of witness to come along then.

We would if possible hope to finish after the procession with a short meeting/service in Caversham Court. For further information or offers of help in this venture in the meantime anyone is welcome to contact Pam Chilvers (478291) or Keith Stephen-Evans (473619).

"You will be witnesses for me to the ends of the earth" Acts 1.8.

## CAVERSHAM DIARY

- December 6 11.30am-3.00pm Caversham Primary School Hemdean Road Christmas Fayre
- December 6 2.30pm St Barnabas' Church Christmas Fair. St Barnabas' Hall
- December 7 6.30pm Celebration of Bible Sunday Heights Methodist Church
- December 13 3pm Annual Service, Polio Fellowship of Berkshire. Heights Methodist Church



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# ONE WORLD WEEK 1986: LISTENING FOR A CHANGE

By  
John Madeley

FROM CHILE IN LATIN AMERICA, Nepal in Asia and Uganda in Africa — so people came to St Barnabas' Church Hall in this year's One World Week. Sparing no expense to bring such a galaxy of people before the residents of Caversham and Mapledurham the organisers (who if their arms were twisted would have to admit their guests just happened to be in Britain at the time) also invited lay reader David Fulford, a former CMS Missionary in Nepal and David Pitt from Henley who recently visited Nicaragua.

They came, and we listened for a change — the brilliant theme of this year's week. We asked our guests to share with us the one thing they felt we most needed to hear.

Simon Pende of Nepal, who runs a training institute in a town called Bhutal, told us of some of the problems his country faces. David Fulford said that the Nepalese people had so little material wealth — and yet there was a great deal of hope. Returning from Nepal, said David, was an eye-opener "things were the other way round — the material goods were there but the hope seemed to have gone."

Henry Odraa of Uganda, a student of Chris Garforth's at the University, took us into the heart of the African continent, sharing with us the needs of the people he knew. Claudiois Zaror, a lecturer in food science and refugee from the Pinochet regime in Chile, gave us a

glimpse of life under a dictatorship.

A horrifying account of an atrocity committed on a church worker by the Contras in Nicaragua then followed from David Pitt. He shared with us his indignation at the damage that the Contras are doing and reminded us that they are receiving money from the United States government and being compared to the founding fathers of America.

Following "country" groups, in which participants had a chance to get to know the "guest of their choice", the evening divided into further groups, one playing a simulation game, taking the role of African rice farmers, another critically analysing English newspapers, another reading Kenyan papers and a fourth listening in to international broadcasts.

Veronica Armstrong, who ran the simulation game, said that it revealed the suffering of the women of a rice-growing community. "It is they who do the back-breaking work in the fields, they who eke out a meagre living to provide the family with food, they who bear the children..."

The game showed that when "development" came to that community, in terms of availability of higher-yielding seeds and modern machinery, it was the men whose lot improved, whilst the plight of the women worsened. "The introduction of material goods

bought with the extra cash earned by the men divided the community even more and isolated the women further," pointed out Veronica.

The group reading the day's English newspapers noted the way the papers "label" the news. "Brazil is where the coffee comes from, Nepal is where nothing happens. Somewhere else supplies this and that. These are the labels, but they give us so little idea of what's happening," thought Bob Rutherford.

Alas the group reading Kenyan newspapers so easily showed their true colours! The first thing one member of the group did was to read his horoscope, another was fascinated by the horse racing page!

But for me that summed it up. Africans, Nepalese, Chileans — they are not sitting around waiting for us Westerners to throw a bag of food aid across. They are engaged in life the same as we are. Some read horoscopes, others go to the races. Some have more material wealth, others are richer in other ways but we are all members of one world and have so much to gain by sharing.

Had we listened? Had we changed? I hope so. Let Veronica have the last word: "In One World Week we are talking about the need to come together on an equal footing. Let's remember that we are not free from inequalities and injustices in Britain today."

What happened to the international broadcast you ask? Go quietly when you next enter St Barnabas' Hall; you might find them still there "listening".

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## ROUND THE CLUBS

### Caversham Ladies Club

After Mrs Harwood, the Chairman, had opened the meeting and club business had been dispensed with, it was time for the main event of the afternoon — the Autumn Fair. Firstly, an Autumn Queen was to be chosen. The lucky lady was Mrs Tate, who in her new royal capacity officially opened the fair. A bunch of autumn flowers was then presented to her. Members had brought lots of gifts to add to those the Committee had already laid out on the tables. Finally it was a very attractive display with many bargains to tempt the

members. These they promptly set out to buy and it wasn't long before tables started looking forlorn with just a few oddments scattered about. It was an exhausting but happy afternoon which passed all too quickly. But members were soon sat recuperating their energy with the usual very welcome "cuppa". Where would one be without this always welcome traditional "cuppa"? Before closing the meeting, Mrs Harwood reminded members of the Christmas lunch arrangements which would be confirmed at the November meeting.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Sales table at the October meeting was laden with harvest from local gardens and raised money for the Guild funds. The Speaker at Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild was Mr W. Dear whose lively talk on the National Trust made one realise the wealth of our National Heritage.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting when the Guild will elect a new Chairman and committee.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild welcome all new members and visitors on the third Thursday of each month, 2.15pm at Church House, Caversham.

### Blagrove WI

Harvest seemed a misnomer for the lunch enjoyed by a good crowd of members and their friends on the 7th October. It was more like mid-summer and certainly added to the appreciation of the lunch supplied by members and the committee. The cold meats and salads were followed by an array of desserts that were a joy to behold and tasted even better.

After the lunch, business was kept to a minimum to retain the happy social feel of the afternoon. Mrs Dorothy Durie gave an up-to-date report on the progress of the appeal for Denman College and outlined the problems being encountered in the search for new premises for the Berkshire County Federation.

The raffle was won by Mrs J. Hutt and there was an exhibition of members' souvenirs of both world wars.

### Caversham WI

Caversham WI members were fascinated by a demonstration of Sugar Paste Icing given by Mrs Morden at their October meeting. They were shown endless possibilities for icing cakes, with simply made garrett frills around the edges. Bells, choir-boys, angels and sugar mice appeared without any effort and members went away with many ideas for their Christmas cakes.

The competition for Butterfly Cakes was won by Mrs Daphne Barnard.

Mr Charles Moss paid his second visit to the club the following week and gave another fascinating talk and slides show on "Old Reading". Mr Moss showed photographs of buildings and places now gone, due to the construction of new roads, and had made slides from photographs taken by his father. The members enjoyed the evening and expressed the wish to Mr Moss for another visit and talk.

A Beetle drive was held on October 20th. Doreen Crawley was the first prizewinner and Gerry Czornij received the consolation prize.

On the last Monday in October the members met for a H a l l o w - e ' e n party. An Old Tyme dance was the first item on the programme then the games were played, the winners were rewarded with a small prize. The refreshments were appetising, bread rolls and hot sausages with mustard or pickles. A Hallowe'en mask competition was won by Joan Aldridge with Dorothy Pollard in second place. The evening ended with community singing, Nancy Nelhams at the piano accompanied the members.

### Darby and Joan Club

The Autumn/Winter Session started on Wednesday, September 3rd, with a record turn out of members. Mrs Wallis was the caller for Bingo and a lively time was had. The Harvest Auction the following week brought a large and varied selection of fruit and vegetables for sale and produced £14 for funds.

Harold and Fred gave their usual enjoyable repertoire of nostalgic songs on September 17th.

The Outing on September 24th was a great success. A warm and pleasant day made the coach tour through the Berkshire and Oxfordshire villages and towns very enjoyable. The first call was Windsor where some members found the Railway Museum (Royalty and Empire) most interesting and others visited the Castle and the shops. A high tea of fish and chips was gratefully consumed at Wallingford.

Mrs Molly Dusek gave a very informative talk on the organisation "Cruse" which was formed to help bereaved relatives. A collection was taken for their wonderful work. Later in October Mr Kirby's film entitled "A trip to Canada" gave a lovely insight into that beautiful country.

Future Events will include a visit from the Brownies when they will entertain us with Camp-fire songs, and hopefully gain their Hostess Badges by providing cakes. Mrs Rankin (a physiotherapist) will recommend some exercises. There will be talks on the Four Seasons, Russia and the River Thames. The Christmas Lunch in on December 10th at The Three Swans, Hungerford. A visit to the Pantomime, Snow White, is planned for the New Year.

### Caversham Community Association

The members met for a Suitcase Sale on October 6th. Everyone who participated contributed a set amount towards the club funds. They were then allocated a table on which to display their wares. Some excellent bargains were available and a market stall atmosphere prevailed. There was also a visitor to the club, Val, who had jewellery for sale.

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

## Chazey WI

Chazey WI was well represented at the Inter-County Tennis Tournament held at Caversham Tennis Club during September. Five members, Sue Searle, Shirley Adamson, Janet Field, Marilyn Ball and member of the Berkshire WI Sports Committee Liz Holland, were the mainstay of the Berkshire Team, who came a creditable second to the Hampshire Team. County Chairman Mrs Eileen Armstrong and her Vice-Chairman attended the occasion.

Plans at Chazey WI are going ahead for the winter months. The Institute has a wide range of events to look forward to, drama, handicraft and sport all included.

After business was completed Mr J. Hatt spoke of his early days on the family farm, when there were as many horses as men working, and of the tricks old farm hands played on their fellows.

## Emmer Green TWG

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were entertained by Mrs Russell, a Guild member from Fleet, who spoke about her holiday in Iceland, and showed some very interesting slides. Iceland is very keen to attract the tourist, and is a clean, healthy land full of contrasts; ice and snow, greenery and volcanoes, some extinct and some very active. There are geysers and sulphur pools alongside green fields dotted with sheep. Only one per cent of the country is cultivated and the whole population could be contained in a town the size of Portsmouth.

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting and members were urged to take an active part in the running of their Guild. On December 2nd Mrs Churcher will speak about the World of a Store Detective. The meeting will take place in St Barnabas Church Hall at 7.25pm and new members and visitors will be made very welcome.

## Caversham Heights TG

**A Traveller's Tale**  
Members of the Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild were given a taste of jet-set life when AWRE scientist Mr Alan Kirby spoke at their October meeting in St Andrew's Hall. He gave an hour-long slide show of his experiences as a member of the crew of a very large ocean-sailing yacht sailing in the south Atlantic and Caribbean. The presence of pirates near the coast of Surinam was a frightening experience. Visits were made to places on the coast of deeply religious Brazil, and to an inland village by bus. The heart of the talk was an account of his trip up the mighty Amazon by jeep and boat deep into the wild, tropical forest. Rejoining the yacht they sailed on to Tobago, Trinidad and Grenada, where he left to return home. His sophisticated audio-visual duo-fade system of projecting slides included his own commentary, coupled with interesting intermittent South American music.

At this meeting the Chairman reported on the seminar attended at Harwell. A group from the guild had been shown over the establishment during their visit, and the case for nuclear power explained to them. Although no fears for safety were expressed, it was felt that there is always the human element to be reckoned with. At social studies in

Highmoor Hall holiday slides were shown instead of the advertised talk, and these proved to be equally interesting in their own way as the other traveller's tale.

Mrs West said that the sponsored walk for Friends of the Earth had raised a good sum; arrangements for the Christmas social and Christmas party were also discussed.

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## Caversham Heights Methodist Church News

IT HAS been the custom for countless years to hold an annual bazaar on the second Saturday in November. In recent years the proceeds

have been devoted to Charities or other good works at home and overseas.

In 1985 the Methodist Church in England was challenged to raise a very substantial sum of money to help guarantee the future of the Luton Industrial College founded by the Rev William Gowland. It was suggested that each Methodist congregation should aim to raise at least £1 per member. The Church Council of Caversham Heights Methodist Church decided to devote the proceeds of the 1986 bazaar to this cause. Early in 1986 plans were launched for this ambitious project. These came to fruition on Saturday, November 15 when the whole of the premises was given over to the sale of produce and foods, gifts, Christmas decorations, cards and stationery, refreshments and second-hand items. Father Christmas was in attendance. There was also a display and exhibition of the work carried out by the Luton Industrial College.

All aspects of the

Church's life joined together in organising the event and providing goods for resale. More than £1,200 was raised by this very successful event and is believed to be the largest amount raised by such an event at the "Heights". The proceeds enabled the Church to send to the College four times the amount requested.

## National Children's Home

For a fortnight during September, a group of dedicated people under the auspices of the Methodist Church, were responsible for delivery to and collecting many hundreds of envelopes from the homes of Caversham residents (not Lower Caversham, who organised their own appeal) on behalf of the National Children's Home. As a result of their efforts £3,061 was sent to the Home for the furtherance of the work among disadvantaged children. The organisers would like to thank all who helped and all who responded so generously in the whole of the Caversham area.

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# MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

By T. S. Eliot

Photographs by Ken Tillman of the production by the Caversham Players in St Andrew's Church as part of their 75th Anniversary celebrations.



The Women of Canterbury — Val Orpwood, Lyn Lorenc, Louise Smith, Marion Thwaite, Marjorie Tillman, Anne Bliss, Pat Morrison, Sheila Hodson, Fiona Loughlin and Gillian Hopkinson.



The Tempters/Knights — from left Ken Etherington, Chris Garforth, Derek Spears and Charles Croft



The three priests from left, Kevin Dunn, Peter Mullins and Allan Bliss.



Wolfgang van Emden spectacularly as Beckett.



The Messenger (Ray Hammond) talks to the priests.

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## WE RECORD

### BAPTISED

St Peter's  
September 7

Ben Palmer  
Jenny Palmer

September 21

Laura Ashworth

September 28

Charlotte Hollings

October 18

Simon Roystone

Caversham Park

September 14 Paul Myatt

## CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

House Communion on Wednesday at  
10.30am

Dec 3 — 8 Bramber Mews (Esme Boshier)

Dec 10 — 5 Gifford Close (Paula  
Andrews)

Dec 17 — 2 Osterley Drive (Mildred  
Samuel)

Dec 31 — 12 Lowfield Road (Margaret  
Dimmick)

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# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**ST PETER'S**  
**November 30** 3pm Children's Toy Service (bring gifts please  
 (Advent Sunday) for needy children  
 6.30pm Advent Carol Service by candlelight.  
**December 21** 6.30pm Festival of Carols and lessons  
**Christmas Eve** 4.00pm Crib Service  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass (first Communion of  
 Christmas)  
**Christmas Day** 8.00am Holy Communion  
 9.15am Family Communion  
 11.15am Holy Communion

**ST JOHN'S**  
**Advent Services** 10.00am Wednesdays  
 4pm Sundays. Evening Prayer and hymns  
**December 17** 8.00pm Christmas Preparation Service  
**December 21** 9.15am Christmas Parade  
 4.00pm Carol Service  
**Christmas Eve** 4.00pm Crib, Christingles and Carols. Chil-  
 dren and families  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass  
**Christmas Day** 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
 10.00am Family Eucharist

**ST ANDREW'S**  
**Christmas Eve** 4.00pm Crib Service (one hour for parents and  
 especially children)  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass  
**Christmas Day** 8.00am Eucharist  
 9.15am Family Mass  
 11.15am Eucharist  
 9.30am Mass  
**December 26** 9.00am Mass  
 (St Stephen's Day)  
**December 27** 9.00am Mass  
 (St John Apostle  
 and Evangelist)  
**December 28** 6.30pm Carol Service  
**December 29** 7.30pm  
 (Holy Innocents)

**ST BARNABAS**  
**December 21** 8.00am Eucharist  
 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 4.00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols and the  
 Ceremony of the light of the Nativity  
**Christmas Eve** 4.30pm The Christmas Crib Service for Chil-  
 dren and young families  
 11.00pm Midnight Mass  
**Christmas Day** 8.00am Eucharist of the dawn  
 9.30am Sung Eucharist of the day

**ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM**  
**December 21** 6.30pm Carol Service  
**Christmas Eve** 2.30pm Crib Service  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass (first Communion of  
 Christmas)  
**Christmas Day** 11.00am Family Communion

## CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (in Caversham Park Primary School)

**December 14** 11.00am Nativity Play  
**December 21** 6.00pm Carol Service  
**December 24** 11.30pm Midnight Communion  
**December 25** 11.00am Family Service

## ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

There is no URC in Caversham. The nearest is in York Road over Caversham Bridge.

**December 14** 11.00am Family Festival Service  
**December 21** 6.30pm Lessons and Carols  
**Christmas Day** 10.30am Morning Worship

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Meet at the Friends Meeting House in Church Street (Reading).

**December 21** 3.00pm Christmas Celebration of Carols and  
 Play  
**Christmas Day** 10.45am Meeting for Worship

## CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

**December 21** 10.30am Christmas 'Family Special' in the Hill  
 Primary School  
 6.30pm Service in the Chapel  
**Christmas Day** 10.30am Family worship in the Chapel  
**December 28** 10.30am Worship in the Chapel  
 6.30pm Worship in the Chapel

## CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

**December 14** 10.30am Toy Service and Chil-  
 dren's Nativity Play  
**December 21** 6.30pm Candlelight Carol  
 Service  
**Christmas Day** 10.30-11.15am Morning Worship

## METHODIST CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

**December 7** 11.00am Toy and Gift Service  
 (toys taken to children in need)  
**December 21** 11.00am Service of Advent  
 Carols and Lessons  
 4.00pm Christingle Service  
**Christmas Eve** 11.15pm Holy Communion  
**Christmas Day** 10.30am Morning Service at Gos-  
 brook Road

## GOSBROOK ROAD

**December 21** 6.30pm Carols  
**Christmas Eve** 11.15pm Holy Communion at  
 Caversham Heights  
**Christmas Day** 10.30am Morning Service  
**New Year's Eve** 11.15pm Watchnight Service

## ST ANNE'S, South View Avenue

During the week beginning December 14 Peniten-  
 tial Services will be arranged throughout Reading.  
 The service at St Anne's which will be followed by  
 confessions will be announced.

**December 21** 6.30pm Carol Service for all the  
 Parish.

**Christmas Eve** 10.00am Mass. Confessions as  
 announced  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass begin-  
 ning with Carols. Blessing of  
 Crib

**Christmas Day** 9.00 and 11.00am Masses. No  
 other service

**December 26** 11.00am Mass especially for the  
 (St Stephen's Day) Altar Servers

## OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, Richmond Road

Penitential Service — Please see above

**December 21** Carol Service at St Anne's only  
**Christmas Eve** 10.00am Mass. Confessions as  
 announced  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass, begin-  
 ning with Carols. Blessing of  
 Crib

**Christmas Day** 8.30 and 10.30am Masses  
**December 26** 10.00am Mass especially for the  
 (St Stephen's Day) Altar Servers

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