

FIRE! FIRE!

Caversham Park mansion was on fire three times and in 1850 it was totally gutted. Indeed this was often the fate of a burning building, it just had to be left to burn itself out.

On Monday afternoon, September 9, 1907, three thatched cottages were burned down in Caversham. The report of the fire in local papers gives a vivid account.

The houses stood on the left-hand side of Prospect Street as you walk towards Queen Anne's School. Their destruction left a space that was later to become the car park for

the Prince of Wales public house.

Around mid-day flames were seen coming from the thatched roof of Mr Kislingbury's cottage. A local farmer, Mr Ford, first noticed them as he passed by. There was, of course, no phone anywhere near so he went round to the local police station opposite the Griffin and reported the incident.

Imagine how much hold the fire had taken by the time five local policemen arrived on the scene. By then the two other cottages

FIRE has always been a major hazard throughout the history of communities when none of our modern fire-fighting appliances were available and the only forms of help were human chains passing buckets of water, and, later, horse-drawn fire engines, both of limited assistance when coping with a large blaze.

were also alight.

It was now mid-afternoon and the Reading Corporation Fire Brigade was sent for, says the paper, but "in accordance with their duty they declined to attend". Caversham was not then within the Borough of Reading.

However, Mr Plant, a district councillor, made valiant efforts with a "hand syringe"! Quite a band of willing helpers joined in the fire-fighting

doing little to quench the flames but apparently providing an excellent afternoon's entertainment to a good crowd of onlookers.

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One veteran fireman procured a hose from Queen Anne's School and, wearing a helmet several sizes too small, nozzle in hand, scaled a ladder on to the roof; a very brave effort on his part.

Just as he was about to douse the thatch the hose pipe burst and as a paper records, the amount of water that came out was about enough to drown a good-sized grasshopper!

The fire was thought to have been caused by a spark from a passing "road engine". Was it Mr Ford's? However several years ago I was chatting to an elderly local lady whose brother and family lived

in one of the cottages and she remembered that afternoon clearly.

She was then about 13 and had to take care of her brother's children while he and members of the family tried to rescue what possessions they could from the flames. She was quite sure the blaze was started by an old gentleman who lived in one cottage and was always smoking a pipe.

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Was it Mr Kislingbury? We shall never know, but whatever the cause it certainly gave the people of Caversham some-

thing to watch and something to talk about for several days to come.

I learned later that Mr Plant, the valiant gentleman with the syringe, was the parish clerk who lived in a large ivy-covered house across the road from the cottages.

After he moved farther down Prospect Street his former home was pulled down and until recently the land was never built on but remained as an allotment with one of the original fruit trees from his garden. How all has changed on that corner of Short Street.

M.K.



Fire at Caversham, September 9, 1907



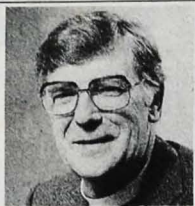
E. S. Archer

A contemporary view of the same part of Prospect Street. The car park which occupies the site of the burned-down cottages is visible beyond the houses.

TALKING POINT

by Rev Keith Sanders

Minister of Caversham Heights Methodist Church



LIFE'S A PUZZLE

My son had one of those new Rubik puzzles for Christmas. First it was the Rubik cube — now it is the linking rings. I'm no nearer solving this present one than I was the other; at least with the cube I could peel off the little red squares and replace them with another colour — then no one could solve the problem. In this new puzzle you have to join three separated rings into interlocking ones — just like the Olympic symbol, but I still can't do it; and it doesn't help that my son can do it in seven seconds! At least I can marvel at the intricate engineering that goes into the design!



Unfortunately, many problems in life do not have easy solutions. Most difficulties involve people and, when people are involved, often there is no solution which is "right" for everyone. Whatever the choice made, someone won't like it, and someone may get hurt. We must be sensitive to people's needs, but if we spend our lives trying to please everyone, we may as well jump off a cliff — it gets rid of the stress more quickly! That's why organisations and churches have to have leaders to take the responsibility and make decisions. It's not that they are morally or intellectually superior to the rest, they usually aren't. It's just that someone has to make decisions, and they are there to do it.

We have to go further than this, and face the fact that many problems can't be solved, even partially. They have to be faced and lived through. That isn't easy, especially when I sometimes hear someone say, "Christ is the answer" or "you must have faith and pray, and then every-

thing will be all right". I believe in an Almighty God and in a Living and Loving Lord Jesus. I believe in faith and prayer — but I know that I don't always find the answer to some of my problems. I would suggest that many of you reading this have your difficulties about suffering and sin and separation.

I believe that God gives us the strength and courage to face up to the insoluble problems in life, to recognise them, not to run away from them — but face them honestly and then leave them with Him. A monk called Carlo Carretto once said: "If God is my Father, I shall not go on saying 'Why? Why?' Instead I shall say 'You know. You know'."

This Lent can be a good time to face up to our difficulties, to remember that Christ didn't find an easy answer in the Garden of Gethsemane when he asked the question: "Why?", or on the Cross of Calvary when he had to face up to death. He was given the strength and courage to put himself into his Father's hands, and to leave his life and his future to Him.



One last thought as I finish off this my first article for the "Bridge". I go back to those infuriating Rubik rings.

I read in this excellent publication of all the activities of the Churches and caring agencies; and I have very much enjoyed the experience of meeting people and living in this area during these first five months — there is a real need for us to be linked together as a community, joined by a common desire to help people face their problems. We are all here to be caught up in helping people in their quest for the meaning of life and whatever life brings.

LENT GROUP— LET JUSTICE FLOW

In May 1982 the Bishop of Lewes, the Rt Revd Peter Ball, challenged his clergy to join him in launching an effort called Caring and Sharing. The scheme would enable Christians to show they cared for those in need by sharing with them in a regular and thoughtful way.

Christians should give, said the Bishop, not from what was "left-over" but from small reductions in personal lifestyles — with sharing springing out of a deep caring "to live more simply that others may simply live". Caring and Sharing came into being, offering one specific way in which people can put into practice the ideals of the Lifestyle Movement.

The idea was that parishes and communities should form Caring and Sharing groups, with worshippers each assessing their lifestyle and deciding on a specific reduction in personal expenditure. The money that group members saved would then go to a project in the Third World — a project that the group itself had chosen or agreed on.

"We may decide that we will do ten miles a week less pleasure driving", says Peter Lewes, "so that we can share the 70p saved on petrol with the deaf children needing transport to school in Tanzania, or the price of our six cups of coffee less a week is put aside for those who do not even have water to drink in Ethiopia."

"We make our lives a little less affluent", he says, "so that our fellow human beings elsewhere may have lives which are a little less precarious. A small change by many can effect so much for those on the edge of disaster."

Parishes in East Sussex responded quickly to the idea. Christians held a mirror to their lives and decided what to cut out. They chose projects and money was soon on its way — to help dig wells in Ethiopia, for a community project in north-east Brazil, to a rehabilitation scheme for the paralysed in Bangladesh, and to Casa Guatemala.

But a good idea could not be confined within Diocesan boundaries. East Sussex Christians told friends in other parts

of the country about the scheme and Caring and Sharing spread. Today there are over a hundred such groups, including groups in Berkshire, Surrey, Somerset, Derbyshire and Durham!

In four years, £262,000 has been raised by the groups to support small-scale projects for the poor in 14 developing countries. And it has all been achieved in the quiet way that has become a hallmark of the more simple lifestyle movement, not through bullying but by carrying people along by full participation.

Peter Lewes uses the word "gentle" when he describes Caring and Sharing. There is nothing harsh or hair-shirt about it. Christians have responded to it in love because of their love for others. Members of groups are encouraged not to let their lifestyle decisions become routine habit but to review them every now and again and possibly take on an additional challenge.

Groups choose the projects they wish to support, sometimes because of a wish to help a particular country or area, or a specific area of activity, such as a water well. Some groups seek guidance about projects from agencies such as Christian Aid. They can either donate funds directly to projects they choose, or channel them through Caring and Sharing, East Sussex, to projects already being supported.

During Lent we plan to hold a group

on Wednesday evenings that could lead to the formation of a Caring and Sharing group in Caversham. The Lent group will draw on a recent Church of England report "Let Justice Flow" but it is naturally open to all Christians and non-Christians.

The group will explore the Christian's responsibility to the poor of the earth. It will be held in St Peter's Church Lady Chapel from 7.45 to 9.15pm. The schedule is flexible but will follow the following pattern:

March 11th The Need
March 18th The Biblical imperative
March 25th The Church and the poor
April 1st Our response
April 8th Discussion about forming a Caring and Sharing group.

"Let Justice Flow" is available from Church House Publishing, Gt Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, price £1.95.* It would be helpful if those who would like to join this Lent group had read the first three chapters (just over 20 pages!) before March 11th. Another recent report that ties in with this is called "Our Responsibility for the Living Environment", from the same address, price £2.50. Please let me know beforehand if you would like to join the Lent group. Let's see if we can make justice flow from this community to express our caring by sharing.

* Or from SPCK Bookshop, 7 Castle Street, Reading. Tel: 53716.

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All contributions for the May issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, April 1.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday, March 27.

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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Public Inquiry result

When a more than usually large and thick OHMS envelope dropped through my letter-box I rushed to open it eagerly, thinking it must at last be the report of the Hemdean Valley public inquiry. However, it just as quickly occurred to me that this was the day after the Sizewell B report had been published and it would be too much of a coincidence if both reports appeared on the same day. Sure enough, it was the Layfield Report and all I can hope is that the Hemdean Valley one is less of a disappointment.

It can fairly safely be assumed that anyone opposing the construction of a PWR nuclear power station would also object to building in Hemdean Valley, but the opposite is not necessarily true. This may be because people believe that nuclear power stations are necessary and the best way of ensuring a reliable future energy source, or that they never got round to thinking about it or that it seemed to them a local rather than a national issue. Those in the first group are perfectly entitled to a view for which a very good case can be made; those in the second can claim that there are plenty of issues which most of us never get round to, but those in the last might well be having different thoughts after Chernobyl.

We can assume that if the power station had

been proposed for somewhere round here there would have been a lot of objection from the second and third groups, and perhaps even some defectors from the first. The inspector said that local interests must give way to the national interest. In these post-Chernobyl days we know only too well that a local power station can suddenly bring danger to countries hundreds and even thousands of miles away. Let us hope that in the case of Sizewell B the technology is safer and can overcome human error.

Compared with matters of this scale, Hemdean Valley is small beer. Nevertheless, there were common factors. There was the enormous groundswell of opposition, the length of the inquiry (considering the comparative sizes of their scope) and the time taken to produce a result. Perhaps you all know it by now. At the time of writing my fingers are still crossed.

At the time of writing

"At the time of writing", as a letter from the Editors in last month's issue indi-

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

cated, is some weeks from the time of appearing in print, to which must be added a few more days for delivery arrangements before the Caversham Bridge reaches your letterbox. Consequently news can be out of date. What seemed certain becomes less so and decisions can even be changed, in spite of all concerned striving that this should not be so.

Perhaps if L. G. Hill, who takes me to task in last month's issue for my comments on repairs to St Peter's Avenue, had fully appreciated this he would have not decided that I had been "economical with the truth", in other words had deliberately withheld information, as well as failing to check it and having more than my share of bites.

"At the time of writing", the information I had appeared to be correct. In fact, it turns out that a final decision had not been made. However, the article was never intended to inform the residents of St Peter's Avenue about the latest state of play, as presumably they, with the prospect of eventually having to foot the bill, will keep themselves up to date. Instead it was intended as an item of general interest about the problems of those who live in and those who use an unadopted road, St Peter's Avenue being a particularly good example because it is so well known.

There was certainly no reason deliberately to mislead anyone. As for changing, I'm not quite sure what I'm meant to change into, but hope anyhow that the residents of St Peter's Avenue manage to sort something out satisfactorily.

Chester Street Car Park

The same accusation could be made about my recent reporting on the proposed charges for Chester Street car park. These were definitely correct at the time of writing. Almost at once though the County Council overruled the Borough and ordered the charges to be dropped.

It is true that the arrangements for charging were far from satisfactory, yet nevertheless it seems somewhat presumptuous of the County Council to interfere in what, in the context of County business, was a fairly minor matter over

property administered by the Borough and in a matter that had been decided through all the proper channels. What do councillors representing for example, Windsor, Hungerford or Slough know about the whys and wherefores of the Chester Street car park?

So now we are back where we started from. The County Council is not likely to produce an acceptable situation, and, for all I know, the Borough Council may have washed their hands of it.

Bus stop

Again the recent remarks about the heavily used Hemdean Road bus stop could also be called misleading as they suggested that the provision of a bus shelter was being looked at sympathetically. So it was by Reading Transport, but they don't decide where the bus shelters go. (Don't ask me why. That's just how the system works). The Borough Council does that, and although they are not unsympathetic they have not got that stop on their list for having a shelter (which are actually provided by an advertising firm) so the bad news is that passengers will have to continue getting wet and cold for quite a lot longer.

Cross as best you can

Likewise, any hopes that might have been raised that the Gosbrook Road-George Street junction might have improved pedestrian crossing arrangements have been dashed. The Director of Technical Services has looked at the matter carefully and has come to the conclusion that what with a red-green man at the west side of Gosbrook Road, a refuge island and a zebra over the slip road, as well as the pelican further along George Street, pedestrians should be able to manage. It does of course mean that a lot of them have quite a long way to walk but once more motorists' convenience takes precedence over pedestrians'. Perhaps the Director's concluding remark that if motorists are held up for too long for their liking at crossings, they drive extra badly as a result, and presumably endanger even more pedestrians' lives, was a deciding factor. A depressing

thought but observation suggests it is unfortunately too often true.

Frost damage

The abnormally low temperatures, combined with snow and salt, in the first half of January led once more to the all too familiar sight of potholes opening up and kerb stones cracking. This has cancelled out the efforts made to get the worst of existing holes repaired. Our road surfaces are now so bad that nothing short of reconstruction is going to overcome the problem and that really would cost money. We are not out of the woods yet by any means as regards the weather though whether the cold spell "at the time of writing" is going to emulate the previous one is more than I would care to predict.

Church House

Plans to extend Church House are certainly to be welcomed. It will supply some much needed meeting room in the centre of Caversham, as well as improving that which already exists. It will also be a partial replacement for Balmore Hall and it will not alter the rather pleasant front appearance of Church House. It is to be hoped these plans get the go-ahead as soon as possible so that work on this welcome addition to Caversham's amenities can start with the least possible delay.

One body meeting there on Monday, April 6, will be Caversham Residents' Association, holding their Annual General Meeting. The subject, after the formal business has been concluded, will be, subject to the necessary arrangements being concluded, Traffic in Caversham.

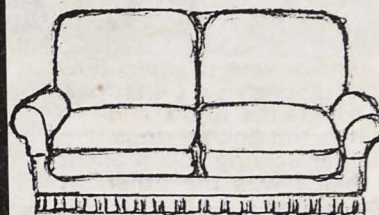
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TRAFFIC

THE DEBATE CONTINUES

We invited comment from representatives of the political parties on the Reading Borough Council and print the replies received.

TRAFFIC IN CAVERSHAM —

AN ALLIANCE VIEW

By COUNCILLOR IAN FENWICK

LET us not fool ourselves — answers to the congestion on Caversham's roads are not easy to find, even with infinite cash. Bear in mind that some ten thousand new jobs are being created in offices already being built or approved for the town centre. Two thousand people alone will be employed in the new station development. It is vital that these new developments are not "fed" by new housing development in areas like Hemdean Bottom. We need government to back us up here.

Even the existing road system could work much more efficiently if the road-space was not choked back by the odd parked vehicle, be it legally or illegally parked. For that reason, the Alliance has strongly supported the Caversham Road Urban Clearway scheme and has also

called for bus lay-bys where the pavements are wide enough. We have already approached firms to ask that deliveries be made outside the rush hour.

But traffic regulations have no effect unless they are enforced. We welcome, therefore, the decision of the police to employ a traffic warden more often in Caversham and Emmer Green with the specific brief to keep the traffic flowing. An appearance in Bridge Street makes a world of difference to the 5pm rush hour. If necessary, we shall press for a still longer commitment. The parking cowboys are not confined to central Caversham.

More radical is the need to get us all to think differently about how we travel to work. The vast majority of journeys across the bridges start in Caversham and finish often in Central Reading. There is no way that new roads will solve this problem. It is clear, then, that there is only one practicable answer — we need a vastly enhanced public transport service — time is long passed more frequent, more comfortable, more convenient in terms of

routing and simpler in terms of fare structure.

We in the Alliance feel that minibuses, rather than conventional double-deckers, could provide a large part of the improvement. In other towns we have seen how minibuses have led to fifteen or ten minute services being improved to every five minutes — no waiting in the rain and cold! Such buses could also serve areas not accessible by their larger cousins — Highdown Hill, Sheridan Avenue come to mind. They would also be ideal for providing link services such as are needed between Henley Road and central Caversham, or between Caversham and Tilehurst via Battle Hospital.

Finally, it's not just traffic jams that ruin our environment. Narrow streets crowded with people are no place for snarling juggernauts. Reading and Berkshire really must persuade Oxfordshire that the Woodcote Road is no place for these monsters. As John Madeley suggested in the February Bridge, the transport service — time is long passed more frequent, more comfortable, more convenient in terms of

SO PEOPLE DO READ 'THE BRIDGE'!

IT isn't often a contributor to this paper sees rapid results from his or her work. So it was with no small degree of satisfaction that the writer of the front-page article on traffic problems in the January issue found a traffic warden hard at work in Hemdean Road discouraging motorists from parking on double yellow lines. He told her it was "because of an article in the Caversham Bridge". Further sightings of this gallant gentleman were made throughout the week and we can only hope we shall see him here again some time; we hope, too, that those who were "caught" will have learned their lesson.

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TRAFFIC

A LABOUR VIEW
By COUNCILLOR R. S. DIMMICK

YOUR front-page article in January about our traffic problems got most of it right. It is a mess. One reason is divided responsibility for the problems. The Borough Council is most closely in touch with the local problems, but the County Council, Whitehall and the police all get involved.

"DET" called for more traffic wardens. How I agree! We're told that we shouldn't ask for more yellow lines because there are not enough wardens. They are employed by the Police Authority, controlled by the County Councils. Perhaps more wardens would pay for themselves in fines, let alone the better flow of traffic — but the Authority doesn't seem to think like that.

The other particular complaint was slow progress on road works. I don't know about all the holes he mentioned, but the

one on Reading Bridge was British Telecom, not the Council. Now we're landed with Mercury, they're digging their own holes as well.

The basic solution is to get everyone we can out of cars, especially at peaktime. We do have a good bus service, even though the Government has recently taken it out of democratic Council control and pushed the fares up. Cycling is another good means of transport for many people. It's my own way of getting to work. I can get from Caversham Park to London Street in the morning quicker than any car — it keeps me fit, it doesn't pollute the atmosphere, and it is dirt cheap. So I support cheaper fares, more bus lanes, more cycle lanes, and high parking charges — especially for all-day parking.

More road-building can help, but it can also shift traffic jams from one place to

another and attract cars to the bottlenecks. The main roads planned for Reading — the IDR, the A33 Relief, the Cross Town Route — don't do much for Caversham. The third bridge might, but I'm currently offering 3 to 1 against it being built this century — and Caversham Park could become a through route.

A much cheaper action, which Reading is now considering seriously, is Park and Ride, together with improvements to ordinary bus services. If we have car parks in the right place and a really fast cheap service to the town centre, it could make a great difference.

But don't put your trust in road-building, or other expensive schemes like an Underground, unless you know who's putting up the money. The present Government has said very clearly that it won't.



Lesley Hammond has asked us to print her letter to John Madeley.

Oh dear John

I don't believe I have ever written an irate letter to a friend before now — politicians and presidents — yes; a friend and Christian brother — no! But should I leave my protestations until we meet face to face at Church, my anger aroused by your recent letter in the Bridge may well be repressed by the atmosphere of "Christian Virtue" in St Peter's. I refer specifically to the sentence (and I quote) "...Heavy goods vehicles that needed access to Caversham premises could use Hemdean Road".

What irks me most is the apparent underlying attitude that the desirability of Caversham Heights as a "quality residential area" must be preserved at the expense of those who live "lower down" as it were. Many, many people and families with young children live very close to the traffic

on Hemdean Road. And I would have to mention the tender, young population of two schools on Hemdean Road. Small gardens and the lack of long private drives mean that the internal environment of our homes, as well as the immediate external environment, is directly affected by the volume and type of traffic using Hemdean Road (this applies equally to the inhabitants of Westfield Road!)

Since the introduction of double decker buses on Hemdean Road we have had four windows crack in the front of our house. Our previous car was damaged by a lorry trying to "squeeze" past and I wonder, have you seen the damage done recently to Hemdean Road? You spoke of the unsuitability of certain roads to take heavy traffic, I ask you to spare a thought for the folk who live so close to the road at this point and have to put up with the noise and disruption of days of repair and resurfacing.

The Watchdog report this month speaks of a "blurring of the distinction" between the Heights as a desirable residential area and lower Caversham as a working area — are we to believe you want to see that distinction made clear once again? My family is only one in thousands who don't live in the Heights and believe that we too have a right to maintain our living environment as a relatively peaceful and healthy one.

Yours very sincerely
Lesley Hammond
82 Hemdean Road
Caversham



Traffic

Dear Sirs

Ever since I have lived in Caversham one of the main topics of conversation has been "The Traffic". There is no easy solution. If Mr Madeley's suggestion to make Church Road impassable for lorries is to be taken seriously, how does he expect the traders in that area to receive deliveries? We ourselves receive deliveries in large vehicles, as do many of the others. Where would these deliverers be expected to park in order to carry, in some cases, extremely heavy goods to Church Road? If deliverers turned into Church Road from Bridge Street in order to make deliveries, how could they then turn round to avoid going up St Peter's Hill? This suggestion is completely impracticable. If the livelihoods of a group of people are to be discounted, then traffic planning could be easy.

Back in the '30s when the parade of shops opposite the Griffin was built, the

building line was planned to sit back from the road and the row of cottages (now housing Lace-ups, Cavershams, etc) was condemned. Presumably the war overtook progress and since then of course preservation orders (in my opinion unnecessarily) were put on these old buildings.

I have read umpteen words on Caversham's traffic problems, and unhappily I do not have THE ANSWER to them, but I do endorse Mr Rees' suggestion regarding indiscriminate parking outside the Griffin. In fact I would go as far as to recommend no parking on either side unless for deliveries and collections between the hours of 8.00-9.30am and 4.30-6pm. If one suggested making St Peter's Hill/Church Road an access only route for vehicles over a certain size, it may prove the best compromise if the rule could be enforced.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

THE January meeting of St Andrew's Fellowship heard a great deal more about a member of the congregation who has been on the prayer list for three years. Jake Elson now aged seven was brain damaged when he was only eighteen months. He came home from hospital just an inert child; they could do no more for him. Iris and David, his parents, had other ideas.

LOST

Missing from St John's archives are bound copies of the Caversham Parish Magazine from 1886. If you can help to locate these, please get in touch with Richard Purkis. Tel: 475120.

Together with advice and guidance from the British Institute for Brain Injured Children and about eighty volunteers, who give one or two hours a week to help, they exercise Jake's body and mind. Jake can now nearly crawl, he can see, he can eat, he can laugh, he can also show his displeasure; his brain and body are developing.

David showed a video tape to the Fellowship made by the British Institute for Brain Injured Children. The audience saw how children are treated by mental and physical stimuli so that some of the ninety per cent of untapped brain capacity is brought into use.

In 1985 four children gained their sight, seven began to talk, three started

school. The Institute works by teaching mothers and fathers how to give their children, in their own homes, visual, auditory and tactile stimulation.

If you can make some spare time to help Iris and David with Jake just phone Reading 478136. You



will find it extremely rewarding to see what progress Jake makes.

The tables made St Andrew's Hall look like an expensive restaurant on the night of the Epiphany Party. Wine glasses and red table napkins on white cloths gave an inkling of the splendid meal that was to come.

In the style of The Mill at Sonning, the main course was served and jacket potatoes and salads were collected from a wide choice on a table at the other end of the Hall. This was followed by a bewildering selection of puddings, cheese and biscuits.

The entertainment was homespun, and very enjoyable. There were some effective readings, a brief visit to "The Last of the Summer Wine" and some magic from a very young and promising magician, to mention just some of the items, all ably compered by John Gazzard.

A large number attended in spite of the cold weather, and they were rewarded with a lovely warm hall and a memorable evening.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

JANUARY was a month for holding and planning meetings. There was a meeting of altar servers, one of the youth group, though sadly, this was rather poorly attended, and one for parents of children due to make their first confession and communion this year. Further meetings planned at the time of

writing include one for parents of children to be confirmed by the Archbishop in May; the parish Summer Fete committee; and finally, an inaugural practice of the new parish choir: it's hoped this will enhance the celebration of important feasts, Episcopal visits and perhaps a monthly

Sunday Mass.

A special appeal was held for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (The White Flower appeal) and raised £300. Still on the subject of donations, a parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, has very generously given the church a set of purple vestments.

The parish was not spared a seasonal disaster, and despite improved lagging, had its sorry tale to tell of frozen water pipes. Let's hope this has now been cured by re-routing the supply pipe and adding further protection from lagging, an electric wire and frost-stats!

BAPTIST NEWS

Farewell to Jean... ON FRIDAY January 16 Miss Jean Sawyer left England to do a two-year VSO contract in Tonga. Jean is an active member of our fellowship, indeed members of her family were amongst the founders of our church over one hundred years ago.



For the last thirty years Jean has captained the guide group which has been based at our church, as well as being a member of the Gospel Singers (one of our church music groups). She has been a representative on the Reading Council of Churches and has played an active part in church life.

Jean is a science teacher by profession, and in the summer of 1986 she retired from working at St Barts, Newbury. On Sunday, January 11 she was given an opportunity to explain to the congregation in the morning service how she felt the Lord was guiding her to Tonga.

Before she actually retired Jean felt that the Lord would want her to continue to use her science and teaching skills, once she reached retirement age. Jean explained to the congregation that she wanted "to do her bit" to help the Third World, and felt that perhaps her skills could be used by VSO.

This organisation sends six hundred people a year overseas and often works in ex-British colonies. However, it was only at the end of December that Jean got definite clearance from Tonga to go and work

there as Head of Science at Tak Uilau College.

Jean explained that Tonga is in the Pacific Ocean, North and slightly east of New Zealand, in fact just above the Tropic of Capricorn. Jean will be working in the old capital on the biggest island. This largest island in Tonga is only ninety-nine square miles and its population is less than that of Reading.

Tonga is basically a Christian country, and the college that Jean will be working at is run by Roman Catholic brothers. Most of the teachers at the school teach only up to primary level, and so the school needs a more qualified teacher to help the pupils reach the standard of the New Zealand exam level.

Jean will also have to get the practical science work off the ground, since the college has the apparatus, but no one there knows how to use it!

Jean stressed to the congregation that she would value our prayers during the coming two years as she does this valuable work in Tonga. She knows that the Lord wants her to do this, and she goes with the blessing and interest of the whole fellowship.



The church made two presentations to Jean, one on behalf of the Gospel Singers and one on behalf of the church family as a whole. The gift from the latter was a Radio Recorder, so that Jean can play cassettes and pick up the BBC.

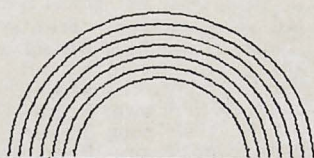
We wish her well and assure her of our love and prayers.

CAVERSHAM QUAKER GROUPS

FOLLOWING the article about the small Quaker groups which meet in Caversham, published in the December issue of this paper, it has been decided to hold a Meeting for Worship in Caversham monthly.

On the third Sunday of each month the Meeting will be held in CHURCH HOUSE at 7.30pm beginning on Sunday, March 15.

Everyone is welcome — as in faith we have a centre, but no boundaries — YOUR contribution to such a gathering will be valued, so please join us. For further information please phone Duncan Brodie, 475783 or Ann Varma, 477413.



RAINBOW CIRCLE

1987 has seen the re-opening of St John's Sunday School. An inaugural Family Service on January 4 was a happy occasion with plenty of "Light". Rainbow Circle was chosen as the name and emblem and welcomes children from the age four — no upper limit! Catering for all anticipated needs, blocks of study were chosen and the existing family

services on the first Sunday in every month still provide the opportunity for the whole family to worship.

Following the Family Service at 11am on March 1 the Rainbow Circle meets in St John's Church 11am-12.00 on March 8, 15, 22 and 29. All further details and inquiries can be made from Mrs Jane Robson, 481452.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

POWER TO THE PEOPLE?

IN THE EYES OF THE ALMIGHTY and most of Caversham's 30,000 residents, how the Church of England organises itself must be a low priority. Yet our parish structure ought at least not to inhibit God's Kingdom nor prove an unwieldy machine to drive into the 21st century. Hence the recent Rectorial flutterings in the parish dovetail about encouraging Caversham and Mapledurham into

The Caversham Group of Parishes

One hundred years ago the foundation stone was laid for St John the Baptist's Church, to serve the growing area of "Lower Caversham". St Andrew's 75 years ago was established for the folk who live on the hill, and soon after St Barnabas transmogrified into a church for rapidly expanding Emmer Green. These three daughter churches were, and legally still are, "mothered" by St Peter's — the ancient parish church from the days when Caver-

sham was a hamlet on the north bank of the Thames. Caversham Park blossomed, a thriving estate with a thriving church community (no "normal" building but a lively heart!) Then, in this decade, St Margaret's joined St Peter's as a sister church, to round off Caversham and Mapledurham.

So why change? Being a conservative radical, your Rector does not favour change for change's sake. I think, however, Caversham would benefit by coming in line with the rest of the Anglican Church. The 1968 Pastoral Measure legislated that "all ecclesiastical districts are now automatically parishes". Why did this not apply to us? Because our "districts" are legally no more than daughter churches — although the life of each "district" church is busier than the average parish in this diocese! I pay tribute to the clergy and

people, past and present, who have ensured that our Anglican churches here are so vigorous. But, the more vigorous we are, the more we realise that we work with a hierarchical structure which has little relationship with the realities of our parish life or, for that matter, with life beyond the parish boundary. Legally all major decisions have to go through the central Parochial Church Council — yet each "District Committee" is doing the work of a normal PCC in its own locality. The various excellent pan-Caversham organisations have their own constitutions and thrive in their own right.

In 1853 our parish enabled the creation of the new parish of Kidmore End, from land and endowments in the north of Caversham parish. Since then as a church we have tended to centralise inwards whilst the population has expanded, marked by the establishment of

BY RICHARD KINGSBURY

daughter churches to serve their growing local communities. What was the intention of the founders and benefactors of these daughter churches? Why did we let the 1968 Pastoral Measure pass us by? Should we not "authenticate" what already exists, by giving legal autonomy to our grown-up daughters?

Caversham Park Church and St Margaret's Mapledurham are no less our concern. Their future must be secured to maximise the exciting things already going on. There are many uncertainties. Much still has to be discussed and the Diocese of Oxford will need to help us through any "evolutionary travail". I stress the word *evolution*, rather than "splitting up".

If a Caversham Group Ministry evolves (as it did a decade ago in Tilehurst) we become

sister churches. I am confident that Mapledurham will remain linked as a sister church. Caversham Park could be a vital sister church ecumenical parish. Our financial responsibilities to the diocese would be very similar to what they are now (but upkeep of clergy houses would be a diocesan responsibility). The clergy would meet as equals, bound to co-operate as a Group Ministry. The decisions district committees now have to make would be made with the full authority of individual parochial church councils. The bishop would be bound to consult each church on the appointment of its incumbent (the present "sitting tenant" assistant curates inevitably having a claim for shortlisting if they and their church councils so wish)

and his term of office as vicar would normally be longer than at present applies.

To the average worshipper little would appear to change with full parochial status. The only obvious change for the man in the street (who probably assumes that we are all parishes anyway) would be that he would have to be married in his parish church. We formalise what at present exists informally. St Peter's would keep its Rector, whoever he may be (!) and would, surely, benefit markedly from having his undivided pastoral attention and leadership.

We can hand on to the 21st century a Group Ministry of mature PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND SERVICE. Next year the new Bishop of Oxford celebrates with us

a century of church life at St John's. With urban priority areas and experimental patterns of ministry evolving around the country, shouldn't we put in order our local church structure so that Caversham can take its place properly in the national mission of the Church?

Strong initiatives spring from strong bases. I would like to see the churches in Caversham and Mapledurham launch adventurous initiatives, drawn by God into partnership with Him in His world, rather than treading water and waiting for the "parish powers that be at the centre" to do something. The POWER THAT IS exists in our Eucharistic congregations already. My suggestion for a Group Ministry affirms the past, celebrates the present and, under God, welcomes the future!

BAPTISM



Catherine Joanne Wilson's baptism on September 21, 1986.

CARNIVAL OF PRAISE

Easter Saturday, 18th April 1987

THE preparations for the Carnival of Praise are in full swing. The aim is to give a joyful witness in song through the streets of Caversham and it is hoped all Caversham Churches will take part.

There is music to be learned and Rehearsal evenings in March will take place on the 4th and 18th, both Wednesdays, at 7.45pm at the Baptist Centre, Prospect Street. Please just "turn up" with voices or

musical instruments — or both! If any groups would like to practice the music on their own, the "Carnival" song book can be provided. For any information on the music please contact Pam Chilvers on Reading 478291.

The Carnival will be colourful and a lot of work is necessary to decorate a float and to make banners, flags, etc. Anyone who would like to help please contact Martin Beek on Reading 477428.

Pauline Hay will be paying special attention to children, and Parents and Sunday School Teachers can contact her on Reading 482143, or at a Rehearsal evening.

The route will be through the main shopping area of Caversham with the

streets involved being Church Street, Prospect Street, Gosbrook Road, Oxford Street, Hemdean Road and Priory Avenue, etc. The procession will go round twice and it is hoped will have police support and presence on the day.

A lorry is still required for the float and any suggestions or offers regarding this would be welcome. Please contact the Carnival Director, Graham Coldman, on Reading 427453 or the Carnival Secretary, Keith Stephen-Evans, on Reading 473619 if you can help or advise or just want information.

Let us truly make Caversham ring out in song and praise this Eastertime. With your help we can surely do it.

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CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

THERE was a good attendance at the Methodist Church Hall in Lower Caversham on January 22 for the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Good Neighbour Scheme. The meeting was hosted by the Minister, the Rev B. Skinner, who also stood in as Chairman.

In her report the Secretary paid tribute to Dr James Rothwell who resigned as Chairman at the end of last year on moving to Norfolk. Dr Rothwell was one of the founder members of the Scheme and will be greatly missed.

1986 was a very busy year. Transport has always been 75 per cent of the Scheme's "work load" and between them the 80 drivers on file undertook some 577 journeys to help the elderly and/or disabled keep vital hospital appointments etc. At the same time other caring helpers continued with the visiting of the sick, the lonely and/or house-bound, shopping, collecting pensions, granny-

sitting and carrying out sundry odd jobs where possible. The Secretary expressed the Scheme's grateful thanks to all helpers and her own appreciation of the work done by the Area Organisers.

The audited accounts showed a healthy financial situation, but during the next 12 months the Committee will be looking to put several matters on a more businesslike basis, not the least the situation (very hit and miss) of donations towards the mileage undertaken by drivers. The Scheme has no income and relies entirely on goodwill donations.

There is much to be done in 1987, and in particular to find a replacement for Dr Rothwell. Nevertheless residents of Caversham will be pleased to know the Scheme is ALIVE AND WELL, and in good heart.

Following the business side of the meeting, the guest speaker was

Mrs Christine Salvesen, social worker at the Battle Hospital, whose particular field was in geriatrics. Mrs Salvesen felt that her work was particularly important in these days simply because there were so many more people living to a ripe old age; in fact, she could often find herself looking after two generations in the same family where, say, the eldest member was in her 90s and a daughter or son in their 70s.

She emphasised the need for social workers to work as a team together with all those involved in the care and welfare of an elderly patient: doctors and nurses, health visitors, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech therapists, dieticians and home care organisers — all co-operated to bring together a whole picture of the patients' needs. Communication was essential, so that wires were crossed as little as possible. At the Battle this was an important part of their work;

however, Mrs Salvesen hoped that when the new wards for long-stay patients were opened at the hospital in the autumn there would be better facilities for such private discussions so that patients did not feel that their problems were being aired in front of others.

Mrs Salvesen spoke of the need to support the relatives of elderly and sick patients, who were often full-time carers with very little help either financially or morally. The Battle Hospital ran relative support groups whereby family carers could come in once a month to talk to consultants and feel part of the whole set-up. She praised the work of Age Concern, and in particular their Caring for the Carers scheme which was so successfully helping families to cope with the difficulties of looking after elderly relatives. She told the meeting that there were many ways in which people could

receive help and benefits through the DHSS and the NHS; but ignorance of what was available together with an unwillingness to accept "charity" meant that much of what could help was just not used. She mentioned the incontinence advisory service and laundry service offered by the NHS, as well as day centres and benefits for extra home help. Mrs Salvesen urged voluntary organisations such as the Good Neighbours to keep people informed of what was available, as well as to continue to provide the practical help and support which was so valuable. After answering questions from members of the audience, Mrs Salvesen said that the picture of health care for the elderly in Reading was "fairly good", but there was always a need for more qualified staff and better resources, and the work done by voluntary organisations in the area would always be an essential part of a total caring community.

INSIDE — NOT OUTSIDE

IT is rather unusual for me to go out to lunch on a Saturday, and to a lunch held in a church worship area, at that. But on Saturday, January 24, I found myself (with Sheila) at Caversham Baptist Free Church for the Link Group Lunch.

We assembled in the church lounge and immediately we were back among friends we had known since we came to Caversham in 1970, but who we do not see so often now that our various paths have diverged. It was good to catch up on personal news before the meal and to swap a few quips with the Rector. Then, after Grace, on to the meal, a veritable feast, conjured up from the depths of the kitchen, which would have graced a 3-star restaurant. "What colourful table napkins!" I politely remarked to the lady from St Peter's on my right, but before she could answer, all was revealed. We were to be moved to sit at another colour-coded table for the dessert course, our destination depending on the colour of our napkin. "Oh dear," I thought, that means I might have to sit next to someone I

do not know — and I had carefully selected my original seat so I was sitting comfortably with people I knew. With a flurry of multicoloured activity and shouts of "where's the green table?" we ebbed and flowed across the church floor to find our new places, and finally sank down at the green table to enjoy the rest of the meal. (I think the lady at the end of the table with the pink napkins finally gave up and joined us regardless!) I sat next to an old friend from Caversham Park and met (for the first time) Rev Peter Mullins, who on hearing that I am a solicitor, proceeded to regale me with legal conundrums quite beyond my Saturday post-lunch ability. Next time, I shall go as a curate! Those who could spare their blushes had "seconds", tea and coffee flowed freely and we were well contented. Mrs Doreen Bennett then explained the role and work of the Link Group and the work of the Caversham Care Centre, and the Rector gave a vote of thanks to all concerned.

I was asked to give an "outsider's" view of the lunch. That I really cannot

do, because that was the last thing that Sheila and I felt. We were among friends from different churches, meeting together in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, for fellowship, to learn from and encourage each other, and above all to share a meal together, something Christ shared in for us. There were no barriers, we were all Christians bringing our particular experience and traditions to share with others and taking something away for our own growth as Christians and people. It was a good time of fellowship and I found myself asking why we don't hold ecumenical lunches more often. What about at Harvest time? Do they have to be on a Saturday? What about Sunday as a follow-up to the service, with perhaps Caversham Baptist Free Church joining with St John's and St Peter's with Caversham Park? Shouldn't we be trying to come closer together as Christians rather than more fragmented? What do you think? I am sure all those present at the Link Group Lunch would say "Yes — when?"

Geoff Goldsmith

Useful names and telephone numbers for the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme:

Emmer Green Area Organiser

Mrs J. Perrin 474625

Caversham Park Village

Mrs D. Davies 476181

Caversham Heights

Miss W. Summers 474351

Mapledurham

Mrs R. Nagle 471419

Central Caversham

Mrs J. Rumble 471395

Lower Caversham

Miss E. Angliss 482259

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Miss E. M. Youens 479048

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I make no apologies for returning to the subject of antiques and collections. For one thing, I said I would, but I must admit it is partly sheer self-indulgence since the more I explore the field the more interested I become. Added to that, the people I've approached are so helpful and friendly. I've already written of my talks with Mr Ellis of Prospect Furnishings and Pat Howard who has the antique shop in Prospect Street.

Gail Spence

At last I've been able to have a chat with Gail, not an easy thing to arrange as she is such a busy lady. One of the first things about Gail that one notices is her enthusiasm; she says she loved antiques even as a child, and it is easy to believe. To hear her talk about "proportions", "craftsmanship" and so on, one realises that although she

didn't start buying and selling antiques until about 11 years ago, when her daughter was small, she has a real feel for the subject. Expecting to find her home crowded with objets d'art, it is surprising to find a beautifully uncluttered room with the bare minimum of pictures, china, etc. She says — and I can well believe it — it enables her to appreciate the few things she has in the house; they never lose their wonderful attraction for her, she says.

Antiques and jumble sales

Although Gail's shop is in Twyford, a lot of her work is done in Caversham. Apart from private buying and selling and clearing of houses, she devotes much of her energy to local events. Our Baptist friends tell me that over recent years she has

been a great help to them in their fund-raising efforts. Members of the congregation bring along "bits and pieces" they don't want and they are taken to Gail to sort out — she's not afraid to say if she doesn't know, but is often able to give an immediate price. I'm told she has helped to raise over £8,000 for the Baptist Building Fund in this area. Always fair and generous is how she has been described. For good measure she is prepared to visit any jumble sale before opening and make an offer for anything worth more than the usual jumble sale price. Maybe an unpopular move with dealers and wide-boys, but jumble sales are run to raise as much as possible for a particular charity and it is only fair they should have the benefit.

I could write pages about Gail and her husband, Alan — also much involved in the business — but there isn't the space so I simply pass her over to our readers and say that she, too, comes with the highest recommendations, so don't be afraid to phone her on 473011.

Learning about antiques

To come back to where this all started — a class I'm currently attending at a local evening school. And, before I say more, I would urge anyone with the remotest interest in collecting to enrol early when, we hope, the classes start again in September. I'll put my cards on the table; frankly, I never expected to get much from the class — apart from my own interest

in glass — but I find myself increasingly caught up with various aspects of collecting. I'm no longer content to sweep past cases of ceramics, for instance, in museums. I want to know more about them, where the items came from, how old they are and so on. One can never learn it all, which is what makes it so fascinating.

Visiting Martin Rendall, our lecturer, and his wife, Moira, at their home is a real eye-opener. They do, of course, possess beautiful items of glass, china, etc, but it is their whole approach to the subject which makes a visit so enjoyable. Everything is so carefully placed that one item compliments another — this, perhaps, is where their true value lies. Martin and Moira have lived in their present home for many years so they have made it a real thing of beauty, not without a great deal of effort. Shelves have been put up, cupboards torn down, fireplaces taken out and new hearths relaid. One imagines that if these two ever fall out it is over the placing of a certain item of glass or china.

Moira, who teaches art at Prospect School, studied Fine Art at Reading University and met Martin shortly after graduating. Martin himself started school life at Hemdean House. He actually trained as an electrical engineer and, after service with the Royal Engineers, went to work for British Rail, retiring last year when he was a design assistant in the signal and telecommunications department.

A sense of belonging

Although the Rendall family are not originally from this district — a magnificent family tree going back to the 16th century is one of his proudest possessions — Martin does take great pride in having been born in Hemdean Road and thus being a true member of a thriving community. Having learned a lot about antiques and gained considerable experience talking to Caversham groups on the subject, he was asked, some ten years ago, if he would consider taking evening classes. His own speciality is ceramics but, like everyone in this field, he has learned much over the years; at one time he and his wife had a stall in what was known as The Yard in Prospect Street, which many readers will remember. But generally speaking their interest is in acquiring and imparting knowledge rather than buying and selling. Martin, by the way, is still available for talks providing it is to local groups. His phone number is 472655.

Finding, collecting and enjoying

So ends my plod round Caversham in search of "antiques". If anyone can add to what I've said, I'll be delighted. Meanwhile I hope I've sparked off in some of you at least the urge to go, look and possibly to collect. It needn't cost much and can give you hours of interest and a lot of knowledge if you keep your eyes and ears open. And, as a bonus, you'll be meeting such nice people.

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OBITUARY — MRS JOYCE CROCKER

IT was almost eight years ago that the village of Mapledurham gathered together to say farewell to its last postmistress, Mrs Joyce Crocker, who was going to enjoy a well-earned retirement at Theale. Now, sadly, we record her death towards the end of January and all those who attended that happy occasion in 1979 will mourn the loss of a very good friend, for Joyce Crocker undertook many kindnesses on their behalf, for a time accepting responsibility for the delivery of newspapers and milk for those living so far away from any shops. Not only did she run the post office, she had quite a little shop there too, stocking cigarettes, sweets, writing paper and certain groceries for those in emergencies.

For 76 years out of the 80 in which Mapledurham had a post office before it closed in 1979, it was in the care of Mrs Crocker's family. First her mother and father, Mr and Mrs Burden, were in charge with young Joyce helping more and more as she grew up, then finally on the death of her mother, Mrs Crocker herself took over. When the little post office finally closed the village lost an important part of its life, for what is a village without a postmistress (or master) and a little shop, however small?

Joyce Crocker was very much part of the village and many were the tales she could tell having lived so long in the community and seen so many changes. Her responsibilities made

it impossible for her to take part in many village activities but she did belong to the Jubilee Club for several years. Her many friends will remember her with affection. To her husband, Harry, we extend our deepest sympathy.

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

THE New Year started on January 6 with an Epiphany Lunch to which members were pleased to welcome the Rector and the Deanery Presiding Member together with Fr Tony. There were forty-four who sat down to a three course lunch which had been prepared and served by members of the committee to whom very grateful thanks are extended for such a marvellous meal.

At the evening meeting later in the month Mr John Gazzard came to talk about the work of the Probation Service from the administrative side. This evening was very interesting and thought provoking, and many questions were asked about the various aspects of the Probation Service.

Caversham Heights TG

Scottish Holiday

RAIN, flood and tempests don't usually keep our members away from meetings, but in January the snow did just that so Mr P. Davidge's planned talk about the Spalding Tulip Rally came to naught.

At social studies group of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild however Mr J. Frew, who is very keen on Scotland, shared his holiday experiences in the area of Wester Ross round Upper Loch Torridon with members. Arriving at Inverness with his wife by train, his

car also, he first showed a photograph of the refurbished station there. There was a glimpse of the luxurious Highland Belle waiting there, then the journey headed west through Glen Docherty to Kinlochewe and Glen Torridon. Here Liathach the most nobly severe of British mountains, rising 3,456 feet above Upper Loch Torridon, stands with its grand neighbour Beinn Eighe and nearby nature reserve. The loch has Shiel-daig Loch and Applecross to the south with Skye beyond. Shiel-daig is the Norse name for "herring bay" but sadly there are no more herrings, and lobsters can only be sold at a price fixed by the EEC.

There's a road across the Applecross peninsula which runs on from Kinlochewe to Loch Maree, Gairloch and Loch Ewe. Off this road Mr Frew climbed a mountain, explored as far as Shiel-daig and then returned to the north side of Upper Loch Torridon where Torridon village lies in the shadow of the mountains. Here surnames are not used, and you might be surprised to find a rock from the local mountain on your doorstep. School-children must cross the loch

to go to school. Birds outnumber the inhabitants. Altogether a stimulating journey both for Mr Frew and ourselves.

Blagrove WI

MRS Popplewell welcomed members on a rather dull day for the February meeting with the news that the speaker had had to drop out owing to family illness but Mrs Peggy Thomas, a member for many years filled the gap admirably with slides of holidays in Wales. Her efforts at such short notice were much appreciated. A rather nice coincidence followed when Mrs Thomas won the raffle prize.

The competition for a Valentine Verse was won by Mrs Idenden, Mrs Housden and Mrs Thomas. A coffee morning had been arranged for January 14 but as we were mostly snowed up, there was a disappointing turnout for Mrs Davidge who had organised it.

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent chaired the January meeting and dates were given for Crafts, Scrabble, Rumbling and Play Reading to start the year. A visit to

the theatre was planned and a Valentine Luncheon Party before the February meeting.

The highlight of the afternoon was a talk on the NSPCC by Miss P. Huntley. It was started in 1884 and she showed a film made ten years ago, but still relevant today. Although most are aware of what is being done to children today, Miss Huntley left members thinking, and wishing they could help such dedicated people who work for the NSPCC. The competition "The Funny things that children say" was won by Mrs Burt.

Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD'S thirty-second birthday was celebrated in fine style on a bitterly cold day when members and guests from the Group enjoyed a delicious tea. The beautiful birthday cake was cut by the Institute's newest member and a competition to identify pictures of local buildings provoked many furrowed brows.

But the highlight of the afternoon was an audio visual programme of slides and music presented by Mr C. L. Walter in which pictures of beautiful flowers and

lovely scenery were shown, each merging into the next with subtle colour combinations of quite entrancing beauty, all set to a musical accompaniment.

The raffle, which included in the prizes the attractive table decorations made by Mrs Rose Painter, was drawn and the flower of the month was judged to be a Christmas Rose.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

EMMER Green Townswomen's Guild met on Tuesday, January 13 at 7.30pm and in spite of the appalling weather conditions, many members braved the elements to listen to a most interesting talk given by Mr Charles Jepson who gamely filled the breach, when the original speaker cancelled.

Beautiful colour slides expertly photographed by Mr Jepson gave everyone the chance to escape the miserable weather, and imagine being in Delphi, Greece or Corfu. Cascading exotic flowers and trees, colourful Greek dancers in national costume, and age-old architecture, all

bathed in sunshine, made everyone wish for a holiday there as well. Spring scenes of the Forbury Gardens a riot of flowers, a credit to the gardeners, the beauty of Marlow Bridge on a sunny spring morning, winter scenes of ice and snow at Henley Marsh Lock, and the Mill Stream at Caversham in 1981, the last two would not have looked out of place on Christmas cards, all these, and many more including very artistic sunsets on high ground overlooking Caversham were accompanied by a commentary by the photographers. The vote of thanks was given by Miss N. Pollard.

The one hundred and fiftieth Royal Berks Hospital Radio Therapy Appeal was ably supported by Mrs Pam Harvey who gave a coffee morning and "bring and buy" at which she collected £33.50. This charity will be the focus for the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild when they hope to donate more during the year.

Caversham Ladies Club

MRS Harwood, the Chairman, welcomed the members to this first meeting of 1987. She hoped they had all

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

enjoyed the Christmas break and were now ready to face the year ahead and she wished all the members a happy and healthy new year.

This meeting, as in the last couple of years, was an informal meeting, given over mostly to the members, a chance for them to make suggestions, ideas, complaints and give their views, and also to join in discussion with the committee regarding future outings and dates. It was a lively, enjoyable meeting with members stating they were quite satisfied with things staying as they were at present. Outings and dates were decided on.

After all this lively discussion it was a very

welcome sight to see the "cuppa" appearing. It was then time to close the meeting and members left knowing they also had contributed in their own way towards the success of their club in the year to come.

Chazey WI

DO YOU go to the Market? That is to say, do you buy at or contribute to your local WI Market?

Chazey WI were fortunate in having Mrs Agnes Salter, the current National Federation of Women's Institutes Chairman, to speak at their January Meeting. Mrs Salter had been Market Organiser for Oxfordshire for twelve years and she reminded her audience of the

important role played by WI Markets as "shop windows" for Women's Institutes, and as local contact points with other people, not all of them members of WI. Her enthusiasm had many Chazey members wondering why they had not shopped at Church House on a Friday, and fired a few with the intention of contributing something to be sold.

A WI Market provides a service to its local community, selling home cooking to people who are perhaps alone and unable to cook for themselves, and other produce from garden or craftwork. The producers gain the fun and contact with others, and a little pin money into the bargain.

Mrs Salter's fund of amusing stories of Market days, and her expert tips on selling were enjoyed by the Members, and many left the meeting feeling they should not neglect their local market in future.

of the previous week had at last released its grip on the neighbourhood. A good number of members were at Church House to hear Mr Roger Green, the Deputy Head of the Audiology Services, from the Royal Berkshire Hospital, speak about his department's work; concerning the detection, diagnosis and rehabilitation of the many patients referred to them. From remedial grommets for young children, through to compact hearing aids for the young or elderly, with a hearing difficulty. Mr Green held members completely engrossed and left them with a better understanding of the tensions and problems experienced by members of the community, who have to strain to hear.

The Group's next meeting is on March 17, 8pm at Church House, when Mr Eric Nicholson will speak on his work as Donation Appeals Organiser, for the Church of England Children's Society.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE speaker at Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild was Miss Pat Tyler who has travelled extensively. This time she related her adventures on the Orient Express and the many varied people she met.

Mrs Gale took a party of members to the Pantomime at the Hexagon. A team to take part in the Federation Quiz has been chosen and the first round is against Emmer Green Guild in January.

The Chairman Mrs Enid Mills has put forward an idea for a Holiday Club, geared especially for those living alone who would like to join with others for a holiday.

St Peter's Wives Group

ST PETER'S Wives were fortunate in having chosen for their January meeting an evening when the wintry weather

Caversham Community Association

THE 1987 meetings commenced on January 5 when the members met for a social evening and also came prepared to pay their annual subscription. The television panel games of "Blankety Blank" and "Give Us A Clue" were played before the break for refreshments. A good selection of cheese and biscuits was served with a choice of wine or fruit juice.

There was a small attendance on January 12 due to the exceptionally cold weather. Indoor games were played and enjoyed by all present.

The following week the meeting was cancelled because of the continuing icy weather.

Happily the weather improved for the visit of Mr and Mrs E. S. Archer, from Surley Row, Caversham, on January 26. They had had an exciting holiday in India and Mr Archer gave an informative talk and

slide show on this fascinating country. Places they visited included Delhi, Jaipur, Agra — where they saw the Taj Mahal, and Varanasi better known as Benares. Mrs Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked the visitors for giving the members such an entertaining evening.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

THE Club celebrated the festive season with an excellent lunch and very warm welcome from the Three Swans Hotel at Hungerford. A party was held the following week.

At the end of January a number of members and friends spent a very enjoyable afternoon at The Apollo Theatre, Oxford where the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was showing. The day was rounded off by high tea at The Royal Oak, Watlington on the way home.

During the past few weeks Mr Beeton entertained us with some very knowledgeable and amusing stories about the stars of the Old Time Music Hall and Mrs Wallis was the "caller" for our Bingo Session.

Future events will include our old friends Harold and Fred with "Songs beside the piano". Miss Tyler will talk about her trip down the Nile. Mr Kirby will show slides of holidays in and around the Mediterranean and Mr Moss will give a talk and film on Malta.

The Club meets every Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 3.30pm at Church House, Caversham and we extend a warm welcome to all.

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SCF Valentine's party

THE Caversham Branch of SCF held its annual Valentine party on St Valentine's Day. Entertainment consisted of a magic show presented by Leslie Dee and his daughter Amanda Louise. Apart from being a social occasion when those who help during the year can meet each other, the evening raised over £240.

The branch hopes to hold an Auction of Promises later this year. With continuing problems in Africa, it is important to raise money to help those in need. So the branch is appealing to any business or private person who can make a "promise" for auction. Anyone interested should contact John Mullaney at Caversham Bookshop, 18 Prospect Street.

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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)
4.00pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
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CAVERSHAM DIARY

- March 6th** Women's World Day of Prayer. St James' RC Church, Forbury Road, 2pm. Caversham Service, St Anne's RC Church, 8.15pm.
- March 14th** Jumble Sale, 2pm, Caversham Hall. Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild.
- March 21st** Jumble Sale, 2pm, Caversham Hall. Sue Ryder Support Group.
- March 22nd** Car Boot Sale, 10am-4pm, Hills Meadow. St John's Scouts 22nd Reading. Contact Heather Walker 484779. Car £4 in advance, £5 on the day.
- March 25th** 8pm, St Peter's Church. Concert by Sheilagh Winter and Alison Wood. £2 including refreshments.
- March 28th** Jumble Sale, 2pm, Caversham Hall. St John's Mothers' Union.
- April 4th** Link Group Good as New Sale, Baptist Church Centre, 10am.
- April 4th** Bridge Drive (in aid of St Peter's Organ Fund), 7.30pm, Church House.
- April 4th** Easter Fair, 2pm, Hill School, Peppard Road.
- April 6th** Church House, Church Street, 8.00pm. Caversham Residents' Association AGM, Guest speaker Cllr A. Page, Chairman, Reading Borough Council Transport Committee.

CORRECTION

WE apologise for mistakes made in Katy's column last month. Under the heading of VIOLINS, we are asked to say that the two gentlemen mentioned are not violin makers, but repairers of stringed instruments. Their telephone numbers were also given wrongly — and should read Aldershot 334047 and Reading 472094.

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