



SPRING REALLY DOES SEEM TO BE HERE AT LAST so it seems an ideal time to see what is happening in some of Caversham's parks.

Christchurch Playing Fields

The creation of the new children's play area in Christchurch playing fields is the most exciting venture we have seen in Caversham for a long time. The paddling pool is now linked with a whole new range of play equipment catering for all age ranges.

Toddlers have special play areas with slides, climbing towers and a roundabout amongst other things. All are designed to accommodate their size and capabilities. I went down to the river one Sunday afternoon with my two children and was amazed to find that all the under-fifteen population of Caversham was there — having a marvellous time.

A very thoughtful part of the overall design is the inclusion of some much needed windbreaks and seats for parents. It is bliss to get out of the wind that inevitably blows down there!

Surrounding the playground is a safety fence which will prevent dogs entering the play area. Providing people remember to close the gates this will help to ensure a safe area for young and old to run, walk and sit without fear of dog waste. I am told that the line of the fence will be broken by a planting of ornamental shrubs.

This imaginative and well constructed play area looks strong enough to last for years. It is a most welcome addition to the facilities for children in Lower Caversham.

Hills Meadow

The bad winter has slowed down the construction of the BMX track by the volunteer 210 Eagles. I have watched with some trepidation the destruction of the wide green field but hope the new track provides a lot of pleasure.

Caversham Court

North of the river things are also stirring in Caversham Court. This must be my favourite park in all Reading. The quiet, peace and beauty of the garden never fail to give pleasure. The crocuses and daffodils have been a glorious show of colour and the new rose bushes at the entrance give promise of beauty to come.

The end of the garden nearest the gazebo has been an area of great activity. The sewer pipe has been concealed by two walls providing a terraced area big enough to allow a permanent planting of shrubs, hardy perennials, bulbs etc providing colour and foliage throughout the year.

When the long awaited riverbank restoration is completed later this year, then what had been a very unkempt part of the garden will become an attractive corner full of horticultural interest.

The second development will happen later this year and is to be the construction of a small rockery complete with running water and pool on the slope that leads to St Peter's Churchyard. This is an area that has been calling out for landscaping and a certain amount of rockery stone has been collected in order to make a start. Thanks to a generous bequest plans will be drawn up and work will start as soon as possible.

The work done at Caversham Court has always been so thoughtful and so carefully carried out that I am sure these changes will only be for the better. I have dreams of sitting down there all day with a flask of tea and a good book when I retire. I only hope it is still as charming and restful then.

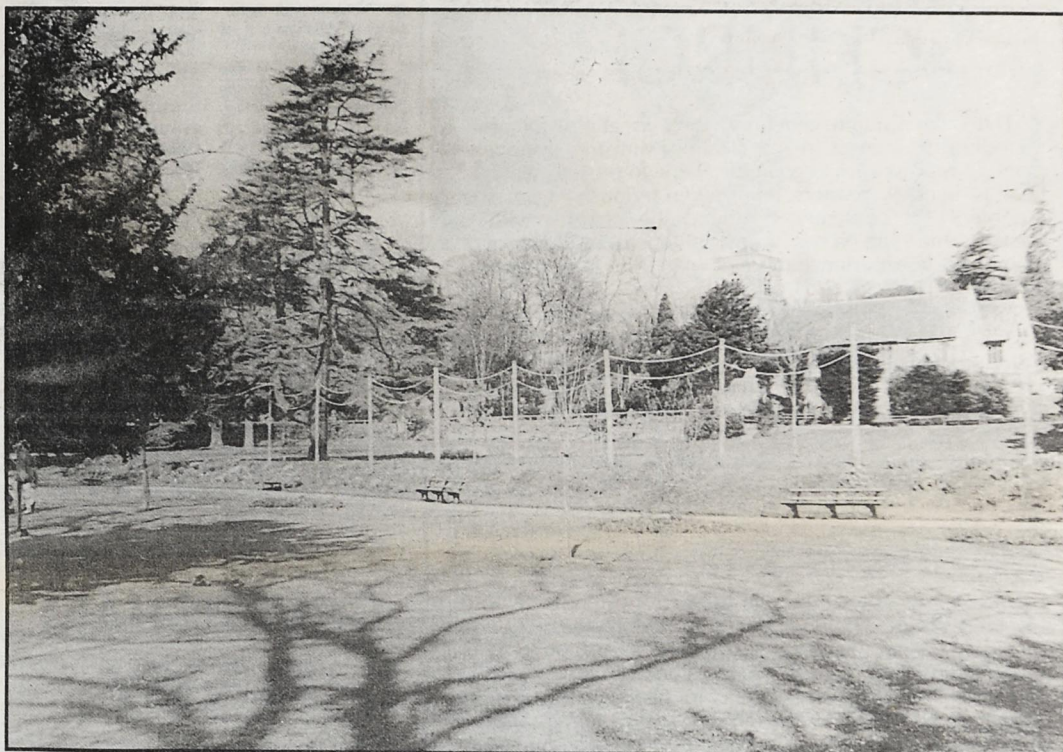
The other side of the river is not such a desirable place to walk at the moment. I am assured that action is being taken to reinstate a reasonable footpath between the car park and the river bank as soon as possible. The amateur regatta, the water carnival and other regular events will take place as planned.

Forbury Gardens

I know that Forbury Gardens are not in Caversham, but an event to be held there on the weekend of the 16th and 17th May will be of interest to all gardeners. There will be a variety of trade stands — people will have the chance to seek expert advice and buy or order horticultural materials. Gardening books will be on sale, also a craft fair, all in the lovely surroundings of the Forbury Gardens. Reading Leisure Services are organising this event which promises to be enjoyable. The Leisure Services department is responsible for all the parks in our area and for the many improvements we are benefiting from. I am sure their efforts will be appreciated.

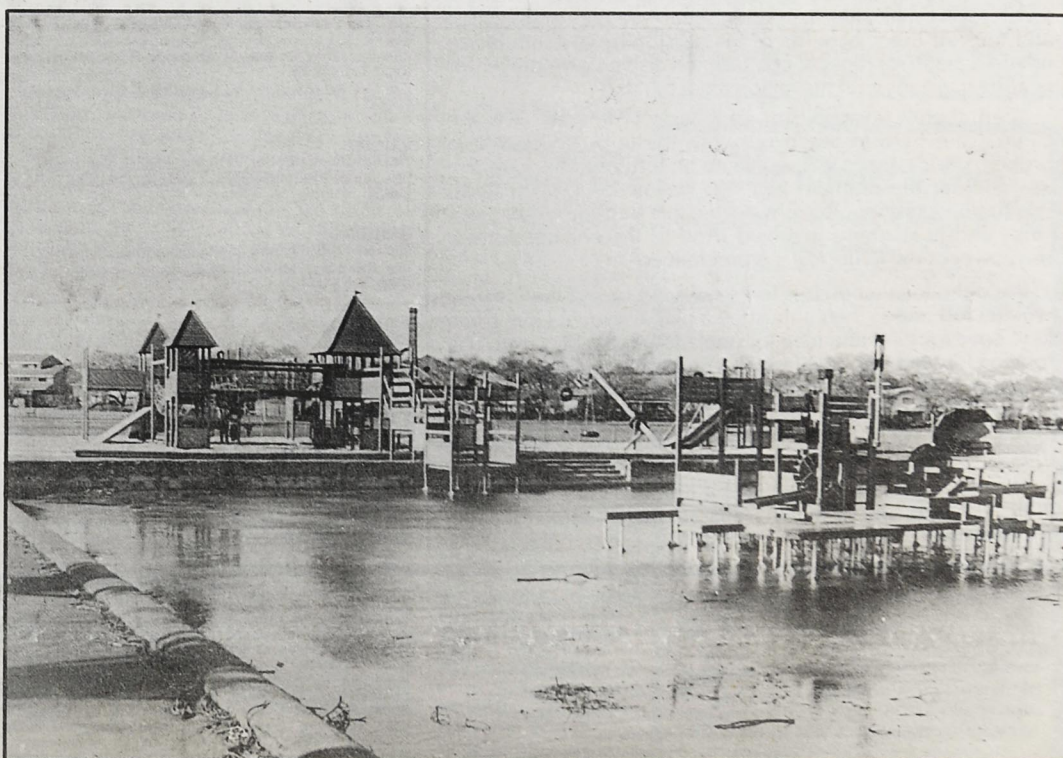
SPRING IN CAVERSHAM

by FRANCES



Spring comes to Caversham Court

E. S. Archer



New Adventure Playground for children in Christchurch Meadow

E. S. Archer

TALKING POINT

by the Revd Paul Kenchington
Priest-in-charge, Caversham Park
Village



HEALING AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

WITHIN the Church generally, there is at the moment a rekindling of interest in the Healing Ministry. Jesus' command to his disciples to go in his Name to preach, teach and heal, is, in many quarters, being taken seriously again. There are plenty of conferences around the country with big speakers and "big names" drawing big crowds, and anyone who wants to experience more of what Jesus is doing doesn't have far to look.

But let's not just look further afield. Healing is for the local church too — perhaps **predominantly**. What's real is local; and a proper healing ministry should be in the local church and for the local church. That is to say, as Christians, it involves us **all**, not just the few "enthusiasts who like that sort of thing"!

But how can we be involved? It can be preached from our pulpits and "gossipped" in our house-groups. We can share our experiences (and frustrations) with one another. Healing (like prayer or mission) should be a "live" issue in the local church, and one which we learn about and experience together.

We can be involved through prayers in Church. Yet to do this, there needs to be space for unhurried intercession. How often do we, after naming a few of the sick, rush on to "more important matters". Our day-to-day contact with people may also lead us to prayer and ministry for healing. Why not pray for our friend there and then? We come as ambassadors of Christ; **we** have no power to heal, but **He** does. Surely it is our privilege there in that local situation to be the one who is used to put a needy hand into the loving hand of Jesus.

Or would some people find the Communion service another helpful setting for opening up to God's healing touch. We thank him for our spiritual healing (forgiveness) and for "**all other benefits of his passion**"; why should we not then at the moment of communion also receive prayer for healing (perhaps with the laying on of hands?)

Then there's evangelism, of course. After all, we the Church are here to reach out with the arms of Jesus to a broken world. As we tell people about Jesus and his love, we are offering the ultimate healing. He mends broken lives, spiritually, emotionally, physically; he transforms relationships and heals those involved. And as the healing comes, the power of the living Jesus is proclaimed.

But if the local church is to be the seed-bed of this healing which God offers, then it must be a place of love. Love is the key. Love for God and love for one another enables us to risk moving forward into uncharted territory. It will also enable us to cope with the disappointments (which do happen, of course). When healing doesn't come as we expect it . . . or at least, not yet . . . then love will coax us to try again in trust.

The local church has been set a task that isn't easy. Love both compels us to begin and strengthens us till it is completed.

POST BAG

TRAFFIC WARDENS

DEAR Sir,

"Have a good day — till a traffic warden spoils it!" Ever seen that — and much worse — in the back window of a car? I have.

A recent writer to Caversham Bridge made well-founded complaints about the traffic maelstrom in Caversham, and it is good that others have added their weight to his protest.

However, his demand for more visible traffic wardens is another matter. "Advertise for them," he says! Who wants a job that is so reviled?

The hard fact is that they are needed on the streets because far too many of us motorists are utterly selfish. We have no scruples at all about

ignoring the clear indications of road signs and yellow lines if it suits our own personal convenience to do so.

It is high time we sorted ourselves out, and stopped abusing those whose job it is to stop us from obstructing the streets and putting the safety of others — especially pedestrians — in jeopardy.

Look again at my top line "quote". Put another way it's "Park my car where I like — regardless — and hope I can get away with it."

Most of us see ourselves as responsible citizens — quite a lot as practising Christians —

but, in this thing, too many among us stay wilfully blind to the fact that it is other people's rights and safety which we imperil.

Selfish driving and heedless parking should have no part in the pattern of our lives. We need to ask ourselves a few searching questions before we pour calumny upon the wardens. Some, whom I know, are extremely good natured in the way they go about their work, and find no joy in writing tickets. It is we who make that part of their duty essential, isn't it?

Guy
Williams

Inter-Church quiz

Part of St. Andrew's 75th anniversary celebrations last year included an inter-Anglican church quiz. It was so successful that a further quiz has been arranged for Wednesday, May 20, at 7.45pm in St. Andrew's Hall, and teams from the Methodists and Baptists are new challengers. St. Barnabas' team were the winners last year — will they be toppled from top of the league table? Come and see!

STOP PRESS! ST. PETER'S ORGAN FUND

The thermometer outside Church House (and a box inside will accept further donations) shows a magnificent £15,000, three-quarters of the way to the target. Report of dedication on Palm Sunday in next month's Bridge.

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

THE group held its first fund-raising event with a Jumble Sale making £112 — a good start on equalling last year's achievement of £1,000. Again thanks to the many helpers, suppliers and buyers. The next chance to help will be at Highdown Fair on May 17. Any offers of gifts for sale welcomed by Ann Deane, 473798.

CAVERSHAM CHRISTIAN NEWS LTD AGM

AT THE Annual General Meeting of this newspaper, a sufficiently healthy balance of funds has enabled your Directors to make the following donations:

Caversham Carnival of Praise	£50
St Peter's Organ Fund Appeal	£100
Reading Victims Support Scheme	£100

Thank you, dear readers, for making it possible for gifts such as these to be distributed.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.

(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30. Tel: 471703).

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

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

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

The Rev Tony Dalton, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788.

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

BAPTIST

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

The Rev Dr Philip Egglestone, 324B Hemdean Road. Tel: 470554.

METHODIST

The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 All Hallow's Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

Enquiries to Mr C. Ferguson, 20 Matlock Road. Tel: 482557.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

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CORRECTIONS

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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WHAT can we say to Caroline Dorber, having attributed the birth of daughter Clare to Lucy but we're really sorry. We're happy to report that Alan and Lucy's daughter is doing well too! And apologies to Cancer Aftercare, for wrongly printing their telephone number. Should have been 470578.

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

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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

All contributions for the July issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, June 3. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday, May 29.

MORE POWER TO THE POOR

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 11-16

More power to the poor.



Christian Aid
Week May 11-16



"WHO ARE THE POOR?" You may think the answer obvious — and the question ridiculous. It gets asked all the same. Partly to draw attention to the way we downgrade the people we try to help. All too easily we think of them as poor in spirit, unable and unwilling to help themselves and with nothing to teach us. But poverty is relative. Poor people in Britain look rich compared with some of the better-off in Bangladesh, and similar comparisons can even be

made between one Third World country and another.

Finding a common factor is not easy, and if you go for the lowest one — a lack of basic means of survival — then you soon find yourself talking not about the poor but the dead and dying.

One common factor worth considering is the lack of control the poor have over their lives. Other people do things to them and for them, or tell them what to do.

They're not allowed to decide for themselves. None of us, of course, has total control and it is not right that we should. We depend on others and they depend on us; but it may well be that the less we can influence the course of events, the poorer we become.



So Christians will want to take action and not only because we are against poverty. We are realistic enough to know that those who can't stand up for themselves tend to get the worst of the deal. Sinners that we are, justice is less likely to be done. On a more positive note we believe that taking decisions and being responsible is a fundamental part of what it means to be a human being, made in the image of God. We are all for people having the wherewithal to take charge of their own lives.

That is the thinking behind this year's slogan for Christian Aid Week, 'More power

to the poor.' Better health care, education, more land and water to grow food, better organised communities — in other words the kind of projects we fund with your money — will help to put people in a better position to have a say in what is going to happen to them.

Less vulnerable, they may be a little less poor.

Reading is particularly focussing this year on the plight of the tea workers in Sri Lanka. These people live in very poor circumstances indeed with the main problem a lack of wood fuel for cooking, etc. Other forms of energy have to be found — they cannot afford electricity which is supplied mainly to large towns. Christian Aid is helping to fund alternative methods such as the production of bio-gas which can be made quite cheaply by the people themselves. In addition Christian Aid is helping with education over health and literacy problems — also with food production such as in the rearing of chickens.



In 1986 Reading area raised nearly £22,500 during Christian Aid Week with Caversham's contribution being £3,785. A further £10,000 was raised by the Christian Aid Walk which this year is on Saturday, May 16th over the usual course starting at Henley.

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I DOUBT if I'm the only one who shuddered to see that Medicare was taking over the empty store next to Waitrose. Heavens, I thought, soon Caversham will be all chemists' shops and estate

agents. Yes, I know Medicare probably sell a lot of things our other chemists don't, but it would be a great pity if any of our present pharmacists were forced to close because of competi-

tion. I'm told Medicare don't do prescriptions, but I would ask readers to remember that no pharmacist can exist entirely by dispensing medicines. Unfortunately there's nothing in law to prevent what I call unfair competition — once premises have been given planning permission to function as a shop there are no restrictions on what they can sell. I remember a time when we had a plethora of greengrocers in the Prospect Street/Church Street area; it's a pity we shoppers can't have any say in the kind of shops we need.

Victorians in Caversham

On 8th and 9th May Reading Adult College are putting on an exhibition comparing Caversham of Victorian days with today. They have already collected a number of pictures, photographs, etc., but would be glad to have more. If any readers have Victoriana they think

would be useful, Mrs Fantham at the Caversham Centre (477646) would be pleased to hear from you; anything you lend will be carefully looked after. If you've nothing to lend but are still interested in local history — and reaction to articles published in the 'Bridge' show many people are — do go along to the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsey Road to see the exhibition. We don't have the exact times at the moment, but Mrs Fantham tells me there will be posters in the Library, on the Church House noticeboard and other places nearer the time.

Still in Caversham

Those of us who shop in the Prospect Street area will be sorry to see the Allnutts departing, for in a comparatively short time they've established a very flourishing business. Unfortunately they weren't able to get planning permission to make

their shop and house a viable proposition where it is, so they are moving to Donkin Hill where, we are sure, their customers will follow them.

Cross Stitch

In the bookshop I picked up two very pretty postcards, photos of cross-stitch embroidery. I'd no idea we had this particular talent in our midst and only now have discovered Audrey Omerod, a Caversham resident and a member of the Reading Guild of Artists. Some of you may have seen her work in the recent exhibition (alas, the news comes too late for us to publish it). Her book "Exploring Cross Stitch" will, all being well, be on sale about September; it tells of her own personal story of how she explored and developed various forms of cross stitch. In the meantime the postcards, on sale in the bookshop, would make charming greetings cards.

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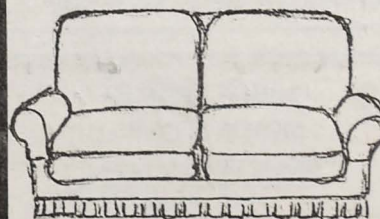
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A NOSTALGIC DAY

I MET no one from Caversham; unusual, for sightseeing in London, Malta, John O'Groats and even remoter places, I have come across someone from Caversham. I feel quite sure someone else from Caversham was there, and there for the same purpose as myself, to vote for the Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

It was Saturday, March 14 and I arrived in the city at 10.08 by courtesy of British Rail; it really was courtesy, for I'd meant to catch a later fast train but at Reading Station I found platform 4 closed and engineering works apparently disrupting the whole system — until a kind guard ushered me into the slow train saying: "You'll be there in an hour, but if you wait you may not reach Oxford today at all".

Once there, I made my way towards Broad Street and the Sheldonian Theatre, my gown in a neat blue bag at my side, while the men, I noticed, carried theirs slung nonchalantly over one shoulder and a few more senior members sported hoods. 9.30-10.30am was the time for the first queue (which had been enormous, they told me) but I was lucky enough to join the stragglers at the end of it, an invisible hand from behind me assisting as I wriggled into my gown over a winter coat. As I reached the barrier I had to undergo the scrutiny of three gimlet-eyed proctors' bowler-hatted bulldogs who let me through in silence, switching their cold blue gaze onto the next would-be voter. Good, I thought, I am In Order, and considered Harmless.

Inside the Convocation building I found myself in a kind of schoolroom with long low tables on either side. You

**By
Muriel McAdie**

had to climb steps to reach these and find somewhere to rest the green form you were to write on. This had space for your full name, your college, your signature and the year you entered the University (checked by computer, someone said). Below were the names of the four candidates in full, with all their honours beside them — in plain English, not Latin, to the disappointment of my friends. When you had made your cross you walked to the end of the room and handed the green paper to one of the collectors and as you did so the central figure, in full academic dress, gravely raised his tasselled square and bowed to you. Those not overcome by this unexpected courtesy from the Vice-Chancellor returned his bow and clambered sideways up more steps into that room in the Schools where many years ago, under the lovely vaulted ceiling, I waited in a kind of ecstasy to be matriculated into the University.



Restoring my circulation with a hot drink at the King's Arms, I returned to find my old friends from Shropshire had secured an early place in the 11.45 queue. They are two sisters who share a gown, so one was

very pleased to borrow mine. The man next to them was speculating as to how the result would be announced — would there be a smoke-signal, as in Rome? A student was collecting for the rebuilding of his Rugby Fives court — a game I had never heard of but it sounded innocent enough as he described it and unlikely to attract a hooligan following, so I supported it. I decided to inspect the queue in the hope of finding two cousins from Birmingham and discovered that it wound to the other side of the Sheldonian's circular bulk then doubled back on itself over the gravel behind the railings that support the respectably restored busts of the Roman emperors. No cousins — but I was happy to see how many fathers and mothers had brought their families, even toddlers and pram-borne babies, how many aged aunts were supported by their nephews, or vice versa, and what an air of happy reunion prevailed as friends met friends and caught up with the news, or recollected days long past. Outside the railings a supporter of Dr Mark Payne approached me, waving his manifesto. "But I've already voted!" I protested. "No matter", said he, "take it and see how you ought to have voted — for Dr Payne."

"And what makes you think I didn't?" "Ah well," — and I left him, both of us smiling broadly.

When I had collected my Shrewsbury friends and warmed them up with more coffee at the King's Arms and re-inspected the

queue, now doubled back twice over into quadruple folds, we ambled off into the quiet of New College Lane, tripping over uneven paving stones as we gazed upwards at familiar gargoyles, towards our own College where we were invited to lunch. What bliss to come in out of the cold and sink into a sunny window seat in the Senior Common Room, drinking sherry with a welcoming don and rejoining more old friends. All over Oxford, I liked to think, the colleges were offering hospitality to their senior members. "The biggest lunch he's had in his life," said a Lincoln College man going home with his young son — "and afterwards I took him to see a bit of Oxford." How much would he remember, I wondered, of this blue and golden day?

Lunch over, my friends made their way past lately frosted lawns spread with crocuses to Wadham, where Roy Jenkins was greeting his supporters. I enjoyed the Chapel and the gardens in the sunshine until the penetrating cold drove me indoors to collect the other two. As I rushed through the crowd did I glimpse

the face of the man from Caversham to whom I explain every year that I'm at the Liberal Barbecue up the road just for the food? Maybe, I must check.

On our way to the station we sat down for a while on the wall opposite the Clarendon Building, to watch the biggest queue of all. It billowed continually into the road where two happy policemen did their best to flatten its bulges back onto the pavement. Along came a broad silver-haired figure, Ted Heath with his supporters.

"And if the duties are purely ceremonial," asked someone later, "why do they need a Chancellor at all?"

"Ah, well, if they didn't have a Chancellor, they couldn't have a Vice-Chancellor, and he does all the work."

Indeed it was he, I believe, who finally emerged on to the steps to tell the world that Roy Jenkins had won.

By that time I was on my way back to Reading. "It's strange," said the gentle clergyman beside me, "I've recently moved to Hertford within thirty miles of Cambridge, so I'm often tempted to visit and it's lovely, but somehow, it's not like Oxford after all."

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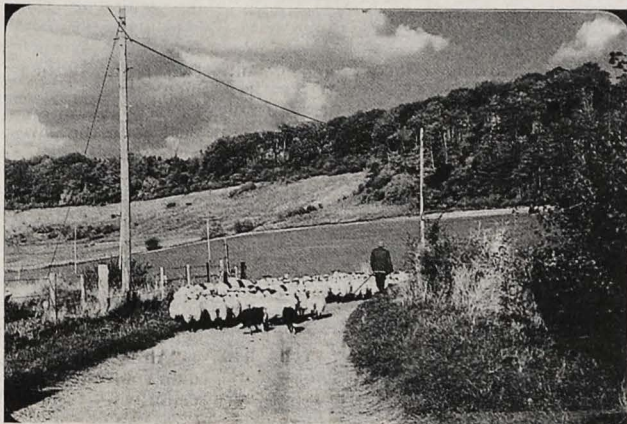
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A SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

BY the time this article is in print Spring will have arrived and lambs will be playing in the fields at Bottom Farm, Mapledurham. For several years now a flock of sheep has been kept on the estate and a while ago I had a most interesting conversation with Laurie Fennell, the shepherd who is in charge of it.



Sheep at Bottom Farm.

Laurie began his life as a drover, carrying on the same work that his father and grandfather had done before him. He worked locally and drove cattle to Shepell's farm (Hem-dean Bottom) and to the Horsefield and Park farms, both in Emmer Green. The fields at Park farm are now covered by a row of shops. Laurie also drove for Reading abattoir and Mr Colebrook, a leading Reading butcher. He learnt his shepherding from his work as a drover and often moved sheep on the hoof as well as cows and horses.

The Queen's Horses

When Queen Juliana of the Netherlands was living in Britain during World War II she had horses shipped from Holland and Laurie had the job of driving a herd of these animals along Caversham Road. Unfortunately as they were passing under the railway bridge a steam train rumbled over it hooting its whistle. The whole herd bolted and one horse got into the river at Caversham Bridge and began swimming towards the lock. Laurie and others took a boat from Mr Moss, a local boatbuilder and managed to rescue it.



— E. S. Archer

22nd Reading St John's Beaver Pancake Party at St John's Hall on Friday, March 5. The photo shows the exciting pancake game. Later each Beaver made a pancake for eating and found them as good as mother made!



— Walton Adams

At the recent Annual Prize Giving of the Department of Building and Surveying at Reading College of Technology, seven trainees from Elliotts won a total of eight awards. They were also given cheques by the company. From left to right — Bob Mardlin (Apprentice Master), Edward Whittle, Barry Lightfoot, Christopher Taylor, Martin Wheeler, Ian Chappell, Stephen Mills, Jeremy Ellis and Bernard Miller (Director & Secretary).

them. The wool is later returned to this country in various forms such as rugs, carpets, suits and jerseys.

In August the lambs are weaned and the ewes put on to poor pasture where they become thin. In September they are moved to good grazing and fatten quickly, coming into heat. The ram is then put among them and for six weeks they are got into lamb. The ram is marked with red dye for the first two weeks, blue for the next fortnight and green dye for the final couple of weeks. In this way the shepherd knows which animals will come into lamb first and which last.

In recent years many ewes have had twins and several even three offspring and Laurie's wife Janet often becomes Mapledurham's shepherdess at such busy times.

Watching the lovely little lambs gambolling about the fields it is easy to forget all the hard work and long hours that go into caring for a flock of sheep during the lambing season, not so much in the warmer, less rugged South perhaps, but in the colder, lonelier and less hospitable parts in the north of our country and in Wales it is a long hard job of work.

□ □

POSTSCRIPT: The first lambs arrived at Bottom Farm this year on March 3, just in time for all the snow! However all is well and mothers and babies are under canvas, for a marquee has been put up for them to shelter in.

M.K.

New Zealand Sheep Shearers

Last year three hundred and eighty three sheep were shorn at Bottom Farm between nine in the morning and three in the afternoon on one single day, with just a break of one hour ten minutes. The gang, two men to do the shearing and a woman to roll the fleeces, all came from New Zealand. Each sheep took fifty-eight seconds to be shorn and hardly any were cut. These shearers spend six weeks in England and then in the middle of July go to Norway to shear there for six weeks, finally they go to the Falklands and then back to the shearing in their own country.

When the shearing is finished the fleeces are sent to a large woollen exporter at Thame who sends them all to Japan after grading

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

IT is some time since a service was held in Caversham in which all the churches and denominations have taken part. Such a service has been arranged for the evening of June 7, Whit Sunday, the day on which Christians celebrate the birthday of the Church. This particular service will be held at the invitation of the minister, the Revd Keith Sanders, in Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, and it will begin at 6.30pm.

Not only will this service be a birthday celebration: it will also be the contribution of the Christian Community in Caversham to the Reading Festival which takes place at that time. This link will be marked by the presence of the West Reading Steel Band bringing its own contribution to

the Act of Worship. The sermon will be given by Frank Baker, an Anglican lay reader and former Church Army Officer, who is chairman of the Acorn Healing Trust.

There will be a chance for members of the congregation to meet together socially after the service when refreshments will be served in the Church Hall.

Caversham is a community where the differing denominations work together harmoniously in so many spheres. The coming together for a joint service of celebration is a visible sign of the underlying unity of the Churches in the area. It is hoped that this service will not be an isolated occasion but the forerunner of more united acts of witness.

RECITAL IN ST PETER'S

THE most recent event in aid of St Peter's Organ Fund was a recital given in the church by the talented soprano Sheilaigh Winter, ably accompanied by Alison Wood on the piano. A delightfully varied programme of songs by Arne, Head, Haydn, Purcell, Vaughan Williams and three of the Christopher Robin songs by E. Fraser-Simpson, as well as arias by

Handel, gave Miss Winter an opportunity to show her range, and her small but enthusiastic audience were very appreciative of the talents shown by both charming young ladies. They were heartily thanked by the Rector for giving their services free of charge, and he gave the best wishes of all concerned for the furtherance of their musical careers.

ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

ST JOHN'S Mothers' Union celebrates forty-five years' service and it is intended to mark this landmark during the Autumn and Winter of this year. They would be very pleased to receive any news or items or photographic records for a static display. This will form part of the Church's centenary the following year. Contact Ann Deane 473798.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL



THE new Group has made happy progress with a steadily increasing membership. The South Aisle of the church has become a bright array of cushions and children's activities, and has recently gratefully acquired a bookstand

from a local school which is well stocked. Together they've explored the parables that Jesus told, learned the Lord's Prayer and the Grace and expanded their musical ability. Children from four years

are very welcome and so too is anybody wishing to help. All enquiries can be made to Jane Robson 481452. There are family services on May 3 and June 7 at 11am for everybody after which Rainbow Circle starts a new term.

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

A FULL church greeted the Bishop of Reading and his wife when they came to join in the normal eleven o'clock Eucharist on Sunday, March 22. This was the first time they had visited St Margaret's and they were given a warm welcome. After the service a shared lunch was held at the parish hall where the visitors were able to meet members of the congregation. It was a very happy occasion.



— M. Kift

The Bishop of Reading meets older and younger members of St Margaret's congregation.

BAPTIST NEWS

IN time past the Sunday School was often considered to be the main evangelistic thrust of the Church towards children and young people. More recently, Sunday School has been filled almost entirely by children of church members. However, the church has not lost its concern to reach the young. In an age when the pressures from the world on young people to go its way are very great we feel it is vital to show children that there is a better alternative — the way of Jesus — the way of truth and life. To this end our fellowship operates three youth groups, each for a different age range. The following comments have been supplied by the three group leaders, Pauline Hay, Paul Davies and Graham Coldman.

Intermediate Club

On average 12-16 youngsters, aged 11-13, meet every Thursday between 7 and 8.30 under the leadership of Paul Davies, assisted by Richard Woolley and Robert Strong. There is a variety of table games, snooker, pool and table tennis. Some like to come for a chat and a chance to listen to tapes. Ideas for activities are sought from the youngsters. Some of the club members come to Senior Group (in the Sunday School) and it is hoped that more of the group might come along on Sunday mornings as well.

Monday Club

This is for 5-10 year olds; meets between 6.30 and 7.45 every Monday during term time and is led by Mrs Hay. The club has been meeting for eight years now and has really been blessed recently by an average attendance of forty to forty-five children per week. The club tries to cater for different needs and interests. There is a games room, craft room and a chance to cook occasionally. Visits have been made to the Police and Fire Stations and to the Post Office. The club has been carol singing at Christmas. Being in touch with parents is important, so besides the contacts at the end of meetings, two evenings are arranged for parents at Christmas and Easter. There is an outing each year. At each meeting there is often opportunity for singing choruses,

Fourteen Plus

Friday is the evening for the fourteen plus youth club who meet fortnightly under the leadership of Graham Coldman. The club aims to provide a friendly and relaxed Christian environment. It is a time when we can show that Christ is with us in this sort of setting, just as much as when we meet for worship. It is a time for sharing faith and for seeing it in action. Besides fortnightly meetings, it is hoped to take part in other weekend activities, concerts, trips and youth weekends. We hope that contacts will be made through the club, that youngsters will see and accept Jesus for themselves, for Jesus Himself said "I come in order that you may have life — life in all its fullness" (St John 10.10).



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL

MARRIAGE is under attack! Our congregation was recently asked who had a close friend or relative who had been involved in a divorce — or had been involved themselves. Almost all those present raised a hand. Christians (and others) need to have God at the centre of their marriages. Only then will they be able to resist the pressures put upon them by the secular world — and the devil him-

self. Our pastor, Chris Justice, has therefore been speaking to us on the following subjects: 1, God's purpose for the family; 2, Christian marriage; 3, The husband's role; 4, The wife's role; 5, The role of parents; 6, When things go wrong. In addition there have been meetings for husbands, wives and singles to discuss these important questions more frankly and more personally. We trust

that out of this time our marriages will be strengthened and our families reflect God's glory.

To supplement this teaching series, we are going to be showing a series of filmed talks by James Dobson on the subject "Focus on the Family" at the chapel on Friday evenings throughout May. Anyone interested in this very important subject is very welcome to join us on those evenings.

WEDDING

ALTHOUGH it is some time since Frances Sainsbury left Caversham to study at Cardiff University and then to teach in London, she has always kept her links with St Peter's and worshipped there whenever she was back home. On January 31 she was married at St Peter's to Jolyon Seward who she met while studying at Cardiff. After graduating Jolyon went on to take theological training and is now Deacon in the Parish of Cowbridge, South Wales.

The service, a very Christian-orientated one, was conducted by Father Bruce Davies, who was chaplain at Cardiff when Frances and Jolyon were there. The climax was Communion and it was interest-



— E. S. Archer

ing and appropriate to know that the wine used on this occasion actually came from Cana in Galilee. All of us who know Frances will wish to send our very best wishes to this young couple for a long and fulfilling married life.

You are invited to see and hear
James C. Dobson, Ph.D.

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FUN RIDE



— E. S. Archer

St Peter's Youth Group setting off for a fun cycle ride on Sunday, March 15. As well as cycling, they completed a quiz sheet on Caversham and its sights and history.

St Andrew's Fellowship

BEHIND the concrete and steel facade of Reading lie some really beautiful old houses. The members of St Andrew's Fellowship spent a happy evening in March looking at fine slides of some of these houses and trying to identify them. The one which puzzled nearly everybody was a view of Watlington House taken from the garden at the back. It looked magnificently

gracious and imposing with a beautiful flight of steps leading down to lawn level. The large numbers who turned out to see these slides and hear Mr Gold's dedicated and enthusiastic talk were amply rewarded for braving the cold.

WEDDING



Miss Deborah Rogerson and Mr David Fox whose wedding took place at Caversham Heights Methodist Church recently, followed by a reception at the Post House, Basingstoke Road. Miss Rogerson is the daughter of the Rev Ralph Rogerson, until last year Minister at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, and now at Whitchurch, Hampshire.

— Michael Blackburn

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St Andrew's Mothers' Union

THE March afternoon meeting was very well attended when Sister Margaret Verity from Springfield St Luke came to tell of her work within the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage and how it has taken her to various parts of the world to do different jobs. Sister also spoke of the work that is

being done at Springfield St Luke.

The Lenten Service on Tuesday afternoons was taken by the Revd Paul Kennington and members are very grateful to him for the new insight he has given to the first Letter of Peter in the New Testament.

From page 11

and Compton Acres was settled for a day out in May. The next meeting was to be the Easter party, and Mrs Harwood hoped they would be there as it was always a happy affair.

After a more than

usually welcome cup of tea, much needed after all the speeches, it was time to depart with a satisfied feeling of quite a lot accomplished, with a happy year ahead to look forward to.



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PACK THEM IN
AS HOUSE PRICES
SOAR to previously
unheard of heights,
various side effects
are occurring and will
occur. One already
beginning to show is a
shortage of people to
fill those humdrum,
essential, but not well
paid jobs on which
society depends, for
in no way are they
going to get a mort-
gage. The strains on
others who can only
just afford the cost of
a very modest house
as long as both part-
ners work full-time, is
also likely to have
serious repercus-
sions.

One effect that we
are increasingly
seeing here in Caver-
sham, where prices
are even higher than
in most other parts of
the town (sought after-
prestigious-attractive
tree-lined road —
overlooking open
countryside-within
easy reach of what-
ever — are some of the
familiar selling
points) is the increase
in applications to get
as many residential
units as possible on to
expensively acquired
land.

When a plot does
become available it
sells at a very high
price. One way of
getting a return is to put
flats for the elderly on
it. The elderly
obviously are not
going to need large
flats, that being one of
the reasons why they
give up family size
houses. Ten, 20 or 30
flats can go on a piece
of land which might
take only a third or
even a quarter as
many houses. A conve-
nient pleasantly situ-
ated well appointed
flat, however small, is
not likely to go for
under £45,000. If each
house costs twice as
much, and if they are
too close together
they won't. It is still
going to be more pro-
fitable to put as many
small flats as possible
on the site, and that
means on the whole,
flats for the elderly,
not for families.
Indeed, to be fair, it
could be the only way
of getting a reason-
able return on the
cost of the land.

The latest in this
type of application is
at Emmer Green on
Peppard Road oppo-
site the shops, where
19 flats, a bungalow
and warden accom-
modation could
occupy a site at a
density which works
out at fifty units to the
acre. Car parking
moreover is at a mini-
mum, on the not un-
reasonable grounds
that most of the
residents will have
given up their cars.
They certainly cannot
all have visitors
at the same time.

If the development
goes ahead, it won't do
much to preserve
what remains of a vil-
lage atmosphere at
Emmer Green. It
would never be

allowed for families.
Should it be permit-
ted for the elderly?

To the rescue

When Cllr A. Page
fell seriously ill in
March it meant that
Caversham and Dis-
trict Residents' As-
sociation lost their
speaker for their
AGM. However, all
was not lost, for that
well-known Caver-
sham resident W. H.
Tee, who in his other
capacity is Chief
Executive and Town
Clerk of the
neighbouring
Borough of Reading,
on hearing of their
predicament, offered
to fill the bill himself,
which was a great
relief to the organ-
isers of the meeting.
With a slight change
of emphasis, Mr Tee's
talk was on Caver-
sham with particular
reference to traffic
rather than Traffic,
with particular refer-
ence to Caversham.
The meeting was held
too late for a report to
appear in this issue of
the Caversham
Bridge.

Meanwhile, best
wishes for a full
recovery go to Cllr
Page, who brought a
refreshing open-
mindedness to his
work as Chairman of
the Transport Com-
mittee. Any councillor
who chairs a commit-
tee is under heavy
pressure, and none
perhaps more than
transport.

Caversham Pageant

The Caversham
Pageant, which was to
have taken place this
spring, has had to be
cancelled as insuffi-
cient support, apart
from initial research,
had been forthcom-
ing. Perhaps it was
fated from the start,
when the pageant it
was proclaimed to be
turned out to be
intended as an hour-
long dramatisation of
a day in the life of a
Victorian schoolgirl,
performed indoors,
with an unspecified
date in April, a mere
seven months ahead,
which paid no regard
to the already full
calendar of Caver-
sham's life. It is still
hoped to put on an
exhibition, but re-
membering the long
term planning that
went into the memor-
able exhibition of
1978, one wonders if
the organisers are not
being over-optimistic.

Ancient woodland

Reading Urban
Wild Life Group has
prepared a detailed
report on Hemdean
Wood, sometimes
called Highdown
Wood, on the slopes of
Hemdean Valley

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

below Highdown
School. It is what is
left of a far more
extensive scarp wood-
land, of which the
remaining species
indicate that it is of
ancient origin.

The trees them-
selves are in
relatively good con-
dition, though some new
planting is recom-
mended. The wood-
land floor is, however,
becoming heavily
eroded, with many
shrubs and herbs
under serious threat,
mainly from broad
trampled paths which
have become even
more extensive since
the new residential
development in the
valley altered the line
of a former short cut
to Highdown School.
The report suggests
that the pathways
from Highdown
School could be
rationalised so that
only one need be
used, with various
management schemes
being suggested to
discourage the use of
other paths and en-
courage the
regeneration of plant
life.

It is not too late to
save this lovely area
of woodland by taking
the relatively simple
measures the report
suggests. It belongs to
Reading Borough
Council but the co-
operation of
Berkshire County
Council will be
required as the re-
organisation of exits
from Highdown
School will be neces-
sary. The Wild Life
Group is to be con-
gratulated on this use-
ful piece of work.

Will it survive?

March this year
went out like a lion,
leaving a trail of dam-
age behind it, one of
the victims being the
replacement tree in St
Martin's Precinct.
Fortunately, owing to
some prompt
reporting by a mem-
ber of Caversham
Residents' Associ-
ation, St Martin's
were notified and
acting with unaccus-
tomed speed had it
replanted within
hours, as most of its
rooting system had
survived undamaged.
There was some doubt
as to whether it had
been planted deeply
enough for a tree of its
size. The firm who
supplied it has been
asked by St Martin's
to maintain it during
the first year of its life.
After that, if God
doesn't water it with
four wet summers,
and He has been
rather over-generous
with these lately,
some other system
will have to be
devised.

should be kept out of
Caversham. With
Reading full of office
buildings, many of
them empty or only
half occupied, we do
not want developers
crossing to Caversham
to satisfy their insati-
able appetites.

This is not to say
that Caversham must
not alter, or be sub-
jected to any of the
pressures felt in other
parts of the town.
Small businesses are
welcome, but we must
say NO to offices
spreading from the
Caversham Residents'
town centre to the
suburbs. What's that?
Caversham a suburb
of Reading? Surely
it's a place in its own
existing business, right.

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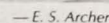
(Mrs Doreen Bennett — retiring Care Centre Chairman)

At a recent Church meeting it was said that there were no problems in Caversham. I don't think any of the above organisations would agree with that! Of course there aren't the same problems as in the inner City areas — and I personally believe that we should extend our resources to help there too. But — no problems? Mental breakdown, mental and physical handicap, bereavement, chronic illness, unemployment.

There are so many caring people in Caversham. And there are over fifty caring organisations detailed in the files of the Care Centre — clubs for elderly and housebound people, organisations which help with all kinds of handicap, help for young people, for distressed families, the

Friendship in the Pop-in Centre is very much a two-way thing between callers and volunteers — indeed people setting out to give help in any of these organisations find they're on the

So — if you can spare an hour or two, either occasionally or



Centre

on a regular basis, you really are needed! A call on 483466 on any weekday morning should find you just the right slot!

In the Church of England there are three

orders of ordained ministry. The first (but not the most junior) is that of Deacon. Acts 6 tells the story of the first Deacons. Their job was to look after the poor so that the Apostles could get on with preaching. Actually given a few verses they set about preaching themselves!

The next order is Priest. Peter Mullins was ordained Deacon in St. Peter's in September 1984. He served as a clergyman here for a year before he was ordained Priest. Each of the other Anglican Priests in the parish spent a year as a Deacon before they were ordained Priest.

They will be called "The Reverend" will be able to wear dog collars if they want to, and will be able to conduct weddings. They will not be able to preside at Holy Communion or pronounce a blessing or an absolution which is what Priests do. (Just in case you are not confused already it could be added that there are now over 700 women in other Anglican churches who have been ordained Priest and can do these things.)

many that people will come to value the ministry of women more highly. Some of them are now "clergymen" even if they are not Priests. It is also hoped that people will come to value the ministry of Deacons more highly. They are no longer people in their year before being ordained Priest. If the Church of England does not hurry up in making women Priests these women will remain Deacons all their lives.

Then there are the married Deacons in the Roman Catholic Church who are men. And the Wesley Deaconess Order which was shut to new admissions when the Methodist Church started to ordain Ministers who happen to be women . . .

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The third order is Bishop. This is another Greek word which means Overseer. Least readers who are Methodists are feeling left out the Latin equivalent is Superintendent. A Methodist Superintendent Minister is the senior Minister in a circuit. In the Methodist Church this is not a separate order, just a description of the job, so you do not have to be ordained again to become a Superintendent. In the Church of England by the time you become a Bishop you are being ordained for a third time.

Anybody still reading and still unconfused? Well try this one then. In the Church of England a Deaconess is not a Deacon who happens to be a woman. How about that? A Deaconess is a lay woman ordained to a separate lay order. Now there is no need to worry about this because it is being changed. Although the Church of England has not yet agreed to ordain women as Priests or as Bishops it has decided that its

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Community Association

ON March 2 the members were asked to contribute an article towards a bring and buy stall. The goods were then auctioned to the highest bidder, the money raised was given to the club funds. As it was the first Monday in the month Vicki Scheel was in charge of the nearly new stall. Members bring unwanted clothes and other items to sell on this stall. They retain the proceeds less a small percentage deducted for club funds. This helps with the club expenses.

A social evening with games was enjoyed by the members the following week.

Pat Tyler was the visiting speaker on March 16. Pat gave an entertaining talk on her trip on the Orient Express to Venice. She amusingly recounted the vicissitudes she experienced the week before the trip but luckily everything went smoothly once she had boarded the train.

Pat thoroughly enjoyed the luxury and first-class service on this famous and well-restored old train but soon came down to reality, after arriving in Venice, when she decided to board a bus to take her to her hotel. After the tea break Pat described her trip to Canada last year.

A quiz evening was enjoyed by the members on March 23. Prizewinners included Dorothy Coppins, Margaret Cameron and Beryl Latcham. Dolly Usher's team of members won an alphabetical game.

There was a good attendance on March 30 when Martin Rendall visited the club and gave an instructive talk on antiques and collectors items. Mr Rendall specialised in china and silver and brought some lovely examples to show the members. Everyone had been invited to bring their own treasured possessions which made a fascinating collection of beautiful and unusual pieces. Mr Rendall ended his talk by giving his opinion on the age and value of these items to complete an interesting evening.

Caversham Heights TWG The Thames, past and present

AT the March meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall members rested on their oars to listen to Mr G. Fielder, the lock keeper at Mapledurham. He had a story to tell about the Thames and, in particular, the locks and weirs that mark and contain its flow through our countryside. Many had read Three Men In A Boat and enjoyed its humour and philosophy; and all at some time have stood in awe at the thunderous sweep of water over the weir. Mr Fielder traced the history and showed slides to illustrate his story. It was not always pleasure craft to be looked after: years ago commercial barges worked the Thames as far up as beyond Lechlade. The railway bought up the Kennet and Avon canal, but it is now being restored. Mapledurham mill works through power from the head of water from the weir.

Numbers of swans have diminished because of so much

lead in the river, but he is involved with a charitable trust and both try to restore to them as much health as is actually possible. As so many Thames travellers have found, Mr Fielder and his colleagues are humorous and helpful — always ready with a yarn about times present and times past.

At social studies Mr Charles Moss continued his history of old Reading, mentioning firstly how monks from Cluny in Burgundy came to Reading Abbey and how a monk wrote the well-known song Summer Is A'Coming In. Trade and a market flourished, with a busy abbey wharf. Various benefactors helped the town and famous people like William Penn and Charles Dickens have known it well. When St Giles' mill was demolished in 1897, tram buildings were erected. He also mentioned the Kennet and Avon canal. Opened in 1810 for barge traffic, Blakes cottages were barges' houses.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

CAVERSHAM Afternoon Townswomen's Guild had a most interesting visit to the local Evening Post and were surprised by greetings sent to them personally over the Telex machines.

The production of Guys and Dolls at the Hexagon was also enjoyed by the theatre-going members arranged by Mrs Gale.

The speaker at the guild meeting was Mr Simon Theobalds of TVS. He spoke about broadcasting in the past and in the future.

A successful jumble sale was held at Caversham Hall, the proceeds of which will go to the Guild funds.

Visitors are always welcome to the Guild meeting held at Church House on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm.

Round Table Caversham Carnival '87

THE annual Water Carnival falls on Midsummer's Day (Sunday, June 21) this year, and in spite of the construction work for the new hotel it will be held on the Thames promenade site as in past years. Car parking will also be available.

For those who have not experienced the event it's a real family fun day and right on the doorstep. The organisers, Caversham Round Table, have set out to achieve as much local interest as possible and the result is even more entertainment (free!) than before. So a large turnout is expected.

One result is that the new Bridge Hotel has agreed to sponsor a balloon race with a mass release in the afternoon as the show draws to a close. With the raft races and events on the bank the event is truly on land, sea and air this year.

Funds raised by the event have been earmarked for the extension of leukaemia treatment facilities at the Royal Berks to coincide with the hospital's anniversary appeal.

St Peter's Wives

OVER a hundred years ago a Sunday school teacher named Edward Rudolph recognised the urgent need of many children, then living in Victorian society. Homeless, poorly clothed and fed, physically abused or perhaps handicapped in mind and body, they badly needed shelter and more importantly someone to care. The Waifs and Strays Society then came into being and was responsible for a great deal of good work. How it developed, and in later years became known as the Church of England Children's Society, was related by Mr Eric Nicholson, it's Local Donation Appeals Officer. St Peter's Wives' group found the history and the present day work of the Society an entralling and often

moving story. The help given now is as vital today as in Edward Rudolph's time. The Society's aims are to help children, young people and families affected by unemployment, sickness, handicap or inadequate housing. Amongst its other projects are toy libraries, counselling services and flats to enable young people who have only known an in-care environment, to adjust to becoming independent adults. Another recent and very necessary aspect of the Society's work is the establishment of a safe house in London, where children who have left home in anger, can be counselled and cared for during a period of 24 hours to

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

48 hours, but no longer than three days, when they hopefully will be prepared to return home and, with help, sort out their problems. After much more interesting information, Mr Nicholson concluded his talk by showing the Group a most moving film, illustrating a day in the life of some of the more handicapped children living in one of the Society's homes in which their courage and the staff's loving commitment were very evident. It is hoped that by the time this item is printed there will have been a most fruitful response to the house-to-house collection, which will have been made on behalf of the Church of England Children's Society, during the week April 5-11, 1987.

The Wives next meeting is on May 19 at 8pm, in Church House, when one of our own members, Sue Brandon, will tell of her collecting

hobby, the title being All Buttoned Up.

Caversham WI

THE annual meeting was well attended with a welcome to two new members. Mrs Phyllis Colley was re-elected as president, while Mrs Jane Stockhill, the retiring secretary, was presented with a bowl of hyacinths in tribute of her three years work. Miss Pat Jarratt will succeed her as the new secretary and Mrs Sylvia Myszor will continue as treasurer. The meeting was attended by Mrs Diane Lewis, VCO, who gave a talk on where the WI money goes.

The competition for an Easter bonnet was won by Mrs Griffiths.

Chazey WI

ON March 3, Chazey WI held their AGM. Mrs Kathy Cell, chairman for the last two years and a founder member of Chazey WI, retired from the chairmanship and was congratulated on

her very efficient contribution to the success of Chazey WI. Mrs Marion Elliott was elected the new chairman, with Mrs Lendra Bowden as vice-chairman and the rest of the committee was duly elected.

The VCO present was Mrs Parkes who gave an interesting talk on the proposed purchase of new premises south of Reading, as Watlington House was no longer viable. The committee then retired and everyone enjoyed a finger buffet of delicious dips with a variety of biscuits and fresh crusty bread.

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent chaired the March meeting which was the AGM. After the usual monthly business, the treasurer, secretary and president gave their annual reports. A gift of flowers was given to Mrs Diane Lewis, VCO, for the afternoon, also to the treasurer, secretary and retiring president. Mrs Lewis talked about various aspects of the WI with the latest news of the proposed new house. The new committee was presented and voting took place for a new president: she is Mrs Barbara Weller.

The competition for a photograph, Winter Sunshine, was won by Mrs Peggy Fisher.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

ON Tuesday, March 10, the chairman of Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, Mrs M. Chamberlain, spoke on important issues, such as should the UK remove the ban on food irradiation, more straightforward information on nuclear progress, beach pollution, access to personal files and Wellwomen Clinics. The members voted that these questions which are relevant to everyone should go forward to National Union level.

At Miss N. Pollard's Social Studies evening Mr C. L. Gamm MA gave a very informative talk on the history of Reading Abbey. He illustrated this with photographs and drawings. Royalty is buried in the grounds and the Abbey was famous for its teaching and

good works, which helped the local population. Renovation and preservation is supported by Friends of Reading Abbey.

The speaker on March 10 was Miss V. Workman, a senior ranger at Dinton Pastures, which is a country park converted from a gravel pit where the rare black swan once lived. A photograph of this exquisite bird was shown. The beautiful lakes are in full use by wild fowl and wild life with plenty of activities such as wind surfing, sailing and fishing etc for the public. The graphic slides and commentary by Miss Workman were very interesting.

Maplewood WI

ON March 17, Maplewood held their last meeting at St Andrew's Hall and to mark the occasion a special farewell cake had been made and iced by Mrs M. Grove.

The retiring president, Mrs J. Le Mare, was thanked for all her hard work over the past three years and as a token of members' appreciation she will soon be able to plant a maple tree in the garden of her retirement home in the Lake District. Mrs H. Baker was elected as the new president with Mrs J. Fry as secretary. Mrs J. Baddeley will continue as treasurer. Mrs M. McClure, VCO, presided over the elections and also brought members up to date regarding the purchase of a replacement headquarters for Watlington House.

There was an impressive display of members' handiwork and the yearly prize for the most points gained in the Flower of the Month competition went to Miss W. Simmonds. Easter eggs will again be sent to the handicapped children at Peppard House together with a Simnel cake made by Mrs H. Baker.

Caversham Ladies Club

THERE was a very good attendance at the March meeting which was also the AGM. Mrs Harwood, chairman, who opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all the members, thanked them for coming. Four new members were welcomed to the club, then a large card was sent

around the members for them to sign to be sent to Mrs Mander who was in RBH after a fall which resulted in a cracked hip.

After general business was completed, Mrs Harwood read her report. She thanked Mrs Weald, vice-chairman, for taking over in the chairman's absence, meeting speakers etc and anything when called on, Mrs Nelhams, secretary, for all the writing to engage speakers and general monthly reports, Mrs Queenie Strong, treasurer, for keeping a tight hold on the club's finances, to Mrs Brenda Strong and Mrs E. Locke for their produce and nearly new stalls, which contributed so well to the funds and at the same time benefited the members themselves, Mrs Howe on the committee, who was always willing to step into the various jobs that turned up from time to time, Mrs Leach for seeing to the birthday cards, and finally all the members of the committee who gave her so much help and support. Reports were then read out on past year's events and activities. Nominations for the committee were then asked for. In a few minutes the retiring committee were all returned to their offices. Mrs Harwood thanked members and on behalf of the committee promised to serve them to the best of their ability.

A bring and buy was then started with Mrs B. Strong in her usual role of saleslady with wit and laughs to accompany the sales. A trip to Bournemouth

Continued on page 7

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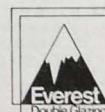
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11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

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)
11.00am Parish Communion

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Family Service (5th Sunday)

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CAVERSHAM DIARY

- May 8 and 9 Victorians at Caversham — Arthur Legge Centre
- May 9 In aid of St. Peter's Organ Fund — Spring Fair at St. Andrew's Hall 11-3
Barn Dance in St. Andrew's Hall 8pm. Tickets £1 including finger refreshments
- May 13 Fashion Show (in aid of St. Peter's Organ Fund) 8pm St. Andrew's Hall, £2 incl. refreshments
- May 16 Reading East Salvation Army Band and Songsters. Tickets £2 incl refreshments. Tel: George and June Brown 477652
- May 17 Highdown School Show
- May 20 Inter-Church Quiz, 7.45pm St. Andrew's Hall
- May 23 May Fair for St. John's at Caversham Hall 2pm W
- May 26/7/8/9 2-4pm daily a Holiday Club for children aged 5-10. At Caversham Baptist Free Church, Prospect Street

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St Peter's

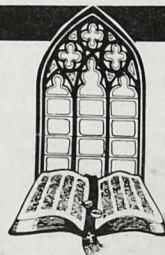
- February 1: Alec Whittle
2: Christine Gordon (at Chiltern College)
7: James Graemer
8: Sara-Nicole Garth
15: Andrew Haydon
22: Christina Williamson
- March 1: Jessica Jarvis, Yvonne Ochieng
8: John Randall

St. John's

- January 25: Emily Ferris
February 8: Carly Summers
15: Aaron Evans
March 22: Susannah Pearce, Rebecca Kemp, Craig Smith

MARRIED

- St. John's
March 21: Steven Cole and Suzanne Salter



FUNERALS

- St. John's
January 20: Lloyd Tweddell
22: Florence Love
February 5: Rosa Barnes
13: Cecilia Potter
16: Marjery Palmer
23: Rosie Waugh
24: Gertrude Fry
27: Ernest Denny

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- May 6: 130 Lowfield Road (Betty Lewis)
13: 51 Galsworthy Drive (Clare Kenchington)
20: 8 Bramber Mews (Esme Boshier)
27: 2 Osterley Drive (Mildred Samuel)

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