

ST JAMES' CHURCH 150 YEARS CELEBRATION

THE Roman Catholics of Caversham and Reading celebrated a significant event in their history in Reading on December 14th, 1987. Exactly 150 years ago the foundation stone of St James' Church in the Abbey Ruins was laid by its architect, Welby Pugin. A new era had begun. For the first time since the Reformation Reading Catholics possessed a permanent and major place of worship.

But the celebratory Mass should not be seen as a divisive assertion by one branch of the Christian community. Rather the service was an act of thanksgiving for the growth of Christianity in Reading reflecting a variety and richness within common beliefs and traditions. Fr. Penicott, the parish priest of St James', in the leaflet introducing the celebratory Mass put a special note of welcome to the "clergy representing our sister churches in the Central Reading Christian Council". Indeed representatives of these other churches rightly joined in these celebrations. The secular bodies were represented by the Mayor of Reading, the Rt. Worshipful Councillor, Mrs. D. E. Lawrence.

had attended the church as a boy. He drew the distinction between the church as a mere building and the real church which is the people. But he also drew the parallel of the church building as the tangi-

story of St James' is a fascinating chapter in the history of Christianity in Reading. Situated on the site of Reading Abbey, the building bridges a gap of 500 years. Some of the very stones are those

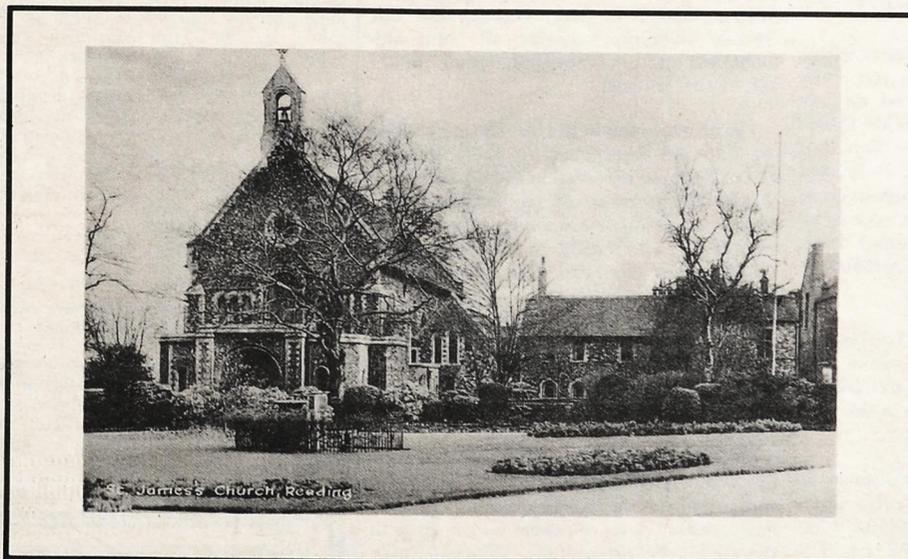
parish boundaries. They included a man aged 64, a cutler; a woman aged 40, a bookseller; and a woman aged 55, a washerwoman. (Extracts from "History of St James'")

The French requisitioned for their use.

It was not surprising that this influx of Catholics should lead to the desire and

December 14th 1837 the foundation stone for the Church of St James was laid. The building was completed in 1840 and consecrated on November 28th of that year. Over the next 150 years addi-

building of the church. Certainly in 1853 the Catholic Poor Schools Committee's records show that £25 was "given to Reading for its school".



From this Church and School the Catholic community has expanded in Reading. The four other Catholic churches south of the river and St Anne's in Caversham, together with their respective schools reflect the growth of Reading and its Catholic population.

St James' itself however now faces a new challenge. The spread of office buildings and the decline of residential areas around the church threaten its existing role. The parish serves the prison and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It also caters for the increasing migrant population in search of work. Its future is in the melting pot of history but it stands as a witness to the faith of Reading Catholics over the last 200 years.

J.M.

The Mass itself reflected the different traditions within the Catholic Church itself. The Bishop of Portsmouth, Anthony Emery, celebrated Mass with priests from Reading and those who had connections with St James'. The music was led by the Cathedral Choir of Our Lady and St John, and consisted of a mixture of modern tunes and latin chants dating back to medieval times. The homily, or sermon, was a moving address by Monsignor Patrick Murphy O'Connor who

ble symbol of the church community and as a place where people come in times of great sadness and great joy, for baptisms, marriages and funerals and also for "the week in week out" bread of Christian life.

Following the service the congregation met in the school, next door, for refreshments. Many old acquaintances were renewed as parishioners from far and wide had come for this special celebration.

What were they celebrating? The

which composed the first church on this site. In 1539 the Abbey was dissolved and there followed the painful period in our history when Christian fought Christian. During this time Catholics in Reading continued to worship in their own way, but in secret. We know for instance, that in 1704 a Franciscan priest

"Fr. Grimstone ... did once hire a chamber in the town of Reading for the convenience of poor Catholics to serve God". In 1767 the records of St Lawrence indicate that there were 13 Catholics within its

Revolution brought about a change of attitudes to Catholics and their priests. As fugitives from a common enemy, republican France, they were now welcomed as fellow Christians. The Reading Mercury of Oct. 15th 1792 stated that "the glory of our national character is a generous compassion and they surely have the strongest claims on us who suffer persecution for conscience sake". Reading in fact became the centre chosen by the government for emigre clergy and the King's Arms was

need for a permanent place of worship. The first church was a small building opened in 1812 and named the Chapel of the Resurrection. The site is now occupied by the Rising Sun public house.

Soon it was clear that a larger and more substantial church was required. A local landowner, James Wheble, who owned the Bulmershe estate, bought and presented to the Church the land on which St James' now stands. So it came about that on

tions and alterations both external and internal have been made. Two side aisles and porch have been added and following the Second Vatican Council the interior was completely modernised to conform with the new liturgical requirements.

Alongside the church is the school. This must be one of the oldest Catholic schools in the country. There is some evidence that the first school was the mission building which preceded the

A pamphlet on the history of St James' Church has been produced and is obtainable at a cost of £1.25 from Caversham Book Shop.

TALKING POINT

by The Rev. David Clark
St. Paul's U.R. Church

COME INSIDE

HAVE you noticed how little huts appear at the pavement's edge from time to time? They might be green, or brown, or red and white striped, and can be made either of canvas or plastic. I can't remember having ever seen one being erected or taken down — they are just suddenly 'there'. And just as suddenly, the following day, or maybe not until the following month, they are not 'there'.

Of course, we all know that they are workmen's huts, don't we? Well, they are aren't they? Haven't they got something to do with the electricity, or is it the gas, or perhaps the telephone, or the water?

Unless there is a van next to them with a clue emblazoned on the side, do you really know why they are there? And do you know exactly what happens inside them? Have you ever folded back the flap that serves as a door and peered in? Because I can't think of any other way of discovering their secrets. When workmen go in or come out the door seems to close around them, and the inside of the hut remains a mystery.

In the course of a day hundreds of people must walk by. If they give even a first thought to the structure it will probably be in terms of something that gets in the way, that restricts free passage.

Strange as it may seem to those of us who are Christians, the vast majority of the population know just as little about what goes on inside our church buildings. The building is just 'there'. Cars arrive outside on Sunday mornings; people go in and come out; and that's it. For the only occasions that most people ever avail themselves of to go inside is midweek for the funeral of a loved one, on Saturday afternoon for a wedding, or to the hall next door for the Jumble Sale or Christmas Bazaar. But as to what actually happens on a Sunday — and why — they just don't know!

Oh yes, they can guess — if they ever give the subject a thought. It's the place where the minister/priest/vicar/pastor tells the people who still turn up what they can or can't do during the coming week, and

where they use old-fashioned language from the Bible for their prayers and hymns. It's 'all right for people who like that sort of thing'.

But it's more likely that, like the treasurer of my previous church on the South Coast who grew up in Reading and attended the E.P. Collier School in York Road for six years (which is directly opposite St. Paul's U.R.C.), they just 'didn't notice there was a church there'.

And if the Christian faith we profess, and the Christian lives we lead, do not attract others, then it is fairly certain that our church buildings ('they're all cold, old-fashioned and uncomfortable aren't they?') will attract no-one.

To the workmen in the hut the purpose of the hut and what goes on inside are obvious. To those involved in the life of a local church the purpose of the building and what goes on inside are obvious. But not to anyone else. And that means that those who do know have to tell those who don't know. And if we are going to get across the meaning of our faith we shall need to use such words as 'family', 'fellowship', 'love', 'nurture', 'concern', 'joy' — words that would not immediately spring to the minds of those we are talking to.

During this coming season of Lent we have an ideal opportunity to pass on something of our understanding, and to listen to the views of others as we share in the LENT '88 programme 'Who on Earth are You?'

Would you be able to answer that question if asked as you leave church this Sunday? Would you be able to show someone else who you are by what you do both within and beyond the church building? Would it just be seen as a series of events, or as the basis of your life — living, vibrant, embracing, caring?

Who else, but those of us who are 'in the know', can pass on to others that which is for us at the very heart of our faith? And if you are not sure, or do not know, try opening the flap, and walking inside, and asking.

RETREATING FORWARDS

By JOHN MADELEY

"Church-going declined by 2.63% last year, continuing the long-term trend". Many such gloomy headlines have been seen in the past few years but there is one branch of Christian activity which is quietly booming and which offers hope for a true spiritual revival. It is the practice of making retreats.

□□
□□

A retreat is a period usually ranging from a weekend to a month when a Christian "retreats" from normal life to listen to God. Retreats are normally silent and can be made on an individual basis or in a group. They can be led by a director — usually an experienced Christian who gives regular "inputs" — or they can be guided solely by the Holy Spirit.

□□
□□

Christians who retreat often experience God's love in a deeper way than the normal round of church worship, prayer and bible reading provides. In a retreat the retreatants sole concentration is on God. We return his love for us by giving him two, three, four, five or whatever days of our lives and simply put those lives at his disposal.

If a retreat is taken with a community, such as example the Community of St. Mary's in Wantage, the retreatant is free to join in the daily cycle of worship, beginning in the case of this community with Lauds at 6.30 a.m. and ending with Compline at 9.45 p.m. There is no compulsion!

"My annual retreats have been landmarks in my exploration", says Mark Gibbard in his book "Prayer and Contemplation". Having made an annual retreat for 4 years now, I can echo that completely. It is something that I prayfully hope I go on doing.

□□
□□

It is because retreatants usually want to continue the practice, that retreats are booming! "We have seen an enormous increase in the past two years" said an official of the Association for Promoting Retreats (APR), "we have been flooded with enquiries".

□□
□□

Retreats were once considered a mainly high church practice for the clergy — no longer! The APR, an Anglican association, the Methodist Retreat Group and the Roman Catholic National

Retreat Movement, jointly produce an "ecumenical journal about retreats", called VISION*. The current issue contains a very interesting article by a Baptist minister.

□□
□□

"What my church needs is not a retreat but a revolution" a cleric once grumbled to Archbishop William Temple, "Yes", replied Temple, "and a retreat is the best way to bring about that revolution".

Could the growth of retreats be God's way of preparing his people for important challenges that lie ahead? Retreats can add a new dimension to our Christianity. These times apart with God are an opportunity to retreat forwards.

□□
□□

Many people find that the season of Lent is an appropriate time to make a retreat — and some retreat houses can take people at quite short notice.

* Available, price £1.05, from APR, 24, South Audley St., London W1. Tel: 01-493 3534. The journal lists retreat houses, their charges, what they offer etc. etc. A number are within easy reach of Caversham — in Oxford, Wantage and Windsor for example.

TOTALLY PROFESSIONAL EYECARE

ROBIN JAMES

OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS

44 Church Street
Caversham
READING RG4 7DQ

Complete Spectacles from £14.95 to over £200
Latest Fashion Frames and Newest Technology Lenses



Dressmaker

Available for:
Ladies Fashions,
Bridal Wear,
Furnishings, Toys,
Alterations etc.

KAY CLIFFE
Reading 483354

PROFESSIONAL

MOBILE BEAUTY THERAPIST
Many treatments available
DIANE HITCHINS,
FSBth
READING 417786

Mrs S.M. Chumbley
MSSCh, MBChA

QUALIFIED CHIROPODIST
Home visits by appointment

Phone Reading
470762

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

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Nigel Wright, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel: 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher, 8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RS. Tel: 472660.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

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

All contributions for March issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday Feb 3. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday Jan 29. The dates for April are Mar 2 and Feb 26.

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

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Telephone: Reading 471703.

Printed by Thames Valley Newspapers Ltd, Tessa Road, Reading.

WILLIAM THE MARSHAL

AT the end of the first part of an article on William the Marshal, Regent of England and Lord of the Manor of Caversham, King John had died and his young son been crowned Henry III at Gloucester Cathedral. The French had obtained a strong foothold in the country and the Regent, now an old man, was endeavouring to rid the realm of them.

For the next two years the Earl Marshal struggled on to free the country of the French, rescuing Marlborough, Southampton and Winchester. Then, in spite of his age, he fought yet another battle. This time it was to be his last. It was also the turning of the tide in England's struggle with the invaders. Prince Louis of France had forces besieging Lincoln castle and although they were more numerous than those of the English, William and his men were victorious. It is said that so enthusiastic was the Marshal that he went to go into battle that he forgot his helmet and had to send for it! There is no

doubt that he enjoyed the art of warfare and one contemporary writer tells us, "They discovered William kneeling with his head on the anvil while the smith laboured with a hammer and tongs to draw off the helmet which had been beaten out of shape and driven on his head by the force of the blows received in tournament". Indeed he was the greatest contestant on such occasions. But joust or battle, William was always a true knight. On learning his son Louis had been finally defeated in England King Philip of France asked the question "Does William Marshal still live?" When the answer came back in the affirmative Philip paid his enemy the highest of tributes when he said, "then I fear not for my son".

Early in the new year the old man felt he could help England no more. He went to his young monarch and said: "Sire, I pray God that if ever I have done anything displeasing to Him

He will give you the grace to be a true knight. If it should happen that you follow the example of some evil ancestor, I pray Him not to grant you a long life." Henry III lived to the age of sixty-five and his reign of fifty-six years was the longest in the Middle Ages.

□□

To Caversham to die

With the coming of the Spring the old Earl Marshal was confined to the royal palace in the Tower of London. As days went by he knew his life was drawing to its close and he longed to get away from the great city and its grim fortress. His thoughts turned to his Manor at Caversham. How much he loved that place and how seldom he had had time to stay there in his energetic life. The willows beside the Thames would be quickening to green, the grass on hill and valley must be lush once more and the villagers turning out their few starving cattle into the mead. The sound of the cuckoo would be heard everywhere, welcoming the long warm days to come. It became William's one desire to end his days in the peace of Caversham's countryside. So, having

made his will, he gave orders that he should be taken by river to his Oxfordshire home. The journey from London began in mid-March and took about a week. William was placed comfortably in the leading boat. His wife followed in the next. The whole of the royal household accompanied him and on reaching Caversham the boy King, the Justices and many of the great men of the Kingdom took up quarters in Reading, without doubt in the great abbey, for there was not enough room for them at the Manor.

□□

William lingered on through the month of April and in May 1218 he died. His body was taken down to the Thames and across it to lie in state at Reading Abbey. There under a magnificent Eastern cloth of gold, which he had brought back from his time during the Crusades, he lay at rest whilst high mass was sung for his soul. Then began the long journey back to London where after another mass he was buried in the church of the Knights Templars — an order he joined just before his death. He was interred on Ascension Day, according to one source.

A lucky find
How is it possible

M.K.



The river must have looked much like this when William made his last journey. A church would surely have been visible. None of the other buildings in this painting by Edmund Havell (1785-1864) — from the Reading Museum and Art Gallery's collection — would have been erected. The painting is reproduced as a card and obtainable from St Peter's Church and from Caversham Bookshop.

JENNINGS BROS



FAMILY BUTCHERS

PERSONAL SERVICE
QUALITY MEATS

10% DISCOUNT

Given off current retail prices on purchases OVER £25

FREEZER ORDERS CUT TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS

Branches at:

26 PROSPECT ST, CAVERSHAM
Tel: Reading 471528

ST MARTIN'S PRECINCT, CAVERSHAM
Tel: Reading 475939

CAVENDISH ROAD, EMMER GREEN
Tel: Reading 474087

THE TRIANGLE, TILEHURST
Tel: Reading 23738

The Grange

Registered Residential Care Home

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY HOUSE
SET IN 10 ACRES BORDERING
THE THAMES YET ONLY A FEW
MINUTES FROM ALL AMENITIES

FEEES FROM £180 WEEKLY

Further details and brochure
from Resident Proprietress
Mrs Josephine Buckley

Phone Goring on Thames 872853

M.J.H. FINE ART RESTORATION STUDIOS

14 Eldon Terrace, Reading. Phone 0734 595944
Prop: M. J. Hill. Consultant Harold Hill

We specialise in all forms of restoration of oil paintings, water colours, engravings, prints etc.

1 years guarantee on all work with valuation certificate on completion.

All restoration is now recorded on video film which you may purchase if you wish.

If you cannot call on us we will call on you without obligation. FREE OF CHARGE

Studio calls by appointment only

Commercial & Industrial Agents, Surveyors & Valuers

- ★ Lettings and Sales
- ★ Acquisitions ★ Valuation
- ★ Rent Reviews ★ Lease Renewals
- ★ Investments ★ Development
- ★ Property Management

George Chilvers & Co.

24, Cross Street, Reading RG1 1SN
Tel. (0734) 580656

ROUND THE CHURCHES

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW HIGH ALTAR AT ST. ANNE'S

ONCE the physical restoration work at St Anne's had been completed there still remained one important spiritual duty to be fulfilled, so it was that one cold and frosty night in December His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham the Most Reverend Maurice Couve de Mourville came to Caversham. His mission was to consecrate the new high altar.

Fr. Meagher had prepared the congregation for a ceremony of majestic proportions but the sheer joyfulness of the occasion was perhaps something of a surprise. The Archbishop was supported by eighteen priests from the South Oxfordshire and Reading Deaneries including two former assistant priests of St Anne's - Fr. Dennison and Fr. Shannon.

The Mass of Consecration began with the blessing and sprinkling of water. In his homily the Archbishop talked of the altar as the focal point for praise and thanksgiving, a place of sacrifice and a centre of commu-

nion and peace. He congratulated the parish on the quality of the restoration and particularly commended the architects - Brian Wain Associates of

stonemason got caught in a traffic jam so that this had to be completed after the Mass. Nothing daunted the Archbishop proceeded with the

the rest of the Mass the Archbishop blessed the restored font and the brilliant new baptistry window which was designed and made by Lynn Clayden of



St. Anne's Church, Caversham.

Cork - on achieving such a happy marriage between the old church and the demands of the new liturgy. ('here we build banks,' he said. 'In Ireland they build the most beautiful churches in the world.')

After the Litany of the Saints had been sung relics of Saints Clementinus and Innocentia were to have been sealed with the altar by a stonemason but unfortunately the

solemn anointing of the altar with Chrism. At this point the choir (beautifully led throughout by Patti Naxton) burst into the most jubilant singing - 'Jubilate Deo onnis terra, servite Domino in laetitiae'. It was song almost like a round and gave the impression of a triumphant peal of bells. The altar was then incensed.

As preparations were being made for

the Badger Bank Studio at Harpsden. The eucharistic prayer and the communion took place amid a blaze of candles and joyful music and the evening ended with the Hymn to St Anne and a reception and refreshments in the church hall.

Fr. Meagher is to be congratulated on a splendid occasion which will long be remembered by all who were privileged to be present.

ST JOHN'S NEWS



Christingle Service at St. John's.

- E. S. Archer

ST JOHN'S cold? Never! The new heating system is well advanced and lovely red glowing wall heaters now greet one on arrival, so much so, a cloakroom will soon be needed. Thanks are due to Mr Cyril Badger for steering the workings.

In October the Mothers' Union celebrated their forty-fifth year with a service of hymns, prayers and readings and welcomed friends from St Andrew's and neighbouring churches.

November saw a very special service when Paurés Requiem was sung by the choir and friends from the Sainsbury Singers and Mass was celebrated by the Revd Alan Wilson and the Revd A. Dorber. A most moving and peaceful evening.

St John's continued its participation in the local Remembrance Day Service with Church and Uniform-

Groups taking part.

In December the Reading Male Voice Choir returned to take part in the Centenary Year celebrations and gave a delightful concert including a nine year old recorder exponent. The Church was full despite the many other Parish commitments on that day.

Christmas was once again well prepared for during Advent, and the Mothers' Union held their meeting with Readings and Carols and welcomed the Revd P. Kenchington who led the service and played his Christmas Song. Paul composed and wrote the works and it was much appreciated by the ladies and by the congregation as a whole on the Sunday after Christmas. There was a full Church for the Uniformed Groups' Christingle Service and for Carols and Christian Aid presentation on Christmas Eve prepared and presented by Mrs Jackie Gray - Star cookies afterwards were well accepted as

were the sweets, a gift from Mr and Mrs Gomez.

The Christmas Tree again took pride of place and was well decorated by the Children of the Rainbow Circle. The Church flowers were magnificent this year with white and red chrysanthemums and greenery, and celebrations were completed by two early arrivals - Jesus arrived Christmas Eve (not to disappoint the children who wondered where he was; a Christingle had been promised a Crib baby for Christmas Eve!) and Stephanie Lucia born to Alan and Lucy at 00.01 Boxing Day, three days early and upside down, but safely delivered feet first. She obviously intends to keep up with Catherine and was welcomed at Church on Christmas II.

The Rainbow Circle now meets every Sunday at 11am in Church (the first Sunday of every month is Family Service when parents are welcome too). Children 4 years old welcome any Sunday or contact Mrs Jane Robson 481452.



HEMDEAN HOUSE CAVERSHAM

(FOUNDED 1859)

Girls 4½-16 years Boys 4½-8 years

Senior girls study for the GCSE in the Humanities, Modern Languages and Latin, Mathematics, Science and Computer Studies, Creative Arts, Home Economics and the Pitman Examinations in Office Studies

The Junior department provides a sound general grounding in all basic subjects. Specialist teaching is given in French, Computer Studies and Science, PE, Art and Music

Provision is made for boys' entry to Preparatory Schools

Headmistress Mrs M.K.RALPH

Prospectus Available Phone Reading 472590

THE YOUNG OF ST MARGARET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

FOR several years now it has become a tradition for the children of St Margaret's to hold their own special service on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. This year their theme centred around the nine letters of Christmas ending with an emphasis on sharing the great glad tidings and the church was certainly well filled with people doing just that. It was good to see the teenagers helping out the rather small group of younger ones from the Sunday School with their little act of worship. Perhaps the

goodly number of two and three year olds who came to see will one day take part on such occasions themselves; the Sunday School would happily welcome new recruits.

Sweets, mincepies and coffee were also shared by everyone and Peter Mullins proved it was perfectly possible to sing a carol with a sweet in his mouth!

Please contact Mrs Betty Smith if any of your young family would like to join Sunday School. Telephone 479416.

Holloway's

Incorporating BUCKELL & BALLARD FINE ARTS and NICHOLAS AUCTION DEPARTMENT

AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

12 High Street, Streatley, RG8 9HY Tel. Goring-on-Thames (0491) 872318



A professional service from complete contents to a single item.

Transport and storage facilities. Free pre-sale inspection and advice.

Entries for future sales invited.

Valuations for probate, CTT and insurance purposes.

and at 49 Parsons Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire

We are agents for



The professional alternative to London

ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST NEWS

SHARING God's Word with children and teaching them about God's love for us has always been an important part of our church life, and we have a thriving Sunday School. On Sunday 13th December the children of the Sunday School acted out 'Once in Royal David's City' as part of the morning service. The traditional Christmas story was told, and then we were challenged to think about what Jesus means to us today. It was stressed that He is as much Alive and Real to us now as he was when he physically walked the earth two thousand years ago. All the children thoroughly enjoyed participating - from the three year olds dressed as baby lambs to the younger teenagers.

'Monday Club' is also part of our

children's work. Every Monday evening from 6.30-7.45p.m., over forty children (age five to ten) meet to play games, sing songs, enjoy art and craft and then end the evening with a short time of prayer and singing choruses. (One evening recently the children went to the Arthur Clarke home where they sang carols to the older folk). On Monday December 14th it was the turn of mums, dads and other relatives to find out more of how their children spend their Monday evenings. We were welcomed with a cup of tea and mince pies and then the children sang Christmas songs and carols and played their recorders. They also acted out the Christmas story and performed one very popular sketch entitled 'Frosty the Snowman' which won

the hearts of every one. It is clear that the children thoroughly enjoy themselves at Monday Club, and at the same time gain an increasing understanding of God's love for them and that He is Alive today.

On Wednesday 16th December, School Lane playgroup, which meets on our premises, held their annual nativity play. These plays are always a pleasure to watch as three to five year olds act out the nativity, sometimes solemnly, sometimes with very lively actions. Carols and songs were sung, and one small boy close to me was very pleased at having 'graduated' to being a king, having been a camel in last year's play. Thanks go to Mrs Pat Jenkins who runs the playgroup and her team of willing and kind ladies.

ST Andrew's Mothers' Union

AT the December meeting members were delighted to welcome the Revd Derek Spears who gave a devotional talk on Advent, illustrated with appropriate music.

On the 15th December twenty-seven patients from Borocourt Hospital came to the Hall for the annual party held for them by the Mothers' Union. As usual it was a most happy occasion, everybody enjoying the festive fare, party games, Mr Roger Kent's Punch and Judy, Father Christmas (Bill Sidwell in disguise) and finally well loved carols.

The MU had their own party on 5th January, when the Enrolling Member, Mrs J. Jellyman and the Committee arranged and served an ap-

petising three course lunch in the Hall. The guests welcomed on this occasion were the Rector and Mrs Kingsbury, Father Tony and Mrs Ruby Hignall, the Deanery Residing Member. The many grannies in the Branch were delighted to have with them some of the younger members and their very friendly small children.

ST ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP

ST Andrew's Women's Group met on December 3rd for the last time. Mr Arthur Burton chaired the meeting as the President, Fr Tony Dalton, was unable to attend. This has been a thriving group for over twenty years, formerly called The Young Wives. Last year there were over thirty members.

The problem was financial as the Annual subscription of £3 did not cover the new greatly increased Hall charge of £10 a meeting.

The small balance in hand was donated to The Macmillan Fund via Mr Burtop.

A sad day for all the Women of St Andrew's.

quota was. The Priest-in-charge was introducing a Children's Corner in the Church so that they would feel that they had a part of the Church which could be visited at any time, and not only on Sundays. The beginning of 1988 sees us facing a challenge. Financially we must find in the realm of £20,000, from the point of organisation there is every prospect of St. Andrews' District becoming St. Andrews' Parish thus having to accept the responsibilities and privileges that will ensue. With God's help, guidance and Grace we will, I feel sure not shrink from what we will be required to do in his name.

Molly Sidwell
Bill Vincent } District Wardens

St Andrew's Fellowship

THE gratifying number of people who braved the very cold evening to attend the Fellowship Christmas evening were well rewarded for their pains. Musical entertainment was provided and much appreciated. Jim George had brought along his recording of the 'scratch' Messiah which had taken place in St Andrew's Church the previous Saturday, all three hours of it! He played two well chosen pieces 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' and 'The Trumpet shall sound'. Anne and Caroline Jellyman then gave their

version of the Twelve days of Christmas, Mrs Ruth Ortner sang an old Appalachian carol 'I wonder when I wander', and the Aspden family, or rather Eric and Philip, rounded off the entertainment, Eric with a monologue and Philip played some Golden Oldies and some carols on his portable keyboard.

To add to all this, the Committee had provided a supper of sandwiches, and mincepies, accompanied by a non-alcoholic punch, which nonetheless seemed to make everyone very talkative!

VICAR NOT IN CHRISTMAS DAY BABY SHOCK



- E. S. Archer

The Rev. Alan Wilson and family.

THERE is one advantage in having your baby born early on Boxing Day if you are a Vicar. It is that you avoid being splashed across the tabloid press by having a baby born on Christmas Day. So says Alan Wilson, the Priest at St John's, the arrival of whose second daughter was officially timed by the John Radcliffe Hospital on Oxford at 00.01 hours on 26th December.

After Christmas services at St John's Alan, Lucy and their first daughter Catherine went to spend the rest of the day with Lucy's family at Eynsham near

Oxford. It was from there that Lucy was taken to the John Radcliffe rather than to the Royal Berks where Catherine had been born. Her second daughter weighed in at 7lb 1oz just after midnight having been born four days earlier than predicted.

Alan and Lucy have called their new daughter Stephanie since by missing Christmas Day she had managed to be born on St Stephen's Day. 'The Caversham Bridge' sends the whole family their congratulations and best wishes. If it had been a boy called Wencezlas that really would have made the tabloids.



Christmas Eve Crib Service at St. Peter's.

E. S. Archer

BATH LODGE REGISTERED REST HOME

Long and short term stay
Full 24-hour care
A lovely house in beautiful grounds with a very homely atmosphere

For further information ring
Mrs M. Cousins (Proprietor)
Reading 589726
8 BATH ROAD, READING,
BERKS,
RG1 6ND



GAIL SPENCE ANTIQUES CAVERSHAM

Tel. 473011

Do you have something to sell that is antique, or just old or unusual? Do you want to be sure you get a fair price?

Gail Spence lives in Caversham and buys and sells antiques in the area. She depends on her reputation for fair and honest prices.

Give her a ring. There is no charge and no obligation.

THOUGHTS FROM AFAR

NICHOLAS
 CHARTERED SURVEYORS
 EST. 1882

for
 ALL ASPECTS OF PROFESSIONAL WORK including
 VALUATIONS, STRUCTURAL SURVEYS AND TOWN PLANNING, etc
 and for
 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES, RENT REVIEWS

24 Friar Street, Reading RG1 1DP
 Tel. (0734) 591231

E. & R. STACEY
 Proprietor: Capt David Clark (ret)
 257 PEPPARD ROAD
 EMMER GREEN, READING
 Telephone 472096 or 479253 evenings

Panel beating, spraying, chassis repairing
 Accident and insurance work undertaken

NETLEY LANDSCAPES
 Garden design and construction
 Hugh Netley, NDLC
 PATIOS, FENCING, NATURAL STONEMWORK, WALLING, PLANTING, SHRUB AND TREE CLEARANCE, WATER FEATURES, ETC. ETC
 COMPETITIVE QUOTATIONS
 Tel. READING 477466

CAVERSHAM CARS
 Private Hire Car Chauffeur driven approx half normal fares. Tested and registered by Reading Council. Weddings, Airports, Long journeys a speciality
 Advance booking taken evenings
 READING 470690

Walton Adams & Son Limited
 PHOTOGRAPHERS

Telephone Reading 477904
 1 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM

PHOTOGRAPHS
 WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT


PRUDENTIAL
 Property Services
 Incorporating Scotchbrooks and Martin & Pole
 Tel 0734 478278
 42 Church Street, Caversham, Reading Berkshire RG4 8AU.

It is difficult to know where to begin as some of you will have had news during the year. Many thanks to all of you who have written; the amount of post I get surprises the Principal! I think I was very fortunate to be sent here as Takuilau is a nice school and Tonga's climate is usually pleasant. The pupils are friendly — especially out of school, though they are no angels in the classroom. They are all put through the same academic hoop as they move up the school so they are frustrated when they cannot cope. By the end of the year some in the exam classes had just given up. Even those who succeed in passing School Certificate or Form 6 exams do not necessarily find jobs as there are not enough in Tonga. Looking at the population growth, there is not likely to be a vast improvement in this direction. Some of the pupils are really hard-working and take advantage of the form room set aside for homework in the evenings. Tongan homes are not conducive to study, partly through lack of furniture and partly because of the numbers of people around.

Atele where a large stand overlooks the track. (The fact that it is only used for about two days a year is immaterial.) Schools build shelters round the track so the spectators do not sit in the glaring sun all day and periodically some of the extrovert pupils get up and entertain their fellows. At lunchtime, tablecloths are spread and families sit down to eat. There are always large quantities of root crop and meat, or fish cooked in leaves in the earth ovens. The meat is either sipi (breast of lamb) or corned beef. The events take place over two days and excitement builds up, especially if schools think they have a chance of winning a cup. Takuilau won the intermediate girls and boys cups, the former for the first time.

At the Opening of Parliament all the secondary school children on Tongatapu arrive in Nuku'alofa and march to their

EARLY last year the 'Caversham Bridge' reported that Miss Jean Sawyer, a member of Caversham Baptist Church and a distributor of the paper in Rotherfield Way, was leaving for a 'busman's holiday' in Tonga. Jean, then having recently retired as Head of Science at St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, had been accepted for Voluntary Service Overseas as a teacher at a school in Tonga run by missionaries. In a recent letter to friends she reviews her impressions and experiences during her first year and we reproduce extracts from that letter.

places on the King's route. Each school is preceded by their band and the whole affair is quite spectacular. After the King leaves Parliament all the school children march past the Palace through its grounds. School day was held at the beginning of July and started with a Thanksgiving service in the Church. Back at school families started laying out their lunch and then the entertainment began. The juniors did a soke dance using sticks and then people from each village in turn danced. Finally the whole school on tiered seating sang and danced to the music. This dance depended on hand movements and nods of the head as they were all sitting down.

ed to the music. This dance depended on hand movements and nods of the head as they were all sitting down.

About half an hour's walk from here is a lovely little beach and I've been down once most weekends all through the year. It is only when it is very windy that I decide it is too cold to swim. The water keeps warm by British standards. Soon after arriving I acquired a bicycle and that widened my horizons and it's useful for local shopping. My New Zealand neighbour returns home in a few weeks and I'm buying his car so evening trips into Nuku'alofa will be easier. Malcolm, another British volunteer who lives nearby, had the Cop's van but he no longer has the use of it. As he has brought me back from parties at the British High Commission, etc. I shall be glad to have my own transport. The last bus back from town is about 5 pm so that limits one's activities.

At holiday times I have managed to visit Vava'u, about an hour's plane ride to the North, and 'Eua, seven minutes away by plane. Both islands have hills, unlike Tongatapu, and it was good to do some walking. We even walked here last Wednesday, which was a public holiday. Some volun-teers arranged to walk from Nuku'alofa back here so that we could stop and photograph places we usually ride by. It is about fourteen miles and on Thursday we all felt fitter for making the effort.

My Tongan is not improving much, so understanding notices on the radio and sermons proves difficult. I am made welcome at Church and am looked upon as being a bit strange as I go to the Wesleyan Church but teach in a Catholic school. Every time there is a special feast after Church I'm invited, which is really nice. Most people here go to Church, but like in Victorian or Edwardian England there is often a gap between profession and practice. I have discussions with the Tongan girls who visit or stay here on the subject.

BANG FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH!

By JOHN MADELEY

FROM burtibang to the Baptists! Tim and Carol Kelly, founder members of the Caversham's churches Caring and Sharing Group, will be doing just that when they speak at Caversham Baptist Free Church (corner of South St and Prospect St.) on Monday, 8th February.

Our local Caring and Sharing group is one of many similar groups throughout Britain whose members give up something they once enjoyed and give the proceeds to a project that helps the poor. The Caversham group, now just under a year old, is supporting a community health and education project in Burti Bang village, west Nepal, a project set up by the International Nepal Fellowship, a charity that was founded in Reading.

In late December and early January, Tim and Carol visited the village — a journey which involved a flight to the Nepalese capital Kathmandu, a lengthy road journey to the nearest market town and then a 2 day walk to Burtibang — then back again!

After travelling to such a isolated community, Tim and Carol deserve a packed meeting on February 8th, so please come at 8.00 p.m. and hear more about this Nepalese village and how Caversham's funds are helping. It's your chance too to hear more about the Caring and Sharing idea. All welcome!

Further information about the group can be obtained from Lyn Baker, 471262, John Madeley, 476063, or Bob Rutherford 479081.

Telephone (0734) 476026
R. CHANDLER
 PAINTER AND DECORATOR
 4 Pembroke Place
 Caversham, Reading
 Estimates free

Margaret Cutts
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
 Accountancy, book-keeping and taxation services for the small business and personal client
 READING 472987

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I DON'T know if it was as a result of my appeal in last month's 'Bridge', but it really was a strange coincidence that after the Epiphany Service at St. Peter's the other night three people came up to me with suggestions for the paper. Had I ever done anything about the picture framers in Church Street who had recently been so good and helpful? And had I written anything in praise of the very nice brickwork on the new buildings behind Howards? I've forgotten what the other one was but no doubt it will come back to me in due course. The three friends I've men-

tioned are already keen supporters of the 'Bridge' and have contributed to it themselves. But wouldn't it be nice if those of you who are not quite so enthusiastic but who do have odd items of information which would interest readers, would just let us have a note.

Old Friends

One card which pleased me enormously was from Rose Heaton who lived for many years in Springfield St. Luke and now is at 32 Orchard Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2PS. Betty is well into her nineties,

so I suppose I can be forgiven for thinking that the move, coming on top of the trauma of looking for a new home, would be just too much for her to take. Not a bit of it; she says she is finding it a very kind and pleasant place to be in. She also says: "Please help me to keep in touch with Caversham events, with the BBC (where she worked for many years) and with the Church." She had many visitors when she was at Springfield, so she's going to appreciate the many greetings she is likely to receive now — please! Other news of ex-Springfield residents will be much

appreciated.

The Usual Beef

I hope I'm right in thinking Caversham dogs don't figure among those very distressing cases we saw on TV over Christmas, but there is just one thing. Most people take their dogs on shopping expeditions — they are no alternative for a good walk. It needn't be long and we do have fields in or near Caversham. But dogs outside shops, either barking piteously like the one I saw this morning, or just looking very pathetically lost, are not what one would like to see in Caversham. And before the hackles

start to rise, I hasten to assure readers that I'm sure there must be the odd occasion when this just can't be avoided.

More Consideration Please!

It's very nice being called into a doctor's surgery ahead of schedule but when one discovers that the reason is because three people have failed to turn up, without any explanation, it's a bit shattering. Again, I'm sure there is the odd occasion when there is a very good excuse, but surely not three in a row. Most of us have telephones these days, so please try to give due warning of cancellations — it will help us all.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

"BUT I can't sing" I explained as I was invited to join in a carol singing evening with St Peter's Wives just prior to Christmas. "It doesn't matter, you can rattle the tin and collect the contributions." And so it came to pass! I must say that after all the present-wrapping, card sending, mincepie making, holly hanging and general razz-ma-tazz prior to Christmas I welcomed the idea of becoming involved in the real spirit of the religious festival.

In fairly euphoric mood I joined the group at the corner of Sheridan Avenue where I was told we were to concentrate on 'the Closes', most of which were unknown to me. Someone having lit the guiding light and distributed the carol

sheets, the songsters began, and after a goodly measure of "Once in Royal David's City" it was my turn to tackle the first house. Luckily it belonged to a friend so coins were soon jangling in my tin.

I don't quite know what I expected. Buckets of water hurred from top windows, ferocious mastiffs leaping out or just stony silence behind drawn curtains! Not a bit of it, the magic words "Proceeds are to go to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed" acted as an Open Sesame. Husbands newly arrived home dug deep into pockets, smiling mothers arm deep in pastry-making, deposited floury coins and clusters of wide-eyed children in their night attire came to gaze, listen and give. The response from

one house was so generous I feared they would have nothing left! Some wanted to run down the steep paths to get a better look at the singing group, pink face rising from warm scarves, and in the glow of the lamp resembling a Bruegel painting. One felt it would have been easy to play Pied Piper and draw the children away.

Most romantic with their outlines of coloured lights and lit trees the houses rise in each Close on the steps of which couples came out to listen and it was far from "Silent Night" as the coins jangled in the boxes and greetings were called. Up and down the steps catching glimpses of glowing halls festooned with holly and ivy, laced with glittering strands of silver and gold, odd shaped parcels piled high in corners, stars and fir cones, children's drawings on doors and Christmas trees waiting expectantly to be dressed for the most important day of the year. Up and down more steps with children taking up the refrain of carols learned at school, back into the road and into another Close. By now fingers and toes were getting chilled and dewdrops appeared on noses — apologies to the one I left on the back of a sleek black Labrador — I don't think he noticed! At last it was time to go and to cries of "We have enjoyed the singing", we promised to come again next year. Though outwardly chilled we glowed inwardly when it was discovered that some £50 had been collected for the Sue Ryder Home. EMF

CAROLS OVER THE AIR

AT the end of November the Youth Group from St Peter's was invited to visit our local Hospital Radio. John Martin who runs it is a friend of some of the young people from Embley Park and elsewhere. Hospital Radio (Reading) has its H.Q. in a prefab at the Battle Hospital. They have two full scale studios as well as a huge record library built up over the years. The Youth Group was told that as much of the work of the volunteers who run it was visiting the wards as working in the studios. For Hospital Radio the personal link with the patients is the important thing and every effort is made to meet any special request from a patient. They broadcast to both the Battle and the Royal Berks.

Before they left four of them were marched into one of the studios to record an interview which was a nerve-racking experience they were not expecting. What they had to say about the Youth Group was broadcast on the Sunday religious slot before they left so they were able to hear themselves on air. This seemed to work well enough for them to be invited back to put together a programme for children at Christmas.

So it was that on a Saturday morning in the middle of December they all reassembled in the Chapel at the Royal Berks to record what was meant to be three quarters of an hour of entertainment. Pam Wing whose grandfather played the organ in the Chapel for many years took over his organ stool. Several of those who were also members of the St Peter's Choir managed to keep the singing above disaster level on almost all the carols, but just

possibly did not manage it for 'Jingle Bells'. The less musical gave some readings. The whole thing was deftly edited and went out just after Christmas. Hospital Radio also used some of the individual items over the season.

Finally those who were also in the Choir were back at the Royal Berks in the evening when St Peter's made another contribution to the hospital Christmas. A large section of the Choir both old and young spent two hours singing in several wards. Here too it was the contact with individual patients which made all the difference. They were able to respond to individual requests from one small boy in a room on his own and one older lady who was almost the only one left in her ward over the season.

H. F. GODFREY

The Market Garden
Goring Heath

Phone Checkendon 681541
FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED 1912

Supplying Fresh Fruit, Vegetables & Potatoes

OWN FROZEN SOFT FRUIT

TRADITIONAL STRINGS OF HOME-GROWN ONIONS.

Local Free Range Eggs, Dairy Produce from Hardwick Estate, Home Baked Cakes and Bread, Stone Ground Wholemeal Flour, Honey, Home Made Jam, Marmalade and Pickles and a selection of Whole Foods.

Tuesday to Saturday, 9-1am, 2-5pm;
Sunday, 9.30am-Noon

Telephone:

Reading (0734) 478756

GET CARTER ELECTRICAL

Office & Domestic
New Installations
& Maintenance

Free estimates

116 WOODCOTE ROAD
CAVERSHAM, READING

ENJOY A LAKELAND HOLIDAY

Jane and Peter Steer invite you to stay in their guest house at

11 COLLEGE ROAD, WINDERMERE
CUMBRIA, LA23 1BU
TELEPHONE 09662 2292

TARIFF ON REQUEST
(A non-smoking residence)



Simply Silk

Specialists in Silk Flower Arrangements and Plant Displays for every occasion

Sales · Hire · Maintenance

WEDDING BOUQUETS ETC DESIGNED TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS

Tel. Checkendon (0491) 681233

Telephone: Reading 473469 or 473003

LET US CALL AND GIVE YOU A FREE ESTIMATE

J. D. Sansum & Son

PLUMBING, HEATING
AND GENERAL REPAIRS
KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
SPECIALIST

24 Stuart Close, Emmer Green
Reading RG4 8RE

Suprema

OFFERS

DRY CLEANING AT ITS BEST
AND AT KEENEST PRICES

WE'RE OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK AT

32b CHURCH STREET, CAVERSHAM
TELEPHONE: READING 477713

81217

PERSONAL ATTENTION FREE ESTIMATES

YOUR LOCAL DECORATOR

M. LEWINGTON

Interior and Exterior decorating

148 Upper Woodcote Road
Caversham
Reading

Telephone
Reading
479642

ROUND THE CLUBS

WE BUY AND SELL
MILITARIA

HARRY ELLIS
(Prospect Furnishings)

MEDALS, BADGES, OLD UNIFORMS,
HELMETS, BINOCULARS, COMPASSES etc

6 Prospect St, Caversham Reading RG4 8JG Telephone (0734) 476565 24 Hour Service

GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICES

6 BANBURY GARDENS, CAVERSHAM
TEL: READING 473308

Sales and Services Agents for
FLYMO MOUNTFIELD HAYTER ATCO, etc

Always large stock of
NEW AND RECONDITIONED MACHINES
Free estimates

M. J. GODDARD
Builder and Decorator

FREE ESTIMATES

18 GOSBROOK ROAD
CAVERSHAM
READING
BERKSHIRE Telephone 475582

Clean your Carpets the Professional Way and hire

ESCORT CARPET CLEANER
from
Suprema
DRY CLEANERS

32B CHURCH STREET, CAVERSHAM
Telephone 477713

Use it just like a vacuum cleaner and see the dirt being removed

J. LUCKETT (Insurance Services) LTD

PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY UNBIASED ADVICE

NATIONWIDE, 14 Church Street, Caversham
Telephone Reading 481130 or 472950

CAVERSHAM HEATING & PLUMBING SERVICES

For Central Heating, Boiler Servicing, General Plumbing Work

PHONE PAUL ON
READING 481414
Free Estimates Given
Trade & Retail Enquiries Welcome

Chazey WI

'CHAZEY entertains' was certainly aptly named for the December meeting. The drama group entertained members with a two part programme.

The first half was amusing and topical, with such renditions as 'Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer', and the Joyce Grenfell monologue on 'The School's Christmas play'. In the second half, members led popular carol singing interspersed with Christmas readings.

The evening was very successful, all partook of mincepies and sherry, and the members left looking forward to their future Christmas activities, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

joined by Mrs Sylvia Froud as vice chairman. The Committee too has new faces showing the present depth of membership and interest.

Christmas celebrations abounded with entertainment in song and verse by Mrs Maria Picave, food by committee members and birthday cake made as usual by Mrs L. Frey, and iced by Mrs A. Deane.

January saw the start of the new Guild programme and the Guild next meets on February 18th at 2.15 at Church House, Caversham when Jewellery and Silver Plate will be illustrated by Mrs E. Turner. New members will be most welcome then or phone the Secretary, Mrs Betty House 471434.

container into something very pleasing to look at with very little maintenance and an environment that the plants apparently thrive on. Local 'junk' shops — watch out for an invasion of bargain hunters. Coughs and colds had reduced numbers of members drastically but for those who braved the deluge a very pleasant afternoon. The competition for a small pot plant was won by Mrs Aldiss, with Mrs Housden and Mrs Sawyer second and third.

Anyone looking for a friendly meeting place on the first Tuesday of each month should come to Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion at 2.30 p.m. where they would be made most welcome.

Mrs Joan Ford

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's Christmas party took place. Opening business proceedings, the chair suggested that where members were concerned about cuts in the National Health Service, they should write to their MPs.

Delicious food prepared by committee members was then enjoyed, and an entertainment provided by Caversham wine circle followed. This included a version of 'Sleeping Beauty', where after various mishaps everybody fell asleep again. Two gentlemen, supposedly representing absent husbands at the Grosvenor, carried on a duologue cleverly reminiscent of the two Ronnies of television fame. Coffee and hot mince pies were then served and carol singing concluded the evening. No head count was made of those who chose non-alcoholic punch, but a poll revealed a general mood of eve of Christmas happiness. Contributions of food were brought to an enjoyable social at Betty Smith's house. The pleasant pre-Christmas get together here of social studies group was enlivened by carol singing, a Quiz about authors and playwrights and some poetry reading.

Rosehill WI

MRS Weller, the President, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 1988. Several ladies had received Christmas greetings from members who have moved elsewhere. Sadly members heard of the death of Mrs Crowhurst, one of the very early members of Rosehill.

The Speaker was the Revd Richard Kingsbury, who kept everyone interested throughout his talk about his involvement with prison visiting over the last twenty-four years. Many people may not realise that we in England, for instance, send more people to prison than any other country in western Europe, and that at Reading Prison there is overcrowding by thirty per cent. This gave all food for thought, and much was learned from him.

A beautiful flower arrangement of spring blooms for the President's

Turn to page 11

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

FOLLOWING the Annual General Meeting, Mrs Enid Odey continues as Chairman, and she is

Blgrave WI

NEVER throw away anything glass seemed to be the message when Mrs. June Menhinick came to the January meeting with some of their collection of "gardens in a bottle" and demonstrated how to turn a seemingly uninteresting

Caversham Heights TG

ANY dark shadows lurking in St Andrew's Hall in Caversham were well and truly dispersed on the night in December when

ST. JOHN'S BROWNIES

3RD Caversham (St John's) Brownies held their Sponsored Silence for this year's Christmas Good Turn in early December to beat the cold weather — but it beat them and got in first! The money raised so far £90, will go to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. Not only is it a worthy cause, but two Brownies in the Pack are among the long-term out-patients of the hospital. The stamps trimmed during the half-hour will go as usual to the Save the Children Fund.

After Christmas the leaders wanted to see

the Beatrix Potter Exhibition, so invited the Brownies along. A party of sixteen went by train and underground. They joined the queue in the Tate Gallery at the "one hour board" but the time soon passed and the exhibition was worth the wait. They emerged at 1pm, hungry into a wet London. Luckily there was a large bus shelter opposite where they stood and ate their sandwiches, after which they walked to the Houses of Parliament, watched Big Ben strike 2pm and

went into Westminster Abbey to look at the plaques to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. The Brownies then sat and looked at the Crib which was the size of a small room with near life size figures. The party then walked along Whitehall to see the Cenotaph and Downing Street. A policeman at the barrier allowed them all to walk down to No. 10 — a great honour. Half-an-hour of games in St John's Guide Hut before being collected by their parents completed the day.

SHARE A CARE

Have you a problem or a need you want to talk to someone about?

Ring 473189
Monday to Friday 7-8pm
All calls are strictly confidential

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

THE recent Annual General Meeting was an illustration of how to survive in the rain. Every event this year, both run by the group and by the fund-raising committee at Nettlebed, has been drenched with heavy rain, but despite all, the Christmas Fair at Nettlebed raised a record £5,000 and the local group has been able to send £600 as

the result of their endeavours.

The New Year plans include the Home's Nearly New Sale on January 30th and Clearance Sale on February 20th and the Group has its Annual Jumble Sale on March 19th in Caversham Hall, so please do remember them when you spring clean — contact Mrs A. Deane 473798.

CHILTERN NURSERY TRAINING COLLEGE

The Day Care Centres are open throughout the year for the care of children from 0-5 years. The Nursery School is open during term time. The babies and children are cared for by trained staff assisted by our own student nursery nurses.

Particulars from: The Principal
16 Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading
Telephone Reading 471847 or 471131

FOR HELPFUL ADVICE ON CO-ORDINATION AND INTERIOR DESIGNS WHY NOT CALL IN AT

Gallienne Schmidt
INTERIORS & DESIGN

52 Prospect Street, Caversham, Berks
READING (0734) 481283
WE SUPPLY A WIDE RANGE OF EXCLUSIVE WALLPAPERS, FABRICS, CARPETS, TILES ETC.

PASSPORT SERVICE
YOUR WEDDING OR PORTRAIT IN COLOUR

HYMOR Photographers

43 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM
Tel: Reading 475656 and 479450

ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

table was made by Mrs Roberts.

The competition for "4 lines on a New Year Resolution" was won by Mrs Ellingham.

Caversham Ladies Club

CHRISTMAS party time was here again, a lovely time of the year. Mrs Harwood opened the meeting with a very warm welcome to all the members, and thanked them for all their contributions to the party. A table flower arrangement was the competition for the occasion. Mrs Vicky Scheel was the judge. She said afterwards it had been very hard choosing winners as the entries were all so attractive. Mrs Joan Annett was first, Miss Pat Haines second and Mrs Queenie Strong third.

Members then all sat at the tables which looked very gay and festive with Christmas decorative

cloths and a lovely selection of goodies, while a large Christmas cake, made and beautifully decorated by Mrs Shirley Strong, was centre of the main table. Carols were then sung, followed by Mrs Harwood, Chairman, saying Grace. The Committee were doing the 'waiting' as has been the tradition in past parties.

An auction was held for a large doll and a smaller one, also the left over cakes and biscuits. The amount was added to the sum collected at last month's meeting for a M & S voucher, and it was a lovely surprise to realise £30 had been raised. This was being taken to RBH by Mrs Q. Strong who had kindly given one of the dolls, whilst Mrs E. Locke had kindly given the other doll. The M & S voucher was from a friend.

It was now the time for distribution of a Christmas Card and present to every member. Many hands helped in clearing and tidying after a very happy, satisfying afternoon. The meeting closed with so many "Merry Christmases" being wished that it leaves no doubt that the main wish was merry and peaceful with goodwill to all.

Caversham Community Association

THERE was no meeting at the clubroom on the 7th December as an evening coach trip had been arranged. The members were taken to London to see the Christmas lights in Oxford Street and Regent Street. On the way home a stop was made for refreshments, to complete a pleasant evening outing.

On the 14th December the Caversham Gospel Singers from the Baptist Free Church, Caversham, visited the club and gave a carol concert for the members. The choir was led by Sue Allum and included men and women. They sang well and gave a lively and varied programme of Christmas music which included several lovely songs, new to many in the audience. Solos and duets were sung and members were asked to join with them in singing some of the well known carols. Readings were also given that reminded the listeners of the first Christmas and its influence over the years. The refreshments had a seasonal touch when mincepies were given to everyone. Maida Feast, the chairman, thanked the choir and leader for the enjoyable evening.

The Christmas party held the following week was a successful occasion. The meal was delicious, salad, ham and pie followed by a variety of trifles, flans and fancy cakes. Christmas crackers, which were helping to decorate the tables, were pulled before the meal and the members wore the fancy hats during the evening. Later, Christmas cake was available with wine or fruit drinks to suit everyone. The entertainment was provided by Shirley Stevens and her group called Sweet Harmony. They sang and danced with zest, wearing a variety of attractive costumes. The concert ended with the cast singing a carol and were joined by a jolly Father Christmas. There was a competition for the members, this year they were asked to make a Christmas table decoration. Shirley Stevens was asked to judge the very colourful display and gave first prize to Pat Green and second prize to Joan Annett. Mrs Maida Feast thanked the concert party and wished everyone a happy Christmas. The members went home after a happy evening and appreciated all the hard work of the committee and members, in making all the good food and arranging a good party.

Caversham Methodist Wednesday Group

ON a bitterly cold night in December, members gathered for a Victorian Christmas party, glad of their long skirts and warm stoles. Inside the hall was softly lit and set with small tables with lace cloths, decorated with lamps, candles and bowls of nuts. Kathleen Robson and friends entertained the Group with a varied programme of old-time songs, reading and piano duets. Dorothy Byers did her famous 'Hats' monologue and had everyone in stitches and the concert finished with choruses sung by everyone. An attractive buffet meal prepared by the Committee rounded off the evening. At the first meeting of the New Year, members enjoyed a Beetle Drive. It was a happy evening and a good opportunity to get to know some of those only seen at a distance before. The winner and loser somehow ended up on the same table! Mince pies were served with the usual tea or coffee.

Emmer Green TG

AT the December meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild the Chairman, Miss N. Pollard, thanked those members who had brought Christmas gifts to be distributed to the elderly, then announced that the target sum of £500 had been raised for the Royal Berks Hospital Appeal and there was still more money to be added.

The Christmas card competition was won by Mrs M. Pocock for her beautifully hand drawn entry and the raffle was won by Mrs M. White. The Sainsbury Singers "Off Cuts" provided the entertainment for the evening and sang many old favourites, from such musicals as My Fair Lady and West Side Story, with the Guild joining in for the finale.

Mince pies provided by the committee were enjoyed and added to the festive spirit.

The programme for 1988 includes speakers on The Weather, Dog Training and the History of Dolls. Meetings take place at St Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.15pm and all new members will be most welcome.

St. Peter's Wives Group

WITH Christmas in mind, St Peter's Wives Group met in December for a party. Although it was a cold night, 29 ladies found their way to a room in Church House decorated with holly and balloons. Each member brought a plate of food and a punch was served. Mr Keith Churcher entertained us with some magic and after Mrs Mildred Hutchinson had thanked him they sat down for supper. Once the raffle tickets had been drawn and prizes allotted Mrs Margaret Cleeve played the piano for some lovely traditional carols. Coffee was then served to end a happy evening.

Having attuned their voices in preparation for their outdoor carol singing on Tues 15th they found that a wet and windy evening had presented itself. Not the most conducive to choral singing. Fortunately, on an evening a week later, with a scratch number of singers, St Peter's Wives were able to venture forth. Besides collecting a handsome sum for the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed, they were very gratified to discover that their absence had actually been marked. This rosy glow helped to keep out the frost, which towards the end of the evening was settling fast. Thanks goes to all the listeners for their generous donations. St Peter's Wives Group meets again in Feb 16th when a talk will be given by Prof. W. G. van Emden about Medieval Castles.

N.G. KENT & SONS TAILORS



CHURCH HOUSE
59 CHURCH STREET
CAVERSHAM



Telephone: 479378

ALTERATIONS
(Ladies & Gents)

- *GENTS READY TO WEAR GARMENTS
- *GENTS SUITS MADE TO ORDER
- *TIES. HUNDREDS TO SELECT FROM
- *TROUSERS SHORTENED WHILE YOU WAIT
- *INVISIBLE REPAIR SERVICE
- *MENS DRESS HIRE
- *QUOTATIONS & ADVICE FREE

TOP QUALITY BUTCHER

P. MUNDY

324 Hemdean Road
Caversham, Reading
Berks

Tel. Reading 479955

Retail deliveries twice weekly,
Tuesday and Friday

HOME FREEZER MEAT
SUPPLIED AND
DELIVERED

24195

BARBARA

LADIES' HAIRDRESSER

30 Church Street, Caversham.

Tel. 473564

Reduced prices for senior citizens Tuesday and
Wednesday. Late nights Thursday and Friday

RE-UPHOLSTERY FURNITURE REPAIRS & RESTORATION

HARRY ELLIS (Prospect Furnishings)

6 Prospect St,
Caversham,
Reading RG4 8JG

Telephone
(0734) 476565

RAY GALLAGHER DOMESTIC PLUMBING SERVICE

Prompt friendly attention NO job too
small

Telephone Reading 475599

1 Kirkham Close,
Caversham Park Village, Reading

91051

CRAWFORD & LEACH LTD

GENERAL BUILDERS

ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS

Personal attention at all times

Telephone (0734) 475773

MILWARDS SHOES

- the name that fits

Branches throughout the Thames Valley

The Entertaining Cooks

Business Lunches

Weddings Parties Dinners Buffets

Ring Marjorie McCombe or Christine Harvey

on Reading 477430 or 478597 for a price guide

CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE

Church House, 59 Church Street

Office open Monday to Friday 9.30am-11.30am. T.N. 483466. Please ring, or call personally, if you need help or information from the many local charitable and caring organisations on the LINK GROUP files, or, if you need assistance from the CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME, who will:

1. Give help in a domestic emergency;
2. Visit and offer help to the sick, lonely and/or housebound;
3. Provide transport on essential journeys for the elderly and handicapped.

(Emergencies out of office hours — T.N. 479048 or 476181).

The "POP-IN" CENTRE in which to relax quietly, find someone to talk to, or obtain help is open:

Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 12 noon and coffee is available.

Please note — offers to help are also always welcome.

MARGARET'S "NEW TO YOU"

FIRST FLOOR
23 PROSPECT STREET,
CAVERSHAM

GOOD QUALITY NEARLY
NEW CLOTHES
WHY NOT PAY US A VISIT

ARE YOU FED UP WITH SHOPPING?
WASTING TIME IN QUEUES
LIFTING HEAVY SHOPPING
WHY NOT LET THE

HOME GROCERY SERVICE
go to the freezer shop or supermarket
for you

RING SANDRA ON
READING 475092

HEMDEAN HAIR STUDIO

Jolanta and Stephen invite you to their GENTLEMENS & LADIES HAIR SALON AT 16 Hemdean Road, Caversham RAZOR CUTTING AND FLAT TOP SPECIALISTS Tel. 477340

Your PET SHOP

in CAVERSHAM

Gee Gee Pets and Aquaria

29 PROSPECT STREET
Reading 472422

also at READING MARKET on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Carpenter & Joiner

PETER MAY

Phone Reading 478175

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
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

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights
9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's 9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)
Our Lady of Caversham 8.30 and 10.30am, 5pm Mass
St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road 11am every Sunday, 6.30pm (2nd Sunday)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am. Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm. House study groups Sept — June Tel: 475783

WE RECORD

ST JOHN'S

Baptised

August 9th Alexander Thomas	Naomi Biddle
Matthew Thomas	13th Adam O'Neill
16th Katie Bunting	Benjamin Mansfield
29th Jessica Harris	20th Thomas Cubbage
Sept 6th Sarah Baldoock	Emma Berry
James Weston	Oct 25th Adam Bulpitt

Married

Aug 29th Joy Davis and Andrew Park
30th Deborah Staples and David Kislingbury
Sept 5th Helen Button and Robert Gerring (St Peter's)
26th Caroline Toland and Ronald Walter
Jane Garlick and Jon Prince (St Peter's)
Oct 3rd Janet Harvey and Wayne Cross
Nov 28th Sally Denyer and Peter Boyes
Dec 5th Ruth Tuck and Dick Lysons
19th Helen Pearce and Stephen Tarrant

Funerals

Aug 5th Raymond Haines	Dec 1st Leslie May
6th Basil Johnston	10th Norman Reynolds
10th Eric Watson	15th Edith Beckett
Sept 8th Chick Fowler	Jan 4th Alfred Hinton
9th William Clark	Winifred Gray
Nov 11th Fred Bunting	

MUSIC TUITION

Lessons in Piano, Singing and Music Theory. Also Beginners Clarinet and Violin For further details phone SHEILAGH WINTER AND ALISON WOOD ON 483271

ANNOUNCEMENT

St John's Centenary Celebrations ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ARTS AND CRAFTS IN EAST CAVERSHAM An Exhibition in St John's Church Saturday 2nd July 1988 — Wednesday 6th July 1988 FURTHER DETAILS IN FUTURE EDITIONS

A. B. WALKER & SON LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Independent Family Business serving Caversham since 1826

ELDON HOUSE, 36 ELDON ROAD, READING (Opposite Royal Berkshire Hospital)

Tel: Reading 573650

Day and night service Monumental Masons Private Chapels

TOMALIN & SON (N.A.F.D.)

Funeral Directors

48 New Street Henley-on-Thames

Telephone 3370

DAY AND NIGHT

J. R. McCARDLE

STONEMASON

Fine Memorials in Marble, Stone and Granite

Restoration and all other masonry undertaken

READING 62362

A. H. WHITE (N.A.F.D.)

New Offices and Private Chapel

15 BOULT STREET READING

(Rear 11 The Grove)

Telephone 574334 Late 63921

A. F. JONES

MASTER MASONS

Craftsmen in Stone

BEDFORD RD READING

Telephone 573537

L. W. YEATES LIMITED

Central Heating and Plumbing

Complete systems designed and installed by qualified engineers

21 Star Road Caversham Reading

Tel: Reading 471016

PLUMBING

Central Heating General Repairs

K. C. BARNES

209 Kidmore Road Caversham

Telephone:

481929 or 417512

QUALITY CATERING

Buffets Dinner Parties Wedding Receptions

Reading 473889

G. J. BOXALL

Painter and decorator

344 HEMDEAN ROAD CAVERSHAM

Telephone Reading 472181

REPAIRS TO TVs, VIDEOS and AUDIO

Most makes — Prompt attention — All work guaranteed

Aerial installation undertaken NO CALL-OUT CHARGE

READING 479276 ANY TIME

INDIVIDUAL MATHS TUITION

Upto G.C.S.E.

By qualified experienced lady Teacher

Phone Reading 470762 for details