

# A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

## ECUMENICAL CAROL CONCERT

“SEE HOW THESE CHRISTIANS LOVE ONE ANOTHER”



Children from St. Anne's Primary School

Photo : J Mullaney



Eric Chappell explains The Christingle Tradition

Photo: J. Mullaney

THE afternoon of Sunday 10th December offered the opportunity for all the different branches of the Christian community in Caversham to demonstrate this the greatest of the gospel precepts.

The ecumenical carol concert held in St Peter's Church in aid of SCF presented a challenge to Caversham Christians. It was a challenge to bear witness to the real love they are asked to have for one another, despite differences of tradition and teaching. It was a challenge to organize, through prayer, an event where each group could present an aspect of Christmas in its own way.

An Anglican, Ken Bennet, acted as MC and Andrew Bosley also of St Peter's played the organ. The concert opened with the congregation singing "O Come O Come Emmanuel...". Richard Kingsbury then welcomed those attending. St Peter's Choir next sang two carols. After another communal carol it was the turn of the Caversham Heights Methodist Carol Singers. They sang two carols, one based on an old German melody, the other was an old English one.

As the concert proceeded the carols were interspersed with readings by Lind-

say Mullaney from the Catholic community, Rick Alexander, an Anglican from St Andrews, Jim Pilgrim, a Baptist, and Dorothy Hicks, a Methodist.

During each reading the children from St Anne's Catholic Primary School performed tableaux enacting the Christmas story as it unfolded through the gospel story.

The Baptist Gospel Singers sang two carols revealing yet another tradition of singing the Christmas message. Finally the electric organ, guitars and cello the Graham Kendrick Songs were joyously presented by the Caversham Hill and Heights Music Group.

The Moravian Christingle tradition was explained with a practical demonstration by Eric Chappell from the Heights Methodist Church. Stewart McCubbin, also from the Heights', accompanied himself on the guitar as he sang the old Christingle carol.

The Concert ended after an appeal from the chairman of Caversham SCF, followed by a blessing from Richard Kingsbury and a song especially written by Pam Chilvers from the Chapel on the Hill and Heights Music Group. This song not only celebrated the work of SCF as seen

through Christian eyes but also truly reflected the spirit of the concert. The gospel enjoins on us to give to the poor, even if this entails great sacrifice to ourselves. Children are amongst the most defenceless of the poor around the world.

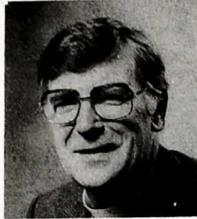
So it was that in Caversham the gospel message of Christmas was yet more forcefully presented by means of the Concert.

Not only did Christians come together to celebrate the birth of Christianity, but they were asked to fulfill the gospel command to feed the hungry. SCF works throughout the world in an attempt to alleviate the grinding poverty and degradation suffered by many of God's children. Recalling the words of Jesus "I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, hungry and you gave me to eat", many Christians responded to this plea and gave both of their time and money, and gave most generously.

About 200 people attended, in addition to those presenting the concert making a total of 300 participants. Including donations from people who could not attend, over £800 was raised for Save The Children Fund.

# TALKING POINT

By the Rev. Keith Sanders  
Minister Caversham Heights Methodist Church



## THE FOOD OF LIFE

WHEN an invitation comes to me which includes a lunch I try hard to make a favourable response — or should it be 'favourable response'! Together with one of the Editors of this Bridge, also on the lean-looking side, I went along the 7th floor of Reading Bridge House, where a number of other church representatives from the Reading area had gathered. Were they too seeking to build up the inner person?

The reason for this feast — to learn something about those people who are far more concerned about the 'Food of Life'. The venue is the new home of the United Bible Societies who a year ago made Reading the centre of their world-wide work. The U.B.S. is a fellowship and a service agency to the 78 member national Bible Societies, of which our own British Bible Society (previously the British and Foreign Bible Society) is one. It covers over 180 countries and is helping in translating and publishing the Bible throughout the world.

We were escorted around the building by the General Secretary, Dr. Cirio Rigos, who with his colleagues gave us a revealing picture of the tremendous work undertaken by the U.B.S. Today they are sharing in the production of the whole Bible in 310 different languages; another 695 languages are able to read the New Testament, and 1000 more have at least one book of the Bible. Yet there are 6,000 different languages throughout the world, so there is still much to be done.

We were told of all the growing calls for the Bible in many areas of the world, not least in the Soviet block countries. Just as we have been observing the changes in many of the communist countries in these past weeks, the door is not being opened to the people and

millions are longing to read the Bible. In 1988 more than 250,000 Bibles were sent to Russia, 200,000 went to Poland, 75,000 to East Germany — and the need grows with increasing momentum each day. Only a few weeks ago the U.B.S. printing press in Nanking, China printed the millionth copy of the Chinese Bible.

Dr. Rigos summed up this great work in saying, 'The purpose of the Bible Society movement is to translate, produce and distribute the Word of God to everyone in a language they understand. But there is a passion behind that purpose; to see men, women and children follow Jesus Christ. We affirm the power of God's Word to bring about the salvation of everyone who believes in Christ Jesus'.

All of us came away from our visit with much more insight into the vital work of the Bible Societies and with a resolve to commend this work to our people. My New Year message in this Bridge is two-fold. Resolve to appreciate the Bible which we so easily take for granted. Take time to study it with one of the daily study guides — for it is the key which unlocks the meaning of life and the depth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Resolve also, to help in the work of the Bible Societies in the production and distribution of the Bible to those millions of people who are crying out for the Word of God. Make a donation to this work or join the Bible-a-Month Club run by the Bible Society. Pray for all those involved in this great work. Could not the great movement for freedom and justice we are now seeing in many countries of the world have a real link with the desire to read the Living Word which sets all people free? Now there's some food for thought?

WHAT is Swan Lifeline? The people who attended the Swan Lifeline Meeting on Friday, 3rd November, now know that is a charitable organization, (Mr. Brian Butcher), who have volunteered, backed by expert veterinary care, committed to swan rescue and treatment, with the aim of releasing swans back to their natural habitat when cured. The meeting was held in the River Suite of the Caversham Hotel, kindly loaned by Mr. Robin Winter, Manager of the Hotel.

Mr. Tim Heron, chairman and coordinator of Swan Lifeline in Slough, spoke about the work of the organisation, and showed slides of the horrific ordeals swans may have to endure. For example, since the start of the fishing season in June, 62 swans have been injured by swallowing abandoned fishing tackle, 21 have suffered from lead poisoning, and 86 have had other in-

### READINGS "MEN OF SONG" CARE

On Saturday, March 24th, St Peter's Church Caversham will host a concert given by Reading Male Voice Choir for CARE.

The support of all the churches in Caversham is needed for this venture to succeed. A good concert with RMVC is promised and the soloist will be a well-known local singer, Wendy Carne. Please make a note in your diary of the date and time — Saturday 24th March at 8.00 pm at St Peter's Church, Caversham.

## "SWAN LIFELINE"

of Champagne, A Food Hamper to name a few) Proceeds would buy a small boat to help with swan rescue. Joan and Dennis Hammond who, as mentioned last month, often go out to rescue sick swans from their riverside home, were pleased indeed at this offer and said it would make life much easier for the team of volunteers.



Another need has now arisen — it is for bread, cakes, biscuits, never mind how stale, to feed the swans during the coming winter months. One bulk source of bread supply has 'dried up' and the need is getting desperate! Please help!

Then an item of good news was announced! Mr. Robin Winter had said that the hotel would arrange a raffle to take place over the next few weeks — with tremendous prizes (a Candlelit Dinner for two, a Magnum

J.A.

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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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All contributions for February issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 3 January. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 January. The dates for March will be Monday 5 February and Wednesday 7 February.

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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# CAVERSHAM PLAYERS PRESENT

## “ARMS AND THE MAN”

IT isn't at all easy manipulating a cast of eight players on a small stage but this was skillfully achieved by Jessica Gilbert who directed the Caversham Players in their production of Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" at St Andrew's Hall in November. Members of the cast were at all times audible and moved well in colourful costumes that were authentic for the

Act 3. An air of conspiracy was well maintained between mother and daughter, the former played by Marjorie Tillman whose extensive range of vocal and facial expressions kept the audience well informed of what was going on. Although being forewarned she could perhaps have shown more horror in Act 1 at actually finding the strange soldier in her daughter's bed. Cap-

tain Bluntschli played by Ken Etherington tackled his large part well, switching from abject intruder — when he might have kept his voice lower so as not to have woken the whole household — to a figure of authority in the final Act. After listing his latest acquisitions he could have paused for effect after each one.

Sheila Hodson as the servant Louka combined cunning with



(Above)  
Left to right: Anne Piper as Raina Petkoff, Ken Etherington as Capt. Bluntschli, Ray Hammond as Nicola, Derek Spears as Major Sergius Saranoff



(Left)  
Left to Right: Rainia Petkoff played by Anne Piper, Catherine Petkoff by Marjorie Tillman, Louka played by Sheila Hodson

period. The visual effects of the stage sets by Charles Croft and others created at the outset the impression of an upper class Bulgarian household of the 1880's the sight of the snow-capped peaks beyond being quite riveting.

Anne Piper tackled her large part as daughter of the Major well, portraying the haughty Raina, moving and speaking convincingly throughout, her haughty demeanour suitably collapsing when confronted by her 'chocolate soldier' in



(Left)  
Left to Right: Catherine Petkoff played by Marjorie Tillman, Major Paul Petkoff by Jim McClure, Capt. Bluntschli by Ken Etherington and Major Saranoff by Derek Spears.

triumph over her disdainful mistress, and lapsed into petulance when being admonished by the servant Nicola, played faultlessly by Ray Hammond. Incidentally, don't Bulgarian servants ever knock? They appeared to barge in without warning.

Jim McClure playing a robust Major Paul Petkoff, placed rather too centre stage so that others behind were masked, combined authority with military obtuseness sprinkled with a smattering of fatherly pride. He gave a fine performance as head of the household whose authority wilts beside the guile of his gracious wife Catherine.

Derek Spears as Ma-

major Sergius Saranoff made an impressive entrance followed by several statuesque poses, his conduct obviously dwindling as his inefficiency in both private and military life unfolded. Sometimes over-generous with his gestures and blustering too much when he discovered Louka eavesdropping, he nonetheless put across a character we could all believe in.

E.M.F.

\* \* \*  
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by  
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\* \* \*

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### SPREAD OF BRICKS AND MORTAR

THE WOODEN HUTS that stood in the grounds of Balmore House whilst the army was in occupation were scarcely things of beauty but partly because of their so-called temporary nature, they did not intrude too forcefully on to the rural character of their surroundings. Whilst it is pleasing to see that the house has been retained, restored and turned into flats, the houses themselves that have been built in the grounds have destroyed for ever the rural nature of the area. It was inevitable that one day it was going to happen, though it would have been better if fewer houses had been built. However, financial returns demanded otherwise, and the Borough Planning Committee was only able to get a very small reduction in the number of houses it was originally intended to put there.

It is not surprising therefore that there was an angry reaction to the news that an application had gone in for fifteen more houses along the ridge, which if granted will put paid to any remaining semblance to rural seclusion that had lingered there for so long. There are still undeveloped bits, mostly in ownership of the Borough, and these will be even more valued now that so much has gone. Caversham has certainly taken its share of development over the years. Tilehurst and Earley have, of course, taken even more.

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE'S GREEN FIELDS

SOUTH Oxfordshire has rather more powers than Reading in resisting unsuitable developments in its domain, as it is firstly designated an area of limited growth only, and secondly much of it is included in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Nevertheless, it is constantly under attack and has had to accept more unsuitable changes than it would wish. Most people were not pleased to

hear that permission had been given for war games to take place on 120 days in the year on the Mapledurham estate. There are some fairly firm conditions laid down but even if they are all complied with (and there is no reason why they should not be) most people find this activity distasteful and incongruous in a Chilterns beech wood. It can only be hoped that whilst permission has been given for a hundred and twenty days that the games will not actually be playing on one day in every three.

### THE GREENING OF READING

IN these times of new environmental awareness, it is encouraging to see how the Borough officials, both paid and elected, and the townspeople are getting together to work out ways of improving the environment of the whole town. For some time now, the Chief Executive, G. Filkin, has been presiding over the Town Centre Consultative Group comprising borough officials and representatives of various organisations and businesses in the town. Their task is to suggest and discuss the various ways in which the town centre can be improved. High on the list is cleaning and already there has been a noticeable improvement, though black spots remain. Caversham, not being in the town centre, has no representative in this group, though there are Caversham people on it in a different capacity who can keep residents in touch with what is going on.

The Environment Forum, another such body, is looking at the whole town and here Caversham Residents' Association has its own representative. Plans are slowly being put into operation. Conservation Areas were recently discussed. St. Peter's area will probably be extended. It certainly needs to go right to the top of the Mount. The Warren escarpment may or may not be included. It is attractive and certainly needs protection, but

most of its houses are modern, with a few exceptions like Isomer, so architectural and historic interest are lacking. Lower Caversham has also been looked at. There is plenty of historic interest here and many listed buildings but they are interspersed with a lot of indifferent stuff, and some downright ugly industrial buildings, which makes it difficult to map out a conservation area.

Caversham Court is in the existing St. Peter's area. The allotments here have been receiving attention. Some have been taken over as demonstration plots and the paving (supplied free) which caused some alarm, though it is not to be extended as feared, is there to demonstrate how to lay a patio. At the back of the gardens the grass leading from the top of the steps to the churchyard is badly worn and unsafe in wet wintry weather. It needs some kind of harder surface to prevent further damage and make it safer.

The flint and brick walls round the chalk pit have been partially repaired and it is likely that the rest will be done in the course of time, but apparently flint and brick wall builders are thin on the ground. At least the rubbishy old grit bin at the foot of the Mount has been removed and the broken spars moved from the barrier. What's left is not picturesque, but at least does not look tatty.

### LEAD LEVELS

The air we breathe is polluted from many sources, some of it very difficult to control. Car emissions are only one cause and lead only one of the emissions, but now that unleaded petrol is available there is no reason why all cars that can should not run on it. It is a scandal that almost new Metros are unable to, as there are a lot of them about. In some streets of Reading the lead figures have been higher than those of London's west end. For instance, Elgar Road and Mount Pleasant showed figures of 0.95 and 0.94 respectively

last January, though these are fortunately now falling, but are still the highest in Reading. Gosbrook Road was also high last January with 0.54 mg per cubic metre of air, but this had dropped to 0.10 by July. Does this mean more Caversham drivers are using unleaded; If so, keep it up. Lead is highly toxic, particularly to young children. It is also essential to remember that any unnecessary use of cars is adding to the other damaging emissions which threaten life on this planet.

### 450 YEARS AGO

On 14th November, the martyrdom of Hugh Farringdon was commemorated in St. Laurence's Church, four hundred and fifty years after he met his death, along with two of his monks, on a spot very close to that same church. There were choral music, readings and a pageant and the headmaster of Douai spoke about the life of Hugh Farringdon.

Like most other ab-  
bots of his time, he was  
more a great lan-  
downer and ad-

ministrator than a spiritual leader of a religious foundation as had been the case in earlier days. He certainly did not seek martyrdom but tried to avoid it, even by making payments, but in spite of this, there were limits beyond which he was not prepared to go. He had already received a warning of what was in store for him when in 1538 the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham had been destroyed, but he refused to take the oath renouncing Papal Supremacy and was imprisoned in the Tower before being dispatched to Reading 'to be tried and executed' in what was clearly to be a travesty of a trial. And so began the process which led to his Abbey becoming the ruins we know today.

On 14th November once more black robed monks chanted plain song in St. Laurence's Church, much as they must have 450 years ago and probably had not done so since. Caversham somehow managed to miss commemorating the destruction of its shrine in 1538.

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# KATY'S JOTTINGS

IT's not easy giving up being Katy. Quite apart from the fact that many Caversham people actually think it is my name (and I'm not grumbling — I love it when people address me as 'Katy'), I get bits of information passed on which somehow it would be a shame to miss.

## A Good Samaritan

Take the other night, for instance, when an old friend rang to ask if I could pass on a Good Samaritan story — how could I refuse? It seems she stopped her car in Priory Avenue and suddenly found the door wouldn't even shut, never mind lock. In desperation she called on a couple of local car parts firms but they were unable even to supply a length of cord to tie up the offending door. Returning to the car, now open to the four winds, she spotted a builder working nearby; it's a long story but this gentleman immediately came and tied the door so that she could at least get to her own garage, J.P. Motors, who were able to fix the offending lock properly. The Good Samaritan wouldn't accept payment, but said he was builder, Brian Lansdell of Gosbrook Road; I've no way of looking how he rates as a builder, but as a good

samaritan he's the type we welcome in Caversham.

## J.P. Motors

Strangely enough only the week before I was asked if I could possibly put in a 'puff' for this garage which had served our reader well and faithfully, propping up a car which was virtually on its last legs. The car in question finally gave up the ghost and has now been replaced by one from a local agency, so it doesn't look as if she'll be needing the services of J.P. for some time, but she says she'll always be grateful for the way they've looked after her and the car.

## 'Top of the Shops'

I was pleased to see a letter in last week's 'Chronicle' from a Caversham lady saying how grateful she was to our local shops, naming some of my own favourites. As the lady says, it would be nice if sometimes people would say 'Thankyou' and 'Well Done'. I couldn't agree more. Grumbles and complaints are all very well and should be reported, but there's another side to it.

## National Westminster Bank

For instance, somebody breezed in the

other day and said how very nice and helpful she found the staff in this bank, particularly one young lady who sometimes works at breakneck speed if she knows the customer's bus is due.

Now come on; there must be other shops, banks etc; in Caversham worth a mention. They can't be limited to this neck of the woods. So please, how about the odd letter to the 'Bridge' to this effect.

## Corner Shops

And my own special thanks is for our corner shops, particularly the one in Westfield Road. Running a shop like this is neither easy nor particularly remunerative in these days. Because they have to charge more than the local supermarkets and often carry a limited stock, we can't always support them as we would like. But their service is just as friendly and helpful, even if we do only pop in for something we've forgotten when the other shops are closed.

## Action Research into Multiple Sclerosis

I really can't omit a special congratulation to the good people who run the ARMS Therapy Centre in Patrick Road and who help with the quarterly 'sales', which

I've managed to attend ever since I discovered them a year or more ago. Many of these people are themselves M.S. sufferers, but it would be hard to find a more cheerful lot of people and apart from any bargains I might pick up, I thoroughly enjoy meeting them. Here's hoping 1990 will be a successful year for them, in many ways.

## Green Fair

Another thing I managed to get to was the Green Fair at the old Town Hall, now beautifully refurbished, and was literally amazed at the plethora of what, for me at any rate, are very good causes. Our local Swan lifeline, now doing very good work in Caversham, was there in full force, together with many other worthy organisations. Makes one wish one had endless amounts of money to donate; at least I shall be looking out for these fairs in future as I'm told they take place two or three times a year in Reading.

## Final Farewells

Those who have followed my column regularly will be only too well aware how concerned, even obsessed, I am on the subject of funerals. I shall continue to shout for the introduction of a secular form of

service for those who feel unable to take part in a religious ceremony but want their loved ones buried with dignity. But whether or not it is a religious ceremony I feel very strongly that it should be a ceremony and not just a hasty disposing of a body. I attended one recently — and the appreciation of my friend's life appears elsewhere in this issue — in which no effort was spared to make the event a real service of thanksgiving for the life of a much-loved lady. I only wish I could repeat all the priest had to say about her, together with a poem which a friend had written and which was also read at the service. As the priest said: "We meet today to say farewell, formally to release Marie in love and in gratitude..." Why should it only be the rich and famous who have their memorials of appreciation. I have, alas, attended funerals where scarcely any mention was made even of the name of the departed — and these were often people very loved and cherished, often very important members of the local community. Why should they be hastily, and almost anonymously, shoved away? Very likely we'll never get another chance to express our thanks. Think about it!

## LETTER FROM MONICA

CHRISTMAS is traditionally a time not only for giving, but also for receiving. Thus it was with great pleasure that the congregation of St Barnabas received a Christmas letter from Monica Marapong.

As many readers will recall, St Barnabas has regularly been supporting Guy Daynes' Christian Mission in S. Africa and Monica, the eldest daughter of Archdeacon and Mrs Marapong has been one of the beneficiaries. Here is what she writes: "Thank you ever so much for helping me in paying for my costs at St Barnabas College. What I become in

Life I shall always know that it was through your great kind and generous contribution. As you have helped me I shall always attempt to help and be useful to other people. My family will never forget your kindness and generosity. We all appreciate you gesture.

I am now doing my final Matric year (standard 10). I have a problem with Geography but I seem to be doing well with the other five subjects. At the end of the first term, March, I obtained good marks in all the other subjects but got a very poor mark in Geography. I am confident that I shall pass

all my subjects including Geography in the mid-year and final examinations. It is good to be at St Barnabas, a Church school. I am the Chief Sacristan and one of School Head Students. My parents and we the children pray for you all. We ask God to bless you and strengthen you in your work."

By the time of receiving this, Monica will no doubt have taken her mid-year exams. As readers of this paper we surely all join together in wishing such a mature young Christian our best wishes for the future and thank her for her timely Christmas gift.

## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting. Monday 15th January, 1990, at Church House, Caversham 7.45pm.

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## OBITUARIES

JANET WAITE R.I.P.



38 years young, Janet died on 30th October 1989 after a remarkable brave fight against cancer. Her funeral service, attended by over 350 and surrounded by golden flowers at St Peter's, was on 3rd November, followed by burial at her parents' home church at Mears Ashby, with over 150 mourners.

Born in Glasgow on 5th February 1951 to parents Jean and Dan, Janet Miller attended Wellingborough High School for Girls, was a Queen's Guide and received the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

She achieved an upper second (Geography Honours) degree at Bedford College, London. At Lady Margaret

Hall, Oxford, she gained the Certificate of Education in 1973, marrying Peter Waite 14th July that year. She taught Geography at St Helen's School, Northwood, before moving to The Abbey School, Reading, in 1975, as Geography mistress and subsequently Head of Fourth Year.

She served as GCE External Examiner for the Cambridge Board in her extended maternity leave — typical of her tenacious energy!

Janet, Peter, and sons Simon and James, came to Caversham in the late seventies and quickly won hearts and minds in church and community here.

A teacher in St Peter's Sunday School from 1981, Janet pointed the church's

work with children to a bright future as Sunday School Leader 1985-87. She was instrumental in establishing St Peter's 9-11 Group, served on many church committees and somehow found time between career and family life to give a fine example of Christian service in so many activities.

Increasingly handicapped by pain, Janet received the news in July 1989 that her cancer was in terminal stage. She took this with typically determined courage. Her unquenchable spirit remained faithful and trusting as she prepared for the next stage of her journey. Visitors in her last months consistently found Janet's gentle

LONG before the BBC Monitoring Service began to appear as a regular feature in local and national press, Marie put it on the map with a very amusing article published in the 'Guardian' about life in what she called a peace-loving organisation in Western Europe. This was followed by an equally entertaining article about work on night shift.

When Marie died in November she left behind an enormous file of her writings. At one time she was a contributor to the 'Christian Science Monitor'. In recent years much of her work has been published in 'New Humanity'. She had a great gift for portraying everything and

smile as inspiring as ever. For Janet's smile is of pure beauty; she smiled with her whole face, her whole personality. It was as if she was, in life and in death, possessed by the knowledge that she is a child of God. An incredibly hard worker, Janet always had time for others to cheer, to listen, to encourage. She seemed to know and care for whoever she met or talked with. We believe she walked so closely with God that her integrity and natural beauty could not help shining out to inspire others.

The day after her death, a former Abbey School pupil wrote of Janet (we quote with the writer's and Peter Waite's permission):

"She was a wonderful and inspiring teacher who conveyed her interest and enthusiasm for Geography to us her pupils. Because of her influence and encouragement I gave up plans to do economics and will start to read for a Geography degree next October. I shall always be grateful to her: she brought me up from a fail at 'O' level to an 'A' at 'A' level. Out of lessons she was always caring and kind and we had a lot of laughs together. I cannot recall a more loved and respected member of staff in my 6 years at The Abbey School.

I will always remember her."

To parents Jean and Dan, to our dear friends Peter, Simon and James, our love admiration and gratitude for sharing with us this lovely girl. We will always remember her.

RK

anything in a way which made it come alive to her readers. Nor was she content merely to produce her own work; any help she could give to budding writers was immediately forthcoming, much of it through her work with the Reading Writers' Circle.

Marie, who lived for a long while in St. Anne's Road, was very happy to return to this district and the story of her coming to grips with the situation, finding somewhere to live and work, was vividly told in a TV item some years ago. It was good that she was able to have the support of her local Christian friends during her last illness. She was involved in many ways with different religious groups for she had a wider sense of Christian belief than most of us have. A poem which a friend wrote for her funeral contains a verse which perhaps conveys this better than anything:

*"You knew just where your life was going, Goodwill and faith were overflowing, Yet tolerated those unknowing."*

*It is difficult for somebody without Marie's gifts to give a complete picture; she was warm, she had a lovely sense of humour. She loved life with all its twists and turns yet she was able to write, not long before she died, in an article in 'New Humanity':*

*"There may come a time when we have done all we can . . . Let us be willing to give up the struggle . . . until we reach a point of surrender where we are willing to let be. Not with an attitude of resignation or defeatism, but by a standing aside. . . During the dark and difficult times we must draw deep draughts of true spirituality. Now is the time to discover. . . if all the lecturers, books, courses an seminars really meant anything to us, or whether we might just as well have spent our time on the beach reading a light novel."*

*And to some who visited her in her last illness she spoke of embarking on a great adventure. We shall not see her like again, but those who knew her have had their own lives enriched, and we are truly grateful.*

## CONSTANCE MARIE NEALE — AN APPRECIATION

ERIC BEALE

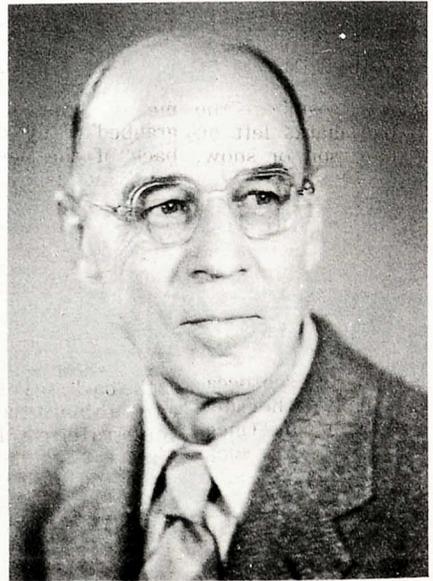
ALTHOUGH it is many years since he retired from what used to be known as the Priory Avenue Practice, Eric Beale, whose death occurred on October at the age of ninety-five, will be remembered with great affection by those in Caversham whose family doctor he was at a time when G.P.'s performed many operations in the homes of their patients.

A man with a wide range of interests he held radical views on many subjects; he was a great lover of music and would often speak with affection of the music of King's College Chapel at Cambridge where he has been an undergraduate. Happily married to Gwen their home was for many years at Knockeven which is now the Arthur Clark Home in Albert Road. In retirement they lived in Brooklyn Drive where many enjoyed their hospitality and the lovely garden which was another of his interests.

On retirement from practice he became active in the life of the parish. He was district warden at St Barnabas and when Reggie Hasluck retired from being Church warden he became the first person to hold that office who was not a member of St Peter's congregation. He did much to develop the sense of parish unity working in great harmony with his co-churchwarden, Cyril Burnside, who was more of a traditionalist so that it was sometimes said that the parish of Caversham now had a coalition government.

He and Gwen devoted much time to the work of the Bridge scheme and he was the Emmer Green area circulation manager of this paper. Some years ago they moved to Gloucestershire to be near their son and daughter. Gwen died first and Eric died after a fall in his home but with his mind alert to the end.

JGG



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# MORE GARDEN TRESSPASSERS

FOXES give clues of their visits, if nothing more than the scream of the vixen at night. But these we have seen, including four half-grown cubs. They were first seen when dusk was falling, coming down the garden path. Later we put out food, hoping they would come the following evening, which they did at about the same time. Hoping to get a photograph of them we laid a line of food towards the house. This had the desired effect, two coming within eight feet of the window. So, with camera at the ready and with the aid of a flash, we obtained a fine picture of two feeding. On some mornings we could see, from an upstairs window, the four cubs playing in the field beyond the wood. Other signs of their visits are the pad marks left on bare soil or snow, and the excreta they leave is tapered at one end with wisps of hair attached, the result of eating rabbit, mice etc.

The muntjac, the smallest of our wild deer, we see occasionally, either singly or a pair. Once, having eaten some windfall apples, a pair crossed the garden and into the wood, and at other times, around dusk. They, too, leave evidence of their

visits by their droppings, and cloven hoof marks. They also have the habit of rubbing their head against newly planted trees and removing the bark on one side, which they have done to many of ours. Both fox and muntjac appear to keep to the paths when passing through the wood, no doubt, for easier travelling. Once, after a light fall of snow, footprints of fox were on every intersecting path.

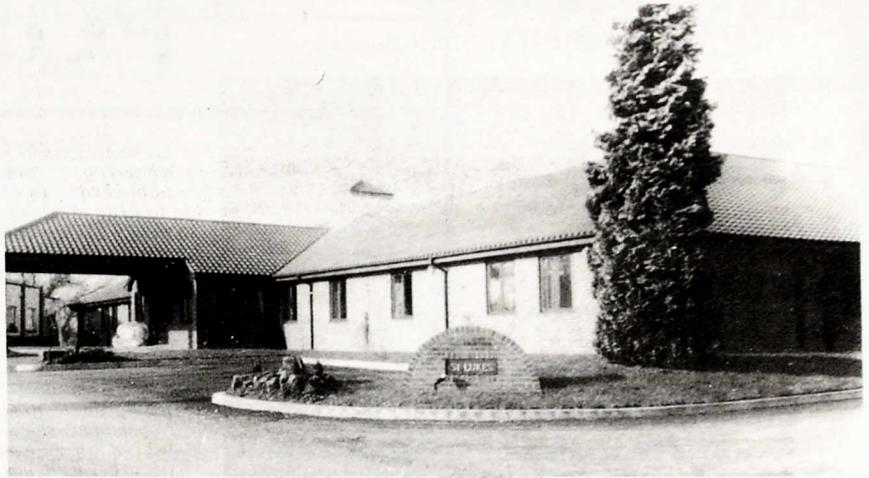
Some years ago I had reason to open the back door one winter's evening, and over the doorstep walked a lovely golden brown creature I thought was a ferret, for it was of that family. It trotted round the kitchen as though looking for something. Not knowing whether it might bite me if handled, I grabbed it by the back of the neck, went outside, put it into an empty hutch, and gave it a saucer-full of milk, not knowing on what else to feed it.

A few days later, a local gamekeeper was crossing the field at the back, so I called out to him: "Have you lost a ferret?" He replied, "Yes, have you found one? I put one down a rabbit hole the other day; it slipped the leash and refused to come out; it's a cross between a ferret and a

polecat". After that we were occasionally given a rabbit, skinned and ready for the pot.

Coming down the scale to lesser creatures, the hedgehog, though we rarely see one, leaves its "visiting card" on the lawn. A few winters ago, when about three inches of snow lay on the lawn, I was looking through the window admiring the scene, when up popped the head of a weasel from under the snow, looked around as though taking its bearings, disappeared, and no doubt went on its way.

Now, in late November, we have put out the nut cages for the returning birds, here in their dozens, great tits, blue tits, a coal tit or two, greenfinches, chaffinches, sparrows, an occasional wren, robin, a pair of wagtails, though they remain on the ground. As dusk falls, a tawny owl sends forth its too-whit, too-who, starting off a chorus of protesting sparrows, the "early-to-bed mob" kept up until the owl moves off, and peace reigns once again.



E.S. Archer

## CAVERSHAM ROUND TABLE

ON Wednesday 6th December Debbie Edwards of Radio 210 and Phil Buckman, Chairman of Caversham Round Table presented a cheque for £8000 to the Mid Counties Autistic Society. The money will be used to benefit the Autistic Children's home at Dysons Wood, Tokers Green, Reading. This cheque was the result of the Caversham Water Carnival which was organised by Caversham Round Table in June, and the presentation was held at Radio 210.

In addition Caversham Round Table have just made smaller donations to St Mary's Mother and Toddler Group, Shinfield (£100) and Reading Cygnets Swimming Club for the Mentally Handicapped (£150).

THE first part of grounds opening on to Marlshland Square. 'St. Luke's Court' to commemorate the original name, There will be 48 rooms for elderly people, now been completed, and a new residential care home for the elderly will soon be open in the part of the site. The house is to be called 'St. Luke's Court' to commemorate the original name, and three stained glass windows from the chapel are used in and around the entrance. J.A.

## SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

THE Group recently held its twelfth Annual General Meeting and received the good news that targets had been exceeded and agreed to make a donation of £1000 to the home at Nettlebed. The Group would like to thank all who support its functions so that this is possible. With various grants cut

the home has to work really hard to find the necessary money to maintain the excellent level of care, and still relies on the foundation to help.

The Christmas cards this year have been popular and their purchase helps the foundation directly. For anybody who would like to help with the

fund-raising locally either by putting the home on their Christmas list of donating unwanted Christmas presents for the Group's raffles and tombolas, please contact Mrs Ann Deane 473798, or if willing to become a volunteer contact the Home direct on Nettlebed 641070.

## OBITUARY

### Molly Brow

MOLLY Brow, whose earthly life came to its end at Ipswich on Sunday 5th November will be remembered with affection by many of her Caversham friends.

She was the widow of Keith who had been County Surveyor for Berkshire and Churchwarden of Caversham, and who died in 1980. Molly taught for a time at Queen Anne's School, and was one of the first helpers when the Reading Branch of the Samaritans was opened nearly thirty years ago.

She and Keith lived for many years at 71 Albert Road and entertained many people in their home. They both played a full part in the life of

the parish and devoted a lot of time to voluntary work in the community, among other things driving for Meals on Wheels.

Some years ago they went to live at Ipswich with their son and their daughter-in-law who is a daughter of Lilian Lewis whose death was reported in Caversham Bridge in November.

The daffodils on the Warren Bank of St Peter's Churchyard give pleasure to many people each spring. They were in fact given by Molly in memory of Keith and in her years at Ipswich she was always pleased to see a photograph of them when in blossom.

J.G.G.

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# POSTBAG

Dear Editors,

Since we moved here from Emmer Green in 1986 we have continued to receive "Caversham Bridge" regularly. We have recently received No. 300, so we are now writing, somewhat belatedly, I fear, to offer you our warmest congratulations and our best wishes for a long and successful life for the Bridge. We shall of course be delighted to see anyone from Caversham, Emmer Green or Mapledurham here at anytime, but it might be as well to give us a ring first, in case we are out.

With renewed congratulations and best wishes from us both,

Yours etc.  
Ernest and Jane  
Pakenham-Walsh

2 Cooper's Court,  
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AMAZING and far-reaching events have taken place in Eastern Europe over the past few weeks, with thousands of citizens thronging the streets of a number of cities, demanding freedom of speech and of movement, for free democracy. That bastion, the Berlin Wall dividing Germany into two parts, preventing free passage to its people, has at least been breached without bloodshed.

Heads of state are now

saying that this will affect the structure of the Warsaw Pact and Nato, where military strategy is thought out and planned one against the other. Lord Carrington, speaking on Radio said, referring to Nato, that "We must devise a system that will help Russia to feel less threatened". I suggest one word to meet that need: "disarm" and let it be total.

There are vast "walls" far more formidable than the Berlin Wall; walls of steel, composed of every conceivable weapon capable of destroying the whole human race, ready to explode at any time; a "wall" buttressed by human fear, suspicion, hate.

I pray, as does the whole of Christendom, and long for, the coming of God's Kingdom on earth. But that plea carries with it the proviso that God's human creation is obedient to His commands made known to us through Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount. The coming of the Kingdom is forever being delayed by our failure to carry out those commands. The age-long practice of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth", which Jesus repudiated, and results in the death and destruction of millions, still continues throughout the world. What more do we have to do to be ashamed of ourselves, to change our ways, another Hiroshima, another Nagasaki?

When this letter is being read we shall again have celebrated the birth of Jesus who lived, taught, and died that the world might be saved. Let all who profess Christ flood the letter boxes of the P.M. and the Minister For Defence, Tom King, renouncing the use of

## ST. ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

AN enthusiastic and appreciative audience greeted Frank Terry and Freda Clarke when they returned to St Andrew's Fellowship for Frank to give a talk on Viennese Music. Both Frank and Freda, separately and together, illustrated

armaments for any reason whatever. Think what mass protest is achieving in Europe; can we rise to the need of war-stricken humanity, and for Our Lord's sake?

Yours etc.  
H. Duncan Marshall

164 Kidmore End Road,  
Caversham.

Dear Sirs,

I should like to comment on 'Talking Point' by Canon John Grimwade in your Silver Jubilee edition of Caversham Bridge.

Writing on the subject of obedience and authority in the Church he says: 'I can find no place in the Gospels where obedience is singled out as the most necessary virtue'. Only in a very narrow sense is this true.

Undoubtedly the most necessary virtue is charity or love of God, but it is not divorced from obedience: 'If you love me keep my commandments'. So love is of no avail, or should I say it does not exist, where obedience to God's law is absent. 'Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord," shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father'. Above all one might say that obedience was the supreme expression of Christ's love of His Father: 'I came not to do my own will, but the will of Him that sent me'; or as St Paul puts it: 'He became obedient ... even to the death of the cross'.

I can find no record in the Gospels of Christ's disobedience to ecclesiastical authority. His attitude is perfectly summed up in Matt. 23.3: 'The Scribes and

Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practise and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do, for they preach but do not practise'.

Canon Grimwade advises Christians seeking unity to reject authority, but surely it was the rejection of authority that led to all the divisions in the Church. Strange advice, when we know that the head of the Church established it on the rock of Peter, commissioned the Apostles to teach all

nations, and promised to be with them even to the end of the world. Regrettably, I cannot see much evidence of binding authority in the Church of England, nor in my own which once attracted so many converts because of its authority — false ecumenism and modernism have taken their toll.

Yours etc.  
(Mr) F. J. Sweeney

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Mrs. Bennet,  
Elizabeth Bennet.

PHOTOS  
RICHARD STAINTHORP



Jane Bennet,  
Mrs. Bennet,  
Elizabeth Bennet,  
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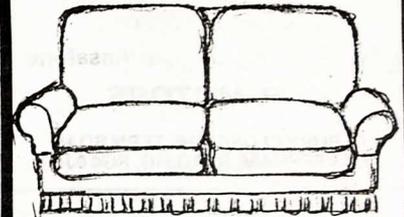


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L	E	T	E	S	D	L	E	I	F	E	L
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T	N	A	B	N	K	C	O	L	F	U	E
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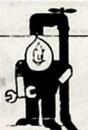
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## the CLUBS

### Caversham Afternoon T.G.

USUALLY at this time of the year townswomen can be seen with furrowed brow either talking a friend into joining the committee or trying to avoid it themselves, but this year — no AGM! With the new Guild year now in hand the business is postponed until March and two speakers have been enjoyed.

Mr Crozier took people along the Kennet and Avon Canal, describing its history and importance until the railways came to the fore when the canals were left to decay. Consequently considerable deterioration had occurred and restoration and rebuilding was costly. It has been done largely by volunteers and a journey is now a very pleasureable experience.

In November Mrs Angela Sharman delighted members with her own story of becoming a volunteer at the Sue Ryder Home. She so inspired people that at least two further helpers were

found to assist with this much needed work.

Members were looking forward to Christmas celebrations, beginning with dinner at the Rainbow Hotel for their twenty-eighth birthday.

New members are very welcome, with the next meeting on Thursday 18th January at 2.15pm in Church House, Caversham. Any further enquiries to the Secretary, Mrs Sylvia Froude, 473218.

### Caversham Community Association

MISS Pat Tyler visited the club on the 6th November to talk about her visit in June this year to Russia. She went with an ecumenical group on a 'Goodwill in the Soviet Union' tour to meet Soviet Christians. They were travelling to Moscow, Yerevan in Armenia, Tbilisi — Georgia's capital, then Leningrad.

At the start of the tour the group assembled at the International Quaker Centre in London. There they were given bibles, blank videos and texts to give as presents to the Russians during their tour. On their arrival in Moscow they were introduced to a guide, a young man named Sacha, and visited many famous places. The Red Square, churches including St. Nicholas of the Weavers, the Metro Underground with its steep escalators and fast trains were some of the places Miss Tyler described, also her attendance at a Baptist Church service.

The tourists then went on to Yerevan, Armenia, where they visited some of the earthquake victims and were taken into their temporary homes to meet their families. The people were very friendly and exchange-

ed small presents with the visitors. The taxi driver, in Miss Tyler's group, took them to his father's home in the village where they were made welcome.

The next destination was Georgia with its beautiful scenery. A visit was made to a religious academy. Leningrad was then visited, a magnificent city with its wide river and the Hermitage, the winter palace of the Czars. At the conclusion of her entertaining talk Miss Tyler said that her remaining impressions were of the Russian people she had met on the tour.

On the 13th November Ted Smith, assistant toastmaster at the House of Commons, was welcomed as the visiting speaker. He looked very smart in his red jacket, sparkling white shirt and bow tie, which he said was the necessary apparel for his job. Mr. Smith explained how he first became a toastmaster after the second world war. He gradually progressed from working at small local functions to travelling over a wide area in England attending weddings, dinners and other special occasions. Famous and well known people were present at many of these events and Mr. Smith said it was most important to make sure the protocol was correct. He related some amusing tales about times when some unexpected occurrences needed speedy action on his part to smooth out the procedure. Beryl Latham, the Assistant Chairman, thanked Mr. Smith for an entertaining evening. After the refreshments, a suitcase sale, with members selling their unwanted goods proved a great success.

A musical evening was enjoyed the following week when those talented singers Freda Clarke and Frank Terry gave a concert for the members. Duets and solos from a wide range of composers were given including Sig-mund Romberg, Franz Lehar, Johann Strauss and Jerome Kern. Their able accompanist at the piano was Kathleen Robson. Margaret Cameron, the Secretary, voiced the appreciation of all the members at the end of an enjoyable evening.

On the 27th the month competition was won by Mrs. Heather Baker.

### St Peter's Wives

Members not wishing to dance could play card games.

### Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD members were invited to join in the exercises demonstrated by Mrs Diana Faulkner, during her talk entitled Body Care at the November meeting. This was followed by a report by Mrs Margaret Jeffery of the Autumn Council Meeting held at the Lodden Valley Leisure Centre. Members contributed a colourful selection of Christmas parcels to be presented to the Caversham Luncheon Club, and the flower of

ST PETER'S Wives held their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 21st November at Church House at which they were very pleased to welcome the Rector, the Revd Richard Kingsbury, who started the meeting with prayers.

The meeting received reports from the Secretary and Treasurer and elected the new Committee with Mrs Margaret Oliphant as Chairman.

After the interval the meeting was entertained by the Caversham Players. The pro-

Turn to page 11

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# the CLUBS

From page 10

gramme was devised by Marjorie Tillman and coordinated by Marion Thwaite. It comprised poetry readings and sketches taking members through A Day in the Life of a Housewife. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

## Caversham Heights T.G.

NOT just for a short holiday but for almost two months in Australia your secretary has been away, so these notes come late. At a time when people became aware that the Green party had had a conference, Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild supported a proposal from headquarters to raise money. This will be used to plant four ten-

acre woods in the British Isles, working with the Woodland Trust, and will help to restore the chemical balance of the world. At social studies, too, a questionnaire searched out the answers from members to such questions as whether they used recycled paper or sprays which contain propellants harmful to the ozone layer.

At the guild's recent main meeting in St Andrew's Hall the subject was cheese. Its making is of great antiquity, said Jennifer John, a representative of the south eastern area sales office of the Milk Marketing Board.

As a freelance home economist she has also made a study of fish as a subject. Lush pastures provide the basis for the cows' milk, then the skill of the cheesemaker is used. Wensleydale was one of the earliest cheeses to be made in

Britain and cottage cheeses were originally made in cottages. Cheese is still made in farmhouses and factories, and slides illustrated the methods used in the making of both traditional and new cheeses. You can find Single Gloucester cheese still at Witney.

ning for ACWW during the month, and a sum of money was collected at that day's meeting for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, in memory of Mrs Carter.

## Caversham Ladies Club

At social studies also, Mr David Copley, not a boat owner but a towpath walker, asked whether members would decide to try to do something when they see canals that are neglected by their owners. His inspiring talk about the work done by volunteers in restoring the Kennet and Avon canal was much enjoyed. Who would like to explore this reach more? It can easily be done, making use of car or train and then enjoying the walk. Don't forget the Crofton Beam engine. There's plenty of wildlife too.

## Rosehill W.I.

THE November meeting on the 1st was very well attended and the President, Mrs Weller, asked members first to observe two minutes' silence for the memory of Mrs Ethel Carter who had died recently. She had reached her ninetieth birthday in July and she was a founder member of Rosehill.

The theme of the meeting was 'Members' War-time experiences' so at least six ladies stood up and talked about happenings during their lives in the Second World War. Some were very sad, of course, some frightening, and some very amusing.

Plans were made for the Christmas meeting on 6th December, which is always much enjoyed. Mrs Burtenshaw had a coffee mor-

THERE was a very good attendance of members at the Caversham Ladies Club November meeting. Club business was attended to, then Mrs Harwood, the Chairman, introduced Mrs Sutherland, the speaker for the afternoon who was going to talk and show slides about Japan. Mrs Sutherland 'took' the members with her on her journey which was so interesting with a lot of humorous happenings. She told of Japanese customs, families, shopping which they did every day as at the time of her visit freezers were a rarity, and their daily activities, so very different from ours. The slides showed beautiful temples embellished with gold, the huge golden Buddha, gardens, shops and buildings, a school with little children, all with big smiles. It was very enjoyable and members were sorry when it came to an end. Time had caught up though. Mrs Harwood gave a warm thankyou to Mrs Sutherland and members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Mrs Harwood then told members that she and Mrs Q. Strong had taken the RBH collecting box to the hospital for emptying and the grand sum of £40.75p was the result. This amount, added to the previous amounts collected, is a great incentive to continue 'fill-

ing the box' quickly.

Mrs Harwood reminded members of the time and venue for their Christmas lunch at Chiltern Chase and also that the next meeting would be the Christmas Party. Members then departed for home with a lot to remember of their 'trip' to Japan and the lunch and party to look forward to.

## Chazey W.I.

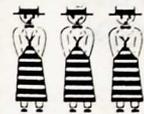
AT the November meeting of Chazey W.I., Barbara Rhodes gave an interesting account of the Autumn Council Meeting.

President Tricia Stringer presented the Berkshire Tennis Cup to Liz Holland, who, with her partner Marilyn Ball, had won it for the sixth time for Chazey.

Final arrangements were made for a trip to the theatre at Windsor and to Reading Technical College's catering department. Such was the interest of the members to go to the Berkshire 70th Birthday Party that names had to be drawn.

The speaker, Derek Spears, so well known to many members, gave an interesting talk on the opera. Despite a heavy cold, he still managed to be humorous. This month's competition, for a decorated wooden spoon, was won by Norah Taylor.

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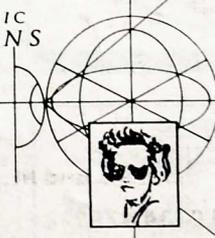
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11.15am Matins  
6.30pm Evensong

**St John's**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am Family Eucharist  
11.00am Children's Service

**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)

**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
11.00am Parish Communion

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6.30pm (in Chapel)

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## THE LINK REPORT

THE Link Group's Ecumenical Lunch was held on Saturday 11th November at St Andrew's Church Hall. The event was well attended by clergy and members from most of the local churches. The Link members produced a simple but most enjoyable lunch. To encourage discussion and exchange of views, all changed places half-way through the meal.

The last Link meeting for 1989 was held at Doreen Bennett's house on Monday 27th November. The members present voted to send money to a number of local charities in order to help them buy toys and food parcels for Christmas.

The traditional turkey lunch for the regular members of the fortnightly tea parties was held at Vera Scott's home on December 14th.

## CAVERSHAM DIARY

**Monday,  
15th January**

Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting  
Caversham Good Neighbours. 7.45pm  
Church House, Caversham.

**Friday,  
2nd February**

SOTHEBY'S Advisory Day at  
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