

'SHADOW OF WAR'

PETA and Frank Baker enjoy an apparently comfortable retirement life in a detached bungalow in Caversham. They are typical of so many middle class members of our Christian community for whom life has obviously been kind and easy.

Just how wrong can first impressions be! Peta was born in a town in East Germany, in Silesia, an area that after having been German for several hundred years was in 1945 awarded to Poland, pending the conclusion of a peace treaty that has not been ratified to this day. Some of her relatives were expelled and from others she has never heard again. Until Hitler came to power, she was living in Germany surrounded by street violence and hungry, unemployed people, queuing for their daily food albeit within the security of a loving family. This security was shattered when the Nazis gained control and her father who opposed the regime, suffered discrimination. Her mother's health gave way under the strain which resulted in a series of nervous breakdowns. By the outbreak of war in 1939, the family were living in Austria. When her father was fighting in Russia, Peta's mother was taken to a mental hospital and Peta, a fourteen year old girl, had to fend for herself.

the face of horror upon horror her faith in God was gradually eroded. The end of war brought little relief. Peta was captured by the advancing Russian army and escaped in a nightmare flight through the mountains into British occupied Carinthia.

But even in the midst of these dark hours, the seeds of future faith and hope were being sown. In September '45 she met a British officer, Frank, and it was this meeting that started the gradual rebuilding of her faith in God. In post war Europe though happy endings were not too easily achieved.

After an idyllic nine months interlude in Austria, Frank was demobbed and had to return to England. Then began the long wait for the ban on marriages between aliens to be lifted. Shortly after Frank's departure Peta and her mother had to leave Austria by cattle truck, leaving all their belongings behind.

They travelled in the hope of rejoining Peta's father who had in the meantime been appointed Chief of Police in Cologne. On arrival in

Cologne they found that he had been arrested under suspicion of war crimes to be finally released after a year's internment with an admission of mistaken identity.

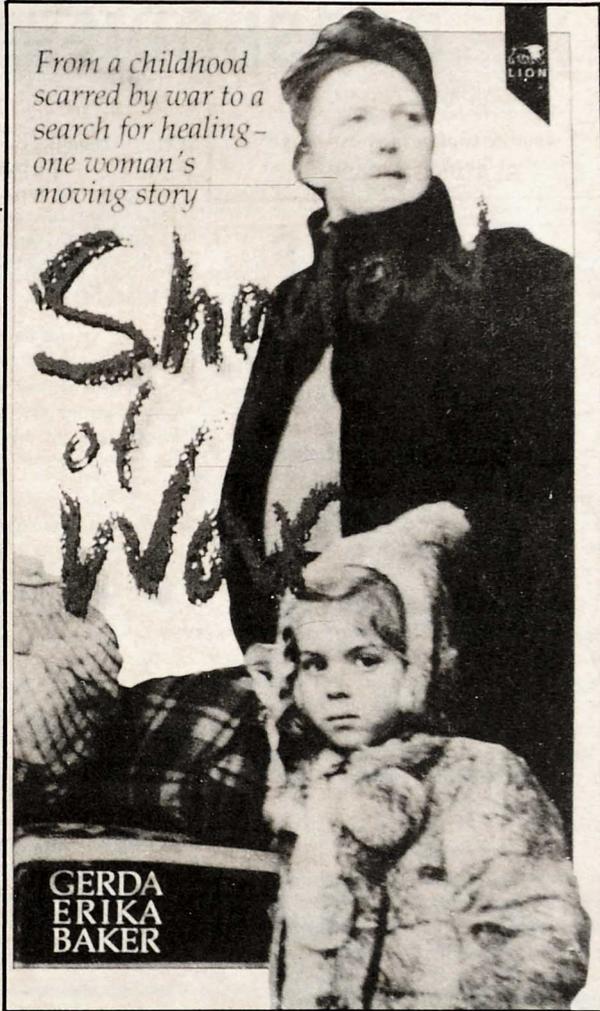
The book unfolds a continuing saga of hardships leading ultimately to betrayal by her father. Peta tells how she learned to overcome her hatred of her father, how she married Frank and how her mother came to live in England.

'Shadow of War' is not however a story about the suffering and oppression of war. It is the story of how ordinary men and women can turn to God and overcome evil. The shadow in "Shadow of War" is, like all shadows, surrounded by light and the book can help us all to look out of the darkness of our own shadow, be it illness, bereavement, poverty or unemployment and see the light of faith, the beacon of hope and the fire of love that the Christian message can give us all.

The book was not originally written for publication but for Peta's grandchildren at their request. It is due to the determination of Sandy, the eldest of these that it was submitted for publication.

Frank Baker is a

Reader at St. Peter's church Caversham. He and Peta helped Bishop Morris Maddocks and his wife Anne to found the Acorn Christian Healing Trust in 1984. It aims to re-establish the ancient partnership between Church and Medicine. Christian Healing, to use Bishop Maddocks' words, is 'meeting Christ at the point of our need.' Frank and Peta ran a course in Christian Healing in Caversham in which members of various Caversham churches, Anglican, Catholic, Baptist, Methodist and Chapel on the Hill, participated. Out of this grew an ecumenical healing prayer group with a helpline for request for prayer.



"Shadow of War" is published by Lion in paperback at £3.99 on March 30th. Copies will be available from Caversham Bookshop and St. Peter's Church Bookstall. Orders may be placed in advance.

BUGS BOTTOM MUST BE SAVED

THE hundreds of people who packed Caversham Primary School early in February were clear evidence that Bugs Bottom remains the major issue facing Caversham.

Organised by the Bugs Bottom Action Group, the meeting was addressed by

Stuart Hylton, for Reading Borough Council, Sir Gerard Vaughan M.P., and Dr. Christina Hill of Sane Planning in the South East (SPISE).

Stuart Hylton made it clear that at this stage the case lay entirely with the High Court where it would be judged solely on legal grounds. Sir

Gerard Vaughan said Christopher Patten was not prepared to intervene whilst the case was pending in the High Court. Dr. Hill said that SPISE, which had been closely involved with the Foxley Wood case, has always worked with

Cont on p. 7



Peta and Frank Baker today.

TALKING POINT

By Rev. Richard Kingsbury

Rector, St. Peter's & St. Margaret's



SOCIAL DEVIANTS OR GODSBODIES?

GARRY and Jerry have just had supper with us. If it wasn't them it would have been Tommy, Shaun, Geordie, Jack, or any of the dozen or so who come to the Rectory week in, week out.

They are homeless, travelling, unemployed men. And they're getting younger each year. Why they find us a soft touch is neither here nor there. They come. We talk, we laugh a great deal, whether or not we can help them. Only very rarely do we have a troublesome customer.

They come to Reading and skulk round Reading looking for work. Jobs are here. Reasonable accommodation is not here. The town has a couple of short-stay hostels. Reading has more men sleeping rough than we realise.

We can analyse these men's psychological problems, produce learned reports, waffle in synods, but at the end of every day our Emergency Accommodation Project and the Salvation Army Hostel pick up the bill. They turn men away nightly. Men huddle overnight on Reading's prestigious office building sites and in consumers' car parks, hoping tomorrow their luck will turn.

A sense of place

We all have instinctive 'feelings' about places. There are villages, towns even, or parts of the country where we immediately feel 'at home'. Perhaps stone-age Tilehurstians gazed into their fires and shook their heads in wonder: 'Blimey, those Caversham tribes are a rum lot — their caves just feel, well, odd...'

Uproot someone from their 'natural habitat' and you've got problems. Move into a place yourself where you don't instantly feel at ease and you'll never really settle down. But if you can't rely on a good 'sense of place', upon what will you rely for your sense of well-being?

Gary was born in Liverpool. Jerry comes from Cornwall. An unlikely match, they admit, but each relies on the other in the absence of a place to put down roots. Perhaps that's why we 'click' with these guys, vicarage families being a bit rootless themselves? Defensively on the doorstep we eye each other up and down. Some are dispatched sharpish.

Others come in and meet the family. Our first son, now in his twenties, when asked years ago if he felt any advantage from being a 'vicarage child', replied: 'Yes. I reckon I can get on with anybody — I've met so many people from so many different backgrounds.' That boy will be OK.

A sense of value

It's in the eyes. The way someone looks at you. If my roots were torn up, if I was 'on the road', I would have to know whom to trust and whom to avoid. Most of us are spared this by the double-glazing of life in settled conditions.

One day, as sure as eggs is eggs, no matter how at home we feel in a place, our roots will be wrenched up. We will face questions men like Gary and Jerry are living with now. 'Who am I?' 'Whose am I?' 'What really matters?'

I try not to romanticise the moment of my death. I try not to patronise the good friends I've made in Caversham who do not 'belong' to Caversham — or to anywhere — my 'itinerant brothers'. But when the chips are down, it matters not where you live, what you own, whether you have 'succeeded or failed' in life.

Consider England's growing army of nobodies, rootless men (and a few women) tramping this sceptred isle for work and a place to lay their head. Might they have something to teach us, through adversity? Without being romantic or poetic about them, but with hard-nosed reality, can we learn from them that just as the Son of Man had nowhere to lay his head as his crisis deepened and the Cross beckoned, we too must make our peace with the One to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid?

Come out from your busy-ness, Caversham cave-dwellers! Learn from the itinerant Son of God that —

'All my Hope on God is founded' . . .

and anything less than that will land us, at the eleventh hour, in the kind of nightmare our homeless, rootless, yet crazily hopeful travelling men are already living through.

Nobody is a nobody. Everybody is a Godsbod.

POSTBAG

Dear Madam and Sirs,
Unlike Peter Sealey (Letter, February 1990) I cannot have persevered to the end of Watchdog's column in January, or I too would have noticed Watchdog's regret at the absence of any commemoration in September 1988 of the 450th anniversary of the destruction of the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham.

But any such commemoration is always likely to be riven with difficulties. Should it have a pageant which ignored the religious message? Or should it have involved the churches in the message? If it has involved the churches, should it have been a celebration or an act of penance? Very few of the Christians who would have been able to identify closely with either the way worship took place at the shrine or with the zeal which destroyed it. Yet every Christian who would have taken part would have been able to identify more closely with one than the other.

In Whitby a grand

Sirs,

I should like, if I may, to use your good offices to draw attention to the existence of a local group which meets monthly in a member's house to study the New Testament in the Greek. Anyone interested in joining us would be made welcome, and should get in touch with me on Reading 471158.

Yours etc,
Cynthia Spoliar
43 Grove Hill,
Caversham,
Reading RG4 8PS

ecumenical service to mark the anniversary of the dissolution of their great Abbey had to be called off at the last minute. This was because in the end senior members of one of the churches involved felt that they could not take part. A sensitive balance and awareness of each others feelings had been needed, but had not been achieved.

However do not let it be thought that the anniversary did go totally uncommemorated. I have in front of me a copy of a sermon preached to a congregation which filled St Peter's for a parish event which happened to fall on 8th September, 1988.

This was the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the Alternative Service Book calendar. Part of the sermon explored the

possibility that the shrine was situated in St Peter's and attempted to explain the significance of the anniversary which fell later that week. The preacher invited the congregation (whatever their personal feelings or background) to find an appropriate way in which they too could honour the mother of the Lord who the Bible says every generation will call blessed.

Perhaps the only way to commemorate the destruction of the shrine is to throw ourselves much more seriously than we have previously dared into seeking to understand each others traditions and feelings, and to work together as Christians despite our divisions?

Yours faithfully,
Peter Mullins,
Westcliff Vicarage,
Scunthorpe

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

THE AGM was held at Church House on Monday, 15th January, and was well attended. The proceedings opened with a prayer from the Rector, Rev. Richard Kingsbury. The Chairman, Mr. Archer then welcomed everyone, mentioning especially former Committee members, including Mr. Bill Vincent (who was the first Chairman of Good Neighbours, 25 years ago) also Councillor and Mrs. Canning, who he was pleased to have there. Mr. Archer thanked all helpers drivers, visitors and the two Mr. Kents who quietly help Good Neighbours in so many ways.

The Secretary, Miss Youens, reported that during 1989 ever more calls for help were received, mainly for transport to hospitals, dentists, doctors or shopping, or for

transport to the many Clubs in the area both day and evening. Here more help would be more than welcome; just half a dozen or so new drivers would help ensure that the present willing drivers would not be overloaded as they so often are! She thanked the drivers who gave their services free, but emphasized that re-imbursment is available — especially now the price of petrol has risen. The Treasurer's Report was then presented and adopted, followed by the closing of the meeting by the Chairman.

As it was the 25th Anniversary, the evening closed with a social occasion. Refreshments were provided by the Committee and the 25th AGM ended very pleasantly!

JA

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All contributions for April issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 March.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 5 March.

The dates for May will be Monday 2 April and Wednesday 4 April.

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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THE OLD BRICK KILN EMMER GREEN

IT is now many years ago since I spent a very interesting afternoon talking to the late Mr William Chamberlain of Emmer Green, who at the time was possibly the oldest living person to have been born and lived nearly all his life there. Mr Chamberlain's father, also William, was born in Emmer Green too, but his grandfather originated from Hampstead Norris, moving to the outskirts of Caversham around the middle of the eighteenth century.

It was from Mr Chamberlain that I learnt a great deal about the Emmer Green brick kiln, for in 1906 he left the little local school at the age of thirteen and went to work there, and he remembered clearly life at the brickyard. Apparently it was a summertime occupation and between ten and twelve thousand bricks were made there each day. Doing piecework a team of nine men could produce a thousand bricks a day and for this each man was paid sixpence. A working day was from 6am till 6pm with three quarters of an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. If you were on piece work, however, you kept on until 7pm. On a Saturday work finished at noon.

The claypits lay behind the kiln works and huge pits were dug out to a depth of some twenty feet. Below that a layer of chalk was reached. The clay was loaded onto little trucks which ran on rails to the brickyard. Here it was put into a crushing machine to grind up any stone. It was then transferred to a mixer and from here it came out in long bars of clay the thickness of a brick. A hand cutting machine operated by the men cut the lengths of clay into nine bricks at a time. A barrow load was thirty six bricks.

Tiles were also made at the yard and it was on the tile making machine that

Mr Chamberlain first worked before going on to make bricks.

GARGOYLES

There was also a potter up at the kiln and he made ornamental flowerpots and gargoyles. Two of the latter can still be seen on the post office. Mr Chandler was the potter and his shed was filled with a variety of moulds from which he worked. How many of the red brick ferns, scrolls and strange heads that decorate Victorian and Edwardian houses in Caversham were made by Mr Chandler? How many bricks were used in Caversham houses? Mr Chandler was a kindly man and allowed any interested worker to use the moulds in the dinner hour and many of the men made their own pots which they fired in the kiln and were allowed to keep.

Whether this kiln is on the site of one first mentioned at Emmer Green in 1654 is not certain. In 1705 Dr Plott writes in his book *A Natural History of Oxfordshire*: "At Caversham . . . they make some sort of brick twenty-two inches long and above six inches broad which some call lath-bricks by reason they are put in the place of the laths or spars (supported by pillars in oasts for drying malt, which is the only use for them)".

VERY BIG HOLES

Not only was there a brick kiln at Emmer Green, but also



Behind and to the right of W. Moss, boat builders, is an ancient building with white wash fading from it. You can just discern part of Hulbert bro: written on it and below — parchment, leather, whiting. The whole complex seems in a state of decay with the remains of a lovely old 'farm' house behind and doves' nesting boxes on the wall of an old building.

a lime kiln because chalk was plentiful as well as clay. Both Mr Chamberlain's father and grandfather worked in the nearby chalk quarries using candles to light up the darkness in which they worked.



Mr Chamberlain remembers his father telling him that one man-made cavern was so large you could drive a horse and cart round in it. When I mentioned the "swallow hole" at Dunsden he felt it could have been made by more quarrying in early centuries.

TO SOUTHSEA BY CHARABANC 12 mph

As I sat with Mr Chamberlain that October afternoon it wasn't only to talk about the brick kiln. I heard how he had joined the Royal Navy in 1911 to become a member of one of the earliest submarine crews. After World War I it was back to Emmer Green where he was to marry and remain with his family. He told me about Sunday outings to the cherry orchards of Stoke Row by horse and carriage when happy times were spent having picnics and perhaps picking,

but certainly buying cherries. He

remembered also a day trip to Southsea around 1930. It was organised by Mr Jack Parker, the local police constable, and it was a most exciting occasion for transport was a charabanc and as it could only go 12mph it took a long time to get there and back.

As we talked I learnt a little more about Emmer Green. Once there were six thatched cottages around the pond, which was then much larger. The water supply does not appear to have been so difficult as I was once led to believe. It appears that many groups of houses had a well each and there was also a spring near the pond. The local laundry had a large well. Mr Chamberlain's father was himself a well digger, no doubt his work in the chalk quarry would have given him experience in this specialised occupation.

My afternoon with Mr Chamberlain was one I shall not forget. In his talk he portrayed for me a world I had never known and one, even if it was a good deal less comfortable, was far more tranquil and unhurried. Something we miss today. It was good to

hear about it and record it.



After my meeting with Mr Chamberlain I was given even more information on the kiln which I pass on to anyone who is interested.

1842 — Mr Francis Dormer was the owner and a brick maker himself. A relation, Mr William Dormer, was a bricklayer.

1844 — The kiln changed hands and was owned by Mr John Leach (no doubt a member of

the well known Caversham family). 1864 — John Leach still owned the kiln at Emmer Green and also one in Reading. The brick kiln cottages (still standing) were built in John's time and he was actually advertising as a builder.



1884 — The kiln was now owned by Ebenezer Ward.

1891 — Mr A. C. Brewerton took over the works.

1915 — The firm now called Brewerton and Stevens. It was to remain as such till 1928. Their offices were at 31 Friar Street, Reading.

1935 — It was known as Caversham Brick and Tile Works Ltd.

1947 — Last entry. Except for the last two entries all the above notes were given to me by Mr Chris Redfern, who when he gave them to me was living in one of the Kiln cottages and had become interested in the origins of his house.

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Cane End House it seems that the Dormer family mentioned in 1842 as owning the kiln in fact had it far earlier, for in 1759 comes the following entry: 'July 30 Paid Dormer for time and bricks — seven pounds.'

It is also interesting to note that in 1869 the Hulbert brothers had a parchment factory on land behind the present garage in Bridge Street. They were also leather dressers and made whiting, with adjacent lime pits close behind their parchment factory. The first process in the ancient practice of tanning was to suspend the hides in a lime pit to remove all hair from them and parchment is the dried out skin in a limed condition.

MK

POSTBAG

Dear Sirs,

Watchdog's remarks regarding pavement parkers outside Carter's Ski shop could also apply to some folk nearer home, i.e. the users of the Stable Block at Caversham Court.

*Yours etc,
Pedestrian
(Name and address supplied).*



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STORM FORCE WINDS

THE BIGGEST THING TO HIT CAVERSHAM for a long time must be the great storm of 25th January. Whether or not it was fiercer than the one of October 1987, it certainly was spread across a much wider swathe of the country and, as far as Caversham was concerned, on this occasion it was much nearer the centre.

At the height of the storm, council workmen were out clearing roads blocked by fallen trees with remarkable speed, and at considerable risk to their own safety, whilst other trees fell down to take their place. A remarkable number of these were conifers, probably because, unlike 1987, the deciduous trees were without their leaves.



As tiles, slates and bricks flew about, walls collapsed and chimneys toppled or hung precariously, it was remarkable that there were so few casualties. Cars were crushed in driveways but human beings had remarkable escapes, such as Mrs. Pickersgill, well-known for the much used photocopying service she provides in her Bridge Street shop, and who

had moved from her desk seconds before a metal rod crashed on to it through the glass roof above. Numerous other people had similar narrow escapes. One of the most prominent casualties was the swan who has been looking down on Caversham life since 1907 from the top of the library. It swung at a dangerous angle parallel with the road, its weather vane whirling crazily whilst the wind roared round it. It was anchored to a safer position as soon as conditions allowed.



The storm of October 1987 was said at the time to be something that was only likely to occur every two or three hundred years, yet we have had a repeat within two or three years. Chance, or is there some more threatening explanation? It would be insular to judge global weather by what is happening in a small corner of the world's smallest continent, but there are indications that extremes of weather are occurring worldwide and we might well ask whether it is because we are misusing our planet.

BUGS BOTTOM

However, although such things as the loss

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT
by
WATCHDOG

of mature trees will be long term in their effect, the most important threat hanging over Caversham remains the possible loss of Bugs Bottom. Frustrating though it is to be able to do little about it whilst waiting for the outcome of the High Court action, within a short period of this article appearing it will be possible to know whether all that remains to be done is to mourn its loss or once more to enjoin battle and put every last effort into getting the Secretary of State to reverse his predecessors' (R. Baker and N. Ridley) decision. The importance at that point of getting a letter off to the Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten, M.P., House of Commons, Westminster SW1A 0AA cannot be too strongly emphasised. Do not leave it to your residents' association or the action group, but do it yourself, for it is the number of letters that counts. The letter does not need to be long or profound, as long as it leaves no doubt about the strength of local feeling that BUGS BOT-

TOM MUST BE SAVED.

URBAN NATURE SPOTS

A Nature Reserve is not quite the right word as that is something very specific, but there are, fortunately, still many spots within the urban area which still retain their natural characteristics. Caversham is particularly fortunate in this respect. Bugs Bottom is the most important such place, and if it goes, not only will it be gone forever, but repercussions in the form of heavy traffic will be felt across a wide area. Smaller spots however are equally valuable and vulnerable, even if they do not pose a traffic threat.



One of these is Clayfield Copse, one of the borough's ancient woodlands, enjoyed by many but neglected for too long. The Friends of Clayfield Copse are holding a series of weekend activities to halt this degeneration.

First of all, rubbish will be cleared, not just the sort that is casually dropped but the kind that is deliberately dumped, like mattresses and old cars. Paths will be widened and choking undergrowth cleared to allow more light to enter. Footpaths will be more clearly defined to prevent further erosion of the woodland floor. All this represents a lot of work, to which January's storm added by bringing down several trees and branches. However, with friends to care for it, this wood will be given a new lease of life.

Also in Emmer Green, the pond, which gives pleasure to many people, is to be given a face lift. Council officers carried out a survey, both by a site visit and a questionnaire, to find out what people wanted. The fence, which most people wanted retained, is not very attractive and needs replacing and most people thought seats would be nice where one could sit and watch the water life. The pond has accumulated a lot of mud and at some points is

very shallow, which discourages wild life so some digging out will be required. The work to do all this will inevitably create a bit of a mess, but the end will be worthwhile. Commercial Union have donated the money as their contribution towards Reading's Green Plan.



Meanwhile, in spite of winter storms, the snowdrops and aconites appeared as usual in St. Peter's churchyard, to lighten the heart of passers by with the promise of spring to come. Further afield, at Mapledurham, they appear in even greater profusion, giving an added joy to a late winter walk through the village and along the bridleway.

AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Caversham is not one of those places which would spring to mind as a breeding ground for revolution, but it was here, nevertheless that the banner was raised, at a packed meeting, in favour of mass refusal to pay the Poll Tax. The present rates system was undoubtedly unfair, but the Poll Tax seems even more unfair, in addition to being difficult and expensive to administer. There is

nothing wrong with the principle of all adults paying their own bill, but there must be something wrong with many people in a small house paying more than a few in a large luxurious one.

The whole thing gives every appearance of not having been thought through properly. Even the M.P.'s who voted for it seem to have done so from party loyalty rather than conviction. In Scotland, over a million people have reportedly refused to pay, for one reason or another. If the same happened in England it would bring the law into disrepute. It is time the whole thing was abandoned or drastically reformed.

WATER

Water is in the news and at its Annual Meeting Caversham and District Residents' Association will be having as its speaker Mr. M. Houchin, Provinces Manager for Thames Water Utilities. The provision and management of our water supplies is of crucial importance so there should be much to hear about and discuss. The date is Monday, 2nd April, the time 8.00 p.m. and the place Caversham Free Church Centre, corner Prospect Street - South Street. Please note change from usual venue.

EASTERN EUROPE - CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

E.C. ('Bridge' February 1990) is right to worry lest the baby be thrown out with the bathwater in Eastern Europe. Most towns in the east are not particularly beautiful yet there is an air of tranquility and peace which is difficult to understand until one returns to the mucky streets of Reading. Then one knows. The lack of graffiti, vandalism, litter, blaring pop music from boutiques, garish advertising hoardings and the pressures to 'buy, buy, buy' takes one back to the Britain of fifty years ago, when the profit motive was the driving force but was not made so blatantly obvious. Crimes may exist but it does not affect ordinary people. One incident epitomises the difference between East and West. A camera left in the departure lounge at Prague airport was still there half an hour later. On arrival at Heathrow with its warning posters to 'beware of thieves', one moment's inattention resulted in all the duty frees disappearing from a luggage trolley. But perhaps it is the absence of fear that most restores ones faith in humanity. Where, even in Caversham, does a small

pensioner feel completely relaxed when walking on her own at night? Yet this happens in the socialist countries. No knot in the stomach when footsteps are approaching from behind; isn't this a good exchange for some of our unnecessary consumer goods? Perhaps lack of economic pressures is a factor. With housing at a few per cent of salary, good public transport for coppers, a truly free health service and adequate pensions and, above all, no debts (even the most intelligent locals could not grasp the concept of my Visa card), is there the same incentive to steal or mug? Albania, the only socialist country to ban all religious practises and still hard-line Stalinist, most exhibits what we have lost in Britain by our money-grabbing obsessions. There Society looks after its own. There are no des.res., but there are no bag ladies either. There is no haute-couture but everyone is as smartly dressed as any crowd in Broad Street. There are no private cars but no jams and no belching fumes. There are no yuppy-type salaries but there is no unemployment either. In-

dustry is over-manned but this means more time for everyone, time to stop and chat, time to help a lost tourist, even time to stand and stare. Atheist it may be but there are more signs of Christian values in Tirana

than in any Western European capital. Is it too much to hope that if the East adopts Western values, we might benefit from some of theirs?

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

AFTER THE STORM
AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS many readers will be very pre-occupied with the problem of clearing up after the storm — a problem complicated by the fact that we are being threatened with yet more of the same, making us wonder if repairs are in order at this time. In many respects Caversham has got off lightly, but there is no doubt some people suffered very badly indeed and I hear of more than one house badly damaged, greenhouses disappearing and fences torn down. But, as always, these troubles often bring out the best in people and we were more than grateful to two of our neighbours who helped remove part of our heavy fence from next door's path. And I hear of other people joining in a 'Find the Greenhouse Roof' chase on behalf of neighbours.

MEALS FOR WHEELS
I SEE Liz Chaney has done it again. This time she has produced a cookbook (on sale in our local Bookshop), in aid of wheelchairs for patients at the hospital. It seems there is a distinct shortage of wheelchairs at the Berks., where Liz works as a volunteer and she's never one to ignore a challenge. This time she had the help of Foster Wheeler Energy Ltd., who printed the book free of charge. I wonder what she'll do next. In the meantime, we've already started on some of the recipes.

WHO WANTS CARDS?
A request from a friend. Does anyone know of any organisation, hospitals, playgroups etc., who can use Christmas or Birthday cards which are too pretty to throw away? I do

know the nursery school in Gosbrook Road take some but there must be hundreds and thousands going spare, especially early in the year.

If anyone can tell us where to send them we will gladly pass on the information.

DENNIS MASON
ONE of the penalties of retiring is that news sometimes takes a long while to come through, but there may still be some readers who have not heard of the death of Dennis Mason in December. Born and brought up in Dunsden, he lived with his wife, Ruby, and his two daughters for very many years in Henley Road. After leaving the Navy he went to work with the house staff of the BBC Monitoring Service, where he worked for over 40 years. Alas, he died just short of his retirement date, when preparations were

already afoot for celebrations; he was a very popular member of staff who always had a smile for everyone. He really will be missed.

MONICA LATTO
ELSEWHERE in these pages we hope to have a proper appreciation of this remarkable lady. I remember by own introduction to her many years ago when she happened to breeze into Mr Sear's shop in Prospect Street. As many people will know, she had been ill for some years but happily many of us will remember her as a very active, enthusiastic and caring lady, and many will have every reason to be grateful for her charm and warmth.

PREMISES TO SPARE
I wonder what will happen to the vacant premises in Prospect

Street where once stood a small grocery store. Now that it has gone — and with it, sadly the very charming young lady who held the fort for so long while the rest of the staff came and went — there is perhaps time to consider whether there is room for that kind of shop in this area.

It has neither the advantage of the usual 'corner shop' nor those of the larger supermarkets. True those of us living east of Prospect Street found it convenient at times not to have to go further for the odd few items, but their stock obviously had to be limited. For my money a much bigger drawback was the eternal noise of Radio 210. There's so much noise around these days we can do without it.

Thank heavens our two larger stores have resisted the temptation to add to it.

SOTHEBYS COMES TO CAVERSHAM

IT was the first time the well-known firm of auctioneers and valuers Sothebys had ventured into Caversham and the response was even greater than they had anticipated. The Caversham Hotel was the venue for this experiment on Friday February 2nd and from 10 a.m. onwards people bearing odd shaped parcels and indefinable objects descended on the Hotel queuing for their turn to enter the large room and get a ticket for the assessment of their treasures.

Numbers far exceeded expectations and those who arrived after 10.30 a.m. had a long wait. Some staggered under the weight of huge Chinese vases, enormous gilt-framed pictures or carried delicate

Dresden figures, pieces of Wedgwood china, silver and gold jewellery and many family heirlooms. In the large room eight of Sotheby's skilled assessors sat in pairs awaiting each person as their number appeared on a board. It was all very orderly, classified into sections for silver, jewellery, porcelain and works of art.

Some silver objects turned out to be plated, certain pictures were merely copies of originals, some unmarked China wasn't Rockingham after all, but the majority were delighted to learn that old law books were genuine, that the cloisonné vases were not fakes, that a delicate chair was actually Hepplewhite and one lady nearly swooned to find a picture was

valued at £7000. By one o'clock the assessors looked worn out but they struggled on manfully and in cases where they could not assess values on the spot they took photographs of the objects with promises to inform the owners by post.

By 5.30 p.m. the last person had been sent off either rejoicing or disillusioned, and the heirlooms and fakes alike had gone back to their original places of safety, the cars had departed and Caversham Hotel settled down to its air of normality, all the participants and organisers agreeing that the occasion which raised £2000 for Dr. Barnardos had been a worthwhile event.

EMF.

CONGRATULATIONS



Betty Stark

CONGRATULATIONS to Eric and Peggy Maule on their Silver Wedding Anniversary 7th January 1990! The happy couple entertained fifty guests at their Albert Road home to mark this celebration. Peggy is Advertisement Manager for 'Caversham Bridge'. She and Eric advertise the qualities of Christian love and marriage.

Despite a hectic twenty-fifth party day, they began by receiving Holy Communion at St Peter's that Sunday before welcoming their many family and friends to share their happiness.

Our love to them both.

CHEQUE

3rd Reading Scout Group presentation of a cheque for £1,089 to the Audiology Department Royal Berks Hospital on December 18th. Fifty seven boys and leaders took part in a sponsored assault course at Longridge Scout Camp.



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VISIT TO WEST AFRICA

Last November, Chris Justice the Pastor at Caversham Hill Chapel and two other members, Phil Cheale and Andy King visited Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa.

The trip lasted two weeks and the threesome returned mid December. The purpose of the visit was to see in what context the Chapel, as part of the Body of Christ in the U.K. could support and encourage that part of the body in West Africa.

Why West Africa? Well, although Caversham Hill Chapel has supported various missionaries who are working in various parts of the world to a small degree, it had now had an "indepth" or "active" role in supporting the work of Christians in a third world country.

Liberia was not a place merely picked with a pin on a map. Phil Cheale returned with his family to the UK some three years ago after spending six and a half years working in Liberia and nearly twenty years in West Africa in total, mainly in Sierra Leone. Phil was with the **Christian Literature Crusade**.

When Phil and his family returned to England they settled in Sonning Common where he is a builder. The Cheales joined the chapel congregation and Phil began to share his feelings about the Christian work in West Africa. The depth of his feelings and sense of love for the people there soon became obvious.

Phil's vision is for the UK churches to help and support the work of Africa's own indigenous Church in a practical way. To partner them in prayer and encourage them by supporting them in specific areas of ministry or projects such as schools, clinics, equipment etc.

After a time of sharing and prayer, the Elders of Caversham Hill Chapel began to share Phil's vision and

felt it right to develop a mission involved in West Africa and seek a direct link with a church out there, in which the whole of the chapel congregation could be involved and where others from the chapel could visit and offer practical help.

It was agreed that Phil should set up a visit to Liberia and Sierra Leone for himself, Chris Justice and a third member, Andy King, who was responsible for the photographic record of the trip.

Contact was made by Phil with Richard Cole, an African who is the Pastor of a Pentecostal church in Kolahun in Liberia and this was to be the first introduction of Caversham Hill Chapel to an African Church. This was arranged during last summer and the visit was organised for November/December 1989.

Chris and Andy flew to Freetown in Sierra Leone on 17th November; Phil went out a few days earlier to prepare the meeting and was awaiting them.

Our intrepid trio spent four days in Freetown with Sorrie Kamanda, an African Pastor, of a local group of eight of the United Brethren Churches. Chris and Phil took part in several services and heard about a scheme known as the "Abraham Programme" by which the church loans individuals sums of money, which they can invest in some sort of work, in order to make a living. The visitors enjoyed renowned African hospitality, despite the incredible poverty of these West African Countries.

Within a short space of time the three had met many different people - Church leaders, beggars, evangelists, teachers - a varied tour of Freetown and then on the following Tuesday on to Monrovia in Liberia.

In Monrovia the host was Richard Cole the pastor from the Pentecostal Church in Liberia, along with Isaac George the resident incumbent of the Christian Literature Crusade Bookshop.

Richard Cole is an African with a vision for Christ's Church in Liberia - a vision which encompasses care of a wide spread flock, evangelism and growth of the Church.

Monrovia was very different from Freetown. It was much more modern - by African standards. Shops, electricity, proper roads etc. All in all a slightly more comfor-

table place to be.

The day after arriving in Monrovia Chris Justice became very ill; past experience told Phil that the symptoms appeared to be Malaria. This unpleasant condition normally takes seven to ten days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Later that day Chris was taken to a clinic run by the Seventh Day Adventists, where the tests were confirmed the suspicion of Malaria. Chris was confined to bed for a few days before being allowed to join Phil and Andy on a journey to the North of the Country with Richard Cole, to a city called Kolahun - a journey of some twenty four hours including breakdowns. The roads were absolutely awful - worse than the M25! The ruts and mud were horrendous - indescribable.

Eventually they arrived at Kolahun "City", a town of single storey mud brick bungalows, all with the standard corrugated iron sheet roofs.

Sunday Worship in Kolahun was extremely lively, the enthusiasm of these people in their praise of the Lord was marvellous and a wonderful example for those of us back in Caversham.

Chris and Phil spent much time hearing from the Church Leaders in Kolahun about their vision and concern and sharing with them the purpose of the visit to the "Back of Beyond" West Africa by three white men from Caversham Hill Chapel.

After another wonderful Sunday morning service they were summoned to an audience with the local district governor, who also is the Paramount Chief - The Honourable Sheka Dudy. Although a muslim and father to forty-one children, he does allow them to attend a Christian School, and he does not mind if they follow the Muslim Faith or the Christian Faith as long as it is one or the other.

Phil spoke with Sheka Dudy and eventually prayed with him out on the veranda of his house.

One of the most obvious aspects of the lives of these African people is their very poor countries, and the oppression from witchcraft and curses which abound and have an extraordinary hold over these people.

In Kolahun the "Faith School", which was set up by Richard Cole prides itself with the highest academic standard in the whole country (ninety-five per cent success rate in

Pictures by Andy King



Chris teaching in Kolahun Free Pentecostal Church.



The more you push - the deeper it gets.



Kolahun City.



Chris Justice, Sheka Dudy, Phil Cheale.



The Long Shadows of Kolahun.

the National exams). overwhelming generosity to their guests.

On behalf of Caversham Hill Chapel Chris gave the school five hundred U.S. dollars and told them we would be considering how we in Caversham could be an active partner in the future.

The team of Pastors, Evangelists and Elders under Richard Cole have planted out seven churches in the surrounding villages and have plans for at least another nine! (Must nearly be on a par with Reading's Kings Church).

Our three travellers crammed so much into these two weeks that it is impossible to convey in every detail the events, peoples feelings and future hopes.

However, two features of life in West Africa which have left an indelible print in the minds of visitors were first of all the extreme poverty these people endure, showing unending initiatives of how to cope and survive and secondly their

Should anyone have an interest in the

Contd on p. 8

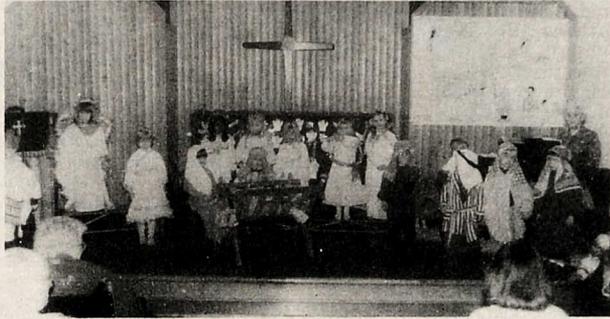
THE LATE SHOW

SPECIAL efforts had been made by the children to pose for these pictures for which there was no room in the previous issue.



St. Andrew's Playgroup — Carols around the Christmas tree.

E. S. Archer



Nativity Service at Caversham Baptist Church.

E. S. Archer



Caversham Heights Girls Brigade.

P. J. Bean

BUGS BOTTOM

From page 1

local authorities in their struggle against developers. She considered that with the stated changes in government policy brought about by renewed attitudes since 1985, the Borough Council stood a good chance of winning its case.

As a result, the meeting unanimously decided to request the Secretary of State to withdraw from the case and review all the evidence straight away.

This would be tantamount to the Borough's winning its case and whether this happened or it won through the court, a mass letter writing campaign to the Secretary of State would then be launched. If the judge rejected the case the fight would be continued at a political level as the whole

meeting felt that the original decision was wrong, not just legally but on all scores.

The SPISE speaker emphasised that Bugs Bottom was part of a much wider issue, that of overdevelopment in the South East, which was already bringing about a deterioration in the quality of life, and if allowed to continue unbridled would bring about intolerable conditions. Sir Gerard Vaughan was left in no doubt that there was massive dissatisfaction with government policies which had led to this situation, and that if Bugs Bottom is allowed to go ahead, the government would lose all credibility in this area. He undertook to ask a question in the House about the D. of E. withdrawing from the High Court case and to pass on to Christopher Patten the level of concern over the matter.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

THIS Society has been in existence for over 100 years. It was founded to provide for homeless children in London and it is sad that this need exists perhaps even more so today, not only in London but other major cities.

Family centres are also provided in urban city areas and bleak housing estates. Volunteers are trained to visit families with particular needs in their own homes.

Many parents themselves come from unhappy families and they are helped even in the simplest things like playing together with their children. In so many ways the Society needs full support. Please give some help — think of it as a way of saying "thank-you" for your own happy family — with the house-to-house collection.

Ring Lynn Baker 471262.

DIAL

IN 1987 the Caversham Bridge published an article on DIAL (Disability Information and Advice Line) which had recently been set up in Reading and some of our readers have asked for an update on DIAL. As it is becoming better known DIAL is getting much busier, many clients are wanting counselling, many are asking for advice or for other information; i.e. a client may wish to know where to go for advice on a certain matter and DIAL is usually able to refer the client to the proper source; often students also 'phone asking where they can get more information on a certain subject which they are studying.

DIAL of course deals with ALL disabilities, i.e. orthopaedic, sight, hearing, etc. Most of the operators themselves suffer from some disability, i.e. sight, hearing or orthopaedic or are carers of such sufferers or have been

professionally engaged with the disabled. However, DIAL'S chief worry now is shortage of operators as several of the original have had to resign when their disabilities have increased and others have left the district, so anyone who feels able to help DIAL in this way would be most welcome. The work is very suitable for the elderly or disabled as it is all sedentary and one does not have actually to meet the client; all the interviews are by 'phone; training is given and there are always two operators on duty at a time.

Anyone who feels able to consider being an operator or would just like to know more about DIAL should 'phone 505900. There are always two operators on duty between 3.30 and 7.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At all other times there is an answerphone taking messages.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

PROGRESS REPORT ON ANGLICAN CHURCHES

IT is now nearly a year since the Anglican churches in Caversham and Mapledurham reorganised to form the Caversham Group Ministry. Gone is the old Parochial Church Council and each church is now "self-governing" with its own incumbent, churchwardens and church council. Although during this

year the Group clergy have met regularly, there has been no "official" meetings of the churchwardens. It was felt that it was about time to put this right and in what better way than over a glass of wine and a chunk of cheese. So on 3rd February the wardens and clergy with their wives and husbands met and, in a very relaxed and

friendly atmosphere, much informal discussion took place.

It was unanimously agreed that regular meetings between the churchwardens would be advantageous both to the individual churches and for the overall work of the church. The first of such meetings is planned for May.



Getting together

K.P. Bennett

THE MEN OF ST ANDREW'S

THE Men of St Andrew's have held three meetings following their inaugural supper in October of last year. The first was on CRIME PREVENTION, a talk given by Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. John Sugg of the Reading Police Station. Two members went home determined to change their locks having discovered that those they had fitted offered little or no security. The talk was accom-

panied by a display of security equipment from Smith's Security. The second meeting was in November. This was a 'magical evening' with a talk given by the renowned Magical Entertainer Leslie Dee who told of his life and experiences as a Magician. He also baffled members with his 'Close up Magic' at which he is an acknowledged expert, so not only before

their very eyes but under their very noses also. In January the 'Men' welcomed the Revd Michael West, who was Chaplain to the diplomatic, English speaking community at Tel Aviv, Israel. Michael gave a fascinating talk entitled CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, together with a first class collection of slides of the HOLYLAND. In all a most interesting and enjoyable evening. N.G.K.



Men of St Andrew's showing interest in the display of security devices.



The sudden appearance of a ball from behind Bill Vincent's ear caused much amusement during the coffee break at the 'Magic' evening.

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

The Fellowship

ST ANDREW'S Fellowship met on 11th January for a most interesting evening when Mr Martyn Allies gave a show of slides and talked about the Reading Düsseldorf Link. Most people have only a hazy notion of what is involved. The Link was forged just after World War II by Phoebe Cudsdan as a result of the terrible conditions prevailing in Germany at that time, particularly among the children. As a result some children were invited to England and stayed with families in Reading. After a while the connection lapsed somewhat but was then revived to the flourishing organisation which it is today and has been for many years.

two years and are reciprocated by return visits of Düsseldorf people to Reading. It was a most successful evening.

Epiphany Party

ABOUT one hundred members and friends of St Andrew's church sat down to attractive tables on 13th January for a very enjoyable meal, organised by a hard working team of ladies. After all the second helpings, cheese and coffee were finished the tables were speedily cleared, the chairs turned to face the stage and the party was entertained by Caversham Drama. They took as their theme 'A Woman's Day' which was amusingly portrayed by sketches, poems, songs and a most hilarious beauty treatment administered by 'Miss' McClure, which surely must have deterred even the hardest ladies present from ever trying such an experience. The whole show was ably accompanied by piano music from Derek Spears who wound up the proceedings by reading T.S. Eliot's 'Visit of the Magi'.

Mr Allies showed slides of Düsseldorf, which is a larger city than Reading and appears to be an interesting and picturesque one. He also showed a picture of some of the original children on a visit many years after the first one, and explained the story behind the mural of the cartwheeling boys of Düsseldorf which is outside the Civic Centre. Visits to Düsseldorf take place every

VISIT TO WEST AFRICA

From page 6

evangelists work going on in West Africa as a result of this article, then Chris Justice at Caversham Hill Chapel

would be very happy to hear from you and explain further about the forthcoming collaboration.

Alan Tuvey.

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SSSSSS. . . by June Hardcastle

I was lucky. Everyone said so. The Careers Teacher thought I wouldn't get a job at all. However, the manager at Lloyds Bank had been sympathetic and it was 1964, when employers were crying out for staff. He said it didn't matter and I could work in the ledger room. There I need never speak to anyone. I quite enjoyed it for a while. School had been a daily agony in case a regular teacher fell ill and they forgot to tell the Supply. The children weren't unkind to me. They just ignored me. I had seen a speech therapist for two years but she had given me up as "not making much progress". I wondered if she had had more success with other stam-

merers. It's a funny thing, stammering badly so that you can't get out a sentence without the greatest difficulty and without taking a lot of time. You look perfectly normal. But you only shop in supermarkets, dread meeting friends of your mother who make a determined effort to chat ("Such a shame for a young girl. Whatever will she do, Betty"), and the telephone might as well be another planet. It was towards my nineteenth birthday that God played his joker. I received a clear, compelling call to preach. I was terrified. My minister dismissive. No one believed me. "Behold I stand at the door and knock" says the scripture. My experience was that God was

pounding on the door and giving it (or was it me?!). The occasional kick. Finally, I got stirred up to a bit of action — and before my twentieth birthday was on the Methodist circuit plan. Over the years I've learnt techniques for speaking — breathing controls, avoidance of words that cause trouble (how I hate words that begin with s and f and w) and become quite expert at substituting words when getting stuck in mid-sentence. Stammerers can't stop being stammerers — they learn ways of coping. I never fret at preaching now. After all, the words are ones I choose for myself. I do still feel iffy about the Bible readings but usually someone is happy to read them for me. I've been in

hospital recently and was required to tell the nurse filling in my forms that my maiden name was Warren. She waited patiently, although with some embarrassment. It brought back to me all the old feelings of dread and hopelessness. It was like being caught in a cunning trap — the harder you struggle to free yourself, the more entangled you become. I remember when our Debbie had a terrible tangle in her hair. After much brushing, applying conditioner and many tears there seemed to be only one thing to do. So I got the scissors and cut it out. It's a bit like that with stammering. After a bad incident, you cut yourself off from it, disassociate yourself, make a discontinuity

between that and the next time you speak. Don't let yourself believe that every encounter will have the same outcome. Yes, I've been lucky. I read early on that God chooses the weak and the foolish so I'm not surprised now that he called me to preach. The thing is, can you hear God hammering on the door of a disability that you've got? The power of the Holy Spirit is God's trump card. As one of Charles Wesley's hymns says "Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, And looks to that alone; Laughs at impossibilities, And cries: It shall be done!"

OBITUARY Doctor Monica Latto

It was with great sadness that expectant patients and friends spread over a wide area learned of the death of Dr Monica Latto on 29th January aged 77 following a prolonged illness. She was known and well loved not only for her medical skills but for her devotion to patients long after they had ceased to need treatment. Monica and Douglas met at Medical College and after their marriage followed the examples of Gordon and Conrad Latto and moved to Caversham. It was at Lethnott Lodge, 4 Derby Road that Dr Monica carried on her practice, increasing the number of her patients from an initial 12 to over 2000 when she retired in 1983.

Both Doctors were strict vegetarians and their home became the venue of the Reading Vegetarian and Food Reform Society of

which Dr. Monica was Chairman for many years. Resulting initially from the pets kept by their four children, the garden at Derby Road became home to a great variety of animals and birds numbering over 200 ranging from sturdy goats to multi-coloured budgerigars. Until quite recently Monica Latto supervised the feeding of all the livestock and the garden was frequently used for fetes and functions to raise money for worthy causes. Two outstanding events supervised by Dr Monica herself and held in specially erected marquees on their lawn, were in aid of the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Audiology Unit Appeal and last year, when funds were raised for the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

Dr Monica was a Commander of the St.

John Ambulance Brigade and last year became a Dame of that Order. Three daughters and a son were all encouraged to be vegetarians and their children are now following in the steps of their grandparents. Two married daughters live in America and one in Minehead, a place Dr Monica loved to visit. One son and his wife and daughter live in Caversham.

Not only did she love animals and birds but she revelled in flowers, being at one time a member of the Thames Valley Flower Arrangement Society and could be found seated in the sun lounge at Derby Road surrounded by flowering shrubs and plants many of which were grown by her husband Douglas. Monica



Latto was rarely heard to complain and even when her condition deteriorated she remained concerned over the well-being of

others. A great and courageous lady has gone from our midst and we are all the poorer for her passing. E.M.F.

CHERUBIM PARTY

After the regular block for a delayed Cherubim afternoon Christmas party. Judging by the excitement and crescendo of noise, it was enjoyed by everyone! Mothers and under-

fives are welcome on any Thursday afternoon at 2.30 in St. Peter's Lady Chapel for simple worship, tea and toasts.

Mothers and under-



Photo D. Bennett

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the
CLUBS

**Caversham
Ladies Club**

THE first meeting of 1990 was opened by Mrs Harwood, Chairman, who welcomed the members and wished them a very happy and peaceful New Year. As usual, for the first meeting of a New Year, this was informal and given over to the members to air their views, choose outings and offer ideas and suggestions for future meetings and also mention anything they were not happy about. Members' general reaction was satisfaction for things to continue as at present.

Mrs Harwood then produced a list of places for whole day and half day outings, and asked if any member had a choice to offer too. Eventually, and with a show of hands, the final choice was Worthing for the whole day and Stow-in-the-Wold for half a day. These would be held in May and September, and Mrs Harwood would give full details at the next meeting.

It was a very lively and happy meeting and time passed very quickly. The tea was a welcome sight after all the chit chat and it was then time to close the meeting, when members departed with the thought of lots to look forward to in forthcoming months.

**Emmer Green
T.G.**

THE Speaker at the January meeting was Miss E. Turner, herself a Townswoman. She spoke about silver and jewellery, explaining the hallmarks and giving hints on the care and cleaning of both large and small items. She also mentioned the priceless silver plate made by Gerald Berry and owned by the town of Reading. The vote of thanks was given by Miss N. Pollard.

The two charities chosen to benefit from guild fundraising during 1990 are the Helen House Hospice for children near Oxford and an extensive tree planting scheme encouraged by Guild Headquarters.

On January 15th a large party from the Social Studies group was shown round the refurbished Reading Town Hall and all were very

impressed with the care and workmanship that has gone into the restoration work.

**Maplewood
W.I.**

THE December meeting of Maplewood W.I. began with a Guest Lunch prepared by members of the Committee, followed by a slide show and talk by Mr Richard Snailham 'Down the Blue Nile in Boats'. This was an interesting talk about a journey in 1968 through Ethiopia from Lake Tana to the White Nile. Then the new VCO, Mrs Christine Ingram, was introduced and she told members about the move into the BFWI's new home at Mortimer.

At the January meeting there was an entertaining talk by Mrs Helen Anderson on her wartime work as a singer travelling round the country organising musical entertainments for the civilian population, and describing the situations she encountered, both serious and comic. This was Maplewood's thirty-fifth birthday meeting and a birthday tea was much enjoyed. The cake was cut by founder members Mrs Parcell and Mrs Vinall.

**Caversham
Community
Association**

Always welcome visitors to the club - Marwen and Howard West came on the 29th January to give a talk and slide show on their holiday in Canada. Mr and Mrs West described their journey from when they left Gatwick Airport and arrived at Vancouver to board a coach for their three week tour of Canada.

Travelling over large tracts of prairie, they visited an Indian museum, stayed in a log cabin, saw the snowcapped peaks and wonderful scenery of the Rocky Mountains and viewed the Niagara Falls - just to mention some of the places on the tour. Maids Feast, the Chairman thanked the visitors for giving their informative talk and interesting slide show.

New members are welcome at the club which meets on Monday evenings at 7.30 - 9.30 at the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsey Road.

Rosehill W.I.

THE February meeting was well attended and Mrs Weller welcomed everyone and three visitors. Dates were agreed for rambling and scrabble.

Mr C. L. Walter then gave his programme entitled 'Landscape and flowers', illustrated by beautiful slides and music. He started with close-ups of flowers, very colourful, then landscapes, ending with flowers, berries and fruits. Very enjoyable and interesting, making members forget the stormy weather outside.

The competition for a small arrangement using wild materials was won by Mrs Gillings.

St Peter's Wives

A LARGE number of members gathered in Church House in January

ing, led by the visiting singers, to complete a pleasant meeting. The 'Nearly New' stall, for members to sell their unwanted goods and give a small percentage to club funds, was also held at this meeting and kindly presided over by Evelyn Cook.

There was a good attendance the following week for a 'Bring and Buy' evening. This was a fund raising event for the club as members were invited to bring goods for auction. A wide range of toiletries, cosmetics and foodstuffs created a good deal of interest resulting in a total of £40.80 for the club.

The whist drive which took place on the 22nd January was run by member Doreen Crawley who, as usual, ensured that the evening ran smoothly. George Feast had the most points and was the first prizewinner.

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to hear a member of the Ambulance Service talk on his experiences. It was a very interesting anecdotal account of the life of an Ambulance Officer. It was both amusing and serious and gave those present a great deal to think about the work of the ambulance service and to be grateful for it.

Prior to the talk, the members held an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the name of the group. As the group is open to all ladies irrespective of their status and religious affiliation, it was thought that the present name did not convey this.

However, after much discussion, a vote was taken on whether to change the name or not and it was decided that St Peter's Wives' Group was to remain the name of the group. All ladies are welcome to the meetings which are held on the third Tuesday in each month at Church House.

**Caversham
Heights T.G.**

MAJOR Michael Paxton, formerly public relations officer for Huntley and Palmers and later for Nabisco, recalled with a video and a talk for a large audience of members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, the heyday of biscuit making before the arrival of technology when baking and wrapping were done largely by hand.

He told how George Palmer, who farmed in Somerset, found a tin of biscuits one year at Glastonbury Fair. Later the tall young Quaker stepped from a stage-coach in 1841 to greet Thomas Huntley in his newly opened confectionery emporium in London Street.

Thomas Huntley's

Turn to page 11

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GEORGE ODIE

SOME sixteen years ago, Caversham Park Church opened its arms to welcome someone who was to play an important part in the joyful worship of this infant Church.

George Odie joined in the fellowship and shared in playing the piano for worship, originally as a locum for our regular pianist, but he has played regularly for the last eleven years. For some years now, he has been our only pianist, practising regularly and guiding us through new and sometimes difficult tunes, as well as old faithfuls!

A far cry from George's early churchgoing in the Primitive

Methodist tradition, he has coped with liturgy, metres and guitars with equanimity — not to mention the school piano, which has always had a mind of its own!

George has been a stalwart in the church, through his own joys and sorrows, and a support and friend to others in need. We rejoiced with George and Enid, when they married at St Margaret's Mapledurham just over two years ago and now, as we sadly see him give up playing for us regularly, we wish them both a long and very happy retirement together. They will still be an important part of our worship and praise, but George feels that his fingers are not as nimble "As they used to was!"

and that it is time he took his seat in the congregation. Not bad, considering that George is approaching the beginning of his ninth decade — and I hope he won't mind me telling you that!

Bless you George, and thank you for all you have contributed to the life and growth of Caversham Park Church, from all of us — and have a happy and well-deserved holiday in the sunshine.

Margaret Ellison

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The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.
Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

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

METHODIST
The Rev Keith Saunders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED
The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.
The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

the CLUBS

From page 10

brother Joseph supplied the containers for biscuits from his ironmongery shop opposite. With George Palmer as entrepreneur a site was carefully chosen and money borrowed to build a factory. Flour used to come from Sonning Mill, and canals and the railways were made use of. As the Quakers' word was their bona. a

good reputation was built up.

When Thomas Huntley died, his family was no longer interested, so George's brothers, William, Isaac and Samuel were sent for from Somerset. They went up to London to arrange for world-wide export. In 1976 the factory was moved to London.

"The Start and the Finish" is a video with music from a piano concerto by Dmitri Shostokovich telling the story of more co-operation between Quakers. It shows Peek Freans in 1906 and in 1988 before being pulled down. For this Major Paxton interviewed people from Bermondsey who used to work there. He has a film of the new machines, but in the ear-

ly days a four pound tin could be filled amazingly quickly. Recipes of some of the four hundred different types of biscuit made and other items of interest can be found in the Reading Museum.

At the social studies Mrs Meryl Beek reminded members of "going through the windows" in Playschool, showing slides giving glimpses of the remote area of Auvergne, where the Allier flows north to join the Loire. Others were of Parish and scenes in Brittany, where cider and other interesting products are made.

Odd Fellows Hall, Oxford Road, Reading on Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m. During January three meetings were held and all were well attended.

□□
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The Association is pleased to have a close liaison with the University of Reading and three of its Vice-Presidents are members of the Academic Staff, so it was a welcome start to the New Year when Dr Stephen Jury, Taxonomist in the Plant Science Department, gave a talk on a recent visit he had made to Bulgaria.

Dr Jury is Curator of the Herbarium in the University and makes regular trips abroad to find research material, and it was one such visit he made to Bulgaria about which he talked on January 3rd. He showed slides of many of the interesting plants he found, of people he had met and of the scenery. Plant material, mainly as seeds, is constantly propagated and studied in the University and there may be, amongst it, some plants of garden value in the

future. On January 17th Dr John Ackeroyd, who, until recently, has been associated with the Department of Botany in the University in his work on research for the Flora Europaea, gave a talk entitled "Weeds and Aliens". He showed slides of plants he had studied all over Europe and explained why certain ones become classed as weeds and how, in some cases, they are introduced, become established and are then accepted as part of a country's plant population and are called aliens.

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On January 30th members heard a talk entitled "Herbs and their Usage". This was given by Mr Richard Scott who has, in the last few years, established a new and interesting nursery called "The Herb Farm" at Sonning Common. He showed slides and described how it has been developed from a piece of arable land and now has a lovely restored timbered barn which is used as a sales centre and landscaped areas where herbs are grown to demonstrate their uses and advantages as garden plants.

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8.15pm St Anne's RC Church, Caversham

Saturday, 24th March
8.00pm St Peter's Caversham. Concert by Reading Male Voice Choir for CARE

Monday, 2nd April
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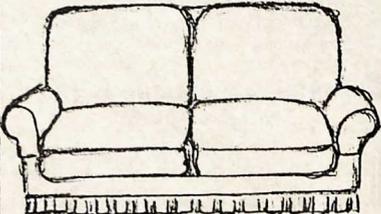
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