



# TURNING POINTS

**DURING** the past Lent over 180 people from most of the Caversham Churches have met together to study the theme of 'Turning Points'. It was based on the hope that Christians would explore ways to make the faith alive in our present world, and see how today's Church could best meet the needs of all people by working together.

Since 1985 over thirty denominations in Britain including all the main branches and a number of blacked and pentecostal churches have been trying to find the best way forward — to grow together in love and to seek God's guidance in revealing Christ's love to everyone for whom he died. From this coming September the British Council of Churches will cease to exist and there will be a national organisation called 'Churches Together'; and each local area has been urged to set up some kind of group which is committed to the task of the churches working together in search of the unity for which Christ prayed, and the common evangelism and service to the world — which

is at the heart of the 'Decade for Evangelism' about which Christine Allsopp wrote in last month's Talking Point.

A meeting of all the 16 Lenten groups was set up after Easter to hear what members felt about the united witness in Caversham. There have been a number of activities in our community for some time fulfilling a most useful purpose. The Link Group, the Pop-In Centre at Church House, Caversham Good Neighbours, the Luncheon Clubs, the Christian Listeners Group, the United Services and Gatherings, the publication of the Bridge, Christian Aid and other projects were listed.

These were ecumenically based and serving the needs of many people. But there was also expressed the hope to meet some of the growing concerns in our neighbourhood and beyond. The problems of housing and the homelessness of people of all ages: the deep problems of debt, family breakdowns, of drug and alcohol dependency and loneliness — all needed to be addressed by the churches. Some practical ideas came to the fore — a coffeshop, serving meals for elderly at week-ends; helping to care for people confined to their home; a united act of witness at Pentecost, publicising the need to fill vacancies in youth and voluntary organisations.

An initial 'Steering

Group' has been set up hoping for a representative from each church, meeting to talk over some of these ideas and to set in motion some kind of structure which can co-ordinate what is already taking place and to see what needs to be done. God save us from another committee!

But for Christ's sake we have to explore ways of working together to meet the deep needs of our community and at the same time to grow closer together in the one Body of Jesus Christ. I would be glad to receive any constructive comments.

*Keith Sanders —  
Minister of  
Caversham Heights  
Methodist Church*

# 'LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER'

IF YOU ARE wondering which Course you would like to do at the Adult Education Centre next winter, why not try Genealogy (Family History) For Beginners. I can assure you, even if you don't have much luck in finding the one person you may be looking for, you'll have a most enjoyable Monday afternoon for the next six months. Now that it is over, I feel a loss, but at least I have good background knowledge of how to go about the 'searching lark'.

On day 1, armed with an A4 size pad and a pen, we began by introducing ourselves, and saying who we wished to trace. Imagine the surprise and delight when two people — perfect strangers — found they were looking for the same name, same town, and then found they were indeed related! After a few weeks, old photographs were being brought in. Great Grandpapas and Great Grandmamas standing outside old village

shops, sitting very upright in a family group or in their wedding finery, all dating back to the 1800's. One lady in the class, whose daughter is a florist, took some of the wedding photos after they had been copied, to be displayed in the exhibition she was giving called "Bouquets Over The Years". We had lots of laughs over the stories accompanying these photos, each one telling its own tale. In October we went en masse with the teacher to St. Catherine's House in London. Unfortunately it was half-term holiday time and the place was filled to overflowing with people, clutching huge, heavy books in their hands, anxiously searching Births, Marriages and Deaths records for information. I found myself sitting on the floor in a corner — there was simply no room at the tables! I think everyone went home wondering if they had not, by mistake, ordered someone else's Birth Certificate. Next we walked across to Somerset House, where copies of all old Wills are kept, though, sad to say, I did

not find a disgustingly rich uncle amongst the Archives — we loved every minute of that day!

We have also visited the Archives at Shire Hall and the University Library, both of which hold very fascinating history. Also, during term time we were given a smattering of Latin to help us to read any old legal documents which might come to hand. We all left at the end of term with loads of information, which, I am sure, no-one would have had without the help of our very good teacher!

So come on Caversham people, if you are in need of some brain stimulation next winter, and you never did discover what became of all the Family Jewels, watch for the next class in September! You won't regret it, I can assure you!

Our thanks to Jean Debney (Teacher) for a lively six months.

P.D.

## I WAS A STRANGER

By Jean Rae

**DURING** Lent this year I was invited to join an Ecumenical House Group in Caversham. As a newcomer to an already established group, I went along not quite knowing what to expect. However, I was soon put at my ease and before long it was evident that despite different Church backgrounds we had much in common and a great deal to share together.

The title of the story "Turning Points" was personally appropriate for me in that since attending the group a whole new area of commitment and contact has emerged.

## BUGS BOTTOM AND THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

IN practical support of the Bugs Bottom Fighting Fund, "Caversham Bridge" has guaranteed up to £250 towards taking the case to the Court of Appeal.

As "Watchdog" has said, the chance of this succeeding are slender, but if it does, or if the appeal does not proceed, donations will be returned. Please see the article on p. 9.



# TALKING POINT

By Rev. Chris Justice  
Caversham Hill Chapel



## REACHING OUT — OR DRAGGING IN?

A few months ago, in this column, we were challenged to think again about "evangelism". At the risk of boring the readers, and losing you before I've started, I'd like to urge you to think again — again — about this very central issue in God's plan for the world and his church, as I take the subject just a little further. Evangelism has been given all sorts of alternative names — for example, "good-newsing", telling people the good news about God's love and his willingness to forgive and accept all those who come to him through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another phrase that's often used instead of "evangelism" is "reaching out". I like that — because it draws our attention to the fact that spreading the good news about God's love and forgiveness is not just a matter of saying words, preaching sermons, holding debates, or handing out leaflets. There is something more to communicating God's message than simply talking.



Don't get me wrong! I'm not saying that words are not absolutely fundamental to the Christian faith, and that they can be dispensed with as we "reach out". But what I am saying is that, alongside the words, it is imperative that those who have the message, and know the message, should get out and do something to communicate the message — with their words, and their actions.

How will the vast majority of people in our community, at present untouched by the Christian gospel, ever hear or appreciate the great news if all we ever do is sit in our church buildings and exchange words

about it? If we sit and wait patiently for them to come to us — we may still be sitting there when they are carried in!

No! The job of the Christian church is to reach out not drag in! After all, the One we follow set us a perfect example in that he came from heaven - reaching out to a needy world. He didn't simply send messages to us, saying he loved us - he came. He still delivered the words - but came to us with them, and the words were accompanied with demonstrations of his love. Words and actions.



At this time of year the Christian church traditionally celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And, as we were reminded in that article of few months ago, he was sent to make those first Christians bold enough to get out into the streets - among their neighbours, friends - and enemies! - and reach out as representatives of Jesus.

All this is such an unnatural thing for most of us. We tend, generally speaking, to be self centred, wanting to pull everything towards us, trying to make things convenient to us. But when God comes in with power, he thrusts us out - demanding that we become like him, and be selfless and giving.

So, how will we ever become a less self centred church that focusses not so much on "in-drag" - and become more selfless and focussing on "out-reach"? It will only be as the same Spirit who filled Jesus fill us - and empowers us to do the job he called us to do. May God grant this to all of us in his church in Caversham!

# SPRING HAS COME

More notes from our nature correspondent

AS I sit on the patio at the back of the house this sunny morning, all is peace, and quiet, save for the full-throated song of a blackbird, answered fifty or so yards away by another. So they sing back and forth, expressing their views of a beautiful glad-to-be-alive world. A chaffinch adds a few blithe notes, joined by the piping of a tom-tit, and the shrill chattering of a wren. A new-born lamb in a nearby field calls aloud and is answered in deeper tones by the mother, as much as to say "I'm over here". A solitary brimstone butterfly sails along erratically as though searching for somewhere to settle, but seldom does. The orangetips, so plentiful last year, appear to be less in number so far. If so, it is one of nature's puzzles as to why this should be.

The starlings scattered in fright, but the blackbirds stayed feeding, unperturbed. We have a cock blackbird whom I can only describe as being trustingly friendly. As we walk along the garden path, he runs and stops a few feet ahead. I must try and tame him; get him to feed from my hand, in to the kitchen perhaps. The wagtails have stopped coming to the lawn; nesting, maybe.

We have several spindle trees, so called because for thousands of years the thin stems were used on which to spin wool, to make knitting needles, skewers, and pegs. The tree has small green flowers in May, and in the autumn the fruit ripens into a bright pink capsule which splits to reveal a small orange ball in the centre, very attractive for decoration, and food for the birds who spread the seed and produce more trees that reach the height of about fifteen feet.

Later in the day when strolling amongst the trees as the sun, a huge red orb began to sink below the horizon, the blackbirds, in more subdued notes, sang their evensong. The bluebells are coming into full bloom, taking over from the primroses and daffodils. The celandines linger on; the stitchwort, forgetmenot and white dead nettle at their best. Heard my first cuckoo; spring has come.

Wood pigeons, and a flock of starlings fly around overhead, darting off in various directions for reasons they alone would know. Ah, I hear the wren again. He leaves the hedge where he has been spider-hunting and flies across the lawn, alighting on a spindly branch of the small yew tree, see-sawing up and down in the breeze, continuing his song. All this is free entertainment for the observer. Later in the day I inadvertently cornered a blackbird squatting on the ground between the garden shed, the garage and the fence; she held a leaf in her beak. I backed away quietly leaving her to get on with her nest building.

But it is not always so, this peace and quiet. The other morning I was sitting at the window watching a small group of birds, eight starlings and four blackbirds feeding on food we had thrown on the lawn, when Concorde roared immediately overhead.

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CAVERSHAM

ST MARGARET'S  
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The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.  
The 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.
- CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT**  
The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.
- BAPTIST**  
The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.
- METHODIST**  
The Rev Keith Sanders, 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 J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

## CAVERSHAM DIARY

- Saturday, 2nd June**  
St John's Summer Fair & Jumble Sale.  
2pm Caversham Hall
- Sunday, 10th June**  
Dedication of Wesley Lounge, Caversham Heights Methodist Church & open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 7.30-9.30pm, all welcome.
- Monday, 11th June**  
7.30pm St Barnabas' Church Patronal Festival  
Preacher: Canon John Grimwade
- Saturday, 16th June**  
Cake Bake St John's Church 10am-12 noon  
Church of England Children's Society
- Saturday, 16th June**  
2.00pm The Rectory Garden, Church Road  
Summer Fayre. Caversham West Brownies, Guides and Rangers.
- Saturday, 23rd June & 24th June**  
Thameside School Harley Road Art Exhibition to be opened by His Worship the Mayor at 10am.
- Friday, 29th June**  
St Peter's Day. Eucharist at 8pm
- Saturday, 7th July**  
2pm St Peter's & St Margaret's Summer Fete, Caversham Court.
- Sunday, 8th July**  
6.30pm St Peter's Church, Reading Male Voice Choir.

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 advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 4 June.

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# KATY'S JOTTINGS

UNTIL recently I enjoyed shopping in Caversham, the hardest part being that of carrying home the goods — and as we live near the shops we felt this was better than the hassle of trying to park near the shops. In such a short time all this has changed for me — and, from conversations with friends, for a lot of other people. We can only suppose that Caversham has been discovered for there's no other way of accounting for the seemingly very rapid increase of shopping in the Church Street area.

All I know is it's not fun any more and if ever I commit murder it will, I'm sure, be in a supermarket where my flashpoint is very low indeed. Far from loving my fellow men I find I positively loathe them, particularly young couples who shops in pairs and while one pushes the trolley the other lounges around idly deciding what to buy. Neither am I enamoured by the, admittedly few, young mothers who happily let their offspring wander all over the place.

## EASTER SUNDAY AT ST ANDREW'S

A large congregation at St Andrew's celebrated Easter in a very special way this year. A much respected couple, the Revd John and Mrs Daphne Carr celebrated their Golden Wedding on Easter Monday and at the beginning of the 9.15am Family Eucharist they were presented with a beautiful basket of flowers and a card from the congregation who were invited to John and Daphne's 'Open House' the next day to celebrate with them.

Another family occasion also took place at the Family Eucharist when the youngest member of the Kent family, Gemma, was baptised surrounded by her grandparents and all her Kent uncles, aunts and cousins.



John and Daphne Carr leaving St Andrew's Church with the flowers they were given to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The check-out points are particularly dangerous and I don't know whether I most dislike those who insist on packing everything at a leisurely pace before paying, headless of queues behind, or those who rush through at such a rate one feels incredibly guilty about not doing the same.

So what is to be done about it? And before you reach for pens and paper, let me say that I'm sure I offend just as much as everyone else, particularly when I forget where I am and indulge in long conversations with friends or check-out staff.

One of the problems is that we all seem to need so much more these days and the days when one shopped for basics and did a certain amount of cooking and contriving at home have been replaced by enormous trolley-loads of 'fast' foods, ready-cooked and so on.

I don't know the answer. Do you?

### Greendene Farm

Far from the madding crowd in Church Street, a lot of people are going to miss the farm shop run by Mr and Mrs Martyn-Johns who, for over thirty years have supplied many of us with first-grade free-range eggs, vegetables and so on. Nobody can blame them for deciding they need a rest but, oh dear, they are going to be missed. We thank them for their past service and wish them a very happy retirement. They deserve it.

### Nice Shopping

Having got all that off my chest about grocery shopping — unfortunately a must for all of us — it is nice to think of other shops which it is still enjoyable to visit. And a special thank-you to those who not only supply goods but also advice. Which reminds me, I trust there's nobody left in Caversham who doesn't know about putting flowers like spray carnations into fizzy lemonade. I'm just going to throw out some I've had for nearly a month.

Going back to the subject, I'd back our local bookshop any time when it comes to giving advice. How they find time to read books as well as sell them, I just don't know, but I've been doing a log of what might be

termed light reading lately, and save a lot of time by asking Lindsay what she would advise.

And if anyone hasn't read it yet, do get a copy of 'Shadow of War' by our local writer, Peta Baker. Having served in Germany for several years after the war, I found this book answered a lot of questions about the attitude of Germans to the Hitler era. I won't say more — if you are interested, this book is a must.

### Why not try FAX

Modern inventions are an anathema to me — only mention computers and I mentally switch off. But accidentally almost I had a very interesting discussion in the Bookshop about their introduction of a FAX agency. Wondering recently how to get a letter to a certain national newspaper in double quick time, I could have saved a lot of trouble by Faxing it. The charge is only £2.50 for the first page and £1 for every following page for delivery anywhere in the UK or the USA. And if, like me, you are still regretting the passing of Greetings Telegrams, Faxgrams, tho' expensive at around £10 a time, might well solve a problem, for instance, for an elderly relative not in need of presents as such, but would welcome greetings — they are delivered within two hours in normal business and if

anyone is interested, do have a chat with John Mullaney. I don't want to put my foot in it, so if there is another such agency in Caversham, it would be interesting to hear about it. As I've said before, I'm no longer able to go around investigating personally.

### Mr and Mrs Batchelor

Which is why I don't seem to keep up with old friends these days and am reduced to following the hatched, matched and despatched columns in the local paper. Which was how I discovered that Mr and Mrs Batchelor of Sheridan Avenue had just celebrated their golden wedding. Although now members of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church they were actually married on 17th April 1940 at St. Peter's Church. Perhaps they will forgive me for choosing this way of sending our best wishes, somewhat belatedly.

### Mr Thorne

Another member of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church I have every reason to remember just now is Mr. Thorne who, as far as I know, has delivered the 'Bridge' ever since its inception. Despite illness he has continued to trot round with his usual friendly smile every month, and we shall miss him now that he feels it is time to make a break. I hope next month to write more about this lovely gentleman.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### ANGLICAN

#### St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am Parish Communion  
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

#### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

#### CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

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

#### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)  
6.30pm (in Chapel)

#### CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10.45am Worship at Mapledurham Pavilion

### METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road  
11.00am and 6.30pm

#### Caversham Heights

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

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Annes Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road  
11am every Sunday

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am

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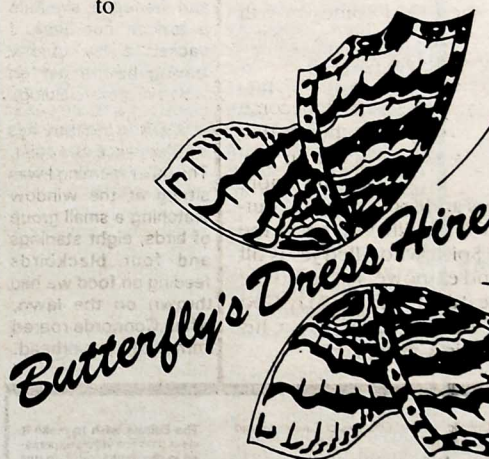
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# THE ONE PER CENT APPEAL FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT

by  
**John Madeley**

In the early 1970's several churches launched a 'one percent for world development appeal'. Members of at least five churches — Baptists, Church of England, Methodists, Roman Catholics and the United Reformed — were asked to give 1% of their net take home pay, or income, for world development purposes.

People chose which particular agencies receive their money. And over the last 20 years many Christians have taken up the challenge. Christian Aid, Oxfam, the World Development Movement have all proved popular, — also the development work of the missionary societies.

The idea behind the appeals is to raise money for the development projects (rather than just emergency relief), to put our help for the poor of the world on a more systematic and regular basis than ad-hoc giving, and to show the government that many people are prepared to give 1% of their personal incomes to the poor. For if church people are prepared to do this, we are in a stronger position to urge that the government does the same.

Over 20 years the United Nations called on governments of industrial nations to give 1% of their national incomes to poorer countries. A few countries have achieved this but Britain now gives only one-third of this amount.

into the international foreign debt crisis and are having to divert money earmarked for agriculture, education and health care, etc., to pay off debt at today's high rates of interest.

and increase their incomes.

The project lends money to women in rural areas whose have an income of less than 3000 pesos a year (about £100). The poverty level is 4,000 pesos. I was able to see for myself that is reaching some very

very poorest and they are not eligible for help under the project. So the very poorest are excluded and this is not uncommon.

This particular project simply does not have enough funds to teach women literacy and to cover far larger numbers. By giving 1% of our incomes to voluntary agencies we are increasing their opportunities to reach the poorest, such as these women in the Philippines. And voluntary agencies such as Christian Aid and Oxfam have shown that they can reach the very poor.

If you are not sure about the details of the one percent for world development appeal in your own church could I suggest you have a word with your minister or social responsibility secretary. If you want any general details, you can ring me on Reading 476063.

Let's help the poor and show the government we mean business. It has never been more crucial for us to act. If the poor of the earth receive help for development purposes they have a chance of achieving self-sufficiency and are less likely to need emergency help in future. Giving 1% of our incomes to the poor can help in just a tiny way to ward off future famines.



Picture by John Madeley

These women are receiving help under a development project in the Philippines. Many are not so lucky. (Camote is sweet potato).

Some people have already responded to the one percent appeal but many of us have yet to do so. In some churches the appeal receives little emphasis, but two recent visits to developing countries, Sudan and the Philippines, have convinced me of the need to take it seriously and, if necessary, revive it.

In both Sudan and the Philippines, poverty is becoming more acute. During the last ten years both have been drawn

We are all suffering from high interest rates it's true, but for poorer countries, a 1% rise in world interest rates adds to their debt burden and may mean that schools don't open next week. The people who suffer most from all this are the poorest.

The sheer depth of poverty in the Philippines came across to me when I was visiting a project to help women on low incomes to process root crops

poor women, helping them to improve the quality of life for their families.

But because there is a certain amount of paperwork involved, the women have to be literate before they can receive a loan. In practice they are only eligible if they have received at least a primary school education.

The snag is that over two-thirds of the women in rural Philippines have not received any formal schooling. These women are undoubtedly among the

## 'KEEPING DOWN WITH THE JONESES'

Caversham Players were warmly and deservedly applauded when the curtain came down on 'Keeping down with the Joneses', which they presented at St Andrew's Hall on April 5th, 6th and 7th 1990. They should have been applauded too when the curtain went up, for their cleverly devised and soundly constructed set presented most realistically the underground shelter decked out for elegant existence in the aftermath of a nuclear atmosphere: a real deep-freeze, and a private bar as lavishly stocked as the proud owner of the shelter, Geoffrey Jones, M.P. needed for his frequent and varied snifters.

Derek Spears, who played the M.P. and Sheila Hodson, who played his wife Deidre, seemed to act a little over-anxiously for laughs, with a wogish eye to the audience. Raised eyebrows and sideways glances were in order when playing up to the illusion of Deidre's mother, Mrs

Wayneflete, portrayed with delightful restraint by Anne Bliss, that the shelter was a cruise liner, but because it had fast action, witty repartee, and most comic situations, this show would succeed when played almost straight.

Ray Hammond, as the cheeky telecom engineer, Joe Parker, called in to fix the telephone link to the outside world during Geoffrey's three week test of the shelter, was an object lesson of how to play comedy. Relaxed but ever alert to the words and actions of his fellow characters, he reacted naturally as if hearing and seeing them, as we were, for the first time. To our delight his reactions were invariably piquant or outrageous!

The 'captain' of Mrs Wayneflete's motley crew was played by Jim McClure, whose comfortable figure, geniality and rich 'conservative' Indian voice greatly enhanced the character of Express Dairyman Clive Patel, whose white coat she had mistaken for white

ducks. The slippery, shallow character of girlie magazine tycoon Raymond Blake was nicely captured by Chris Locke, whilst Val Watts made the most of the amorous simplicity of his model turned mistress, Sonia Blake. Alison Kyte played the Swedish au pair, Grindle, getting as much as she could from a part where the writers' inspiration had largely deserted them.

Ken Etherington appeared as P.C. Bobby Smith to reveal that it was not, in fact, a nuclear explosion which had incarcerated them for a fortnight, and that if the hapless Geoffrey had read the instruction booklet they could have easily got out anyway! Following the denouement, the playwrights had some difficulty in tidying their characters away, and the show's cracking pace slowed down. Congratulations to Nancy Quinnell, director of this well cast, well dressed, well rehearsed and most successful show.

Martyn Allies.

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# A HEATHLAND HOME

ALTHOUGH it is now seventeen years since I went to chat to Mrs Collins in the centuries-old thatched cottage which had been her home since 1916, I can remember it well. It was the second afternoon of the gas strike in February 1973, and the sun had shone from an almost cloudless sky since eight in the frosty morning. By two in the afternoon it was warm in the sun but the air was still crisp.

### Never a frosted window

Walking up the garden path, already gay with a border of early crocus species, I was welcomed inside Thatcrott to quite the cosiest room I had been in for many a long day. In spite of the front door opening directly into the living room, it was really warm with a large convector stove glowing on the far side of the room. The declining sun's rays were streaming through the small windows bringing a sparkle to the brass and copper even in the darkest corners. We sat there talking with the door wide open to let in more light, but all the time the little room remained warm and comfortable.

The cottage is low. There are no stairs and the thatch roof comes down to four and a half feet from the ground. It is almost three feet thick — I measured it — keeping the little cottage cool in summer and warm in winter. The wide eaves also help to give shade and shelter and in all the fifty-seven years Mrs Collins had lived there she never remembered the windows becoming frosted.

### Evening lamplight

The gas strike wasn't worrying Mrs Collins, nor had the electricity cuts in 1972. She had neither gas nor electricity. Used to paraffin

lamps years ago, she was quite happy with them still, and the extra warmth they gave out was an added bonus. However she did cook by calor gas as the old Victorian fireplace and oven in the far older chimneypiece was now blocked up. Years ago this was used to heat the laundry water, among other things, which was fetched with a yoke and two buckets from a pump across the road and boiled up in a large black iron pot over the fire.

Mrs Collins began her married life in 1906 at the Pack Horse where her husband's father

was the landlord. Young Mr Collins had a milk round.

She could remember the mailcoach and horses going by daily from Oxford to Reading at 6am. To go into Reading then meant transport by waggone. Later Mrs Collins used a bicycle which she gave up riding when she was eighty-two.

### From town to the Countryside

The Vicar of Mapledurham until 1919 was the Revd Francis Thackeray, related to the famous writer. Mrs Collins recalled him

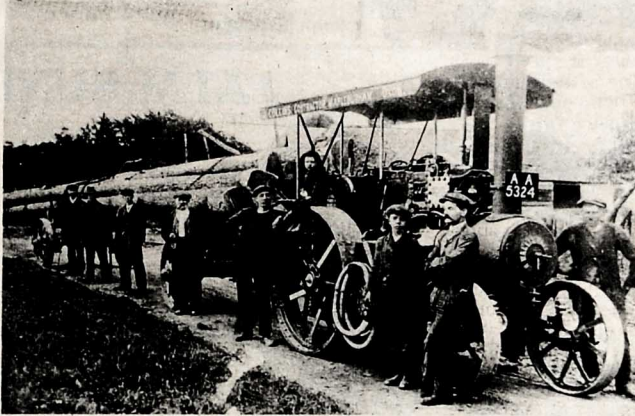
visiting her at the age of ninety-two when he was still the incumbent.

Although she was born in Reading, Mrs Collins became a true countrywoman over the years. She got used to fresh spring water from the many springs around her cottage; there was even a small pond at the far end of her garden which she sometimes used in winter. Rabbits were often on the menu, cooked in various ways. The large garden was always stocked well with vegetables and even far into her eighties Mrs Collins salted down pounds and pounds of runner beans for her family every August and September. Sitting at her cottage door she sliced them up by the basketful and stored them in jars.

Like most country folk she was an early riser and even at eighty-seven was getting up for a cup of tea at six a.m.

Mrs Collins died since this article was first written but not before she had the unusual distinction of being a great, great grandmother. She loved her little home at Mapledurham dearly and today it still remains, though renovated, as a reminder of the tiny heathland cottages of the Chilterns.

MK



A scene outside the Pack Horse at Mapledurham — possibly around 1914 or a little later. The writing on the roof of the traction engine says J. Collins, Contractor, Mapledurham, Oxon.

A HUNDRED years ago the Church of St. Peter received a magnificent gift — the Lectern — which was dedicated on St. Peter's Day (a magnificent gift it was, whether or not you like late Victorian church furniture!) The inscription on it reads 'PRO GLORIA DEI. A THANK OFFERING FROM JOHN C. & ELIZABETH B. BRADSHAW. ST. PETER'S DAY 1890' One wonders what event prompted this 'thank-offering' — was it a long and happy marriage, or a long and happy life or some entirely different blessing?

The church, which was in the care of a 'Perpetual Curate' (not a Rector until 1923) the Rev. Arthur Ellison Molyneux M.A. (1882-93), would have looked somewhat different from what it does today. Possibly the late 19th Century alterations would have been completed, whilst those of 1924 were still to come. That was then the South Aisle was extended to form a chapel and the three-light Chancel window with its 13th Century tracery, was moved to the east end of it. A new five-light window, depicting the Church Triumphant with Our Lord surrounded by saints and prophets, replaced it in the Chancel. The congregation, also, would have looked different. They

## A CENTENARY



E.S. Archer

would attend church in formal attire, the men top-or bowler-hatted, and the women with hats or bonnets as elaborate as possible. One wonders whether there were the same parking problems with horse-carriages!

To return to the lectern — does anyone know anything about John and Elizabeth Bradshaw? No doubt a search of the churchyard might yield information, or perhaps they were buried in the new cemetery in Hemdean Road, opened in 1882.

Finally, does anyone know who parked their well-used chewing gum under the tail feathers of this dignified bird? (A more recent happening!)



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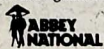
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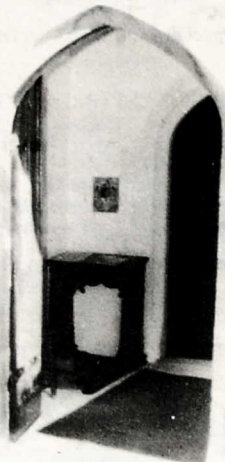
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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH CAVERSHAM — THE ORATORY IS NOW OPEN. . .



The Oratory St John's

E.S. Archer

For obvious reasons it is impossible to leave the whole church open all the time, but an oratory is now available at all times in the South Porch. Some people find it easiest to pray with words: a selection of books is provided. Some find pictures helpful, and we have provided an icon, with notes. Some find a crucifix a better way in, and one is there. The space can also be used for prayer by

groups of up to six people. A notebook is provided for any requests for prayer or notes. Lightning is automatic: except when there is bright sunlight in the oratory, lights will turn themselves on, and off again a few minutes after you leave. We hope that all sorts of people will find this a good place to use at any time of day or night for prayer, or just to be alone and quiet.

### EX-PARISH READER BECOMES LIFE PEER

Congratulations are due to Brian Morris, who has recently been made a Life Peer. He was a Reader in the parish in the early days of John Grimwade when he lived in Emmer Green and worshipped at St Barnabas'. He was then in the English Department at Reading University before taking a chair at Sheffield University. Thereafter he became a Principal at Lampeter.

\*\*\*  
The Editors are always pleased to have news of other "old residents" who have done well.

## COMMISSIONERS TAKEN TO COURT

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Revd. Richard Harries, is taking the Church Commissioners to the High Court.

The Bishop believes that the Commissioners have a duty to pursue an investment policy in which Christian values, rather than financial gain are the over-riding priority.

The Church Commis-

sioners follow a policy "where financial considerations are paramount". They claim the law is on their side. But the Christian Ethical Investment Group, of which the Bishop of Oxford is a leading figure, has had legal opinion which suggests this is not so.

The only way to resolve this, it seems, is to obtain a ruling in the

High Court. But this costs money! A sizeable amount needs to be guaranteed to cover costs if the action is to go ahead.

Anyone who would like to support the Bishop's action is asked to make a pledge to cover a certain amount should it be needed. Money is not needed now — just pledges. Please ring me on Reading 476063 or Bill Whiffen, 049467 5013, if you would like a pledge form or further details.

John Madeley

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST — Cousins or Wardens?

The Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday April 29th with sixty members having shared the Eucharist, before the business.

Stephen and Tony Cousins, brothers, were elected as the new Churchwardens, Mrs Linda Blackburn and Mrs Ann Deane were re-elected as Deanery Synod representatives and together with seven new members the Parish Church Council

was reformed. Thirty members were elected to serve as sidespeople. Church members received reports of all activities and while the reorganisation was successful, the need to raise a considerable amount of money to pay the way, let alone to fund repairs was very evident. Prayer, enthusiasm and a good stewardship programme are now the prime concerns.

## PASSOVER CELEBRATED AT ST ANDREW'S

On Wednesday April 11th members of the congregation of St Andrew's Church extended their awareness of events at Easter by celebrating a special passover meal on the lines of the time-honoured Jewish sacrament.

Led by the Vicar, the activities associated with an evening of music, and good food linked every participant with a commemoration that has been made for thousands of years.

Following the form of the Jewish ritual, but including a commentary to clarify its subtleties, the sadness and pain

of slavery were made real but then overpowered by the joy of deliverance.

The use of ritual herbs and foods which by their taste symbolise the status of the Jews at times in the past made the whole experience more poignant, and left participants more aware of the traditions upon which Christianity builds.

But this Sedar was more than a chance to learn — it was a way of rejoicing and expressing our hope for the future. In this way the meal of April 11 may well be the first of many and represent the start of a new tradition in the parish.

## PALM SUNDAY WALK



Members, teacher, parents and friends of St. Peter's Sunday Club and 10 to 12 group joined forces on a sunny Palm Sunday afternoon this year to walk from Mapledurham to Caversham.

The 10 to 12 group had some surprises up their sleeve, darting ahead at strategic moments to appear dramatically from behind a tree reading part of the Palm Sunday message! Tea and orange squash accompanied a closing act of worship in St. Peter's.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note — change of date  
for September copy.

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## ST ANDREW'S FESTIVAL SERVICE



The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd John Bone, talks over coffee with the Revd Bill Carpenter and Mrs June Deville after St Andrew's Dedication Festival Service at which he celebrated and preached.



# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH: LENT TO EASTER CELEBRATING LENT

By Hermione Evans

LENT and Easter 1990 marked not only the end of Nigel's first year with us, but also the end of St Barnabas' first year as a Parish. And what an end it was. It will, I'm sure, be most remembered for the excellent housegroups, which Nigel ran on that most tricky, but important of subjects, PRAYER. For me however, the highlight of the course was the Quiet Day spent at the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed.

I had various reasons for not going; firstly, how could I ignore any longer the pressing domestic affairs which demanded attention in an all too busy life. Secondly, was I capable of being quiet for a whole day? (Garrulity being one of my lesser faults). Thirdly, if I were able, would I use the time wisely?

There was only one

way to find out and that of course was to go, so having decided that no excuse was good enough, I arranged to be given a lift. That way I couldn't chicken out at the last minute!

About a dozen of us met at the Sue Ryder Home, where Nigel explained that the day would begin and end with a short service in the chapel and that otherwise we could spend the day as we pleased. There were various books to read and meditate on as well as some excellent self appraisal forms, drawn up by Nigel in preparation for Easter. After all if one cannot be honest with oneself, how can one be honest with God!

Since we had been blessed with the first beautiful day of Spring many of us took advantage of the lovely grounds, just to

walk or sit outside. There God and nature were able to weave their magic spell and gently soothe us into just 'being'. Being still to reflect, to receive, to give.

As it happens, my fears were of course quite unfounded. Away from the usual distractions of home, it was easy to become centred, concentrated, receptive and reflective, and rather than being too long, the day for me passed all too quickly. Strange too, how so often one consciously resists that which one most unconsciously requires. So those of you like me, managed to find all sorts of reasons for not going, take your courage in both hands and sign up now for next year. With any luck we'll be able to persuade Nigel to make it for a whole weekend.

## PALM SUNDAY



Palm Sunday Procession

## MAUNDY THURSDAY



(Above and Left) Maundy Thursday was celebrated with a Parish Eucharist in the context of a meal.



### ST BARNABAS' DAY

Unfortunately the preacher announced in last month's edition for St Barnabas' Patronal Festival will be unable to attend owing to his wife's illness, but his place will be taken by the Revd Canon John Grimwade. In his letter Bishop Montefiore explains his difficulties. His wife suffers from Alzheimer's disease and cannot be left. Please pray for them.

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

OPENING OF NEW OFFICE AND WESLEY LOUNGE

AS part of the 80th Church Anniversary celebrations of the Caversham Heights Methodist Church and the 250th Anniversary of the Conversion of John Wesley it was decided to build a much needed Church Office and a Resource Centre together with a pleasant lounge. The project costing £36,000 will be dedicated on Sunday, June 10th at the Church Anniversary and will be opened for viewing the following week. You are invited to 'At Homes' on Monday, June 11th, Tuesday, June 12th, Thursday, June 14th and Friday,

June 15th from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There will be an Exhibition of the history of Church and of Methodism. A small brochure outlining early history in Caversham and of the Church has been written by the minister Rev. Keith Sanders.

## ST. JOHN'S MOTHER'S UNION

MEMBERS met weekly as usual through Lent this year getting to know all the new clergy members in the Caversham Team. Lent culminated in the Holy Week Service in Church led by the Revd Alan Wilson. Several new visitors have been welcomed, who happily joined in the Annual party following Easter. The parcel was passed, odes were read and

spring hats decorated and a quiz based on Temptation puzzled over. Together with raffle and tea the afternoon was much enjoyed. A fund raising initiative was started by the ladies to try to re-roof the Church. They are trying to buy twenty five tiles. So far with sales table on chosen Sundays and Beetle drives, four tiles have been earned.

## OBITUARIES

### Don Vince

PEOPLE heard of Don Vince's death on April 10th, from a heart attack at the age of sixty-four with personal grief. There were tears for Don from all ages, from a cherished ninety-six year old "auntie" to a four year old friend. "He was always nicest chap among us" said a neighbour who had been at infants school with him. Don won a scholarship to Henley Grammar School, and medals there for sport. He joined the 22nd Reading Scouts, and later became a leader. It was a connection that lasted all his life, and they carried their flags reversed behind his coffin. He was in the army and made friendships that lasted down the years. He joined the GPO and was still with them as a liked and respected colleague when they became British Telecom. Don was a valued member of the Sainsbury Singers. He took part in nearly every production and was as ready to help backstage as sing on

stage, and will be sadly missed in their latest production of 'Die Fliederamus'. Any surplus vegetables from his garden and allotment were given to elderly people.

Don was born opposite, and worshipped all his life at St John's, and always took a full part in the life of the church. He helped with the chalice — he did so the Sunday before his death — and sang in the choir. He always shared in any work, and did it competently and enthusiastically. No social gathering was the same without his infectious enjoyment. For the last five years Don had been warden, and had brought practical skills, a cheerful diplomacy and tolerant wisdom to the work.

Don's coffin was brought into a full church behind the cross he had so often carried as crucifer. While those who had known him mourned they also celebrated the life of a good son, brother and uncle, a

generous, reliable friend, a man of whom people said "a real Christian".

We send our sympathy to his sisters Audrey and Barbara and all his family as we hold them in our prayers.

□ □ □ □

### Cyril Badger

WHEN Cyril Badger died on 4th April this year at the age of eighty-six, it was the close of his long and useful earthly life. He had lived in, and served, Caversham for over fifty years. For thirty-four years he was on the Eye and Dunsden Parish Council, and through that he took a lively interest in the growth of the ecumenical church structure in Caversham Park Village. The experience he gained through his work as a maintenance electrician at Adwest was used in the work he did for St John's church. He was dedicated to the proper management of the finances when he

was treasurer, and he was always "Clerk of the Works". No job was too small for Cyril, and certainly none was too big!

He organised and set a standard for, the redecoration of the 1970's. He dealt with the paper work necessary to put in 'Cyril's masterpiece' — the lavatory. He built it too. He repainted the organ in brilliant Victorian colours. In his eighties he managed all the business part of installing the present heating system, and supervised its installation.

Everything Cyril did was of such a high standard that experts in their own trades

repected him as "a master craftsman". He cared passionately about many issues, and any scheme Cyril took up was "thoroughly finished". Only the Sunday before he died he was delivering his "Caversham Bridges". He was never so happy as when his friends were enjoying his hospitality with a meal he had cooked himself, and with his home made wine. When age he had to give up some of his activities he had time to enjoy the river, and the wild life on its banks.

We send our sympathy to his son Ron and daughter-in-law Chris, and their family.

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## EASTER GREETINGS



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**BUGS BOTTOM**

SUCCESSIVE Saturday mornings have seen groups of Caversham people out on the streets of Reading and Caversham collecting signatories to the petition to Christopher Patten asking him to intervene to save Bugs Bottom. Early morning commuters and those returning in the evening on the Paddington trains have also been asked for their signatures. The trains and the rush to the railway station are bad enough now without adding the hundreds more that the Bugs Bottom development is likely to produce.

Thousands of signatures have already been collected; thousands more are needed. Sign if you haven't already. Several shops have petition forms. Telephone 478744 if you could take a form yourself to fill up.

Money also is needed, but you might get most of this back. This is to fund taking the case to the Court of Appeal. The chance of winning is not high, but all the same, independent advice is that there is a good case and this is virtually the only way of putting it. The main difficulty lying in the path is that the copy of the High Court judgement was not received by Reading Borough Council until three and a half weeks after it was given, and the period for lodging an appeal is four weeks from the time of its pronouncement. Naturally by the time it could be studied and the advisability of an appeal considered, the permitted time had elapsed. Consequently, Higgs and Hill are exercising their right to object and unfortunately delay in receiving the judgement is no excuse for delay in lodging an appeal.

If the appeal is accepted, Reading Borough Council will

need to be covered in the event of their losing the case. After all, they lost a substantial sum at the High Court. This is the reason for the fighting fund. Money donated to it will be returned in the event of the appeal being won or not proceeded with. For further details of the fund, phone 477711 or 478744.

It is still not clear whether the Enclosures Acts can be used to save the Valley. There is no doubt that they state that the land was to be enclosed for agricultural use for ever unless repealed by Act of Parliament. If they are found to be applicable there is a strong likelihood that they could be used successfully.

One thing is certain. If nothing is done, Bugs Bottom is already as good as lost. If something is done it may not be lost. It is of the greatest importance that Christopher Patten is made aware of the strength of feeling. Anyone who has not already done so should write to him at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA.

**WATER — A BASIC NEED**

WITH plenty of the stuff falling outside on a cold Spring night, Mr Michael Houchin, Provinces' Manager of Thames Water PLC came to talk to Caversham and District Residents' Association at their Annual Meeting about water supplies. A lot of changes have taken place since the privatisa-

**RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT  
by  
WATCHDOG**

tion of water services towards the end of last year. There are now ten water PLC's in the country, Thames Water PLC being one of the largest. It has three districts and the one we are in, Thames Valley, is very extensive.

These water companies are required under the law to carry out certain duties. They must provide what the customer wants, which is a clean and constant water supply, and it is the customer who will have to pay for it. Capital investment has been lacking in the past because of government restrictions, and now a steady increase is planned until the end of the decade to catch up with the requirements set out by the European drinking water directives.

This will mean a 12% increase in prices for the consumer, something like 4% above the rate of inflation every year. In return the customer will get a better service. There should be fewer mains bursts and restrictions such as Caversham suffered last summer should become a thing of the past.

Mr Houchin did not attempt to pull the wool over his listeners' eyes. We were, he said, at the end of an age when the results of actions at all levels of national life had not been considered.

Disposal of waste by tipping it into rivers or off the coast was one of these. Victorian infrastructure was now approaching the end of its working life and would have to be replaced. Even so, said Mr Houchin, it would be a long time before everything that finds its way into the water courses can be removed. The technology does not yet exist to remove all of it and to reach the requirements of the European water directives will be very expensive. Britain is by no means the only country that fails to, but even so, water supplies will never be allowed to become a danger to health. At the slightest suspicion, warnings about the need to boil drinking water go out, and that is a precaution rather than a 'must'.

**THE ROLE OF COMPETITION**

THE most searching questions and heated

discussion were centred on the requirements of the water PLC's to be competitive. Before privatisation they had co-operated rather than competed. Why should they be competing with each other now, everyone wanted to know, when the customer had no choice and when water was the basic human necessity that should not be at the whim of market forces. It soon became clear that the competition was not for customers but for investment, and Mr Houchin can scarcely have failed to get the message that most people thought that anything that could improve the water supply should be shared, and not used to attract greater investment.

Altogether it was an informative and useful meeting and those who had not been deterred by the excess of water falling outside after several weeks of dry weather found it well worth turning out.

**A YEAR'S WORK**

BEFORE Mr Houchin's talk, the usual business of an Annual General Meeting was carried out. The Chairman's report showed a full and very busy year, dominated by Bugs Bottom, but with planning, environmental and traffic problems also playing a large part. There was one committee place left unfilled. If anyone would like to come along and take an active part in this interesting work, he or she should telephone Reading 472300.

**TIDYING UP ST. MARTIN'S PRECINCT**

THE Borough Council have been improving local shopping precincts as part of their policy of enhancing the environment and surely that must be welcome, though there are some who would prefer the town to look down at heel if it would save a bit of money.

When the Council came to have a look at St. Martin's Precinct they decided it needed something doing to it to bring it up to the standard of the rest. The joke was that St Martin's Property Corporation had only just finished carrying out what they called 'a major refurbishment'.

The Borough Council, not having observers over here all the time, had no idea how awful it had been before it was tidied up a bit. So far, there has been no record of what St. Martin's said on being confronted with this request, but in the past they have not reacted kindly to any suggestion that their property was in need of repair.

St. Martin's Property Corporation is very wealthy. Over the years they have displayed little concern for the area from which they make their money. It is important that not a halfpenny of Council money should be spent on doing what St. Martin's should do. The Borough is only responsible for the footway in front of the shops facing Church Street.

They could usefully bully St. Martin's into replacing the listed Holm oak tree they killed a few years ago and have resisted replacing. Successive Council arboriculturalists have lost sight of the fact that this tree with a T.P.O. was destroyed by St. Martin's and should be replaced by them. If the Council does it for them, St. Martin's will be laughing all the way to the bank.

**PECULIAR ROUNDABOUT**

MINI roundabouts are not generally popular except with the regular user of side streets leading on to busy roads. The new mini-roundabout at the junction of Hemdean Road and Oakley Road is a bit of a puzzle. Apart from the fact that there was not really room for one, something it has in common with many of its fellows, the situation is still as confusing as it was before its introduction, because of the layout of the junction, with each part of Hemdean Road not being opposite the other part. 'What am I meant to do now?' is the reaction of most motorists, who make an on-the-spot decision and then stick to it right or wrong. It certainly seems to pose as many problems as it solves.

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the  
**CLUBS**

**Caversham  
Afternoon  
Townswomen's  
Guild**

The Guild has successfully started 1990 by completing its administrative year. With the change of rules and national reorganisation came the change of year and in order to come in line the Guild has had an "extra three months." During this time Guild members have looked at the history of Reading's brick companies that were in and around the town. Mr J. Major gave a pictorial tour of the terrace housing showing the different brick formations and patterns.

The Guild ladies had the new rules of taxation for married women explained and then went on a very amusing and informative tour of Russia with Miss Pat Tyler.

March saw the Annual General Meeting and a fond goodbye to the retiring Chairman Mrs

Enid Oday. She had served the Guild nobly for three and a quarter years, guiding it through its new legislation. Mrs Hilda Aidair was elected as the new Chairman with Mrs Joan Spall as her Vice Chairman. Together with the continuing Secretary Mrs Sylvia Froud and Treasurer Mrs E. Manning and four new committee members the new year looks to be an exciting time.

New members are welcome at any time and the Guild meets on the third Thursday afternoon at 2.15 in Church House Caversham.

**Rosehill W.I.**

The March meeting was held on the 7th. This was the Annual Meeting when a new Committee is formed and the President elected, or re-elected as Mrs Barbara Weller agreed to stand again as President for the fourth year. Mrs Burt is Hon. Secretary again, and a Committee was formed. Mrs Diane Lewis officiated and gave an interesting talk, mainly about ACWW and news about the new house at Mortimer. The competition was for a small cake in the Easter theme and was won by Mrs Roberts.

The April meeting was on the 4th when Mrs Weller welcomed members and one new one. The 1990/91 Committee was presented for the Institution's twenty-seventh year. Outings and activities were arranged for the summer.

Then the speaker, Mr G. Taylor, gave his talk, with slides, entitled "Wildlife and the Countryside". The first part consisted of local views, flowers, trees and the riverside. Then he moved on to Skomer, an island off the coast of Wales, showing seabirds of all kinds and lovely shots of flowers on the cliffs.

There was an exhibition table with pieces of Victorian china and all enjoyed looking at them.

**Caversham  
Heights T.G.**

"Art is a young companion" said Mr T Burnell, a tutor who came long to the April meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall. He was disappointed not to see more husbands present, and tantalisingly said little about how artists are encouraged to produce their work, but the work he showed was excellent and his artists and students seemed happy in their association.

He invited amateur artists to give in work to an annual people's art exhibition at Thames Side school in Harley Road, Caversham, on 23rd and 24th June, to be opened by the Mayor. A stamped, addressed envelope sent to Mr Burnell at 11, Bristow Court, Harley Road will ensure further information. Much enthusiasm! Two artists whose work was shown were Mrs P Blewett who paints in water colours, and Miss E Thomas who uses pastels and acrylics. The latter's hilarious poems about not worrying too much about the dusting or the state of the garden, and another about a white cat called Countess were well received. Mr Burnell wants to interest people in the paintings in Abbey Gate and plans to give a lecture there.

Mr J D Frew showed slides at social studies, taken in the course of a visit to New Zealand.

**Caversham  
Community  
Association**

On the 2nd April a whist drive was held for the members with Doreen Crawley, a fellow member, in charge of the proceedings. Amongst the prizewinners was George Feast, with the highest number of points, and Margaret Payne, who received the consolation prize. Evelyn Cook was busy at the Nearly New stall.

The following week local policeman Mike Todd visited the club and gave an interesting talk on ways to combat burglary and illegal entry into homes. PC. Todd brought a video recording, illustrating a typical burglary, to show the members and gave good advice to them to

help deter such crimes. He also had leaflets available containing useful information on home security.

There was no meeting on the 16th April as it was Easter Monday.

The club's birthday party took place on the 23rd April. An enjoyable meal of ham, meat pie and salad was arranged on long tables ready for the members' arrival. Trifles and various sweet dishes had also been prepared by the committee. Birthday cake made by Doreen Meadowcroft was distributed later in the evening and served with drinks. After the tables were cleared away a concert was given by the dancers trained by Monica Cleaver at Rivermead. Young people from the Starmaker Theatre Company also sang and danced. All the performers were lively and talented and the members enjoyed the entertainment and applauded enthusiastically. Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked everyone who had taken part and also expressed the appreciation of the members to the committee and friends for preparing an excellent meal.

There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting on the 30th April. The Chairman reported a successful year and expressed thanks to the retiring officers and committee, also to all who helped during the year. The President for many years, Gladys Weal, wished to retire from this office and was presented with a gift of glassware in appreciation of her services. Ted Howard, the former Vice-President, was elected President and Olive Howard became Vice-President. — Beryl Latcham as

Chairman and Maida Feast as Secretary, Ivey Masterman was re-elected as Treasurer and a new committee was chosen. Florence Abell agreed to remain as collector for the charity fund which, this coming year, will be in aid of the Dellwood Hospice.

**Emmer Green  
Townswomen's  
Guild**

Mr Dickson, from Heelas' Haberdashery department was the speaker at the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild April meeting. The word Haberdasher comes from the medieval English habitats, meaning hat, cap and tassel maker. Pedlars were the very first haberdashers travelling with trays and later with pack donkeys laden with furnishing fabrics as well as dressmaking aids and trimmings, and carrying news from place to place. By the seventeenth century they had formed into a Guild which received its charter from Oliver Cromwell, thus gaining the distinction of being the only non royal Guild in existence. Mr Dickson brought many of the goods on sale in his department and explained their uses where necessary. There is a tremendous range of equipment for the home needlewoman, also the craft department is flourishing especially stocking many kits ranging from those suitable for children to the very complicated ones intended for experienced needlewomen. Miss B.

Turn to page 11

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## SAY IT WITH FLOWERS



Gaye Robinson, one of the St Peter's flower-arranging team, won second prize for her exhibit 'EASTER JOY' in an area competition.

The judge's comments are significant: 'You have given us an interpretation of the message of Eternal Life - Easter Joy - a lovely arrangement.'

Gaye's exhibit - beautifully displayed lilies beside a New Testament, a wafer on silver paten, and a cruet of Communion wine on a stone, suggestive of the empty tomb - expressed beyond words the essential Christian Gospel, which was not lost on the judge and the many visitors to the competition.

Congratulations and thanks to Gaye Robinson for floral evangelism in a secular society; in the splendid tradition of St Peter's flower-arrangers.

## CHAPLAIN CELEBRATES

The last weekend of June - St. Peter's-tide - will be a busy, exciting and exhilarating time for the Rev. and Mrs. Neville Smith. Their son Michael will be ordained deacon in Chester Cathedral before taking up

his first curacy at Wallasey. Then the Smiths rush back to Caversham for Neville's last service in Queen Anne's School Chapel, where he has been Chaplain for 17½ years. Before they retire and leave the district.

however, Neville Smith will be preaching again at St. Peter's and the couple will also be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary at St. Andrew's in July. A full appreciation will appear next month.

## AN ART SHOW FOR CAVERSHAM — CARRY ON PAINTING!

Opportunity knocks for Caversham artists to display their work in the Art Exhibition on June 23rd and 24th at the Thameside School, Harley Road, along with the Reading Caversham Academy Art Centre pupils' and tutor's work. Anyone interested should contact Ted Burnell, 478946, or send SAE to 11 Bristow Court, Harley Road, Caversham RG4 8DA.

## SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

The Group would like to thank all the people who supported them at the recent Jumble Sale and Hill School Easter Fair. £1,000 has been raised through the year and sent to the home at Nettlebed.

Petrol coupons or Green Shield stamps are

presently being collected if you have any that are not being used. Suitable gifts for tombola stalls are also needed. These can be left at Church House Caversham or with Ann Deane 168 Henley Road 473798.

## the CLUBS

From page 10

Brann gave the vote of thanks.

A successful jumble sale was held on March 31st with over £200 being raised, a large proportion of which will be donated to the Townswomen's Guilds' Tree Planting Scheme. The Berkshire Federation of Towns-women's Guilds held an art exhibition in the Henley exhibition centre and Emmer Green were well represented with some beautiful paintings and embroidered pictures on display. Mrs E. Barnes and Mrs L. Nicholson helped with the

organisation and hanging and also gave demonstrations of botanical flower painting and chinese brush painting.

The Guild were greatly saddened by the death of Miss Norah Pollard, an enthusiastic member for well over thirty years. She had been a committee member holding every job in the Guild at some time or another, her last being as chairman, which she relinquished after two and a half years in March of this year. Her enthusiasm and pleasure in living was infectious; she had a great love of gardening and of the countryside and had enjoyed being an active member of the ramblers for many years. She lived in Emmer Green all her life and had so many friends. She will be greatly missed. A collection was made at the Guild's April meeting

and the money is to be donated to the Townswomen's Guilds' Tree Planting Scheme in Miss Pollard's memory.

## Caversham Ladies Club

There was a good attendance at the Club's Easter party which Mrs Harwood opened with her usual warm welcome. Many willing hands were soon helping to lay the tables with lots of goodies members had so generously brought along. In the centre of top table was a large Easter cake made by Mrs Harwood and marzipanned in the usual Easter tradition by Mrs Queenie Strong.

Various Club items and news were discussed and the day outing to Worthing on 17th May finalised. A competition was held for a decorated egg in a basket and it was pleasant to see how many entries which gave Mrs Warman, who had kindly come along to judge, a hard task, as they all deserved a prize. Mrs P. Weston won first prize, second was Mrs J. Annetts, and third Miss P. Haikes. After judging the exhibits were spread around the table and gave a lovely spring look.

It was now time for Mrs Harwood to say grace and the party commenced with the committee waiting on members which is the usual procedure at Club parties. There was a small scale of remaining food items which helped Club funds. Members were each given an egg which has always been the custom

at the Club's Easter party. It was now nearing time to close the meeting and many willing hands helped clear away the remnants of a very enjoyable Easter afternoon party.

## Maplewood W.I.

At the April meeting members enjoyed a return visit by Mrs Meryl Beek taking her audience through another of her popular "talks on walks". This time it was "The Oldest Road" - along the Berkshire Ridgeway down through Wiltshire and Dorset to the sea at Lyme Regis.

Quite a few members attended the Spring Council Meeting at the Hexagon where, with the business part of the meeting disposed of, Mrs B. Penny entertained members with a hilarious account of "The Hazardous Life of a Speaker".

A very successful Spring Fair was held at Theale Green School on April 19th, the profits from which will go to the W.I. House Appeal Fund.

The Flower of the Month winner was Mrs V. Housedon.

## Chazey W.I.

Chazey W.I. met in March for its Annual General Meeting. The Chairman reported another successful year, though membership had fallen. Those Committee members wishing to remain were re-elected with three new members, Sue Searle, Helen Hudson and Marion Croft, join-

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