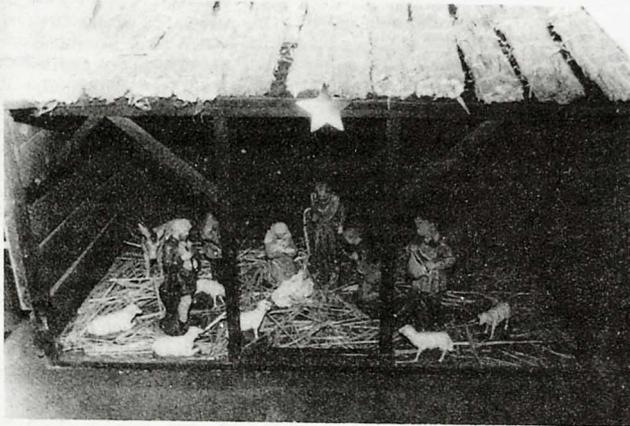


CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS



St. Andrew's Christmas Crib

-E.S. Archer

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT ON RICHES

by

JOHN MADELEY

What is *your* image of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America? Does the word *poor* sum it up? After all, when developing countries make the news it is usually because there is drought, famine, etc., and we see people on our screens who seem desperately poor.

And yet, the emergency situa-

tions apart, to think of Third World people simply as *poor* is misleading and can be quite dangerous — for us! They are certainly *resource-poor*; millions have very limited resources. But in other ways they are *rich* — rich in vitality and spirit, and in the hospitality they of-

fer. They are rich in relationships, in the way they get to know people; their communities are often truly rich places in many ways.

If we see people in the Third World as just poor, the danger is that we decide that we have nothing to learn from them. If we see them as poor in resources

but rich in other ways, then it's natural for us to feel we would like a share in that richness! So a real sharing between us becomes possible. We, in the West, would give of our material resources and be open to receive the riches of other peoples.

Sometimes when I have met people

in the Third World who have practically no resources, I have been aware that calling them *poor* just does not fit. So this is a plea — let's stop calling people *poor* and use instead the term *resource-poor*. Jesus was poor in material resources in his lifetime, but has anyone lived a richer life?

The following sums it up; it is a "Credo" that appeared in the Christian Aid magazine "Sower", and is used by the Churches Commission for Development in Bangladesh.

*"Help us to discover our own riches; don't judge us poor because we lack what you have.*

*Help us to discover our chains; Don't judge us slaves by the type of shackles you wear.*

*Be patient with us as a people; Don't judge us backward simply because we don't follow your stride*

*Be patient with our pace Don't judge us lazy simply because we can't follow your tempo.*

*Be patient with our symbols; Don't judge us ignorant because we can't read your signs*

*Be with us And proclaim the riches of your life which you can share with us.*

*Be with us and be open to what you can give*

*Be with us as a companion who walks with us—neither behind nor in front—In our search for life and ultimately for God."*



Pictured in Africa

# TALKING POINT

## AN EDITOR WRITES

### CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR.....

WE WERE sitting talking, a group of us, over lunch the other day when our conversation turned to Christmas plans and preparations. The talk was largely about what would be eaten and what course the pattern of the holiday would take. There was more than a hint of not having the traditional dishes — probably quite normal — but I was surprised when some of my companions said they couldn't face family get-togethers and preferred either to celebrate alone or to make merry with friends. There was a generation gap which for some reason or other could not be bridged. I felt sorry because to me it was unthinkable not to spend Christmas with our immediate family both young and old. While I know it is said that Christmas and holidays are two of the most stressful times in family relationships I, in my innocence, has assumed that families generally behaved in the same way as our own taking much

pleasure in the sharing of the festivities.

In our conversation I was also made aware that to many people Christmas is first and foremost a time for pleasure, for eating and drinking and making merry. I was very conscious that the Christian side to Christmas was missing.

So my lesson that day was that Christmas means different things to different people. It made me begin to think more about the festival and its meaning.

Long before the Birth of Christ pagans celebrated the Winter Solstice to mark that they were half way through the darkest period of the year and that as the days grew longer spring and summer would soon arrive. It was a time to feast and make merry. We still sometimes use the

name attached to that pre-Christian festival "Yuletide".

The Early Church, in its wisdom, took that festival and adapted it to celebrate the birth of Jesus so it became known as Christmas. I remember some years ago that people were complaining that "they were bringing religion into Christmas". In a sense they were right. The pagan festival had become a Christian celebration. To the pagan feasting and merrymaking was added the joy and hope springing from the birth of Jesus.

Both strands are still visible in Christmas celebrations today. There is great emphasis on the feasting and merrymaking, perhaps too much, so that in some ways the clock is turning full circle and the Christian aspect is in danger of being squeezed out. We can exhaust our energies on the preparation for the festivities and partying. Then having got that over we start thinking about our summer holidays. Those Christmas celebrations become an end in themselves.

We must not forget the other side which dwells on the arrival of Christ into the world and look forward to the Resurrection, the victory of life over death, celebrated at Easter. Such celebrations are the beginning of the Christian pilgrimage through the coming year. As we celebrate that beginning we celebrate the fact that our Christian faith offers us a new beginning, a chance to throw off the burden of the old life and welcome the freshness of the new.

"On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels brings" A Happy Christmas to you all!

# ONE WORLD WEEK IN CAVERSHAM

EIGHTY children from Caversham Churches had an exciting day at Caversham Baptist Church on the Wednesday of One World Week 'speaking up for tomorrow's world'. They spoke up in a variety of ways. Some were engaged in making two collages, one illustrating by their drawings the things which they liked in today's world and another which depicted the bad things which they hoped would be gone by the time they were grown up! Some went into Caversham to photograph examples of conservation and of waste. Others made glove puppets with which they enacted playlets in which the evil people who would destroy the world by war or pollution were soundly trounced by those who would save it.

The climax of the day was the colourful release of balloons which carried Baptist Free Churches, skywards, and at least as far as Derbyshire from which one was returned, tags on Caversham'.

which the children had written their hopes for tomorrow's world.

On the following Sunday, October 28th, it was the turn of their elders to speak up. This they did at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, voicing their views on the environment and on Third World issues and working with the children in role play and learning games. In the Act of worship which ended the day there was an unexpected item — the appearance of a wasteful and polluting dragon with twenty four small legs visible below its garish cardboard box torso — which reformed its ways when it learnt the children's wishes for the world!

Planning for One World Week in Caversham was done by an ecumenical group drawn from St Peter's, St Andrew's, Caversham Heights Methodist, Caversham Park & Caversham Baptist Free Churches, now working together under the banner of 'Churches Together in Caversham'.



Elizabeth Pannell with her balloon

M. Allies

## CAVERSHAM CLERGY

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

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Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd, Tel: 472788.

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The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road, Tel: 472070.

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The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue, Tel: 474138.

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(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Tel: 723418.

## OBITUARY

Mr Alfred Holt

THERE are still a few members of St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham who remember Mr Alfred Holt and there must be even more in the Cromwell Road area of Caversham where Mr Holt lived for many, many years. All will be saddened to hear of his death in October.

From the nineteen thirties Alfred Holt was organist at Mapledurham and for almost forty years he cycled along the Warren from Caversham twice every Sunday, rain or shine, to play for Matins and Evensong. This was a remarkable achievement for the Warren was not such an easy road to traverse

in some parts as it is today and many would have given up this weekly commitment in less than half that time. It was only in the last few years that Mr Holt was sometimes taken to and fro by car. During his early years as organist he was also a member of the Parochial Church Council. For many years after his retirement from British Rail and the loss of his wife Alfred Holt lived quietly at his home in Cromwell Road with his beloved cat. It was always a pleasure to meet him when shopping in Caversham and have a chat. I shall miss him and I know a lot of other people will too. M.K.

## POST BAG

Dear Editor

May I correct you on a small matter in your otherwise splendid article regarding Mapledurham Parish Celebration (November Caversham Bridge)?

The Barbecue was wholly organised by Mrs Knee-Robinson on behalf of and as a member of MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL (Mrs Knee-Robinson is not a member of St Margaret's Church Council). The Cost of the food and fuel was paid for by the Parish Council together with a very generous contribution

made by Mr Eyston.

St Margaret's Church Council or St Peter Caversham and St Margaret Mapledurham Parish Church Council were in no way involved.

You should correct this false impression for posterity, otherwise, as has occurred thus far, people may question how the PCC financed such a feast! Yours etc Keith Knee-Robinson Church Warden, The Parish Church of St Margaret Mapledurham 8 Hewett Close Caversham

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

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All contributions for Jan issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 28 Nov. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 26 Nov. The dates for Feb will be Monday 7 Jan and Wednesday 9 January.

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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# NATURE WATCH

WE HAVE, in our little wood, trees that are suitable for coppicing, ash, hazel, hornbeam. That is to say, they can be cut down during winter to near ground level to produce new shoots from the stump. This new growth, after several years will provide stakes, posts and poles for various uses. In the case of the ash, crook handled walking sticks are made, as also are shafts for axe and hammer, the wood being both tough and flexible, thus eliminating shock to the hand when the tools are used. They also make good clothes props. We have one, cut from a neighbour's wood, ten feet long to the fork that we've had in use for forty years; and it was the six foot long ash quarterstaff that Robin Hood and his merry men used in sport and combat.

Woods of hornbeam were widely planted and coppiced in the Thames Valley and in Kent to provide household firewood. It was made up into faggots, the thickness of a man's body and four feet long, bound round the

length of split hazel which were chopped up into suitable lengths for the kitchen fire, using a handbill and chopping block. My Saturday morning task when a boy was to chop up a whole faggot to last the week, taking fifteen to thirty minutes to complete according to the speed and willingness at which one worked. Faggots were bought from the woodman in any quantity according to the space available for stacking.

In those far-off days it was necessary to keep an eye on them. As November 5th, Guy Fawkes day approached, and farmers brought their waggon loads of hedge cuttings for the communal bonfire on the village green, a stolen faggot or two would help the blaze. Men in small groups would come to people's homes after darkness had fallen and recite the doggeral, in gruff tones: "Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gun powder, treason and plot," etc., finishing with "Please, master, give us one, we'll

steal 'em all", accompanied with the thumping of wooden staves on the ground. A knock on the door for a donation to buy fireworks, or a drink! Hornbeam when fully grown is very hard, and was used in the past to make ox yokes, and today, butchers' chopping blocks.

The hazel provides good bean sticks, though string for the plants to climb up is taking their place, especially for townsfolk. Forked hazel sticks are still used in thatching cottages. An old craft, now died out, was the making of wooden clothes pegs by the travelling gypsies. They were made from six inch lengths of hazel, cut from copse or hedge, split down the middle, the two inner sides chamfered at one end to form the fork, then bound together with a strip of tin and fastened with a rivet. They were then pegged side by side on a strip of split hazel and hawked from door to door by the women, carried in wide open baskets, and many were the pegs my mother bought from them.

NO DOUBT this year's long hot summer contributed to the large number of flower paintings exhibited at the sixth successive art exhibition to be held by the Associates of Reading Guild of Artists at the Arther Legge Centre, Caversham on 13th and 14th October.

Eighty paintings were hung or exhibited unframed and while oils, acrylics, pastels and pen and wash were the mediums used, water colours predominated.

Judged by Jack Orford and Sam Akers (Chairman of the Guild) as a worthy winner of the Jack Earl Rosebowl, was Christine A Deeks whose "Roses for Mum" consisted of a bowl of full blown roses in well controlled water colour. Runners up were Susan Stockwell with a sensitively painted water colour of a tabby cat and further study of a tortoiseshell cat. Also highly commended was Mrs M. Gardner's pastoral scene entitled "Old Horse, Dial Post, Sussex" and Olive Dancer's vivid acrylic painting "Impression of a Scottish Autumn".

S.G. Cox demonstrated his mastery of "wet on wet" technique in an autumnal scene featuring the River Pang, and of Windsor Castle, while Sheila Watts had admirably portrayed an atmospheric storm in "Clouds Over Ramsey Island".

Josefn Whitfield is to be commended on her versatility in painting a haughty cockerel, and in contrast a striking pot of white cyclamen. An obvious skill in handling water colours allied to an understanding of the growth of flowers and plants was visible in the flower paintings of Judith Maycock, Josephine Davies, Christine Walters and others in the unframed section. Bearing an 'untouched look' were the fragile Shirley Poppies by Angela Small and exquisite sweet peas painted by Josephine Drew.

Ella Ward usually manages to get convincing countryside and farmyard scenes using pastel and her four entries were no exception. Brian Fowler had painted a single

## READING GUILD OF ARTISTS ASSOCIATES' EXHIBITION....



At the Art Exhibition

- E.S. Archer

specimen rose and in contrast, Old Houses at Whitchurch with mellowed walls. Keith Newton's two "Mosquitos" airborne against an azure sky, were set above a patchwork of fields, his "Tin mine at Botallack" in softer mood on a Cornish cliff. Pen and wash was used effectively by W. Knapp for scenes of Caversham and churches nearby, and local points of interest were contained in Noel Pearce's accurate water colours on a small scale. A successful exhibition at which over twenty paintings were sold and which was well attended by the general public. E.M.F.



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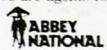

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### CAVERSHAM CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

This is to announce that the Christmas Holiday Activity and Storyline etc. will be held at the Children's Library on Friday, 4th January from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Come and join us - see Caversham Library for full details. Also - just to remind you - 'STORYTIME' takes place in the Children's Library every Thursday from 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come and join in!

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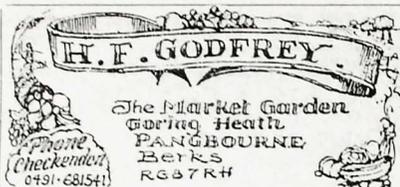
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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

EVEN THOUGH I don't get around as much as I did, I'm glad that Caversham retains much of its old character. As a friend said recently, where else could you walk down the street and be greeted, more often than not, by enquiries about you and your family. Alas many people in this mobile society don't stay long enough to appreciate it, but many do, and memories are long when it comes to old friends.

## LECKY AND VIVA STANSFELD-TAYLOR

I'm sure I'm not the only one who was saddened to hear of Lecky's death in the local press. There will be many tributes paid to him; he served on both the County and Borough Council for many years and was governor of several local schools, including Queen Anne's. My own special memory of him is of how well he cared for Viva for several years; they both worked at the Monitoring Service but, alas, Viva, a much-liked member of staff, became a victim of Alzheimer's disease soon after retirement and nursing such a person is the hardest job in the world, particularly having to cope with the change in character of the person affected. Lecky, or William to give him his proper name, managed very well for a long time, still keeping up some of his many outside activities, until the opportunity came for them to retire to Newton Abbot where, as he said, Viva was at least able to meet other people. She died in July this year and, alas, Lecky a few months later. A sad ending but both Lecky and Viva, who met and married while in the diplomatic service in Moscow, did have many years of happy and fulfilled living. To Lecky I can only think of the tribute: "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

## NEW FRIENDS

I don't find it easy to make new friends these days mainly because I'm less involved with outside activities, and sometimes feel that I also am gradually losing old friends. It was in one such mood of depression on a day recently that I quite accidentally met two ladies who I would like to call friends, though I doubt if we shall meet each other much.

The first, a lass of American extraction, Mary Lou by name, has apparently lived with her English husband in Caversham for two years and loves the place. I have seldom met anyone quite so outgoing, eager to talk about everything and everybody, and I hope we shall meet again.

A few hours later, over a meal in a local cafe, I met Audrey, who told me she worked for a long while at the Arthur Clarke Home and now lives in a wardenised flat in Caversham, which she likes very much. Having written about the Home many years ago in my early days of reporting on people and places, we had much to talk about and paid tribute to the lady who used to be superintendent there — I believe her name was Mrs. Davidson — with the help of her husband, she made the home a happy and efficient place for many years and I was saddened to hear news of her husband's death some years ago.

So while I find chance encounters like these, I shall continue to be grateful for living here.

## SHOPPING — A DIFFICULTY

We've always been thankful that, quite by accident when we came to Caversham, we found a house so near the shops. I moan, of course, and could wish we had one or two more small grocers shops, but I just hadn't realised how difficult it was for many until I recently met a lady, well into her eighties, struggling with shopping in Church Street. She lives at the far end of Lower Caversham and tells me she has to come this way to shop unless she goes into Reading, not an easy journey at her age. That area of Caversham has recently become extremely bereft of even daily need shops. Unfortunately I don't know the answer, though a friend who does a lot of local visiting, tells me that an East/West Caver-

sham bus service would help.

## THINGS TO DO

I've just been collecting up a plethora of pamphlets on events in the area and am amazed at how much there is to do; alas, so many of us, myself included, no longer venture out much at nights. But I enjoyed attending Caversham Library one lunch-time in October to hear actor Richard Wood, as part of the 1990 Berkshire Literature Festival, read from the works of Oscar Wilde. I'm only sorry I missed his previous readings, as I'm told he has done several in recent years.

He gave us to begin with extracts from Wilde's lesser known works, but the second half was taken up with a long extract from the Ballad of Reading Gaol. Poetry should be heard, not read — I've known the poem for many years but never fully appreciated the depth of feeling it portrays. Richard is to be congratulated. It can't be easy reading to a small audience; as he said himself it's easier on stage where you can't clearly see the audience. But he gave of his best. A short but very pleasant interlude in the daily round of chores; I'll certainly watch out for anything like that in future.

## WHO I'M AGAINST.....

I don't know if the editors will permit the publication of this paragraph; it's up to them. But having just been accused of being selfish for refusing to pay the poll tax, I would like to clear up a few points. Far from being selfish, it's just because some of us feel so strongly about the iniquity of such a tax that we must take action. We shall probably end up with problems and certainly, alas, will end up paying more than our more law-abiding neighbours, but protest we must and protest we will, on behalf of the many for whom the tax is a make or break affair. I was in court recently and was very saddened to hear such heart-breaking stories. More than one person simply said: "Well, how can I pay?" Alas the answer to this wasn't the responsibility of the court. But how can you pay if you

are unemployed, really old or just poor.

And in case you wonder what good all this protesting will do, I should remind readers that the last time a Poll Tax — even the media have given up using the cover-up term 'Community Charge' — was

imposed on this country, although Wat Tyler and many others lost their lives, the tax was defeated. That was in the fourteenth century and as far as I know no attempt at imposing a poll tax in this country has ever been tried till now. I leave it with you.

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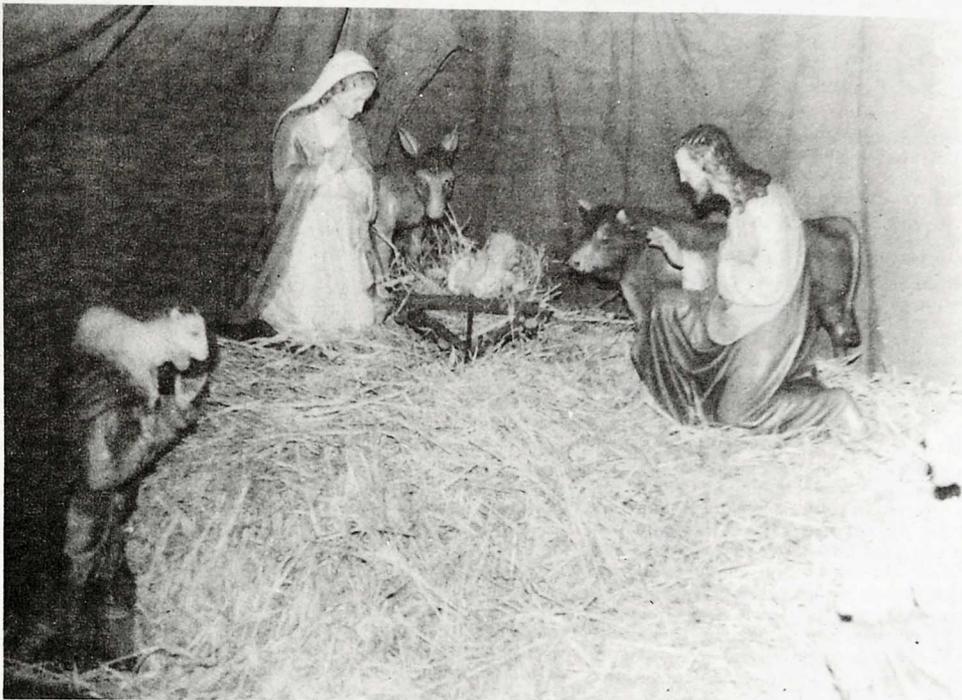
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# Joyous Christmas Greetings to all our Readers

## HAIL THE HEAVEN BORN PRINCE OF PEACE



Christmas Crib from St. Anne's

E.S. Archer

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<b>ST PETER'S</b> Sunday 23rd December Christmas Eve	6.30pm 4.00pm 11.30pm	CAROL SERVICE (traditional lessons and Carols) Crib/Christingle Service (for children of all ages) MIDNIGHT MASS and Carols	<b>CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL</b> Sunday, 16th December	10.30am	Family Christmas Service (in The Hill Primary School)
Christmas Day	8.00am 9.15am 11.15am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) FAMILY COMMUNION and Carols Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	Christmas Day	6.00pm 10.30am	Family Christmas Praise (at The Chapel) Family Worship (in The Chapel)
<b>ST JOHN'S</b> Sunday 16th December	8.00 9.15 11.00	Holy Communion (1662) Parish Communion Family Worship/Activities	<b>CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Sunday, 16th December	10.45am	Family Christmas Service (at Mapledurham Pavilion)
Saturday 22nd December	6.30	Informal worship in Church	Christmas Day	6.00pm 10.45am	Family Christmas Praise (at The Chapel) Family Worship (at Mapledurham Pavilion)
Sunday 23rd December	6.00 8.00 9.15 6.30	Carol Singing around the parish (meet in church) Holy Communion (1662) Holy Communion (said) Carols Service	<b>CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH</b> Thursday, 6th December	7.00pm	Girls' Brigade Christmas Musical
Christmas Eve	4.00 11.30	Carols and Christingles Midnight Mass	Sunday, 9th December	11.00am	Toy and Gift Service
Christmas Day	8.00 10.00	Holy Communion (1662) Family Communion	Sunday, 16th December	4.00am	Christingle Service
		Short quiet services will be held on the 26th (St Stephen's Day), 27th (St John's Day) and 28th (Holy Innocents) at 10.00am.	Sunday, 23rd December	11.00am	Visit of Rev. Nigel Collinson, Chairman, Methodist District
<b>ST ANDREW'S</b> Christmas Eve	9.30am 4.00pm 11.30pm	The Eucharist Children's Crib Services The First Eucharist of Christmas	Christmas Eve	11.15pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	8.00am 10.00am	The Eucharist Family Eucharist (Young people and visiting relations are especially welcome)	Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 30th December (1st after Christmas)		Besides the normal Sunday services there will be a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm	Sunday, 30th December	11.00am	Service of Lessons and Carols
<b>ST BARNABAS</b> Sunday 23rd December Christmas Eve	4.30pm 4.30pm 11.30pm	Carol Service with music group and choir Crib Service MIDNIGHT COMMUNION	Sunday, 6th January	11.00am	Annual Covenant Service
Christmas Day	8.00am 9.30am	Said Communion (1662) FAMILY COMMUNION	<b>CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH, GOSBROOK ROAD</b> Sunday, December 2nd	11.00am	Toy Service, Sister Marian Stanley
<b>ST MARGARET'S</b> Sunday 23rd December Christmas Eve	6.30pm 2.30pm 11.30pm	Carol Service Christingle Crib Service MIDNIGHT MASS and Carols	Sunday, December 9th	3.00pm	Reading & District Battalion Boys Brigade Junior Section Carol Service
Christmas Day	11.00am	FAMILY COMMUNION and Carols	Friday, December 14th	8.00pm	Christmas Get-Together
<b>CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH</b> Sunday 23rd December Christmas Eve	11.00am 11.30pm	Carol Service Midnight Eucharist	Sunday, December 16th	6.30pm	"Christmas Radiance" A Service for Everyone
Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Worship	Thursday, December 20th	7.30pm	Sunshine Girls Christmas Evening
<b>CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH</b> Sunday, 9th December	10.30am	Toy Service	Sunday, December 23rd	11.00am	Children's Christmas Celebration
Sunday, 16th December	6.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service	Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Carol Service
Sunday, 23rd December	4.30-5.00pm	Carols outside the church (followed by soup and sandwiches)	Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service
Christmas Day	5.30-6.00pm 10.30-11.15am	Carols in the church Morning Service	<b>SOCIETY OF FRIENDS</b> Sunday, 23rd December Christmas Day	4.00pm 10.30am	Christmas carols and tea Meeting for Worship
			<b>PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST. ANNE</b> Sunday December 9th	3.00pm	A Christmas Festival in aid of the 'Save the Children' Fund - Ecumenical
			Monday December 24th	10.00am	Mass at both Churches. Confessions as announced. Midnight Mass at St Anne's. Carols from 11.00pm Midnight Mass at the Heights Chapel. Carols from 11.30pm.
			Christmas Day		Mass at St Anne's at 9 and 11am Mass at the Heights Chapels at 8.30 and 10.30 No other Masses during the Day
			Wednesday 26th December	10.00am 11.00am	Mass at the Heights Chapel Mass at St Anne's Both Masses will be for the Altar Servers on their Feast Day of St. Stephen
			<b>ST. PAUL'S URC, YORK ROAD</b> Sunday, 16th December	11.00am	Gift and Parade Service
			Friday, 21st December	7.30pm	Carol Concert
			Sunday, 23rd December	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
			Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Carol Singing in the neighbourhood
			Christmas Day	10.00am	Festival Service
			Monday, 31st December	9.00pm	New Year's Eve social followed by 11.30pm Watchnight service

Tuesday, 18th December, 4.30-6.00pm, Carol singing at Reading Station organised by the Central Reading Churches. Collections to be divided between the Reading Drop-in Centre and Sue Ryder Homes. (NB The Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre for the Homeless is always in need of clothing, tinned food, money. Please contact Christine Croker 421627 or Constance Gooding 507892 for further details).

## ROUND THE CHURCHES

# NEWS FROM ST BARNABAS

AFTER THE quiet of the summer months, Autumn arrived at St Barnabas with something of a bang! Notably in the shape of Harvest and the traditional Harvest Festival Supper with which it is associated. The Harvest Service itself was a most joyful occasion, with the new music group giving old songs a new lease of life and broadening the repertoire of new ones. "Fear not, rejoice and be glad", with choir and music group performing together was quite lovely. It was also good to see the church looking so full, not a spare pew in sight, packed as it was with children, mums and dads,

Brownies, Guides and its regular congregation. It was nice to join together, new faces and old, in the Harvest worship. The Harvest Festival Supper had also been something of a bumper feast, numbers rising from sixty-five on the Wednesday evening to eighty-five on the night. This provided little difficulty for the now experienced catering team, who have always maintained a flexible policy regarding quantity! Rather like the five loaves and three fishes, the carrot and orange soup seemed to go on for ever in spite of many people returning for seconds, as did the meat roll en croute.

Food over, there was then fine entertainment from the St Barnabas Youth Group and the Reading Light Operatic Society Concert Party. On Sunday November 4th St Barnabas also celebrated the commissioning of its Pastoral Link Visitors. The Visiting Scheme at St Barnabas has now been active for some three years and helps to forge links of care, love and friendship between members of the congregation. The Revd Eric Essery, Rural Dean of Reading, came to commission the visitors and gave a very warm and lovely sermon on the theme of using one's talents, reminding the congregation that

everyone, whoever they were, had talents which could be used in God's service. "Talents" were very much to the fore, when during the same service Nigel presented Jean Carroll with a small token in appreciation of her ten year stint as Sunday School Organiser — a job which Jean did with love, commitment and dedication.

Looking towards Christmas, plans are already in progress for the Christmas Fayre in early December, and a small team is already at work, preparing the Family Service for Advent Sunday. But more of that in the next issue.

# GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

AUTUMN has really arrived and all the beech trees around the north of Caversham are looking beautiful once again. The sun shining through the beech leaves is a wonderful sight.

Some wonderful and lovely things have been happening at Caversham Methodist Church, and we rejoice in them. The church had a visit from The Praisemakers from Truro in Cornwall. Their singing and sense of fellowship will remain with us for a long time.

The Praisemakers are a 50 strong singing fellowship of young people. They arrived on the Thursday afternoon of half term to begin their tour of this area. That night they sang at High Wycombe Methodist Church, and on the Friday they went to join friends at Henley. Caversham was their base for the whole tour and a packed church enjoyed their Saturday night concert. The

Praisemakers also led the Sunday Morning Service which was a time of joy and reverence. After lunch it was time to say goodbye and off on the way home, with a stop in Plymouth Central Hall. A lovely week end, may it be repeated.

The Annual Gift took place in October, and friends enjoyed an evening meal where the speaker was the Rev. Richard Kingsbury, and naturally a good time was had by all. Over £1,800 was raised for Gift day funds.

The Sunshine girls went to Bradfield to entertain at the joint Methodist/Anglican Women's Fellowship. This was a good afternoon and enjoyed by both singers and audience. The girls also enjoyed a trip to The Hexagon, when they went to see 'Half a Sixpence' performed by The Sainsbury Singers. Having learnt some of the songs it gave added

pleasure to see the songs in the context of the musical.

Many many congratulations are in order for The Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corps. On Sunday November 4th they took part in the finals of The British Youth Band Championships. The Ambassadors were in the Championship Class and delighted themselves and their loyal supporters by winning the contest, and so The Ambassadors are National B.Y.B.C. Championship Class winners. A tremendous effort and the Church is quite rightly proud of all of them.

Again, CONGRATULATIONS. Also Congratulations to Clare Ault on her marriage to Mark. Clare looked beautiful, and many friends enjoyed a special marriage service.

Through these pages we wish to record love and Christmas greetings to all the Caversham Bridge readers.



St Barnabas' Harvest. Junior Church sing. Right Elizabeth Gash the preacher, left John Evans Drummer.

### THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 6th January (THE EPIPHANY) 3.00pm United Service of Epiphany Praise at Caversham Park Church, celebrating anniversary of the signing of the ecumenical COVENANT, for all Caversham and Mapledurham Christians.

## ST. ANNE'S NEWS

AS ALWAYS, there is a mixture of good and bad in any account of Parish events or news.

The bad news, to get it over first, is that there is no possibility in the near future that we will be able to provide a Nursery School for Children aged three to five.

Despite the big demand in Caversham generally, and in the Parish in particular, the Department of Education and Science has become alarmed at the proportion of the Educational Budget which is being devoted to Nursery Schools, and has halted developments in this branch of Education.

It may be possible that other ways could be found to look after this section of our population, and we are considering these carefully.

The good news is that the Parish will be hosting the 'Save the Children' Christmas Festival, on Sunday 9th December, at St Anne's Church at 3pm. This was an event which was warmly appreciated last year, when it was held at St Peter's.

No doubt other details will be noted in other places in this edition, but we are all looking forward to another splendid occasion.

## CAVERSHAM DIARY

Saturday Dec. 8th 2.30pm Christmas Fair at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green.

Sunday Dec. 9th 3.00pm Ecumenical 'Christmas Festival' at St Anne's Church for Save the Children Fund.

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## ROUND THE CHURCHES

# WHAT A GRAND SEND-OFF!!

SUNDAY the 21st October saw the Celebratory Eucharist, followed by a lunch, for Peter and Sybil Holbrook prior to their move to Tiverton. We called it a Celebration as a 'Thankyou' for all that they have done and been in Caversham, for the joys, sorrows, fun times and deeply spiritual times shared over the past sixteen years.

Many friends from the other churches in Caversham and Mapledurham swelled the numbers of Caversham Park's own congregation, and in spite of several families being on holiday, the hall was full.

Peter gave the Sermon, and it was his last one as a resident Reader in Caversham Park. He took as his text a reading from the Epistle to the Philippians, chapter 1, and likened Caversham Park Church to the

church at Philippi. St Paul spoke of the joy in the Philippian church, and Peter said how he and Sybil had received joy; joy in the church family linked together in Christ, in the discovery and growth of faith, in fellowship together, in the open door of Christian welcome and hospitality and in the joy of Christian love as we serve God together. St Paul, in the Epistle, mentions partnership and its importance in a community. Peter said how he had found Caversham Park worked in partnership within itself, with the other churches in the L.E.P. and with the other churches in Caversham. As St Paul hoped the Philippians would grow in ever greater knowledge and perception, so Peter hoped Caversham Park Church would continue to grow in its knowledge and love of God and for others. Also that we should live not for our own credit, but to bring

glory and honour to God.

He then spoke about the word Shalom (a great favourite and much loved word by Peter and Sybil), found in the opening sentences of the Epistle. He told us how it meant more than 'Peace', it meant total wholeness and fulfilment that comes from harmony; harmony with God, harmony with others, harmony with the environment and harmony with oneself. These things are hard to achieve, but we must strive to attain them and live in love and harmony as Christ taught us, so that everyone may experience the 'oneness' of Shalom. Shalom is also used to express farewell - a blessing for the future. It gives us an anticipation and a hope that the future is in God's hands. He ended with a quote from Walter Brigaman - 'The origin and destiny of God's peo-

ple is to be on the road to Shalom; which is to live with joyous memories and towards greater satisfaction and anticipation'.

We all then shared in the taking of the Bread and Wine, during which we sang several much loved Gospel songs.

After the service more folk arrived and we were soon tucking in to a sumptuous meal, provided by the members of Caversham Park Church. Towards the end of lunch, John Wilson and I presented Peter and Sybil with a 'tangible' gift of a bird bath and a cheque. We also presented them with a large card (drawn by Ella Rozdolska) and signed by all the congregation and friends from other churches and also a beautiful dried flower arrangement (made by Pat Gray) was given to Sybil.

Peter and Sybil have certainly given us many joyous memories. I know they look forward with anticipation to their move to Tiverton, and we pray they will receive satisfaction as they do the work I am sure the Lord has for them in that place.  
**SHALOM!!**  
Paula Andrews

Presentation to Peter and Sybil Holbrook

Photo: E. S. Archer



Reading Operatic Society Concert Party entertain at St Barnabas Harvest Supper.

## READING DEANERY

**DAY OF PRAYER for the DECADE OF EVANGELISM**  
IN preparation for the Decade of Evangelism a Day of Prayer is to be held on Saturday, 8th December at Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading, in which it is hoped that members from every Church in the Deanery will attend for at least some part of the day. Bishop John will be leading two of the Sessions.

Times and Themes are:

Time	Led by	Theme
10.00-11.00am	Bishop John	with Keynote address
11.00-11.45am	Centre East Group	I AM the Way
11.45-12.30pm	Tilehurst Group	I am the Light of the World
12.30-1.15pm	Caversham Group	I am the Bread of Life
1.15-1.30pm	Preparation for Holy Communion	
1.30-2.15pm	Bishop John	Celebration of Holy Communion
2.15-3.00pm	Reading South Group	I am the Good Shepherd
3.00-3.45pm	Earley/Woodley Group	I am the Vine
3.45-4.30pm	Centre West Group	I am the Resurrection and the Life
4.30-5.00pm	Rural Dean	Evening Office

Coffee and tea will be available. A light Lunch-time snack may be obtained at Greyfriars Centre at a small cost or you may bring your own refreshments.

Kindly note, car parking will not be available at the Church.



## ST. ANDREWS Fellowship

ST Andrew's tryside were Fascinating and the members were transported to Borneo at their October meeting when Mr Ken and Mrs Doreen Bennett showed the large and appreciative audience slides which covered several visits to their daughter who lives and works there. The flowers, interest their talk animals and coun-

tryside were Fascinating and the members were transported to the large modern city where Liz had her bungalow and the rain forest just a few miles outside was startling. The great number of questions which were fired at the Bennetts afterwards showed how much had inspired.

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

### WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Five tonnes of litter is picked up from the town centre every Saturday; two or three tonnes is collected every other day. On six nights of the week the town centre is given a thorough cleaning and then four times a day refuse collectors go round picking up rubbish and emptying the litter bins. The town centre certainly looks cleaner for it but given the huge amount that is being dropped all the time at no point can it look pristine, except perhaps at about six in the morning when there aren't many of us about to see it.

The rest of the town is not neglected. District shopping areas are swept daily, including private forecourts such as St. Martin's. The principal routes into the town are swept twice a week and their bins are also emptied. Gullies are cleaned out twice a year and towpaths get two cleans a year which does not seem much but most of them are included in parks which get their own maintenance. All this costs Reading Borough Council £1,067,688 per annum.

This was some of the information given to his listeners by Ian Keys of the Borough's Environmental Maintenance Services at a meeting organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association on the subject of keeping the town clean and tidy. Unfortunately it was less well attended than CDRA meetings usually are, perhaps because of a change from the usual day and venue, for Mr. Keys had a lot of important facts and figures to give, which affect the lives of each and every one of us. These are problems that will have to be tackled before they get out of hand, so the opportunity will be used to air a few of them in this column. Readers who were present at the meeting can skip the whole of this section and read about flowers further on.

In spite of all this clearing up, the Council still gets between 2,500 and 3,000 complaints a year about street maintenance. It would be possible to do more, but it would cost money and could be the final expen-

diture leading to poll tax capping. However, other steps are being taken. Dirty, as opposed to litter-strewn, streets are looked on with distaste by those members of the public who don't cause it, so £4,000 goes on washing the streets six times a year mainly outside the winter months when it is left to the rain. Most people would agree this is money well spent.

When the County Council, who, it must be remembered, is responsible for the disposal but not the collection of refuse, decided to withdraw funding from the Hod-soll Road tip, the Borough took it over as it is much used by people living in all those areas of the town, such as Caversham, which are a long way from Smallmead. This tip takes the kind of rubbish, including garden rubbish, which otherwise might just get dumped. CFC gases are also removed from fridges, numbering between fifty and a hundred a month, that get taken there, so all in all it is a worthwhile undertaking but its cost is currently running at £38,376 per annum.

Bulky items that cannot be carried to the tip by car are collected free from premises as is chemical waste which could present a health risk if just left for normal collection. Medical waste comprises a large part of this. Surprisingly there are 52,000 calls to premises a year for this.

When the whole lot of this is added up it comes to £1,858,528 per annum, a pretty hefty sum to clean up a load of old rubbish. Is there any way of reducing it? A lot of it is unavoidable, however clean and tidy we might all become, but a sizeable saving could be made if habits were changed and certain measures taken.

### PLUMBING

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As far as habits go, dropping litter into bins instead of on the streets, makes cleaning it up easier, so less costly, as well as improving the appearance of the streets. Recently large bins have been installed around the town centre. The Civic Society suggested them, largely on grounds of appearance, but they have brought far more advantages than just their looks. Because they stand out, people actually use them, whereas they seemed not to notice the plastic ones that hung on lamp-posts. Moreover they are practically vandal-proof so the local lads can't kick them to pieces without hurting themselves, nor set them on fire. They were not cheap to buy but the extra expenditure is proving itself to be justified.

### RECYCLING AND RE-USE

Re-cycling is another answer to the problem of litter, and here Reading is one of the leaders on the field with many collecting points for glass, cans and wastepaper. Every month SWAG (paper) collections reach 85 tonnes, glass 80 tonnes and cans 6 tonnes. However, before glowing with righteousness as we dutifully make our contributions to these totals, a few points should be borne in mind.

In the case of paper, whilst re-cycling is obviously better than burning it or just putting it in the dustbin, the cost of waste paper fluctuates and when, as is currently the case, it has dropped from £18 to £4 per tonne, the only reason it produces a profit is because volunteers man the skips. Glass has a very limited use once it is broken up. It cannot be used to make more bottles.

What then, are the answers? Paper is used too freely and extravagantly. We have only to think of the constant flow that comes through our doors. Some of it can be re-used: a lot goes straight into the bin or to await the journey to the SWAG collection. The only answer for glass is re-usable bottles, but whilst other countries can do this, here manufacturers have firmly set their

faces against it. It may seem cheaper to discard all glass bottles but somewhere along the line someone is picking up the bill, and it is not only a money bill.

Plastic, most of it non bio-degradable and unreuseable, is one of the worst constituents of the rubbish problems. Burning it only produces toxic fumes so it will hang around for centuries. It is to be found everywhere, washed up on sea shores, clogging rivers and estuaries, clinging to the sides of motorways and making up a great part of the rubbish in our bins. Over packaging accounts for a lot of it, and the individual can help by declining to buy over-packaged goods, declining plastic bags at the checkout where they are not necessary for protection, and re-using plastic bags until they end up as bin liners. However, one of the greatest savings can

be made at source and local authorities are coming round to the idea of pin-pointing the worst offenders which could do much to start a move away from over-packaging.

At a recent litter pick-up in Reading town centre, initiated by the Civic Society, an analysis of the rubbish collected showed that the largest amount came from fast food and the next largest was plastic of various types, apart from fast food. The name most prominent in both these heaps was, surprise, surprise, St Michael. M and S appear to think over packaging shows a concern for customer care. They had better think again.

Ian Keys dealt chiefly with the work of his department in collecting rubbish, though he also dealt with the ef-

Turn to Page 9



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## RICH HARVEST FOR LEPROSY MISSION

Tom Allsopp has raised over one hundred pounds for the Leprosy Mission with his sponsored pumpkin. Tom (aged 11) grew the pumpkin on a well manured patch

in his garden in Ilkley Road and, in spite of this summer's drought conditions, its circumference reached a very creditable fifty and a half inches! Members of the con-

gregations at St Peter's and St Margaret's provided sponsorship and the pumpkin is now entered in the Leprosy Mission's "Biggest Pumpkin in the Land" competition.



Tom and the prize pumpkin.

David N. Allsopp

### From Page 8

fects of vandalism, which included broken pavements from vehicles parked on them by people who would not consider themselves vandals, although the bill is more than that from damage done by loutish vandals. Neither did he deal with the disposal of all this rubbish, as this is the responsibility of the County. However, as sites get filled up, the matter of stopping this constant flow of rub-

bish becomes ever more important.

### READING IN BLOOM

All is not gloom when we have Reading in Bloom, and at the prize awarding ceremony for this, enhancement was the order of the day. Although Caversham itself did not particularly cover itself with glory, two gardens along the Warren won the first and second prize in the riverside

section, and the floral display over the shops in Church Street on the Hemdean Road corner was awarded a well deserved prize. Immediately across the river, Honda's garden gained a prize, whilst along Caversham Road, the Rainbow Corner Hotel's careful year-round display received recognition as did that if TGI Friday where, even if the idea of eating on the edge of a roundabout doesn't exactly grab you, the plants are meticulously cared for.

### W.H. TEE

Harry Tee, to whom tribute has been paid elsewhere, was not only what the local press liked to call 'Reading's supremo' but was also a resident of Caversham, and District Residents' Association. He always seemed to enjoy opportunities of meeting people and to relish the challenge of speaking to a body of people who did not always agree with him.

He was a great believer in the importance of local government because it works at a level which has the most immediate effect on people's daily lives. This is not the place to speculate on his attitude to its erosion over the last decade.

### BUGS BOTTOM

There is little change in the position regarding Bugs Bottom as it waits its turn for a hearing in the Court of Appeal. Money raising activities continue to go ahead and cheques are still arriving. Something in the order of £5,000 is still needed.

So many people have signed the petition that transporting it to London to present to Christopher Patten poses something of a problem. The plan therefore is to put it into a vintage car and push it there. The dates are 8-9 December. David Bellamy has promised to give it a push if he is available on that date. Anyone who would like to help, contact Peter Watsham at 159 Kidmore Road (Tel: 478744) who is also ready to receive cheques, payable to Bugs Bottom Action Group.

## BROWNIE GUIDE NEWS

Over one hundred Brownies gathered from Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park, dressed as Cowboys (or should it be Cowgirls) and Indians, to take part in their annual Brownie Revels. This event was held on 22nd September, at St John's Guide Headquarters, and was reckoned by all to be the 'best ever'. They energetically played games, had a picnic lunch, and spent the afternoon making real feather Indian head-dresses, bracelets, and wigwams, and

miniature totem poles, and 'working' model horses. They finished the day with a sing-song and went home in high spirits. The time and effort put in by the Brownie Guiders and helpers was well worth while and much appreciated.

There are seven Brownie units in this area, but only a few vacancies, so telephone 477860, 477021 or 482386 urgently if you wish to join. Anyone over the age of eighteen years, do not wait to be asked, come and help us — and join in the fun.

## NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

Harry Tee often said that his ambition has always been to be a Town Clerk. In Reading he was able to exercise this office which was combined with that of Chief Executive during the years he held that position.

The recent house-to-house collection for NCH in the Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park areas raised £3,309. This will be used to support over two hundred projects throughout Great Britain, helping over 11,000 children and their families. This means working with children in their home communities to build and maintain family support wherever possible. NCH also continues to provide top class residential help for those with special needs. Children suffer today much as they have throughout history — from poverty, homelessness, neglect, abuse, family breakdown and abandonment. Thank you for your help in alleviating their distress.

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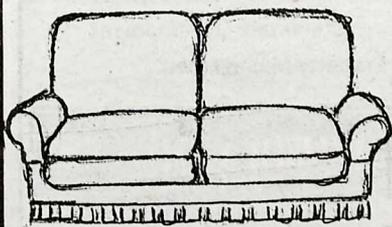
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## the CLUBS

### Chazey W.I.

In October harvest time was celebrated by Chazey with a supper to which they invited guests from other W.I.'s in their group. It was reported that their event to celebrate seventy-five years of Women's Institutes had been very successful and had taken the form of an Indian Evening.

October prize winners were Mrs Davies, a visitor to Chazey, for the raffie and Sue Searle the competition, a flower arrangement for a supper table.

### St. Peter's Wives

Members gathered in Church House on October 16th to hear Mr Penny from Burchetts Green College give a talk on House Plants.

He opened his talk by indicating that most house plants are killed by kindness and continued by telling members how to care for, and

transplant, how to take cuttings and propagate them. Over refreshments he was fully occupied answering questions and discussing members' problems.

Everyone who was present enjoyed the instructive talk and came away determined to do better!

### Caversham Ladies Club

A warm welcome was given by Mrs Harwood, Chairman, on opening the meeting and Club business was soon dispensed with and a reminder given to members to put in their diaries the date December 20th, for the Club's Christmas lunch at Chiltern Chase.

It was now time for the main event of the meeting — the 'Autumn Fair', and very attractive the tables all looked with mouth-watering cakes and goodies, the craft table with its colourful display of items, books, flowers, groceries, bric-a-brac, and the nearly new table with many attractive bargains. Very soon all were practically empty, but the 'resident' auc-

ioneer, Mrs Brenda Strong, soon got busy with the remaining items to complete a very successful afternoon. Mrs Harwood thanked all the helpers for their hard work and all the members for once again being in many ways so generous to their club.

Refreshments were much appreciated, thus bringing the meeting to a close, with one further reminder to members that the next meeting would have Mr Taylor as speaker with slides.

### Rosehill W.I.

The October meeting was held on the 3rd and members met early to partake of a Harvest Lunch, very much enjoyed by everyone. At the afternoon meeting dates were arranged for Crafts, Rambling, Scrabble and Play Reading. A teaparty had been held on the 25th September celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary. The Jumble Sale on the 22nd was poorly attended.

The speaker, Mrs C. Allwright, gave a most interesting talk about Mapledurham House. She had not enough time to tell all she would have liked, but as she is a member of Rosehill, maybe she can talk to them again. There was an exhibition of photographs and postcards of favourite old buildings.

The November Meeting was on the 7th, and when all business was completed by Mrs Weller, a choir of ladies from Harpsden looking very attractive in long

skirts, came to sing with their pianist and conductress. Their songs were enjoyed by everyone so it is hoped they, too, will come again. There was an exhibition of small bells, which caused much interest.

Helen House Hospice near Oxford.

Arrangements are in hand for the thirty-eighth Birthday Party and a beautiful doll, made and donated by Mrs P. Harvey was raffled in aid of funds and was won by Mrs L. Nicholson.

The Social Studies, Arts and Crafts and Ramblers groups are all thriving and the guild now as a very healthy membership.

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild resumed their meetings after the summer break with two excellent speakers, Mrs Ann Nicholls talking about "The Quaker Tapestry" in September in October Mrs E. Russell, herself a guild member from Fleet, giving a highly amusing slide show with commentary entitled "Wales with a Difference". Mrs Russell and her husband have been visiting Pembrokeshire for the last ten years and have an obvious love of the countryside and all things Welsh including the various animals met with along the way. Mrs E. Fuller gave the vote of thanks.

Thanks were given to the many guild members who worked so hard, as always, to make the Jumble Sale such a success. Just over £240 were the gross takings and a large proportion will be sent to the

### Maplewood W.I.

At Maplewood's October meeting the President, Mrs Joan Baddeley, announced that £75 had been raised from a Tea Party held to celebrate the seventy-fifth Birthday of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. The money will be divided between four Children's Charities.

Members very much enjoyed a demonstration by Mrs Angela Mottram of Wholefood Cooking. The recipes demonstrated were for a variety of savoury dishes, but the competition judged by Mrs Mottram and won by Mrs Heather Baker, was for a wholewheat chocolate cake.

The Flower-of-the-Month competition was also won by Mrs H. Baker.

Turn to page 11

## HARVEST FESTIVAL AT THE KEEP

For a few weeks in October every year the Keep is in chaos!! Local Churches generously donate the food from their Harvest Festival celebrations to feed the homeless people who use Reading's direct access hostel on the Oxford Road,

and every available space there is crammed full. We have boxes of tinned food in the corridors, the laundry and even the women's bathroom. 'It's not safe to leave the back door for half an hour — when you come back there are piles of fruit and veg blocking the way', said one hard pressed worker.

Of course, Reading Emergency Accommodation Project, who run the shelter, are very grateful for all the donations, which keep the place going for several months, though we sometimes wish that Harvest Festivals could be staggered

through-out the year!

Most of the food now comes in tins, which can be stored in sheds and lofts for later use, and the fresh fruit and veg which we aren't able to use immediately is donated to other projects who feed the homeless, such as the Quakers who provide a Wednesday night meal for them.

We do try to write thanking all the organisations who give to us, but sometimes in the chaos labels can fall off boxes, so we aren't sure where everything has come from, so we would like to express our gratitude through your paper, if possible. Also, if anyone has any interesting recipes for marrow, could they let us know at the Keep!

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## the CLUBS

From page 10

### Caversham Heights T.G.

Members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild came in good numbers to the guild's October meeting. These are held on the third Thursday of each month in St Andrew's hall at 7.30pm.

Mrs B. Logan from Sainsbury's interested her audience with a few words about the history of the Sainsbury family, and produced some photographs of the kind of shops where milk, butter, eggs and cheese could be bought in earlier days. She showed cookery books and a complete range of merchandise including a pumpkin, to be found in shops in October, and indicated how a healthful diet can be followed by using products like yoghurt and vegetarian suet, for example. Savoury dips, crisps and wholemeal shortbread biscuits were

there for tasting and attention was drawn to recycled stationery, phosphate-free detergents and less sugary drinks, to mention only a few items. If phosphates leak into rivers they promote the growth of algae, which can become dense and exclude light in a harmful way. While some may think that providing lemons free of wax covering, organically grown fruit and vegetables and recycled carrier bags is pandering to an eccentric few, Sainsbury's should be praised for taking the trouble to try to meet preferences and wishes.

A small group joined other Berkshire townswomen to visit the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell for the day. At the training centre there lectures covered the subjects of the energy situation and the role of nuclear power, radiation and safety, and nuclear waste disposal. There were also visits to work areas. It seems that there is no doubt that much less energy could be used, also that nuclear power certainly

cannot supply all the energy that will be needed by our children. We are living in something like a fool's paradise at present, members were told.

tober when some of the members visited the television studios at Shepperton, Middlesex, to see the Matthew Kelly show.

On the 15th October there was a fashion display by Butterfly Dress Hire from George Street, Caversham. Three attractive models, Georgina, Samantha and Amber displayed the lovely ball and evening gowns with Vicky Maund, the Manageress, describing the various outfits. Mrs Maund explained that a wide range of sizes of outfits for special occasions were in stock and boleros and skirts may also be hired separately. Over 300 dresses were in stock and available for hire.

A whistdrive was held on the 22nd October, Doreen Crawley supervised the proceedings and awarded Margaret Payne, who won the most points, the first prize.

The Autumn bazaar was a successful occasion on the 27th October. It was well supported and the stallholders had a busy time. Tea was available for the visitors and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The month's activities ended with a Hallowe'en party. The entertainment was provided by visiting artistes George and Gladys; George played the keyboard organ and he

and Gladys led a tuneful sing-a-long with the members participating. Some of the members danced to the well known tunes. Refreshments consisted of bread rolls with sausages and onions, with a variety of sauces and chutneys, which made a tasty supper. After the break George and Gladys were asked to judge the competition for the best Hallowe'en mask. They chose Beryl Latcham as first prizewinner with Patricia Haines in second place. There was another medley of songs to complete a happy evening. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked George and Gladys for their musical entertainment before the members proceeded homeward.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The first meeting after the summer break was a talk by Mr Moir, an interesting insight of his life on a Falklands sheep farm, which was much enjoyed by members.

Last month, a member of the Red Cross gave some ideas of the valuable work they do for the community, Relief in emergency, loan of vital medical equipment and teaching handicrafts to the disabled are just a few.

Some members enjoyed their day visiting Harwell, organised by the Federation.

Meetings are held at Church House every third Thursday in the month at 2.15pm and new members are welcome.

### Caversham Community Association

Mr Charles Moss was welcomed to the club again on October 1st, this time to show his excellent photographs on slide film of his visit to the Island of Rhodes. Mr Moss explained that the island had a chequered history resulting in a varied architecture. It had been a centre of Greek culture, then a part of the Roman Empire, later a Turkish possession and also the headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers of St John for many years. Rhodes was also under Italian rule but in 1947 it was ceded to Greece. Mr Moss' photographs and commentary were appreciated by the members who had enjoyed an interesting evening. As it was the first evening in the month members had brought goods for Evelyn Cook to sell, on their behalf, at the Nearly New stall.

A social evening took place the following week and was well attended.

There was an evening outing on the 10th Oc-

## 'SWAN LIFELINE'

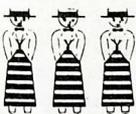
We are sorry to report that Joan and Dennis Hammond have left Caversham, and therefore Swan Lifeline Caversham Team have lost two leading members. They did a lot of good work looking after the swans, including the feeding of them, organising supplies of bread etc. Offers of help with the feeding has been forthcoming from the staff of the Caversham Hotel, the Griffin Hotel and the Caversham Gallery, but a co-ordinator is really needed to ensure supplies of bread reach these kind people. Any volunteers, please?

Roy and Phyllis Clark have volunteered to collect the contents of the 'bread sack' in the church porch, so please keep this Swan Lifeline going during the hard winter months!

The Hammonds also looked after the 'inflatable' and the three dinghies (all presented to Swan Lifeline by good friends) at their riverside home, and we are assured that they are all in good, reliable hands, and so will be well-looked after!

Everyone connected with Swan Lifeline wish the Hammonds well in their new life in Ledbury.

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