

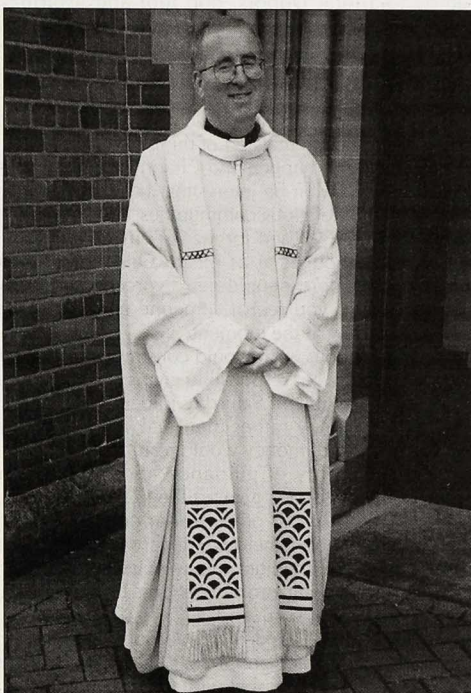
25 YEARS A PRIEST

On 25th January 1975, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Father Tony Jones was ordained priest. Just under twenty years later, on 15th November 1994, he arrived in Caversham to take over from Father Thomas Meagher as Parish Priest at Our Lady and St Anne's. In the interim he had had a variety of experiences, pastoral and otherwise, as Parish Priest, Army Chaplain, Secretary to the Archbishop of Birmingham and a sabbatical year at Berkeley University in California.

Arrived in Caversham, he quickly immersed himself in the life and work of the Parish and in the ecumenical activities of Churches Together in Caversham. Not long afterwards, he was busily engaged with his parishioners in the ceremonies and festivities surrounding the Centenary of the Parish and his energies were enormously effective in bringing this important anniversary to public notice, locally, nationally and within the Vatican itself. There, he and the Chairman of the Parish Committee had an audience with the Pope at which the latter blessed the Centenary Crown, later placed by the Papal Nuncio on the head of the statue of Our Lady of Caversham which adorns the Shrine within the Parish Church.

This was heady stuff indeed but the day to day tasks were being done as well to the evident satisfaction of parishioners who, despite its being a week day, were out in force, along with the children of St Anne's School, for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 25th January 2000, the Silver Jubilee day of Fr Tony's ordination. Mass was concelebrated by Fr Tony with Monsignor John Moran, Vicar-General of the Birmingham diocese, Canon Tom Farrell, Apostolic Vicar for Oxfordshire, and a number of other priest friends, some of whom had been Fr Tony's contemporaries when studying for the priesthood at Oscott College. Following Mass, members of the clergy and of the congregation took a short cruise on the Thames before returning to Piper's Island for lunch.

Four days later, Saturday's normal evening Mass was transformed into a further occasion of Thanksgiving, one at which all those unable to attend Tuesday's were able to join with Father Tony. The church was packed, not only with parishioners but with members of Fr Tony's family, representatives from Churches Together in Caversham and from other parishes where he had served, and people who had touched various parts of his life in the Church. Fr Tony was supported at the altar by the Right Reverend Monsignor Canon Kevin



Father Tony Jones.

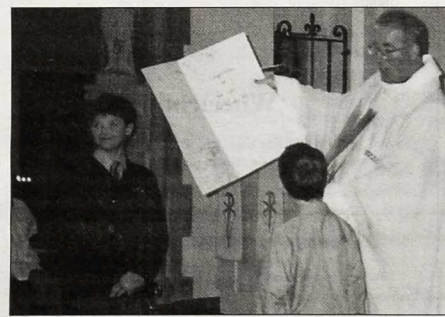
- K. Turner

The homily, given by Canon McDonald, emphasised that the occasion was one of thanksgiving for the gift of the Priesthood. This was, indeed, something given or bestowed and neither an achievement nor something merited. The Beatitudes, encompassed in the evening's reading from the Gospel, outlined the characteristics which we were called on to seek to achieve. For all of us, they highlighted the tensions between our own weaknesses and the call to be Christlike; for the Priest, these included the tensions between his private and public lives. But God's will was to be fulfilled both because of and through our weaknesses - 'May God who has begun his work in you bring it to fulfilment'. The Offertory Procession included representatives of all those activities which go to make the parish the living organism it is together with members of Fr Tony's family and Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Dr Owen Jewiss from the wider domain of Churches Together in Caversham.

Following Mass, the congregation retired to the Parish Hall for a celebratory buffet. A large crowd thronged the hall and a great buzz of activity permeated the room. A lot of work had clearly gone into the provision and serving of a great variety of food and drink. The choir appeared on stage to deliver their alternative version of 'Come to the Fair' including:

'He's achieved a great milestone in his ministry,
and we now look ahead to his Gold Jubilee'.

Guy Sjögren, Chairman of the Parish Executive Team, and Peter Lennon, Chairman of its predecessor Parish Committee, both spoke feelingly of their contacts with Fr Tony who responded with thanks to them and their teams of helpers and to the many others who had contributed to making his stay in Caversham and this particular period of celebration such rewarding experiences. Jubilee cake and champagne followed, toasts were drunk and the disco commenced - a good time was undoubtedly had by all!



- K. Turner

Father Tony receiving greetings from pupils of St Anne's.

McDonald, current Rector of Oscott College where Fr Tony had studied, Canon Tom Farrell, Fr Julian Booth who had been attached to Caversham during 1996 in the course of his studies for the priesthood, Deacon Francis Andrews from Sonning Common, Fr Nigel Griffin from the Oratory School and Fr David Mellor from Brownhills in the West Midlands.

STOP PRESS LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD!

As this edition of 'Caversham Bridge' was going to press, news emerged of the appointment of the Most Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, currently Bishop of Brighton and Arundel, as Archbishop of Westminster in succession to the late Basil Hume. Bishop Murphy-O'Connor is, of course, a Reading man who received his early education at Presentation College. He was, in his youth, a frequent visitor to Caversham where his uncle was in medical practice. His most recent official engagement in Caversham was on November 15th 1996 when he presided at the celebration of 'Priests from the Parish', one of the events marking the Centenary that year of the Parish of Our Lady and St Anne.

The same news bulletin also announced the appointment as Archbishop of Birmingham of the Most Rev Vincent Nichols, currently Auxiliary and Apostolic Administrator at Westminster, in succession to Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville who retired last summer. 'Caversham Bridge' should have more information about this appointment in a subsequent issue.

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TALKING POINT

By Rev Rosemary Fletcher
(Minister of Caversham Methodist Churches)



PERSONAL AFFAIRS

And then, quite out of the blue, Michael Parkinson said, "So tell us, Charlotte, how much do you regularly give to charity?" A stunned pause followed as Charlotte Dubois, pop idol and aspiring actress, struggled to regain her composure. This was not a question she had expected. It wasn't part of the deal. And what's more, it's none of anybody's business. But only a few moments ago she had said how conscious she was of being a role model for youngsters. She wished Parkie had asked her to just get up and sing a song. "I have an agent", she said eventually, "who deals with that sort of thing".

Of course, this didn't really happen and Charlotte Dubois doesn't exist - well, not quite - but wouldn't it be interesting if that question were put? It seems to me that, outside religious communities, in particular, giving is almost a taboo subject, rarely raised for fear of embarrassment. No-one, but no-one, wants to be thought of as mean. One's own money is an intensely private matter - more people get divorced than change their bank account. How would you feel if someone at a party asked how much you're giving to charity at the moment?

There is little guidance about what would constitute responsible giving. In fact, there is little idea of what responsible giving is. If a tiny fraction of the Personal Finance pages in the Saturday papers were given over to discussion about giving money rather than making it, then perhaps a broader view of the meaning of money would result.

In the Bible there is plenty of guidance about what constitutes responsible giving. Some Christians give a tithe (a tenth) to their Church and another tenth to charities, and others adopt other forms of planned giving. The Bible tells us to be generous, especially in our care for the needy. But within Church communities, many might think that they hear too much about giving; giving money, giving time, giving energy. However, together with worship and a Christian lifestyle, giving voluntarily, cheerfully, regularly and in proportion to our means is the Christian's response to God's grace and love. Our attitude towards giving goes right to the heart of our relationship with God.

Everyone wants to feel secure but for many this comes through the acquisition of more and more money and possessions. We become self-dependent, dependent only on our wealth and not on the goodwill of others. Our awareness of our interdependence on one another diminishes. It is no coincidence, I'm sure, that those who have least often give most - for them mutual interdependence is a daily experience.

Recently the Bishop of Birmingham wrote in the "Church Times" that the weekly giving per church member per week was £5 to the Church and that this was virtually the same in the poor inner city parishes as in the rich parishes. Often the poor (such as in the story of the widow's mite) are far more generous than those of us who are rich financially.

I'd like to hear people in the secular world talking much more openly about what is and is not reasonable giving. Where is the line between taxation and charitable giving drawn? Where is the line between publicly funded services and charitable services drawn? What are the issues of giving to charity work in the UK as opposed to work abroad? What is the role of sacrifice in giving? Must we only give our surplus? Is there anything in it for us?

Christians begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 8th, and Lent is traditionally both a time of examining our walk with God and a time of making sacrifices.

And by the way, what happened to all those windfalls from the Woolwich, the Abbey National and the AA to mention just a few? What about all those huge bonuses in the City? Why aren't the already wealthy recipients being challenged about what they're doing with it all? Can they actually have deserved it? But let's talk about these things in an atmosphere of love and goodwill.

"But," continued Charlotte, "I'm meeting my agent tomorrow and we'll be discussing how I can give more. I'm a very lucky person and I want to take giving seriously."

Giving in the 21st century - someone should make a documentary.

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

EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mrs Marjorie Tillman, Mr Kevin Corrigan, Mr Bernard Miller, Mrs Kathy Munns, Mrs Val Orpwood c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX Tel: 9471703.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Mrs Sarah Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham RG4 7AN. Tel: 9461512.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 9472389.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham RG4 7BG. Tel: 9474017.

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All contributions for April issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday March 8. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday March 7. The dates for May will be Tuesday March 28 and Wednesday March 29.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board. The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30
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Rev Cathy Pynn, 21 Ridge Hall Close, Tel: 947 6065
Rev John Dudley, 26 Russet Glade, Emmer Green.
Tel: 954 6664
Rev Andrew Evans, 6 Scholars Close, Tel: 948 3396

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Deacon Vic Downs, 9 Woodlands Grove.
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Rev Peter Edwards, 14 Tredegar Road, Emmer Green.
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Tel: 947 1787
Rev John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common
Tel: 972 3418

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev. H. R. Gayle Tel: 945 3849 (contact)

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
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

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 PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
Evening Worship (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)
8.00pm

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's

Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
St Martin's School 9.00am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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11.00am

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10.30am
(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

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9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

CHINA - A Land of Contrasts

by Jean Sawyer

China in the 1990's, or at least the part the tourists see, does not bear much resemblance to the China Pearl Buck wrote about some 60 or 70 years ago. The new Hong Kong airport, super highways, multilevel interchanges and the lengthy double decker bridge across the Yangtze at Nanjing contrast with the older modes of transport which still exist in parts. Particularly in Shanghai and Hong Kong, but in all cities to a large extent, the skyscrapers dominate the scene. There are still many back streets however, where people live in poor small houses with honey buckets as their only means of sanitation. Even in the new government apartment blocks the space allocated for the normal 3 person family is about the size of a large single decker coach. In the towns there are some large sophisticated department stores but there are also crowded markets with many individual stalls. Now the grip of Communism is relaxing a little, religious groups are practising their faith openly. Buddhist temples are on the tourist trail and, according to one Chinese guide, many young people are attracted to Christianity and are becoming practising Christians.

Many tours start in Beijing and the one I went with was no exception. It is a good centre for seeing many interesting places, beginning with Tian'anmen Square. It can hold half a million people and was built large enough to allow a helicopter to land, in case the officials needed to make a hasty exit. Mao's Mausoleum is on the south side and across the square is the gate to the Forbidden City - the home of most of the Ming Emperors and those of the Qing Dynasty until 1924. At the north end of the Forbidden City is Coal Hill, an artificial height designed to keep at bay the evil spirits which are thought to blow in from the north. From the top of Coal Hill good views of the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the lovely lake nearby can be seen.

The Ming Tombs are approached along the Sacred Way. This is lined by statues of animals and warriors before it passes through

the Gate of Heaven. The tomb of the 13th Emperor was excavated and some of the contents are displayed in a large building. Climbing up part of the Great Wall, which was started about 2000 years ago, is quite a challenge. In parts it is steep and after rain, slippery. Periodically there are spectacular views of sections of it snaking their way across the mountain ridges. Suzhou was my favourite city. It is the centre of the silk industry and is also known as the Venice of China. The Canal was alive with craft of various types and most of the engines seemed to be belching forth smoke, though some of this could be steam. Some of the tug boats worked very hard, towing a great long line of craft behind them. Suzhou is also famous for its walled gardens which were creations of scholar-artists who made their own private landscaped retreats from the cares of the outside world. The garden of the Humble Administrator is one of these. He was a government official who was an official Ming Censor but was corrupt himself!

Xian is an industrial town as well as the home of the Terracotta Warriors. Some while ago, the government decreed that various chemicals works should be located there, rather than near the coast. If China was attacked by an enemy, there would be more chance to bring down their planes if they had to fly over Chinese territory rather than swoop in from the sea. Many Chinese towns suffer from pollution, but Xian is one of the worst. The Terracotta soldiers lay hidden for 2000 years and were discovered by peasants digging a well in 1974. Three sites adjacent to each other have been excavated and they are under separate hangars. The warriors were constructed to 'protect' after his death the first Qin emperor who had unified China. There are so many of them on display in the pits they make an impressive sight.

Entertainment was laid on some evenings. The acrobats were lithe and steady and their show was all the more interesting as each section was focused on a theme. The opera was typically Chinese and the classical instruments at the musical evenings were fascinating. Stone chimes, gongs, ocarinas, flutes and zither like instruments were played. One concert was given in a garden in Suzhou and the audience moved from room to room to hear a particular piece of music. Fairy lights were used for decoration and a special atmosphere from another century was created. Shanghai is proud of its Children's Palace where some children can have extra



- Jean Sawyer

The Great Wall of China.

curricular activities such as singing, art lessons or piano lessons. Tourists move from room to room and one wonders when new pieces can be learnt as the class groups entertain the visitors with well known pieces.

At least every other day, the itinerary included a visit to some craft works. The stages of making cloisonné vases by outlining the design with copper wire was watched. The making of special ceramics, winding silk threads from cocoons, stretching cocoons to make layers for silk duvets, silk embroidery, forming patterns on both sides of the material and making silk carpets could all be seen. The groups may have been hurried through the processes but plenty of time was always allowed for visiting the show rooms where goods could be purchased!

The guides were keen to tell us that individuals have more freedom now than in the recent past. They said that gradual relaxation of restrictions would cause far fewer problems than had developed in Russia when communism collapsed. Great preparations were made, particularly in Beijing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Buildings were lit up, decorations were in evidence and fireworks displays were held. China is certainly a country to be reckoned with.



- Jean Sawyer

Children's Palace - Shanghai.

MAY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editors would like to remind Contributors to the **May** edition that, as Easter is later than usual this year, the dates for submission of material have had to be advanced by a week. The dates accordingly are:- Advertisements Tuesday March 28th, Editorial copy Wednesday March 29th.

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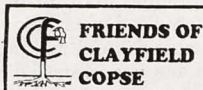
**ENVIRONMENT
NEWS FROM GLOBE BY φβ**

At its January meeting, Caversham Globe resolved to write to the council about the lack of new trees in the recently completed Church Street works. A reply came back that the council proposed to add tree planting and landscaping to the street. Globe's voice was but one in a chorus that included local residents, traders, councillors and council officers, all keen to see that local expectations about the scheme were met. At our February meeting we discussed the details of the planting with the council's recently appointed head of Planning and Transport Strategy and its Transport Strategist. The moral of the tale would appear to be that it is worth pursuing such matters with the council, whether as an individual resident, through groups, or via our elected representatives.

All the above can contribute to the North Area Consultative Committee. This covers the whole of Reading north of the River Thames (Caversham, Thames and Peppard wards). Councillor Richard Stainthorpe, the lead member for planning and transport in the council's new 'cabinet', answered questions on transport issues affecting the whole of our area at the committee's January meeting. Such was the intensity of the interrogation to which he was subjected that Pat Baxter, the council officer responsible for transport strategy, had to agree to defer her contribution to the next meeting. She will appear with Colin Thompson, head of Reading Buses, to answer questions on public transport. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sue Stainthorpe, (chair of the committee, councillor for Caversham ward and Richard's wife!) on 947 4086.

To get our hands dirty, Globe members crossed the Thames to help with the planting of a Millennium willow arboretum in King's Meadow at the end of January. We take an interest in the whole riverside environment and, like Watchdog, see the railway line as being for some purposes the true boundary of Caversham. Nevertheless, we should like to tackle conservation projects on this side of the river. Progress has been slow in opening View Island to the public, but at last the broadwalk and bridge on to the island are taking shape. Some grand festival to mark the opening is planned for July, but we shall be busy in the meanwhile helping to cater for public access, while preserving the area's wildlife interest.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd March at 7.30pm in St Anne's church hall, Washington Road. All are welcome. Please contact our secretary, Paul Raman, on 948 3389 for more details.

**FRIENDS OF
CLAYFIELD
COPSE**

Some unhelpful publicity in January about dog mess at Clayfield. Yes, dog fouling is occurring there. It is not pleasant to look at or to step in and worse it is a health hazard. Remember toxicara? It should not be left on the

playing fields, or the woodlands. Reading's dog warden was up there promptly and met dog walkers and found that all those she met were equipped with scoopers and plastic bags. Undoubtedly there are lazy thoughtless dog owners who do not clear up and do not worm their dogs regularly. The dog warden suggests challenging offenders and reporting them (939 0251). If it came to court the fine could be £1,000. Friends have ordered more leaflets and let's hope dog owners will be more responsible.

There was a suggestion in the publicity that there was a smell of dog urine - well, what might be worth checking out is that foxes visit that area - people will throw food about - and foxes are well known for leaving unpleasant smells behind them!

On to more pleasant things, woodlands need management, they need thinning, planting, felling and clearing. Then they rejuvenate. Sycamores are considered weeds by many environmentalists. They have their place - but not in ancient woodland such as Blackhouse. A number of mature sycamores have been felled there because they seed profusely and crowd out the native species such as ash, rowan and oak, and their canopy is very dense and shady and when the leaves fall they rot down very slowly which does not encourage a variety of flowers beneath.

Local native species including ash, oak, hazel and holly are being planted to replace the sycamore; meanwhile there should be a burst of bluebells in the space.

In June the logs will be removed by a team of professional horses and taken to a saw mill set up in the adjoining field and turned into planks to make seating around the woods. Where would you like a seat? Let us know. Some may be carved by Berkshire wood carvers. This is just one of the events we hope to have on our Millennium Woodlands Day on Saturday June 17. Make a date!

Meanwhile, Friends are working and preparing for the Day, meeting, if you can help or would like to meet us and talk, on the first Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. in the car park.

**An Ivory Gull
Departs
Scops Owl**

To have followed last month's Ivory Gull article would have been very difficult. The unique episode threw our feelings into turmoil and any other subject would have seemed irrelevant

by comparison. At barely one year old this bird had flown over a thousand miles from the Arctic pack-ice to Aldeburgh in Suffolk, having arrived before Christmas. The records of this species South of the Shetlands are few. This individual's story is unusual - yet beautiful.

We shared 23rd December with her. 'Ivy's' tremendous rapport nearly ran rival to my beloved late Scooby. I had no food yet she stood so close and quietly, almost pleading to be stroked, as I softly talked to her. Being only first winter plumage, gender was indeterminate.

The day ended with deep sadness at leaving a new but very dear friend. From close by she watched our farewells. There was not a dry eye between us. We experienced a strangely illogical impression that somehow this bird would remember us.

She left on Millennium night - the commotion was too much. We continue to pray daily for her.

On January 10th she was relocated at Stornoway in the Western Isles - just on British soil. So deeply moved were we that given the opportunity, an aircraft would have been chartered to reach her before dawn - Ivy is worth it.

For eight days a nearby fish-farm supplied her with food and despite foul weather we knew that dear Ivy's great love and courage would sustain her.

On the eighteenth she left and there seemed little doubt that she had headed Northwards to 'family and friends' in the high Arctic.

A week later one of our Team of Three phoned from Nottingham. We had been together at Aldeburgh and he was saddened by Ivy's final departure. As the receiver was being replaced, the pager beeped - 'Argyllshire, Islay, Ivory Gull 1st Winter, 24th January for 2nd day.'

Since Millennium night she had flown over eight hundred miles Northwards to Stornoway, yet now she has returned two hundred miles South again. What could have reversed her homeward progress considering that weather conditions had improved?

Her saga has continued for well over a month. Cold or unsettled weather continues. But for Millennium disturbances Ivy may still have been comfortably established among the homesteaders and their fish offerings on the shingle beach in Suffolk.

Scops Owl

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EASTER MUSIC

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 at **St Peter's Caversham**

Following the success of last year's Stainer's 'Crucifixion' we shall be singing the Fauré Requiem as part of our Passiontide worship. Singers are welcome to join St Peter's choir for this event. Bring along a score (any version) and enjoy yourself!

Rehearsal at 4.30pm followed by tea.

Service at 6.30pm.

Ring Ian Westley on **966 1087** for details and to inform of your interest.

GOOD FRIDAY, 21 APRIL - STAINER'S 'CRUCIFIXION'

There will be a performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Good Friday in Caversham Heights Methodist Church. This will be a joint evening service as part of the programme of activities with **Churches Together in Caversham**.

All singers of all abilities are warmly invited to come in and join in a united choir; the rehearsal dates and times have been set as follows (all held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church):

8.00pm	Wednesday	8 March	8.00pm	Wednesday	5 April
8.00pm	Tuesday	21 March	8.00pm	Tuesday	11 April
8.30pm	Thursday	30 March	8.00pm	Wednesday	19 April

There will be a final rehearsal at 4.00pm on Good Friday 21 April with the guest conductor, Nick Beech, Head of Education for the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust. The evening service will start at 7.00pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Palmer (01491 - 628148).

LINK GROUP NEWS

"In the deep midwinter" came true for the carol singing! The paths were clad with ice and very slippery. With only five fit singers it was decided to cancel. Luckily St Peter's choir visited the Arthur Clarke Home, we give our apologies to Summerfield and Goldendale who missed out.

The monthly Tea Parties for the elderly continue to thrive. In early December sixteen guests enjoyed a Christmas Lunch. The Inner Wheel, at the invitation of their President Mrs Margaret Smallbone, hosted the January tea. The guests enjoyed not only the superb assortment of cakes and

sandwiches but also the drive to Sonning Common in the sunshine.

The Tea Parties were started to enable elderly household friends to meet once a month to enjoy tea and chatter in someone else's lounge. The guest list numbers 20 with ages ranging from 65 to 95. The Link Group would love to hear of anyone who would benefit from such meetings. Also anyone able to host a tea party for 20 people (not easy). Link members supply the cakes. Guests' donations have sponsored children's summer outings or pantomime visits, and it gives the elderly much pleasure to do so.

Everyone can contribute in their own way, even when no longer very active.

In January Betty Evans gave an interesting talk about the work of the Reading Hospital League of Friends. Since 1957 the group has organised many different fund raising events. All the monies raised were used to help care for patients in diverse ways such as refurbishment of dayrooms, provision of cordless phones, BP monitors, wheelchairs and the setting up of the A & E play area. Betty finished with a plea for more help, particularly on the fund raising side. Please ring Carole Arnold on 987 8392.

ERLEIGH CANTORS

On Saturday 11th March the **ERLEIGH CANTORS** (conducted by Ian Westley, organist and choirmaster at St Peter's) will be giving a concert at Christ Church Reading starting at 7.30pm. There will be music for choir, percussion, harp and organ and the programme will include Chichester Psalms by Bernstein and music by Parry, Stanford, Britten, Harris and Tavener. Tickets are available from Ian Westley (966 1087) or on the door: £6.00 or £4.00 school age. Proceeds are to go to Age Concern.

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The annual General Meeting of Caversham Good Neighbours took place on 18th January 2000 in Church House, with Revd Canon Kingsbury opening the meeting with prayers and remembering the passing of three Committee members, namely Dr James Rothwell - a founder member and Chairman for many years, also John Weekes, and just recently our Treasurer over many years - Betty Stark.

The Chairman stressed the need for more volunteers, especially drivers (petrol is reimbursed at 35p per mile), to enable us to continue helping the elderly and infirm people of Caversham.

The Caversham Good Neighbours Office is open Mon - Fri 9.30am - 11.30am (Tel: 948 3466).

AROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM PARK EVENTS



- Tony Hall

Caversham Park Church

Rev Derek Wales (Moderator of the Wessex Province of the United Reformed Church) signs the covenant on behalf of the United Reformed Church.



- Tony Hall

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Caversham Park Church on 16th January 2000.



- Tony Hall

Confirmation service 5th December 1999.

Watchdog

The Editors are sorry that Watchdog is still indisposed and unable to write her regular column. We hope that she will soon be restored to full health and strength.

In the meantime we have been asked to give advance notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Caversham and District Residents' Association. This will be taking place at the Baptist Church Hall, Prospect Street, on Monday April 10th, starting at 8.00pm. It is hoped that there will be a talk about the Caversham Court Environmental Centre.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

FORWARD LOOKING CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Caversham Park Church was the venue in this Millennium Year for the United Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Almost all the congregations in Caversham and Emmer Green were represented and took part. The special speaker was Miss Anne Doyle, County Ecumenical Officer for Wiltshire and Swindon, and also Deputy Moderator of the Forum of Churches Together in England. She used the occasion to highlight the ecumenical miracle of the last 100 years and from her own experiences the big advances that have been made towards Christian Unity over the past 50 years. It was significant that as a Roman Catholic she was speaking at a Church which had officially become a 4-way Local Ecumenical Partnership only two weeks earlier, when the United Reformed Church entered the Covenant already made between Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists.

Challenge to tackle the hard bits

She emphasised that unity is God's gift to us; it is up to us to make it visible. So far we have done the

easy things. In the next 50 years we have got to challenge ourselves to do the hard bits. So far we have been doing well and been nice to each other. It is now important to be honest with each other in love. We should begin to tackle very difficult questions in the next ten years by looking hard at our structures. So far we all do our own things in different ways; how are we going to get them to match? We need to look at the deep questions of baptism, faith and order, and communion. This is the hard work we have to do.

Goal is Mission; unity is the means

Anne Doyle drew on the words used in the scripture reading which told us that God has made His will clear to us, that He has a plan to gather all things together, and that He assures us of redemption and forgiveness. We have the Holy Spirit with us and our task is to make unity, which is His gift, visible. We were reminded that ecumenism is not the goal, but that we are called to be one so that the world might know Him; the goal is mission for the whole world. Together with the Holy Spirit we can be a visible, united force to be reckoned with. Let's get on with it.

New Chairperson for Churches Together in Caversham

At the end of the Service, which had been conducted by the Revd Phil Abrey, responsibility as Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham passed from the Revd Father Tony Jones to the Revd Rosemary Fletcher. At the time of handover Father Tony thanked all those who had worked with him in Churches Together in Caversham, which he had found to be a growing experience.

Mission in Caversham

Father Tony also took up the theme that mission is the goal. The year 2000 has been designated a year for mission and it is an opportunity for the Church in Caversham to reach out. Before Christmas either a copy of St. Luke's Gospel or a candle had gone to almost all homes. Between Easter and Pentecost it is planned to follow that up by visiting all these people and offering to them the name of Jesus as Lord and Son of God. Convinced that the Holy Spirit is urging us to take on this challenging and hard task and, driven by Spirit of Jesus Christ, those present were sent back to their churches with the message to join in with vigour, faith and zeal. We have an incredible opportunity to invite 13,000 households to come to the Pentecost Service in Caversham Court. By working together in mission to our community, the faith we have in Jesus Christ will be seen.



— O. Jewiss

At the Christian Unity Service were (from left to right: the Revd Phil Abrey, Miss Anne Doyle (The Speaker), the Revd Rosemary Fletcher (new Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham) and the Revd Tony Jones (past Chairperson))

METHODIST NEWS

Visit of a Former President of the Methodist Conference

Rev. Dr John Taylor comes to Caversham on Sunday April 2 at 10.30am (Caversham Heights) and 6.30pm (Gosbrook Road). He was born in Buxton and after graduating he taught in England and Africa before embarking on ministerial training. After 12 years in local ministry, he became Chaplain to Sheffield University and from 1979 was a tutor at Queen's College, Birmingham. The Rev Rosemary Fletcher met him in those days; first he came to a Third World group of which she was a part. He took Local preachers' meetings and he came to preach at the church at which she was a member – she was his Steward in the vestry! When Rosemary went to Queen's College, John was Senior Methodist Tutor. After Queen's he headed up the Division of Ministries from 1989; he was appointed District Chair in Liverpool in 1995 and in 1997/8 was President of Conference. He is married to Margaret and they have 2 sons.

BOY'S BRIGADE

The 1st Caversham Boy's Brigade is in need of urgent help. They need extra people to cover holidays and business absence. They meet on a Tuesday evening. If you are an "old boy" or feel you are able to give some time to this worthwhile organisation please contact Captain Doug Stone, Tel No. 969 1089.

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CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

MISSION TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN

A successful event was held in January in aid of the Fishermen's Mission, when the Christian group "Canticle" came to entertain. They are a wonderful musical group of very talented young people. They sing and entertain most professionally. They had the audience standing and clapping and almost dancing in the aisles. Their own compositions were much enjoyed and compared exceedingly well with other music they played.

During the evening the regional officer for the Fisherman's Mission, Ian Pearce, was interviewed about his work and gave his testimony. His story is one of great hope and inspiration. The whole evening was a great success and £140 was raised for the Mission.

PRAYER LUNCH - Friends at Gosbrook Road meet for lunch and a time of quiet prayer on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 12.30pm. If anyone wishes to join us you would be most welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS - To Liz & Steve Knight on the baptism of their son Jack Alexander on 16th January 2000, and to Allen & Helen Porter on the birth of their daughter Madeleine Sarah on 6th January 2000, a sister for Patrick.

Canon John Grimwade

Founder of the
Caversham Bridge
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

New Vicar for St Andrew's



— Norman Kent

A happy picture of Father Keith Kinnaird and wife Pam, taken on their recent visit to St Andrew's Church and the Vicarage which they will be moving into early in March. The Induction service will be on Saturday, March 25th at 12 noon.

SAINTS OF ITALY

A Holy Year pilgrimage to places associated with famous Italian saints has been organised for 21st to 30th October. Under the spiritual direction of Fr Nicholas of Douai Abbey, pilgrims will visit Milan, Padua, Verona, Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome. Travel will be by executive coach and, apart from overnight stops in France on the outward and return journeys, accommodation will be for three nights in the Lake Garda region and for four nights in Chinciano Terme in 3-star hotels on a half board basis. Basic cost is £399 and anyone interested should contact Dolores Derwen on 947 3787 or Ian Cane on 947 6910.

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BERKSHIRE'S MILLENNIUM CIVIC SERVICE

The Sunday afternoon of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provided for Berkshire a rare moment of civic unity in a divided county. The Minster Church of St Mary was packed by the great, the good and the ordinary people of the county for a United Service conducted by the leaders of all the Christian churches. Led by the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff were the Mayors of all six Unitary Authorities and MPs of all parties. The Reading Bluecoat School at Sonning provided the choir.

Symbol of Light

After a welcome by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, and prayers of recollection by the Rev Tom Stuckey, Chairman of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church, there was a Symbol of Light in which Canon Brian Shenton, Area Dean of Reading, lit the Millennium Candle. From this candle each of the Mayors of the six Unitary Authorities lit a candle representing the people of their area. As they did so we were told that the candles were lit as symbols of hope, love and joy to remind us of God's gift to us through Jesus Christ - the Light of the World.

A topsy turvy world

Mr Michael Todhunter, High Sheriff of Berkshire, and the Rev Derek Wales, Moderator of the Wessex Province of the United Reformed Church and Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire, read the lessons from Isaiah and St Matthew's Gospel of a world turned upside down: where the oppressed go free, the hungry are fed, the poor are looked after and the naked clothed and those who are blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. This theme was taken up by the Rev Joel Edwards, General Director of the Evangelical Alliance, who preached eloquently about Jesus' disturbing ministry of different values. He pointed out that the beatitudes do not represent a doormat mentality but are a catalogue of nine characteristics of those who belong to the Kingdom. It is a topsy-turvy Kingdom for a God-



— O. Jewiss

The Rt Revd Crispian Hollis (Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth), Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS (Bishop of Reading) and the Revd Joel Edwards (General Director of the Evangelical Alliance) outside the Minister Church of St Mary after the Berkshire Civic Millennium Service.

honouring community: a formula to keep our head but not get ahead. It is a formula of well being. He asked: to what extent are we prepared to be controlled and to extend love to others? Not everyone aspires to this. He left us with the question: are we willing to accept Jesus' radical message in the beatitudes for the 21st century?

One Solitary Life

Thus challenged there followed prayers of renewal by the Revd Sylvia Stevenson, Berkshire Baptist Association Pastor Secretary. The impact on our world of the birth of Jesus was poignantly summed up by the reading by the Lord Lieutenant, Mr Peter Wroughton, of "One Solitary Life". An Act of Dedication was led by the Bishop of Reading and the new start offered at the beginning of a new Millennium was summarised by the reading of the Millennium Resolution by a Woman Police Constable. The final act in the Service was the Blessing by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Revd Crispian Hollis. A sign of the growing unity between the churches was when the Bishop of Reading passed his pastoral staff to his fellow Bishop for the blessing. It was a memorable service and was based on millennium material from the New Start and the Open Churches Trust.

South Chiltern Choral Society

South Chiltern Choral Society are making a complete change of mood, style and atmosphere from their recent popular Christmas concert. The choir is currently rehearsing two contrasting settings of the Requiem Mass for its Spring concert at 7.30 p.m. in the University Great Hall, Reading on Sunday 26th March. One is the much-loved version by Mozart (whose tragically early death prevented his completing it), and the other written 150 years later by Duruflé, in a style influenced by Debussy and Fauré, but using themes based on ancient plainsong melodies with sensuous harmonies. The overall effect is very beautiful, tranquil and optimistic.

Appearing with the South Chiltern Choir (currently running at about 120 members), will be the usual orchestral support and a quartet of young but experienced and well-known professional singers, Katharine Fuge (Soprano), Serena Kay (Mezzo-soprano), Stephen Douse (Tenor) and Robert Rice (Baritone). For the first time the concert is being held on a Sunday evening rather than a Saturday. This is not a desire to ring the changes in another direction but merely reflects pressure on the University Hall in the run up to a very late Easter.

Tickets available from Freda Miller (0118 986 2016), or any member of the Society.



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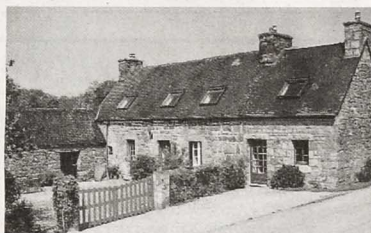
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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sirs

I was very interested in Deacon Vic Downs' experiences in Reading Young Offenders' Institution (January issue).

My friend and I also work on a voluntary basis at the prison. We help in the crèche which is set up for the children who accompany the prisoners' visitors. We find it a very interesting and rewarding experience.

The crèche is always looking for volunteers so if any one of your readers feels able to spare a few hours, even if only once a month, it would be very much appreciated. Don't be put off by the thought of having masses of screaming children for hours - it's not like that! Usually there are only three or four children at any one time (non-screaming!) and there are always prison officers nearby in case of trouble. However, in the two years we have been doing the crèche we have never had any unpleasant experiences.

I work with a friend but most volunteers do it on their own. If you are interested in doing a stint, please get in touch with Jean on Reading 984 2691. I know she will be very pleased to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

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SPECIAL NEEDS STAFF IN SHORT SUPPLY FOR CAVERSHAM PRE-SCHOOL

By Alison McNamara (Chair, Caversham Heights Pre-School)

Caversham Heights Pre-school is urgently seeking someone to work on a one-to-one basis with a child with special needs. The search has gone on since the beginning of January, but so far without success.

The Pre-School, which is based at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall on Highmoor Road, is seeking a patient person with a firm yet understanding manner. No special qualifications are necessary but the job could suit someone with experience of teaching, particularly in the area of special needs. They must also be physically fit and prepared to complete records for each session.

The hours should fit in with most school runs, being Tuesday afternoons and

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings during term times. The Pre-School would consider a job share. The position is expected to continue until the end of 2000. Pay is £12 per session.

It is very sad that a child has recently been granted hard won funding for badly needed assistance, and yet that assistance is denied because we have found no-one to fill the post. I am sure that there is someone within the Caversham community who either fits the job description themselves or knows someone else who might help.

If any reader is able to help, please contact Chloe Carran on 0118 947 3617 for an application form and more information or email me at chp-chair@talk21.com.

YOUTH SPEAKS

Girls from Queen Anne's School, Caversham, won both the junior and senior regional heats of the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition. This is the 7th consecutive year that the senior team from Queen Anne's has won this competition. The junior team consisting of Katie Norman, Jenny Watson and Amey Postlethwaite took as their topic "Driven to Despair" and the senior girls Israt Alam, Lily Gaskill and Nicola Crossman talked to the theme "To Boldly Go...".

Sir Anthony Durant, former MP for Reading West, chaired the judging panel and presented the certificates. He said, "All the contributions were of a very high standard and, although the judges were unanimous in their decision, it was very close. We particularly appreciated the humour in

the presentations".

Mrs Deborah Forbes, Headmistress of Queen Anne's, was delighted. "All the girls worked hard on their presentations, ably guided by Mr Garner, Head of Classics. The result is even more impressive bearing in mind the time pressures this term on the girls and staff because of mock GCSEs and school exams".

Last term a team of Queen Anne's girls went to Canada to compete in the very demanding International Independent Schools Public Speaking League, competing against teams from all over the world and finished a creditable 15th. At the end of this term, a team will fly to Cyprus to compete in the prestigious World Public Speaking and Debating Competition which Queen Anne's will host in Spring 2001.

LOWER CAVERSHAM LUNCH CLUB

HELP is
URGENTLY
REQUIRED

for the Lower Caversham Lunch Club for the Elderly which meets in the Caversham Baptist Church, Prospect Street on Mondays 11.30am-1.30pm. Anyone who feels able to help one or two mornings a month please contact Heather Langford on 947 2121.

CAVERSHAM BOWLING CLUB

Caversham Bowling Club are holding an Open Day on Sunday, 7th May, between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m. at the green in Albert Road, Caversham.

This is a chance for everyone to try green bowling, a qualified coach will be offering instruction.

The Club offers the opportunity for both men and women to bowl in friendly games, inter club matches, County and National competitions. The season runs from the 1st May to 30th September.

There is a friendly atmosphere with social events and a licensed bar. Social events include barbecues, fish and chip suppers and quizzes. Improvements to the Clubhouse have recently been undertaken and, with the installation of new heaters, we hope to extend the social events into the closed season.

Why not come along and try the sport? The only requirement for the Open Day are flat soled shoes; bowls will be available. There is ample free car parking and refreshments will be available.



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TRIBUTES

ELIZABETH STARK

As reported in the Bridge last month our Postal Subscription Manager, Betty Stark, died on 17th January, 2000, just one month short of her 78th Birthday.

A Londoner by birth, Elizabeth (Betty to all her friends) moved to Caversham in 1962 with her sister, Peggy Maule, and worshipped regularly at St Peter's Church.

Apart from wartime service with the A.T.S. all Betty's working life was spent with Barclays Bank in Maidenhead and Reading Branches.

Betty had a great love of all animals, and until her first heart operation was a keen gardener.

Seldom seen with idle hands, she was a very clever needlewoman, and many charities benefited from the realistic soft toys she fashioned. Particularly good with her knitting needles, she not only knitted beautiful garments for family and friends but also the most exquisite small garments for the premature baby unit at The Royal Berkshire Hospital.

On retiring from Barclays she quickly became an active member of their local Pensioners' Club, and

was also a very able Treasurer for Caversham Good Neighbours from 1988 until her death.

Although Betty organised the foreign currency for many bank customers holidaying abroad she never visited "foreign parts" herself, but I like to think she enjoyed the many holidays we took in this country. A good companion, and excellent map reader – we seldom got lost!

In her quiet way Betty was a very good friend to many, and the affection in which she was held was evident by the number of friends and old colleagues who joined her sister and other members of her family for her funeral service at St Peter's Church on the 1st February.

As her health deteriorated over recent years, there was never a word of complaint, and, while we all mourn her passing, we thank God for her life and final relief from suffering.

E.M.Y.

EDITORS' NOTE: we very much regret that Betty's surname was incorrectly spelt in the announcement of her death in our February issue.

JUNE DAVIES

It was a mark of the esteem and love in which June was held, that Caversham Heights Methodist Church, was full for the service held to celebrate her life. June had died peacefully on January 23 in the Royal Berks Hospital, after battling with cancer for some years.

June was born in Newark in 1926, grew up in Leicester and then moved with her family to Swansea where she met Alan. After their marriage they set up home in Worcester and later came to Caversham when they soon became involved in the life of Caversham Heights Methodist Church. June was secretary of the Young Wives group for a while, worked with the Playgroup in the 1960's, taught in the Sunday School, and helped establish the Toddler and Mums' Group. June had the ability to handle children calmly and quietly and they, in return, were responsive to her care.

Through Alan's involvement with the Youth Club June started street collecting for NCH Action for Children. From this beginning came her devoted and tireless work for this charity. She organised the House to House Collections in Emmer Green, spending many hours herself collecting in roads when no-one else was available. She was the treasurer of the Reading Support Group for NCH and used her gentle and persuasive manner to encourage others. June was an indefatigable supporter of the many fund-raising events and worked tirelessly behind the scenes as

well. Last autumn for her work she was awarded the Order of St Christopher from the NCH Action for Children. This token of appreciation gave June much pleasure and it was fitting that the award was displayed on the Communion Table during the Thanksgiving Service.

In addition to her work for NCH she also supported other charities such as Christian Aid and the League of Friends of Reading Hospitals.

In the church June will be remembered as an excellent Pastoral Visitor, a kind and caring friend to the sick and as leader, with Alan, of their House Group.

Her family will remember June for her calmness, her smile, her gentle quietness and for her abilities at homework (her sons'), particularly Latin! June and Alan were great supporters of each other's activities and were also so very much 'together'. As one friend said 'they were partners in a Christian marriage, an example to us all.'

June's caring concern, her friendship and support will be missed by all who knew her. The lives that have been enriched by her life are impoverished by her death.

To Alan, her sons John, Robert and Peter and their family we extend our sympathy.

ALAN WOOLFALL

With the recent death of Mr Alan Woolfall at the age of 91, rural Mapledurham has lost probably its last link with the early nineteen hundreds in this parish. Alan came to Mapledurham in 1914 at the age of five when his mother became headmistress of the C of E school there until 1939.

For many years he took an active part in village life and was one of those who helped build Trench Green Hall. It was he who gave me the information for an article I wrote last year about this building. He was a fount of knowledge about the nineteen twenties and thirties in the area and it was always so interesting to visit him.

After his marriage he went to live in Highmoor Road, opposite the Methodist Church, where he so enjoyed his garden. Nine years ago his beloved wife died and he later became ill with Parkinson's disease. However, he remained interested in life, ordering plants for the garden, following cricket and always enjoying a chat about the old times.

Many passers by used to wave to him as he sat in his window during the last few years. They will miss him, and so shall we, his friends and neighbours.

M.K.

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the CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon TG

Mrs J Slatter presided over the January meeting. In her opening remarks she gave out the apologies for absence including those from the treasurer whose

husband, members were sorry to hear, had died. Mrs E. Manning acted on the treasurer's behalf. Members were asked to consider standing for the committee and also a delegate for the NCM to be held in Blackpool this year is needed.

Long service badges and certificates were

presented to Mrs Chisholm, Mrs Noyes and Mrs Dobson.

The speaker was Mrs Rogers, an image consultant. She gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk on what to take on holiday, keeping luggage to a minimum and using neutral shades. She also demonstrated how to use scarves to highlight outfits. Members acted as models.

The competition for the prettiest pill box was won by Mrs E. James. The next meeting is at 2.00pm on Thursday 16th March at Church House, Caversham. New members welcomed - do come and join us.

were all spectacular. Robin also brought along maps, photos and guide books which added to the interest. The vote of thanks was given by Miss M. Cameron who then went on to win the competition - for a New Year's resolution. The raffle was drawn and this included a small bottle of champagne - for a belated toast!

Caversham Community Association

Millennium celebrations carried on into January when members met for a Cheese and Wine Evening. Traditional games included pass the parcel and coin in the bottle, followed by supper.

The following week was a games evening with cards, Scrabble, draughts etc on offer. A bring and buy sale helped to raise funds for the club.

The month ended with a whist and Scrabble evening, a chance for serious card players to enjoy themselves, ably led by Mrs Doreen Crawley.

New members always welcome on Monday evenings 7.30pm at the Arthur Legge centre.

New Year, although it began with the sad news of the death of Muriel Holloway. A well loved, almost founder member, who had worked hard for the Guild, will be sadly missed by all and many members attended her memorial Service.

Back in November the Berkshire Federation had held a day of "Women Through the Ages" with guilds to choose a different period. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable day, during which the Chairman donated a cheque of £6,500 to the "Breast Cancer Appeal".

Naturally not all our members could attend, so after the general business of the evening had finished, everyone had a chance to see Caversham Heights entry, which was of the Georgian Period.

Daphne Brown had very carefully researched the period and the knowledge that she had made the gown from two curtains, some odd pieces of material and two dog hoods - used on her own dogs, did not detract but added to the beauty.

In the style of 1750 AD, the deep salmon pink dress had a wide skirt on panniers which divided to show a matching floral underskirt. The Funnel sleeves, tight fitting to the elbow, ended extravagantly with two flounces and two lace ruffles. The bodice had tiers of dark maroon bows tapering from the narrow waist to a very low neckline.

Daphne's powdered silver hair bedecked with ribbons finished the representation of the Georgian Era at the height of its charm, and what a beautiful sight to represent the Guild. Members were then entertained by James Mitchell, with a tribute to Howard Keele. He started with a medley from Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, followed by one from Oklahoma and then others. It was so relaxing and enjoyable on a damp cold miserable evening that members wanted encores.

The Speaker for Social Studies cancelled because of ill health, but members went along for coffee and a chat. Scrabble was held as usual. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in St Andrews Church

Hall, Caversham Heights. Why not come along.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At their recent meeting in January guild members had the opportunity to look backwards in time and into the future, as did the two-faced-Roman god, Janus. It was an unusual and happy occasion for everyone - an evening of cheese, wine and nostalgia. The hall was decorated with silver Millennium bunting together with photographs,

certificates and trophies from earlier years. Pride of place was given to the Guild tablecloth, embroidered with members' names by Mrs M Sutherland, on which stood the Guild Shield and the celebratory cake made by Mrs E Aldred and iced by Mrs M Rogers. All three ladies were sincerely thanked for their time and effort.

After welcoming everyone, particularly ex-members, the Vice-Chairman, Mrs J Macarthur, sadly reported the recent death of a current member, Mrs B Fowler,

*continued on
page 11*

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Caversham WI

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the new millennium by the president, Miss M. Cameron, who read the New Year's Resolution which was published in the January "Caversham Bridge".

Mr Robin Smith, husband of one of our members, showed slides of their trip to Jordan. The impressive scenery, rock formations, and particularly the monuments at Petra,

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Caversham Ladies Club

Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, welcomed members to the first meeting in the new Millennium and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

It is usual in January, to invite members to suggest items for the new programme and places they would wish to visit. Helpful suggestions were made and the committee hope to arrange an interesting programme for years 2000/2001.

Following this, we enjoyed a video brought by one of the members called Sing-along-with-Max. It was just the right thing for a cold, grey January afternoon and it was not long before we were singing and tapping our feet to the jolly tunes.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

There was a large attendance at the Caversham Heights first meeting of the

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM (GOSBROOK ROAD) METHODIST CHURCH

March 5	UNEMPLOYMENT SUNDAY -
	10.30am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs
March 12	REFUGEE SUNDAY -
	10.30am Deacon Vic Downs
	6.30pm Rev Nicholas Thompson
March 19	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNIVERSARY -
	10.30am Rev Audrey Simpson
	6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Laurence Stedeford
March 21	12.30pm Prayer Lunch
March 26	10.30am All Age Worship and Parade Service - Deacon Vic Downs
	6.30pm United Service at St John's

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS (WOODCOTE ROAD) METHODIST CHURCH

March 5	UNEMPLOYMENT SUNDAY -
	9.00am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	10.30am Deacon Vic Downs
	6.30pm Rev Derek Shaw
March 12	REFUGEE SUNDAY -
	10.30am All Age Worship and Parade Service and Dedication of Hymnbook - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
March 19	10.30am Holy Communion - Rev Merlyn Temple
	6.30pm Songs of Praise (using new Hymnbook) - Deacon Vic Downs
March 26	10.30am Pastoral Visitors' Dedication - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
	12 noon General Church Meeting, followed by Bring and Share Lunch
	6.30pm Youth Service - Deacon Vic Downs

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March 12	REFUGEE SUNDAY -
	9.45am Rev Nicholas Thompson

Thursday Evening Services

Anyone who finds it difficult to attend worship on Sundays will find a very warm welcome at the mid-week evening services at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.45pm on Thursday evenings. The service will take varying forms each week.

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the CLUBS

from page 10

and expressed the Guild's sympathy. Group activities were reported briefly and the evening progressed to its theme: "Welcome to Year 2000".

Reminiscences began with greetings from Mrs E Risius in Norwich, who had been Chairman intermittently from 1967-1981.

A guest speaker, Mrs R Morgan, looked back to the icy winter of 1963 when she moved to Reading and was soon invited to join the Guild choir, whose enthusiastic choir-leader encouraged them to compete. They even had a special uniform. Mrs Morgan eventually became chairman.

Next to speak was the Secretary, Mrs M Pocock, who, for the benefit of new members in particular, outlined some of the achievements of the Townswomen's Guild nationally. Founded in 1929, after women had received the vote, it encouraged them to take an interest in world-wide concerns. In 1959 refugees in Austria were rehoused; in the 1980's £500,000 was contributed to Stoke Mandeville and £750,000 went to a

mother-and-child clinic in Dakkar, at the behest of H.R.H. Princess Anne. The environment was helped in 1998 with a tree-planting scheme while, more recently, blankets were sent to Kosovo. As a surprise, Mrs Pocock had obtained a 1965 recording of the choir mentioned by the previous speaker; the playing of this gave great enjoyment to all.

Mrs E Barnes, a current member, brought memories from 1953 onwards and outlined the competitive nature of groups in those days, in arts, crafts, cookery, wine-making and flower-arranging, when the Guild had a regular place at the annual Reading Show.

To close, the final speaker, Mrs M Sutherland, drew attention to the pleasure and benefits to be derived from belonging to a Guild. Suggestions for new activities and interests, together with traditional pastimes, all benefit Guild members and, through them, others in the community. **GO FORWARD.**

After such an enjoyable evening, Mrs E Fuller's vote of thanks was warmly endorsed and the success of the

occasion was underlined by a second spontaneous "Thank you - All!" from Mrs D Gillings.

Reading & District Probos Club

The Club held its first meeting of the new millennium on Monday 10 January at the Upcross Hotel starting with lunch.

Mr Geoffrey Beckett was the guest speaker and his very interesting subject covered Woodley Aerodrome and its many important activities prior to, during, and following World War II. The aerodrome, though active back in World War I era, saw much more action in the 1939-1945 war with extensive programmes for training future bomber and fighter air crew, especially the latter, in the Battle of Britain. Mr Beckett also illustrated his talk with some fine paintings of aircraft at Woodley, which were all his own work.

Probos enjoys a variety of talks and happy social occasions and membership is open to retired and near-retirement gentlemen. Details from Mr Barry Ward, the Secretary, telephone 0118 942 8806.

St Peter's Wives' Group

At the January meeting Tina Gower of the Caversham Environment Centre

gave a very interesting talk, with slides, on the subject of Wildlife in your Garden. She outlined various ways in which wildlife, such as birds, amphibians, butterflies and beneficial insects can be encouraged into gardens with selective planting and planning.

St Peter's Wives' Group meets at Church House, Caversham at 8pm on the third Tuesday of the month. New members always welcome.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary with an evening of Victorian food and entertainment on the 2nd December 1999.

The Committee was pleased to welcome Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area President Sarah Smither, past chairmen and founder members of the Club together with over sixty members. After a welcoming glass of mulled wine members and guests were enchanted to enter the hall which had been beautifully decorated by members of the Committee using a colour scheme of burgundy and silver. Candles, Christmas tree lights and table arrangements all combined to create a festive and welcoming atmosphere. A delicious meal was prepared by the Catering Committee to complement the theme of the evening and the buffet tables were

enhanced by Epergnes created by some of our Club members who had attended Irene Manson's Victorian Day School in the autumn.

A splendid anniversary cake, made and decorated by Angela Liddiard, was cut by the Club's President, Mrs Ruth Forster. Short speeches were made by the Club Chairman, Mrs Joy Boddington and Mrs Sarah Smither. After coffee and cake the evening was brought to a close by the Herald Singers who performed Victorian songs and monologues. The evening was deemed to be a great success and particular thanks go to hard-working husbands who served the wine and did all the washing up!

The Club's programme for the first part of year 2000 is March 2nd - Anna Stevens 'Painted Ladies' (Competition 'A Petite'), April 6th - Bunty Stannard 'How the Mood Takes Me' (Competition 'Moody Blues'), April 8th - Jumble Sale at Sonning Common Village Hall, May 4th - Mary Fielden 'A Kind of Magic' (Competition 'Magic Circle').

The Chairman and Committee look forward to welcoming existing and new members at these and other Meetings which are held at St Andrews Church Hall, St Andrews Road, Caversham at 7.30pm. News of future events will be published in later editions of this newspaper.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 3

Women's World Day of Prayer

8.00pm at Caversham (Gosbrook Road)
Methodist Church. Speaker Revd Sheila Nunn.

MARCH 9, 10, 11

Caversham Theatre

How the Other Half Loves by Alan Ayckbourn.

7.30pm at St Anne's Hall Washington Road.
Tickets £5 (concessions £4) at the door.

MARCH 18

Musical Evening

7.30pm at Caversham (Gosbrook Road)
Methodist Church.

MARCH 25

Induction of St Andrew's new vicar

at 12 noon.

MARCH 26

South Chiltern Choral Society Spring Concert.

7.30pm at University Great Hall, Reading.

Settings of the Requiem Mass by Mozart and Duruflé. Tickets from Freda Miller (0118 986 2016) or any member of the society.

APRIL 1

Gigantic Bric-a-brac Sale.

10.30am at Caversham (Gosbrook Road)
Methodist Church.

APRIL 9

Fauré's Requiem

6.30pm at St Peter's Church.

APRIL 10

Caversham and District Residents' Association AGM.

8pm at Baptist Free Church Hall. Speaker to be announced.

APRIL 21

Churches Together in Caversham Choir perform Stainer's Crucifixion.

7.00pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Conductor Nick Beech, Director of West Berkshire Music Centre.

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