

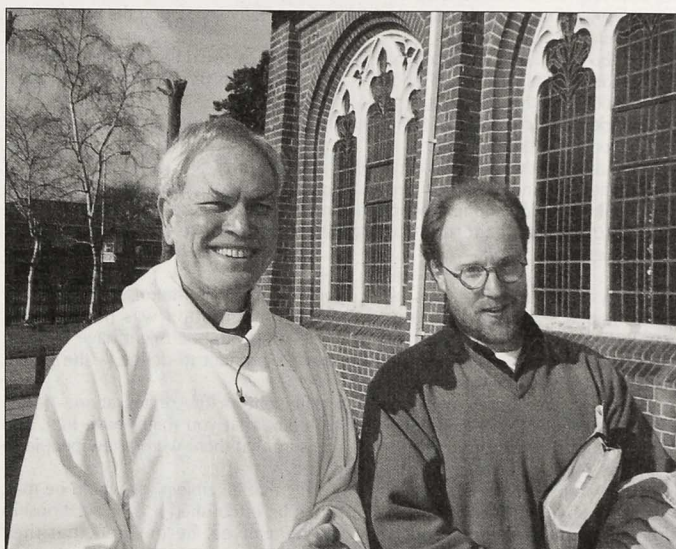
# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION VISION and REALITY

## READING'S CHRISTIAN MILLENNIUM PROJECT

*For all Christians the Millennium is a very special time and one matter which has concerned many in Reading is that it should be marked in a permanent way in keeping with our faith. Jesus pointed to two great commandments, to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. It therefore has been very appropriate that the Churches in Reading have decided to concentrate their efforts on providing a permanent home for Christian Community Action (CCA).*

### How the work grew

This local charity started eight years ago through one person's faith and love of neighbour. It was Nick Crowder's conviction, borne out by scripture, that God's heart is broken by those on the margins of society, those who suffer because of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, family breakdown or addiction. It is his belief that it is the church's place to take a lead in bringing light into darkness, hope out of frustration, together with justice and compassion. It was to that end that Nick Crowder, using a barn as a storehouse, began to collect household items from those who no longer needed them and to pass them on to those who do and to do so in the name of Christ. The work grew and eight years later, after six temporary



Nick Crowder, Director and Founder of CCA, is seen with the Revd John Dudley on the occasion of his visit to St Barnabas.

warehouses or other premises, there is now a pressing need for more permanent accommodation.

### Important local service

Within this area it is estimated that over 10,000 people live on or below the poverty line or are in crisis. In 1998, for example, over 2,500 individuals and families were helped, counselled, clothed, furnished and equipped by CCA. It aims to help those who have, to invest in those who have not. To this end it is estimated that it receives over 900 tonnes of donated home furnishing, clothes and equipment each year. It is the only work of its kind in the area and it works with and helps to resource over 67 other local care agencies. It has also established sheltered work placements and provides training and is spearheading development of community industry based on recycling.

### Permanent home needed

The challenge is to raise £850,000 to buy a warehouse for life, although as a fall back position the raising of £220,000 will provide funds to lease a warehouse for four years. Over the past few

months the churches and their members have already raised over £100,000. There has been a reception for businesses at the Madejski Stadium but, despite press comment, the results have yet to be translated into real money.

### Our response to our neighbour

Many individual churches have been receiving a spokesperson from CCA and coupling this with a gift day or other special fundraising event. For example Nick Crowder was at St Barnabas Church at the beginning of March. On that occasion those of us who reside in comfortable Emmer Green were brought face to face with who their neighbour really is: not necessarily the person next door, but the drug addict found collapsed in the street, who attends the same doctors' surgery as we do, or the people in apparently adequate housing, who through poverty have few household effects. The neighbour is any one with whom you come into contact, the person you come face to face with at the point of need.

Yellow leaflets about CCA and the Millennium Year Initiative may be found in the churches under the heading Reading 2000+plus. Alternatively CCA may be contacted at 369 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1AU, tel no: 0118 951 2336. Both financial contributions and prayerful support are needed.

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

BY  
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## TALKING POINT

By Revd Cathy Pynn

Anglican Minister in Secular Employment



## GOD'S BUSINESS

I have just come from a week's course on analysing the business and it has set my mind thinking along lines I tried once a few months ago. Why don't we sometimes use the techniques that we apply in our work today to help focus us in our lives within the Church? Having made such a suggestion at that time to a friend, I was greeted with the response 'but that's what I do all week – I don't want to do this on Sundays as well'.

I can sympathise but, on the other hand, maybe there is something in this idea of applying work techniques and, in any case, why should we have one set of tools for work and another for church? Are we really separating the sacred from the secular?

On the course, we were told that the overall ideas could be represented by:

- Understanding the organisation, its structure and its products
- Understand the mission, the goals and objectives
- Understand the strategy being put in place to ensure that these goals and objectives were being met
- Understand the information needed by the business
- Understand how the business worked, what its processes were, to capture the information and use the information to meet the goals and objectives
- Ensure that all the things that were important to the business were understood

Analysing the business starts with considering the organisation. If we start with "the business" as Jesus started it, then the organisation was pretty small, comprising a group of people, somewhat ill-equipped, one might have felt, and with no real structure. However, it did have a product to deliver – the gospel message, the good news.

Then we have a look at the Mission statement for the organisation – Jesus' mission statement was quite clear – 'I am come that you might have life'. The objectives for Jesus were pretty simple – ensure that there were a few people to carry on what he had started after he had died.

Then we look at Jesus' strategy for ensuring that his objectives would be met. He spent time interacting with a few people; he established a good relationship between him and them and between themselves; he ensured that they understood the teachings and did not focus on ensuring that others understood.

The next action is to understand the information needs. Well, the information needs for Jesus were the needs of the everyday people and the closeness of God to ensure that he was acting in sync with his Father.

The way we look at the processes – well there aren't too many of those. Jesus mixed with the everyday people in their homes, in their places of worship, in their day to day working environments, in their celebrations, at meals, when they were grieving, when they were sick. He was a part of their community in every possible way. Through these processes of mixing and meeting with people he understood their needs. He allowed himself to be interrupted; he made time for people; he put the onus on them to ask him for help, to seek him out. But he, in his turn, made himself available.

The objective of all this analysis was to ensure that we had the right processes to meet our objectives and understood the important things in the business.

After this we needed to prioritise these processes according to whether we thought effectiveness of the organisation, efficiency of the organisation or ensuring that we kept up with the competition was the most important direction to take.

So what do we do as Christians? I think we need to think within our own families, local communities, work communities and the wider communities about how we organise ourselves, our mission statement, objectives, information needs etc. Have things really changed from those days when Jesus was Man on the earth? Have we changed our objectives? Have we changed the processes? Do we understand what the important things are in our Christian lives? Do we understand what the competition is offering? By the competition, I don't mean the church down the road or even the church in town; I mean all the things which compete for everyone's time, energy and love.

I am going to continue to think it through – this way of thinking has a lot to recommend it for focussing on the real issues associated with God's business. What is my personal mission statement? What are my personal objectives, what processes do I need to do and what are redundant to my objectives? How does this relate to those with whom I live and work closely? The thing that worries me is that I have a sneaking suspicion that I may need to re-prioritise some processes which are important but which I currently put lower down my priority list. No, I won't bore you with my faults – you probably know them but I do recognise that I may need to do a little process re-engineering (God help me!) – but that's another story!

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

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All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday May 2.

The dates for July will be Tuesday May 30 and Wednesday May 31.

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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## CAVERSHAM CLERGY

### ANGLICAN

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(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30

Tel: 947 1703)

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

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 947 5152.

### METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Rosemary Fletcher, 72 Highmoor Rd.

Tel: 947 2223

Deacon Vic Downs, 9 Woodlands Grove.

Tel: 948 2530

### BAPTIST

Rev Peter Edwards, 14 Tredegar Road, Emmer Green.

Tel: 947 7697

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Colin Ferguson. Tel: 948 2557

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

Crispin Fairbairn, Eric Bird Tel: 947 4529

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Rev Anthony Jones, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue.

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)
6.30pm	Evening Worship (1st Sunday)
8.00pm	Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am	Prospect Street
6.30pm	Usually at Kidmore Road

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am

### THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Gosbrook Road

10.30am and 6.30pm

Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

### 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)

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,

York Road

11.00am

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers),

Church Street, Reading

10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service





# HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

16th April - 23rd April 2000



## ST ANDREW'S CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

**Holy Week (Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th April)**  
 7.30pm Monday to Wednesday The Eucharist (with address).  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 7.30pm Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil.  
**Good Friday**  
 9.30am Good Friday Liturgy.  
 11.00am Children's Service.  
**Easter Eve**  
 9.00pm Vigil and Holy Fire Ceremonies.  
**Easter Day - He is risen**  
 8.00am Eucharist.  
 10.00am Family Sung Eucharist.  
 11.30am Eucharist.  
 6.30pm Festal Evensong.

## ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

**Palm Sunday**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP).  
 9.30am Procession of palms and Eucharist.  
 4.30pm Stations of the Cross.  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00am Eucharist.  
 7.30pm Eucharist in the context of a meal followed by a Vigil.  
**Good Friday**  
 2.00pm Service of Devotion.  
**Easter Day**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP).  
 9.30am Family Eucharist.

## ST JOHN'S LOWER CAVERSHAM

**Palm Sunday**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP).  
 10.00am Family Eucharist.  
**Holy Week (Tuesday 18th April)**  
 2.30pm Mothers' Union Holy Week Eucharist.  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP).  
 8.00pm Eucharist and Stripping of Altars.  
**Good Friday**  
 2.00 - 3.00pm An Hour at the Cross.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP).  
 10.00am Family Eucharist.

## ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM

**Palm Sunday**  
 11.00am Sung Eucharist (with palms).  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 7.30pm The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday.  
**Good Friday**  
 10.00am The Good Friday Liturgy.  
**Easter Day**  
 11.00am Sung Eucharist.

## ST PETER'S CAVERSHAM

**Palm Sunday (palm crosses at all services).**  
 8.00am Holy Communion.  
 9.15am Sung Eucharist (meet for procession 9.05am in Caversham Court, weather permitting).  
 11.15am Morning Prayer.  
 6.30pm Special Worship for Entry into Holy Week.  
**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week**  
 7.00pm Holy Communion.

## Maundy Thursday

9.30am Holy Communion.  
 8.00pm Sung Eucharist followed by Stripping of Altar and Vigil to midnight.  
**Good Friday**  
 8.00am Holy Communion.  
 12.00 - 3.00pm **THREE HOURS' DEVOTION** conducted by The Rector.  
**Easter Day**  
 8.00am Holy Communion.  
 9.15am Sung Eucharist (Family Communion).  
 11.15am Morning Prayer.  
 6.30pm Evensong.

## CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

**Good Friday**  
 10.30am United Service with the Methodists at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 10.30am Morning Worship.  
 6.30pm Evening Praise at North Caversham.

## CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

**Good Friday**  
 10.30am Family Service.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 10.30am Family Service.

## CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

**Palm Sunday**  
 11.00am Dramatised reading of Mark's narrative and Communion  
**Tuesday 18th April**  
 8.00pm Communion (venue to be arranged).  
**Wednesday 19th April**  
 10.30am Communion (venue to be arranged).  
 6.45pm Meal, Meditation and Agape (in school).  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00pm Worship for Maundy Thursday (venue to be arranged).  
**Good Friday**  
 10.30am '...And there they crucified Him...' (in school).  
 4.30pm Good Friday tea and worship at East Ilsley Baptist Church  
**Easter Day**  
 7.00am Easter Morning Communion in Clayfield Copse (meet in car park) followed by breakfast.  
 11.00am 'He is risen...' Communion for Easter Day (in school).  
**NB: Full details of venues from Revd Phil Abrey tel: 947 5152.**

## METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Palm Sunday**  
 10.30am All age Worship and Parade - Deacon Vic Downs.  
 6.30pm Professor Tony Bell.  
**Monday 17th April**  
 8.00pm Devotional evening for Holy Week (united with Gosbrook Road).  
**Wednesday 19th April**  
 8.00pm Passover Meal at Gosbrook Road (united).  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00pm The Sacrament of Holy Communion (united with Gosbrook Road) - Rev Rosemary Fletcher.  
**Good Friday**  
 10.30am Worship for Good Friday (united with Caversham Baptist Church and Gosbrook Road)  
 Preacher: Rev Peter Edwards.  
 7.00pm Churches Together in Caversham: Stainer's 'Crucifixion'.

## Easter Day

8.30am The Sacrament of Holy Communion followed by Easter Breakfast.  
 10.30am The Sacrament of Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher.  
 6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs.

## GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

**Palm Sunday**  
 10.30am Worship to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher.  
 6.30pm Rev Jim Booth.  
**Monday 17th April**  
 8.00pm Devotional evening for Holy Week at Caversham Heights.  
**Wednesday 19th April**  
 8.00pm Passover Meal (united with Caversham Heights).  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00pm The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Caversham Heights - Rev Rosemary Fletcher.  
**Good Friday**  
 10.30am Worship for Good Friday at Caversham Heights (united).  
 7.00pm Stainer's 'Crucifixion' at Caversham Heights.  
**Easter Day**  
 10.30am All age Worship and Parade - Deacon Vic Downs.  
 6.30pm The Sacrament of Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher.

## PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST ANNE

**Saturday 15th April**  
 5.30pm Vigil Mass.  
**Palm Sunday**  
 10.00am Mass.  
 6.30pm Mass.  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 8.00pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper.  
 Watching at the Altar of Repose till midnight.  
**Good Friday**  
 12.00 noon Children's Way of the Cross.  
 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion.  
 7.30pm Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion.  
**Holy Saturday**  
 8.30pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 8.30am Mass (Richmond Road Chapel).  
 10.00am Mass.  
 6.30pm Mass.

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH YORK ROAD

**Palm Sunday**  
 11.00am Flower Service with time for Remembrance of the Departed. Rev Nina Mead.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 11.00am Holy Communion led by Rev John Miller.

## NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

**Good Friday**  
 10.30am - 12.30pm.  
**Easter Sunday**  
 10.00am Sunday School.  
 11.00am - 12.30pm Morning Worship.  
 6.00pm - 7.30pm Evening Service.

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## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

### Return to the Fray

After an unprecedentedly long period of confinement to kennels this watchdog is pleased to be back on the Caversham scene, which showed little alteration over the intervening weeks.

The block paving of the centre of Caversham had been completed by the time I returned and the pedestrian spaces in Church Street have now also been extended in both breadth and length. This gives a cohesive appearance to the area. Some of the blocks have already worked loose which could lead to some falls so a wary eye is still needed. What is missing and what was requested during the consultation exercise are more trees and it is not at all clear that they will be forthcoming. Apparently objections have come from the traffic management department that they would be a hindrance flow. This will just not do. The whole tenor of the consultation process was that people must have precedence over traffic in Caversham centre.

Trees raise the whole standard of an area's appearance. Very soon shoppers will be able to enjoy the appearance of the horse chestnuts in St Martin's precinct when they come into leaf and blossom. The horse chestnuts beside the bridge near to the hotel will also come into leaf and blossom after being so savagely hacked back a couple of years ago.

### Butchery

Alas, there are other trees in the vicinity which will never recover properly. These are the remaining trees (they were once on both sides of the road) in Caversham Road, which have been brutally pollarded. I am perfectly aware that on busy town streets trees cannot be allowed to grow to their normal size but with pollarding (suitable for willows) they will never reach their normal shape. Instead they develop a sort of lump from which the branches emerge. Once upon a time, though not for very long, selective pruning was carried out, but that cost more and would not do at all.

In my own road some of the few remaining trees have been attacked and for some years they looked like wooden poles with brushwood at their feet. This is treating a tree as though it is a nuisance. It actually works for its living, soaking up pollution, as well as providing shade in the heat and enhancing the surroundings. A town without trees is unthinkable. Reading on the whole is well provided with them, on both public and private land. They need to be left to their own devices as much as possible.

### Colourful Bus Lane

The red bus lane in Hemdean Road now has yellow car traps or whatever their correct name is. One would think that even the most unobservant driver could not miss seeing them, so it must be with intent that many motorists ignore the lane, going right across to the other side of the road if a bus happens to be in the bus lane.

### Listed Library

Another cause for concern is the work going on outside the public library. This is a pleasing and unostentatious building, listed Grade II, which sits comfortably on the corner of Hemdean Road and was formerly separated from the footway by a chain link fence (recently removed), a low wall and a hedge. Now the block paving has been extended up to the library itself and the wall, which still showed the remains of where in pre-war days there would have been railings, has been removed. Perhaps the grassy area in Hemdean Road will be restored. It did not take long for it to become a repository for abandoned shopping trolleys and crisp packets. What is not clear is whether the walls and curtilage in general is covered by the Grade II listing. The list of listed buildings does not throw much light on this either.

There are also some nasty tubular metal handrails which look cheap and out of place. Surely the planning authority could have done better. Caversham and District Residents' Association, when asked some time ago for ideas for marking the millennium in Caversham, suggested that good railings outside the library would be a welcome addition, but this was never taken up. This would have meant retaining the wall. So far no preferred idea has emerged for marking the millennium.

### Fair Daffodils

Mild winter has led to the early appearance of daffodils. They were already out in St Peter's churchyard in February, replacing the golden carpet of aconites, and in Caversham Court a wide variety of them is growing on the banks. Hills Meadow also has a good show. We no longer need to 'weep to see them haste away so soon' for modern breeders have made them last longer, 'fluttering and dancing in the breeze', to quote another poet. They are doubly welcome as they are the first flowers of the year which do not feel the need to cling to Mother Earth as the earlier flowers do, but grow on long stems.

One disadvantage of this early display is that with Spring coming early and Easter coming late there will be no daffodils left for the festival. However, some of the bounty that fills that most beautiful of all months, May, may also arrive early to join in the celebrations.

### Betty Stark

On an early Spring evening as the setting sun streaked the sky with bands of gold, a group of friends and relations gathered to scatter Betty Stark's ashes beneath the Deodar, one of her favourite trees in St Peter's churchyard. As a friend, neighbour and a fellow worker for this newspaper it was with great sadness that I learned of her death whilst I was still away convalescing. My last memory of her was seeing her sort out the postal deliveries of this paper, unwell as she was. Betty was quiet and modest, but in spite of her physical frailty she got on with a lot of work which benefited others. She is much missed particularly by her sister Peggy with whom she had been living for some time.

### Thank you

Thank you to all those who sent messages, cards and flowers whilst I was unwell. It was a great help to know there were all those people who cared. I had been looking forward for some time to celebrating the millennium outside, but in the event could only listen to other people in the distance doing so. I am now recovered and my arm is very much better after its fracas with street robbers towards the end of the last century! I hope the millennium brings better fortune.

### Diary Date

The Annual General Meeting of the Caversham and District Residents' Association will be held on **Monday 10th April at 8.00pm** in the Caversham Baptist Church Hall, Prospect Street.

There will be a speaker to give a talk on the Caversham Court Stable Block and Environmental Centre.

All are welcome but only paid-up members may vote. The subscription is £1.00 per year, payable to the membership secretary, Marion Fallowfield, 40 Matlock Road, Caversham RG4 7B.



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# INVESTITURE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

By Sheila Bowcock

We entered the Palace gates to the inner quadrangle at 10.00 am with around 130 other recipients of awards and their guests. As Toby was in his wheelchair he was given his own personal footman who took us via the lift to the second floor. From here I was directed to the Green Room to be briefed on procedure, while Philip, Toby and my guest were led away to the Ballroom.

In the Green Room I was equipped with a small hook upon which the Queen would place the insignia. Here there was an opportunity to have a glass of wine or orange and a biscuit, until a very imposing but friendly Gentleman Usher instructed everyone on etiquette. On a large CCTV screen we could see, among others, Sir Henry Cooper being knighted.

Meanwhile guests were led to the Ballroom. It was already quite full although the time was only 10.20. However those in wheelchairs have privileges and Toby was parked at the front where he could have a perfect view.

The Ballroom is quite magnificent, decorated in white and gold, and there would have been around 500 people present. Against the front wall are two thrones and in front of these the large red-carpeted dais, in the centre of which was a chair for the Queen. There is also a table on the right on which the insignias are placed, and on the left a lectern from which the Lord Chamberlain announces the name of the recipient and the reasons for the award. The ceiling was panelled, and from it hang several very large chandeliers. Lighting is well concealed and the remote-controlled television cameras quite inconspicuous. The orchestra of the Life Guards in the musicians' gallery plays throughout the Investiture, so that it is not possible to hear any of the conversations between the Queen and each recipient.

Shortly before 11.00 am five Yeoman of the Guard marched in to *Men of Harlech*, followed by the Queen with two Ghurka officers, four Gentlemen Ushers, and at this point the orchestra played the National Anthem. The Queen then said to the assembled guests "Please sit down".

Meanwhile, we were constantly checked to make sure we were in the right order. The turn of my line came to advance into the next corridor - really a very long wide room - where we could still watch the proceedings on four TV screens from different angles. There are priceless paintings everywhere, ranging from obviously very old ones to a full length very modern mural along one corridor wall.

Moving to the long state room at the entrance to the Ballroom as we slowly proceeded nearer, I could see Toby watching out for me and he gave me a most welcome thumbs up.

As the person before you walks to the Queen on her dais, you proceed to the next Marshall. Upon hearing your name announced, in my case "Sheila, Mrs Bowcock", you immediately begin to walk to the Queen whilst the reason for your award is being announced.

The insignia is passed to the Queen on a velvet cushion by the Master of the Household. You bow or curtsy, and walk to the dais where she then places the insignia on your hook and speaks to you for 20-30 seconds. In my case I think the conversation was "I understand you are a foster carer" - "Yes Your Majesty". "And you have been one for several years" - "Yes Ma'am". "Are you still fostering?" - "Yes Ma'am and it's back to night feeds tonight". At this she made a little grimace and said "Ooh". Then we shook hands and I was on my way.

Then my insignia was placed in its box and I was escorted to the back of the Ballroom. At the end the National Anthem was played, the Queen and her entourage left, no doubt for a welcome cup of tea, and we waited for our guests to join us. Toby was there with his faithful footman, and Sir Henry Cooper came over to talk to him. They had met on a school occasion nine years ago and we think Sir Henry had recognised him, which is a lovely thought. Our footman escorted us all back to the door and then to the front of the queue for the photographer, where he bade us farewell.

After photographs, official and unofficial, had been taken we made our way across the huge quadrangle back to the Palace Gate, where another family secret was revealed. There, waiting for us, were part of my family who had come to London specially. As they were waiting for three quarters of an hour the policeman on duty said "I don't think there is



Photo credit - Charles

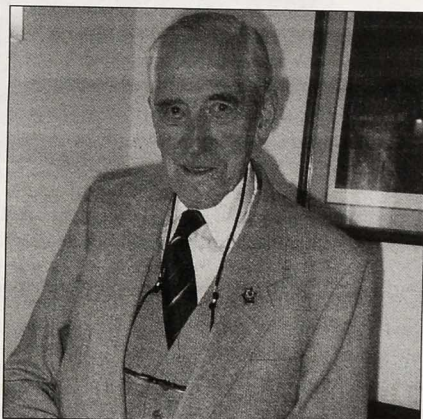
anyone famous coming out". "Oh yes there is!" was their reply.

While we chatted on the pavement, a little boy turned to his parents, pointed at me, and said "Is that the Queen?" His embarrassed parents hustled him away before I could bestow a queenly smile on him, but it made my day. I think it must have been my hat that did it!

A most memorable and exciting day.

I would like to thank everyone who has given me their good wishes.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO GORDON PAGE



- O. Jewiss

The Caversham Bridge, on behalf of its readers, is pleased to congratulate Gordon Page on the celebration of his 90th birthday earlier in the year. Older residents will remember that 25 years ago Gordon Page retired after three years as Church Warden of St Peter's Church in the days when Caversham was all one Anglican parish. For the previous 18 years he had been District Warden at St Barnabas Church. While in office Gordon served under two Rectors of Caversham and seven Priests-in-Charge at St Barnabas.

He is a one time resident of Conisboro Avenue, where he was born, and has lived in Caversham and Emmer Green all his life, with the exception of war service in Burma, India and South Africa, about which he reminisces with interest and enthusiasm. He and his wife Mary (now 93) celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary later this year and, apart from the Second World War, have lived in Gravel Hill throughout that time.

Although Gordon and Mary Page are now housebound, they have vivid memories of earlier times in Reading and Devon, where Mary originally came from and where she spent the war years. David, their son, was born there and is now the main support for his parents. The photo was taken not long after Gordon's birthday.

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

# NEW ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM

As briefly reported in last month's 'Caversham Bridge', The Right Rev Vincent Nichols, currently Auxiliary Bishop for North London in the Archdiocese of Westminster, has been appointed Archbishop-Elect of Birmingham.

Born on the 8th of November 1945 in Crosby, Liverpool, Vincent Nichols had his early education at his local parish primary school before going on to the Christian Brothers' St Mary's College in Crosby. At the age of eighteen, he realised his vocation and was sent to study for the priesthood at the English College in Rome.

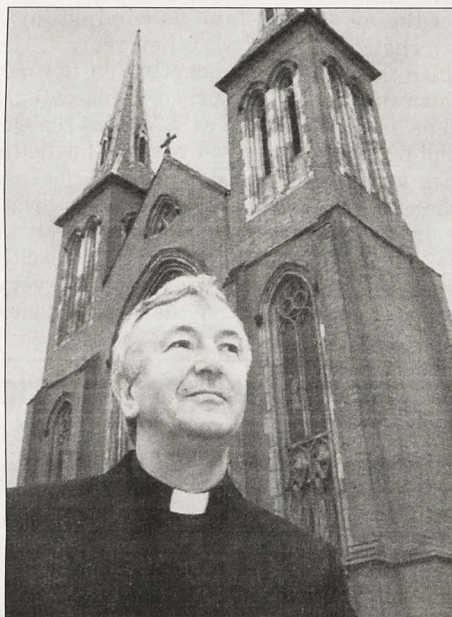
Ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Liverpool on the 21st of December 1969, he returned to England in 1970 for a year's study at Manchester

University before being appointed Assistant Priest in the Parish of St Mary's, Wigan. In 1974, he went to America for further study at Loyola University, returning in 1975 to Toxteth in Liverpool where he was engaged in pastoral duties until 1980.

Early in 1980, he was appointed to run the in-service training of clergy throughout the Liverpool Province and also began undertaking special duties for his Archbishop. This continued until 1984 when he became General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, a post very central to the administration of the Church throughout much of the United Kingdom.

It was from this post that, in 1992, he was called to be titular Bishop of Othona and Auxiliary for North London in the Archdiocese of Westminster, his episcopal ordination being conducted by Cardinal Basil Hume on the 24th of January 1992. Following the latter's sad death last summer, Bishop Nichols has been acting as Apostolic Administrator of Westminster.

It was not, therefore, the greatest of surprises when, on the 15th of February this year, it was announced that he was to succeed Maurice Couve de Murville as Archbishop of Birmingham, albeit his was by no means the only name being bandied around. His formal installation was due to take place on Wednesday 29th of March, around the time when subscribers to 'Caversham Bridge' might expect to be reading this, and it is hoped to have a report on that occasion in a subsequent issue.



- Photo courtesy of Birmingham Post & Mail

Archbishop-Elect Vincent Nichols outside St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham.

## SENSING GOD

By John Madeley

"Sensing God: the English mystics and the search for God" was the theme of this year's annual Westminster Abbey Day of Prayer. Held in early March, this was attended by around 400 people. The day included three short addresses by Canon Helen Cunliffe of Southwark Cathedral and three prayer group sessions. These were longer - taking up about two hours in all - and mostly silent. The groups, each with about 20 people, met in different parts of the Abbey.

Canon Cunliffe spoke of the renowned English mystics such as Julian of Norwich, Richard Roll, Walter Hilton and Marjery Kempe, all of whom lived in the 14th century. "Mystics were concerned with their feelings for God, not their thoughts. It's the way they looked at and celebrated ordinary things that's significant. Little things, hazelnuts for example, exist because God loves it like that. Mystics expect to see God at work in the natural world. Nature is a channel for God's grace. Experience God through your senses; recognise that the sights and sounds around you are signs of the presence of God".

"What we seek, seeks us", Canon Cunliffe went on, "expect to find God close to you and so you shall. God trusts us to choose well - so enjoy God's confidence in you. Delight in God because He delights in you. We are his joy. The Gospel message of freedom from sin is there for all of us to receive. So forget yourself, ask for mercy".

On prayer, Canon Cunliffe advised: "Seek an attitude to prayer rather than a system. The purpose of prayer is not to experience warm feelings but to be in His presence, to be one with God." When we pray we are answering God's invitation to pray, to spend time with Him. We do not initiate prayer, God does. Prayer is our answer. "So relax. Enjoy the lovely garden that God has created where God Himself is the gardener. You can't come to any harm in God's garden. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich - 'all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well'".

The day ended with a magnificent Choral Evensong. Westminster Abbey is closed to visitors for the Day of Prayer and assumes its primary purpose - as a house of prayer. It takes place on a Saturday, normally around the end of February or early March. No charge is made. Details of the 2001 Day of Prayer can be obtained from: Day of Prayer office, Westminster Abbey, Deans Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ.

## BOYS BRIGADE NEWS



1st Caversham Boys Brigade winning team and supporters.

Having just got over their 60th Anniversary celebrations, the 1st Caversham Company of the Boys' Brigade were celebrating again. Members of the Junior Section have won the Reading battalion five-a-side Football competition in two millennia. They were the last winners in the old millennium and first winners in the new millennium, thus creating a piece of history on January 15th. The boys of the winning team, Damien Stockings, Ben Tipper, Christopher Smith, Carl Field and Andrew Lines, were presented with their medals in Church on Sunday January 23rd by Rev Rosemary Fletcher. The Battalion Trophy was also on display for the congregation to admire. During the service the following boys were awarded their white achievement badges: Michael Micklejohn, Michael Smith, Andrew Lines, Daniel Collier, Alexander Salmon and Luke Woodcraft. Congratulations to all of you.

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

The special preacher on Mothering Sunday, April 2nd, at the 10.30am service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road, will be the Reverend Dr John Taylor, a former President of Conference.

## CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

It is hoped that a large congregation will be present at 6.30pm on Sunday, May 7th, at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road, when the visiting preacher for the Christian Aid service will be the Bishop of Swindon, the Right Reverend Michael Doe, who has recently been in Uganda and has previously worked for the British Council of Churches. He is very committed to Third World issues and has worked ecumenically in Blackfield Leys in this Diocese. All will be welcome.

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

CYMDEITHAS CYMRU  
READING A'R CYLCH  
AT ST BARNABAS

- O. Jewiss

Our photograph shows Walter Williams, President of the Reading and District Welsh Society with the Bishop of Reading after the St David's Day Service.

Ever since the building of the Great Western Railway there has been a strong Welsh element in Reading, which persists to this day. The coincidence of one of the Churchwardens at St Barnabas (Walter Williams) also being President of the Reading and District Welsh Society resulted in their annual St David's Day Service being held there this year. The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS, himself of Welsh extraction, was the special preacher in this bilingual service. Although the Bishop spoke in English he did so about the toughness and the example of Celtic spirituality. The service attracted a good congregation, some enthusiastic Welsh singing and a Welsh tea in the Church Hall afterwards.

EMMER GREEN  
TEENAGER ON  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE IN  
MALAYSIA

- O. Jewiss

The picture of Charlotte Holland was taken shortly before her departure.

The GAP Scheme whereby young people spend time after leaving school in voluntary service overseas was featured during One World Week last year. Towards the end of February the congregation at St Barnabas said a temporary farewell to Charlotte Holland as she left, as one of this year's Gap Scheme volunteers, to work for six months in a Salvation Army Children's Home in Kuching, which is in the south west of Sarawak, itself part of Malaysia. The home looks after children up to their late teens and Charlotte has gone in the company of another Gap volunteer from Essex.

Charlotte is partially supported in this work of Christian service by grants from St Barnabas Church and from Caversham Consolidated Charities. In due course we hope that we shall be able to report some of her experiences in a very different culture from that in Caversham.

Taking the Church  
to every home

Last Christmas time 13,500 homes in Caversham were visited by members of the local Churches and a Christmas Card together with either a Gospel or Candle was left as a form of outreach as the new Millennium dawned. A further form of outreach to the neighbourhood is planned to take place between Easter and Pentecost with a visit to the homes when a Christian greeting will be taken from the local Churches and a card left together with a raffia "Palm" Cross. The cross is the simplest and yet most powerful of Christian symbols, and it is trusted that it will be accepted and kept as a reminder of the sacrifice made by Jesus 2,000 years ago. If the householder wants to know more a note will be made so that a follow-up can be arranged. If the greeting and the cross are rejected the visitor will thank the person for answering the door, and then move on to the next house.

TALITHA KOUM: YOUNG  
WOMAN STAND UP

- O. Jewiss

Our photograph shows the chief participants in the Women's World Day of Prayer. Lana Broady is fourth from the left and the Revd Sheila Nunn is on the extreme right.

Every year on the first Friday in March there is an international day of prayer organised by a group of women from a different part of the world; this usually draws attention to the plight of women from the area preparing the service. Plans are laid at least seven years before the event and so it was remarkable that this year the Service for the Women's World Day of Prayer was written by the women of Indonesia, a country with a population nearly four times that of the United Kingdom and an area almost eight times, but where fewer than 10 per cent are Christian and where during the past year there has been much Christian persecution. The service was prepared at a time when there was great danger to the writers in a country where women have always been treated as inferior to men.

## Inspiration from new life

The Caversham Service was held in Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, which was almost entirely full with women. It took the theme of the raising of Jairus' daughter, the new life given to her by Jesus being an inspiration to women everywhere, whether they be chained, oppressed, helpless, harassed, marginalised and suffering or otherwise. The symbolism was complete when the testimony of new life was made by a 12 year old girl from the congregation, Lana Broady, giving hope to the oppressed representatives of womanhood.

## Take a stand in love and compassion

It was a theme well used by the Revd Sheila Nunn, the special preacher, in a modern day analogy of new life in Jairus' daughter, who subsequently took a stand "because she owed it to Him". Sheila used this to encourage the all age women present to stand up metaphorically and get involved, when perhaps they would rather leave it to others. She spoke about the importance of standing together, of sharing lives and experiences, of the spirit of love, power and self discipline. She spoke of God calling us to be strong, of the sin of self effacement, and of the need to take a stand in love and compassion for a hurting world.

## An opportunity to be shared?

Each year this writer is struck by the inspirational nature of the service and of the fact that it is the women who feel the need for, and support, an international day of prayer. It would not detract from the service if it were also supported by men, assuming of course that they are welcomed by an open invitation. Each year women from around the world share in these services a special ministry appreciated by other women. Men might gain a better understanding about the oppression of women, particularly, in other societies, if only they were present. While this initiative should remain with women, it seems to be an opportunity that needs to be shared.

Dedication at  
St Andrew's

Revd Bill Carpenter returned to St Andrew's on Sunday 30th January for the dedication and blessing of the Pullmans table, presented to St Andrew's by Peter and Rosemary in memory of their Father and Mother, Leslie and Edith Hardy, who had worshipped at St Andrew's since 1948.

The service was attended by Peter and his wife Mavis, Rosemary and her husband John and several other members of the family. Jamie Woolford of Simon Taverner & Co used top quality English



- Norman Kent

oak to carefully construct the table, and it is interesting to note that the two drawers have bases to them made from timber of the fallen cedar of Lebanon tree which once graced the lawns of Hardwick House prior to the gales. The legs of the table are carved with arches that match those carved on the pulpit of the church.

Les and Edith were popular members of the congregation. They married in 1935 and, after moving to Caversham, became very active in church affairs, Les being Church Treasurer for many years. Les retired from teaching at Reading School in 1975 and he and Edith celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary at St Andrew's in 1985.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

Dear Editors

I was interested to read in Jean Sawyer's "China, - a land of contrasts" (March 2000) that "religious groups are practising their faith openly", and that the tour guide said that "many young people are attracted to Christianity." I am the China analyst for Keston Institute and the news that we receive by internet and through a wide range of contacts indicates that, while there are registered state approved churches, many ordinary Christians live in daily fear of arrest and harassment.

Li Dexian, a tireless worker for Christ in the Christian Brethren tradition, had his church demolished by the police in October and has been arrested on ten occasions since then. In May last year the Vicar General of the underground Catholic church in Beijing was murdered after saying Mass. On Keston's Persecution Line I have documented the names of many Catholic and Protestant Christians, and those of other religions, who are currently in prison or being harassed for their beliefs. <<www.keston.org>>

In the authorised churches, The Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) (Protestant) and the Catholic Patriotic Association (Catholic), several doctrines of the faith may not be taught, including the Second Coming of Christ, nor may there be any contact between Protestant and Catholic Christians - they are regarded as being different religions in China. On 11 October 1999 the *Kunming Daily* publicly labelled 7 Christian sects as illegal.

Please feel free to contact me on any aspect of the church in China or on others suffering for their religious beliefs in Communist or ex-Communist countries. Keston Institute has been the voice of those who are persecuted for their faith for thirty years.

Yours sincerely

Mark Pargeter

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**SCOUT LEADER REQUIRED!**

The 22nd Reading (St John's) Scout group is looking for a Scout Leader to take over the running of the Troop. The Troop is part of the 22nd Reading Group whose Headquarters is on Gosbrook Road at the rear of St John's Church. If a leader cannot be found the troop will be forced to close at Easter bringing an end to 80 years of Scouting in this part of Caversham.

The Troop currently consists of 15 young and committed boys together with two assistant leaders. They are very anxious to continue their Scouting activities and improve their skills. Full training is available. If you would like to have a go or know someone who would be prepared to be the leader please contact either the Group chairman, John Stout, on 947 4961 or the Group Leader, Martyn Roberts, on 947 2146.



## Wales Welcomes Scops Owl

It was early morning on Rhossili Downs, the view simply breathtaking. A few gulls lazed above the gentle surf, tempting one to stay - but time was limited. Two and a half thousand feet of Carmarthen Fan waited to be climbed.

The car was parked off road and a boggy approach negotiated. The climb was fairly easy and our equipment adequate.

Half way up status cloud had lowered when my colleague slipped. The incident was resolved but we relaxed to enjoy chocolate before deciding to continue. Just as the summit was reached the clouds cleared, revealing a small llyn which we had earlier 'duck-draked' with flat stones.

Sandwiches were being consumed when some Chaffinches and two bold Ravens joined our tea-party, then fed with gusto.

Gwenffrwd RSPB Reserve was the next objective. Pied Flycatchers and Siskins were well seen but the absence of Dippers along the Tywi was possibly due to acid rain pollution.

Northwards, the Brianne Reservoir was hosting a sizeable flock of Goosanders. Approaching the wild extent of Cambrian Mountains, Buzzards mewed from huge pine-forests and Red Grouse called 'Go-back' from upland moors.

Near Tregaron a farmer transferred his sheep flock, enabling us to park and camp. Peregrines were nesting on rocky outcrops high above the farm. Bathroom facilities and complimentary fresh food next morning offered further fine gestures. The sincerity of these folk is unforgettable.

When later we stopped to watch a distantly soaring Red Kite and Buzzard, the Kite flew towards us then circled low as if to make friends. Farther North the Cors Carron peat-bog was well worth visiting. Hours could have been spent watching the birds at this reserve.

On through Harlech then down the Llyn Peninsular, another haven of kindness awaited. A small camp-site alongside a sandy beach was owned by a retired couple. We were advised that chickens having free run of the large back-garden were all pets and true friends.

Next morning steaming mugs of tea were brought to us with milk and eggs to take away. Strictly no remuneration was accepted.

Sitting on rocks at the Llyn's tip, we overlooked the famous Bardsey Island. Within moments our very first Choughs arrived. These handsome crows with red legs and decurved red bills were obviously used to visitors - and their titbits. Wonderful Wales - what can one say but, thank you for everything.

Scops Owl

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## SAFARI IN TANZANIA



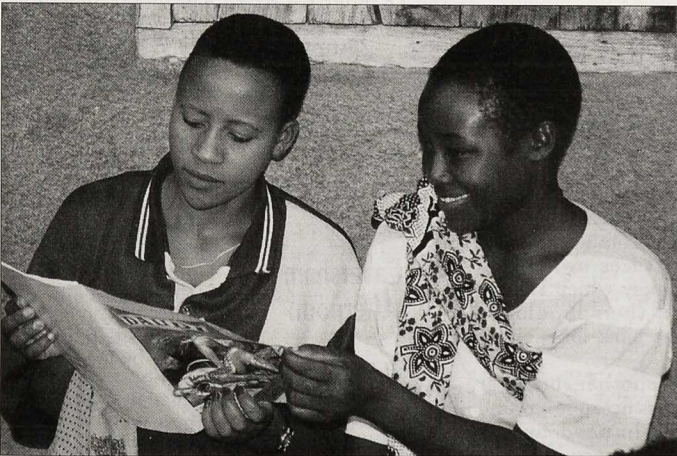
Jan Blakeley

- Norman Kent

For 17 years, St Andrew's Church, Caversham has supported St Francis' Anglican Hospital, Kwamkono (founded in 1923) which serves a large rural area with low rainfall and is consequently very short of water. The only total rehabilitation unit for disabled polio children in Tanzania is located at the hospital.

Three years ago, St Andrew's PCC voted to raise funds for drilling a borehole as the hospital's shallow well was drying up, and staff were becoming dependent upon stored rainwater. The target was reached in 1998 and, when requests to the aid agencies in East Africa for supervision of the drilling drew a blank in 1999, colleagues in GIBB Reading persuaded Jan Blakeley and civil engineer husband, Brian (who both used to live in Uganda) to go and see how best to ensure that the funds were used most effectively.

In February, we flew to Nairobi, then travelled south by bus to Korogwe in northern Tanzania. We were warmly welcomed by Bishop Ramadhani, Dr Justin Mganga from St Francis' and by the Diocesan Staff. Bishop John (formerly Anglican Archbishop of Tanzania) offered us the comfortable Diocesan guesthouse for our stay. It took two days to get over



- J. Blakeley

Girls in Polio Hostel reading Swahili Scripture comics.



- J. Blakeley

Group of polio children with Dr Justin Mganga.

By Jan Blakeley

the shock of going from an English winter to 38-40°C, with 80% humidity, and 28°C at night – and also to coping with Tanzania's erratic water and electricity supplies. Our hosts ensured we always had water in a tank in the hall, candles, lamps and a Primus stove.

## ST FRANCIS' HOSPITAL

Next day we were taken to the hospital and Dr Mganga introduced us to the delightful staff during a tour of the wards and theatres, the polio Hostel and the Anglican Sisters – who cooked lunch for us whilst there. We were greatly impressed by the cleanliness despite the dire shortage of water and money, by the orderliness and the happy Christian atmosphere at the hospital and by the love and care given to the polio children. Some bright student nurses, doing part of their training there, worked alongside the "resident" nurses and midwives. The wards were mostly full, and operations took place in spotless theatres. One morning, on our way along murrum roads to the hospital, John, the ever-watchful driver of the hospital Landrover, spotted people helping a man doubled up in agony with a hernia. He was gently put in the Landrover and taken straight to Outpatients and by the afternoon was recovering from surgery. Each day begins with prayers and on Tuesday mornings a full service is held for the patients.

Dr Mganga showed us the five rainwater storage tanks as we walked round – now nearly empty and anxiously awaiting the rains due to start in March. They haul out the water by bucket, filter and boil it before use; it's kept for essential use only, no showers or baths, just "washes"! The tanks were locked for security and to minimise contamination.

## POLIO CHILDREN'S HOSTEL

Before leaving Nairobi, I went to the Kenyan Bible Society to buy sets of graded Scripture New Readers in Swahili and English, plus Scripture comics. When we gave them to Peter Rajabu, Hostel Manager, he said they were just what the children badly needed and, at our next visit, we came upon the children wholly engrossed in them.

The Hostel is for children who missed out on vaccinations when young – and subsequently caught polio which so deformed their legs that they could only crawl along the ground. It was founded by Anglican nuns whose aim was to care for the whole child, physically, mentally and spiritually. Peter has a waiting list and, at the moment, has 23 children during term time. When they have recovered from their first surgery to start straightening their legs they go to Sunday School and Mini School to learn to read, before attending the nearby Government school fulltime. Callipers and special shoes are made on site.

Treatment can last up to 2 yrs and during that time they do well at school and come to know Jesus. One of the older girls had just heard she'd passed the exam for secondary school; Peter will now try to arrange funding, as parents can rarely afford the fees. The children cannot run about but after school they help with supper, with the animals, knit or read. Peter started a sewing workshop for the older boys and girls and I was delighted to see the last 3 hand sewing machines sent from St Andrew's being used to make dresses and shorts. I could have spent more hours with them as it is such a happy place.

## BOREHOLE SITES

In 38°C, we walked round the 2 proposed borehole sites among the banana trees and coconut palms in the Sunguru valley below the hospital. Other days we examined geological and rainfall maps at the Water Board which made Brian realise how critical it was to ensure the best borehole sites are chosen; he decided that a hydro-geo survey to doublecheck the sites was essential before drilling. After leaving Korogwe, we travelled 200 miles south to Dar es Salaam to visit the Government drilling agency to clarify their quotation and then to the local GIBB office where help was offered to research further information on the Kwamkono area.

## WORSHIP

What a privilege to worship at the Cathedrals in Korogwe and Zanzibar. With our knowledge of Swahili we could read and sing the hymns which surprised our friends, but they were translated straight from our hymn books! The beautiful singing and the spirituality of the large congregations made fellowship with them very enjoyable.

Given the extreme heat, humidity and hectic schedule, we were glad of a 5 day break on Zanzibar Island. There we learned that the Anglican Cathedral is built on the site of the former slave market and how British Christians responded to David Livingstone's call in 1858 to "abolish the slave trade and spread Christianity throughout Africa".

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**MAPLEDURHAM  
PLAYING FIELDS**

*John Adams, Chairman of the Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion Users Committee of the Warren and District Residents Association writes:*

"Reading Borough Council are seriously failing in their responsibility to maintain this valuable public asset. The playing fields and surrounding area are owned by the Charities Commission as they were a gift from the Hewitt family, originally for the use of residents of Mapledurham, then part of South Oxfordshire. When Reading Borough took over this area in the late 70's they also became the Trustees for the upkeep of the Playing Fields as such "for the benefit of the residents of Reading" and became the owners of the Pavilion Buildings. These buildings were subsequently enlarged by the addition of changing rooms at the expense of the Borough.

A Management Committee chaired by a Councillor representing Thames Ward meets twice a year to review the management of the assets. The present Chairman is Cllr Ken Putt. The Playing Fields and Pavilion Users Committee are represented on the Management Committee and have continuously complained about the neglect of the building and sports facilities. Action has been promised but has been negligible. The lack of repair and upkeep has meant that some essential repairs have cost many times more than they would have done if they had been undertaken promptly. For example, the leaks through the flat roof over the changing rooms eventually resulted in an internal wall having to be demolished and rebuilt a year ago. The roof is now leaking badly again and the ceiling and walls deteriorating rapidly once more.

The Borough officials promised at the last Management Meeting to carry out a complete survey of the buildings and prepare a list of work to be done. This has not been forthcoming and apparently will not even be discussed until this April. The Users Committee have therefore decided to carry out their own survey, which will be presented to all concerned with these public amenities.

As examples of these, to name just three:

- The hand rail on one side of the steps leading down to the main entrance door has come adrift and is lying to one side
- Both the fixed light above the main entrance and the security light have not been working for several weeks and elderly people have to come down the steps in the dark.
- One of the fire escape doors in the main hall has been damaged and has been boarded up so that it cannot be used.

So much for the Health and Safety and Fire regulations which are also neglected in other respects. The football pitches have not been mown, as promised, on several occasions and matches have had to be cancelled resulting in penalties having to be paid by the host teams.

The present appearance of the Pavilion, including much graffiti, is that of a similar building in an impoverished third world country and betrays a complete lack of civic pride. We know of no other Western European country that would treat a public amenity in this way. Urgent action is needed to prevent it from becoming unusable and an even greater disgrace."

**KIDMORE END CRICKET CLUB**

Readers may be aware of the difficulties which have been faced by some local cricket clubs during the winter months. The future of Bishopswood Sports Ground, Sonning Common, appears to be in doubt, at least as a venue for cricket. As a result, Caversham and Sonning Common CC has merged with Redingensians CC and the newly formed club will play at Sonning. Because of the uncertainty surrounding Bishopswood, Sonning Common Village CC has arranged to play all this season's fixtures away from home. Not far away, we read of the limited tenancy which Henley CC retains at the Brakspear Ground and of their landlord's suggestion that the ground could become a car park for visitors who wish to tour the brewery.

Fortunately, this particular coin does have another, brighter side. Facilities at Kidmore End Cricket Club's picturesque ground at Gallowstree Common have just been enhanced by the construction of new double-bay nets. For some 15 years, the club has been grateful for the use of nets at Chiltern Edge School. The new nets will now allow all coaching of youngsters, girls as well as boys, to take place on the club's Gallowstree Common ground, in addition to the regular matches for Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 sides which have long been a feature of the club's provision for youth sport. Any young cricketers, aged 9 or above, will be extremely welcome to join in practice on Monday evenings at 6.30 pm, beginning on Monday, 1st May. Please contact Mark New (0118 947 7959) if you wish to participate.

How did these nets come about? Planning permission was necessary and objections had to be overcome. The ground belongs to the parish of Kidmore End and the cricket club will be forever in the debt of Kidmore End Parish Council for backing the project all the way and for enabling an application to the National Lottery to be presented in the council's name. Money had to be found for the project. This began with a direct and successful appeal to the parishioners of Kidmore End, spearheaded by Mr. W. E. Townsend, president of the club. Grants, not only from the Lottery, but also from Lords Taverners, South Oxfordshire District Council and the parish council itself have helped to meet the cost which, after the completion of landscaping, will amount to £13,000. Excellent relations between parishioners, parish council and cricket club have resulted in the completion of a project which augurs well for the future wellbeing of youth cricket in the area.

**the  
CLUBS****Reading & District  
Probus  
Club**

The Club's monthly meeting at the Upcross Hotel on Monday 14 February was not to celebrate St Valentine's Day - it was the AGM with reports and a change of President (they always do splendid work). Members were encouraged to introduce new people to the Club, men nearing or in retirement who would find the monthly Monday meetings good social get-togethers. They begin with traditional conviviality (around the bar) and then a sit-down lunch - rarely sitting with the same people - and a talk, often illustrated, and usually so entertaining that it goes too quickly. This has certainly been so over the last year.

Other social occasions have been greatly enjoyed, amongst them lunch at the Leander Club, a garden party in a lovely setting, and various visits, more of which are anticipated this new year.

Why not contact the secretary, Mr. Barry Ward, for details, telephone 0118 942 8806.

**Caversham  
Afternoon  
TG**

Mrs J Slatter presided over the February meeting. She welcomed members and thanked Miss P Reed for the Spring flowers for the table. She also welcomed back Mrs B Holder.

The Coffee Morning on 1st February was not well attended and Mrs Slatter requested more support. She also made an appeal for committee members.

The speaker was Mrs Evans who gave a very interesting talk on her experiences as a wartime nurse. She also brought newspaper clippings illustrating her travels. Following her training she undertook a varied programme of nursing visits, ranging from hospitals in England to nursing the wounded in Dunkirk. She ended

her overseas work in India which proved to be something very different, before returning to the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Mrs D Smith proposed the vote of thanks. Meetings are the third Thursday in the month, 2.00pm, Church House Caversham. All welcome.

**Caversham  
WI**

Curiosities were on view at the February meeting when Mr Alan Copeland brought another selection of his slides. He has an eye for the unusual and produced interesting photographs under the title 'In Town Tonight', accompanied by appropriate music.

The President Miss M Cameron reminded members about the Spring Council Meeting and the Group Meeting, both in April.

The speaker had the difficult task of judging the competition - for a Valentine biscuit - which was won by Mrs Sylvia Myszor.

**Emmer  
Green  
Townswomen's  
Guild**

The chairman, Mrs Maureen Chamberlain, began the February session by thanking all members who had made the "Welcome to the year 2000" evening such a success, and read letters from our guests on that night. According to the Federation report, many guilds had celebrated in a similar way.

She was sad to report the death of Mrs B Fowler, a member for many years, whose funeral she and Mrs Margaret Pocock had attended. The guild had made a donation to the named charity, The Children's Society. The report from the Ramblers' Group said that Mrs Fowler had

**continued on  
page 11**



# the CLUBS

from page 10

been a keen participant and several members of the group had also attended the service.

Other activities had been a visit to Tesco by Arts and Crafts, a house-party by Words and Music, and a slide-show illustrating the gardener's year for the Gardening Section. Organisers of all these activities were thanked.

While buyers swamped the Bring and Buy tables during the refreshment break the second part of the evening was taking shape. Although it was a winter's night, Caversham Heights Guild Drama Group soon had members convinced that summer was near. Their entertainment, "Country Capers", was set against a back-drop showing a multi-flowered meadow, each colour being echoed in the costumes. Humorous limericks and poems, solos and choruses from well-known stage shows gave a real Anglo-American atmosphere, while line-dancing put the audience into a toe-tapping mood. At the end, the Chairman thanked them for giving Emmer Green their final performance for this year. Everyone

appreciated and applauded such a lively and enjoyable entertainment.

Group activities are an important part of our year; Emmer Green offers Arts and Crafts, Words and Music, Gardening and Rambling, all of which take place in the month preceding each meeting. Ideas for new groups are always welcome for discussion. Anyone interested is welcome at the monthly meetings, held on the second Tuesday in the month, in St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, at 7.15pm. Why not come along and find out what we do?

## Caversham Community Association

February began with the usual informal games evening with cards, Scrabble and draughts. Romance was in the air when the Valentine Party hit the right day this year. There were plenty of chocolate bars as prizes for the hat relay game, spot dances and card dance. A delicious Bring and Share supper was followed by some energetic dancing. The competition for a Valentine card was won by Betty Colton.

The following week St Valentine was again

the theme for a popular Bingo evening as the prizes included chocolates, red silk roses and writing paper for love-letters!

There was a colourful end to the month when Mrs Meryl Beek showed and talked about slides on Birds, Beasts and Flowers. Places visited included Northumbria, Eastbourne, Dorset, and nearer home, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The excellent photography was much admired.

## St Peter's Wives' Group

Members enjoyed a very entertaining evening at their February meeting. Mrs Beek gave an interesting talk about 'The Goring Gap', greatly enhanced by her excellent slides, starting with the frozen river at Caversham in 1997. Apparently this is how the Goring Gap appeared many years ago, due to ice.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month, 8.00pm, at Church House, Caversham. New members always welcome.

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Members and visitors were welcomed by the chairman, Mrs Hazel New, to the February meeting. Following the general business of the guild, she explained that the speaker for that evening was ill, but Ray Goodman, at very short notice, had taken her place. His talk was called "Amazing Thailand" and as he showed the excellent

slides, from the entertaining elephant school to interesting Buddhist priests and the even more serious war graves, with memories of the Second World War, Ray spoke very knowledgeably of all the interesting facts behind the pictures. Members were not only grateful, but had a very enjoyable evening.

The Drama Group had once more entertained another guild during the month and were now putting that show to bed. However, they were already preparing another one for the birthday celebrations in June.

A large party of 40 members went to The Mill at Sonning for lunch and to watch a light hearted play. It was a very pleasant outing, thanks to the arrangements made by Sheila Holley. At Social Studies, members went travelling again with Jean Sawyer to South Africa. Starting at Cape Town she climbed Table Mountain without the mist and obtained a glorious view from the top. Then, on her way to Port Elizabeth, there was an opportunity to show beautiful coastal scenes as well as mountains. Jean stopped for the birds and flowers and although there were the usual animals, members loved the baby elephant crossing the road by holding on to his mother's tail.

Come and try our monthly meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall, Caversham.

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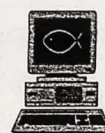
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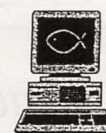
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>April 1</b>        | Gigantic Bric-a-Brac Sale. 10.30am Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Methodist Church. Bach and his Legacy. 7.30pm Reading Bach Choir sing at St Anne's on behalf of CAFOD. Tickets £9 (concessions £7, children £4) phone 947 1014.  |
| <b>April 9</b>        | Fauré's Requiem. 6.30pm at St Peter's Church.   |
| <b>April 10</b>       | Caversham and District Residents' Association A.G.M. 8pm at Baptist Church Hall, Prospect Street.   |
| <b>April 18</b>       | Holy Week Meditations led by Mrs Rosemary Carpenter. 10am at The Oak House, Quiet Garden, Woodcote Road. Information from Mrs Leslie Maynerd, phone 947 6067.   |
| <b>April 21</b>       | Stainer's CRUCIFIXION performed by Churches Together in Caversham Choir. 7.00pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road.   |
| <b>April 29</b>       | Llantisant Male Voice Choir concert. 7.30pm at The Oratory School, Woodcote. In aid of Wyfold Riding for the Disabled. The Oratory Preparatory School Choir and Peter O'Connor, organist at Shiplake parish churches will also take part. The concert is sponsored by Bellway Homes and Nicholas King plc. Tickets from Caversham Bookshop or phone 947 3184. |
| <b>May 14</b>         | Langtree Orchestral Society Concert. 2.00pm at The Oratory School, Woodcote. Tickets (£6, concessions £4) at door or phone 947 6291. (Further details in the May issue).  |
| <b>May 27, 28, 29</b> | FLOWER FESTIVAL "With a Song in my Heart". Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Methodist Church. (Further details in the May issue)   |



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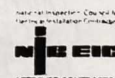
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Notice is hereby given that I, Mike Tierney applied on 9.2.2000 to the Reading Borough Council in respect of the premises known as The Crown on The Bridge, under the provisions of the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Section 1, Schedule 1 for the Grant/Renewal of a Licence for Public Entertainment. Any objections to this application must be sent in writing to:-

Head of Planning and  
Environmental Health  
PO BOX 17  
CIVIC CENTRE  
READING RG1 7TD  
not later than seven days after the  
date of the publication of this notice.

**CAVERSHAM  
CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL**  
Public Entertainment  
Licence

Notice is hereby given that I, Mervyn Else applied on 6.3.2000 to the Reading Borough Council in respect of the premises known as Thameside Promenade, under the provisions of the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Section 1, Schedule 1 for the Grant/Renewal of a Licence for Public Entertainment. Any objections to this application must be sent in writing to:-

Head of Planning and  
Environmental Health  
PO BOX 17  
CIVIC CENTRE  
READING RG1 7TD  
not later than seven days after the  
date of the publication of this notice.

**CAVERSHAM  
CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL**  
Public Entertainment  
Licence

Notice is hereby given that I, Mike Tierney applied on 9.2.2000 to the Reading Borough Council in respect of the premises known as The Clifton Arms, under the provisions of the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Section 1, Schedule 1 for the Grant/Renewal of a Licence for Public Entertainment. Any objections to this application must be sent in writing to:-

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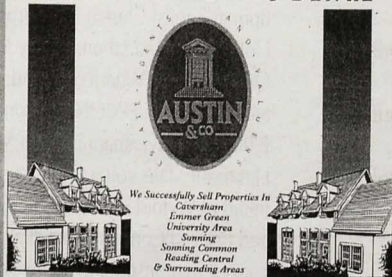
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