

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

this year takes place from Sunday 14th May to Saturday 20th May.

The annual united Christian Aid Service is a week earlier than usual and will be on Sunday 7th May at 6.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. The guest speaker will be The Bishop of Swindon, the Rt Revd Michael Doe. Everyone is welcome to this service.

The Christian Aid Walk is on Saturday 20th May and will take place over the same 5, 10 or 15 mile courses as last year starting from Henley Rugby Club.

Anyone who would like to help with the street collection,

especially in Caversham Park Village, should contact their Church Christian Aid Representative or Keith Stephen-Evans (947 3619). Applications to take part in the Walk are similarly available from your Representative or Keith Stephen-Evans.

It is now possible for Christian Aid to recover tax on contributions made during the week, provided the donor is a UK taxpayer. The back of the Christian Aid envelope now asks for the name and address of the donor, where appropriate, and it is urged that all who qualify in this way fill this section in before handing to the Collector.

MORE FOR OUR MONEY MORE FOR THE CHURCH MORE THE THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES



Chancellor Gordon Brown's Millennium Gift Aid initiative has got bigger and better. From April onwards, churches and charities, among them charities working in the world's poorest countries, can reclaim tax on any gift, however large or small.

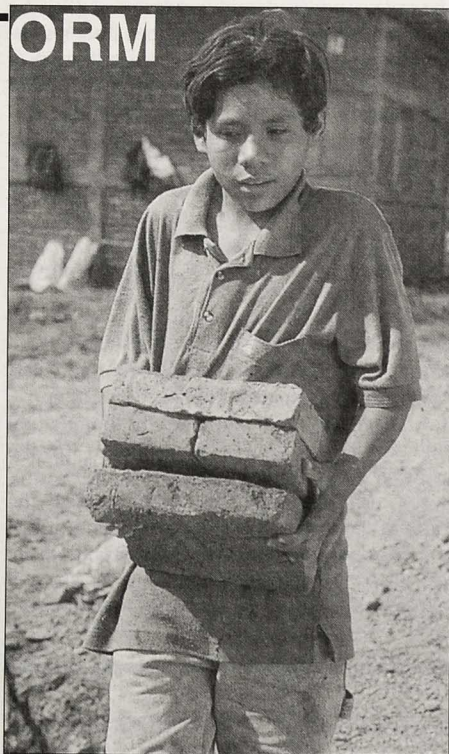
The scheme originally allowed tax to be reclaimed on gifts of £100 or more (the usual lower limit is £250). Now, provided the donor is a UK taxpayer, all gifts will qualify. This means that charities will be able to claim an extra 28 per cent over and above the amount donated - making a £1 gift worth £1.28 and £10 worth £12.80. When you give, all you need to do is to make sure that your church treasurer, or the charity to whom you are giving money, has a note of your name and address and the amount you are giving.

Among the first to benefit will be children in India, Nicaragua and Rwanda, who are the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal. In order to increase the value of people's gifts this year, donors will be encouraged to fill in their names and addresses on their Christian Aid Week envelopes. If Christian Aid raises as much as last year, the details of just half the givers would mean an extra £1 million for children in the developing world.

Nobody enjoys paying tax. But this is a once in a millennium opportunity to enable more of the tax we pay to benefit those in greatest need.

AFTER THE STORM

In October 1998, Hurricane Mitch hit Central America, killing thousands of people and leaving two million homeless. The disaster provoked a worldwide relief effort. Donations to Christian Aid Week this year will particularly help a Nicaraguan Support Centre which provides educational and national activities for working children.



Building a new house in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

Christian Aid and the Ethical Trade Initiative -

A Supermarket's Response

A talk given by **Mr John Foley**,
Chairman of Waitrose's
'Responsible Sourcing Committee'

in
St Leonard's Church, Woodcote

on
Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm

Further details from Janet Casson
(01491 681483)

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Farmer**
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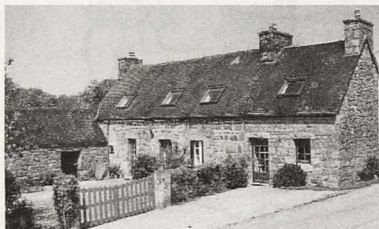
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TALKING POINT

By John Madeley

Licensed Lay Minister, St Peter's

UNNATURAL DISASTERS

Another "natural disaster" – how easily that phrase slips off the tongue. Most recently it was over Ethiopia, Mozambique and Madagascar. Not so long ago it was Venezuela, Orissa, Turkey, Honduras. A Cabinet minister, who should know better, even called a recent disaster "an act of God".

I want to suggest that we stop using the phrase "natural disaster" and stop thinking of emergency situations in that way. The term is itself a disaster; it can deflect attention away from the reasons for disasters and induce a feeling – oh, it's natural, so apart from a contribution to the relief effort, there's nothing much I can do about it.

The floods, droughts, severe weather etc. that have led to recent disasters have been anything but natural. They are distinctly unnatural. Global warming is causing the weather to become unnatural, more extreme and more unpredictable, with huge variations occurring within quite short distances. While southern Africa is suffering because of floods, for example, millions in Ethiopia and East Africa are now affected by drought.

Global warming is due to the heavy use of fossil fuels in industrial countries – basically, our lifestyles. Disasters that we in the West have helped to cause we have the nerve to call "natural", even "acts of God". A dangerous delusion.

But it's more than climate. Poverty is the hidden cause of why heavy rains in southern Africa have led to such severe flooding in Mozambique. The country's limited resources mean there's little money to invest in the infrastructure that is needed to control the floods. Poverty was the reason why people had stripped the hillsides in Honduras and Venezuela. Disastrous mudslides resulted which again were anything but natural. We get floods and mudslides in Europe, it's true, that cause a lot of damage. But they rarely cost lives on the scale they do in poorer countries.

Behind poverty often lies debt. Lack of spending on infrastructure in Mozambique is partly due to the country's debt burden, which means there's nothing to spare.

Disasters are induced by policy, poverty and lifestyles more than by natural factors. To lessen the possibility of future disasters, policies are needed that tackle poverty, step up aid for development efforts, give worthwhile debt relief and which lead to a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other global warming gases, etc. If we in the West want to see fewer disasters, we need to examine our lifestyles.

These disasters surely cannot be "acts of God". Christians believe in a God of love who does not rain down disaster on the people he created. Yes, you can point to verses in the Old Testament where that apparently happened. But I am certain that a loving God does not rain down suffering on people, especially the poorest, most vulnerable members of our one world.

But what about earthquakes? The point about earthquakes is that we know where they are likely to strike and can build to withstand them. Wealthy people rarely see their homes destroyed or die in earthquakes. It's the poor who cannot afford earthquake-proof houses who suffer.

Tragically, in the next few years, we are likely to see more unnatural disasters. We cannot escape the fact that it's we who helped to sow the seeds for them. There has never been a more urgent time for us to re-examine our lifestyles, to stop using as many fossil fuels, to leave the car in the garage, for example, and walk, cycle or board one of our excellent Reading buses instead, to use electricity that comes from renewable energy sources; just ring your electricity provider and tell them you want to change to this system. We can do something about disasters if we want to.

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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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: VACANCY

All contributions for June issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday May 3.

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.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX Tel: 0118 947 1703.

Typeset by Right Image Graphics Co. Ltd, 131 Cardiff Road, Reading RG1 6JF Tel: 0118 939 3002 Fax 0118 957 4411 ISSN: 0118 956 6077. E-mail: service@rightimage.demon.co.uk
Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd.

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ANGLICAN

Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road.
Tel: 947 9130.
(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30
Tel: 947 1703)
Fr. Keith Kinnaird, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road.
Tel: 947 2788
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

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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

Millennium Tree-Planting Brings Celebrations Together

Children from two local schools learnt what it's like to be retired and helped plant a tree to celebrate the new Millennium at the Priory Court retirement development in Caversham on Friday 24th March, at a special ceremony led by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Steve Waite.

Pupils from Caversham Primary School and Thameside Primary School joined forces with the Mayor and the residents of the McCarthy and Stone development on Priory Avenue to put down roots for the future in the form of a flowering cherry tree.

Mrs Chris Tomkins, Head Teacher of Caversham Primary School, said: "The tree-planting was very useful for the children in terms of what we call PSE - personal, social and emotional development. They enjoyed meeting with the mayor and talking to a different generation. They really had a laugh and a joke with the residents of Priory Court. 'We looked around the development while we were there, and the children were very interested in how all the facilities are specially designed for older people. Their favourite was the camera entry system, which they waved goodbye to when they left.'

The camera entry system is one of the



— McCarthy & Stone 2000

From left to right at Priory Court, Caversham: Thameside School - Catherine Owen, Eleanor Brodie, Alex Keeble, James Trendell, Ilana Yesayahoo, Luke Woodcraft. Caversham Primary School - James Winney, Abigail Chrich, Julie Knight, Jen Easton, Matthew Burnell and Robert Bunting. Centre: Mayor Councillor Steve Waite. Far Right: Andrew Oliver, design director of McCarthy & Stone.

security features at Priory Court, and allows residents to check who's at the main entrance simply by switching channels on their own TV sets.

Mrs Jane Moore, Head Teacher of Thameside Primary School, said: "The children made friends with the residents at Priory Court. In fact, one of the girls' great-grandmother is going to be moving in soon. "They were fascinated by the details in the flats, like the raised power sockets, lever taps and glow-in-the dark light switches. In Design and Technology at school they learn how different things are designed for different people, and at Priory Court they could see this put into practice."

Both schools have expressed an interest in keeping up links with Priory Court and taking part in further activities with the residents.

Andrew Oliver, design director of McCarthy and Stone South East, said: "While Priory Court has a thriving social life of its own, it is also very much part of the wider community, with residents here shopping locally and using local amenities. 'This tree-planting ceremony, attended by the first citizen of the Borough and two local schools, is a way of confirming Priory Court's connection with Caversham.'

Caversham East District Guide Association

1st Emmer Green Rainbows
2nd Emmer Green Brownies

Both these units are thriving, with plenty of children, but are under the threat of closure because of lack of adult help. If there are any willing ex-members of the association or just willing adults please come forward and help us to keep these units open.

For more information please contact:
Heather O'Halloran
District Commissioner
(0118) 948 1966

DEATH OF FORMER CAVERSHAM PHARMACIST

Ted Morgan, who was the proprietor of the chemist shop in Church Street Caversham for 32 years from April 1954 until August 1986, when he retired and sold the business to Patricia Way, has died in Battle hospital. It is hoped to include an appreciation of him in the next issue of this paper.

CAVERSHAM AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

(Derek Bartlett - Sector 1 Coordinator)

"Thugs Target OAP", "Vandal Gang Goes On Spree In Shopping Precinct Rampage". These are just two of the frightening headlines that have appeared in our local newspapers recently. As a Caversham resident for 34 years, such news both saddens and depresses me. However, a look behind the headlines reveals a much more heartening picture. Sector 1, which is what Reading Police call Caversham, Peppard and Thames wards together, has a population of 30,000 and a reported crime rate currently running at 2,040 crimes per annum. This is the lowest rate of any sector within the Reading police area and lower than many other areas of similar size and character elsewhere in England and Wales.

The Neighbourhood Watch schemes in operation within Caversham, Peppard and Thames wards have, undoubtedly, played a significant part in achieving the district's favourable position. However, to maintain this area's record in the face of increasing population pressures, increasing strains on police resources and a social climate which produces the sort of press headlines we have seen recently, we need to take upon ourselves more responsibility for the safety of our families, our neighbours, ourselves and our possessions. It has been said that "Crime cannot live in a community that cares." I am convinced of the truth of that statement and equally convinced that Neighbourhood Watch is an effective vehicle for giving practical expression to that caring, which is why my aim, as the new sector coordinator, is to double the number of active Watches in the district over the next 18 months.

Neighbourhood Watch has moved on from the early days when activities were limited to keeping an eye on the homes of immediate neighbours and reporting to the police anything suspicious. Nowadays, many schemes have broadened their scope to tackle local problems such as graffiti and vandalism. Currently, within Caversham Sector, an initiative is being launched to deal with the growing problem of burglary relating to garages, garden sheds and other outbuildings. In a five week period spanning February and March this year, 22 incidents were reported in the district. This number reflects an increase in this type of crime that exceeds that of any other.

Inevitably, broadening the scope of Neighbourhood Watch has

increasingly brought members into partnership with other bodies. Partnership with the police remains our bedrock, of course, but this has been augmented by closer and continuous contact with the local authority and with Residents' and Community Associations. In the immediate future, it is my intention to develop, in Caversham, similarly close contacts with agencies such as Help the Aged and Victim Support. In today's world, Neighbourhood Watch places as much emphasis on reducing the fear of crime and encouraging neighbourliness and closer communities as it does on reducing crime and reducing the opportunities for crime.

If any reader, whether or not a present member of Neighbourhood Watch, would like more information on what Neighbourhood Watch is, how it works and what it achieves, or would just like to talk over Neighbourhood Watch matters, please contact me on 947 9406.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog**LISTED WALL**

There are some red faces at the Borough's Planning Department as officers admit they were mistaken in removing the low wall round the library without applying for planning consent from the Department of the Environment as it was in the curtilage of a listed building. On the other hand, those who pointed out what was wrong feel vindicated though there is small compensation to be gained by saying, "We told you so".

The Planning Department probably ought to be fined for their mistake, as would be any individual who altered or demolished a listed building without consent. However, as the money would only come out of the Council Tax, paid by you and me, it would be much better to use it to put to rights the damage as much as possible. If old bricks were used and decent iron railings instead of the nasty tubular metal ones, the general appearance would be nearer the original than what has been put there. Whether this was done through incompetence in not realising it was a listed building or arrogance in thinking that as it was only a small building it did not matter can only be guessed at. Whatever the reason, it should not have happened and the sooner it is put right, the better.

MAD AXEMAN ON THE RAMPAGE

The vandalised (sorry, officially pollarded) trees along Caversham Road have now been joined by all those along Vastern Road. They are a bleak reminder that they cannot possibly recover before the summer. Caversham Road has little to recommend it, although some of the hotels have helped to improve its appearance, but the trees were its saving grace and on a sunny summer's day if you tried hard and put your mind to it, you could almost have thought you were in France. However, tell it not on Gath, publish it not on the streets of Askelon, three of them, just around the corner from the Vastern Road roundabout have got overlooked so all is not lost.

On the opposite side of the road when it was being widened some years ago, it was decided not to have trees cluttering up the road so they were segregated behind the boundary fence, but they are small polite trees, not forceful city planes. It cannot be repeated too often: street trees are an asset, not a nuisance.

BUS STOPS

Timetables at bus stops are a source of irritation. Some are too high up to read unless you are well over six feet tall (this is especially the case at the railway station stops) whilst others are obscured by graffiti on the glass. The outward bus stop in Hemdean Road has a shelter from the rain (though not the wind) and seats for those returning home with shopping. It is heavily used. The inward stop, however, is only provided with an inadequate roof which can only give shelter from the lightest shower. The argument against putting something more solid there is that the pavement is not wide enough, but it is no less wide than the pavement on the other side of the road. Waiting too long at draughty bus stops is one of the quickest ways of driving people back to their cars.

GRAFFITI

Caversham Bridge has been cleaned, but not overcleaned, and makes a fitting entry to Caversham but, alas, vandals have struck again and besmirched it with graffiti. Removing graffiti is a very expensive business, something like £75 per square metre. For the pleasure of a few minutes guffawing, small minded, underemployed youths are putting residents, their own parents included, to unnecessary expenditure through the Council tax.

HIGH QUALITY RESTORATION

Although this column concentrates mainly on Caversham, occasionally there is something in Reading that calls for mention. Most recently, this was the opening of the Town Hall. The Caversham connection is that the Mayor, Cllr Steve Waite, is Caversham born and bred, and presided over the proceedings.

This building now looks magnificent, probably even better than it looked when it was just opened around a century ago. The pale turquoise walls are, as near as is known, the same colour as they originally were. The decorative plasterwork is picked out in gilt and the glass panels of the ceiling have been cleaned so that the engraving on them, which few have ever seen before, is once more on view. The main entry door is now glass so that the interior can be seen from outside. A stainless steel mobile hangs there, commissioned after an open competition, which everyone finds interesting, whether they like it or not.

As was pointed out, it is a Town Hall, not a city hall. Somehow the latter has not the same ring about it.

The hall will regularly be used for organ recitals on the splendidly restored Father Willis organ and for the combined University-Borough lectures on subjects of local interest, which attract large audiences. It will be easy enough to go along and have a look at it. It must be one of the best in the country.

HALF MARATHON

Nearly seven thousand runners pounded over Caversham Bridge at the start of the Reading half marathon, itself a practice run for the London marathon, in ideal weather conditions in March. The serious runners were at the front, the fastest of whom completed the course in little over an hour – better than a five minute mile, once a record, over the whole length. There were rather fewer joke runners this year though a dinosaur and some wasps were seen. With the streets completely full of runners, it was not easy to pick out individuals but several well known Caversham people were glimpsed. An elderly gentleman bringing up the rear completed the course and the Mayor,

who was also running, said the last mile was one of the worst experiences of his life. Still, he made it and must have set a record by being the only Mayor to do so.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

There is only one Caversham and District Residents' Association. Other smaller residents' associations spring into action from time to time to highlight a particular issue and usually cease to exist once the issue is resolved. There is also the Warren and District Residents' Association, the longest established of them all. Practically always these work in harmony with each other. Occasionally it is not clear which residents' association is putting forward a view, but Caversham and District Residents' Association always uses its full name or initials.

CADRA is firmly non-party political which is one reason why it does not put forward candidates for election to the Borough Council as this would lead to divided loyalties among those who belonged to political parties. It is highly unlikely this policy will ever change.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

A ZAMBIAN TWIN

The congregation at Caversham Heights Methodist church on Sunday March 19th was delighted to welcome Rev Teddy Kolongo on his first trip to the United Kingdom. Teddy is the principal of the United Church of Zambia's Theological College and minister of Mindolo church, Kitwe, Zambia, with whom Caversham Heights church has recently been "twinning".

Rev Mervyn Temple, a minister in the Reading and Silchester circuit, who served in Zambia for many years, led the morning service. Teddy said it was wonderful to be worshipping in Caversham and brought greetings from the Mindolo church and his family. He was proud of the twinning relationship and was thoroughly committed to it. Although his church struggles financially, he offered Mindolo's love, prayers and fellowship in the Lord Jesus.

Teddy outlined some facts about his church and the Mindolo community. The congregation had up to 1,000 people. Poor finances meant that many ministers had not received their stipends for 1-2 years - but they continued to work. The Christian African brings his faith into everything



- Rosemary Fletcher

Rev Teddy Kolongo.

- seven days a week. Prayer in the morning, at meals and when visiting friends is indispensable. Despite their poverty the people tithe, though many are unemployed and finding it difficult to make ends meet. It is now necessary to pay for education and health care. Another problem is the number of cases of AIDS and HIV. Parents die, leaving orphans to be received into related families, who may have children of their own already. There is a plan to use the church building in the week to educate orphans who would otherwise be illiterate.

During the service gifts from groups in the church were received by Teddy for groups in the Mindolo church. There were opportunities to get to know Teddy during a church lunch afterwards.

Caversham Heights church is grateful to God for this encouraging beginning to the twinning relationship. A blessing from Teddy, given to each child at the communion rail sums it all up: 'the Lord bless you, shine His face upon you and give you good health'. This is exactly the blessing Caversham Heights church gives to its twin in Mindolo!

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage . . .



- K. Corrigan



- P. Lennon

- and climbs up to St Peter's

. . . To Our Lady of Caversham

The Pilgrimage weaves its way through Caversham

Saturday 25th March being the feast of The Annunciation, it was highly appropriate that Sunday 26th March should have been the occasion of a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. First definitely recorded in the 12th century when its care was given by the Lord of the Manor of Caversham to the Augustinian Canons of Nutley Abbey, the Shrine is now housed within the Parish Church of Our Lady and St Anne where Mass that morning celebrated the Annunciation rather than the 3rd Sunday of Lent.

Alas, its intended celebrant, Very Rev Paul Graham, Provincial of the Augustinian Friars, was virtually speechless for the day but managed to overcome his viruses sufficiently to deliver the homily. He apologised, he said, for being present under false pretences for it was the Augustinian Canons rather than the Friars who had cared for the original Shrine before its abolition at the time of Henry VIII. Nevertheless, he welcomed the occasion to say a few words about devotion to the Mother of God.

Mary was, he said, the star that would guide Christians in the 3rd Millennium and to ignore her now would be to ignore an important element of the Jubilee Year. At the Annunciation, Our Lady had given her loving acceptance of the great gift she was offered. She might have said 'no' but how could she have refused? Now she beckoned to us all to say 'Yes; here I am Lord, I come to do your will'.

Later in the day, Dr Sarah Bass, Director of the Marian Study Centre, Ushaw College, gave a talk on 'Devotion to Mary' to help us understand the place of Mary in our individual faith lives. Following her talk, packed lunches were consumed and then, after a brief prayer at the Shrine, all those present formed up in procession behind the newly restored banner of Our Lady.

With some interruption to the smooth flow of traffic through a Sunday afternoon Caversham, the crocodile of people made its way through the village centre to the gardens of Caversham Court, resplendent with spring flowers. Here, in commemoration of all those pilgrims of yesteryear who would have passed this way on their passage from the original Shrine to St Peter's Church, prayers were said for England. Following in the footsteps of those pilgrims, the procession then resumed its way to St Peter's where Canon Richard Kingsbury entertained his visitors with a cheerful welcome and a brief history of the church.

Following a short prayer, and having admired the church, the procession returned in rather less orderly fashion to Our Lady and St Anne's where Vespers and Benediction were celebrated by Right Rev Geoffrey Scott OSB, Abbot of Douai. In a short sermon, the Abbot reminded us that revival of devotion to Our Lady of Caversham had begun just over a century ago and it was particularly appropriate that this pilgrimage was being held in the Year of Jubilee. We depended on the Mother of God in our search for salvation for she was both a sharer in the mystery of Christ and its guardian. Singing of the Magnificat followed and Benediction was celebrated.

In conclusion, the recessional Hymn 'Hail Holy Queen' brought to an end a Holy Year day of prayer and witness that had been enjoyed by a large gathering of pilgrims both from Caversham and its neighbouring parishes and from further afield. The weather, which had been forecast to be showery, had, instead, behaved itself throughout the day, the procession and the prayers in Caversham Court being held in bright sunshine for which all gave thanks.



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On May 3rd, within a few days of the publication of this issue of the Caversham Bridge, the Revd Derek Chandler will have been licensed as Priest in Charge at St Barnabas Church. On behalf of our readers, we welcome the Revd Derek and Mrs Christina Chandler and their three children, Hannah (aged 11), Robert (aged 8) and newly arrived Matthew Elliot (born on 19 March 2000) as the new residents at St Barnabas House and we congratulate the parents and family on their newest arrival.



- O. Jewiss

Our photograph of the Revd Derek and Mrs Christina Chandler and their two older children was taken on an informal visit to Emmer Green earlier this year.

Curacies in Southampton

Derek, now aged 32, was ordained deacon in 1993 and priested the following year. His ministry so far has been in Southampton, where he was initially Assistant Curate at Bitterne Park. This parish of two churches plus a housing estate has similarities with Emmer Green.

For the past three years he has been Priest-in-Charge at St Francis, Sholing, the daughter church in the Sholing Valley; it is part of a parish that has large housing estates on either side.

A personal pilgrimage

Derek was born and brought up in Alton in Hampshire and claims to have been a rebellious youth with no involvement with the church and from a family of non-churchgoing parents. His first real encounter was through a friend, a server at the church, who went to the Church Youth Club and encouraged Derek to join him. Through the friend he met the curate and began to ask questions. He also met Chris, who was involved in the church and whom he later married.

He left school at 16 and went out to work. His first job was as a trainee stone mason: in the last 8-months of his three years in this work he graduated to gravestones. After he had married Chris, Derek had a change of direction and became Assistant Manager of a small group of general stores for the next two years. He combined this job with evening classes, where he gained 'A' levels in Tudor

History, English Language and Literature. He also helped with the youth club and continued searching, during which, through the influence of the curate, the idea of priesthood arose.

Theological Training

Derek enrolled as a mature student at La Sainte Union College in Southampton, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in 1991. During this period he and Chris lived in Holbury close to Fawley and their two older children were born. While there, he and Chris took part in a pilgrimage to Taizé and Oberammergau with the young people of the Winchester Diocese. Two further years of ministerial training followed at Lincoln Theological College, where Derek also added a Master of Divinity to his qualifications and experienced a placement in the Handsworth District of Birmingham.

An interest in and empathy with the outsider

St Barnabas will have a priest who has arrived at his present position after considerable dedication and hard work as a mature person, but in partnership with Chris, his wife, from whom there has obviously been much encouragement and support. While wisely not wishing to comment on the direction of, or preconceptions for, his future ministry, it is not surprising that Derek Chandler expresses an interest in, and an empathy with the outsider whom he wishes to understand and befriend. He and his wife and family can be assured of a warm welcome and the support and prayers of the Christians in this area as he starts this new chapter in his ministry and our joint pilgrimage.

THE STRUGGLE FOR UNITY WITHIN THE FAMILY

The problems experienced by practising Christian married couples from different traditions were highlighted in the recent Open Council Meeting of Churches Together in Berkshire addressed by Beverley Hollins, Youth Officer of the Association of Interchurch Families. Such a couple are the smallest example of an ecumenical

partnership and the Association of Interchurch Families exists to strengthen marriage and family life and to promote Christian Unity in such situations.

Problems of discipline

Unfortunately, problems arise when both partners are true to the discipline of their tradition. The purpose of this article is not to highlight the differences but to state the problem so that those who do not share it have an understanding of the pain and suffering of those who do.

Those whom God has joined together...

The Marriage Service includes the words "that those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder" but subsequently, when the couple come to communion, man divides them. The husband of one tradition may receive the bread and the wine while the wife may not, or vice versa.

Awkward questions from the children

Although the baptisms of children of such a union may be recognised by both traditions, each child can only be confirmed and accepted at communion by one. How do you explain this to a child? These are the problems that confront interchurch families.

How can we be one?

Jesus prayed that his followers might be one as He is one with the Father. How do we demonstrate that oneness, when practising Christians are confronted with such problems within their own family unit? These are real problems that require recognition, understanding, prayerful and pastoral support and resolution.



- O. Jewiss

Mrs Beverley Hollins, Youth Officer of the Association of Interchurch Families with the Revd Derek Wales, Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire (on the left), and the Revd Phil Abrey, County Ecumenical Officer (on the right).

AROUND THE CHURCHES

NATIONAL FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

National Fairtrade Fortnight, which lasted from March 6th-19th was celebrated in Caversham by a Fairtrade Evening on March 11th at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at which was held a Fairtrade Fashion Show. Traidcraft representatives Phil and Pam Chatfield organised the event and their colleagues Pat and Graham Fuller arranged the fashion show.

Members of 'Squash', the young people's group at the church, modelled the Traidcraft garments which included items from the spring collection manufactured in many countries of the developing world. The members of the large audience which the fashion show attracted were able, during the interval, to sample a variety of cakes made by the ladies of the church from Fairtrade recipes, using Fairtrade ingredients. Fairtrade tea and coffee were served.

Two Traidcraft stalls exhibited a wide selection of Traidcraft products whilst at another stall were shown the Fairtrade range available at Waitrose's in Caversham. The Oxfam shop in Caversham and the Tesco superstore also carry items which bear the Fairtrade mark which gives the assurance that the living conditions of the workers meet an acceptable standard and that they are paid a fair wage for their labours.

Watch out for the following brands: Cafedirect, Ridgeway's Fairtrade tea, Clipper teabags, Divine milk chocolate, Green and Black's organic cocoa and Fairtrade bananas.

Right: On the Catwalk
— Joe Alsford models a
fetching shirt



— M. Allies

Below: Models from
Caversham Heights
Methodist Church
display the Fairtrade
Fashions on the
catwalk: the grand
finale.



— O. Jewiss

THE WORK OF CHURCH SCHOOLS

How many of us realise the influence that Church Schools have in this area? About one third of the schools in the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire are Church Schools and are attended by around 44,000 pupils, probably more people than attend Anglican churches on Sundays in the same area. These were the facts that members of the Reading Anglican Deanery Synod learnt at a recent meeting when a County Adviser, a Governor and a Headteacher spoke. Although their primary concern was Church Schools they also gave several pointers to how Christians might interact with other schools.

Diocesan strategy

Clive Sedgewick, Oxford Diocesan Schools Adviser for Berkshire, spoke about the Diocesan Board of Education implementing the four key principles of the new Strategy for Evangelisation of the Diocese.

Governor's viewpoint

Jill Johnson, Vice-Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education and a Church School Governor, spoke about the responsibilities of governors, and how under Unitary Authorities the specialist support from the local authority was much poorer than in the past, or may not exist at all. She suggested that members of the local church could be supportive to the local school by speaking positively about the school, its pupils and activities, and through prayer.



— O. Jewiss

Our photograph shows Clive Sedgewick (Diocesan Schools Adviser for Berkshire), Jill Johnson (School Governor and Vice-Chairman of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education) and Maggie Donaldson (Headteacher at St John's School and Temporary Head at Christ Church School) on the right.

Sound moral values

Local Headteacher, Maggie Anderson, the head of St John's School in Newtown, spoke about how many of the children with sad backgrounds deserved medals because they were coping well. She talked about the unique nature of what is in fact a multi-faith school, and how much those of other faiths wanted their children to go there because of the sound moral education.

Practical support

Finally Clive Sedgewick suggested what churches could do practically. He emphasised the need to build a relationship with the schools, to offer to work with them, but not to make demands on them. He spoke about how individuals, such as teachers (including the Headteacher), clerical and support workers, might themselves be supported, valued and appreciated by taking an interest, talking and sharing with them. He drew attention to the compromising position clergy can be put into when they have the role of Chairman of Governors, a position that might conflict with their pastoral role. He also drew attention to the practical possibilities of a church making some tangible gift to a school, which would help to bridge the link. Although this evening was aimed at those parishes which have church schools, it gave examples of where support might be given to all schools. Advice to us concerns our relationships with both local authority and private primary schools and secondary schools. How much are our local churches in Caversham and Emmer Green in close contact with their local schools? Is this contact welcomed? If we don't know, then perhaps we ask the leaders of our local church what the position is and then consider what our response should be. He also pointed out that when the church did help schools, it needed to be professional in its approach.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Unbeknown to me, our daughter Alice asked you to mention about my 80th birthday in March. Although it is seventeen years since we left Caversham the result was a lovely lot of cards and good wishes from many old friends, too numerous for me to reply personally to all of them, so I would like to express my thanks through your columns. Anne, also 80 this year, and I are in good health and find plenty to do to keep us occupied. We always welcome hearing from old Caversham friends.

John Grimwade.

(Ed note: Former Rector of Caversham and founder of 'Caversham Bridge')

NEWS BRIEFS

THE REVD EDWARD TILDESLEY RETURNING TO THE THAMES VALLEY

The Revd Edward Tildesley, who was a non-stipendiary minister at St Barnabas and Chaplain at Shiplake College between 1996 and 1999, and who is currently Assistant Chaplain at Oakham School, has been appointed as a Team Vicar in the Dorchester-on-Thames team ministry. He will be returning to the Thames Valley in August and will have charge of the parishes of Clifton Hampden, Culham, and Long Wittenham with Little Wittenham. Edward and Pippa Tildesley and their daughter Dora will be living at the Vicarage in Clifton Hampden. Friends in Emmer Green and Caversham wish Edward every blessing as he moves into the parochial ministry.

NEW CHAPLAIN FOR QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL

In September Caversham will welcome the arrival of the Revd Hilary Benson when she takes up her appointment as Chaplain at Queen Anne's School in succession to the Revd Trevor Nicholson, who retires in the summer. The Revd Hilary Benson is currently Chaplain at St Edward's School in Oxford.

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CAVERSHAM THEATRE

*'How the Other Half Loves
by Alan Ayckbourn'*

'How the Other Half Loves' has a punning title which, as Michael Billington has pointed out, refers both to our marital partners and to the class system. The Fosters, the Phillips and the Featherstones are at different levels on the ladder of middle class gentility, Frank Foster being the manager of a firm which employs both Bob Phillips and William Featherstone, and office parties have taken their toll of marital fidelity.

Fiona Foster has found her doddering husband by no means a satisfying partner and has sought solace in Bob Phillips. Bob has lost patience with his drudge of a wife Teresa, who is more interested in caring for the ills of the world than for her husband and dribbling baby. Faced with explaining how they came to be out till the early hours of the morning, Fiona and Bob hit upon the idea that they had been counselling the Featherstones, whom they credit with being on the brink of a marriage breakdown.

Frank and Teresa, however, smell a rat and invite the Featherstones to dinner on two successive evenings to probe the alibi. Ayckbourn has both dinner parties taking place on stage simultaneously, and this is the high spot of this most ingenious play.

Richard Stainthorp stole the show as the absent minded Frank Foster whose trains of thought were most easily distracted but who was tenacious in his pursuit of the reason for his wife's all-night absence. Lis Martin was well cast as Fiona and Kate Peak, a welcome newcomer to Caversham Theatre, was effective as Teresa who was quick to suspect her surly, philandering husband, a part taken by Martin Leckie.

The Featherstones, the victims of Bob and Fiona's clumsy attempts at giving an alibi, have themselves a potential for marital breakdown. Jeremy Small, another newcomer to Caversham Theatre, took the part of William, a small time accountant who was painstakingly educating his wife in the social graces. Denise Wallbank was a delight as she expressed little squeaks of protest and finally stood firm on demanding an apology from her husband for his jealous outburst.

It is understood that the producer, Peter Ludlow, was unable to direct the final rehearsals because of illness. This may account for the lack of emphasis on some important production points, such as one host couple 'freezing' during the dinner scene when the other hosts are in conversation with the Featherstones. Nevertheless it was a highly entertaining show much enjoyed by the audience.

E.M.A.

POPPY APPEAL

Why are we writing about the Poppy Appeal in May? Most people think that this is something that happens "round about" Remembrance Day in November - and respond very generously! But in fact, raising money for this Appeal goes on tirelessly throughout the entire year because the people who need our help cannot be 'put on hold' until November.

Not only are we blessed with the generosity of Caversham folk but we are doubly fortunate with the energy and enthusiasm of our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Pauline Palmer, who in three years has raised the annual amount collected for the Poppy Appeal in Caversham from under £8,000 to over £13,000 this year just finished.

After the tragic death of our previous Organiser, Pauline was 'thrown in at the deep end'. As well as delivering collecting boxes and poppies during October, Pauline is involved in numerous fund raising activities throughout the year. Indeed, she will be going on a Legion sponsored walk in May if you would like to support her.

Her commitment to the Appeal and the Royal British Legion is magnificent, made more so by the fact that she is 'only' an Associate Member, never having served in the Forces. Incidentally, more and more Associates are going to be needed in the years to come - if you support helping those who looked after us in the dark days of what is now the last Century, why not join the local Branch or help with collecting over Remembrance-tide?

The Local Legion Branch itself has been transformed over, say, the last ten years, not least by our Poppy Appeal Organiser (yet again!). The membership has gone from under 30 to over 150, and the Remembrance Day Service at Caversham Bridge is one of the best attended in Town. We also play our part in the work of the Reading Group Legion and in Berkshire Legion Activities.

All of us have had a parent, a brother, a grandfather, an uncle, a cousin - someone in the family - who put their life at risk in the Service of our Country. If you'd like to help look after the many who still need our help - we'll show you how to and make sure you enjoy yourself into the bargain. Why not get in touch with our Chairman Dennis King on 0118 947 1084.

OBITUARY

MURIEL SEABY

All those who knew Muriel Seaby will be sorry to hear of her death. Muriel lived for many years in Emmer Green, where she was an active member of the Women's Institute. She, together with Peter, were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers). They had both moved to York to be nearer their younger daughter and her family. Muriel found it difficult to adjust to the death of Peter, who was internationally known as a leading numismatist, and spent her last years in a nursing home in that city where she had enjoyed living.

M.C.

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ENVIRONMENT

"Birding with Bill Oddie" was the subject of recent half-hour films on BBC 2 – enough to whet one's interest but not to labour. Photography was first-class, the birds often singing in close-up. As a representative of our old Norfolk years, Bill always tells it the way it is. His humour and homely observations are easily understood. This series is well worth a future rerun.

One stunning extract presented a large flock of White-winged Black Terns hawking insects above a Polish pool. In 1996 we took Scooby to see this rarity at the Brent Reservoir in London.

On 9th March our Team of Three set out for Cornwall and Devon where at least four twitches had been seen.

At Carn-goose, Cape Cornwall, a Gyrfalcon was perching high on a wild cliff-face. Sea-mist was persistent and one slip on our steep approach would have been disastrous. Advancing years and a painful foot made acceptable two pairs of twitchers' hands. Despite diminishing visibility the falcon was well seen.

St Michael's Mount near Marazion with sandy beach soon soothed slightly frayed nerves. A King Eider dictated one's arrival before low-tide as the ebb carried it well off-shore.

The causeway to St M's was sufficiently exposed for a car to



From "Beeb" to West Country Scops Owl

be driving along it, so hopes were not high. Soon however, our 'scope revealed a brown female about a half-mile out to sea. Subtle throat marking, head-shape and petite bill identified King Eider – a twitcher's bird requiring prior revision if seen for the first time.

We lingered long, enjoying the beach where happy dogs kept owners playing in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. My friend decided upon a paddle, ignoring the low water-temperature.

Lesser Scaup, a one time confusion duck, had provided opportunity for concentrated study at Lechlade in 1994. On this occasion, four Scaup on the Drift Reservoir near St Just made the nearby Lesser quite easy to identify.

A Sora (Rail) at Stover Country Park in Devon was near the Dragonfly pool and seen to within twenty-five feet.

Heading homeward the car purred its high-speed contentment. We briefly stopped for our only meal of the day. This six-hundred miles trip had provided excellent birding with fulfilment and thrills, all within seventeen hours.

Clean air, sociable people – and the sea – made virtually unchanged the Cornwall which I remember with my parents in the nineteen-thirties.

Scops Owl

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Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields



The Friends, set up last year with the blessing of Reading Borough Council, have finished their winter working. Since starting at the end of last year they have planted shrubs and trees and cleared and improved footpaths.

In March they were helped by local Brownie and Scout troops. The Brownies planted trees, some white poplars in between the poplars on the playing field and some native shrubs along the Chazey Road boundary. The Scouts took part in the RESCUE event, and cleared much of the woodland of the rubbish which had been dumped there. The skip was full and overflowing into black plastic bags but all was taken away efficiently by RBC. We hope that will be the end of the dumping that was going on there.

Despite reports to the Council, much graffiti remains on signs. A management plan for the woodland and adjoining fields has been drawn up and the Friends will be planning their next work parties. If you would like to help please contact Judith Oliver on 947 8920.

In the corner of the field is a moss covered stone, and around the stone are the remains of snail shells, some busy thrush doing its job? Sadly, the song thrush population has declined by 73% in the last 20 years.

Causes are complicated; we have had some cold winters, the song thrush is an early nester, the use of slug and snail killing chemicals by gardeners, loss of suitable shrubs, over-tidy gardens don't give them much cover, they like a dense grouping of shrubs with lots of berries, and, of course, cats are a threat to nestlings. We hope to keep the one(s) at Mapledurham Playing Fields. Has anyone seen him?

The Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife group are wanting information on song thrushes; if you would like to take part in their survey, please ring Caversham Court 901 5201 for a form.

NEWS FROM GLOBE BY $\phi\beta$

Over the weekend of 18/19 March, group members took part in the annual RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clear Up Event). Throughout Reading and West Berkshire, some 800 volunteers were hard at work removing the items – from crisp packets to abandoned cars – which other members of society see fit to dump in rivers, watercourses and public open spaces.

We concentrated our efforts on the Hill's Meadow and Mill Green areas and accounted for a good three heaped skips full of rubbish. It was particularly pleasing to tackle the ditch on the north side of Hill's Meadow and clear its channel and banks. In the process, we discovered that some people don't even bother to drink the contents of cans before disposing of them! The ditch yielded batches still full of beer and bound together in six-packs.

RESCUE is timed to minimise the disturbance to wildlife. Even so, we needed to be careful not to disturb nesting birds and to preserve the natural vegetation which was already being visited by butterflies and dragonflies looking for sites to leave their eggs. Amphibians, such as frogs, toads and newts, also use the ditch. They are dependent on annual conditions; last year, a bumper crop of tadpoles hatched and migrated to the millstream, while users of the Hill's Meadow patch risked squashing itinerant newts; this year, nature may not have been so kind.

A team of volunteers from the Prudential came to help us on the Sunday morning. With the aid of a grappling iron, they

removed shopping and station trolleys from the millstream. The Council's bin men arrived at lunch time to take away the results of our labours and leave an empty skip for the afternoon shift. They showed the professional touch by hooking out two trolleys which were deeply embedded in the silt below the new wooden bridge and had resisted all previous amateur efforts.

In Mill Green, we cleared the pathside ditch of rubbish, while residents of the private road section cleared the banks of the former mill outlet. All in all, we came away from the weekend with a sense of achievement but also a realisation that we needed to continue our efforts throughout the year and on into the future.

RESCUE has been going for several years now, and the returns of, for example, shopping trolleys are diminishing. The count of cars, motorcycles and pushbikes was up, but perhaps this is a sign of our widening activities and ambitions (for the record, Caversham yielded only parts and accessories, such as tyres and handlebars). We hope that the event itself will help to educate everyone that parks and rivers are not the ideal place to dispose of unwanted items and that the transitory pleasures of throwing trolleys and traffic cones into the water should be measured against the long-term nuisance and damage this causes. Sermon over! – please rest assured that we shall continue our efforts in future months and RESCUE's. There is much more yet to do; please contact our Secretary, Paul Raman, on 948 3389 for more details.

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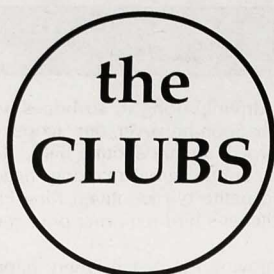
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Community Association

March began with the usual games evening. Members could choose cards, darts, dominoes or scrabble and enjoy an informal time. The following week we welcomed Mr Brian Eighteen, a well-known Reading name, who told us a little of his family history but mainly about his hobby of collecting postcards and cigarette cards. He brought along many examples beautifully arranged covering local history, animals and anything connected with milling.

It was members to the fore the following week when we held 'My Treasure' evening. People brought a special item with personal meaning and spoke about it. Brenda Strong brought souvenirs of a holiday in Japan and Bubs Reeves had an old book that mentioned her grandfather - a lock-keeper on the Thames. The month ended with Caversham's own version of 'Play Your Cards Right'. This proved an hilarious evening with plenty of audience participation and prizes to be won.

Caversham Afternoon TG

Mrs J Slatter presided over the Annual General Meeting on 16th March. She introduced Mrs Jancis Brown, who was our Returning Officer. There was no election, so Mrs J Brown announced the names of officers and committee for the following year, and also gave her best wishes for the Guild in the future.

Mrs Slatter, retiring Chairman, thanked everyone for their support and wished Mrs E Manning, who was taking the chair, a happy forthcoming year.

The annual report was read by the secretary, Mrs A Deane, and the financial report by Mrs B Holder. The yearly competition cup was won by Mrs B Atherton. On behalf of members, Mrs Greatwood thanked officers and committee for their work throughout the year. The speaker was Mr L Crowsier, who gave an interesting and very informative talk on the

development of the Kennet and Avon Canal, with coloured slides. Mrs G Gale proposed the vote of thanks.

Next meeting: 20th April at 2.00 pm in Church House, Caversham. Do come and join us.

Caversham WI

Members met for the annual meeting and heard the President, Miss M Cameron, welcome Mrs Margaret Jones, V.C.O. The treasurer's report was adopted and the President gave an account of the previous year's activities. Thanks were expressed to everyone, and particularly the committee, for all their support and hard work.

Mrs Margaret Jones inspired everyone with her account of Denman College, its lovely grounds and the opportunities it offers. A social time followed with refreshments and then the raffle was drawn with the visiting V.C.O. winning a prize. The President and committee were re-elected and Mrs Margaret Hatcher was pleasantly surprised to receive the competition cup.

Chazey WI

Builds Link with Florida
Did you know that there is a flourishing group of bell-plate ringers in Caversham? This grew through the enthusiasm and determination of Kate Crabb, a member of Chazey WI.

There is another handbell ringing group in Naples, Florida. They are members of the Moorings Presbyterian Church, who ring under the direction of Dick Croft, a professional musician. The Moorings Ringers are experienced World Symposia attenders and this year are visiting England. Chazey WI thought it would be fun to show them the English way of life and further international relations, by offering to host the American ringers en route to the Symposium in Birmingham.

Make a note in your diary to hear both groups ringing at a concert in Queen Anne's School,

Caversham on Friday 28th July. Think what happened when a certain Yorkshire WI used their initiative! Who knows where this venture may lead?!

St Peter's Wives' Group

At our March meeting we were treated to a very interesting evening with Mrs Pauline Beck, who brought along her collection of buttons to show us. The collection was fascinating, with buttons of all shapes and sizes, made from materials as diverse as china, glass, celluloid, silver, tortoiseshell and even some made in Zimbabwe from ostrich shell. Mrs Beck's collection of boxes in which she keeps the buttons was also very interesting.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month and new members are always welcome.

Bowling Club

The season is about to start and we can't wait to meet you at Caversham Bowling Club's Open Day on Sunday, 7th May, between 2.00 and 5.00pm at the green in Albert Road, Caversham. Don't miss this chance to try green bowling. A qualified coach will be available.

There is ample free car parking available. The bar will be open and cups of tea will be served. Looking forward to seeing you.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Members of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Lyly Nicholson, a loyal member for many years who will be sadly missed. Several members attended her funeral at Dunsden.

The Chairman, Mrs Maureen Chamberlain, welcomed Mrs Christine Cook from the Federation as the Returning Officer at the A.G.M. in March. Mrs Cook announced the new committee and wished everyone a busy and happy coming year and was then presented with a plant. The Secretary, Mrs Joyce Woodage, read out a comprehensive report of the past year's events and the Chairman thanked everyone on the committee and behind the scenes who

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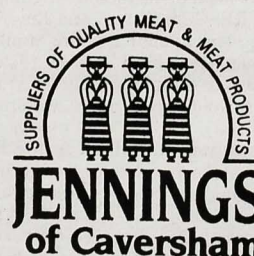
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the CLUBS

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had worked so hard to make the year so interesting and enjoyable. She reminded members of the importance of a full committee for the ease of running the Guild and of the added interest being fully involved can give.

The Arts and Crafts section had learned about smocks and smocking from Mrs Maggie Jordan who had brought along some beautiful examples, some very old and some worked by herself.

Words and Music had read War Poetry at their last meeting and although many poems were poignant, such as those by Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen, Stanley Holloway's humorous monologues lightened the meeting.

It was a dull day for the Gardening group's visit to Mr Maker's beautiful garden at Tidmarsh but everyone was able to enjoy the carpets of snowdrops, crocuses and celandines and to admire a magnificent collection of hellebores. A cup of tea at The Duck's Ditty at Pangbourne warmed everyone through.

The evening continued with Mr J. Mitchell delighting members with his talk 'Opera Isn't Just Fat Tenors and Shrieking Sopranos'. He played

various excerpts from operas, setting the scene each time and giving some background information about the stories and various productions. He related several amusing anecdotes about past performances and finished the evening playing and singing from "South Pacific" in his excellent Bass-Baritone voice. Mrs Julia Perry gave the vote of thanks.

Caversham Ladies Club

20 members attended the Annual General Meeting which was held on Thursday, 9th March 2000.

Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to everyone.

Once business items were completed, it was time to concentrate on the Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, the Chairman gave a very comprehensive report on the Club's activities for the year. This was followed by reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chairman. At this point, the Chairman and committee stood down and nominations were requested for the posts of Chairman and committee to serve for

the coming year. Members voted for no change. Therefore, the Chairman and committee were voted back en-bloc to serve for a further year.

It was suggested members came to next month's meeting with ideas for two outings: one half-day and one full day - the latter possibly to the coast.

After a cup of tea, it was guessing time! The Chairman brought 12 unusual kitchen utensils for the members to guess their purpose. Needless to say, there were some comical suggestions which caused much laughter.

Before leaving for home, the members were reminded that the April meeting would be the Easter Party and would they kindly bring a plate of sweet or savoury food.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

When Hazel New opened this year's AGM, she first welcomed two new members, which brings the membership to 65, with an average attendance of 45. She then welcomed the Returning Officer, Maureen Dawson, who said that she had only come along to chat to old friends for, as usual, the Guild had arranged everything neatly beforehand.

The retiring Chairman, Hazel New, was then thanked for her three years hard work and presented with a gift and a bouquet. She was replaced by the new Chairman, Daphne

Brown, who, up till now, has used her energy and enthusiasm for the productions of the Drama Group. She will be assisted by Sheila Sloane as Vice Chairman. The only other member to leave the committee was Sheila Holley, who was thanked for arranging the many interesting outings for the guild.

The Secretary's Report was accepted, which reminded members how quickly the year had flown by and also how everyone will miss the smiling face of Margaret Mellin when she moves to Wales. The treasurer, Peggy Magyar, in her Report, said the Guild was solvent but needed more fundraising activities throughout the year to keep it that way.

The evening ended with a Bring and Buy sale, which raised over £70 towards the Guild funds and made the treasurer happy. Then the following Saturday, a Jumble Sale was held and raised a further £80.

The Social Studies Group spent a very enjoyable evening with Brian Eighteen, visiting "Mills on the Thames". When Brian left school he worked in a mill and his interest has continued. Most of the mills have burnt down - a very easy thing to happen, one spark in those dry conditions would start a fire, but those that remain have become very beautiful homes and most of the mill cottages still remain.

Meetings of the Guild are held on the third Thursday of every month in St Andrew's Church Hall, Caversham, starting at 7.30pm, why not come along?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- May 13** ■ **May Fair** 2.00pm at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road.
- **Fun Day** with Caversham East District Guide Association. 11.30am-5.00pm at Micklands Primary School. Various events for an enjoyable family day.
- May 14** ■ **Langtree Orchestral Society Concert.** 7.00pm at The Oratory School, Woodcote.
- The concert includes Rossini's Overture 'Tancredi', Mozart's Horn Concerto no.2 in E flat and Mendelssohn's 5th Symphony. The conductor is Paul Cox and the soloist Robert Fox. Tickets £6 (concessions £4) at door or phone 947 6291.
- May 18** ■ **Meditation** at The Oak House Quiet Garden, Woodcote Road. Details from Mrs Leslie Maynerd 947 6067.
- May 20, 21** ■ **Exhibition of the History of Emmer Green.** 12 noon-5.00pm at the Ocean Suite, Highdown School. Entry free but on Sunday the event is part of the Highdown Show. Organised by the Emmer Green Residents' Association.
- May 27, 28 & 29** ■ **Flower Festival** "With a song in my heart". Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Methodist Church.



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