

ANOTHER MAYOR FROM CAVERSHAM

For the second year running, the Mayor of Reading is a Caversham councillor – this year it is Councillor Bob Green, who has represented Peppard Ward for the Liberal Democrats since his election in May 1995. Though not a native of Reading – he was born in Canterbury – Bob has lived in Caversham since 1971 when his job was transferred from London, supposedly for three years. However, he and his wife, Jill, decided that Caversham was where they wanted to stay, and so they did.

Bob has come comparatively late to council work, indeed to political involvement of any sort, only doing so after his early retirement from the Civil Service. During his career, he held a number of very senior offices, mainly connected to the Department of the Environment and thereby local government. As a Civil Servant, he was obliged to be non-political, an experience that will surely help in his approach to his term of office as Mayor. For the role of the Mayor, as Bob sees it, is not political – it is to be “an important figurehead for the town of Reading, and bring together all the communities in a single whole.”

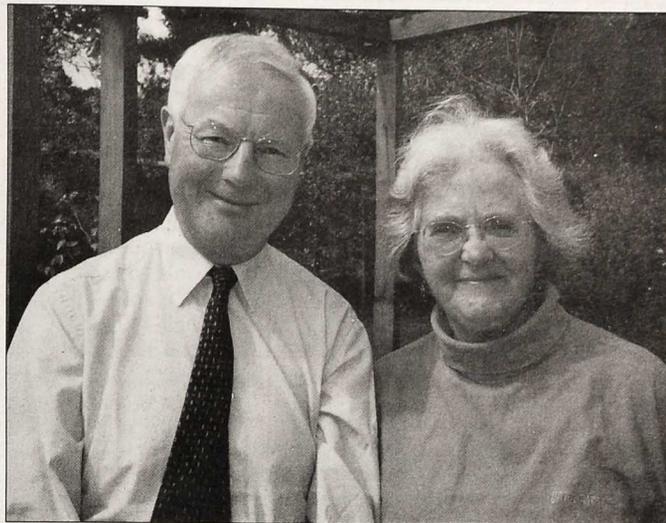
Throughout his career, he was always careful not to mix work and politics, applying his principles of professionalism to the work he did. However, he did find it hard to apply these skills to his last post, enforcing a policy – railway privatisation – he believed to be unworkable, and so happily accepted early retirement when it was offered, at the end of January 1995. Although he had had no definite plans, when the opportunity to stand as

a Liberal Democrat in Peppard Ward arose, being well-known to the local party socially through Jill’s life-long membership, he was happy to accept. “I don’t know whether they or I were more surprised when I said yes,” he commented. He was adopted as a candidate in February 1995, and elected in May of the same year.

For the past year, he and Jill have filled the offices of Deputy Mayor and Mayoress. This he feels has been a very valuable stage, enabling him to get a clearer idea of the role of the Mayor and the priorities needed. It has also taught him a lot about the town and its communities. He feels the Deputy is very much part of the overall Mayoral team and has enjoyed working with Steve and Mary Waite during their year of office.

The Mayoral year will bring many challenges (not least that of organising his time and his diary – always full to bursting!) as well as satisfaction and enjoyment. Bob sees it as a very important role, representing the town to outside communities and neighbouring local authorities, as well as participating in local events. There are opportunities for many civic and semi-social contacts, and a chance to establish close relationships with businesses, voluntary bodies, arts organisations and sports groups. Bob is also keen to establish a closer relationship with the University. “The Mayor is a separate but parallel channel of communication from the political leaders,” he said.

Bob’s hope for Reading over the next twelve months is that the town will achieve city status, as an indicator of the growing respect and esteem for the town. He also has the aim of bringing separate communities within the town



— O. Jewiss

closer together, especially the ethnic minority groups. He feels that Reading must try to keep its good record on race relations and will work towards that end. He aims to build “an even stronger community, one which is warmer and more co-operative.” He is also conscious of the wider role of Reading’s Mayor – “The formal responsibilities relate to the Borough, but this forms the core of a much wider urban area, and I would like to enhance the community of feeling between Reading and its neighbours.”

Each year the Mayor chooses charities to support, and at the end of the term of office the Mayor’s fund is donated to these charities. Bob has chosen to support two charities. One is the Reading Refugee Support Group, because he feels that there must be a responsibility to help those who find themselves in trouble through no fault of their own. The other is Reading Home-Start. This charity helps to find volunteers to act as friends and mentors for those with young families who, for whatever reason, are finding things hard going. Bob feels strongly that the strength of our society depends on the way in which we treat our children. There will be various opportunities through the year to contribute to these causes.

The role of the Mayoress is also very important, though sometimes less visible. Jill will be an equal partner in the team, and, as Mayoress, is in a position to make initiatives in her own right. Jill is locally well-known, both in her position as a magistrate, and also currently Chairman of the Berkshire Branch of the Embroiderers’ Guild.

As to his outside interests, Bob is aware that they will be somewhat pushed aside over this next year. His main love is the theatre, being a founder-member of Caversham Theatre, (who will miss him keenly over the year!) and also lists his interests as food and drink, France and Kent cricket. In fact he says that “I enjoy every minute that I’m awake.”

We wish you well in this Mayoral year, Bob and Jill, and give you our support as you take on both the challenges you have set for yourselves, and those that are presented to you along the way.

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BY
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Farmer**
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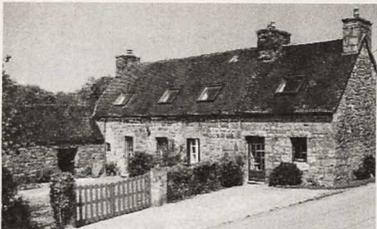
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TALKING POINT

By ELAINE CRESSWELL

Methodist Local Preacher,
Caversham Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

THE CHALLENGE OF THE EMPTY NEST

I used to wonder why so many older ladies approached me when I was out and about with my little ones – particularly with a baby in a sling on my front – and wistfully say such things as "Make the most of it my dear – you don't have them for long", or "you are lucky – enjoy them while you can."

Of course I realised what a precious time it is with a baby in the family. Why else did I decline many invitations to return to my career soon after each of my three sons were born? . . . I wanted to be a "career mum" . . . to do everything with them and for them and to enjoy each stage of the growing up process. I even revisited my own childhood – getting in a wonderful mess with paint and playdough (actually we didn't have playdough when I was a toddler!) baking cakes, climbing frames, swinging and sliding in the park, digging in the sand, paddling in the sea and local parks, swimming and so on – anything that a child of the eighties could do, we did – all of us together.

Now with one son eight thousand miles away in the USA, one doing "A" levels and soon to leave home to travel the world (he hopes) before university, and one away on a school trip in France, I have much more insight into why all those ladies approached me with their unsolicited advice. Where did all those years go? How fast life passes by and how important that we do "make the most of it".

I thank God that while still quite young I committed my life to Jesus, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever" and that I took to heart at least some of His wise words – "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day" and also the instruction in Genesis that "a man leaves his father and mother . . .". Knowing God's way for us enables us to prepare for His will. Good parenting involves doing yourself out of a job, however painful that may seem and my prayer has often been for strength to do just that.

All of this theory doesn't mean I'm any good at it in practice, but as He has been with me through all the good and bad of the past twenty one years of motherhood I can only trust that He'll be in my "empty nest", which after all has its compensations, such as a super husband, with whom I can now spend some more quality time. It also has some new challenges. We probably wouldn't be about to take a three week holiday exploring the Pacific coast if number one son hadn't been living (temporarily) out there. I thank God also for my loving church family, which keeps me nearly as busy as my relations! And I can now return somewhat cautiously to my career – dietitian in General Practice.

I write this the week after Easter, during which time I and countless numbers of Christians worldwide have reconsidered what it meant for God to give his only son.

God knows all about the empty nest.

DONATION BY THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

At the recent annual meeting of the Caversham Christian News Ltd, the proprietors of this newspaper, the directors approved a donation to the local charity Christian Community Action.

The following letter has been received in reply:

"Thank you so much for your letter dated 14 April 2000 enclosing a cheque for £500.00 from the Caversham Bridge.

The generosity of the directors is greatly appreciated and I can assure you that the gift will be used to meet real need and will be used towards finding a permanent warehouse from which to operate.

*With, again, many thanks,
Yours sincerely,*

Nick Crowder (Director)

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 contributions for July issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday May 31.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday May 30.

The dates for August will be Tuesday July 4 and Wednesday July 5.

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
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 Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.
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)
Evening Worship (1st Sunday)
8.00pm Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)

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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

TRIBUTE

EDWARD (Ted) MORGAN 1913 – 2000.

As reported in the BRIDGE last month Ted Morgan died at the end of March after a short illness. He had been the proprietor of the Caversham Pharmacy at 57 Church Street from 1954 until his retirement in 1986.

Ted was born in Bletchley and after an apprenticeship with an engineering firm in Luton, returned to Bletchley to work in a chemist's shop. He then went to the London College of Pharmacy, having previously saved to pay the necessary fees, qualifying as a pharmacist in January 1940. After call-up during the war Ted became a radar mechanic in the RAF, serving in the north of Scotland and in Ulster. Later he was posted to Egypt which gave him the opportunity to explore and learn about its history. He also managed to get to Palestine visiting many unusual sacred places.

After demobilisation he was a representative with Eli Lilly and Company for a while, then in 1948 he came to Reading working for a Miss Croft in Southampton Street. In 1954 he acquired his own business in Caversham. After his retirement in 1986 the business continued under new owner Mrs Patricia Way although it is now located at the Balmore Surgery.

In his leisure time he spent much time walking in the country and exploring historic London. He also developed a strong interest in photography shared with his daughter. He was interested in music, having been a choir member in his younger days and had a love of organ music. He had a concern for the RNLI and in an unobtrusive way was ready to help others when their needs came to his notice.

He married Olive in 1941. Their son Tony and his children have followed musical paths and Ted was proud of their academic and musical progress. Their daughter Sheila has worked overseas for many years – Ted followed her activities and the countries she worked in with much interest.

When Ted and his family first came to Reading they were active in the Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Church but later transferred to Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

His family have set up the Edward Morgan Trust as a means of sustaining his interest in a cause with which he had much sympathy. He became a successful pharmacist and businessman but without the opportunity provided by a scholarship to the Cedars school in Leighton Buzzard he would

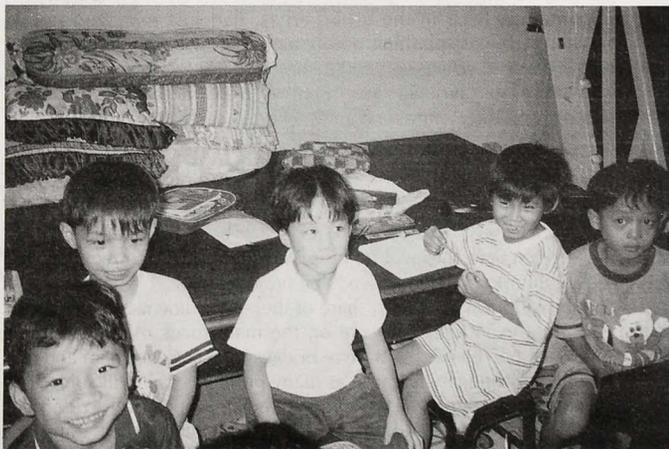


have been able to achieve far less. While they modern welfare state provides a great deal of help for the disadvantaged there are still many deserving cases both in this country and worldwide. It is intended to grow a fund which can generate a regular income to support worthy causes on a sustained basis.

The first cause chosen for support is the provision of educational opportunities for Vietnamese children where education is fee paying at every stage. This means that a large number of children remain illiterate and the cycle of poverty continues. The average wage for an unskilled worker is £9 per month and £20 for a doctor which compared with school fees of between £12 and £25 a month poses a problem even for well off families. "Classes of Affection" have been set up teaching children basic literacy in shifts of two hours a day. Fees are £2.25 a month but even this is difficult to find and children attend erratically.

Any donations (by cheque) or offers of sponsorship for the 'Edward Morgan Trust' (and all enquiries) should go to 145 Hemdean Road, Caversham RG4 7QU (tel: 0118 948 2635).

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The DEDICATION of "A PLACE OF REFLECTION" will take place on FRIDAY 9TH JUNE commencing at 10.30am in the 'GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE' Reading Crematorium & Cemetery, All Hallows Road, Caversham. The Ceremony will be conducted by Canon Richard Kingsbury of St Peter's, Caversham, with the Mayor of Reading making the response and accepting it on behalf of Reading Borough Council who will take on the responsibility of maintaining it afterwards.

The PLACE OF REFLECTION has been built by the ROTARY CLUB OF CAVERSHAM specifically for use by parents and relations who have suffered the loss of a child, either at birth or soon after, and where the child has been cremated. It has been designed as a secluded sitting area, around a central sculptural feature and will include a space for memorial plaques.

The ROTARY CLUB OF CAVERSHAM extend an invitation to all readers to join in the ceremony of Dedication and an opportunity to view the Place of Reflection afterwards. Everyone will be made very welcome.

If you require further information relating to the above please telephone Mr Peter Mason. Telephone 0118 942 5243.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

CADRA's AGM

Caversham and District Residents' Association's Annual General Meeting was its thirty-second, making it the second oldest in the town. The Warren and District Residents' Association beats it by five years making it one of the oldest in the country. It covers a considerably smaller area than CADRA does, but it acts as a vigilant watch body for its area, which is of value to most of Reading for it is a backdrop to the town and right opposite the popular Thames-side promenade.

In her opening remarks to the meeting, the President said the reason the Association continues to go on is that there is still work for it to do. It was originally something of a case of 'us' and 'them' in its relationship with the Borough, now it is much more a case of co-operation whenever possible, and the Borough values the Association because it is on the spot, knows what is going on and what any reaction is likely to be, and has its ear to the ground. As the only condition of membership is residence or employment in the area, unanimity on all subjects is not possible, but its value then lies in providing the opportunity to air issues so that all views can be known.

After the formal business of the meeting was concluded - the Association was solvent and its committee members were all prepared to serve a further term - Tina Gower of the Parks and Open Spaces Department, who was formerly based in Caversham Court, spoke on the environmental care of public and private open spaces, the latter mostly being gardens. Caversham Court particularly needs a permanent presence, which has not been the case for some time. [There is a good chance this will be remedied soon]. St Peter's churchyard is included in the complex and until recently it was a riot of primroses, snowdrops and aconites which are all left undisturbed.

In Caversham Court the pond was recently full of donated frog spawn but few, if any, frogs have appeared. A song thrush survey has been launched as there has been a disturbing reduction of these once plentiful birds. Tina suggested that those with a big enough garden should dig a pond to encourage wild life, whilst taking suitable precautions if there were small children around. A bird table also encourages wild life, but it must be inaccessible to cats. Some local gardens are visited by badgers, which is quite exciting, even if they do dig up lawns. A mixture of grasses for lawns is of more benefit to wild life than just one type. An over tidy garden is also not conducive to wild life (at this point I preened myself!) Where gardens are large enough a compost heap is a useful source of fertiliser. Japanese knotweed should be removed as soon as it appears or it will take over.

Tina also said that tree planting in streets would be encouraged. BT is willing to have a tree in front of its bleak looking premises in Church Street, which would be a great improvement. Suggestions were invited for other suitable places to put trees. Tina showed great knowledge and enthusiasm for her work and questions and discussion came thick and fast.

APRIL'S GIRLISH LAUGHTER AND TEARS

I write this having just returned from a walk through the bluebell woods of South Oxfordshire, which caused me to think how fortunate we are in Caversham to have all the facilities of a town on one side - shopping, work and entertainment - and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the other. The bluebell woods were, of course, lovely, though some of the paths were impassable either from being under water or deep in mud, further churned up by horses, owing to the very wet April we have had, with far more 'girlish tears' than 'girlish laughter'.

The Thames, at least in the urban areas, had just managed not to overflow, though it was splashing noisily along, brown with silt, at a very fast rate. The urban flooding, only too common in the earlier part of the last century has now been brought under control so that it can be confined if flooding is unavoidable, to the rural areas where it causes less harm.

MORE HOUSES TO COME

The Department of the Environment has stated that 43,000 more houses per annum are required in the south-east of the country. The south-east is already overcrowded, 'brown field' sites are becoming less and less available so green field sites will be used. More roads will be required and the necessary infrastructure will have to be provided.

Caversham will have to take its share of the new residents. The resultant traffic will bring even more pressure on the main roads. Already 55,000 cars a day cross the Thames by its three bridges, two at Caversham and one at Sonning. A new bridge will cause as many problems as it will solve. The Road Research Laboratory has already stated its opposition to another bridge and it is a disinterested body. One answer is better public transport, and it will have to be good if it is to reduce or replace the perceived convenience of a car. Another solution is to build more houses and provide more industry in the north-east where they will be welcomed.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Discussions are going on about the refurbishment of Caversham Bridge. It needs minor repairs and painting. I wonder how many people realise it is already painted. That is not its natural colour, except for the parts that are granite. A range of colours was on offer and at a meeting of interested bodies there was unanimous agreement that the colour known as sandstone should be chosen. There was equal unanimity that blue should be rejected.

The lamp standards on the bridge will be standardised (sorry, not a pun!).

How many people know that all but two of them are different from each other and that they are green in colour because they are painted and not because they are weathered bronze? When viewed from the river, some attractive relief work can be seen on the arches. It is hoped, too, to under-light the arches, for which sufficient money has been set aside.

The painting has been badly delayed because the river was in flood and it would have been dangerous to paint from a barge. Two barges were used in the end to speed up matters before the boating season proper sets in. The Environmental Agency is responsible for painting the central abutments.

This is an important and historic bridge, having replaced former ones dating back to the early thirteenth century. The London bridges have been given top class treatment and this one is equally deserving.

DAPHNE

A variegated holly has been planted in St Peter's churchyard, joining other distinctive trees there, in memory of Daphne Vincent who was Parish Secretary for many years, a job she did with charm and efficiency. It will have red berries once it is established, a very suitable colour as Daphne loved red. Many people have fond memories of Daphne cycling back from work in a cheerful red jacket. She leaves happy memories behind her.

CORRESPONDENCE*A long time local writes:-*

"Watchdog" is correct in pointing out (last issue) that the Borough Planning Department is as much subject to listed building controls as the rest of us, and should have applied for consent for the alterations to the Library surrounds, but I am sure that the chain link fencing which has now gone was never part of the original approved plans.

The original fencing was removed some 60 years ago to be melted down to make munitions. The new scheme, with railings (which I do not find to be ugly), improved access for prams and wheelchairs to the Library, and wider pavements giving room for people waiting for buses, is to me a vast improvement.

*(name and address supplied)***C. LEWINGTON****DULUX APPROVED
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEW VICAR AT ST ANDREW'S

The Collation and Induction of Father Keith Kinnaird as vicar of St Andrew's Church Caversham took place on Saturday, March 25th. It was led by the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, Bishop of Reading, and the Venerable Norman Russell, Archdeacon of Berkshire. Some 285 people attended the service, including 65 visitors from Fr Keith's previous parish in Shoreham, Sussex. Many of the local clergy and representatives from previous parishes were also present. The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Reading attended as civic representatives.

Fr Keith was ordained as Deacon at Holy Trinity Church, Reading in 1975 and as Priest at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford in 1976.

The Bishop spoke of Fr Keith's particular interest in the ministry of healing and his appointment as a Serving Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. He said Fr Keith had served 20 years of his ministry in this diocese, at Didcot, Abingdon, Sunningwell and Radley, before becoming Vicar at Shoreham and has a reputation as an outstanding parish priest.

During the service Fr Keith was presented with symbols of Ministry: the Stole, Bible, Jug, Paschal Candle, Oils, Chalice and Paten. The two Wardens presented a symbolic Key to the Church.

Fr Keith and his wife Pam have three adult children, Simon, Sally and Helen and two grandchildren, Samuel and Lauren.

After the service the Crucifer led the Bishop, the Vicar and dignitaries in procession to the church hall for the reception, where in a short speech, Fr Keith thanked everyone for their support and warm welcome since arriving in Caversham. He said how much he and his wife, Pam, looked forward to sharing in the family life at St. Andrew's.

NEW PRIEST-in-CHARGE
LICENSED AT ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Church was packed on 3 May when the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, licensed the Revd Derek Chandler as the new Priest-in-Charge at St Barnabas. Presentation of the living at St Barnabas, and with it the title of vicar, is in temporary suspension pending the outcome of a review of ministry within the Caversham Group which is being undertaken by the Deanery Pastoral Committee on behalf of the Diocese. The St Barnabas congregation was considerably swelled by parishioners and clergy from the Revd Derek Chandler's previous parishes in Sholing and Bitterne Park in Southampton, as well as representatives from churches of all denominations in Caversham and others from the Reading Deanery who had come to wish Derek and his family well in their new parish.

Ministry and mission

The nature of the service, set within the context of the Eucharist, affirms the ministry and mission of a priest through the use of symbols of the various aspects of ministry being presented to the priest by representatives of the congregation. It is very much a shared responsibility. The Bishop, in his sermon, reminded those present that there were three stages in the development of a church. First, many see the church as the vicar, then the laity see themselves helping the vicar run the church and, finally, the vicar enables the people to be the Church, so that they and others know Jesus.

Espesial thanks

Both during the service and in the reception that followed in the Church Hall especial thanks were given to the Revd John Dudley, the non-stipendiary curate, for his continuing ministry at St Barnabas, which during the interregnum had gone far beyond his expected agreed hours. Thanks also went to Mrs Elizabeth Gash, the Lay Minister, and Churchwardens, Walter Williams and Bill Harper, all of whom had exercised extra responsibility during the 10 month period since the departure of the last vicar.



- G. N. Kent

Fr Keith Kinnaird with the Bishop of Reading and the Deputy Mayor.

NEW INCUMBENT AT ST JOHN'S

St John's Church have the greatest pleasure in announcing that the Rev Philip Dallaway will be joining them on August 29th 2000. Philip brings with him his wife Yvonne and three sons, Michael (24), Charles (18) and Christopher (14), and comes from All Saints' Didcot with Ladygrove Church where he has been since 1992, having been Rector since 1997.

Philip was educated in Eastbourne and worked as an Environmental Officer in Public Health and also as an East Sussex Inland Revenue Officer before training at Chichester Theological College and obtaining the Oxford Certificate in Theology.

He was ordained Deacon at St Nicholas, Newbury in 1981, and ordained Priest in Christ Church Cathedral in 1982. He became Curate of St Nicholas, then moved to St Peter and St Paul, Newport Pagnell (1983-5), from where he became Vicar of Stewkley with Soulbury and Rector of Drayton Parslow (1985-92) before moving to Didcot.

CONCERT AT THE CHURCH OF ST
JOHN THE BAPTIST, CAVERSHAM

The church scored a great success from staging Cantabile, a small choir from Christ's Hospital, Horsham, the original Bluecoat School.

The school treasurer had suggested to the 850 scholars that they could perhaps produce a 'helping hand' from each of the sixteen houses, and support the millennium appeal for the provision of two new senior houses.

One house suggested car washing, but another called Maine decided to render choral and instrumental works to an appreciative audience at St John's Caversham on Friday 17th March. Those attending thoroughly enjoyed the performance as well as the wine provided in the interval. The resulting proceeds made it possible to contribute not only to school funds but also to the church.

Ted Smith



- O. Jewiss

The Revd Derek Chandler was photographed with the Bishop of Reading after the licensing.



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

THE INSTALLATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM

A Cryptic View



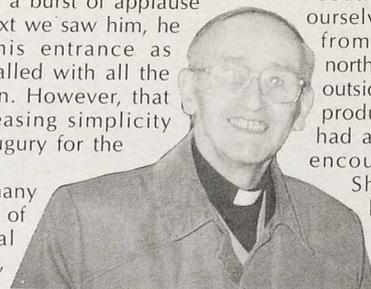
- K. Corrigan

Bishop Nichols greets the congregation in the crypt.

Wednesday 29th March 2000 saw the Installation of the Most Revd Vincent Nichols as Eighth Archbishop of Birmingham. Held in the Diocesan Cathedral of St Chad, this magnificent and moving ceremony, of which I was privileged to be a spectator, albeit a somewhat circumscribed one, began somewhat before its advertised time of midday. I should explain that, with well over a thousand people attending, space was at a premium. Accordingly, it had been necessary to allocate all seating in the Nave and Aisles to official guests, the remainder being accommodated wherever space could be made available, in my case the crypt. However, large screen projection TV's had been provided in all these areas so that we could follow the course of the ceremony.

We were sitting waiting, wondering how much we would see and how much we would feel involved when a figure in a purple cassock walked quietly into our midst and there, without ceremony, was Bishop Nichols himself, thanking us in person for being there and regretting that we could not be in the main throng. Everyone was deeply touched by this simple gesture and a burst of applause greeted his thoughtful act. When next we saw him, he was fully robed and making his entrance as Archbishop-Elect, about to be installed with all the pomp that marks such an occasion. However, that earlier action had revealed a pleasing simplicity beneath the splendour - a good augury for the future!

In the interim, there had been many arrivals with successive processions of Civic Representatives, Ecumenical Guests, the Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinals Schotte from Rome and Winning from Scotland, most of the



- K. Corrigan

Father Plunkett Shannon.

hierarchy of England and Wales including the newly installed Archbishop of Westminster, the Metropolitan Chapter, and some 300 diocesan Priests and Deacons.

Welcoming everyone, the Rt Rev Philip Pargeter, Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese and Provost of the Chapter, quoted from the Second Vatican Council that 'a Diocese is a section of the people of God entrusted to a Bishop to be guided by him'. He then led the members of the Chapter to the door of the Cathedral to receive their new Archbishop with whom they processed back to the altar for the installation ceremony.

Following the reading of the Papal Letter of Appointment, the Provost formally installed Archbishop Nichols 'in the name of God, Archbishop in this Church of Birmingham'. The Archbishop of Westminster presented him with a book of the Gospels and the exhortation to 'preach the word of God to the Church of Birmingham' and his predecessor, Maurice Couve de Murville, presented him with the Crozier. Following this, the whole assembly, including those of us in the crypt, stood to give prolonged applause to the newly enthroned Archbishop.

Once the congregation were seated again, the Archdiocese began welcoming its new Archbishop. One by one, representatives of the Priests, the Religious and the Laity welcomed him and each in turn exchanged an embrace with him. Finally came the Canons of the Metropolitan Chapter, each of whom individually greeted his new Archbishop. For his part, Archbishop Nichols thanked the representatives of the Archdiocese, assured the Civic Representatives of his co-operation in working alongside them for the benefit of the whole community and welcomed the Ecumenical Representatives with whom he looked forward to working, all together in Christ.

In the concelebrated Mass that followed his Installation, the new Archbishop referred to the ancient Roman port of Othona, near Bradwell in Essex, which had been his Titular See in the Diocese of Westminster. A notable 7th century evangelist in this area had been St Cedd, who was, by happy coincidence, the brother of St Chad, patron of Birmingham. With his former connection with Cedd and his new one with Chad, Archbishop Nichols hoped they might guide him as they would have guided a younger brother. 'May Cedd and Chad be with us, may new life from the Eucharist course through Birmingham'.

Mass was followed by lunch in the diocesan seminary at Oscott. Quite by chance, the two of us from Caversham, the southernmost parish of the diocese, found ourselves sharing a table with representatives from Biddulph, at its northern end. Our northern colleagues agreed with us that being outside the main body of the cathedral had not produced any sense of exclusion; rather we had all felt totally involved. A further happy encounter at Oscott was with Fr Plunkett Shannon who served at Caversham between 1973 and 1980. Now in his 84th year and in good health, he is enjoying a well-earned retirement. He, like us, had enjoyed a memorable day.

KC

THE CRUCIFIXION

The meditations of Good Friday continued into the evening as a large congregation gathered in Caversham Heights Methodist Church to hear The Crucifixion, composed by John Stainer and ably performed by an ecumenical choir of members of several Caversham churches, conducted by Nick Beach, Director of Education of the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust. Mike Palmer had trained the choir to a high standard and he sang the tenor solos in his beautifully rounded voice. The bass soloist was Richard Naxton, son of Patty Naxton of St. Anne's, and it was pleasing to hear a young man taking this part. Dennis Tutty sensitively accompanied on the organ. The congregational hymns incorporated into the cantata were sung with great feeling, many members of the congregation having their own copies of the music and singing in harmony.

This was a memorable performance and for many it revived memories of previous performances across the country on Good Friday, in small chapels and great cathedrals, by professionals and by amateurs, but always with the words, selected and written by Rev J Sparrow-Simpson, combining with Stainer's descriptive music to remind the singer and listener of the events of the Crucifixion. It was right that the congregation were asked not to applaud, for the cantata finishes at the death of Christ. It concludes with the congregational hymn, All for Jesus, ending with the most apt words for an ecumenical occasion: 'All for Jesus, This the Church's song must be; Till, at last we all are gathered One in love and one in Thee'. Let us hope that this will be just the first of many similar occasions.

JLB

AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST MARTIN'S LENTEN FUNDRAISER



Trading at Lenten Fayre.

On Wednesday 5th April, the children in Years 5 and 6 of St Martin's School, Caversham Park Village, held a Lenten Fayre to raise money for this year's chosen Charities - Fr Hudson's Homes, CAFOD, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Fr Dovari's organisation, helping the children orphaned by the Orissa Cyclone in India.

The children were very inventive, designing and making games for the rest of the school to enjoy and providing prizes and booby prizes for winners and losers alike. There was also a cake stall and a toy and book stall, so there was something for everyone. The afternoon was mainly for the children, but parents of the younger children came along and joined in the fun. As expected, the noise level rose to great heights, so there was a quiet area provided for Mums to escape, with a nice cup of tea and home made cake, but not before purses were emptied for the good cause.

In addition to this afternoon, there was an Easter Raffle which had been running throughout Lent and Fr Hudson Collection Boxes which had been taken home to be filled with all the loose change. The total money collected is expected to exceed £400 - a great total from a small number of children, but the effort was so worthwhile and enjoyable they can't wait to do it all again next year.

WOMEN'S CENTRE IN FASHION

The length to which organisations go to attract an audience to their Annual General Meeting is quite remarkable; a Fashion Show and Buffet Lunch was a successful prelude to Churches in Reading Women's Centre AGM. Held on a day and at a time when the Centre is normally open, these events at the end of March were in many respects a celebration of the achievements of the Centre, where all who come are partners, whatever their role. The Hall at Wesley Methodist Church was transformed into a fashion house, complete with carpeted catwalk and a room full of admiring women, for the parade by eight partners of a range of new or nearly new garments, some of which had been made and were modelled by the Centre's own dressmaking instructor, Loues Mitchell. Prior to the display the 'models' had all been expertly made up by students from the Health and Beauty Salon at Reading College. The Mayoress of Reading, Mrs Mary Waite, was the Guest Compère of this well staged event. During the buffet lunch that followed many of the modelled garments and others were available for sale.



Our picture shows the 'Fashion Show Models' at the Women's Centre with the Mayoress of Reading, Mrs Mary Waite (right) and Chairperson, Mrs Jane Earl.

Achievements and activities

Mrs Jane Earl, Chairperson of the Women's Centre, presided over the AGM that followed, in which the retiring Centre Manager, Mrs Sheila Goldsmith, gave her final report on the achievements of the Centre. In the seven years since it started it has become established as a place of safety and support for all women, especially those who are lonely and feel unsupported by their families and the local community. Typical reactions are: "It's a staggering place", "I like the family atmosphere" and "I really love the lunches", a sentiment echoed by any who had been present at the buffet lunch on that day. During the past year the centre has seen a 30% increase in the number of women using it. There have been 82 referrals in the past year, either self referrals or from various referral agencies and, associated with them and also attending, have been 34 children, a 50% increase. The regular activities include crafts, art, board games, flower arranging, gardening, keep fit, discussions and computer training. With the support of Reading College, individual help is given on life skills such as literacy,

numeracy and parenting. An arts charity from Oxford, Ithaca, is developing a Millennium Project in batik which it is hoped will be exhibited in the Town Hall in October. Partners receive advice and support from CommuniCare in obtaining benefits and how to deal with their financial needs; counselling support is given from the First Steps project.

Funds needed

Most of the work of the centre is undertaken by voluntary help, but it does employ a part-time General Manager, Support Worker and Play Leader. It costs over £30,000 a year to run, two thirds of which comes in the form of grants from charities and the local authority. Although the remainder comes from donations, many from local churches, there is an urgent need to increase this latter source to replace grants, some of which will be diminished or not renewed. A fundraiser is now being sought and a target of £10,000 additional funding is needed. Volunteers are always welcome as

is also the support of the Centre in prayer. The AGM elected members to the Executive Committee and grateful thanks surrounded the retirement of the inaugural treasurer, Ann Chapman. Mrs Mariane Low was announced as the new Centre Manager in succession to Mrs Sheila Goldsmith, who retires at the end of May.

CHURCH FETE 2000

This year, the annual Parish fete of St Peter's Caversham and St Margaret's Mapledurham will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July in the grounds of Caversham Court. Elected members to the Executive Committee and grateful thanks surrounded the retirement of the inaugural treasurer, Ann Chapman. Mrs Mariane Low was announced as the new Centre Manager in succession to Mrs Sheila Goldsmith, who retires at the end of May. Once again, there will be plenty of opportunity to buy home-made cakes, bric a brac, nearly new clothes and try your luck on the tombola and bottle stalls. The Grand Draw has a first prize of £100 Oracle shopping voucher. Attractions will include Roger Kent's Punch and Judy show and the balloon race. The picture is of last year's winner, Margaret Baily, being presented with her prize by Simon Walmsley. Margaret's balloon ticket was sent back from the Norfolk coast.

For further information on the Draw, please contact Richard Larkin on 947 2830.

If you would like to volunteer to help on a stall or donate goods, please contact Rosemary Ambrose on 947 5677.

LES AND EUNICE COOPER'S RUBY WEDDING



- Jerry Cresswell

Les and Eunice Cooper with Rev Rosemary Fletcher.

Over 40 years ago, Les and Eunice Cooper first met as members of the Youth Club at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, so it was only fitting that they should celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary with their friends and relatives at the church. They were presented with a gift after the Palm Sunday service and then they invited everyone to share a buffet lunch with them afterwards. It was a very happy family occasion.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV JULIAN DUNN



- N. Kent

At the end of the 10 o'clock service on Sunday 19th March, Church Warden, Muriel Popplewell, presented Rev Julian Dunn with a substantial cheque and expressed the thanks and appreciation of the people of St Andrew's church for looking after them and taking the services during the 6 months interregnum, following Rev Bill Carpenter's retirement last September.

Father Julian responded that it had been a pleasure to be with the congregation during the time of the interregnum, and that in itself was thanks enough. However, he was, he said, both surprised and overwhelmed to receive such a generous appreciation.



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ENVIRONMENT**NEWS FROM GLOBE** BY $\phi\beta$

To keep the momentum going from our RESCUE clear-up in Hills Meadow, group members tackled the Japanese knotweed growing there, on a Sunday afternoon in mid-April. We pulled the stems and uprooted the rhizomes with, at times, a frightening intensity of purpose, and felt well-pleased with our efforts. At the time of writing (two weeks later) new knotweed shoots are thrusting up through the ground to mock our efforts. However, we shall return to the task as often as it takes to control and eliminate the plant. It is well established on View Island and along that side of the millstream too, so we should welcome help from readers in future. The cleared plant material has to be treated as 'controlled waste' - either burnt on site or taken to a sealed landfill dump - and it is a criminal offence to cause knotweed to grow in the wild, such is its ability to spread from the smallest fragments and crowd out native species.

One of our members, Pam Manning, has long campaigned for improvements to the Mill Road entrance to Hills Meadow. Her latest success has been to persuade the council to plant a fine rowan tree in the grass triangle there.

In theory, View Island should be open to the public by the time you read this, but recently discovered bank erosion near the weir may delay matters. On the other side of the river, the 'Trees For Our Future' plantings in King's Meadow are thriving despite the visit of a large group of travellers. The council has obtained a blanket order banning all travellers from all parks and open spaces under its control (hence the orange notices in legalese which have caused some puzzlement locally).

The Sustrans national cycleway from London to Oxford is due to be tested out by a team of international inspectors on 17th June and there will be a general 'network day' on 21st June when Sustrans members will ride their millennium routes. It will be interesting to see how they cope with the section from Kennetmouth through Caversham centre and Balmore Walk and then out into Oxfordshire. The route follows Highdown Hill Road and its continuation as a path across Highdown Bottom to Tanners Lane. This is an old hollow way, rich in old woodland flora such as bluebells, wood anemones, yellow archangel and toothwort. In addition, its steepness and narrowness pose potential dangers if touring cycle traffic interacts with the horse riders, golfers and families with children out for a stroll, who enjoy its present seclusion. Sustrans have insisted on sticking to this route despite representations on its unsuitability (from $\phi\beta$ as an individual, as it lies outside Globe's boundaries) and the existence of better alternative routes.

Caversham Globe's AGM will be on the evening of 1st June. We hope to get through the formal business quickly and then have an informal exhibition of our recent activities. New potential members are welcome. Please ring our secretary, Paul Raman, on 948 3389. A little bone to pick with Watchdog (see the end of the May article) - there's more to Caversham than the Heights. Lower Caversham has its own community association. To be fair, it has been deeply dormant this year, but efforts are being made to wake it from its slumbers. Paul Raman is its secretary also, so contact him for details. Caversham is relatively well blessed with various groups interested in maintaining and improving its environment. All should communicate and work together whenever appropriate - 'vis unita fortior' as they say in Stoke!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- June 2-4 ■ **Millennium Flower Festival.** St Michael's Church, Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Friday 7.30pm Preview Evening £5, Saturday (10.30 - 5.00pm) and Sunday (11.30 - 5.00pm). Entrance £1. In aid of CAFOD. Enquiries to 972 3681 or 972 2695.
- June 9 ■ **Dedication of A Place of Reflection.** 10.30am at the Garden of Remembrance, Reading Crematorium, All Hallows Road.
- June 10 ■ **Auction of Promises for NCH Action for Children.** 2.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.
- June 11 ■ **Pentecost Celebrations.** From 12 noon in Caversham Court. Picnic (bring your own) and entertainments. **Ecumenical Service** at 2.00pm. Organised by Churches Together in Caversham. In marquee if wet.
- June 17 ■ **Woodland Activity Day.**
- June 18 ■ **Visit of Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths.** 10.30am and 6.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.
- June 22 ■ **Corpus Christi.** Mass and Procession 10.30am Mapledurham House.
- July 8 ■ **Parish Fete** of St Peter's, Caversham and St Margaret's Mapledurham. In the afternoon at Caversham Court.

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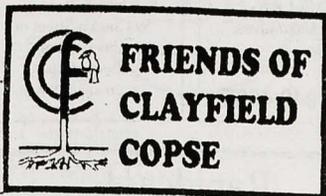
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ENVIRONMENT



WOODLAND DAY

Saturday 17 June

A "Woodland Activity Day" at Clayfield Copse on 17th June will offer all the crafts and arts to be found in woodlands past and present.

For over ten years, Friends of Clayfield Copse have been doing volunteer work to make the woods accessible to more people. By making clearings, butterflies and bluebells are encouraged back. When sunlight can reach the woodland floor, suddenly a lot more species can live and grow in the woods.

"We have gradually realised that this variety came from all the work that used to go on in woods," says local organiser Anne Latto. "To celebrate this, we're having a Woodland Activity Day. People will be demonstrating traditional skills, guided walks will point out the range of flora and fauna and there will be many other activities. There will be plenty for children and grown-ups to do because we want to encourage people to get involved, not just look on".

"We want local residents to come along and perhaps see the woods in a new light," says Anne. "If we look back just a couple of generations, before the second world war, far more people made their living from woodland work. It was this work - coppicing, charcoal-burning, timber extraction, and so on that made our woods home to such a wide range of plant and animal life. It's only by keeping those sorts of activities going that the woods are kept from being little more than bramble, mud and shade".

"When we live in towns and suburbs we forget what a wonderful resource a piece of woodland

can be," says Anne.

The Woodland Activity Day is supported by Reading Borough Council. It will have something for all the family. Entry is free, and people will be able to join in and try their hand at many different activities. Some of the artists and craftspeople demonstrating their skills will have work for sale.

There will be guided woodland walks covering all the different animal and plant life, from trees and wildflowers to bats, birds, butterflies and beetles. Traditional crafts such as hurdlemaking, hedging and woodcarving will be demonstrated. There will be a falconry display. A charcoal-burner and a wheelwright will be at work, plus local artists basket making, woodturning and picturemaking. There will also be a chainsaw sculptor, you'll be amazed at the delicate results that can be achieved by such violent means!

The Local Nature Reserve of Clayfield Copse is on the border of Caversham and Emmer Green, reached from the car park on Caversham Park Road. The Woodland Activity Day, organised by Friends of Clayfield Copse in partnership with Reading Borough Council, will start at 12 noon on Saturday 17th June and will carry on into the evening when there will be a barbecue. Admission is free. There will be limited disabled access. Toilets and refreshments available. For more information contact Judith Oliver on 947 8920, e-mail: The.Olivers@btinternet.com or Anne Latto on 948 4454, e-mail: annelatto@altavista.net

This article, submitted in May, the month of the birth of my dear, late, Scooby, is the hundredth of our bird articles.

Without Scooby's 'inspiration' ever beside me, these jottings could not have continued. Support and encouragement were ours, but going on was a challenge. Assurance was given that good and kind folk read about our ongoing adventures, so quiet confidence still guides the hand. It may be accepted that accuracy of detail has been supported by bird-notes and related records.

Since the first article a significant change has been the radical decline of many common species. Insecticides and certain farming methods have decimated natural bird food and sometimes the birds themselves. Land development has often been ruthless with wildlife being utterly ignored. These matters need to be specifically and squarely met as so many wild creatures face extinction.

Small numbers of Blackbirds, Dunnocks, Wrens and Robins are breeding and sing territorially every day. Afar off, a Mistle Thrush heralds the dawn with its rich, far-carrying voice. Flocks of Sparrows with their cheery cheekiness have been sorely missed for far too long.

Chiffchaffs were back at Warbler Lane in mid-March. Some over-winter yet one sensed that these were an



100 Not Out

Scops Owl

early fall from Africa.

A new rare-bird pager has recently replaced our obsolete model and immediately advised of a Hooded Merganser at Staines

Reservoir. This North American species is thinly scattered even where it breeds so that British records are few. Its habitats are wooded lakes and streams. Collectors keep this immaculate bird in captivity, so escapes sometimes occur. A hybrid seen at Bedford would seem to cast a further shadow on the origin of the Staines arrival.

This remaining space has to be reserved for the most wonderful wild bird of our lives - the beautiful Ivory Gull. Rare as she is 'Ivy' should never be classified in bird-slang terminology. This precious little friend came to us - literally - on 23rd December 1999 - and entered our hearts forever. A true Millennium Gift from God. Large photographs of her standing close to us are displayed upon the mantelpiece.

There has sadly been no news since she left Ilay, but with her great courage and character, Ivy will assuredly be home on the Arctic pack-ice.

She will always remain with us, as we shall with her and is daily in our prayers. We love you Ivy

Scooby and
Scops Owl

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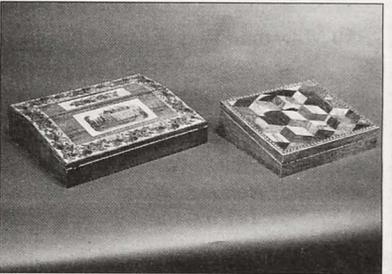
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A VISIT TO STRAWBERRY FAYRE

Vincent Kelly

'GLOSTER: My Lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn I saw good strawberries in your garden there; I do beseech you, send for some of them.
ELY: Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart.'

(Shakespeare - Richard III).

Sunday 20th June 1999 dawned bright and clear. It promised to be a good day. We (three in all) set off by train for London and our first visit to the age-old festival of Strawberry Fayre which has been revived in recent years.

Those of you who remember your Shakespeare may recall the above quotation from Richard III. The fair is celebrated in Ely Place which is a small cul-de-sac of impressive late 18th century houses mostly occupied by the offices of prestigious companies or associations. Also in the place are the church of St Etheldreda, tucked away at the far end and invisible from the main road (Charterhouse Street) with an adjoining convent. It is just around the corner from Hatton Garden and only a stone's throw from Holborn Viaduct.

This area is the site of the once great medieval Ely Palace, the London seat of the Bishops of Ely. It was then fashionable and, indeed, both desirable and necessary for the bishops to maintain a residence in the capital as they sat in Parliament and took an active part in legislation.

We arrived very early, having over-provided for expected delays, to be met by a short but very violent rain-storm. Shelter was found in an unoccupied stall in the street. From then on we had a most glorious summer day, ideal for the 'fayre'. This 'fayre', in aid of charity, then got under way, its theme being the 40s, 50s and 60s. There was a swing band playing the music of those times and once again one found the words came back to mind. A 'senior lady' with an appropriate voice, dressed in ENSA uniform, led most of the singing whilst another appropriately dressed lady led the singing of many of the old music-hall favourites. A deliberately poor comedian-ventriloquist raised many a laugh.

There was a Punch and Judy show, a roundabout in the shape of teapots and cups for the children (some of whom were remarkably advanced in years) as well as an old-fashioned roll-a-penny stall with 'real' pennies to be rolled. There were stalls for tea/coffee, ice-cream and a beer tent, of course.

There were stalls selling bric-a-brac, books, second-hand clothes as well as the inevitable bottle stall and raffle, and not forgetting the cake stall supported by the Berkshire WI. On the bric-a-brac stall I spied a piece of electronic equipment - obviously for a computer, labelled - 'We don't know what it is but make an offer.'

As four o'clock approached we had to leave, doing so reluctantly as more and more were arriving. It seemed that there was a lot more life left in the fayre yet. It was a great day out, well worth the travel to London. I made a note to put the date in my diary for next year.

TRIBUTE

GLADYS IRENE MAYO

1910-2000

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Gladys Mayo was held at St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights, on the 26th April. The following notes are based, with thanks, on the moving Tribute to her memory given that day by her niece, Gillian Thickett.

Gladys was born in Newtown, Reading, on the 7th September 1910. Along with her sister and brothers, she attended Sunday School at Wycliffe Baptist Church in Newtown and, in due course, became a teacher there. Confirmed at St Giles's Church in Reading, she became a regular worshipper and married Cyril there in 1936. In the early years they had to endure wartime separation but when Cyril returned from the Navy, Gladys did not continue in employment but, instead, totally involved herself as homemaker. She was a devoted mother who enjoyed bringing up her own two sons, being involved in their education, bringing them to church at St Andrew's - having by then moved to Caversham - and being proud of all their achievements.

Gladys was delighted by her son, Inglis's, call to the ministry of the Anglican Church and followed his work in three parishes with minute interest. She also took great pleasure at the initiative, enterprise and business success of his brother, Adrian. The marriages of Inglis to Joy and of Adrian to Debbie brought a

whole new dimension to her life. They and their families became part of her concern and her four grandchildren brought her great joy and she looked forward to their visits.

Outside the home, and in keeping with her commitment to her marriage and the family, Gladys's main involvement was in the Mothers' Union of which she was a member for over fifty years both in Caversham and, latterly, in Trowbridge. A marked characteristic was her neighbourliness. She was a very caring person and many were grateful for her quiet unobtrusive acts of kindness. Generous and practical, she was there for family, friends and neighbours who might be lonely, sick, bereaved, dying. Perhaps the key to all Gladys's qualities was her quiet and sincere faith.

Gladys and Cyril were married for almost sixty-three years and their relationship was one of loyalty, faithfulness and devotion. At their Diamond Wedding in 1996, the bells of Wimborne Minster rang out - it was a marriage to be celebrated. In their last few years, spent in Trowbridge, Gladys cared patiently and sacrificially for Cyril so that he was able to be at home almost to the end of his life. He died in September 1999 and on 6th April 2000, after a short illness, Gladys joined him, her funeral service being held in Trowbridge on the 18th April.

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the CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon TG

Mrs E Manning presided over the meeting held on 20th April. She welcomed a new member, Mrs B Fletcher, and also two guests. A thank you letter from the retiring officer was read and an Easter card from Mrs B King, an old member now living in Scotland. The treasurer, Mrs B Holder, reminded members that orders could be taken for next year's calendars and diaries. The theme on the calendars is children from around the world.

Mrs D Smith read the Federation report. At the last Berkshire Federation meeting a cheque for £7,939 had been presented to Dr Walker towards the cost of a new mobile Breast Cancer diagnostic machine which will bear a plaque. He expressed his grateful thanks to the Federation for the generous donation.

The speaker at the meeting was Mr Tony Holland, now retired from the BBC after 37 years. He showed very interesting slides of the varied outside broadcasting events, ranging from visits to cathedrals to sports meetings (including motor racing and cricket). The roadshows took him up to Scotland as well as to numerous towns in England. Miss P Reed proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of members. The next Guild meeting will be on Thursday 15th June 2.00pm at Church House, Caversham. Do come and join us. (For more

information contact 947 6227).

St Peter's Wives' Group

At the April meeting, Monica Butler very kindly came along to talk about the University of the Third Age, or U3A as it is known to members. It is an international organisation which exists for the benefit of people who are no longer in full-time employment and who wish to enjoy the company of others with similar interests to themselves and who would like to explore new avenues and opportunities for learning. The organisation has some 86,000 members and 393 branches in the UK. Reading U3A has 400 members and 32 different groups. It was a thought-provoking and informative evening.

New members always welcome.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At the first meeting since the A.G.M. in March, the Chairman, Mrs Maureen Chamberlain, welcomed all members to a new and interesting Guild year. Following reports from the leaders of the interest groups, an outline was given of activities and events to take place later in the summer. These include an Autumn Fair in September, to which several local groups have been invited, with positive responses. Any group or individual interested in the

Fair should contact the Guild.

The competition for designing an Easter card was won by Mrs Janet Macarthur.

The guest speaker was Mrs Mary Baxter, talking on "American Patchwork and Quilting". In addition to her detailed and lively commentary, she gave her audience the opportunity to examine the items on display - details of pattern, fabric and stitching in her varied selection of quilts. Much skill and time had gone into their creation.

American quilting often brings to mind the early settlers, busy in the evenings with needle and thread after a hard day's manual work. This seems unlikely, at least during the initial stages of colonisation, because of the many demands on their time. In the 17th and 18th centuries, mothers in England included such needlework in the skills taught to their daughters. Even then the materials were varied and richly coloured; by the end of the 18th century quilts were produced to order for stately homes. On record is the example of the American brides who had to have a dozen double-bed size quilts in "the bottom drawer". Such a challenge needed a group effort and a strong community spirit.

The origin of a quilt can often be determined by the backing fabric, wool or cotton, and the type of stitching used. Silk was in use for a while but these quilts lacked durability. By the end of the 19th century, quilt-making was usually just for the family and much less widespread.

In 1970, a collection of quilts was exhibited in the USA and the interest spread to Europe. Specialist shops and books encouraged this interest with Claverton Manor, Bath, being well-known for its exhibition.

Members much enjoyed

inspecting the quilts, rich in colour and detail, and admired Mrs Baxter's skill in creating them. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mrs Mabel White.

The Royal British Legion

Caversham Branch had a very active Social diary in May.

On May 1st the monthly social and hot supper was held for about 80 - the raffle, quiz and bingo, as always, proved very popular. The evening's profit was for the Legion's Welfare work.

On May 8th a 55th Anniversary of VE Day Party was held at the Working Men's Club - again 80 or so attended and after a 'Victory' supper there was live music from the period. People brought along items and photos from the period from which the Branch is thinking of producing a book of the photos and anecdotes.

On May 15th the Hon. Secretary, Ron Jewitt, and the Hon. Treas. Pauline Palmer, took part in an 11 mile Sponsored Walk for the Poppy Appeal and raised about £300.

Anyone interested in joining the Legion please ring the Secretary on 0118 948 1147.

Link Group News

Once again the Annual Knit-in was very successful. Five blankets have been sent to Children's Aid Direct and circa £800 raised for Link funds. Many thanks to all our knitters and their sponsors.

Link meetings continue to be held at 8.00 pm on the third Monday of each month. New members are always welcome, in particular we would be pleased to have representatives from St Anne's and Caversham Methodist Churches. Please ring Barbara Macrae on 947 0040.

CAVERSHAM HISTORY GROUP

What do you know about the history of that area north of Reading from the Thames to South Oxfordshire and covering Caversham, Emmer Green, Cane End, Kidmore End, and Gallowstree Common?

Would you like to join a group who plan to peel back the layers of Caversham's history and research the origins and development of the former Oxfordshire parish?

A history research group, comprising local residents, interested local historians, as well as computer experts, will shortly start work to plan a major project researching the history of the ancient parish of Caversham.

The Caversham Parish Research Association will build on previous studies to compile a comprehensive record of life in Caversham from the earliest times to the present day. Using original historical documents its aim is to eventually write and publish an in-depth definitive parish history back through Victorian, Tudor and Medieval times to the Anglo Saxon development of the village.

Anyone who would like to be involved, or associated with the project, or would like to participate in the research, can find out more by contacting the project co-ordinator, Bob Winter. He would be particularly interested to learn of current on-going research into the area, or of previously completed research projects, no matter how long

they have been gathering dust!

As well as researching documents and archives in the public domain, the group would be anxious to learn of historical material, such as letters, title deeds, photographs, postcards, maps, etc, which are held in private hands.

The group intends to make use of modern computer technology to record, analyse and present its findings, through establishing a website, using the internet for communications, holding information on computer databases and digital cameras to record buildings, views, landscape features and even people. Anybody with expertise in these areas, to include photography and filming, would be most welcome on the project.

Lastly there is scope for recording oral history by listening and talking to long-time residents who may have many fascinating anecdotes and stories to tell. Anyone who feels that they might like to contribute to the project in any way can find out more by coming to a meeting held at The Annexe Building, Caversham Adult Education Centre (opposite Waitrose Car Park, Church Street, Caversham) on Monday 5th June 7.00 for 7.30pm or by contacting the co-ordinator:-

Bob Winter, 37, Heron Island, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DQ. Tel: 0118 947 7289, E-mail: heronisland@netscapeonline.co.uk



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