

GM – The Debate Goes On

Genetically Modified Organisms and Multinationals

It was entirely fitting that the organising committee for Caversham's observance of One World Week should organise a "teach-in" on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and multinationals, as a prelude to the "Week" itself, which was on the general theme "As if people and the earth matter". Are these GMOs a boon to society or a disaster, questioned the advance publicity which drew a large audience to Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall in mid-October. Three contrasting speakers were brought together to tackle the problem from their own perspective.

Multinationals - the villains

First to speak was John Madeley, the well known local journalist and broadcaster on Third World and environmental issues and Licensed Lay Minister at St Peter's Church. His recent books have dealt with the impact of transnational corporations on the world's poor and how the poor people pay for free trade. In his presentation he expressed his concern that GMOs must be proved safe both for people and the environment. He was particularly anxious to stress the socio-economic dangers of the widespread use of GM seed in the Third World; traditionally small farmers in Asia and Africa have saved their own seed for use in the following year. Now, however, the giant multinational Monsanto has incorporated a terminator gene which renders the seed infertile, thus obliging these farmers to buy fresh seed every year at a price many of them would be unable to afford. Thus multinational corporations are portrayed as being the villains of the piece.



– Daphne Jewiss

Speakers at the GMO "teach-in" from centre left to right are Kathryn Tulip, Professor Jim Dunwell and John Madeley. Owen Jewiss, who acted as chairman, is on the left.

GMOs take plant breeding one stage further -

Professor Jim Dunwell, who teaches a course on plant biotechnology in the Plant Sciences Department at Reading University and researches in this area, made the case for the modern techniques for genetic modification. He indicated how, over millions of years, all biological life has evolved from simple organisms. He traced the development of agriculture from early times, demonstrating how man had progressively improved crops by selecting seed from mutant plants. Much later, through hybridisation, i.e. cross breeding two species, it has been possible to produce in one plant the best features of both its parents. This is natural genetic modification. This has now been taken a stage further by scientific means, whereby a small amount of genetic material could be introduced into a very different plant. He indicated that the products of these technologically sophisticated crosses were vigorously tested and reported that, where these products are sold overseas, no ill effects are known to have resulted from the consumption of products made from GM maize or soya bean nor in the UK from Zeneca's tomato paste, now removed from the shelves of supermarkets by public demand.

- into fear of the unknown and loss of choice

Concern about the lack of information on the consequences of conducting trials with GM crops on the field scale had led the third speaker, Kathryn Tulip of the anti-GM campaigning group Genetix Snowball, to tear up GM crops in a field near Abingdon in 1998. This was to protest at the tardiness of the Government in accepting that GM crops may contaminate naturally grown crops and wild species. A firm believer in the benefits from organically grown food, she fears the consequences of

contamination on organic crops, the loss of livelihood of organic farmers and her personal loss in the choice of the type of food she eats. She is also much concerned with the potential loss of biodiversity which may result if a restricted number of varieties of GM crops promoted and marketed by the multinational companies are grown in the Third World. As an example she quoted the loss of varieties of rice that has already occurred in India as a result of growing fewer improved varieties bred by traditional means.

Audience views divided

The evening, chaired by Dr Owen Jewiss, a retired agricultural research scientist and former part-time lecturer at Reading University, ended with a lively question and answer session. The large audience was clearly pleased to have had the opportunity of being better informed about the pros and cons of GM crops. Views were expressed on both sides of the argument, but few seemed sufficiently assured to abandon the safety of sitting on the fence.



– O. Jewiss

The One World Exhibit in place in Caversham Public Library.

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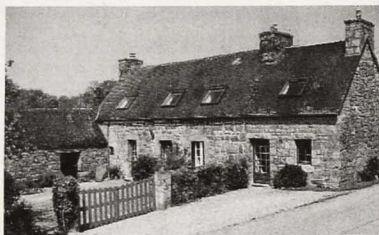
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TALKING POINT

By REV MARGARET DIMMICK
of Caversham Park Church

JESUS – THE TOWERING GIANT

It seems unbelievable that Christmas starts in September. The week before my Ordination retreat I took a shortcut through a town centre store to find they were setting out the Christmas cards and decorations. I wanted to wrap some presents and bought some sparkling sticky tape for the purpose, knowing that it was so difficult to get any last year. It was no use complaining!

As a former teacher, I know that if you are to have any chance of entertaining parents with a Christmas play or carols in mid December, you have to start rehearsing straight after Half-Term. As a parent, I used to look forward to those events. It's the time to make the cakes and puddings to mature sufficiently for Christmas and the collect for "Stir up Sunday", the twenty fifth Sunday after Trinity, began with those words and were used as a reminder for cooks to get on with it.

In church, we need to do our preparation, too. We have the season of Advent, the time to prepare for the coming of Christ to us. Traditionally, we use the time to reflect on the themes of heaven and hell, death and judgement. In order to receive Jesus as Saviour at Christmas, we need to turn our minds to what he came for.

The book of Revelation shows us some impressive pictures. I can remember a life of Luther, illustrated with copies of Dürer's woodcuts from that book in the first German Bible, and visualise his picture of Christ in Judgement, seated on the rainbow with the sharp two-edged sword coming from his mouth and Madonna lilies behind his head looking like trumpets of annunciation. In the early sixteenth century, folk took the judgement theme very seriously.

The picture is of Christ coming to judge the world fairly, with justice and without condemnation, to save us from the results of our foolishness, thoughtlessness and wayward behaviour. There is nothing sentimental about this Advent Christ. He is the king and he is a towering figure. We only have to look at the titles given to Jesus in the Advent antiphons to relish the illustrious history and ancestry ascribed to him. He is the Stem of Jesse, the Key of David, the Dayspring and the Daystar. He is Adonai and Emmanuel, God with us, the King of the Nations and Wisdom itself.

Yet we learn that this Christ in Majesty was prepared to empty himself of all his heavenly glory and to become as one of us human beings. When we have prepared, we can receive him as the baby born at Christmas, coming in human birth as vulnerable and fully dependent on human parents. These humble circumstances are the symbols of how he laid aside his majesty – for us.

We are right to celebrate the coming of this wonderful gift God gave us. We need to prepare the feast to celebrate. We need to show the world that we appreciate God's gift by showing generosity in our giving presents to one another, but we do have to keep this in proportion. We need to prepare ourselves to understand the gift of Jesus and remind ourselves why we wish each other "a happy and blessed Christmas".

It is the first Christmas since my Ordination and I am looking forward to it very much, to be "working" on Christmas Eve and helping to bring the real atmosphere of Christmas, celebrating the arrival of the Christ Child into our world to share our lives with all their joys and sorrows.

May I take this opportunity to thank many people for their good wishes and for the many cards, which necessitated getting the Christmas card display board down from the attic. Sadly, I must soon remove them to store in a safe place, but I want to be prepared for the joyful messages we wish each other this Christmas.

(Rev Margaret Dimmick is an Anglican deacon at Caversham Park Ecumenical Church.)

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

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All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday November 21.
The dates for February will be Tuesday January 2 and Wednesday January 3.

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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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	The Holy Eucharist
10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

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

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	Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
	Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
8.00pm	Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)

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11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service

TRIBUTES

WINNIE DARTER, aka KATY 1920-2000

Winnie Darter had worked and lived in Caversham for upwards of 40 years, having moved there from Tilehurst. She had worked in a solicitor's office before going to the BBC Monitoring station and living with her sister, Doris Thomas, and her family and her mother, in the Weaving House in Cromwell Road.

Winnie had from early days been strongly opposed to human injustice wherever she saw it. For many years she had combated it through mainly left-wing political channels and while she continued to believe this to be the most effective way she came to see that the Christian faith had similar aims and became an active member of St Peter's congregation and involved with this newspaper from its earliest days. She wrote under the name of Katy, following on from Mary Clift, the journalist wife of an assistant priest and a founder of the Caversham Bridge.

The threat to humankind imposed by the H-bomb horrified Winnie and she was on every Aldermaston march, from the first one which went from London to Aldermaston, amazing everyone by its size, instead of Aldermaston to London as happened in later ones. She carried posters in town centre protest walks and stood outside the fence at Aldermaston and Greenham Common. One such occasion typifies Winnie. It was an all women's protest on a bitterly cold January day. Winnie produced a flask of hot soup which she shared with others, practical and ideological at the same time.

She was also strongly opposed to what was, when it was first introduced, called the poll tax, seeing it as being unfair on poorer families living in small houses who would find themselves paying more than smaller families in large houses. She publicly tore up and burnt her tax book. Such protests led to this tax being replaced by the much fairer Council charge.

However, it was people who chiefly interested Winnie. She welcomed



— Graham Aisbitt

newcomers, bade farewell to those who left and paid tribute to those who had died. She congratulated young people who had successfully passed examinations or achieved well in other fields. Taking on the mantle of the previous Katy she recommended existing and new shops which offered good service.

During her last long illness such pleasures were denied to her, but the Katy who will be remembered is the vibrant, caring and slightly wickedly witty one who was known widely throughout the Caversham area which she had made her home for so long.

M.C.

MINNIE WARREN 1908-2000

My mother, Minnie Warren, nee Gibbs, died on the 1st October; she was 91. She had been a keen subscriber to the Caversham Bridge for many years and corresponded with Miss Stark (the late Postal Subscription manager of this paper) until just before she died. Born in Emmer Green in 1908 in one of the cottages off Kidmore End Road, my grandparents with mother and her brother, Roy, then moved to 10 Surley Row. My grandfather was head gardener for Miss Noble. Mother remembered so much about the early years of Emmer Green and Caversham; she had many anecdotes of people that she remembered and knew all the shops in Prospect Street and who owned them. She went to the village school in Emmer Green, going on to George Palmer in Reading where she trained as a Pupil Teacher. She

met my father, Ralph Warren, in 1928. He was a shop assistant at the Co-op in Caversham, eventually working his way up to a Senior Executive. They married at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, in 1934 and with her brother and his fiancée, Doris Newham, they had the first double wedding at the Church. They had adjoining houses built by Fishers, the local builders, in Highdown Hill Road. In 1946 my parents moved to Cornwall, returning to Reading in 1960. Father died in 1993 and Mother has lived with me ever since. Recently she became involved with the History Project of Emmer Green, providing information and photographs. A lovely, gentle lady, I shall miss her very much. She was buried with her parents at the Henley Road cemetery on 10th October.

Rosemary Wing

Mrs Leslie Maynerd T.D.H.A., M.R.Q.A., R.C.C.A.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

CONTROVERSY

Conflicting interests have caused controversy in Caversham and what estate agents, with an eye to higher prices, call Caversham borders. Right in the centre, agreement cannot be reached on how to spell the name *Eliot Close. Variations of this name keep cropping up. I've chosen the one I have because I had to choose something and that is what my oldest street directory called it, but I am not taking sides. For those who have come to live in Caversham fairly recently, it was called after a joinery firm who had premises in the area and was one of the biggest employers in the locality. It was not called after the Thirties poet of that name even though there is a Day Lewis nearby to keep him company. Incidentally, I understand the pharmacists of that name have some family connection with C Day Lewis. Now, with a planning application to build flats in that area, residents are objecting as they say they will cast a shadow over their properties and raise the density to an unacceptable level. The developers deny this will be the case. Well, they would, wouldn't they? At the time of writing the matter had not been resolved.

The other controversial matter centres on the river bank on the south side, so strictly speaking not Caversham. The tow path there provides a pleasant alternative to Caversham Road for those who like to walk into the town or to the railway station. It is also used as a dog walking place so it is as well to walk with eyes downcast. However, at one point it goes across a small area of private land owned by some houses whose property stretches down to the river edge itself. This can easily be seen as the grass is cut and tended and there are flowers growing there. What residents don't want is for this to be shown on maps as a public right of way and part of the long-distance Thames Path because once that happens they fear the local council might put up signs and tarmac it over. This is another matter that could be argued over for ages. In point of fact it went to public enquiry but the results are not yet known.

KEEPING US SAFE

A grant of £5,000 has been made towards making Caversham a safer place and it is for local people to decide how it should be best spent. The general consensus seems to be that it would be better to concentrate on two or three places than to spread it thinly all over. Everyone will have their own idea as to the place most in need of safety measures. In my book this is the junction of Church Road, Church Street and Bridge Street where pedestrians have to take a circuitous route if they don't wish to be struck down trying to cross Bridge Street and motorists wishing to make a right hand turn from Church Street into Church Road have to make a suicidal dash.

Other suggestions are lane marking on Caversham Bridge, better pedestrian facilities at the Peppard Road – Henley Road junction and a safer way of making a right-hand turn out of All Hallows Road. More railings have been introduced along Church Street to discourage pedestrians from crossing except on the crossing outside the library. Motorists often forget how long it takes a pedestrian to do what they cover in seconds. The least harmful and least polluting users of the road usually get the least priority.

WHERE THE GOLDEN APPLES GROW

I was away for Apple weekend this year so missed the events at Cross Lanes Farm, but Gillian Franklin tells me that the weather was good (which this year means it wasn't raining) and there were hundreds of visitors. No doubt they all learned a lot from Gillian's expertise. One thing she does, which impressed me, is to prune from the top of the tree, letting in light and air, so that the tree fruits right to the top. Incidentally there are no tall trees now, making picking easier, quicker and less costly as ladders are not required.

There are literally hundreds of varieties of apples, increasing all the time, and some forty are grown at Cross Lanes. Apart from the more familiar names, many sound really exotic such as Rosemary Russett, Claygate Pearmain and Pitmaston Pineapple, this latter being a little golden apple.

Cakes and puddings were on sale as well as delicious apple scones which must have graced many a Sunday afternoon tea table. For the children there were quizzes and the time-honoured game of apple bobbing. If you missed this weekend, apples can still be bought there from Wednesday to Sunday up to Christmas. They are not routinely sprayed as a precaution, though very occasionally they may have to be in the face of a real, rather than a possible threat.

The best apples are English ones, they just love our awful weather. They are the ones to buy, not the European ones with slightly suspect names. The wonderful Cox is almost unbeatable, but whatever it is, an apple a day keeps the doctor away as our forebears discovered. So – here's to thee, old apple tree.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SPARROWS GONE

Some once common birds are now rarely seen and even the common house sparrows have been reduced in number. Out in the country the

song of the lark is heard less, almost certainly caused by present day farming methods. But what is disturbing is that one of the commonest birds should be less in evidence. What is the cause? Is it overzealous gardening and the use of pesticides which reduces nesting places and poisons their food, or is it general pollution? No-one really knows, but the SILENT SPRING first mooted some years ago could be closer than we should like to think.

DECLINE OF CLUBS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A letter sent to me via the newspaper draws attention to the fact that a number of clubs for the over 60's have been closed for a number of reasons, such as lack of funds, illness or no volunteers to run them. They provide a meeting place where older people can have a chat over a cup of tea. Any offers? Younger older people (so to speak) might be prepared to try it. To the writer of this letter, there was no need to remain anonymous, I may be a watchdog but I don't bite.

CADRA

Caversham and District Residents' Association is updating its constitution which has stood the test of time for well over thirty years. However, it needed bringing into line with present day thinking. Basically, it will remain the same but communication between membership and the committee will be made easier. From the start this has always been regarded as very important but it did not always work as well as intended. Members will be kept in touch with the proposals once they are worked out.

CADRA is the oldest but one surviving residents' association in the town. The oldest is Warren Residents' Association, congratulations to them.

**Ed note: Following representations, the developers and the council have changed the name to Elliotts Close.*

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YOUNG PEOPLE HELP HANDICAPPED

The Oxfordshire Hope Centres' Appeal received a welcome boost of £500 from Caversham Heights Methodist Church Sunday Starters on Sunday 8th October. Megan Hey, (on the right) presented a cheque to Katy Sunman, who accepted it on behalf of the appeal.

The appeal was set up to support the work of Resource Centres in Oxfordshire, which provide short breaks, play schemes and support in the family home for families who have children with severe learning disabilities or physical disabilities. It aims to raise £1,575,000 over three years.

Katy's family attend Caversham Heights Methodist Church and are supported by one of the Resource Centres, Chilterns, based at Henley.

Further information about the appeal can be obtained from Janet Sunman c/o Chilterns Resource Centre, Tel: 01491 575575 or from Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action, Tel: 01865 251946.



Megan Hey presents cheque to Katy Sunman.

— Janet Sunman

NEWS FROM ST MARTIN'S RC SCHOOL

The children of St Martin's RC School in Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park Village, just off Caversham Park Road, have had a busy half term.

Among the term's activities was the visit, in October, to Sealyham Outdoor Activities Centre by the Year Six pupils. This was a joint expedition with St Anne's and St Paul's RC Schools. The St Martin's children were accompanied by Mrs Fletcher, headmistress, and Mrs Svilis, deputy head and class six teacher, and they all had a wonderful time. One of the main objectives of the visit is character building and it is hoped that the team skills that the children learn there, while they are enjoying themselves, will be of benefit in their last year at primary school as well as being of general value for their future lives. Of course, the children were far too busy building rafts, walking, climbing, swinging from ropes and so on to be aware of such noble aspirations.

Later in the term, the older children went to the Hexagon for the Heelas celebration concert. They enjoyed a programme designed to interest all the youngsters. Audience participation went as far as having one of the children conducting the

orchestra.

A visit to Clayfield Copse was arranged for the children to see the Shire horses working. The horses are used as an environmentally friendly and completely effective alternative to tractors to pull felled trees through the woods to the car park. After watching the horses working, the children saw the logs being cut into planks, which are to be made into benches. St Martin's will receive some for use in the school grounds.

A visitor who made a great impression on both pupils and staff alike was Miriam Batten, one of the team of four who won the first Olympic medal for British women rowers. She showed a video of the race where the British girls won not just the bronze medal they had hoped for but the silver medal for second place. She showed off her silver medal and answered the children's questions. What a lovely person she is!

Finally there was the annual collection of food and the celebration to thank God for this year's harvest. The offerings that the children brought in were parcelled up and taken half to St Luke's Home and half to the Churches in Reading Drop in Centre. This group feed homeless people and others in need in the local community.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- December 2** Christmas Fair at St John's Church at 2.00pm.
- December 2** Christmas Bazaar at St Anne's Hall at 1.30pm
- December 2** Handel's Oratorio 'Saul' at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30pm given by the Reading Haydn Choir. (See November Issue for full details).
- December 8 - 10, 15, 16** Christmas Pine Tree Sales Days at Caversham Court.
- December 14** 'Christmas Reflections' at The Oak House Quiet Garden 80 Woodcote Road Caversham, 10am - 3pm. Phone 0118 947 6067 for details.
- December 14** 'The Business of Good Government', Nativity Play at Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Methodist Church at 7.30pm.
- December 15** 'The Business of Good Government' at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30pm.
- December 16** 'The Business of Good Government' Amersham Road Community Centre at 7.30pm.
- December 16** 'An Old Christmas' at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common at 7.30pm with South Chiltern Choral Society and Guests. Repeated
- December 17** at 2.30pm. (See November Issue for full details).



CAVERSHAM ROTARY CLUB

As from the 3rd January 2001 the ROTARY CLUB OF CAVERSHAM will be holding their weekly Wednesday lunch meetings at the Caversham Heath Golf Club instead of the Upcross Hotel, Berkeley Ave.

Any inquiries relating to the change of venue or for details of any kind, please contact the Secretary, Douglas Rae on 0118 947 0195.

Caversham Rotary Club are also entertaining children at St Andrew's Church Hall on the 9th December which is by invitation only.

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CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Annual General Meeting of Caversham Good Neighbours will be held on Tuesday 18th January 2001 commencing at 2.30pm in the Large Hall, First Floor of Church House.
All are welcome, and after the business matters have been dealt with, everyone is welcome to stay on for tea and cakes, with a chance to meet informally and chat together.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

SO WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE, HEROD?

What was going on in King Herod's mind 2000 years ago when the Christmas story began? Why did he have all those babies killed? Was he really so insecure that he felt threatened by a baby? Dramatists John Arden and Margheretta D'Arcy reckoned that stability and maintaining a cosy status quo had a lot to do with it, so they gave their Christmas Play the title: "The Business of Good Government".

Originally performed 40 years ago in a village church in Somerset and regularly performed since then, the play has been specially chosen for presentation in this Millennium Year by the Caversham Methodist Churches. It provides a refreshing change from the usual Nativity Play – although there are still three shepherds, three wise men and a rather knowing Angel! Sometimes moving, sometimes funny, the play describes how Herod deals with the imminent arrival of a new king whom he perceives to be a challenge to his authority.

Since the play was chosen as a mission activity designed to interest people in Christianity and encourage more of them into our churches, please try and invite a friend who is not a church-goer to watch the play with you, either at:

**Gosbrook Road Methodist Church on Thursday, December 14,
Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Friday, December 15, or at
Amersham Road Community Centre on Saturday, December 16.**

All performances start at 7.30pm and all money raised will go to **Christian Aid**. Tickets are **£3 for adults and £1 for children**. The Box Office 'phone number for all three venues is: **0118 947 4574**.

A ZAMBIAN DAY

Following the visit in the spring of the Rev Teddy Kalongo, Principal of the Theological College of the United Church of Zambia, Caversham Heights Methodist Church were delighted to welcome Rev Dr Caroline Wickens on Sunday, October 15th, to celebrate World Church Day. The church in Mindolo, Kitwe, Zambia and Caversham Heights Methodist Church have formed a "twinning" partnership.

Caroline is both the Vice-Principal of the Theological College and part-time pastor of the Mindolo Church. She has some Reading roots, for between 1986 and 1989 Caroline was a Methodist Local Preacher and worshipped at Wesley Church. She candidated for the Methodist ministry from the Reading Circuit. Her husband, Andrew, is an Anglican and, while in Reading, worshipped at St Luke's. The couple went up to Queen's College, Birmingham for their respective ministerial training, and there became college friends of Rev Rosemary Fletcher, currently the minister at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

For the past 3 years the family has been living in Zambia where, apart from her career, Caroline is mother to Matthew and Catherine, aged 5 and 3 respectively. Andrew has a church, and works under the auspices of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG).

Caroline explained to the church's children that it took 12 hours by plane to get to England from Zambia. It was a hotter country than England, children played outside more, and it was a safer country with less traffic and a better sense of local community. Toys were mostly home-made, and Matthew delighted in demonstrating to the congregation a little man pedalling a bicycle. About 200 children are in the Sunday School at Mindolo, who come Sunday by Sunday to learn about Jesus. Linking with World Church Day, Caroline reminded the children that they are linked with those all over the world waiting to hear of Jesus and his love.

Then Caroline said she had brought something special in her luggage. It was a present sent with love from the Mindolo congregation to the Caversham church. On opening the present, a beautiful banner was displayed, made by the ladies of the Mindolo church. It shows the crest of the United Church of Zambia, and an outline of the country of Zambia. A cross passes through the outline. At the top of the banner are the words "THAT THEY MAY BE ONE". Caversham church is full of thanks for this lovely personal gift.

Speaking to the congregation after the children had left for their classes, Caroline expanded the two themes of Community and Companionship.

In Community people are joined together in a defence against evil. Zambia sees much suffering with the death of children, poor medical care and often lack of education which is all because of people's extreme poverty. Conversely, those Zambian students who travel to other countries, including Canada and Great Britain, see much breakdown in family life, greed and a shallow faith in Western cultures.

Companionship means resources are shared. Nobody visits a home in Zambia without being offered food or a drink. Both in Caversham and in Mindolo hands are stretched out at the communion service to receive bread and wine. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross challenges all to fight against evil, and there must be prayer to take the challenge seriously.

Following the service, there was a Bring and Share church lunch, and afterwards Caroline and Andrew answered questions. One was "Were there any encouraging signs?" They replied it was a joy to see even a single Zambian child complete his or her education having made the most of opportunities. Another sign was the resilience of many people in facing almost impossible odds.

In the evening service, Caroline spoke of Hope. She told of the part past students of the Theological College now played all over Zambia. In the form of small scale projects in carpentry, fishing, tailoring and nursery schools, there is action to improve local standards and create jobs.

This is a way to the beginning of justice and freedom, which is so longed for and prayed for. Many Zambians' trust in God is profound, and the resulting action dynamic! Pray on – the fight isn't over yet!

Meryl Beek

NEWS

NEWS FROM CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH

Welcome to Madeleine and Harry



Alan and Helen Porter with Madeleine Sara.

The baby daughter of Helen and Allen Porter, Madeleine Sara, was baptised on Sunday 10th September. Then on 22nd October Trevor and Alison Holley brought their baby son, Harry Ivan, for baptism. Both parents and children were supported by a large number of family and friends to celebrate this first milestone in their children's lives. Welcome and congratulations to you all.



Alison and Trevor Holley with Harry Ivan.

Gift Day

This weekend was a grand success. £3,375 was generously donated. The Saturday evening dinner and entertainment were warmly received. The food was good, and "Treble Clef", a music group from Herne Bay right royally entertained us. They were so versatile it was unbelievable. From singing "California Dreaming" to "I'm forever blowing bubbles", from being funny to serious, and, as the icing on the cake, taking part with worship songs on the Sunday morning, "Treble Clef" were taken warmly into the hearts of everyone at Gosbrook Road. We are grateful to Vic and Anne Downs for organising this event.

WANTED

Pianist wanted for Women's Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 2.30pm. Any offers of help, even if only occasionally, would be appreciated. Please ring Mary Prior on 947 7686.

THE GUILD OF ST RAPHAEL

On Tuesday 17th October at 7.30pm, a Guild of St Raphael healing service was held at St Andrew's Church, Caversham. Such a service is especially appropriate at this time of the year as St Luke's Feast Day (the physician) is on the 18th October, and St Raphael's Feast Day (the Archangel) is on the 24th October.

Forty-nine people attended the service, including some members from the branch at St Michael's, Tilehurst. Most of those present remained for the laying on of hands and anointing. In his address, Father Keith Kinnaird said that anointing is now being more frequently used and we must thank God for the revival of this sacrament.

It was delightful to see the Guild candle and our Guild banner on display.

This was a lovely service, and our sincere thanks go to Father Keith for all his efforts in helping to make it such a beneficial and uplifting service.

S.G.

Christmas in Caversham

To wish you peace and joy this Christmas – and to invite you to our services
Come and join the Caversham Christian Community at a church near you this Christmas

ANGLICAN

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road, Caversham

17 December	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle Carol Service and Blessing of Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass (sung) with Carols
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (said)
	10.00am	Family Eucharist (sung) with Carols and Prayers at the Crib
Sat 6 January	10.00am	Sung Eucharist of the Epiphany of the Lord

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

17 December	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.30pm	Carols and Lessons
19 December	8.00am	Holy Communion (Said ASB)
20 December	10.00am	Holy Communion (Said ASB)
21 December	7.15pm	Holy Communion (Said ASB)
Christmas Eve	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.30pm	Crib Service and Nativity Play
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Family Communion
26 December		NO SERVICE
27 December	10.00am	Holy Communion (Said ASB)
28 December	7.15am	Holy Communion (Said ASB)
New Year's Eve	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Parish Communion
New Year's Day		NO SERVICE

St John's, Gosbrook Road, Caversham

17 December	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Parade and Parish Eucharist
	6.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
21 December	10.00am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Holy Eucharist (Said)
	4.00pm	Crib Service for all ages
	11.30pm	Procession, Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Procession and Parish Eucharist
28 December	10.00am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
New Year's Day	12 noon	Eucharist for the New Year

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

17 December	6.30pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	2.30pm	Christingle Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Communion and Carols

St Peter's, Church Road, Caversham

17 December	6.30pm	Carol Service (Festival of Lessons and Carols)
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.15am	Family Communion and Carols
Sat 6 January	8.00pm	Sung Eucharist for Epiphany

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

Peppard Road

17 December	10.30am	Youth Service
	6.30pm	Carols and Candles
Christmas Eve	10.30am	Family Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Service

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

Prospect Street, Caversham

17 December	10.30am	Christmas Family Service
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	10.30am	Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
New Year's Eve	10.30am	New Year's Eve Service

METHODIST CHURCH

Gosbrook Road

17 December	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	10.30am	Christingle Service
	6.30am	No Service
	11.15pm	Christmas Communion (United Service)
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Family Service
New Year's Eve	10.30am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	No Service
7 January	6.30pm	Covenant Service

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

17 December	4.00pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	10.30am	Nine Lessons and Carols
	6.30pm	No Service
	11.15pm	at Gosbrook Road
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Service
New Year's Eve	10.30am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	No Service

7 January	10.30am	Covenant Service & Holy Communion
14 January	6.30pm	Covenant Service & Holy Communion

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Church Street Caversham

17 December	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	11.00am	Morning Service
Christmas Day	10.00-11.30am	Family Service
New Year's Eve	11.00am	Family Service
	10.00pm	Thanksgiving Service

* * * * *

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne

23 December	5.30pm	Mass Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Mass 4th Sunday of Advent
	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Family Mass
	12 midnight	Procession and Blessing of Crib
		Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carol Singing from 11.30pm
Christmas Day	9.00am	Mass of Dawn (Richmond Rd Chapel)
	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass
26 December	10.00am	Mass, St Stephen's Day
30 December	5.30pm	Mass, Feast of the Holy Family
New Year's Eve	10.00am & 6.30pm	Masses
New Year's Day	11.00am	New Year's Day Mass

St Martin's, Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park Village

17 December	9.00am	Mass
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CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

at Caversham Park School

17 December	11.00am	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	11.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Communion
New Year's Eve	11.00am	Morning Worship
7 January	11.00am	Covenant Communion
14 January	11.00am	Anniversary Service followed by Church Lunch



Crib at Caversham Heath 1999.

— O. Jewiss

DEDICATION OF CHRISTMAS CRIB

Many will remember that to mark the beginning of the Millennium Year a Christmas Crib was erected on the Woodcote Road just beyond the Borough Boundary on land to the left of the road as you leave Caversham. Again through the good offices of Mr Jack Eyston there will be a Christmas Crib in the same location this year. Some local schools and churches are making and contributing figures. There will be a Service of Dedication for the Crib at 3pm on Thursday 21 December to which are invited as many as are able to attend.



Last Year's Millennium Crib.

— O. Jewiss



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

DROP-IN CENTRE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST 10 YEARS

The Churches-in-Reading Drop-in-Centre (CIRDIC) opened its doors in the converted St Saviour's Church Hall in Berkeley Avenue to its first guests in 1990. To mark the passing of ten years a Service of Celebration was held in the newly re-furnished Greyfriars Church on 17 October. The congregation was mainly made up of past and present volunteers at the centre, several of whom took an active part in the Service.

Seeing the needs and having the vision to respond

In his sermon the Revd Derek Shaw, Chaplain to the Centre, reminded us that when Jesus stood up in the synagogue and proclaimed the year of jubilee, not only did he give a mission statement for His ministry but for the Church of today. Just as Jesus was anointed to preach good news to the poor and to set free the oppressed, so in our society today, with a widening gap between rich and poor, we have to work for a fairer society, for justice and peace. The aim of CIRDIC is to enable the poor to take charge of their lives, to enable the guests to change direction. In so doing we are continuing the vision of Constance Gooding who originally foresaw the need for both CIRDIC and the Women's Centre. We are enabled by the Spirit of God to see the needs and to have the vision to respond. We should be rich enough to be generous.

Original needs of society remain unresolved

Mr Bill Harper, Chairman of the Management Committee, spoke about past achievements, where the needs had resulted in the setting up of CIRDIC in 1990. The needs that brought the Centre into being remain today; 60 to 70 guests still come to the Centre each week. There are those who use the Centre (the guests) who are without a home, living in poor accommodation, sometimes affected by addiction, violation or other factors, which exclude them from other organisations offering help. CIRDIC is acknowledged by public bodies as having a special role fulfilling needs not provided for elsewhere. As a result it has to conform to rules and regulations (and does so very well, with a silver award for hygiene). The ethos of the church is in support and compassion; it meets the needs of the disadvantaged and in turn benefits from the rewards of Christian charity. CIRDIC is supported by a dedicated band of volunteers, by support through finance, provisions and prayer by the area churches. The future depends on the scarcest of treasures, those who volunteer to help at the Centre. The prayer for the future is that others will be moved to help with this work. Finally he thanked all those who had helped in their various ways over many years.

I am here and the time is now

Before giving the final blessing the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS, commended the work of the Centre. In doing so he reminded us of the answer given by a German widow, when asked why she was helping people to escape during the war. The simple response was: "Because I am here and the time is now". We belong to a place; God has called us to be here. Two Greek words are used for time in the New Testament: chronos - chronological time and kairos - the right time. The latter is used in relation to the incarnation when God breaks through; it is the moment of disclosure. The Bishop said that God has given us time, in the kairos sense, and the opportunity.



— O. Jewiss

At the celebration the Bishop of Reading was photographed with the Revd Derek Shaw, Bill Harper and Verna Makins (Centre Manager) and some of the former and existing helpers, among whom are former Caversham and Emmer Green residents Lyn Baker and Pat and Roy Westwell.

DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Emmer Green Couple, Wally and Molly Clarke, celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on October 16th. They originally met in 1937 and were married when Wally was on leave after having escaped from France, hitching a ride in a coal boat after the retreat from Dunkirk. Because of the war their early married life was spent apart.

After the war Wally returned to his job as a baker, then became a builder and later was employed at Thames Conservancy, spending much of his work time afloat on the river. During the war Molly worked in an aircraft factory and later became a postwoman.

The couple have a son, two daughters, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. They now live in Buckingham Drive and are members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

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ENVIRONMENT

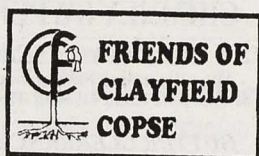
NEWS FROM GLOBE BY Øß

On our return from a summer break in August, Globe members re-examined one of our primary areas of interest, the parks and open spaces of Caversham. Reading council's Parks Manager, Ben Stanesby, attended our September meeting and tempered our enthusiasm with advice on what the council's resources could actually achieve.

Since then, there has been good news about the Christchurch Meadow area. The developers of the former Collier and Catley site have provided £90,000 to fund improvements there. Amongst these are much needed repairs to the eroding river banks, the improvement of the path which leads across the meadow from Elizabeth House to Reading Bridge, and the piping of water from the main river to the ditch which runs along the north side of both Christchurch and Hill's Meadows. A

previous 'News from Globe' was devoted to this ditch or 'danall', to use the old local dialect term. The only source of water at present is surface run-off, so the ditch often dries out in summer except for some stagnant pools. A continuous flow will improve its condition greatly.

In Hill's Meadow, we are urging the council to complete the surfacing of the area of the car park used by fairs and circuses and to provide drainage by the main path, to cure the 'Little Venice' aspect of the stretch where fair and circus caravans park. We hope to have a tree-planting session on 3rd December (please contact our secretary, Paul Raman, on 948 3389 for confirmation of details if you would like to help). A further project will be to devise a landscaping scheme to screen the recycling bins in the meadow.



The team of Clydesdale working horses from Pine Ridge Farm returned to Clayfield Copse in October to move the sycamore logs from the edge of the woodland to the car park where sawyer Bob Perry of Tilehurst was set up with his machine to saw the logs into

planks. The logs had lain there since Woodlands Day in June.

The horses had been called in because the ground was too wet for heavy machinery to collect them. So Corrie and Shane picked their way carefully across the fields to collect the logs and deliver them to Bob

and Joe. The sun shone and it was a real pleasure to watch these powerful animals making light work of their task. The work continued all day and many people stopped to watch and the local primary school children came over as well.

Some of the planks cut have already been built into seats around the Copse and Blackhouse Woodlands. Some logs will remain as log seats.



Some pieces have been taken by wood carvers and wood turners. The planks are being stored at various locations, until they can be used or sold. They vary from 3-4m long and are

about 350mm thick. They make excellent garden benches. If you are interested in having one please contact Judith on 947 8920.

They will also be available at **Caversham Court on the Christmas Pine Tree Sales Days** which are 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th and 16th December. Buy your environmentally friendly tree cleared from land around Reading which is being restored to heathland. They do not drop their needles.

Also available at the Sales will be holly, ivy and mistletoe. Mistletoe is becoming increasingly rare because of indiscriminate harvesting. It takes years to regenerate. The

mistletoe at the Sale is taken from trees which are about to be felled for safety reasons.

Andrew Noyes, a local wood turner, will have wooden bowls and other wooden turned objects for sale and Margaret Ormonde will be selling copies of her riverside walks.

Firewood, fir cones, birch twigs, hazel poles taken from local woods by Friends groups as part of their woodland management programme will also be available.

All money raised goes to voluntary conservation groups in and around Reading.

Friends of Clayfield will be learning **How to Coppice Hazel and How to Make Hazel Hurdles**. Meet on 5th December at 10am in the car park.



THE FRIENDS OF BALMORE WALK

There are already several 'friends of' groups in the Reading area - local people who are prepared to devote some time and practical effort to the care of areas of open space or woodland which survive amongst the spread of urban development. A long-established group looks after Clayfield Copse, Blackhouse Wood and the adjacent fields and hedges. More recently, residents around Mapledurham playing fields came together in a similar enterprise to care for the fields and woodland there.

On 24th October, a well-attended meeting in the Caversham Court environment centre discussed the possibility of setting up a similar group for Balmore Walk. The walk provides a welcome corridor of open space and woodland along the side of the Hemdean valley leading north from the centre of Caversham. No doubt, most readers already know and appreciate it. The underlying geology is varied with chalk on the valley slopes, gravel on the tops

and clay and sand at the northern end. This in turn leads to a diversity of actual and potential habitats for plants and other wildlife. For example, the steep slopes are left at present to grow tall rank vegetation in summer. With more careful attention, a rich chalk grassland flora might be encouraged to return.

We have started a tree planting scheme next to the Peppard Road at the southern end of the walk, to add to the diversity. The mayor of Reading, Bob Green, was kind enough to help with this on 8th October. The planting has been planned to preserve existing views across Reading (we have no intention of turning the walk to forest, but rather to enhance the balance between open grassland and trees which is one of the attractive features of the walk).

More help in establishing a thriving group would be very welcome. Please contact Tina Gower, during working hours, at Caversham Court (901 5201) or Dave Kenny (954 5369) at other times.

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ENVIRONMENT

Begin in the garden where birds can be well seen. A bird-table and nut-feeder will attract many species. Water is essential for conditioning feathers and drinking. Keep all surfaces clean and situate well out of dear pussy's reach. Natural food is plentiful in Summer – and even in present day Winters, so use discretion.

The Blackbird is a regular visitor with its liquid-toned, prize-winning Summer song. A staccato, "Chick, Chick, Chick" warns off trespassers. The jet-black plumage and yellow bill identifies the male. The female is dark brown for camouflage at the nest.

We are all familiar with the Christmas-card Robin "red-breast" – but look again – its face is red too. I wonder why we call them all "Joey"? Mine sings daily from the lilac, a slightly melancholy, sweet jingle. We "talk" awhile



Let's Go Birding

Scops Owl

then off he goes about his own affairs.

The Wren is small and brown with a short, up-lifted tail. He is mousey and less easily seen. That said, its strident song with always a trill in the middle cannot be missed. Most garden birds feed on larvae and insects, the Wren is no exception.

The House Sparrow is more striking than generally realised. They regularly imposed themselves – note PAST tense – around the house, hence their Latin name "Passer Domesticus". When was the last time you saw a flock?! These close relatives of the Weaver Bird are my favourites. I could spend days listening to their happy, "Chip, Chep, Chirrup" – but now I fear for them. Their erratic, even unpredictable behaviour was endearing, yet they have gone. They would sit in the

lilac and chatter to Scooby.

Blue and Great Tits are forever at the nut-feeder. The smaller Blue Tit with bluish back and pale yellow below, includes a rapid, "Lu, Lu, Lu" in its repertoire. The larger Great Tit has a bold, black stripe on its yellow breast. In Spring the song, "Teacher, Teacher, Teacher" is reminiscent – some say identical to – a bicycle tyre being inflated.

Fir trees will be visited by the dusky coloured Coal Tit. An obvious white patch on the nape is diagnostic. This habitat is also that of Goldcrests, one of two equally smallest birds in Europe. Note the needle-sharp, high-pitched call. The other is Firecrest, one having been seen in Reading University campus.

We still await over-wintering Redwing from the north, but bad weather persists.

A very Happy Christmas to all.

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Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The month of October proved to be a busy one for the guild. At its recent meeting the Chairman reported on the Autumn Fayre, hosted by the group on 7th October, which had been a joint fund-raising occasion with other guilds, craft and animal welfare groups taking stalls. In spite of the very wet weather it had been well supported. She thanked all who contributed with advance preparations, or on the day.

Members were delighted to know that the Mayor, Councillor Bob Green, had been one of the customers. Spontaneous thanks were given to Mrs M Chamberlain by Mrs M Sutherland, who expressed the guild's

gratitude for all the detailed preparation which she had done and she was warmly applauded.

The next significant date was 25th October, when the annual Birthday Party was held.

Three members were presented with Long Service certificates and badges: Mrs E Barnes, Mrs H Russell and Mrs A Saunders.

Over one hundred different cards made by the Arts and Crafts group had sold well at the Fayre. Their next meeting, a joint one with Gardening, on 23rd October, was called "Arts and Crafts from Africa".

Words and Music had enjoyed an afternoon of poetry and prose on the theme of "Harvest", their next meeting, on 23rd October, concentrating on "Popular Songs of the Music Hall Era".

The speaker for the

evening, Mr A. Copeland, entitled his talk "Tales of the Unexpected II", or "Things don't go to Plan". The audience then travelled with him, visiting venues widely spread, but focused on set themes and objects. Beginning with the 16th Century Black Dog horror legend at Bungay church in Suffolk, complete with howling wind and flashing lightning, eight later grave memorials were visited, one dated 30th February! Sundials and pub signs followed to give light relief, and familiar ground was reached in five places near the Thames. The last twelve sites revealed other man-made oddities and errors.

His humorous presentation delighted the listeners and a vote of thanks was given by Mrs Mabel White.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning presided over the October meeting. In her opening remarks

*continued on
page 11*

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the CLUBS

from page 10

she welcomed Mrs B House back from her illness. Mrs H Adair read the Federation report and said that a new Constitution would be available next month. The NCM meeting at Blackpool had been enjoyed. A carol service on 11th December will be preceded by a buffet lunch to be held at Abbey Church. The Christmas lunch was postponed, Mrs Manning reported we were unable to get a booking for 7th December but invited members for an afternoon tea on that date at her home. The book stall at Emmer Green in St Barnabas Church Hall had been successful despite the bad weather. Mrs Manning thanked Anne Deane for helping out. It was decided £10 out of the proceeds should go to the Federation Tree to be planted in St Mary's Churchyard. Mr Crozier gave a very enjoyable talk on 'A Journey by Train Through America', and also showed film slides on a variety of interesting places, starting at New York and with contrasting scenes from Arizona, and a walking tour of Alcatraz, listening in on earphones to a tape, recorded by an ex-convict and a warder. Miss P Reed gave the vote of thanks. New members welcome.

Caversham Community Association

October was a busy month with five Mondays which began with the usual games evening. The following week the speaker, Mrs Janet Brown came from the Carers Centre to tell us of their work. People may not realise that as many as one in six people are carers of some sort, many of them children caring for a parent. A range of support services was described. Another card game evening appealed to the

keen players, with Scrabble for word enthusiasts. There was a chance to knit and natter the following week - Mrs Briggs had brought the 50th anniversary tablecloth for members to embroider their names.

A busy month was rounded off with a Halloween party - some party games gave an appetite for sausage rolls. Some talented people had entered the Halloween hat competition with Joy Mackie and Lilian Randall being declared the winners.

Caversham Women's Institute

The country came to Caversham when the speaker Mr Palling showed slides of National Trust Properties on a day out in Berkshire. There are some lovely houses and gardens within easy distance. The competition, A Country Animal Ornament, attracted a record entry with the president Miss M Cameron declared the winner.

Various dates for future events were given out in the business part of the meeting with a reminder about the Christmas party and meal out in December. The evening ended with the raffle.

Reading & District Probos Club

Probus met at the Upcross Hotel on Monday 9th October and members enjoyed sitting down for lunch together in the pleasant surroundings, with plenty of chat. As usual a talk followed, this time by a Club member, Mr Derek Guile, on Stock Market investment, including an insight into the running of an investment club (with a maximum of 19 members) which sounded note only interesting but

financially worthwhile, with its members' and Internet input. As ever, a warning note was sounded - that the value of investments could go up or down.

This was another excellent Monday lunchtime meeting.

New members always welcome - telephone Secretary on 0118 942 8806.

Caversham Ladies Club

Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, welcomed members to the Autumn Fayre. Before it was declared open there was a small amount of business to be taken care of, particularly to remind members of the date for the Christmas lunch, which would be Friday, 8th December, to be held at "The Clifton Arms", Caversham.

Now it was time for the Fayre. Members enjoyed looking around the tables and spent generously. It was a happy gathering and after a cup of tea the members left for home.

Reading Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Since our last report the Guild have been busy raising money for its own funds which have become very low this year. A Bring and Buy Sale at the September meeting helped, as did the Tombola Stall we manned at Emmer Green TG's Autumn Fayre on October 7th. This was a very happy, and seemingly successful, occasion for all, despite a really wet Saturday morning!

Our speaker for October was Alan Copeland with 'Tales of the Unexpected' - Part 1. He took us on a journey around the country from Dorset to Staffordshire, and beyond, with a new collection of curious and odd items we can find around us - if we know where to look!

His strange tales included a First World War Milestone at Shooters Hill, London, which informed us it was "130 miles to Ypres where 90,000 had been killed defending the Salient", a house made

from the top of a helter-skelter ride in Potter Heigham, and even a set of traffic lights with faces ranging from sad (red) to happy (green). And did you know there are a set of paving stones in Great Wishford (Wilts) marked with the price of bread (per gallon) from 1800 to 1984? Talking of bread, Gold Hill (in Shaftesbury) where the Hovis advertisements were filmed, is being damaged by all the tourists and an appeal is being made to restore the cobblestones.

And then there is the 'bed bug' church in Kingsclere... and the concrete tower in Sway... the leaning shop in Canterbury... but this is just meant to be a brief report, and I must not take away the surprises in store if you book the same speaker!

Our Drama Group has received more bookings for the Millennium Show 'Memorabilia', but we are now planning a special one for the Guild's fortieth birthday in 2001.

St Peter's Wives Group

On Tuesday, 17 October, Maurice Johnson spoke to us about his research into the First World War and, in particular, members of his family who had taken part in this conflict. He also brought along a number of slides which showed some of the conditions in which the war was fought and of the soldiers themselves and their officers, who led from the front and were decimated alongside their men.

Many veterans of this war were reluctant to talk about their experiences afterwards and Mr Johnson was able to explain the way in which he researched the regiments they belonged to and the details of various campaigns in which they were involved.

A most interesting and sobering evening.

Our next meeting will be held at Church House, Caversham on Tuesday, 12th December and will be our annual Christmas Party.

New members always welcome.



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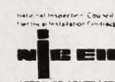
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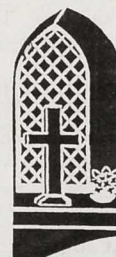
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