

CIRDIC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Since its establishment 14 years ago, the Churches-in-Reading Drop-in-Centre (CIRDIC), with its band of dedicated volunteers, has made an enormous difference to the homeless in Reading. It has provided a warm, welcoming, friendly, unquestioning, Christian environment with a meal for anyone coming in from the streets during its open hours on the days of Monday, Tuesday and Friday and on Saturday evenings. It was revealed at the recent Annual General Meeting that, although in the past it has been supported financially by the churches, individuals and Local Government grants, it continues to have an urgent need of funds. It is also necessary to maintain an adequate band of volunteers as they age or feel the need for relief.



Photographed at CIRDIC are (from left to right) Eric Moyse (Treasurer), Lynn Baker (Vice-Chairman), Verna Makins (Manager) and Steve Barden (Chairman of the Management Committee).

This particular ministry has been, and continues to be, greatly supported by people from Caversham as Volunteers, Team Leaders and Chairmen of its Management Committee. Steve Barden, the current Chairman, is a member of St Andrew's Church, and Lynn Baker, the Vice-Chairman, used to live in Caversham and worship at St Peter's. At the AGM, Steve Barden and the Treasurer, Eric Moyse, explained that, because of reductions in Local Government funding and the increased rent that followed a new lease for the premises, St Saviour's Hall in Berkeley Avenue, extra money was needed. In particular, CIRDIC needs to maintain a reserve of at least £15,000 to meet staff costs and to cover dilapidations on the property should its activities ever have to be halted. In 2003-4, about 40% of its annual income of just over £49,000 came from the churches, just under a third from private donations, and the remainder from other organisations and a Local Government grant. Over the same period CIRDIC ran at a deficit with a 7% overspend, the balance being drawn from its meagre reserves. About 85% of the expenditure was on employment costs, rent,

insurance, utilities and repair costs. As much of the food was donated, the catering costs were around 5% of the total expenditure.

More volunteers needed -

The need for CIRDIC remains as great as ever it was. In order to operate, the Centre has to satisfy a whole raft of Health and Safety and other legislation and, although the Borough Council grant has declined from around £20,000 a few years ago to its present level of around £7,000, CIRDIC has to employ a professional manager in order to qualify for any grant. Also, to qualify for a Local Authority grant, some added value has to be shown so far as the beneficiaries of the grant are concerned. In this respect, several of the 60 guests who come for each session have moved on; some now assist with the running of CIRDIC. Volunteers are

needed for a whole range of administrative and other duties, including a fund raising group and the pursuit of grant making bodies. Specifically, new volunteers are needed for the third Saturday evening in the month.

-and more financial support and prayer

Through the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, CIRDIC continues to supply something for the community that others do not: it provides motivation and some signposts back to normality for a section of our community who have run into difficulty. A large part of this is facilitated by Verna Makins, the Manager, who, after 7 years in the post, is resigning in March 2005. A brief tribute to that effect was made at the meeting; the search for her successor will begin shortly. CIRDIC continues to need volunteers, in addition to financial and prayerful support for its continuing work. Anyone interested should contact Verna Makins at the Centre (Tel: 0118 950 2536 or Fax/Answer Phone: 0118 958 1011).

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO OUR READERS

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Mrs P Fuller - 946 1945
St Peter's Church -
John Madeley - 947 6063
Caversham Heights Methodist -
Pam and Phil Chatfield - 947 2444
Our Lady and St Anne's -
Mrs C Palmer - 947 3117
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Please note - Offers of help always welcome.

The *Caversham Bridge* is your paper,
providing a link between the churches and
the community.

Contributions are welcomed if they are
relevant to community matters or church
life. Copy should be kept short, typed in
double spacing if possible and with a word
count. Copy dates are given in the paper
each month and copy should be handed in
at the Parish Office at Church House,
Church Street, Caversham. The office is
open 9.30 - 12.30 on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note
the Editors reserve the right to edit copy if
necessary.

The *Caversham Bridge* is delivered each
month to homes in Caversham. It could be
delivered to you for £2.40 per year. If you
do not regularly subscribe to the paper and
would like to do so, please contact the
Parish Office on 947 1703.

TALKING POINT

By

Father Keith Kinnaird

'How good and joyful it is to live together in unity'

A New Year is generally greeted by people as the opening of a new chapter - a new beginning - hence resolutions! All sorts of feelings and emotions may be with us as we thank God for blessings of the past year - and pray that He will bestow further blessings on us in the year to come.

Our church calendars and lectionaries provide a variety of celebrations for January from Sundays after Christmas, through Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ, Sundays after Epiphany, plus all the saints' days and observations. It was in 1908 that the tradition of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began. The Feast of St Peter's Chair/St Peter's Confession was observed on 18th January with the Conversion of St Paul on 25th January. We have continued to use this particular week each year to pray rather more earnestly for unity - without forgetting to thank God for where He has brought us, not least, in what we do as the Churches Together in Caversham.

When Jesus used to take himself away from his disciples in order to pray, they felt out of it - so much so, that one day they themselves felt the desire to pray. So, when one of them asked: 'Lord, teach us to pray', the prayer He taught them is one that has come to be said in all languages. It has been called the great Family Prayer, the Lord's Prayer uniting all Christians everywhere. It addresses 'Our Father' - not 'mine' - but 'Ours'... 'Our Father in Heaven' - the very Father whom Jesus himself wishes to share with us.

Now isn't that wonderful? So wonderful that we tend to take it for granted. We Christians are not always very good at saying thank you. Thank you for what? For the many blessings we do receive from Him.

More than 200 years ago, a French priest, Père Grou, said these words: *The two great commandments on which hang all the law and the prophets are contained in the first two words of the Lord's Prayer. Christians should never say 'Our Father' without feeling an awakening of the love of God and his neighbour, and all the reasons for it.*

We all know the special relationship which Jesus had with God the Father. He called him by the intimate name, *Abba, Father*, just as we today would say *Daddy*. If we, the Christians, of this town see ourselves as God's children (by adoption) and can share with Jesus in calling God *Our Father*, then the relationship with each other will grow more and more to a deeper level. As St John, in his First Letter, exhorted us to love one another, so our unity also will deepen. For as St Paul said: *There is one body and one spirit as there is one hope held out to you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. He is over all and through all he lives in all of us. (Ephesians 4, 4-6).*

Let us each turn to our new 2005 diaries for Sunday 23rd January and mark 4.30pm at St Peter's Church as the next opportunity for gathering, as the Caversham Churches Together, in an act of worship and so demonstrate to everyone *how good and joyful it is to live together in unity. (Psalm 133.1)*

Father Keith Kinnaird is vicar of St Andrew's Church,
Caversham Heights)

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the February 2005 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 5th January. The date for submission of items for the March 2005 issue will be Wednesday 2nd February.

All advertising copy for the February 2005 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 4th January 2004. For the March 2005 issue the date will be Tuesday 1st February 2005.

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

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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Branch, 11 Gurney Drive, Caversham, RG4 7LG. Tel: 947 7534.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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

Typeset by Seven Ash Printing & Graphics Co. Ltd, 25 Milford Road, Reading RG1 8LG Tel: 0118 958 8569 Fax: 0118 958 1330 ISSN: 0118 958 1340. E-mail: service@sevenash.demon.co.uk
Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

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Tel: 947 9130.

(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30. Tel: 947 1703
email: parishoffice@stpetercaversham.idps.co.uk)

Fr Keith Kinnaird, St. Andrew's Vicarage, Harrogate Road.
Tel: 947 2788

Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.

Fr Philip Dallaway, The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 947 1814

Revd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road, Caversham Park.
Tel: 947 0258

Revd Alveen Thoresen, Flat 1 Roschill House, Peppard Road,
Emmer Green, RG4 8XB Tel: 946 4786

Revd Keith Kneeb-Robinson, 8 Hewett Close, Caversham, RG4 7ER
Tel: 947 7868

Revd Heather Serjeant, 4a The Mount, Caversham
Tel: 947 2729

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Rev Lynne Davis, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village
Tel: 947 5152.

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Dermot Thornberry, 72 Highmoor Road, Caversham.
Tel: 947 2223

BAPTIST

Paul Rhodes. Tel: 954 5353

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

Eric Bird Tel: 947 4529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Anthony Jones, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787

Fr 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, St Peter's Hill

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.45am	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

8.00am	The Holy Eucharist
10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

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

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

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am	Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am	Parish Communion
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CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

11.00am	Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
	Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
	All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am	Prospect Street
6.30pm	Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road

10.30am	Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm	Prayer Meeting

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road)

10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights, 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, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,

Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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Church Street, Reading

10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service

SCHOOL NEWS



The choir in full voice.

J Shaw

News from St Martin's School

On a day when sleet showers told us that winter really was here, St Martin's School began their Christmas activities with a traditional Christmas Fayre. It was organised and run by the School Association with their new chairperson, Rowena Butlin.

The school children ran their own stalls selling goods of red, blue, yellow or green based on the four House colours. A new idea was to have tombola stalls rather than just goods for sale so there was a Bottles of Sweets tombola, a Teddy Bear tombola with a giant Teddy Bear as the star prize and a Soft Toy tombola. Needless to say, there was the usual bottle tombola and one lucky lady bore away four bottles, including a bottle of whisky, when she purchased just five tickets.

A children's craft area provided materials and instructions for making various articles and there were "grown-up" craft stalls where lovely Christmas presents could be bought.

During the afternoon, the choir, trained and accompanied by Mrs Robinson, entertained with some traditional Christmas Carols. Refreshments were available all afternoon. Mince pies, small cakes and pieces of the most yummy carrot cake were on offer along with hot or cold drinks.

Altogether, the event was a great social success as well as raising much-needed funds for the school. *Jane Shaw*



Poppies held high.

Sandy Onofrio

Caversham Park Pre-School Double Celebration for Pre-Schoolers

A busy morning was had by the three and four year olds at Caversham Park Pre-School when they marked Remembrance Day and the Indian Festival of Light - Diwali - on the same day.

In addition to making their own poppies the children also tried their (henna-painted!) hands at Indian sweet making, sari wrapping and decorating diva lamps. All the children managed, just about, to keep silent for the one minute at 11 o'clock and all understood the significance of Remembrance Day and the poppy.



Henna painted hands.

Sandy Onofrio

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B Y S T A N D E R

Over the Threshold

As we say goodbye to 2004 and cross the threshold into 2005, Bystander would like to wish everyone a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year. The New Year is traditionally a time to look back at the old year and express our hopes for the year to come. Taking a look at the Caversham scene, we find that more changes have taken place during the past twelve months than we realise.

The closing of the Post Office in Prospect Street caused its many customers great concern. The proposed move to Day Lewis, the chemists, generated fears of cramped conditions, long waits to be served and perhaps the loss of a late afternoon collection of mail. However, these fears disappeared like a morning mist when reality took over and it was found that the move to a pleasant modern, lighter, uncramped Post Office and shop had been surprisingly successful.

Our much loved and valued bookshop in Prospect Street closed but it is good to see that it has re-opened selling not only books but a variety of other things as well. Perhaps the wider range of other goods on offer will balance the somewhat reduced choice of books. The refurbishment of the dental surgery and the opening of another shop further up Prospect Street shows confidence in the future of shops and services in this area.

Nickson's Country shop also closed towards the end of last year and will be missed as a supplier of all the clothes and footwear needed by those with a taste for outdoor activities. To maintain the variety of shops we have in Caversham, a shop selling clothes and footwear, continuing the Nickson tradition, would be welcome, as would a Health Food store. On a brighter note, Iceland has undergone a facelift and the public library has been beautifully cleaned to show us what a very attractive building it is.

Looking to the future, what would we like to see happening in Caversham in 2005?

Coming from Reading over Caversham Bridge, one sees the depressing sight of No2 Bridge Street. It has been an eyesore for so long with its cheerless concrete structure adorned with unsightly tattered posters and dilapidated appearance that we are beginning to wonder if it is to stay like this until it falls down. Progress on restoring this building would be very welcome.

We have admired the attempts to bring some floral displays to Caversham centre; the window boxes above the façade of the Baron Cadogan have presented a cheerful picture throughout last year and perhaps we can hope that other establishments might follow suit in 2005.

Could we look forward to the provision of a daytime bus service on Sundays on the routes that are presently denied this facility? This would help those who do not own a car or who cannot drive after dark and now rely on a lift from a friend or using a taxi, to attend church services and other Sunday events. The Nighttrack service is good but it does not start early enough to enable one to attend the excellent concerts and similar events that start at 7-30pm in the town centre. However, we are grateful that this service does run every evening so that at least we can get back to most parts of Caversham at night. After all, it is a pretty good place to return to!

Signs of the Times

Towards the end of last September, Bystander was driving, for the first time, along a main road through the green and pleasant leafy suburbs of a large town. Majestic trees interspersed with tall lamp standards lined each side of the imposing thoroughfare, but the experience was marred when a car, headlights flashing, drove up perilously close behind. Confusion filled Bystander's mind until, after passing several street lights, a repeater sign showing 40mph appeared! Unwittingly, Bystander had been playing slowcoach! Time was when, in a built up area (recognised by the presence of street lights) the speed limit was 30mph. Nowadays, in areas lit by street lamps, the speed limits can be 20, 30 or 40mph, while there are long stretches of illuminated motorway along which the limit is 70mph. The point raised by this occurrence is that, when restrictions apply, enough signs are needed to show immediately and clearly what the speed limit is in that area.

However, apart from these mandatory notices, it must be said that, alongside our roads, we see far too many signs that obscure and clutter, bringing (especially when left in place long after an event is over) an untidy appearance to the surroundings. There are bright yellow signs, pointing the way to new housing developments and competing in colour with the rear of the speed camera boxes, climbing one above the other, often three or more high, on lamp posts. We see signs advertising craft fairs, art exhibitions, car boot sales, funfairs and even of the type

'Millie - Jones - is - 21 - Today - Happy - Birthday', all of them perhaps useful for a brief space of time, but all too often left to litter the roadside. Advertising boards (so-called A boards) found outside shops can add to the colour and variety of the street scene. Although these are usually placed so as not to cause obstruction to wheelchairs and prams, too many of them do 'stray from home'.

A final small grumble about the destination boards on the front of some Reading buses. It seems to be an unwritten law that buses should travel in pairs. When two buses turn the corner from Friar Street into Station Road, the second nudging up close to the first, it is not so easy for the people in the two shelters outside Nationwide to discover whether the second bus is a 45, a 44 or a 25. In that desperately brief space of time before the second bus closes to the first, it is frustrating to spy that its destination is 'Please Have the Exact Fare ready!'

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Anyone for Breakfast?



Photo: Jan Skeet

Vanessa Hine as Helga, Martin Leckie as Gilbert and David Munns as Roger.

'Anyone for Breakfast?' presented by Caversham Theatre on 11th-13th November, was a hilarious feast of double-dealing, double-talk, double entendres and double-takes, with the two doubles, Shirley and Gilbert and Jane and Roger, hell bent on matrimonial deceit.

Gilbert is, or should have been, in Dusseldorf and his wife, Shirley, has offered their home to Jane so that she might have a romantic tete-a-tete with Mark, an attractive young fellow she has met at a squash club. Jane is none too happy about playing the seductress but she is talked into it by Shirley, before she slips away to her yoga class.

Mark shows little willingness to be seduced, first complaining about Jane's subdued lighting and then spurning Jane's champagne for a glass of lager. Jane's, or rather Shirley's, little plan suffers a further setback with the appearance of Gilbert who is far from Dusseldorf. He has in tow Helga, a German air hostess who proves to be a much more determined seductress than Jane. Gilbert's flight has been delayed by fog, hence the opportunity to offer Helga a cosy evening whilst Shirley was busy at yoga.

The last character to put in an appearance is the amiable but vague Roger, who seems to have forgotten that he is married to Jane. He arrives with a bunch of flowers for Shirley, apparently aware that Gilbert should have been out of the way in Dusseldorf but unaware that the intended recipient of the flowers should be at a yoga session – which in point of fact she wasn't!

Fortunately for the plot and the delectation of the audience, the fog has now enveloped Gilbert and Shirley's house in the country. None of the 'guests' can now return home so, to the chagrin of some, they are allocated single rooms and it is everyone – except Shirley – for breakfast.

When Shirley returns she is none too pleased to find Gilbert at home, Roger in the house, and the disaster of her little plot for Jane. The final twist in the ingenious plot was the disclosure that Shirley had skipped yoga and gone to look up the absent Roger!

Very satisfactory casting by Bob Green, the play's producer, was a major factor in its success. Lis Martin as the aggrieved wife was splendidly furious with Gilbert until chastened by admission of her own deceit. Anne Piper, in the part of Jane, gave a stylish performance of hesitant allurements and subsequent consternation as things turned out as neither she nor the bewildered Mark, effectively played by Tom Balmont, had expected.

Vanessa Hine made the most of Helga's determined seduction technique whilst David Munns conveyed delightfully the naivety of the bumbling Roger. All the action spun around Gilbert, and Martin Leckie showed himself a past master of double takes and bare faced outrageous explanations of compromising situations.

The cast must have enjoyed this clever comedy no less than the audience.

What's in a Name?...

...quite a story in some road names including a few in Caversham and its surrounding area. It is said that perhaps St Andrew's Road was made in a field where some of the inhabitants of Caversham Heights practised their golfing skills around 1900, perhaps imagining they were on the famous links in Scotland, and was not named after the nearby church. Cromwell Road must surely come from the link with Caversham in the Civil War when a sharp exchange took place on April 25, 1643. Nearby Westfield Road reminds us that here was the West field belonging to the earliest part of the village and one of its great open fields shared by all.

Back on the Heights, at the far end of Conisboro' Avenue, you find Sandcroft Road. It was first named Chicago Road and nearby were large gravel pits around 1900. They were known as Talbot's Pits and the gentleman who owned them had several others in the district. The gravel and sand were used for road surfacing and housing as the area expanded at that time. Apparently Mr Talbot had sisters who emigrated to the United States and he visited them in their house in Chicago and thought it a delightful place, so delightful that he named a little new road on the edge of his pits Chicago Road and so it remained for many years. Its new name seems pretty apt. The pits are long vanished but the little walk-way across them can still be found. Once it was a ridge of land bordered by iron railings with the pits on either side. They were a wonderful playground for local children with nooks and crannies everywhere.

More names anon.



Life as a volunteer

Home-Start Reading is looking for new volunteers. Why? We are a friendly group of people who spend a few hours each week helping a family adjust to the hectic demands of children under five. With friendship, an extra pair of hands and a listening ear, problems can be shared, solutions found and laughter and fun are never far away.

My volunteer days are never dull. I get to play trains, swirl trolleys around at the supermarket keeping a 3 year old amused, cuddle the baby, hang washing out or visit the park. Each week is different, but there is always time for a chat over a cuppa.

Becoming a volunteer has brought another dimension to my life; friendship and fun flow both ways and my week would be sadly empty without it.

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Ann, Home-Start Volunteer
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

Introducing Paul Rhodes – Pastor of Caversham Baptist Church

I was brought up to go to church and regularly went on summer camps. When I was 19 a friend invited me to go on a camp held by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). On the first night the speaker talked about true commitment and the way a Christian changes from what he/she was. I knew that, although I was religious, I was not living in obedience to God. It was tough accepting this and the challenges to give up my old habits and practices (with which, on the whole, I had been quite comfortable) did not sit well with me. Yet I had a strong desire to know God and to be fathered by Him, a desire which I knew could not be met while I held on to my old life. I struggled for most of the camp but on the last night was baptised in water by full immersion. The main change has been a great love for God and a desire to spend time with Him.

I believe that relationship building is key to building the church. Church is not a project to be completed; it is a living organism to be nourished and encouraged.

I have been in different leadership and pastoral roles for most of my Christian life. In the early nineties, I was invited to assist with the leadership of a Church Youth congregation of up to one hundred teenagers. My initial role was in drama, but I was invited to assist in the leading and planning of the meetings. After four years I was invited to take overall pastoral leadership. I was assisted by a team of about ten adults and invited three of these to join me as an eldership team. (We were accountable to a team made up of leaders from three churches: two Anglican and one Independent Charismatic.) It was always part of the vision to encourage the young people to develop their gifts and ministries and opportunity was given for them to participate fully in the meetings. One of the most rewarding parts of this was to be used by God to encourage people to develop their gifts.

As an evangelical, I believe in the authority of Scripture regarding doctrine and practice, and am uncomfortable with any spiritual practice that does not have sound Biblical support. Conversely, if Scripture does support something, I believe God will want to lead His people into it.

Although one may be drawn gradually by God to the point of conversion and thereafter led on a journey from faith to faith, I believe a conversion experience is necessary and should be followed by baptism.

I understand Ephesians 4 to teach that leaders are not to be the only ones who participate in worship but should rather be leading the members into the use of their gifts. Churches benefit from having more than one person preaching and leading services and that is how we are doing things at Caversham Baptist Church.

We are at an exciting time in the church's history as we seek God

for His way forward into the future He has planned for us.

I am by nature an energetic, active person. However, I also like to spend time in study and reading, I also appreciate putting on the headphones (at the family's request!!) and listening to music in order to relax. My other main relaxation is being in the countryside.

My soccer tastes are not very original. I am a Manchester United supporter but can boast that I followed them when they were relegated in the seventies!

My wife, Katy, complements both my personality and gifts. We both believe that our ministry is together. She shares my sense of call and devotes most of her time to the family and the ministry. She accompanies me on most visits. Although she is not confident with public speaking or leadership, she has a gift in leading worship. She is also very discerning and able to respond appropriately to situations.

We look forward to serving God in Caversham.

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

January 2	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i> – Rev'd Dr John Ogden
	6.30pm	Rev'd Lynne Davis
January 9	10.30am	<i>Covenant Service</i> – Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Mr David Munns
January 16	10.30am	<i>All Age Worship and Parade Service</i> – Mrs Elaine Cresswell
	6.30pm	<i>Covenant Service</i> – Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
January 23	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
	10.30am	Mrs Paddy Jose
	6.30pm	Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
January 30	10.30am	Mr David Beek
	6.30pm	<i>Healing Service</i> – Deacon Glenda Sidding

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

January 2	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i> – Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	10.30am	Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Rev'd Simon Howard
January 9	10.30am	Mr David Beek
	6.30pm	<i>Covenant Service</i> – Rev'd Dr John Ogden
January 16	10.30am	<i>Covenant Service</i> – Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Mrs Paula Andrews
January 23	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
	10.30am	Mrs Sylvia Stalder
January 30	10.30am	Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	<i>Healing Service</i> – Rev'd Dermot Thornberry

ST. LEONARD'S, WOODCOTE

January 9	9.45am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
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GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH NEWS



Children with "Operation Christmas Child" shoe boxes.

Eunice Cooper

For the past few weeks friends at the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church have been collecting items to go into shoe boxes for "Operation Christmas Child". Each shoe box had to be covered in Christmas paper and filled with lots of special things for children in Eastern Europe: hat, gloves, scarf, pencils, paper, games and toys, plus a few well-chosen sweets. Individuals and groups within the church have been enjoying finding items that the children would appreciate. On Sunday November 19th all the boxes were brought to the church where they were dedicated. Sixty boxes were then taken to a collection point at Rivermead Leisure Centre. These will then join thousands of others making their way across the world, to bring a little joy to some child far away. We hope next year to increase the total and maybe aim towards 100?

Many thanks to all those who came along to the Fashion Show. It proved to be a very popular evening with High Street fashions provided by "Travelling Trends". £392 was raised for the church building fund. It is hoped to host another fashion show in the Spring of 2006.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

THE CRANMER AWARDS: OXFORD DIOCESAN HEATS



Photo: Iain Hicks-Mudd

Victoria Alexander, St Peter's Church, winner of the senior competition in the Diocese of Oxford is presented with her award by Selwyn Charles-Jones of The Prayer Book Society.

A New Licensed Lay Minister for St Peter's and St Margaret's

Marion Pyke was licensed as Lay Minister, at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on 6th November. She serves in the parish of St Peter, Caversham and St Margaret, Mapledurham.

LLMs, previously known as Lay Readers, lead worship and exercise pastoral care. They are members of the laity in a serving ministry who have undertaken several years of training and whose gifts of leadership are valued and authorised by their parish and diocese. In a packed cathedral, with many Caversham supporters, Marion received her Licence from the Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson, who was a curate in Caversham from 1982 before becoming the first vicar of the new parish of St John, Caversham in 1989. Marion and her husband, John, have lived in Caversham for over 40 years and Marion retired as a Psychiatric Social Worker in 1997.

We wish Marion well, along with colleague LLMs in the Caversham Group Ministry, John Madeley and Bill Vincent (both St Peter's and St Margaret's), Elizabeth Gash (St Barnabas) and Paula Andrews (Caversham Park).

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, burned at the stake in 1556 outside Balliol College, Oxford, was the main architect of The Book of Common Prayer. The Cranmer Award is a national competition set up by The Prayer Book Society to encourage young people to read and enjoy the official Prayer Book of the Church of England.

Each Diocese in the country holds its own Diocesan Heats. There are two separate competitions, a junior one for 11-14 year olds and a senior one for 15-18 year olds. The winner from each age group goes forward to represent their Diocese in the National Finals, this year to be held on 5th February 2005 in Hatfield House.

Victoria Alexander represented St Peter's Church, Caversham, at the senior competition in Oxford in November. Her choice of reading was Psalm 18, which she delivered with great feeling and understanding, and she was judged the outright winner.

In the National Final, her choice of passage from The Prayer Book must be learned by heart and last from 3 to 5 minutes.

We offer Victoria congratulations on her outstanding achievement and wish her every success in the National Final in February.



Photo: Richard Pyke

Marion with the Bishop after the service.

OWW's CONTRIBUTION TO CHIAQUELANE

We are pleased to record, with thanks from the organisers, that the final figure for the money raised during One World Week for the water project in Chiaquelane in Mozambique was £1,400. Reading 3000, through which the money is channelled to Mozambique, have expressed their delight at this response in their latest Newsletter and ask for continuing prayer for the eventual successful completion of the clean water project.

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CONFIRMATION AT ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Church was full on Advent Sunday for Caversham's Annual Anglican Service of Confirmation when 12 people from a wide age range were confirmed, three of whom were also baptised. In his address the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, tried to implant in us something of the mind of God so that we begin to look upon our neighbour as God looks upon us. In God's eyes we are all cherished as little children.

Bishop Stephen reminded the congregation that the world appraises us by what is on the outside, whereas in God's eyes the outside counts for nothing. God delights in us because we are; he sees us with love and tenderness. He said that we must not lose the ability to cherish and delight in one another. God wants to change his beloved children into

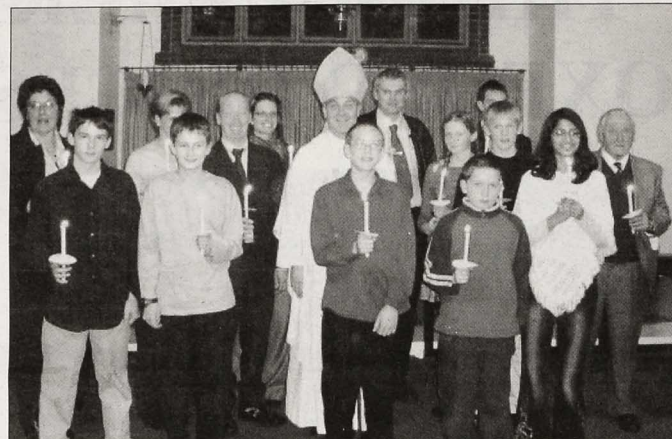
something more beautiful, into the people we are capable of becoming. The promise of the Christian faith is that we are all counted in and welcomed home. All may be changed by the gift of the Spirit and reflect God's glory. Bishop Stephen challenged the newly confirmed and the rest of the congregation to walk in that gift of the Spirit.

Those confirmed were: St Peter's: Mark Blount, Stanley Maddock, Hugh Serjeant.

St Andrew's: Amanda Hunt, John Lloyd-Kelly, Christopher Lewington, Elaine Phillipps.

St Barnabas: Dominic Aubrey-Jones, Christine Bradshaw, Robert Chandler, Alexander Kent, Anita Masih.

In addition Elizabeth and Andrew Whitehead, who were confirmed last year by Mgr Tom Farrell as members of St Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Sonning Common, were blessed by Bishop Stephen. This act followed consultations by the young people with Fr John Ellis of St Michael's, the Revd Derek Chandler of St Barnabas, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham and the Bishops of Oxford and Reading. Both young people are involved in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches and this event marks a step in the pilgrimage towards unity for our two churches.



O. Jewiss

Those confirmed and blessed by the Bishop of Reading were photographed with him after the Service.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHRISTIAN

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

In the post-Christmas period it is worth reflecting on those gifts bestowed upon us which we tend to take for granted and for which the refrain from a well known harvest hymn is a reminder. Nearly 21 years ago the Anglican Consultative Council produced a list of four Marks of Mission; it is not without significance that it took a further six years before the fifth Mark of Mission was added: *to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.* Even the Church has been slow in acknowledging that the care of creation is part of the Christian mission. So what then is our concern for climate change in relation to the natural order?

The causes and the consequences

It was over 100 years ago that Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, predicted that the burning of fossil fuels would increase the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and lead to a warming of the earth's climate; this he termed "the greenhouse effect". Normally, the heat from the sun reaching the earth is radiated back as infra-red radiation. Some of this is absorbed by "greenhouse gases" present in the atmosphere causing heat to be retained. The atmosphere acts like a blanket, trapping heat near the surface of the earth and raising its temperature. Without these gases the mean temperature at the surface of the earth would be -18 °C, too low for life as we know it. Until fairly recent time the "greenhouse effect" has ensured a global mean temperature of 15°C. In the middle of the 19th century the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere was 280 parts per million. It is now 370 ppm and is rising by 1.5 ppm each year and accelerating; by 2100 the CO₂ concentration is forecast to rise to between 490 and 1,260 ppm. Although CO₂ is the principal causal agent, water vapour, chlorofluorocarbons, methane and nitrous oxide have similar effects.

Through computer models scientists are predicting a rise in global temperature of between 1.4 and 5.8°C by 2100; it rose by 0.6°C over the 20th century. The consequences of this rise in temperature will be the recession of the polar ice caps and high altitude glaciers, a rise in sea level (predictions suggest figures between 90 and 880 mm), flooding and total submergence of some low lying countries, a loss of biodiversity and a shift in the patterns of agriculture. Recent reports suggest that the consequences of global warming are going to be more catastrophic in Less Developed Countries where it will lead to increased poverty. The precise effects on ocean currents are less predictable; we are already familiar with the El Niño changes in the Pacific and changes in the course of the Gulf Stream are possible. The latter could lead to radical changes in the British climate so that it becomes more continental and comparable with that experienced at similar latitudes in North America.

International and local response

In 1992 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was established. This led to the Kyoto Protocol which sought to alleviate the effect of rising CO₂ levels on global warming by asking the nations to reduce the level of CO₂ emission by 5% in 2010 compared with that in 1990. To assist the Less Developed Nations, others, including the EU, agreed to a 15% reduction. To date 126 nations have approved, accepted or ratified this protocol; the major exceptions are the USA and Australia. Locally the Diocese of Oxford, in support of this, has signed the Climate Change Campaign of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation. This commits the Diocese to work towards reducing carbon emissions by 15% in line with the Kyoto Protocol. Also the Bishop of Oxford has appointed an environment advisor, the Revd Professor Ian James, who is Head of the University of Reading's School of Mathematics, Meteorology and Physics. What is becoming clear is that globally we are not likely to achieve these modest targets within the time scale, while some experts are saying that a 60% reduction in CO₂ output is needed

Continued on page 9

REMEMBRANCE IN CAVERSHAM 2004



Photo: Karen Giblin

On November 12th, children from St Anne's C school in Washington Road, Caversham, visited their local Cenotaph, erected to honour the dead in the Great War of 1914 - 1918.

The twenty-six Year 2 children were studying the history topic about Remembrance day and why people wear poppies at this time. First they looked for any fallen soldiers with their own surname, then they read the inscription imploring future generations never to forget the sacrifices that had been made.

Finally, after laying a simple posy of flowers on the Cenotaph and observing a short period of respectful quiet, the children took part in a simple act of remembrance with each child recalling a name of someone who had died. This included names dear to them who had died more recently, family relatives who had died in wars and names selected by children chosen from the War Memorial.

Their teacher, Christine Bradbury, said she was particularly encouraged when the children talked about the role of soldiers helping and protecting people, rather than any aspect of fighting. Long may it continue.

THANK YOU

Once again, despite having collecting boxes stolen, Caversham has beaten all previous totals and raised over £22000 for the Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion is very grateful to everyone who helped in any way: by having collection tins in their premises, knocking on doors, standing on street corners or in shopping centres. A special thank you goes to the pupils of Queen Anne's School who helped collect in the Oracle and in Caversham. They helped their school raise £435 for the appeal. So many people were impressed to see the younger generation giving up their time to remember those who gave us our freedom. Well done, girls. The schools in Caversham nearly all exceeded their previous totals of monies collected - further evidence of the involvement of young people here in Caversham.

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES

Over 500 people attended the Remembrance Day Service and Parade on Sunday 14th November. The day was blessed by lovely weather and the setting - with autumn leaves falling, the sun glinting on the river and the whole scene accompanied by complete silence - was indeed a very moving experience. The Salvation Army band played music; Andy from the Boys' Brigade played the Last Post and Reveille; Father Phillip Dallaway, vicar of St John's and Chaplain to the Legion, said prayers and gave some very moving words of Remembrance. The previous Thursday at 11am the tills and traffic came to a standstill as the two minutes silence was observed and five Service Standards were lowered.

From page 8

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHRISTIAN

before there can be any significant effect. The Royal Society says that in the UK this is achievable by 2050. The opening words of the Foreword to a recent report on climate change entitled "Up in Smoke?" say: "The need for informing the public on the gravity of the impacts of climate change on human existence across the globe has never been greater". There are many who are saying that this is an even greater threat to mankind than terrorism.

Your chance to respond

As a direct spin-off from these initiatives, an environment group within the Diocese is organising an ecumenical conference on "Climate Change - how Christians respond" on Saturday 26 February, 2005. The conference is sponsored by The Conservation Foundation and The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and will be chaired by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries. Keynote Speakers are Sir John Houghton FRS, former Chairman of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, and Claire Forster FRSA, the Church of England Environment Advisor. In the pre-conference publicity the Bishop of Oxford, who will also address the Conference, says "What is happening to our environment matters to all of us and should be seen as of crucial importance by all Christians. I very much hope you will be able to join me at what will be a well-informed and serious consideration of these issues". Workshop sessions on a range of relevant themes will be held in both the morning and afternoon sessions and there will be exhibits from a number of environment agencies.

The Conference will be held at St Andrew's Church, Hatters Lane, High Wycombe. The cost is £10 per car or £1 for each person arriving by foot, bicycle or by public transport. Further information is available on the Oxford Diocesan Website (www.oxford.anglican.org) or locally from Owen Jewiss (Tel: 0118 947 5003).

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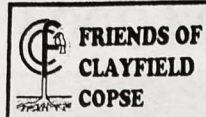
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Friends of Clayfield Copse (FOCC) are very proud to announce that they have been awarded a grant from Local Heritage Initiative of about £8,000 to increase use and knowledge of this wonderful woodland area in north Caversham. The projects this money will fund are:

- improving access across the site so that everyone, regardless of their current fitness, can enjoy it all year round;
- setting up a website;
- producing a new leaflet informing everyone about the wildlife and history of these woodlands;
- hosting a third Woodlands Day at the Copse on Saturday 4th June 2005.

The footpaths from the car park to the woodlands will be improved as a 'mega-task' early in the year and it is hoped that many local people will volunteer to help out over a weekend. The existing muddy 'clay field' paths make it very difficult for all except those fit and in wellies to get around the site. The improvements will enable even parents with children in pushchairs and people using wheelchairs to get to enjoy a bit of the countryside close to their homes. It is hoped that those seeking to start getting a bit fitter by taking up walking to improve their health will also be encouraged by the new paths.

The website and leaflet will give lots of information

about the wildlife and heritage of the woodlands that make it so special. The site is at www.econetreading.org.uk/woodlandsday and www.econetreading.org.uk/focc.

Woodlands Day will be a celebration of this beautiful site and the wildlife and crafts associated with traditional management of our local Chiltern woodlands. FOCC hope to have green-wood craft workers, working horses from the Working Horse Trust, a saw mill, log splitting, exhibits from wildlife and craft organisations, birds of prey displays, dog activities (very popular last time!), a variety of walks and talks for all ages, and, as it is part of Reading Borough Council's Children's Festival, lots of children's activities. There will also be a barbecue and teas just as in previous years. This weekend is also World Environment Day and Woodland Day will be an appropriate local event contributing to global activities to look after our Earth. The day will attract visitors from all over Reading but FOCC particularly welcome all local residents to come and enjoy a day in their woods. Entrance and all activities [except for teas and bbq of course] are free.

Until that day, anyone who would like to help out for a short while on the day or with the construction of the footpaths in the Spring, will be very welcome. Please contact Anne Latto 0118 948 4454.



Scops Owl

Most mornings a softly uttered, "Si-Si-Si-Si" comes from the front lilac as Long-tailed Tits arrive.

"Joey" the trusty Robin adds his wistful yet sweet Alto. Although not our original of recent years, we hope that he may be Joey's offspring. Our old friend would call each morning, awaiting his breakfast, then approach with long acquired confidence.

Out on the local gravel pit, Wigeon are in good voice from Northern Europe. A Cormorant, seen afar off, prospects for fish.

A Chiffchaff sang but one onomatopoeic phrase then retired apologetically. He will over-winter, as the Blackcap warbler has now done for several years. A Green Woodpecker "Yaffles" unseen. Pochard, Mallard and Great Crested Grebes are scattered thinly on the water. A colourful Jay flies over, making loud noises. His bill further establishes his Crow connection.

Regular viewing may offer the reward of a less common, migratory arrival.

During October and November, each night we stood listening to the fascinating "See-up" contact calls of thousands of Redwing from North-eastern European. They fly to Britain and many on to Spain. Some land on Emmer Green recreation field and probe for

food. Slightly smaller than a Blackbird, they may also be heard in nearby trees.

We discovered a very rare Ross Goose at a local pit. Its calls and restless behaviour may have pointed to its being a wild bird. Without further corroboration, we felt unable to tick it. Beginners please note - do NOT attempt to tick a bird unless COMPLETELY confident of its identity.

Some following articles will be aimed to assist learner birders, some preliminaries are dealt with herein.

If anyone has a reliable birding friend, then learning will be automatic - but be sure you wish to be a birder - it can be recommended!

Binoculars are essential. Ideally 8 x 32, of well known make should last a lifetime with guarantee to match. The better they are, the EASIER it will be for the beginner to identify the birds.

A Student's "flip-over" note book and pencil or biro are invaluable for sketches and notes. List your birds BEFORE the next day, under headings - Date, Where seen, Weather, Party - and pet if well trained! Others do - why shouldn't you?

Scops Owl

Travelling round Sussex looking for oddities took place the following week in the company of Alan Copeland and his slides. These included tombstones, pub signs, village signs and wells - anything odd that caught the eye!

The month ended with Christmas bingo - a popular session with seasonal prizes on offer. New members are always welcome - contact 947 9331.

Caversham Royal British Legion

The Branch has had a very busy year. Since the D-Day Commemoration events the Branch has increased its membership by over 10%, bucking national trends; if you want to know more about us ring Pauline on 947 5345.

The Branch had a very successful Poppy Appeal Collection in Caversham and thanks everyone.

With 2005 being the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII the Branch is planning lots of events and hopes to involve all of Caversham.

Instead of the usual monthly social in December, over 80 members and friends enjoyed a Christmas supper of turkey and ham followed by mince pies and sherry, with everyone going home with an old fashioned present of fruit, nuts and sweets.



Caversham Community Association

November was a busy month for members, with five meetings. The month began, as usual, with an informal games evening. A slightly less than smart image showed up the next week when a tramps' supper was held. A few relay games ensured an appetite for the bring and share supper. The prize for best costume was shared by Betty and Wendy Cotton and Brenda Strong. A rather quieter evening followed with a suitcase sale when members could sell their unwanted goods.

the CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Prior to the November 9th meeting, members and guests had celebrated the Guild's birthday in October. All had enjoyed the 1920s - 30s theme, the refreshments and entertainment.

Members were delighted to see Margaret Pocock back in the Chair and she thanked all for the successful party and for the goodwill messages sent to her after her accident.

The Federation report was given by Marion Cooper, followed by information from the special interest groups on the run up to Christmas. Dealing with correspondence, Edwina Child noted the thank you cards from Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, guests at the party. Other information included the signing-up of a car-lift list to help members with transport difficulties, and the Air Ambulance was voted to benefit from the Christmas raffle.

It was particularly fitting, close to Remembrance Day, that the speaker for the evening, Brigadier A Needham, was from the charity SSAFA Forces Help. Established in 1895, it soon attracted volunteers who, over the years, set up a range of services in the UK and overseas. Their motto "He gives twice who gives quickly" is as relevant today as originally, with a total of 7,000 trained volunteers who aim to see a client within two days of notification to offer practical help and support. Even with the number of calls decreasing due to the age of requesters, over 80,000 people are helped annually and volunteers are always needed. Marie Rogers gave the vote of thanks.

St Peter's Wives' Group

Mrs Julie Roberts, a retired accountant, came to talk to us at our November meeting about creative writing and story-telling. She attends a creative writing course at Chiltern Edge School once a week and speaks to groups about her writing on a weekly basis, donating the proceeds to the Air Ambulance.

Mrs Roberts read some of her stories to us and we were enthralled by them, as they were so inventive and well-written. We particularly enjoyed one entitled 'The Changing Room', for which her grandson had given her the idea, and another entitled 'You Had Your Chance' which was extremely gripping. None of her writing has yet been published, but we are sure it is only a matter of time.

The tutor of her class sets a theme every week and also homework to be carried out. Mrs Roberts explained that a romance would be character-led, whereas crime, suspense or horror stories are plot-led, with sci-fi and fantasy needing some of both.

Mrs Roberts told us that everyone should write their life stories, for grandchildren and future generations to understand how people's lives have changed over the last century. She recommended that a good start would be a 'time-line' charting all family members since the birth of the writer, then, on a separate level, events which occurred during that time,

including international events, etc, such as the assassination of President Kennedy. It would make fascinating reading for future generations if compiled in story form and can be written anywhere and at any convenient time.

We look forward to seeing Mrs Roberts in print very shortly!

Our next meeting to be held at Church House, Caversham will be on 18 January 2005 at 8.00pm and is entitled 'Herbs & Health through the Ages' by Anna Cannon.

New members always welcome.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning, Chairman, opened the November meeting. Following the apologies and birthday greetings, she announced future events.

Mrs E Cohan had a very successful Coffee Morning at her home on November 3rd. Mr C Kirby followed the business news with an unusual but very interesting talk and slide show which he named "Oddities". Included in the many slides were quaint signposts, public notices, street signs and monuments, taken both at home and abroad. Mrs B Dobson thanked him on behalf of members.

The Competition for best flower arrangement in an egg cup was won by Mrs B Fletcher.

Our Meetings take place every third Thursday at 2pm at Church House, Caversham. New members and visitors are always welcomed. Do come and join us.

Caversham Ladies' Club

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting on a lovely sunny day and introduced Barrie Machin who showed a video of Reading in the 50s and what changes have taken place in recent years. It brought back many memories of visits to McIlroys, Wellsteeds, the cinemas and music hall, and dances and dinners at the Great Western Hotel. One of the main improvements was the planting of trees in many of the Reading streets.

The second half of the video showed many of the villages and towns that surround Reading, as they were at the beginning of the 20th century. It showed Goring, Mortimer, Henley, Aldermaston, Arborfield, Pangbourne, Spencers Wood and many other well known areas.

The meeting finished with the arrangements for the Christmas lunch.

Caversham WI

It was WI to the rescue when the expected speaker could not come to the November meeting. Robin Smith showed slides of the holiday he and Sue spent in Italy to celebrate their Ruby Anniversary. They were based at Lake Garda so we enjoyed tranquil lake views, lofty mountains and enough sunshine to warm up a wet November evening. Trips to Verona and Venice were included so we saw Juliet's balcony and the canals and a rather wet St Mark's Square.

Notices were given out, the successful Autumn Fair was reported and the speaker judged the competition for a handmade Christmas card, Kath Fullbrook the clever winner. After the raffle it was out into the Autumn chill.

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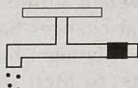
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