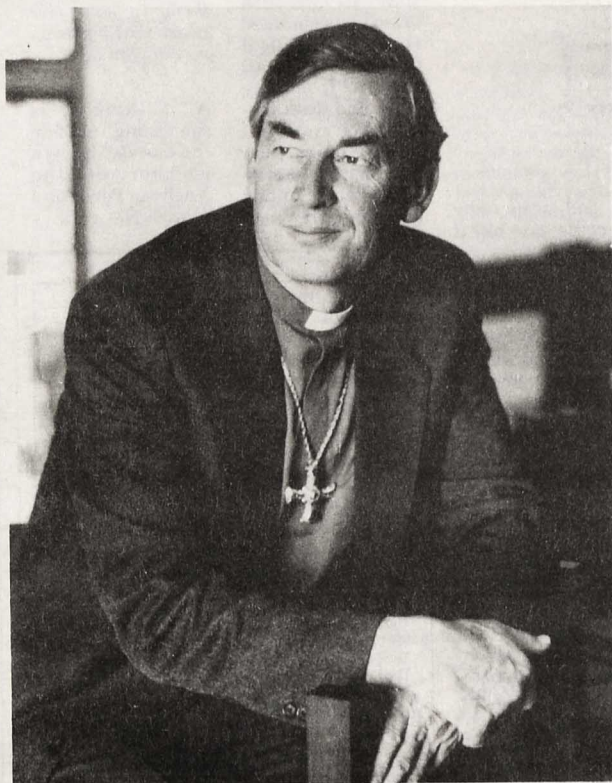


The Rt. Rev. Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, who was preaching at St. Peter's earlier this year, said that he was approaching the end of his first five years in the diocese. He was kind enough to grant an interview to one of our editors to discuss his time with us.

BISHOP RICHARD



Q. You have had an interesting life, Bishop Richard, Sandhurst and the army for three years, curate in Hampstead, Warden at a Theological College, Vicar of Fulham and then Dean at King's College, London. Had you thought about where the next step might have taken you?

A. No, I had never thought about it. I was in such a wonderful job that I imagined doing it to the end of my days. I was amazed at receiving a letter from Margaret Thatcher offering me the bishopric.

Q. I am here to ask you about your five years in the diocese — would you like to talk about it generally before I ask specific questions?

A. From the first I have found it very well worth while to be Bishop of Oxford. There is clearly a place for the right kind of leadership in the church, that is, enabling people and the church to work together, and there is a part of me that likes to give a lead and so that side of me is fulfilled. The joy is that you do make a difference to the way things go — you can make things move. Another plus is that there are so many able people; I have a very strong team and am conscious of being very blessed. These committed people help good things to happen and this is very im-

portant in what is one of the largest dioceses in the country. I have enjoyed visiting all the Deaneries and many of the parishes. I make up my diary in May for the following year and try to make a good balance. I see all the confirmation lists and aim to be at six of these services in each area as well as my own in Oxford. I try to cover all aspects but tend to take requests on a first come first served basis, but also try to cover special anniversary services. Next year I am going to focus on work with children and young people so anything coming under that heading will take priority. There are so many claims made on Bishops.

Q. What do you say about a recent letter in the "Times" that in 1901 there were 600 clergy to each bishop, now 250, and the writer was suggesting that we have too many bishops.

A. I think you will find that the role of bishops has changed since the beginning of the century and that every one is worked very hard.

Q. How do you get on with the town/gown aspect of Oxford?

A. Very well. I try to keep abreast of the city's doings and, as far as the University is concerned, I have developed good relationships with the colleges. I am a visitor at St. Anne's, I know most of the

Heads of Colleges and all the Chaplains. I don't, of course, have any official position in terms of their hierarchy.

Q. How much are you concerned in local politics? I was thinking particularly of the Sue Ryder home in Nettlebed, which has very strong support and connections in Caversham, and I know you have spent some time writing on their behalf about the loss of grant. Does this happen often?

A. I remember this occasion well. I do receive this sort of request every week, from Amnesty International for example, as well as many other causes. My chaplain researches each enquiry and I do what I can.

Q. How are you feeling about events in South Africa.

A. Much happier — it is almost

miraculous. They do not yet have an interim government nor an agreed constitution, and there is still a lot of violence in the townships, but it is very good that changes are taking place.

Q. How about sanctions?

A. If we are really in solidarity with the churches in South Africa, the time to drop sanctions is when the churches themselves say so. It seems premature at the moment. I think the view we should take is that it is more important to keep up the sanctions. Then, when the time comes, those who have been backing economic pressure will urge people to invest. The country will need massive investment and I personally will encourage people to re-invest in South Africa.

Q. Here in this newspaper we have an ecumenical team working very happily together and the paper reflects this, nevertheless we are all conscious that each church is still happy to do its own thing. Do you find this so?

A. Yes, I think one still tends to think first of what one's own church would do, but there are some encouraging signs. The County Ecumenical Council with a part-time paid secretary is a real step forward. For the first time Roman Catholics are taking part. There are certainly signs that churches are working together at a local level but there is still a long way to go.

Q. Oxford Diocese did well in raising money for the "Faith in the City" scheme. How are things going on this front?

A. There is still a working group in the city and the link with Sunderland continues strongly. We mustn't lose sight of the main objective, and having raised the money, we cannot sit back and do nothing. There are still many deprived people in the diocese, including Reading. I hope that we shall do more than we have in the past and it is my intention to make sure that this is high on the agenda. Recent research does show that many people are not claiming benefit from the social services because of the complex forms.

Q. You are a member of of the Council for inter-faith religions with special responsibility for Christian/Jewish relationships. Will you expand please?

A. I am still very active in trying to foster better Jewish relationships. I have top level consultations. My own view is that the whole Christian church needs to undergo a massive shift of perspective with the Jewish people. So often the way the Christian faith is taught is provocative — making us the good and the Jews the bad guys. This is fed into Christian consciousness from the earliest teaching. I am firmly committed to this cause and we must all be careful to listen to Jewish feelings and also work out how best to communicate the Jewish faith.

Q. Sunday shopping?

A. I am totally opposed to major

retailers opening on Sundays. The day will lose its character. There will be pressure on other retailers. I am particularly infuriated by certain big stores breaking British law. Their claim may be being tested in Europe, but they are still breaking the law.

Q. Sport is listed as one of your recreations. Do you support Oxford in the football league?

A. I have been to a match but I must confess to earlier loyalties, and they still are with Huddersfield Town. My wife and I enjoy walking and there is so much lovely country in the three counties. I also play tennis and enjoy the game.

Q. You mentioned that you would be taking a summer sabbatical. Have you plans for it?

A. I am taking some time off this summer and I shall be looking at the subject of Christianity and the visual arts. This means consulting my own books as well as those in other libraries. I am going to look at some Byzantine churches in June to follow one aspect. I have been interested in this subject for some years — why do some works of religious art communicate the divine and others totally fail to do so? To some people Icons and early Italian paintings do communicate this but find that later work does not give the feeling of the sacred. I am hoping to pursue this further.

TALKING POINT

Rev. W. B. Carpenter

Vicar, St. Andrew's



ALL CHANGE!

How well do you cope with change? Do you take it in your stride? Do you enjoy change? Or are you like me, conservative? (small "c"!)

Whether we like change, or grind our teeth at every small upset to our ordered lives, we need every now and again to ask ourselves why we feel as we do.

In matters of worship, and our faith, we can all be unreasonable at times. I remember when the A.S.B. (the new Anglican Prayer Book published in 1980) first came out to replace its draft version with minimal changes in the text. It entailed a page turnover at a particular spot in the Central prayer in the Eucharist. In the new publication, the page was turned over at a different place in this prayer. I was saddened and intensely irritated by this change, and was ready to write a letter to the Church Times to complain that because the page was turned at a different place in this very important prayer, the revisers had removed a central prop, a symbol, on which I had come to rely. I very soon came to see how ridiculous I was. Of course this was a gut reaction and an extreme example.

We all hate change for what APPEARS to be for change's sake. Many of us wondered why the telephone vans and boxes had to change colour from red to yellow, and then to silver. And the expenses...! all to go on our phone bills.

How do we cope with change in the weather, change of clothes (after all they do need washing), change in hours of work, the addition of a child in the family or loss of a loved one? A change in health? or a change in government? We have little control over these changes. We shouldn't brood or become introspective, but it does no harm to ask

ourselves now and again why **some** changes cause our blood pressure to rise.

At the time of writing, we as Christians had just undergone the most profound changes. We went to the foot of the cross and shared with our Lord his great agony and apparent defeat. But God proved all human assumption to be wrong, and from death came true life by which all Christians live and grow.

Now, we are beginning to anticipate a beautiful summer, and the longest day is not far off. Easter is a spring festival, a time of new life. At present I am looking at the lovely blossom on the cherry tree outside my study window, which only a short while ago were bare branches. As you read this, the roses will be out and the leaves on the trees will at their greenest, but the new life given to us by our risen, glorified and now ascended, Lord is with us always.

The changes we see around us in nature are signs of growth, regeneration, and fresh starts. They are beautiful and wonderful to our senses of touch, sight and smell. They rise and fall, but always there is that opportunity for a new start. The pattern of our lives and of society changes and evolves, some would say not always for the better. Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We are called to live his risen life to the full, and proclaim his steadfast unchanging and undiminished love afresh to each generation.

Nothing can change the privilege, responsibility, and the joy which is ours, as believers and followers of Christ.

Lord, give us grace to change what has to be changed, accept what cannot be changed, and wisdom to know the difference.

BISHOP RICHARD

from page 1

Q. *Theatre, too, is listed as one of your interests — have you views on drama in the church?*

A. I have always had a strong interest in the theatre and in drama and I feel that all western drama has emerged from liturgical drama — it all springs from the Cross and Resurrection. You can have no more drama than the whole story from Palm Sunday through Holy Week

to Easter Sunday.

Q. *Do you see yourself moving to higher things after Oxford?*

A. I should be genuinely happy to work out my time in Oxford.

Q. *Is there any one thing in your five years that has been special for you?*

A. I think it is something outside the diocese, being a member of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network.

Q. *Would you like to add anything else?*

A. I have found myself missing parish work. When I was in Fulham, life was so very full, running a front line parish and I was glad to have the break from it. But there you had more access to people's lives and to minister to them and to help them to grow in Christ. However pressured or disappointing in some ways, in others it was so very rewarding.

This interview only skimmed the Bishop's views and life and there were many points that one could have elaborated upon. He is a very busy man who loves his work. He broadcasts "Thought for the day" on Radio 4 on Fridays, and he writes. His latest book, "Is There a Gospel for the Rich?" — published by Mowbray — is just out. We are grateful to him for sparing the time to talk to us.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)

The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.

The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ikley Road. Tel: 472070.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT
The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)

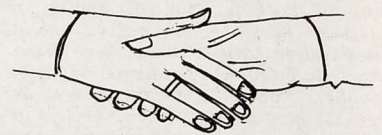
The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

CAVERSHAM CHRISTIAN NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Caversham Christian News Ltd., there was sufficient profit for the Directors to decide to donate a sum to charity. They were unanimous that a cheque for £300 should go to the Sue Ryder home at Nettled. This home has a particular place in the hearts of all Caversham folk.

To help us make more profit next year, do encourage your friends and neighbours to take a copy of this paper regularly.

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

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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

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

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 1 June.

The dates for July will be Monday 29 June and Wednesday 1 July.

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

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

LITTLE LAMBS

I wonder what percentage of Caversham people ever take the trouble to study the notice board in St. Martin's shopping precinct. At Easter, thanks to a notice there, we turned up to a Spring lambing at Cross Farm, Ipsden and had a delightful few hours there. After that I don't wonder that Mary had a little lamb — I only wonder why she was content with just one because those we saw were beautiful. And thanks to the very good organisation (car park, tea and toilets), we were able to see everything from start to finish, ewes waiting patiently, lambs being born and then carried off into an enormous shed with their mothers to recover, get cleaned up and start finding their way around. For good measure we had a tractor ride round the farm and were able to see those already out in the fields, according to the number of offspring. I could go on for ages but suffice it to say that

it was an immensely enjoyable experience and all in aid of multiple sclerosis. I was told that Cross Farm has an open day every year so, though it's a bit early to think of next Spring, I do advise everyone, particularly those with young children, to look out for any events next year.

HIGHDOWN FETE

By the same token we caught up with Highdown Spring Fair at the beginning of May. This year for a change the weather was in our favour and we were able to stroll round the stalls and enjoy the events in the arena, particularly the motor cycle display by the WASPS, a group of youngsters who performed motor cycling events worthy of much older people. If you've not met them before, watch out for them, a very serious group who raise money for charities and are well supervised with safety being the key note.

And, as always, we were impressed by the arrangements for parking, supervised by stewards both getting in and getting out — something not always catered for at such events.

CENSUS IN CAVERSHAM 1801-1891

If, during recent weeks, you've noticed people going round Caversham with notebooks, making notes on housing in the area, you will know that Joan Dils is once more back in Caversham taking a short university course at the Adult Centre. I'm only sorry I didn't think to mention it in time for others to join because Joan, who has figured in these columns before, is one of the best tutors there are and guaranteed to make anyone wake up and take a keen interest in their surroundings. 'Bridge' readers, encouraged by people like Mary Kift, are very lucky in this respect.

It's particularly encouraging to newcomers to the district who have the chance to catch up on the background to Caversham's growth. If you don't already know, it might interest you to realise that Caversham grew in population from just over a thousand in 1801 to over seven thousand in 1901 and that's an awful lot of personal history.

DANGER! TROLLEYS

I've sung the praises of our local shops so often and still think the lads and lasses at our local supermarkets are among the most helpful and friendly I've ever met, but I must admit that I'm not the only one who deplores the new larger trolleys in Waitrose. They make negotiating round the counters just that much more difficult and dangerous. I appreciate that, in spite of the recession, many in Caversham are still able to stock up enormous amounts of goods on one visit, but

it's a bit hard on people living alone, pensioners etc., whose needs are not so great and it would be appreciated if the powers that be took some notice of the needs of all customers and not just the fortunate ones.

LAMBERTS

In a district which is somewhat short on solicitors, unlike estate agents and take-aways, I make no apologies for mentioning the fact that Arnold Lambert, who has been a partner in Rowberry Morris for 20 years and knows Caversham well, has now taken over completely and the business in Prospect Street will in future be

known as Lamberts. In this he is assisted by his Managing Executive, Leslie Gomm, who has worked in law for 40 years.

I've no wish to wean any of our readers from their own solicitors, but it does no harm to mention that Mr. Lambert will be dealing mainly with all aspects of property law, domestic and commercial, wills and probate. I'd never met him before but when I popped in to check on the change-over, I was delighted to meet him and his wife, Sally, a teacher at Blue Coat School. Both coming from Yorkshire, they have lived for some time in Caversham and Kidmore End, with their four children and,

at the moment, are particularly proud of their second son, James, who is due to commence a career as a professional footballer with Reading Football Club in July of this year.

Good luck to all of them!

EDUCATED GRAFFITI

No lover of graffiti, particularly of the anatomical kind, I did, nevertheless have to chortle at the discovery that Caversham has gone up market, as people in the Westfield Road area may have noticed, and we are now getting our pithy comments in Latin, even if not strictly speaking grammatically correct.

HIGHDOWN SHOW



People arrived early at Highdown Show and enjoyed the many stalls, events — and the sunshine.

E.S. Archer

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

The group has had a very successful year and thanks to the generous way in which you the public support our activities

we were able not only to reach our personal target of £1000 but also to buy some orthopaedic steps for physiotherapy use at the home at a further

cost of £600. The group has only twelve members so every support is welcome. The problems of the Home at Nettlebed have been well publicised in the press and the response that we have had when we have been out has been excellent and shows the real care people have for an excellent service when they see it, but wouldn't it be nice if big business also recognised these skills and gave more generously instead of flaunting their large profits.

This year we have already been very busy with Easter fairs and small appearances at other fund raising events when we have been invited. Most recently the Highdown School Fair with its very good organisation proved an excellent day for us with many nice gestures being made completely out of the blue from two ladies who gave us cakes in large quantities just

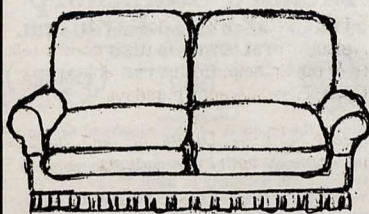
as we had sold out, to friends on other stalls who gave us gifts that were unsuitable for themselves, to the vastly increased numbers of people who said simply "keep the change".

The other events that we will be involved in this are a) The Summer Fair at the home at Nettlebed, b) The Swallowfield Show on September 6th, c) our own Allsorts Fair on October 10th in Caversham Hall, d) The Mayor's Market on November 26th and of course another chocoholics party nearer Christmas. We need anything that is sellable for these events particularly cakes and preserves and gifts suitable for tombolas big and small. There will also be a Christmas fair at the home on November 28th.

Finally The Quiz for this summer holiday is in production and there will be more details later. By popular request it promises to be slightly easier for those of us who passed on the last occasion but still with plenty of meat for you experts. The theme is ever tropical — "Europe". Any further details can be had from Mrs Ann Deane 473798.

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

PARK RANGER SERVICE

Caversham Library hosted another community lunch at which the speaker, Clare Bishop, talked about the work of Reading Borough's Park Ranger service. She is one of, now, only four Rangers.

Each of the Rangers has a specific responsibility, Conservation, Children's Play Areas, Horticulture and Allotments but all of them are concerned with Schools information and with exhibitions. Their headquarters are in Caversham Court, a busy office, where there is a notice board and information leaflets about local events.

Local Amenities

A slide show accompanied the talk and most of the Caversham green places were shown. Caversham Court, one of two formal gardens (the Forbury is the other), has an Elizabethan herb garden and a rockery among its features. It is planted out four times a year. The gazebo in the grounds is now structurally unsafe and appears to be vandalised weekly, especially in school holidays. Westfield Road is another area on which much work has been done recently

and it has flower beds, shrubs and an excellent play area. The towpath at Christchurch Meadows is another area, very busy with nesting birds and boats. Coal Wood, close by the new Tesco store, has been improved and non-native trees felled to be replanted by native trees part funded by Tesco. From this area it is possible to see the gravel pit heronry and 20 birds have been seen at a sighting. Albert Road is another area, with facilities for children's play, tennis and bowls.

Clayfield Copse and Balmore Park are included in the Caversham area and Clayfield Copse has been designated as a local nature reserve.

The Friends

Most of the local areas mentioned have staunch bands of friends, and these dedicated groups do much to enhance these amenities. In Clayfield Copse, for example, the group meets on the first Sunday of every month. Their main job has been clearing the site, mostly of garden rubbish which has been deposited in the

fond hope that it will deteriorate. This may take 20 years and in this time the detritus produces garden flowers which, though pretty in themselves, take over from the natural flowers which should be growing in woodlands. Pathways are cleared and covered with wood shavings from the sycamores, non-native trees, which have been felled. In Westfield Road, the watch scheme organised an easter egg hunt, so popular that many more eggs had to be bought. In

Caversham Court devoted friends oversee the locking and unlocking of the gates every day.

Outside Caversham

Clare Bishop showed slides of the pond in Prospect Park which had to be drained and the fish removed before being cleared out, stock replaced and wild flowers planted around it. Blundells Copse has been replanted with 10 different kinds of trees.

Park Rangers organise conservation groups throughout Reading. They work with schools and encourage children to plant bulbs and trees. They arrange gardening courses for adults and have set up model gardens in Caversham Court. They have responsibility for all allotments and 50 play areas. They have helped to set up the Reading and District Bat Club and have made and installed boxes with them. They lead guided walks and set up exhibitions and it is clearly an interesting and fulfilling job. For further information call at Caversham Court up the green wooden staircase or telephone 477917. And thanks to library staff for continuing to arrange these interesting talks.



Children at Emmer Green produced these jolly exhibits for a decorated egg competition.

— E.S. Archer

BIRDS — WHERE SHALL WE GO? (Part 1)

No easy question! If a Sunday afternoon stroll is envisaged, or merely, taking the dog for a walk whilst "keeping an eye open" for birds, then with binoculars, you may well be rewarded with some twenty-five species or more, depending upon your available time and identification ability.

If, however, you are interested in the

R.O.C. excursions, then it is possible to 'join the experts' at least once a month, to places both near and farther afield, and I wish to confirm that Mr. John Roberts, Publicity Officer of the R.O.C., (Phone 482137), would be pleased to hear from you.

All these excursions can be well recommended, and from

personal experience, I can confirm that the number of different species usually seen is quite remarkable. The areas chosen are always topical for the particular time of the year.

Bird-watching, even in the British Isles, can involve much travelling, from one's own back-garden, to the Shetlands, the Scilly Isles, Scotland, Wales, and by no means least, the North coast of Norfolk, the latter being of particular significance to me.

Such a huge number of habitats as we possess in Britain can all produce species of birds, as well as other fauna and flora, specifically relevant to each, whilst sometimes overlapping.

Near at hand, we have town, gardens and parks, fields and hedgerows, broadleaved woodland and coniferous plantations. Heaths, downlands, grassland, rivers and streams, lakes and gravel pits, are all within a few miles of Caversham.

Within a few hours drive, we can be birding in marsh,

reedbeds, estuary, saltings, sand, shingle and dunes, or even moors and mountains.

A good knowledge of birds, their habitats and particularly, the time of year when they are most likely to be there, are all so relevant for a wider understanding and appreciation of them.

All creatures, even man himself, have an inborn, migratory instinct. Some birds move only locally, to

another part of the country, whilst others, such as the Arctic Tern cover enormous distances annually, of many thousands of miles, to settle into their appropriate breeding locations.

It is during these summer months that those of us who live in Caversham, may have the best opportunity to see many of these migrants from far distant lands.

"SCOPS OWL"

CHILDREN'S
SOCIETY
COLLECTIONS
WEEK

Betty Smith and Jane Sheppard would like to thank all those who helped with the house to house collection for the Children's Society. A mighty £820.77 was collected in all, £356.44 from Mapledurham and £464.33 from St. Peter's. It is not a pleasant task and met with a mixed reception at the doors during that election week and yet many people gave generously as our total obviously showed. We thank them all.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

There is a new look about Gosbrook Road Methodist Church these days. It has a new bright roof. The old roof had been giving trouble for some time and thanks to the efforts of members, enough money has been raised to have it completely retiled. More money still needs to be found in order to repay loans but at least the rain won't be coming in. Incidentally, when some plaster was being replaced a particular fragment of old plaster attracted the attention of David Herbert. Inscribed on it was a note made by the plasterer nearly 90 years ago "On this day Queen Victoria died".

One of the gifts received for the work on the roof was £300 from the Boys' Brigade Company. This was raised by a sponsored 24 hour table tennis event. It is hard work to keep playing that long, so well done boys.

Musical evenings are fast becoming something of a tradition at Gosbrook Road and on Saturday April 4th the latest one was held. A large audience heard a varied selection of music played and sung by performers of all ages.

One of the groups performing at the Musical Evening was the Starshine Drama Group, a group of girls aged 11 and 12 who are trained by Mrs Eunice Cooper. Much in demand, the girls have performed a dramatisation of the Lord's Prayer during services at Caversham Baptist Church, Gosbrook Road Methodist Church and Nettlebed Parish Church. A nice touch of outreach.

Finally, congratulations to Ann and Howard Ballard on the birth of a baby daughter on Tuesday April 21st. We shall look forward to meeting the new arrival in the next few weeks.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

St Andrew's Fellowship met a week early to avoid clashing with the General Election. The Revd Gordon Neale was in fine fettle with a talk about birds, ones which all those present could hope to see in their gardens.

He showed slides of all those feathered friends Caversham could look forward to seeing this spring and summer and his enthusiasm fired his audience to look more closely at their spring garden visitors this year.

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ST BARNABAS' NEWS

The readers of this newspaper may well be wondering what has happened to St Barnabas in recent months as silence has mysteriously descended upon this column. Rest assured St Barnabas is alive and kicking with all its limbs. The silence has been one of pregnant expectation. Activity has been going on quietly and unobserved as the Church has been preparing itself for the birth of the St Barnabas Fellowship Groups. Readers will no doubt be glad to know that the births at the beginning of April all went smoothly and that mother and children even at this most early stage, appear to be doing well.

Over the years, the congregation of St Barnabas, whilst outwardly friendly and caring, has expressed its concern at not really knowing its members sufficiently well actively and deeply to care for them. To improve this state of affairs the Pastoral Link Visitors Scheme was inaugurated some four to five years ago, and whilst successful in many ways, it still didn't really foster those links of mutual love and care that people wanted to find within their church family. Following a recent Parish Conference it was therefore decided to set up Fellowship

Groups. For a regular Sunday congregation of approximately ninety people it was felt that four groups geographically situated around the parish would probably be adequate. The anticipated number at each group was expected to be about twelve - fifteen people. In fact the need for fellowship was grossly underestimated and a further group had to be swiftly inaugurated, bringing the total to five. Notwithstanding most groups have upwards of twenty-five participating members. In other words, almost every "active" and "not so active" church member has felt the call to give these groups his or her support.

At present the groups are meeting once a month. Since the groups are designed for Fellowship and not specifically as Bible or Prayer Groups, the format of the evenings remains fairly free to allow each group to develop in a way that feels right for that group. However, to avoid the danger of the groups degenerating into mere gossip sessions, a loose structure has been agreed upon - to begin with silence and relaxation for a minute or two, followed by the Fellowship Prayer.

"Grant us Lord, thoughts which grow into prayer, prayer which grows into love - love that grows into life eternal."

The main thrust of the evening will then concentrate upon some group activity, perhaps sharing a piece of music together, a verse from scripture or other book, individual members sharing thoughts on their special interests, faith, work, concerns etc, perhaps as a group preparing Sunday worship together. The possibilities are infinite.

To finish the evening time will be spent bringing together any thoughts or concerns that have arisen out of the evening and offering them to God in prayer and hopefully, where there is found to be a need, converting that prayer, if possible, into action.

It is hoped that through these small beginnings, the congregation of St Barnabas will grow in fellowship, not just with one another, but also with God; that a firm foundation for the faith of every member will be established, so that the efforts of St Barnabas' Church in this decade of Evangelism, will not falter, but be seen to bear fruit.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

We were privileged to welcome His Lordship Bishop Terence Brain, Auxiliary in Birmingham for the celebration of much of Holy Week. For the first time the Palms were blessed in the Hall, and we processed from there to the Church. Fine weather helped us!

He was required elsewhere for Maundy Thursday, but the Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord on Good Friday, and the ceremonies of the

Easter Vigil were splendid occasions. At the Vigil Mass three young ladies Michelle, Louise and Kerry Pettiford, were Baptised, Confirmed and made their first Holy Communion. It was a fitting climax to a great week, and made it a memorable occasion for everyone else present. Singers and servers made notable contributions, and our Church helpers ensured that St Anne's looked, if possible,

more immaculate than ever.

The Parish Social

On 'Twelfth Night Eve' the Parish had a social in the Hall which proved remarkably successful. People who attend a particular weekend Mass suddenly discovered members of our Parish community who had been coming regularly to another Mass for years! The Parish Committee are to be specially congratulated for sterling work.

There was a repeat performance on Sunday, 3rd May. Perhaps we were tempting Providence to hold it on a Bank Holiday week end, but the number of people who attended more than justified the effort put in. Once again we were grateful for fine weather and a splendid Parish spirit which developed. Again, many people helped to make it a success

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 1992

It was just two hundred years ago that the modern missionary movement was born. On May 31st 1792 William Carey preached his historic sermon at Nottingham basing his appeal for mission on Isaiah 54 verses 2-3 "Enlarge the place of thy tent..." His famous exhortation "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God" was the challenge still recalled from that sermon. It led to the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society and the departure of Carey and two colleagues for India in 1793. In keeping with 1992 being the bicentenary of the BMS, the theme chosen for the Assembly was "That the World may believe".

The President's Address

In his presidential address the Revd Eric Westwood set the scene. He started by tracing the history of the modern missionary movement from Carey to the concept of the decade of evangelism. He continued by emphasising the wonder of the 'good news' and reminded the Assembly that an African Christian after visiting Britain commented that "Christians in Britain have forgotten the joy of the 'good news'". Their Christianity is like a duty to be performed, not a delight to be shared". He went on to say that the Church is the 'Good news community' and concluded by showing that the 'Good news' has come full circle. He stated the Christians in Britain need fellow Christians from other cultures to help in their understanding of the Gospel and its significance. Britons

have become so locked in their western world view that they need others to suggest how they have strayed in both startling and subtle ways from the spirit of Christ.

Main Speakers

Other main speakers during the week were Steve Chalke, National Director of Oasis, Sue Barnett, Revd Xavier and Mrs Cleir dos Santos from Brazil and the Revd Denton Lotoz, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Steve Chalke spoke at the meeting with an emphasis on youth. He emphasised that we belong to God's kingdom, but stated that the church is out of touch with the youth of today. He suggested that there is little understanding of the problems facing youth today in both rural areas and inner cities and for those of ethnic minorities. In London plans are being made for groups of Christian young people to run Concept Cafes this summer. They would have a theme, be open for an evening or longer and appeal to both Christians and non-Christians alike so that real contact could be made. Sue Barnett spoke at the Women's meeting and called for greater commitment. Xavier and Cenir spoke about how their Church was telling the 'Good News' to the people near their Church. About eighty homeless children sleep on the streets nearby and they decided something had to be done to help them. On most days of the week about thirty are accommodated in the church buildings, are fed (some ate six helpings a meal at first), given the chance to wash, and

taught how to read and write. Problems arose as some were not used to flush toilets and others so pleased to be able to write, that they wrote on the walls as well as paper. Church members did not like their premises being spoiled.

Denton Lotz was the speaker at the Communion Service which ended the Assembly. He affirmed that we all belong to Jesus and so have a responsibility to care for the poor and needy. He reminded Assembly that the call of Christ is one of convenience, but is costly. However, when Christ commands, he also gives the power to obey.

Bible Studies

During three of the sessions Bible studies were presented. The first "The Power of Powerlessness" was based on the book of Daniel, the second dealt with the sending out of the seventy-two. Reconciliation through Christ was the theme of the third, as a study of Ephesians 2 was made. The Assembly was reminded that grace in action means breaking down all barriers.

Prayer

Prayer played an important part in the sessions and delegates were introduced to different ways of praying. These included writing down a short prayer for a particular nation (over nine hundred slips were collected) and in praying in groups of three or four. For the latter either a person with serious problems was imagined or a passage from the Bible was used.

Seminars

A number of seminars were held. Subjects considered were Children Act 1991, Europe 1992 and International Debt. At the beginning of the latter Bible references relating to borrowing and lending were listed. From these it was concluded that interest could be charged, but not to

make large profits from the poor and that the strong are to accept responsibility for the weak and oppressed. The Christian banker on the panel said that the banks had sustained heavy losses, but the investors had not suffered. The Christian Aid representative had the last word however by saying that while that was true, people in the developing countries were dying because of the debts accruing through high interest rates.

The subject of the "Decade" and other faiths was considered at a meeting of the Joppa Group. Revd Dr Christopher Lamb, Secretary for Inter-Faith Relations of the Church of England Board of Mission was the speaker. He pointed out that the Decade was really concerned with 85% of people who were neither regular Church attenders, nor committed to other faiths. Those committed to other faiths should not be targeted, but they should have the opportunity of access.

Resolutions

On the final morning three resolutions relating to public issues were brought before the Assembly and passed. The first concerned Europe and called for Her Majesty's Government to reassess its decision not to participate fully in the formulation of the social policy within the European Community. The second related to the environment and development. The Assembly urged the Government to play a full part in UNCED and urged its members to promote environmentally friendly practices in all walks of life. The third called for an immediate end to further convictions based on confessions without corroborating evidence. There were conflicting views about the first resolution and even more so for the third. To sum up, Baptists are alive and well, realise the need for mission and the variety of forms it can take today.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

A decade of adventure came to an end with a tremendous party at the end of April when we said goodbye to The Rev Alan Wilson, sorry, The Rev Dr Alan Wilson! The past ten years have indeed been eventful both for Alan personally and in his profession. He came to us as a raw recruit and as a bachelor and left us having successfully completed his doctorate and become a vicar in his own right having steered us through the mine field of becoming our own parish and having our Vicarage built. While he was doing all this a little bit of him was still back in Eynsham where he had espied the lady of his choice — the lovely Lucy — but she had gone off to University in Exeter so considerable commuting was done by the then blue Volvo until happily in 1985 they were married and of

course in due time were blessed with the birth of their two daughters, Catherine (who will be six by the time that you are reading this) and Stephanie who joined them on St. Stephen's day Christmas 1987. We must not forget the two cats Oscar and Sybil who once gave concern that they were not thriving but with advice from the Rectory became two large fat cats.

Alan right from the beginning regarded himself as a think tank and reference book and did not believe in running every function that the church had to offer. He has been a very effective advisor on every aspect from computing and publishing to the ways in which services can be run. He has given many people the confidence to get on with a job if they could prove a need and it is very

much to his credit that the church has not fallen apart since he left but is continuing to run smoothly. Several groups have been formed or reformed and are now working well including The Sunday school and Youth group and the visiting Bereavement group.

People's gratitude was expressed in the gifts presented to the family at the party i.e. A silver canteen of cutlery, silver teapot set, a presentation engraved set from the British Legion whose Chaplain Alan had been, a leather bound combined prayer and service book of and from the Mother's Union, a beautiful basket of flowers for Lucy and two wonderful bicycles for the children. They go with all our love and good wishes to Sandhurst (not the Army — he failed that on time keeping!) but to St. Michael's.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHER'S UNION

Members are currently having a rest having celebrated in true style their fiftieth birthday with a lively party led by The Reading Accordion band. The band, who first came to us last year and were immediately booked for this year's party, looked wonderful with their new colours and music stand banners all made by one of their members. After two rounds of "pass the parcel", "hunt the treasure", and a raffle, a delicious tea was chased

down by an ample portion of "Hands knees and bumps-a-daisy" and the Birdie song (and Dance). Coordination was not all it should have been with quite good hands and knees but a few missed bumps — a few birds looked a little strange getting their "this and that muddled". This a jolly way to relax after Lent.

Lent was much appreciated by all members — Rev. Christine Allsopp took us again along the Way of the Cross but this time we looked at the women that met — many of whom were never named. There was a time for prayer and a time for thought and sometimes a need for a question, but generally a time for reflection and preparation. We finished with a Eucharist shared by all

and celebrated by Alan.

Perhaps the happiest thing of all was the dedication of the new banner which has been embroidered to the pattern of the much loved old one. The new colours were duly presented on Mothering Sunday and blessed by Alan — it is our hope that two kneelers will join the carpet as soon as possible, together with a commemorative plaque. The Lady Chapel will then be complete and a fitting memorial to Mrs Marjorie Whiteway and the many loyal ladies that have since served St John's following the splitting of the parish in 1942. We would also like to thank Richard Milne for renovating the wooden structures of the banner. Thank you to all who contributed.

TIME FOR REFLECTION DAYS

At Highmoor Hall, Highmoor, Henley-on-Thames, OXON RG9 5DH. Telephone 0491/641543. Apply to Paul and Ann Persson.

"Be still and know that I am God" ps. 46. 10.

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YOUTH ROADSHOW

By Roy & Gill

Hi there! Isn't it great to see the beautiful colours around the gardens again as summer approaches? It really makes us feel good.

We're also quite excited that the CAVERSHAM AREA YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (CAYO) are already able to hold two events within the next three months. This is quite a step forward as we have only been going properly since last winter.

First, we are having a VOLUNTARY YOUTH WORKER RECRUITMENT EVENING at CAVERSHAM LIBRARY, CHURCH STREET, on WEDNESDAY JUNE 17th 1992 from 6.30 - 9.30pm.

If you want to know more and are interested in volunteer youth work then come and talk to people from the Youth Centres, Church Clubs, Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade. There will be free refreshments, but bring a few pence as we will be running a small raffle to support the work of CAYO.

Secondly, we are running the summer show CAYO SUMMER SHOW at CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEMDEAN ROAD, on SATURDAY 18th JULY 1992 from 1.00 - 5.00pm.

Youth groups will be running stalls and competitions, including a 5-a-side football competition for children up to and including 14 year olds. If you want to enter a team for this please contact the CAYO Committee on 461329 or 476794, preferably weekday mornings. Ask for Gill, Roy or Mark.

There will be also a Car Boot Sale running at the same time. Cost £5 per car - pay on the gate.

So come along and support the work of CAYO whose aim is to look after all youth groups in the area.

Now news on the JUNIOR ROADSHOW

If you haven't joined yet don't worry as we are running this on a permanent basis. To join just fill in the following form and sent it to: Gill and Roy: JUNIOR ROADSHOW, Church House, Caversham RG4 8AX

Name:
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Address:
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.....
Age now:
Parent/Guardian signature:
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Congratulations to our first four members: NATALIE & AMY FERRIS and EMMA AND CARL EMBERY
The ART COMPETITION is still running and winners will be announced at the CAYO Summer Show.

have kindly donated the space.

You have to be a member to enter, but membership is free and you can send in your entry with your membership application.

We look forward to hearing from you. We also want to hear any ideas you have on looking after the environment. Are you doing any projects with your school or your Youth Groups? Send in your articles - and photos too if you have any clear ones. We will publish all your ideas - don't forget to add your name and address and phone number. You will automatically become one of our Junior Roadshow Members.

In the next issue we'll tell you about a project you can do in the garden. In preparation, ask your parents if you can have a small patch of your own. A metre square will be about right but if it's smaller or bigger don't worry. Before our next Roadshow, dig it over, get rid of any weeds then leave it to settle down.

Well that's all for now. Best wishes. ROY & GILL. Youth and Community Workers.

COMPETITION 1

Prize £5 WH. Smith Voucher. Using paints, crayons, felt tip pens, draw a picture of the riverside at Caversham Bridge. As I said last time, all the pictures will be displayed in the Caversham Shopping Precinct next to Forbouys Newsagents who

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

OBITUARY — RALPH LASCELLES MBE

With the passing of Ralph Lascelles, Caversham Heights has lost a man of many interests and a worker in the local community.

He was born in Tilehurst and entered an apprenticeship with the Great Western Railway. After service in the RAF abroad during the war, he went into business as a partner in and later managing director of Herberts and Lascelles, a TV and Radio firm in Reading. After selling that business in 1963 he continued running an electrical business in the Caversham Road until his retirement. He served as National President of the Radio and TV Retailers Association in 1951-52.

In the Community Ralph was a member of the National Health Executive from 1956 to 1974, then was Vice-Chairman of the Berkshire Family Practitioners Committee from 1974 to 1979. He was its Chairman from 1979 to 1985. During this period he was also Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Appeal Tribunal for Reading and District. He was also a very happy and active member of the Rotary Club of Reading and was involved in many of its voluntary activities. He was its President in 1958.

All of these interests and activities, showing his concern for and interest in

other people, stemmed from his Christian faith. He was a loyal and active member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church where his two particular interests were property and music. For many years he was the Steward responsible for the upkeep of the Church and latterly he was Chairman of the Church property Committee. It was his aim to see that the Church had a suite of premises suitable for use both by the Church and by the community around. His second, and perhaps greater, interest in the musical life of the Church was expressed as Church organist from 1950 - 1988 and then until his death as Organist

Emeritus. He was immensely proud of the instrument which, at his prompting and under his guidance, was rebuilt in 1981 into one of the finest two manual organs in the Reading area. It was his pleasure to encourage young organists to learn, play and develop their talents. They have benefitted from his interest and guidance.

Ralph's life touched so many in all walks of life and we are the poorer for his passing. Our love and sympathy are extended to his widow Olive and their family at this time of sorrow.

E.C.



Jesus says "I am the True Vine"

The Vine

A place of Christian Listening

A report of the opening and blessing of The Vine will appear in the July issue of the "Caversham Bridge". The meetings during June and July are as follows: June 4th and

10th Quiet Days June 18th Teaching Day June 14th Fellowship Day July 2nd and 8th Quiet days.

A full programme giving more information about these days,

and dates of subsequent meetings can be obtained from Fi Radford, The Vine, 4 The Mount, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RU - Telephone 0734 483965.

VISIONS. INFINITE LOVE

Last Autumn we invited singers and other interested people to take part in an ecumenical venture to produce a work written and composed by a local couple based in Tilehurst. The response was disappointing, (some people told me later that they had not seen the article), but you now have a chance to redeem yourselves by coming to see the result of other people's work when "INFINITE LOVE" is performed at the RIVERMEAD LESIURE CENTRE on the 26th and 27th June 1992.

The work is sung throughout by choirs and a stage cast supported by an orchestra of over twenty players. It portrays the "Infinite Love" of the Ho-

ly Trinity towards all people in Biblical and Modern times.

God the Father, whose word comes through a two-part female choir, is shown as "the Creator" in the creation of the world; as "the Lawgiver" in the ten commandments; as "the Protector" in the story of Daniel.

God the Son, sung by a two-part male choir, is shown as "the Teacher" in his effect on the lives of certain New Testament characters; as "the Healer" when four people He healed talk over their experiences; as "the Forgiver" as exemplified in the events of the crucifixion.

God the Holy Spirit, for

which the two choirs combine, shows "the Enabler" organising and strengthening early and modern Christians; "the Unifier" examining the divisions and unification of the various Christian factions; "the Comforter" bringing us right up to date in the difficulties of modern wars and catastrophes, but concluding that "Nothing can divide us from the Love of God". The work ends with a magnificent "Gloria".

See posters which should be in your various churches for details or where to get your tickets - £5 single; £3.50 normal concessions; or £15 family tickets, or contact Sally Hallett on 474460.

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Caversham Afternoon Townswomens Guild

The Guild held the Annual General Meeting in Church House in March when the members heard thoroughly all the events' details that have been held and how successful each section has been. Fortunately we still hold our own and work economically through the year but some people do see a time when these ladies only groups may come to an end. Certainly the financial arrangements and the strain that Headquarters make on our resources leads one to wonder if the national organisation will organise itself out of a job.

The chairman for the last two years, Mrs Adair, was elected to serve her third and final year together with Mrs Spaul as her vice-chairman, Mrs Froud as Secretary and Mrs Manning as treasurer, supported by eight members of committee.

There is a certain reluctance against holding Jumble sales due to the lack of man-power and so it was agreed that we would entertain ourselves a little more

in the coming year and have more but smaller fund raising events, the first of which was a coffee morning held on a dull day but in the very beautiful setting of a member's house down by the riverside.

The first meeting of the new year was held in April, when Miss Jackson, a member of Whiteknights' guild gave us a very illuminating talk and mental tour down Castle Hill. She had wonderful stories to tell of the Victorian era when Castle Hill belonged to the gentry and not to the hustle and bustle of twentieth century traffic. The origination of road signs were explained such as Southcote manor which was owned by John Blagrave who gave his name not only to a road but to a hospital and what we know today as Yeomanry House was Castle Hill House and belonged to Mr. Jesse, of Jesse Terrace fame.

On lighter notes scrabble and handicrafts have restarted and our speaker for June will be one of the Park rangers from Caversham Court to tell us all about the care of the area.

The guild meets on the third Thursday of each month at the new time of 2 p.m. in Church House.

Caversham Heights TG

What could be more encouraging at an April meeting than a talk given by an enthusiastic gardener? Mrs Pat Snow especially planned this to show how to plant hanging baskets successfully, using plants while they are small. She made use of slow-release fer-

tilisers and showed the virtues of jiffy pots. Planted baskets are best kept warm, fed and watered until they are ready to be put outside. Growing flowers and vegetables on allotments and in greenhouses, she also co-operates with beekeepers and egg producers. From the wide variety brought along, members were happy to buy what they wanted for their own gardens.

Recently some guild members were invited to meet some of the staff and children at the Avenue School for handicapped children in Reading. They were impressed by the quality of care given. A happy atmosphere was noticeable, and very attractive artistic work could be seen.

Caversham Ladies Club

It was the Easter party time for the club and Mrs Harwood opened the meeting with her usual warm welcome. A good number of members were present and had brought contributions along to help make the party a success. Tables were soon looking very attractive and well laden with lots of goodies. The Committee, as in all club's parties, were the 'waitresses'.

Club business was first attended to and Mrs Harwood then asked members to put 2nd June in their diaries for their day outing to Bournemouth. It was a very pleasant surprise to all members that their Sue Ryder collecting box, which had been at just three meetings, had yielded the fine sum of £21.66. Mrs Harwood stated it had been a wonderful start and thanked the members for their generosity.

Grace was then said and the party began. It was a lovely relaxed and happy atmosphere and all too soon it seemed that time had caught up for closure of the meeting, but before leaving each member was given a new laid egg, generously given by Mr Ray Strong. Members were very

appreciative of this nice thought, and all departed saying how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Reading branch of the Students of the Third Age

The open meeting in the Kennet Room, Civic Centre had as its speaker Mr Trevor Wilton on 'Spring in the Garden'. Now semi-retired, he spoke with all the experience of his years as Reading's Area Supervisor for Leisure. Among many helpful hints he particularly warned of the danger of buying bedding plants too soon and also the necessity of watering right down to the roots of all plants and bushes.

The Books group had as its speaker Mrs Celia Harcourt who through the years has had a useful extra income in providing stories for magazines. She explained how she started - as a mother of several daughters she read the many magazines they brought home. She realised she could provide stories of equal calibre and when her first one based on a family outing was accepted, she was well away.

There was no meeting for classical music this month but the group would like to advertise to all musical lovers their special event in June. This is a lecture recital give by Rachel Porter on the oboe and its music. This will be on June 10th at 2 o'clock at the Retirement Centre behind Waitrose, Caversham. Playreaders this month read the robust Lancastrian classic comedy 'Hobson's Choice' and greatly enjoyed it. The Travel

Group heard talks on New York and North Yemen. The members of the Writers group had to provide a poem on various subjects, but most preferred to write on the sea. The walk this month was in Turnham's Farm area where there was a magnificent display of bluebells in the woods.

On May 12th at 10.30am at the Wilson Centre a new group met to study Technology and Change.

Membership Secretary for STAR Mrs Grace McGregor, tel. 866037.

Caversham Community Association

On the 4th April a Spring Fair took place at the club room. Visitors were welcomed to the many stalls and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

At the next meeting on the 4th April, Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked the members for the hard work and gifts for the bazaar, which was in aid of club funds. Afterwards, a whist-drive was held with member Doreen Crawley in charge. Joyce Roddy had the highest score and won first prize. Frank Masterman was in second place. As usual, on the first Monday of the month, Evelyn Cook supervised the Nearly New stall for the members.

The club's birthday party was celebrated the following week. The meal table looked very attractive decorated with flower arrangements, and the supper of cold beef and salad, gateaux and cream and icecream was ap-

turn to page 10

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

DEFENDING BUGS BOTTOM

"There must be some way of stopping it. Isn't there something else you can do? Why ever do they even want to build houses there?" These are the kind of messages that have been coming in ever since the news spread about Higgs and Hill's victory of Bugs Bottom. The answer to the first is unfortunately very little, as everything possible has already been done. The answer to the second must be either money or madness.

However, few are prepared just to let Higgs and Hill get away with it. They are certainly not going to be given an easy ride. Already a large number of people have bought single shares in the company, not a way of boosting Higgs and Hill's profits as it will cost them more to service them than each share is worth, but a way of gaining shareholders' rights. It would not be appropriate to reveal here the kind of thing that can still legally be done once a start is made on building. However, the firm must be made to comply with every jot and tittle of the conditions attaching to the planning consent. As soon as these are agreed, a list will be published in this newspaper. If the firm is found to be infringing them, then ring either Reading 472864, or 472300, or the Borough Planning Of-

fice. They cover such matters as the storage of materials, removal of spoil, noise, hours of work. Already agreement has been reached on completion of one phase before another can be started.

However, the sad fact remains that even if disruption is reduced to the minimum and the estate constructed to the highest specifications, that valley will no longer be a piece of the Chilterns countryside, but a piece of suburbia, well designed maybe, but no substitute for what will have been lost.

EXTENSIVE GRAVEL SITE

That other huge development, much bigger than Bugs Bottom in fact, though on a less sensitive site, Redland Gravel's so-called Caversham Lakes, has been withdrawn and along with it the associated Public Inquiry. That is not the end of the story though. Redland has purchased the adjacent Folley's site, also close to being worked out, so they will now have a large extent of land at their disposal. A new plan will be submitted at a later stage.

Reading and Berkshire are said to be attracted because it would be a way of funding a third river bridge, even though much of its capacity will be filled by the extra traffic generated by

the developers. By the same token South Oxfordshire will be even more opposed. They are the planning authorities, with whom the decision lies but, with the precedent of Bugs Bottom, there is no guarantee that the development will not ultimately be given planning permission.

This one, if granted, will bring about some improvements, unlike Bugs Bottom, as no one can actually like Folley's lunar landscape or what can be seen of Redlands. But industrialisation and hundreds of houses will bring their own problems. Meanwhile, we must wait and see what Redland produces.

SALTER'S SITE

The gravelled area by Caversham Bridge is now the site of further development as Salter's take up their long standing planning permission and start work on the site. The old house was not exactly a thing of beauty though it had been there so long that it was part of the familiar scene going back to the beginning of the century.

One advantage will be access to and from the bridge from that section of the river bank which for the last few years has been limited to those of slim build and unhampered in any way.

CAVERSHAM ROAD

Caversham Road itself is at last almost

completed. It looks in general much neater and tidier, but it also looks like a road designed primarily for the car. Not only pedestrians but also householders have lost out by the narrowing of the pavement, which has brought traffic noise and fumes that much closer to their homes. Lip service has been paid to the needs of pedestrians by giving approaches to the pedestrian crossings a different surface. It is to be hoped that motorists, for whose convenience the road was designed, will slow up in anticipation each time they approach a crossing. Pedestrians must carefully plan their route into and out of the town centre if they are not to find themselves faced with a considerable detour to the next crossing taking up more than the few moments that the road may have taken off motorist's journeys. It would be foolhardy to attempt to cross the road anywhere else.

PEDESTRIANISATION

Road works have now moved off to the town centre. They are becoming a way of life. This is set to prepare the town centre for pedestrianisation, long overdue in a place of Reading's size. It is going to be rather a timorous affair, functioning only between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and only fully pedestrian in small stretches of road. After a trial period, the enhancement of the pedestrianised areas will be able to start. Whether it actually

will, depends on what money this cash-strapped borough has.

FRANCES KENDRICK

Prospect Park is not in Caversham, but many Caversham people enjoy a meal at the Mansion House which many of them campaigned to save from demolition. It is also possible to see from the top of the hill in which the Mansion House stands, Caversham, Bugs Bottom, and the Oxfordshire countryside, whilst the view stretches towards Hampshire. It has been claimed that Surrey can be glimpsed on a clear day.

Funds were left over from the campaign after all identifiable money was returned where wished, and this has been used to commission a statue of Frances Kendrick for whom the house was built and who is said to haunt it. The sculptor, Marcus Cornish, is a graduate student of the Royal College of Art.

The romantic tale of how Frances fell in love with Benjamin Child and challenged him to a duel is told in a set of verses which can be seen in the tea room of the Mansion House. The statue shows her, hand on heart and sword in hand, and clothing flowing in the breeze and full of resolution and vitality. It is now complete and will be set in place in the large downstairs room at a ceremony to take place in June.

Her name is also commemorated upstairs in the Frances Kendrick suite. She belonged to the same family as John and Mary Kendrick whose charitable legacies assisted with the setting up of Kendrick School. Prospect Park, as it later became, was, of course, a country estate well outside Reading when the house was built.

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Dear Editor,
I wonder if I may draw the attention of the readers of this newspaper to new EEC Legislation which looks likely to restrict the sale of vitamins and minerals to the general public to one and a half times RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance). Not only are many states of ill-health due to vitamin and mineral deficiencies, but the RDA is recognised by many doctors and nutritionists to be barely adequate in many cases to maintain good health. Indeed in cases of illness it is often necessary to take many times the recommended daily allowance.

Statistics since 1983-90 show one definite case of vitamin supplement poison-

ing compared to 2,556 fatalities due to non-intentional drug overdose, many of these latter being due to drugs which are freely available over the counter.

If readers value their freedom to self-treat with these essential vitamin and mineral supplements then may I beg them to write to their MP without delay. This new legislation is designed not to protect the consumer, but to protect the interests of the multi-national drug companies.

Yours etc
Hermione Evans
(physiotherapist)

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**the
CLUBS**

from page 8

preciated by all. The birthday cake made by Doreen Meadowcraft, and the glass of wine or fruit juice after, added to the party atmosphere. The entertainment was provided by the Enterprise II concert party who gave a lively show. Their songs were varied and tuneful, the many changes of costume giving zest and colour to the programme. Beryl Latham and Monica Sugget both received prizes for their smart home-made Easter bonnets. The members all agreed that the party had been very successful.

After the Easter holiday the members attended the Annual General Meeting on the 27th April. Ted Howard, the club's President, opened the meeting. The Chairman reported a successful year, despite increased expenses, and thanked everyone for their help and support. Suggestions were invited for future programmes. Amongst the officers re-elected were Beryl Latham and Chairman, Maida Feast as Secretary and Ivy Masterman as Treasurer. During the year \$45.50 had been collected for Buscot Premature Babies Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It was agreed that the Sue Ryder Home

would be the charity for the coming year with Margaret Cameron agreeing to be collector.

**Emmer Green
Townswomen's
Guild**

The April meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was the first with a new committee. Details were given of forthcoming outings and events in the coming year and it all looks to be most interesting.

The speaker was Mrs Betty Brown from Thames Water who spoke about the water supply from its source and preparation for domestic use to the disposal of sewage. Thames Water administers an area of five thousand square miles of great diversity, from the sparsely populated Cotswolds to the crowded London area, and seven million customers are provided with drinking water plus all the other services. A great deal of money is being invested in improvements, for example \$480 million is financing a programme to provide 100% clean drinking water by the year 2000 and two new laboratories operate a testing scheme working twenty-four hours every day. Households use a great deal of water daily and Mrs Brown gave ideas on conserving water in the home; an automatic washing machine uses twenty two gallons per cycle and a dishwasher uses eleven gallons so one should try to ensure that they are fully loaded before use. Lawn sprinklers use two hundred and twenty gallons per hour and information from Kew Gardens states that it is not necessary to use them very often even in a long dry spell. It is far better to leave the grass a little longer giving the ground a denser covering of green and leaving the roots to delve down for moisture instead of coming to the surface. Showers instead of baths, repair of leaking taps and water butts in the garden all help in water conservation. After a most interesting talk the

Guild was left with a much clearer idea of how our water rates are spent and ways in which we can all help to prevent water shortages this summer.

Mrs J. Smith and Mrs M. White spent a happy and rewarding time at The Avenue School in March and were full of praise for the work done by staff and pupils alike. Mrs J. Hodges and Mrs J. Miles presided over a table laden with Easter Cakes, and the meeting ended with members donning raincoats and hats to venture home through pouring rain.

**Maplewood
W.I.**

At the Annual Meeting the coming year's Committee and President were elected. Present was VCO Mrs Ingram who had brought some old issues of 'Home and Country' to show the members.

At the April meeting Mr Peter Wright, Secretary of the Royal Armoury, gave a talk about the Royal Maundy Ceremony. He explained its origins in

the New Testament story of the Last Supper and Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, which became a religious tradition enacted by Royalty. In the 16th century Queen Mary made gifts of money, food and clothing to as many of the poor as the years of her life. Queen Elizabeth gave each person a sovereign instead, and Royal Maundy coins are still given today. The bouquet of flowers carried at the ceremony were originally to guard against the infections prevalent in those times.

The last washing of feet took place in 1685, and for the next two hundred and forty seven years no Royalty attended. In 1932 the Royal tradition was renewed and is now a notable occasion in the presence of the Queen and the Lord High Almoner, at present the Bishop of St Albans. The Chapel Royal Choir of St James attends wherever the service takes place. Mr Wright studied his talk with many amusing anecdotes and was much enjoyed by all.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs N. Oden with a tulip.

**St Peter's
Wives**

At the February meeting St Peter's Wives were entertained by Mrs Ann Dismukes who shared with them her life in Dubai with an appropriately entitled talk 'Ladies in Black'.

In March, the planned speaker had to be replaced at short notice, and the members were delighted to welcome Ken and Doreen Bennett, who talked about a visit to their son and his family who live in Zambia. They illustrated talk took members on safari, to Harare, and flew them over the spectacular Victoria Fall.

The Wives' April meeting was provided by six members, who played the tapes which would be their choice for 'Desert Island Discs'.

The Group meets on the third Tuesday each month and June 16th will be the Strawberry Supper. On the 21st July, Mrs Karen Penny will be at Church House to advise members on Foot Care.

**SUNDAY
SERVICES**

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
10.00am Sunday School

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

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

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

**CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH
(Caversham Park Primary School)**
11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST
FREE CHURCH**
10.30am and 6.30pm

**NORTH CAVERSHAM
BAPTIST CHURCH**
10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
10.30am (in Chapel)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
10.45am Worship at Mapledurham Pavilion

METHODIST
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights
9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St Annes Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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THEATRE REVIEWS

CAVERSHAM PLAYERS — "Brush with a Body"

Caversham Players recently delighted their audiences with a well directed and well cast production of Maurice McLoughlin's comedy 'Brush with a Body'. Hardly had the action begun when the arrival on the hearth of the Walling family of Dermot Ignatius etc etc Flaherty, an outrageously familiar Irish sweep played with admirable timing and sensitivity by Jim McClure, gave promise of the wealth of laughs to come.

Flaherty's discovery of a body in a chimney is anything but welcome to schoolmistress Cynthia Walling, nicely endowed with classroom authority by Anne Piper, and to her psychiatrist

brother Henry who suspects that it may be their long lost father, alleged by their mother to have been killed in an air raid. Henry, in the person of Derek Spears proceed — perhaps too melodramatically — to lose his cool when most around, especially his schoolgirl sister Sarah, were keeping theirs. Louise Mander gave an excellent performance as the bright, cheeky teenager; so natural were her reactions that she appeared to live rather than act the part.

When their mother, Sybil Walling, arrives home from a visit to a friend in Scotland, the identity of the victim is revealed. Maggie

Stokes captured Sybil's calm purposefulness as she first explains that the body was that of the gangster Joe Corona who had come to grief in an 'accident' involving her husband, and then bribes Flaherty to dispose of the body along with his soot. This task is jeopardised by the arrival of Detective Inspector Hardy, given dignified self-assurance by Ken Etherington, and his deferential and clumsy Sergeant Bray, played by Ray Hammond.

The Inspector is not, however, seeking Joe Corona but a patient of Henry's, Rosita Hernandez, whose Spanish-American blood and unsound

mind might have been given a sharper edge by Alex Thwaite. Henry's discomposure is further heightened by Sarah's intruding boy friend, Paul Martell, convincingly played by Matt Hammond, and by his 'fiancy', the Hon. Pamela Colefax, whose horsy, County character was nicely captured by Sheila Hodson.

Housekeepers are often unrewarding, humdrum roles, but the author had endowed Mrs D'Arcy with a schnozzle which Anne Bliss wore with commendable fortitude and exploited to the full in a fine character sketch. Once the body and the police were gone there was a neat

twist to the ending of this fast-moving, witty play. Sybil's friend in Scotland was no other than her husband who had been in hiding until the substantial ghost of Joe Corona had been laid!

Ray Hammond directed this very successful show which was well dressed and had the benefit of a well constructed set, even if, as the Walling family was one of means, it might have been somewhat less austere. There should be few empty seats for the next production by Caversham Players, Wilde's 'Importance of Being Ernest' on 12th, 13th and 14th November.

E.M.A.

CAVERSHAM THEATRE — "The Lights are Warm and Coloured"

Caversham Theatre's most recent production was perhaps slightly overshadowed by the General Election which took place on the opening night.

This, however, did not prevent a reasonable audience from witnessing the production of "The Lights are Warm and Coloured" by William Norfolk.

The play concerns the murder of Lizzie Borden's (Jackie Case) stepmother and father which took place thirteen years before the action of the play. On

the evening on which the play is set, Lizzie, who now lives with her sister Emma (Maggie Wild), invites a group of actors to her house. As the evening progresses Lizzie describes the day of the murder and her ensuing trial to the invited actors. These then portray the various characters involved in the incident. The evening concludes with the arrival of an uninvited visitor (Janet Ward) who sheds light on the happenings on that fateful day.

The "actors" playing a play within a play were ably represented by Lis Martin as Nance, Neil Oxley as Tom, Lorraine Dickson as Annie and Johnathan Brown as Henry. The cast coped well in tackling the task of maintaining a difficult accent and created both humorous and dramatic scenes in acting out the incidents. Mention must be made of twelve year old Isobel Pravda who gave an excellent cameo performance as Maggie, the maid.

As always congratulations go to the whole group and the director, Bob Green for creating an entertaining and thought provoking evening. If you are free for their next production, do make the effort to go along.

JRM

Caversham Theatre enjoyed the rare experience last month of having the author attend their production of "The Lights are Warm and Coloured". William Norfolk, who lives in London, heard of the production and bought friends to

Caversham to see it. Afterwards, he congratulated the cast, commenting that watching a new production of one of his plays was like watching one of his children show off a new trick. Mr Norfolk had the idea for the play when he learned that Lizzie Borden and her sister had indeed entertained a group of actors at their home some years after the murders — though the re-enactment of those events which forms the core of the play came entirely from his imagination. Mr Norfolk has written several other plays, which Caversham Theatre will consider for future productions with special interest.

RJG

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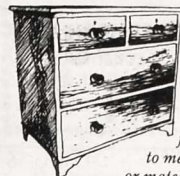
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