

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

NEW YEAR....NEW START.... NEW VICAR and DEACON

A very warm welcome to the Rev. Stephen Rowe and his wife Rev. Christine Rowe and their two children Hannah and Lucy and also to Christine's mother.

The Institution by the Bishop of Reading and the Induction by the Archdeacon of Berkshire of Rev. Stephen Rowe as Vicar and the Licensing of the Rev. Christine Rowe as Parish Deacon took place on January 23rd before 350 new and old parishioners, friends, representatives of neighbouring churches and organisations, clergy and people of the group ministry, and The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading. Chairs were borrowed from Caversham Hall and the Guides and Scouts and, with a slight change of direction, all fitted into the church and all found a person to sit upon them! The service commenced with the processional Hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation". The Epistle was read by the lay chairman of Deanery Synod, Mr. Wilf Dyer, and the Gospel by Christine. Following the Vows, the Symbols of

Ministry were brought forward — two Stoles representing the clergy calling as servant and shepherd were carried by members of the Mothers' Union, two Bibles representing the reading of the Word of God were carried by two Sunday school members and then a bowl of water and Pascal candle to remind us of baptism and finally the chalice and paten to lead worship were carried by representatives of the men of the church. Oaths were then taken followed by the giving of the key to Stephen by the Churchwardens and then the tolling of the bell to signify the beginning of the new ministry. The offertory Hymn, chosen for the children was "I danced in the morning." Following Communion the Choir sang the Anthem "Let the people praise you, O God". The service finished with "Will you come and follow me".

A very happy afternoon was completed with tea in the hall afterwards where many new friends were made and future visits planned.

Mrs Phyllis Colley

This day and this report would not be complete without talking about Mrs. Phyllis Colley. Phyllis had looked forward to this service both as a long serving member of the choir and as the leader of the flower ladies and she had indeed planned and arranged many of the displays beautifying the church but it was to be the final act of love and service for her church as she went home tired and satisfied with the day's work and died peacefully in her chair from a heart attack later in the evening of the 22nd. She had a deep faith and the service was dedicated to her life.

Phyllis was well known in Caversham and many people will remember her singing with her mother and entertaining groups and latterly she had sung both with Jane Robson and Lucy Wilson. Jane sang the Pie Jesus from the requiem in tribute to Phyllis in the service at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Many years were also spent as a church officer including secretary and at the time of her death she was the Electoral Officer.

A very good friend and servant of our Lord has been lost and we shall all miss her greatly.

NEW BROWN OWL FOR ST ANNE'S BROWNIES

Sarah Bamford has joined St Anne's Brownie Pack as its new Brown Owl. She has taken over from Jackie Holmwood who was with the pack for fifteen years.

The pack has a few vacancies for seven-year old girls. It meets at 5.45pm on a Monday evening at St Anne's School Hall, Washington Road, Caversham.

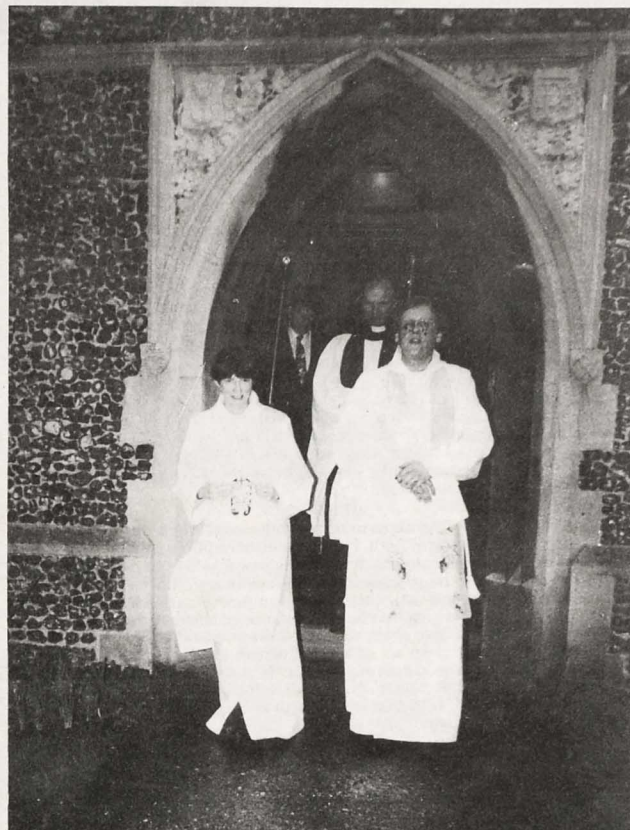
If you are interested in becoming a Brownie please phone Sarah on 483705, or meet her at the hall.

ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW

Wednesday March 31st, 7.30 for 8pm, The Pavilion, Mapledurham Playing Fields, off Upper Woodcote Road.

As this hall only holds 120 people entrance will be by ticket only. These are £2 for admission and refreshments. In addition there will be a valuation fee of £1 per object, but because of time it cannot be guaranteed that Simon Jones ARICS will be able to value a person's second item.

Tickets will be on sale at The Caversham Book Shop in Prospect Street, Caversham from March 8th. All profits will go to the Drop-in Centre for the homeless in Reading.



— E.S. Archer
The Revd Stephen Rowe and The Revd Christine Rowe after their Induction at St. John's.

MATTHEW FLANNIGAN



Matthew Flannigan has taken up the post of Deputy Headteacher at St. Anne's RC Primary School in Washington Road.

Mr. Flannigan previously taught at St. Edward's School in Cleveland and St. Joseph's Primary School in Aldershot. He is married with a three year old daughter and his wife is expecting their second child in March. His main interest outside school is sport, as he is the captain of Redingians Rugby Club this season.

Best wishes go to him and his family for a long and happy association with St. Anne's.

TALKING POINT

by
The Rev. Dennis Weller
Minister of Caversham Baptist
Free Church



FAITH

As my regular ministry draws to its close, I find myself re-examining the faith which drew me into it forty years ago — the faith which sustained me through the intervening years, and the faith which I believe will guide me into the future.

To some people faith is a vague term. It seems a kind of intellectual duvet used to keep the spirit warm. To a generation brought up among the marvels of science and technology, the nature of faith appears to suggest wishful-thinking rather than action. Yet Jesus on a number of occasions used the word with tremendous effect.

There is the instance of the woman who touched His robe. She reached out while the crowds were surrounding Him. "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace." To Jesus her faith was as practical as that, as immediate in its results.

CRISIS

For faith to have any meaning for us, it must begin with human desires and human needs. Jesus responded to human need, and His response was real, whether it was the healing of the body, the mind or the soul.

He recognised the need, realised the faith, and healing followed. His pre-conditions related to the emotions and the will — they belonged to the soul. If we are to understand faith, we must begin there. The crisis of faith is to be found in the human heart.

OBEDIENCE

It is very easy for Christians to be misunderstood when they say that obedience is the beginning of faith. It is of the essence of Christianity that it persuades rather than commands. Its drawing power is love, its lasting strength springs from truth. Its greatest commandments are "Love God, love your neighbour." These are not golden rules, but growing friendships. They are not enforcements, but the willing acceptance of restored relationships.

If we are not willing to obey, we cannot enter into the Kingdom of Faith, but obedience itself is an act of the will which needs the heart to make it effective. There is a good deal of idealistic thinking in some Christians which is only spiritual day-dreaming. It is possible for Christians to be 'Don Quixotes' in the service of Christ and to put up a very convincing show of fighting evil while tilting at windmills.

The world is our parish, as John Wesley's words remind us. It is the place of our service — the Vineyard of God. It begins in our homes, and extends to next door, then along the road where we live, and through the constituency where we cast our vote. It goes out from there to all the world, and our concern must be as true at the periphery as at the centre.

HOPE

Christian worshippers are often asked, "Why do you go to Church?" and for a moment we pause, hesitant, and a little confused. We say we go to Church because it is natural to us: because that way we can best live our lives. It is often the most we can do in reply to the question, but we know that behind it somewhere — if only we could find the words — there is a hidden truth. We go to Church to be in fellowship with our Friend and Saviour God, Who is in Christ.

We have found something stronger than emotion, yet with the same fascination, something more real than romance, yet with same attraction. We are "Pilgrims Together" upon earth, but journeying towards heaven: there is a living hope in our hearts which no suffering can extinguish and no hurt destroy.

LOVE

So many people have different grades of love. They segregate their children from other children; their group from other groups; and looked at locally, we can be fine and inspiring people, but looked at from the need of the least, the lowest and the lost, we are seen at once as a contradiction of all that Christ teaches. That is why it is so hard to get people interested in missionary enterprise, so difficult to get money for good causes from those who are self-satisfied.

Christians are called to think globally. We accept our immediate responsibilities, because we are ready to serve where God has appointed us, but we always live in the context of God's world and ours — a world of need. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these....you did it for Me."

DEDICATION

The final element in the life of faith is dedication, because it is also the first. Dedication comes first: it is the offering of one's self — in response to God's gift. First, we give ourselves in response to the call of God, and having been received, we are consecrated by God's Holy Spirit into the service of our Lord. In this act, faith is fulfilled in love. "Faith, hope, love, and the greatest of these is Love."

FRIENDSHIP

I have been honoured to serve the Greatest Master, and for the past fifty years here in Caversham I have enjoyed the fellowship and support of so many colleagues and friends. Their faith has encouraged and strengthened me. They, and others like them, have helped to make the Christian gospel and ministry in my experience a real partnership and a sign of greater things yet to be.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Eucharist
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)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road
11am every Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading

10.30am Caversham Church House — Meeting for Worship 7.30pm. (last Sunday)
House study groups Sept—June
Tel: 475783

The Retirement of
The REV. DENNIS WELLER
as Minister
of
Caversham Baptist Free Church
20th May 1978 — 21st March 1993
Sunday 21st March 1993
(Mothering Sunday)

10.30am THANKSGIVING —
A Family Service
Preacher: REV. DENNIS WELLER
6.30pm CELEBRATION —
The Lord's Supper
Minister: REV. DENNIS WELLER
Preacher: REV. ARTHUR GRAY

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.
The Rev. Stephen Rowe, The Rev. Christine Rowe, The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.

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.

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

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

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

The dates for May will be Monday 29 March and Wednesday 31 March.

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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NOTES FROM NANJING AND BEYOND

The 9th and final letter in the series BY HARRIET BAKER

July 18th. Do you remember that when I last wrote it was from the province of Yunnan, close to the Burmese border in the far South Western part of China? I must tell you how we got there. From Yangshou we flew to Kunming which cost us £26 and saved us a lot of time as otherwise we would have had to wait until the flooded train track had cleared. After two days travelling in a bus we arrived here in Damenglong, a sleepy village near to Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province. We were crammed in the Bus but the beauty of the countryside through which we were travelling made up for that. Our road wound and climbed and zig-zagged and potholed along the sides of mountain slopes so we had spectacular views of steep rice terraces stepping down to the green plain and river below. Here in Damenglong the vegetation is tropical with grapefruit trees, banana and coconut palms, rich red soil and red rivers. And beyond the paddy fields the forested mountain ranges of Burma are clearly visible. It's so exciting to think that we are now so close to Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Living here is like living in a real time warp. The houses are built mainly of bamboo and are raised up on stilts with the living quarters upstairs and an open space for animals and storage below. The hay stacks are on stilts too, and the streets are full of chickens, buffalo and countless pigs. Most of the people are farmers and belong to the Dai, Hani or Lahu ethnic minorities originating from Yunnan province itself or one of the bordering countries. They farm rice, bananas, mangoes, pineapples and rubber. And they are so friendly towards us! The women are beautiful with their long hair twisted into a knot and covered with a scarf or conical bamboo hat. They wear short colourful blouses and long comfy-looking sarongs. Some of the men paint their bodies with animal designs.

Scattered among the villages and on the surrounding hilltops there are many temples and monasteries. They are cool and beautiful inside — so much nicer than the large ones that we have seen elsewhere and which attract the tourists. The local monastery is also the village school and the young monks,

some looking no more than 6 years old, can be seen about the village playing, throwing garlic cloves at each other (a variation on snowball fights!), and whizzing through the streets on their bikes with their red, orange, or yellow robes flying out behind them.

The four of us are getting on very well together and we have a Bridge tournament going on at the moment — girls vs. boys — which can get a bit intense! The losers have to pay a forfeit when we reach Xian — at the moment this is to have an extra hole pierced in an ear or the nose! Today we are celebrating John's birthday and Annabel and I took him breakfast in bed for a treat. We stuck a candle in a bread roll, and prepared peaches, mangoes, a yoghurt and a cup of coffee. I think he was quite touched!

Kunming

We just about survived the two day bus journey back here. John and I had dodgy tummies and had to keep asking for "loo stops" much to the amusement of the other passengers. Apart from our own personal needs the bus had to stop several times anyway as it overheated, stalled, ran out of oil, broke its fan belt, lost some of its roof load and one wheel needed to be hammered on more tightly! Today we have faced the ordeal of buying train tickets to Chengdu and succeeded. Hooray! It took much perseverance and we had to refuse to leave the booking office until the ticket manager had sold them to us. Hard sleeper tickets are almost impossible to buy as the demand is so great, so we usually just buy a platform ticket, get on the train and take pot luck as to what sort of seat we get. Once Annabel and I travelled overnight for 16 hours sitting on little bucket seats that folded out into the corridor of the sleeper carriages. It was desperately uncomfortable, very smelly (the toilets were nearby), and there were abundant cockroaches. Grim.

After Chengdu we have a rendezvous planned for Xian for August 1st., and all 12 of the "Gap" students are aiming to be there. It will be great fun to see them and hear about their travels and to see how the groups work out for the final month in China before our visas expire. Annabel and I are really looking forward to exploring the far North Western provinces and will go on our own if nobody else is keen to come. Exploring Tibet is looking pretty impossible now as it will be too time consuming. We have to leave mainland China by the end of August, so Annabel and I plan to be in Hong Kong for a week together with her family before I fly to join Rachel for two weeks trekking together. You may find that letters from me dry up soon as it will be difficult to send any once we get to the remote North West of China. But I will telephone if I can and will certainly let you know when we have arrived in Hong Kong.

In fact Harriet's predictions proved correct and no more letters were received after this one. She and Annabel did reach the far North West of China, and she returned home in mid-September with her sister Rachel having spent a wonderful two weeks together with her trekking to the Annapurna Base Camp in Nepal. In total Harriet travelled 8000 miles within China after she had finished teaching in Nanjing, and the experiences of her "Gap" year lived up to her highest hopes and expectations.



Young monk and pals, Damenglong temple Yunnan (Xishuangbanna) July 92.

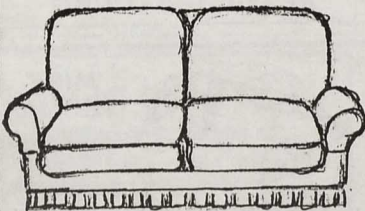


Evening Market Damenglong, Xishuangbanna July 92.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

DISRUPTION TO COME

Disruption from Bugs Bottom continues to spread. Did anyone ever think it would be confined to the site itself? The news that part of Hemdean Road is being closed for several weeks in order to lay sewers and drainage for the development caused widespread indignation and dismay, not just from those living along it, but from its many users, as it is one of Caversham's main thoroughfares.

At the time of writing it is difficult to get accurate information about the timetable and scale of the closures. The length under threat is from Victoria Road northwards. Beyond Oakley Road the headache will mainly be confined to those living along the road and the closes off it. Between Oakley Road and Victoria Road, serious trouble can be expected. Caversham Primary School, where large numbers of pupils arrive every school day by car will be seriously affected, and there are bound to be difficult diversions for buses and other traffic. As there is a main drainage junction practically beneath the Oakley Road - Hemdean Road mini-roundabout, trouble can be expected when that is dug up.

This is yet another example of people's lives being disrupted by a development they have opposed from the very start, and which will not bring them a scrap of benefit, whilst the perpetrators from miles away do not even get a spot of mud on their city shoes.

There was a door to door distribution of not very informative notices of this upheaval to all houses in the roads affected. Who paid for this? Was it Higgs & Hill or was it community charge payers?

CANE END TO GREENDENE

The only acceptable reason for widening or bypassing the A4074 between Deadman's Lane and the Pack Saddle is that it will probably lead to a reduction in the accident rate. This stretch of the road has double the average rate for similar lengths. One might well feel that bad driving lies at the root of the cause but unfortunately it is not the bad driver who is always the victim.

No other reason can be justified for damaging or destroying what is acknowledged to be an area of a high environmental and ecological order. Speeding up journeys and relieving traffic congestion could not be regarded as sufficient cause for such damage and cost.

The exhibition put on at the end of January at Gallowstree Common, attracted a large attendance. It was clearly and comprehensively set out and showed the implications of the four options available. These were the carrying out of minimum alterations, on-line improvements and a southern or northern by-pass. Assuming the forecast for the reduction of accidents is correct, the on-line improvement shows a reduction of seven accidents a year, the northern by-pass six, and the minimum option and southern by-pass five. Accident forecasts must of necessity be chancy (one major accident could be far worse than a number of lesser ones) so other considerations may need looking at. The minimum option would then seem the most attractive, as costing less at £2.2M against on-line of £3.9M, southern by-pass of £3.6M and northern by-pass of £4.1M, and as creating far less environmental damage. This latter however

suddenly became less of a consideration when a large number of trees in the woods and along the roadside were felled whilst the exhibition was in the course of preparation. This was not done as part of road widening, but apparently because the trees, some of which had fallen in the gales of 1990, were ready to be felled for timber. It is sometimes forgotten that trees are a crop as much as cereals. The difference is that they make a great change in the landscape when they go. In this case it means that visually and ecologically the damage has already been done, regardless of whether the minimum option is chosen. The southern by-pass would be close to fewer houses than the others but would mean putting a road where at present there is not one.

All options include a roundabout at Deadman's Lane at the start of the Hook End woods. This would be lit at night (with how many intrusive orange lights is not stated) as otherwise it would be lethal. All options also include improvements from The Pack Horse to The Pack Saddle which should reduce the danger of turning out of Rokeby Drive. The minimum on-line and northern by-pass also include a roundabout at The Fox.

NOT AN OPTION

Do nothing but increase the penalties for irresponsible drivers is not one of the options. As we left the exhibition to join the A4074, a car full of young males rushed past at breakneck speed, overtaking two more cars in the process. It looked like a new car (it was going too fast to be sure) so it was probably stolen. Do we have to pay out millions of pounds and permanently damage an AONB to

accommodate drivers such as these? The penalties for such behaviour in no way match what should be classed as attempted or actual murder.

For all of us who live in Caversham, no mention was made of what happens (when it reaches us) to all the traffic the A4704 and the rest of the road to Oxford attracts as it is gradually up graded with widening, bypasses, roundabouts and straightening. Objections from residents who neither live nor pay community charges in Oxfordshire are not going to carry all that much weight. However, those who have not yet made their views known can write to Oxfordshire County Council, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1SD before 1st March.

GREEN DAY

Reading's Green Day will be held this year on Saturday 20th March with activities and displays in and around the

Town Hall and St. Laurence's church and in Broad Street West. The theme is 'In your back yard'. Caversham and District Residents' Association will be participating. Our back yard is much greener than those in many parts of Reading but developers can't wait to pounce on it.

There will also be suggestions about how to keep your own individual backyard green. Last year's Green Day was fun, so a visit is recommended. Things will be happening between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

NOT A RECORD

My snowdrop was not a record, except for my garden. Jean Sawyer, on the corner of Oakley and Hemdean Road had a garden full before Christmas. A daffodil in the Mount made it into flower on the last day of January. On the whole, most of us prefer to see daffodils in March and at Easter, not very likely this year.

E. B. JOINERY

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CHILDREN AT RISK

Life in Lusaka

A visit to the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia (or Northern Rhodesia to those of you who have not caught up with the rapid name changes throughout Africa), teaches many things, if not necessarily too much about modern medicine.

The "urban draw" has resulted in Lusaka having about one-fifth of the country's population (in total eight million). One half of them are under fifteen years of age. Not many in Zambia are granted their biblical three score years and ten. There is just the one hospital which has two thousand beds and four thousand in-patients, so it's partly two to a bed and partly the floor. Patients are nursed but food and other necessities must be provided by family and friends, so grounds and corridors are crowded with them. They have to stay — the city spreads over many miles and there is no question of a car in which to "pop home to fetch something".

Survival the aim

With one hospital to cater for a population of some three-quarters of a million children it is not surprising that the paediatric department has over two hundred and fifty children brought to it each and every day and that they can admit only one in every five, purely because of space and facilities, not because of need. Even these admissions would be less save for the fact that up to a quarter of all children admitted die within the first twenty-four hours. (It is not known how many refused admission also die within the same period). Few operations are currently being performed because the air conditioning in the main operating theatre broke down in February 92 and is not yet back in working order.

Dedicated Staff

The truly amazing thing about the whole place is the fact that it is still there and trying its very best in what, to most of us, would be impossible conditions. The medical staff, consisting of a few senior consultants of different nationalities who are supported by various international aid agencies, and an inadequate number of locally trained doctors and nurses, display a dedication far beyond the normal call of duty.

Ignorance the Winner

Many of the illnesses are directly attributable to social conditions — lack of clean water, poor or non-existent sanitation, general ignorance and lack of hygiene and, particularly in the case of children, malnutrition. It is so obvious that a great number of the problems need to be tackled at source, especially in the compounds where so many people live. The hospital is treating the symptoms of an inadequate social infrastructure and knows it can never win until these change.

Despite this and despite a desperate shortage of drugs and equipment, (Nurse in charge of ward full of babies suffering from malnutrition and on drip feeds — "Doctor the drips have run out" Doctor — "Sorry there is nothing more to put in them"), the staff carry on doing what they can. They believe that there is a light at the end of a very long tunnel but it behoves us to ask ourselves would we have the faith and dedication to carry on when the tunnel must seem so very long and the light so very dim.

This, of course, applies to workers in other spheres in the thick of it on the ground in under-developed countries. Perhaps it puts into perspective the easily afforded fiver in the raffle at the local charity ball, well intentioned as that may be.

And maybe the dedication of the media and the suffering of the patients also put into perspective our moans at not being able to see the doctor for our flu jabs until tomorrow instead of this afternoon, or being kept waiting an extra quarter of an hour when we go to the chiropodist.

KPB

EFFECTIVE AID IN ACTION

Aid to developing countries takes many forms. An example of a less costly but much needed project is reported in an article by Mark Bennett, head of the University of Zambia computer centre. Here is an extract.

"On 20 March 1992 the HealthNet international computer communications system for medical workers was launched in Zambia when messages were exchanged between the Queen of England and the President of Zambia.

HealthNet is the brainchild of SatelLife, a joint USA/Russian venture based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Aware of the sense of isolation experienced by doctors and other health workers in developing countries, they felt that the use of personal computers, combined with packet radio technology and a low-earth orbiting satellite could bring a possible solution.

To that end a micro-satellite (manufactured by the University of Surrey) was launched which passes over Africa (and the rest of the world) at least four times a day. As the satellite passes overhead messages from a PC can be sent up to it and they will be stored on board until the satellite passes in turn over the country of destination where the messages will be downloaded.

In addition, selected information from health journals, particularly relating to developmental medicine, will be stored on the satellite and each ground-station will be able to do a 'literature search' or download these journals for their own libraries.

This solution is surprisingly inexpensive. The additional equipment to be added to an existing PC consists only of a small modem and an amateur radio transceiver."

Zambia was fortunate to be the first country in Africa to be granted a licence for its PTT to operate this equipment and has been operating experimentally to prove the whole system is viable. Groundstations (based at Medical Schools) are now also operating in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Congo and others in the region are expected to join shortly.

Within Zambia, plans are now being considered for expanding the system throughout the country to include the Provincial and District Hospitals and other institutions such as the Flying Doctor Service.

In setting up this project Mark himself is financed by the Overseas Development Administration, part of the British Government's aid programme. (Mark is the son of Ken & Doreen Bennett and lives with his wife and two children in Zambia).



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POST BAG

Dear Sir,

Last week I experienced so much help from one of the local shops that I felt it should be recognised.

I had unexpectedly need of some antibiotics. The prescription was in the surgery. I had no means of getting this unless I was taken or it was otherwise collected. However, I remembered that the warden in this residential block had been told that Rankins would help if we were ever in need. Accordingly I telephoned the chemists at 5pm and they most willingly offered not only to collect the prescription but also to deliver the medicine the following morning. To my great surprise I was able to take the first dose by 6.30 that same day.

I think this is a splendid service and deserves our recognition in these days when we hear so many complaints about poor service, people not caring and so on.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHURCH STARTS NEW SERVICE

On Sunday 17 January **Caversham Heights Methodist Church** held the first of its new Family Services.

The Church is attempting to provide a service for parents with little children who might otherwise be prevented from finding an opportunity for worship. The services are informal and active, allowing children to move around without embarrassment to their parents, whilst at the same time presenting the Good News of Jesus both to parents and children.

The 60 adults and 40 children at the first service stretched their arms up and out in worship of God as they sang about 'building a people of God', and the parents were asked to stretch their lives in understanding hatred and forgiveness as they heard of Brian Keenan's relationship with his guards when a hostage in Beirut. 'In this moment...where he witnessed a guard's tears of remorse, he was able to feel compassion for his enemy and experience healing from the dreadful, relentless, searing hate'. The children shared in a mime of Jesus stilling the storm and the adults homed in on trust in God.

The Caversham Heights Methodist Church Family Services will be held on the third Sunday each month at 9.30 am. The next such Family service will be on 21 March.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

Caversham Park Church celebrated twenty-two years of meeting together for worship on the first Sunday of the year with a Songs of Praise service. Looking back, there is much for which to thank God, but the church is also looking to the future. Recently introduced are the "Worship Together" services and the "Family Communion" services on the fourth and fifth Sundays respectively, when the whole church worships together.

"They that have ears to hear, let them hear" is a saying that has taken on a new meaning at Caversham Park! Meeting in the Primary School as it does, there were problems for those with hearing difficulties, but no longer! A loop system has been installed so that those with hearing aids that can be switched to the T position can now hear without difficulty. This has been made possible by the ready sympathy and cooperation of the Head teacher, the Governors and the Council, and for which the church is most grateful.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

The Caversham Baptist Free Church is busy preparing for a special eight day "Spring Festival" to take place in May.

The Festival is to be run by Rev. Derek Cook and a team from "Maranatha Ministries" which specializes in such events. Included in the week's activities will be a repeat of the church's version of "Songs of Praise", a Ladies Evening, a Christian Rock Concert and a Men's Fellowship Evening in a local Restaurant. The Church will be specially decorated with flowers and displays, and will be open during the day. Team members will visit local schools. Many of the events considered are as yet at the planning stage, as the Rev. Cook is at present on Sabbatical as the Chaplain to the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, and details cannot be finalized until his return later in February. Caversham Baptist Free Church are part of "Churches Together in Caversham" and have planned the event as part of the "Decade of Evangelism". More information can be obtained from Norman New, 17 Whitley Wood Road, Reading RG2 8HX Telephone (0734) 872563.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Continuing the story of Phyllis Colley from P.1, she was also making one of the Kneelers for presentation to the church to celebrate our 50 years of service and this will be completed in her memory. She was working on one of a pair for use at weddings and two more are also ready with the Mother's Union Motif on.

Christmas saw our now regular meeting with our friends from the Methodist church in Gosbrook Road and the following week, also now a regular event, we played host to the children from Newbridge Nursery. They brought so many parents and friends with them that we were nearly out of chairs and we were very glad to have the sound system. Both events were greatly enjoyed and started our Christmas celebrations well.

Straight from their institution, Rev. Stephen and Christine Rowe very ably chaired our Annual General Meeting. The major task ahead of us now seems to decide what sort of organisation we wish to be for the year 2001.

Celebration of Richard Jackson's 80th Birthday

Richard Jackson, who for the past 20 years has been organist at St. Barnabas' and for many years before that was at St. John's, celebrated his 80th birthday on 23 January. The theme of the Family Eucharist the following Sunday at St. Barnabas' was a thanksgiving for Richard's many years of service and his music.



— O. Jewiss



— O. Jewiss

Top: Richard Jackson responding to a presentation made to him in St. Barnabas' Church by the Rev. Nigel Hardcastle at the end of the Family Eucharist.

Above: The celebrations of Richard Jackson's birthday continued in the Church Hall after the Service. Richard is seen here opening the card signed by all the congregation.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST. BARNABAS' NEWS

As everyone knows, winter is a time of paradox. To the naked eye the world looks barren, dead, separate, but the reality is that below surface preparations are being made for a blossoming, a growth and connection as bush blends with bush, tree with tree, flower with flower. Growth starts from deep within the earth and so it is with people and churches. Growth is happening at St. Barnabas, not just the visible growth of well packed pews and new faces, but deep spiritual growth. A growth in both Fellowship with one another and with God.

The Fellowship Group has been in existence for just nine months now. Begun tentatively, but enthusiastically, people are getting to know one another and also getting to know God through the sufferings of others; members have been brought together in communal prayer — prayer of petition, prayer of the heart — and have seen that same prayer answered with one of God's daily miracles — the

welcome recovery of a much loved member. Members have also put that prayer into active service for one another; not least into the blossoming of a new youth group which owes much to the dedication and commitment of its leaders as well as to the enthusiasm of the youngsters themselves. Georgina writes:

"A new group has been formed at St Barnabas for anyone over ten years old. We are still trying to think of a clever name for ourselves. There are about a dozen of us and we get together once a fortnight for a social meeting on Sunday evenings. Our first one was a Hallowe'en Party and we soon got to know each other by playing silly games. Since then we have made our own TV production recorded on a video camera and enjoyed a safari supper. We now have some exciting events planned for '93 including ice skating and a karaoke evening. We also meet each Sunday morning as an extension of Junior Church. In these sessions we discuss issues

like friendship and responsibility using Bible extracts to help us. We are all enjoying being part of this group and would like to thank everyone who helps us with the organisation."

The Youth Group also organised a "Real Carol Singing" event in Emmer Green prior to Christmas and raised a magnificent £74 for the Reading Drop-in Centre.

So, as winter turns to spring, St Barnabas thanks God for those deep roots which are pushing out in every member and between each member, ready to provide a firm foundation for the growth and spirituality, which is, and is to come.



Face Lift for St. Barnabas Hall

Above: Saturdays in January and early February have seen an army of volunteers under the direction of David Miles redecorating St. Barnabas Church Hall. Some of these are shown in our photographs.

Top Right: Costs of redecoration have been kept to a minimum by generous donations of materials by some of the congregation. John Samson, Church Treasurer, with an eye on economies is seen putting the finishing touches to one of the doors.

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CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting was held at Church House on Monday, 18th January, 1993. The meeting was hosted by the Revd Richard Kingsbury, and Mr Ben Archer was in the Chair. The Secretary gave a report on the previous twelve months, and the accounts were presented and approved.

The highlight of the evening proved to be the extremely interesting and informative talk given by Mrs Mary Brooks from the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed. With a small donation given by the Good Neighbours, and the generosity of those attending, £136 was collected towards the work of the Home at Peppard.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

An encouraging number of members turned up for the Annual General Meeting in January when they heard accounts of past activities adopted and elected committee and officers.

After the mandatory cup of tea and biscuits, the Vicar and his wife treated their audience to a spirited presentation of 'Life at the Vicarage' which prompted some amusement, tinged with sympathy.

— Places of Christian Listening —

"The Vine"

The programme for March and April is as follows:-

- March 4th — Quiet Day
- 10th — Quiet Day with Creche
- 18th — Teaching Day - Listening to God through Music with Rev. Derek Spears and Pam Chilvers
- 24th — Fellowship Day
- April 22nd — Listening to God through Poetry (with an Easter Theme) with Canon Richard Kingsbury
- 28th — Fellowship Day

Further information from Fi Radford, The Vine, 4 The Mount, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RU (0734) 483965.

"Highmoor Hall"

"Time for Reflection at Highmoor Hall"

- March 9/10th — Journaling an effective tool for spiritual growth
- 19th — Time for Reflection
- 22nd — The Soul's Paraphrase - Writing Poetry
- 30th — The Joy of Spring — Flower arranging.
- April 1st — Working with Wood

Booking forms are available from Ann Persson, Highmoor Hall, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon (0491) 641543.

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WHAT BIRD IS THAT?

By reason of a bird's necessity for cover, the question may within seconds become, "What bird WAS that?"

Surely, the most natural progression for anyone having a true interest in a particular subject, is to acquire a general knowledge of it.

One does not require a Degree in Natural History or Zoology to be able to identify a Chaffinch from a Bullfinch — but one does need at least, a modicum of interest in birds together with a little application in order to tell one species apart from another.

Practical experience, combined with an intelligent use of a Field-guide, will more often than not, assist one to identify a particular species — but we should all beware of mis-identification. I know of at least one instance where several twitters erred, by reason of a too hasty 'identification', in their desire to hurry on to the final 'twit' of the day'.

One often has so little time to bring binoculars to bear upon a bird before it has dived into a bush or taken flight, never to be seen again. It is obvious, therefore, that the greater the skill of the individual, the better the chance of making a positive sighting, sometimes from a mere, fleeting glimpse.

The true birder will seldom 'claim' a species unless being completely certain about its identity. The rarer the bird, the greater the importance of a correct identification.

I recall an incident many years ago, at Minsmere RSPB Reserve, on the Suffolk coast. One middle-aged lady loudly directed her friend's — and our — attention to a "Green Woodpecker" on waste-ground, at some twenty-five yards distance. When a bystander had the temerity quietly and kindly, to advise her that the bird was in fact, a Mistle Thrush, and briefly explained why, she blazed at him — still for all to hear, "I jolly well know a Green Woodpecker when I see one!"

Knowing from experience, how easily mistakes occur, for assuredly we have all made them, it was with a slight sense of sadness that we 'jolly well' stole away.

Whatever our chosen subject, error will be a hazard, so that an honest seeking after knowledge should always be the way ahead.

Watching birds is a fine hobby, no matter what our degree of skill, and so pleasurable if conducted with a quiet mind.

"SCOPS OWL"

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 5th 1993

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

The Forbury, READING

2pm

Speaker: Mrs Major Ann HURCON (Salvation Army)

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8.15pm

THE LINK GROUP SPONSORED KNIT IN

Would you and a friend like to help raise money for charity? The Link Group is having its annual fund raising "Knit-in" on 1st March 1993.

Each person is sponsored to knit a 6" square in one hour. At the end of the evening all the squares are joined together and blankets are made for Mother Teresa.

The success of this evening in past years has been excellent and £700 has been raised in one hour.

If you would like to join in this light-hearted event please telephone Anthea Prescott on 478865 to make arrangements. Refreshments will be served during the evening and transport can be organised if necessary. If you are unable to knit but would like to sponsor a knitter, Anthea Prescott will be able to help you in this direction.

Do come. It is for a very good cause.

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

The new year starts with a traditional clear out and we are no exception — March 6th sees our annual Jumble Sale taking place in Caversham hall. Sorting and receiving of goods will take place from 10 a.m. and the sale will start at 2 p.m. We shall be very pleased to have any saleable goods as we are starting completely from scratch — no left overs. The nice rewards come later in the month when we are holding a chocolate party in the Fleming room in the home at Nettlebed. Chocoholics will again have a wonderful display to satisfy all your Easter needs from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Local catalogues can be seen by phoning 473798.

NEWS FROM SWAN LIFELINE



— E.S. Archer

A lot of publicity was given to Swan Lifeline on Monday, 18th January, when Joan Hammond spoke about the work of Swan Lifeline on Radio Berkshire. The Evening Post also publicised Swan Lifeline and its work on that date, whilst T.V. Meridian gave coverage during their early evening programme.

Whether or not attracted by all this publicity about the Thames at Caversham, a rare visitor

appeared, perched on a branch on an island near Caversham Bridge. A Cormorant — just the one! This bird sits on its chosen branch all day, disappearing in the evening to an unknown destination. Whilst Cormorants have appeared on the Thames, it seems to be the first time one has visited Caversham. They are much used in the Far East, by fishermen, instead of rod and line, or nets!

Joan Hammond's Swan Lifeline activities continued when she gave a most interesting talk to the members of Caversham Community on Monday evening.

J.A.

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Library Special Services

The latest in the successful Community lunches organised by Kathy Munns in the Caversham Library highlighted of one of the special services run in Berkshire. Carol Jackson, Senior Librarian in the Department, spoke about the home care service that the department provides. The aim is to provide books for all those readers who cannot themselves visit libraries.

Who can benefit?

Berkshire runs three large Mobile vans, most useful for visiting larger premises such as residential homes. Now a smaller van has been bought to reach the many new homes, caring for fewer people.

Apart from the large residential homes, hospitals (general and geriatric wards), and the Remand Centre the aim is to provide a door-to-door service for those who genuinely cannot visit the library. To benefit from this last category clients must show that they really are unable to make the journey, and so many people cannot — the disabled, the elderly who, though they may be able to get to the library then haven't the strength to carry the books home. Also eligible are those carers who stay at home to take care full time of a dependent relative or friend. All those wishing for help should apply to Carol Jackson and she will arrange for them to be seen by the local librarian, who will explain not only what the service involves, but also expand on all the other services provided in Berkshire about which so many people are ignorant. The librarian will then make a short profile of the client's special needs and interests.

Who delivers?

The actual deliveries are undertaken by volunteers, most of whom have come forward from approaches to local groups. Drivers are needed who can take on four or five readers every 3 weeks. Volunteers should be readers themselves and be prepared to discuss books, suggest authors, put up with difficult or intolerant clients and be fit enough to carry the 21 books that are the maximum allowed each 3 week period. Volunteers have up to 10 hours training — many of them, for example, are not used to dealing with people with severe

disabilities, blind, or deaf and help is given to make life easier for all concerned. Two personal references are taken up and finally the local librarian will introduce the volunteer to the client. It is clear that much care needs to be taken to ensure that the right people are accepted. There are now more than 100 volunteers helping the 700 people on the list. Clearly some areas are more difficult to service. Here Caversham is extremely fortunate.

Not only books

Large print books in a large format have been around for many years, but they tend to be very heavy. Now publishers have produced smaller sized books and even paper-backs with large print. There are cassettes for those who prefer or need to hear, there are picture books for local and national interest. Also available are reminiscence boxes, with pictures of old artefacts in use years ago which people can remember and which make a useful subject for discussion, and quiz boxes also fit into this category.

Impressive Service

There are five full time librarians and six part-time as well as van drivers to cover this service. Last year £60,000 was spent on stock and, one must face it, all caring services cost money. This particular scheme, especially with its high input of volunteers, would certainly seem to be worth while.

Caversham Library must be thanked for continuing to diffuse useful information about what is going on locally.

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BEETLING AROUND

Saturday Mornings

This is a very good time to wander into Caversham. The bookshop is always very busy, the library even more so, and I love going into my corner shop, which is how I consider

Waitrose, to meet up with so many chums. Indeed I think the store can rightly be considered the corner shop for many people, especially those on the "Baskets only" counter, where I often hear the kind

ladies at the check-out enquire after health and family — a real family store! There is sometimes a sale at Church House for the benefit of charity or for the local uniformed organisations where one can often pick up a bargain, meet interesting people and have a cup of coffee — though there are many other places where you can have a drink. Just remember to add on a good half hour to your planned shopping time. One can also pick up rumours — might there be a new wine bar in Caversham?

Lost Love!

Mentioning the local library has reminded me that I recently left a favourite bookmark in the book I had just returned, so I hurried back and was presented with a large tin, full to the brim with forgotten impedimenta for keeping your place — not only bookmarks of leather and other materials, but also photographs and picture postcards. I think the shopping lists were thrown out after they had been left for a couple of weeks. So if you are missing any loved mark, do ask at the counter and you may have a happy reunion.

Reading Museum

A recent informative talk by John Rhodes of the Reading Museum staff reminded me just how long the Museum has been closed. It has really been missed, the Museum itself and Art

Gallery, where you could see not only Reading's own collection of excellent paintings, but also the smaller exhibitions there were arranged from time to time. Once the long walk up the stairs had been accomplished it was a pleasure to, for example, walk around the Reading Guild of Artists' own show in what was really quite a good room to exhibit. It is hoped that all these facilities will be available when the full refurbishment is complete, perhaps in September of this year. There is a wealth of splendid material just waiting to be seen again; donors in the past have been most generous and their benevolence should be seen to be applauded. Incidentally, did you know that the Museum has a showcase in the Information Centre in the Old Town Hall with a small display taken from the permanent collection? This changes every couple of months and is well worth a quick visit when you are next in town. They do their best!

Nanjing

It was sad to see Harriet Baker's last letter from Nanjing, which has been an exceptionally good read over the last few months. I take my hat off to these young folk — and Caversham is full of them — who spend their "year off" combining travel with providing very useful services. Who's

next to keep us enthralled?

New Primary School

The Chiltern Nursery Training College will be opening a primary school for 5-8 year-olds in September, which will include the useful before and after care for the children whose parents are working full time and will aim for a maximum of 16 children. This is a logical extension of the nursery scheme at present in force. More about this and the College itself when the Principal, Mrs. Elizabeth Sadek, is profiled in next month's Bridge.

Katy

Katy has not written in this edition of the paper and she is very badly missed. Many people tell me that it is to her page that they turn first, and I can well believe it, because she is down to earth, eminently readable and very much to the point. She is one of the best loved figures in Caversham and her local knowledge is immense. I know it is an effort to have to write her page every month, and I'm sure the editors are only too happy to give her a month or two off now and then, but please, Katy, don't desert us for ever. If any reader would care to write a guest "chat" column occasionally, I'm sure that Katy and the editors would only be too pleased. Think about it, please and then act!

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the CLUBS

Rosehill W.I.

The first meeting of the year was on 6th January. Members were wished a happy new year by Mrs Jane Stockhill, the president. Scrabble and Rambling dates were fixed for the month. Members had attended the Carol Service at Mortimer, enjoying a lovely evening there. The proceeds of Mrs Stockhill's Mince pie and Sherry Party at her home were sent to the Reading Council to help the Bosnian refugees staying here.

The speaker was Mrs S. Branson, her subject "All Buttoned Up". Her amazing collection of button-hooks contained many lovely specimens, silver patterned, large, very small and old. It was a most interesting and amusing talk because each one had a history, where bought, etc.

Caversham W.I.

Nostalgia was the theme of Caversham W.I.'s January meeting when Mr Moss showed more slides of Old Caversham and Reading with a most in-

teresting commen-

tary. The competition, a home made calendar, was won by Mrs Ivy Butcher. Members kept a minute's silence in memory of the late Mrs Phyl Griffiths who died on New Year's day.

Caversham Heights T.G.

GRAPHOLOGY AT THE GUILD

Have you ever wondered whether your handwriting showed traits of your character? Does the way you cross your t's mean there are hitherto undreamed-of possibilities for you?

At the January meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild Mrs J Greenwood threw some light on graphology, the study of handwriting. She said that learning to write is quite difficult for a child to achieve and that afterwards, writing still needs quite a lot of attention.

Personnel departments or people wanting to know if a possible partner has good characteristics could be helped by this study, although sceptics are slow to accept this. No unrealistic claims are made on its behalf however. Whether letters are upright or slanting is significant, and how much pressure is exerted on the paper, also the actual structure of letters. The size of the writing and overall use of a page, the breadth or narrowness of letters, and gaps between lines of writing can all give clues. Members were invited to show specimens of handwriting to Mrs Greenwood whose interpretations were surprisingly accurate. At the meeting it was learnt that enough money had been collected in the guild movement to

plant a sixth wood, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, in addition to five planted. Federation has enough money to plant its own celebratory tree or trees.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Taking up where we left off last month, our 31st Birthday was celebrated in true style with a very pleasant lunch at Reading Technical College. Food and Service were excellent — plenty of talent here for the future amongst these most polite young people. Christmas too was celebrated with a fancy tea following a most enjoyable and memory jerking trip down the lanes of the old music halls led by Mr. Sands. The new year started with a visit by slides and talk to Wildest Wales given by Mrs Meryl Beek. This area south of Devil's Bridge is not only wild but totally unpopulated and very very beautiful.

The competition was for an original valentine card and the romantic creation made by Mrs. Doris Smith was the winner. This lady has many strings to her bow and later in the month organised a much enjoyed visit to the Post Office in Caversham Road where we were able to trace the passage of a letter and to see why some letters cannot be progressed through the office because of inadequate information or faulty packing and to learn when a letter is not a letter but a packet. New members are most welcome and can gain information from the Secretary on 473218.

Caversham Ladies Club

In the absence of the Chairman, Deputy and Secretary, Mrs Queenie Strong chaired the January Meeting, which always in January is a discussion as to future speakers, outings, etc.

The Christmas tea, held in the Baptist Church Hall on the

9th December, was a very happy occasion, each member being presented with a Christmas card and a gift.

The following Thursday a Christmas lunch, held at the Conservative Club in Caversham, was voted "the best ever". Music was provided by Barry Strong and his friends; carols were enjoyed, Barry being warmly thanked.

The spring and summer outings were then discussed and members expressed their wishes for half-day excursions instead of whole days. Portsmouth and Worthing for a whole day and three half-days at Millets Farm at Abingdon, where teas could be ordered, Chelsea Barracks, the Cotswolds being a great favourite, Savill Gardens, Chartwell and a Silkworm Farm were suggested. This left a choice for the committee to look into and arrange accordingly.

Tea was later served by Mrs Roddy and Mrs Crawley, who have been preparing cups, saucers etc for sometime for meetings; this service is much appreciated.

The meeting proved to be a very happy one in the capable hands of Queenie Strong, who is actually the Club's treasurer.

Emmer Green T.G.

The weather for
the first 1993

meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was very wet and windy, but members nevertheless turned out in force to hear Mrs Hermione Evans' talk on "Alternative Medicine". She gave a very clear, concise and informative explanation of the many types of 'complementary medicines' as she prefers to call them, and then proceeded to explain her own particular interest and skill in Reflexology. Mrs Evans is a physiotherapist who has undergone further training in Reflexology so has the basic knowledge and expertise in the field of medicine required to practise this skill safely and effectively.

It is known that the Chinese, Indians and Egyptians worked on the feet to promote good health as early as 5000 BC, but in the West it has only recently been accepted as a relevant healing process. Mrs A. Dalzell volunteered her feet to be worked on for a demonstration and Mrs Evans talked through her massages and pressures, explaining the significance of what she was doing. It was a fascinating evening and left many members with food for thought and a different outlook on staying healthy.

The Chairman had the sad announce-

turn to page 11



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the CLUBS

from page 10

ment to make of the death of Mrs J. Bowles. She had been ill for some time but had continued to attend as many Guild meetings as possible. Sympathy is extended to her family, a sad way to start a new year.

1993 looks to be a full and active year for members with Arts and Crafts, Words and Music and Rambling Groups very busy with a variety of activities. Members were asked to give some thought to the Annual General Meeting in March and the possibility of serving on the committee. This can be a very rewarding task, giving one a greater feel for the workings of the organisation and the reasons for its existence. The membership of Emmer Green is very healthy and includes many extremely talented people who maintain a liveness of ideas and a wide variety of interests.

Caversham Community Association

The first meeting in 1993, on the 4th January, was for a social evening, Ron and Jean Geall enter-

tained the members. Ron brought along his electronic keyboard and played a fine selection of old and new favourites. He invited everyone to join in community singing and to take part in modern, as well as old time dancing. At the interval, a good assortment of cheeses and biscuits was served to the members, with drinks of wine or fruit juice. It was also the time to pay the first instalment of the annual subscription to the club. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked the entertainers, who kindly gave the donation they received to Helen House Hospice at Oxford. Evelyn Cook held the members' sales stall at this meeting, as it was the first Monday in the month. A small percentage of the value of goods sold is given to club funds.

A games evening took place on the 11th January with members given the chance to play indoor games such as shove ha'penny, scrabble, whist and other card games, in friendly competition.

The meeting on the 18th January was for a 'Bring and Buy' sale. A great variety of groceries, cosmetics, toiletries, ornaments, books and knitted items, etc. created keen interest at the subsequent auction. A total of £48 was raised for club funds.

A whistdrive was held on the 25th January and, despite the cold weather, a good number of en-

thusiastic players arrived for the game. Club member, Doreen Crawley, kindly officiated during the evening and awarded Joan Henwood, the player with the highest score, first prize.

STAR Reading branch of the University of the Third Age

January Activities

At the Open Meeting in the Kennet Room, which is now held on the last Monday of the month, members discussed which way Star should go. Suggestions were made that more advice should be given on health and financial matters, and particular emphasis was made by one member that there should be more intellectual content among the groups. Members however seemed satisfied with things as they are. It should be noted though that there is to be a new group on conversational German and hopefully one to read French plays.

Highlight of the month was a visit to see 'Carousel' at the National Theatre. There too members saw the exhibition on 'The Creative Powers of Age'. The Books group studied George Eliot's stupendous novel 'Middlemarch'. The Playreaders enjoyed the classic 'She stoops to Conquer'. Debaters discussed the subject 'That Star should be supporters of the third age and not necessarily students'. Their less formal procedure is considered successful.

The Cosmology group watched the BBC Video 'Soul One' which treated the change in the mechanical attitude towards science to the organic and non-mechanical. The new Listening group provides an opportunity to learn how to Listen and be listened to and a forum in which members can together take seriously their thoughts and feelings on life today. The Music Group were given a talk by Andrew Forbes, head of Music at Leighton Park School, on

romantic concertos with musical illustrations. The walkers were in the area of Dinton Pastures and the river Loddon.

New members are always welcome at STAR. Please ring the Membership Secretary, Mrs Grace McGregor, Reading 866037.

Caversham Horticultural Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will take place under the Chairmanship of Mr Peter Handy at 7.30pm on Friday 12th March at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road, Caversham, and all members are cordially invited to attend this function at which a free glass of wine will be offered.

Nominations for new Committee members to take up vacancies of those retiring should be submitted in writing to the General Secretary Mrs Jan Brown, 46 Geofreyson Road, Caversham, not later than Friday 5th March.

Following the AGM Mr M.L. Moody will give a talk illustrated by slides, on "Sweet Peas". Les has specialised in sweet pea growing for over forty years and is Editor of the National Sweet Peas Society Annual. He represents the Royal Horticultural Society on the Sweet Pea Trials Committee, and is President of the Twyford and Ruscombe Horticultural Society. He is also Secretary of the Berkshire Guild of Judges and Lecturers. This promises to be a most interesting evening and anyone not yet a member who would like to attend will be most welcome and can complete an application form at the event.

St Peter's Wives

St Peter's Wives is an open Group, with a welcome for any women who care to join the meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 8p.m. in Church House.

Back in November, members of the Group were in St.

Martin's Precinct, setting out their wares and selling to an eager public. Over £213 was raised. Later in the month the Rector, Richard Kingsbury, chaired the A.G.M. The formal business of the evening was soon completed and the Group welcomed the return visit of Helen Lilley who delighted members with her ideas for Christmas flower arrangement.

At the beginning of December, members and husbands gathered at Mansion House and enjoyed an excellent dinner. The regular monthly meeting saw the arrival of members with plates of food; Church House was quickly decorated and tables laid for the annual party, which was enjoyed by all.

On the 16th December a small band of members were once again carol singing in the Sheridan Avenue/Hemdean Road area of Caversham and over £75 was raised.

For their first meeting in January, Chairman Lyn Butler welcomed members and was quickly given members' approval to send £300 to Sue Ryder. Lyn then welcomed Mr Fear from Cliffords Dairies. Mr Fear had brought a range of products and gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by slides.

On the 16th March, Mrs Meryl Beek will talk to the Group on the "Three Faces of France".

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