



1978-1993 — the fifteen years of service that the Rev. Dennis Weller has given to the Caversham Baptist Free Church is the longest ministry that the Church has known, and it has proved to be a time of great change.

When Dennis came with Rhoda, his wife, from Margate to Caversham in 1978 all the week-day activities took place in the West Memorial Institute (now the Caversham Dance Centre), and the church building was rarely opened except for Sunday worship. Dennis came to a fellowship whose members were frustrated as one scheme after another to redevelop the premises was blocked on planning or financial grounds. When the work went ahead some two years later it owed much to his positive leadership and encouragement, and the pattern of today's activities has been made possible by the excellent facilities now provided.

Friends will have personal memories of highlights of his ministry — of particular services, especially of Baptisms such as the service in 1986 broadcast by the B.B.C. — of the year when Dennis was President of the Berks Baptist Association which

## FIFTEEN YEARS ON



culminated in the Assembly at Caversham — of times of outreach such as the Partnership Mission with the American Church from Flat Rock and more recently with Mission 91 — and of the time when the ministry was shared with Philip Egglestone.

Very positive moves have been the encouragement of Housegroups for Bible Study, and of a talented group of musicians who now regularly share in leading worship. The pattern of youth work has changed, sadly the uniformed organisations have closed, but in their place are now strong Youth Groups meeting under the Cornerstone Banner.

Members of the Church have many good memories of this ministry, of challenging messages, of willing immediate response to the needs of the Church family, of a caring Pastor, always supported by Rhoda, so much appreciated at times of crisis, sickness or bereavement, and all will say thank you to Dennis and Rhoda, and wish them many happy years of retirement as they move to their new home in Stafford.

### Young Artists of Caversham Park Brownies With Work For Their Badges



Caversham Park Brownies.

— E.S. Archer

### WHICH WAY AHEAD FOR OUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS?

One of our local schools, Caversham Primary, is now balloting parents on whether the school should apply for grant-maintained status (GMS). In the short term, GMS may seem attractive to some parents, as the government is offering financial carrots to schools that "opt out." There are, however, wider issues to consider.

Many will feel that local schools must be cherished because they provide a place where local people, who otherwise might just pass by in the street, meet and work together for all our children. They bind communities together. A GM school risks cutting itself off from the local community, since it may no longer serve all local children if its criteria for admission are changed. Moreover there are only four GM primary schools in Berkshire and none at all in Reading.

Those of us who have children at Caversham Primary now must make a decision on the future of the school which will affect all families living locally long into the future. It will be one among many such separate decisions made up and down the country which will shape our children's future. Is it right that

the fate of our education system should be decided in this haphazard way?

Is it sensible to undermine the role of the Local Education Authority (LEA) in planning and using our resources to provide a good education to all children in Berkshire?

By cutting itself adrift from the LEA, A GM will no longer be able to use all the professional services and back-up the LEA provides, as well as, in the case of Berkshire, delegating to locally-managed schools (under LMS) 88% of their total budget, the third highest rate in the country.

It is more than likely that there will be cuts in public spending on education in the very near future, and that grants to GM schools will be cut. For example if all secondary schools opt out, this will cost an extra 600 million pounds in spending on education. Thus if "opting out" ever was a gravy train, that train departed some time ago, while the risks and uncertainties of opting out will stay with parents for a long time.

By a concerned parent  
(Name and Address supplied)

D/EX 1758/30/4

## TALKING POINT

by

The Rev. Phil Abrey  
Caversham Park Church



## CHANGE

A number of years ago a friend gave me a framed copy of the famous prayer by Reinold Neibuhr, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". Few of us, I suspect, know anything about Reinold Neibuhr, fewer still have read any of his books, but many have heard his most famous prayer, even if we didn't know where the words came from.

The prayer is all about change. Change is not easily negotiated or accepted by many of us. It can quickly assume threatening proportions. It can be hurtful and frightening. It can be seen as something to avoid at all costs. Such reactions are, I believe, acknowledged and accepted as valid. The emphasis in Neibuhr's prayer is on understanding that not only are change and loss an integral part of human experience but also that they are often the opportunities for the greatest learning and the most profound growth. Lack of change may be comforting and secure, but if we are to be the pilgrim people of God we are required to recognise the renewing and exciting possibilities that change can bring.

Cardinal Newman once said, "In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to be perfect is to be changed often." It is a reminder that learning and change are often indivisible. Bernard O'Brien echoes Neibuhr's prayer when he says, "In our relationship with ourselves we should accept the unchangeable and change the unacceptable".

Easter is about change, changing the unacceptable. It is the most important watershed in the history of the world.

At Easter, God changed the emphasis of his involvement in his world by becoming the God whom everyone could know and call father. Instead of the distant, awesome, frightening God, we encounter through Jesus a God involved at a very human level in every aspect of the lives of his people. It is this very involvement which many of us find frightening. We can cope with a distant God, even with one who stands alongside us in our pain, our sadness, and our weakness, but we cannot cope with a God who challenges us to change the unacceptable, a God who calls us to be involved. The change at Easter was as dramatic as it was lasting, it is a change which has affected the history of the world for the past 2,000 years, and it is a change in which God calls us to participate.

Many would have looked at the state of play in the Middle East at the time of Jesus and given up on any possibility of change, the Romans were dominant, the Jews had largely turned their backs on God to live as they wanted. Surely a case for serenity to accept the things not even God could change. Yet he did, and how effective the change was. So effective that Easter has become the major Christian festival, and everyone in every encounter with God experiencing all or part of the Easter story. It is an event we remember in our churches on Sundays. There are indeed some things which cannot change, some situations in life where we need the serenity of God to help us accept them and to live positively within them, but there are things which can be changed if we allow God to give us the courage to be involved and bring those changes into being.

One of the understandable problems of modern society is that we don't get involved because of the personal risks. It takes so much courage to get involved in change. It is much easier to sit back and let life take its natural course. Thank God he didn't do that. Thank God Jesus didn't. If they had, history would have been very different. God didn't and doesn't give up on apparently hopeless cases.

Sometimes it's hard to know the difference between those situations which cannot be changed and those which can which is why Ronald Neibuhr concludes his prayer with those words, "and the wisdom to know the difference". God doesn't promise us an easy life, but he does promise us the power of his Holy Spirit to enable us to be his people with all that is involved. All(?) he asks of us is the willingness to follow him in a spirit of acceptance, courage and wisdom.

## 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)  
9.30am Family Service (3rd 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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## POST BAG

### CORMORANTS

Dear Editor,

No doubt Scops Owl will tell JA that the cormorant at Caversham is unusual, but not a rare occurrence on the Thames in Berkshire. These birds are now quite numerous during the winter months, attracted by the many reservoirs and gravel pits; in some months the population approaches one thousand birds. Fifty or more are often on the Henley Road gravel pits, although statistically these are Oxfordshire birds, and many travel between these waters and those at Theale. Visitors to Reading should spend a few minutes watching the sky, especially in the hour before dusk, when birds can be seen returning to Henley Road along the line of the Kennet. My office gives me a view of this flight path and my maximum single sighting is forty-two birds in two V-shaped flights. I see smaller numbers every day.

Information about the cormorant population and all other birds in Berkshire is contained in the annual report, "Birds of Berkshire", produced by Reading Ornithological Club and on sale in Caversham Bookshop. I can supply detail about the club, and copies of reports for previous years, and we can certainly help those who ask the question, "What's that bird".

Yours etc.

John Roberts  
71 Kidmore Road  
Caversham

### SNOWDROPS

Dear Sir,

I read in my February edition of the lady who thought that she could claim the record by having her first snowdrop in flower on the 28th December.

I had to write and counter this claim, as unbelievable as it may seem, I discovered three snowdrops out in my small garden on November 20th. It makes one wonder whether they were very late arrivals from last year or extraordinarily early for this season!

Yours etc.

(Mrs) Irene Stokes  
27 Lyefield Court,  
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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 May issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 31 March.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 29 March.

The dates for June will be Monday 3 May and Wednesday 5 May.

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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# PROFILE

## MRS ELIZABETH SADEK

Mrs. Elizabeth Sadek has been Principal of the Chiltern Nursery Training College for over a year now and she was kind enough to talk about her time in Caversham and of her life up until the move. She is a bright vivacious lady with long dark hair and sparkled evenly though she was not feeling 100% fit.

Mrs. Sadek was born and brought up near Glasgow, went to school there and then trained as a nurse and midwife. She has two daughters.

She took her first degree in Philosophy at Birkbeck College, a Diploma in Education specialising in psychology and a Masters in Organisational Psychology. She did further education work at City College as tutor to the Child Care Course. She joined the North London College and was with them for 18 years, during which time she built her department from Grade 1 to Grade 5, and from where she piloted a number of innovative new NNEB and child care courses, including NNEB for Hassidic Jews, 21 hour NNEB and Play Skill courses. There her staff increased from 7 to 45.



Mrs. E. Sadek

made to help "market" the College. Two scholarships were given to celebrate the College's 60th anniversary and the Romanian Government has also been given a scholarship for two places. So the numbers are reasonable, even though they do not all come from traditional sources. There are no problems at all about placing the students after qualifying — there are five jobs for every student, so there is never any need to advertise, for the demand could not satisfy the need. Carryl Sabine was appointed to the staff to make sure that the students ended up with the right jobs for them — though this is only part of her teaching work. The College has attracted several overseas students, including five from Zimbabwe and has also taken on a group of 44 Japanese for a three day course. A new venture has been the admission of two male students who have fitted in remarkably well. Since Mrs. Sadek's arrival, no student has failed the final examinations.

### New School

In September 1993, the College is to run its own Primary School for 5-8 year olds. This would seem to be a logical extension to the nursery school and will provide the before and after care that so many parents desperately need. She is making sure that the curriculum will fit in with, say, the Abbey and Crossfields demands, and will take up to 16 children in the first year.

### Governing Body

Mrs. Sadek was naturally wary of the change of working for a Principal and Vice-Principal in a local government environment to that of working for a governing body. However, after a year, she praised highly her governors, who have proved to be a very supportive board. She mentioned Ruth Andreski, who is responsible for children under 5 in Berkshire, and her Chairman, Mrs Smallcombe and said she was very proud of the whole board who knew all about the new Act and their responsibilities under it.

The college works closely with the Norland and Princess Christian Nursery Training Colleges.

### Family Life

Mrs. Sadek enjoyed her life in London and, although she now lives at the Chiltern during the week, spends weekends visiting her daughters in Bayswater and Kent. She is a proud grandmother of two and clearly enjoys all her family life.

Mrs. Sadek has fitted well into Caversham life and is clearly a very able lady who will carry on the tradition that is expected. On her appointment she said "British training for nursery nurses is second to none and Chiltern is a leading provider of quality childcare training. The College is very well placed to train nursery nurses to work throughout the European Single Market in this rapidly growing profession."

"I am delighted to be able to take up this challenging position with one of the world's most respected institutions." We wish her well.

# 'PUPPY WALKING'



Mrs. Christine Secker

— E.S. Archer

Everyone is familiar with the sight of a puppy, usually a labrador or a retriever, in a special harness being "Walked" in the first stages of being trained to be a "Guide Dog for the Blind". Mrs. Catherine Secker has been doing this vital work for some years, and is now walking her eighth puppy — 'Gyp' by name. Dogs (or bitches — they are equally good) go to the walker's home at the age of six weeks, and stay for about a year, during which time character develops — in some cases proving unsuitable for further training as a guide dog.

The dog is named before leaving the litter, its name beginning with the same letter as the rest of the litter. The Centre at Wokingham now breeds from its own animals, labradors and retrievers mainly, but also German Shepherds and collies. Christine says it is a wrench when walker and puppy have to part (Gyp goes in June) but they are working dogs and this first year is a very important one.

### Dramatic change

Once the ILEA had been dispersed in London things became very difficult; she decided on a change and applied and was accepted for her present job.

To come out of the public sector into albeit a leading private sector establishment was real challenge, particularly as it came just at the time of the introduction of the 1989 Children's Act. However, Mrs. Sadek appears to have made this change with ease, coping with a curriculum change because of the Act, and National Vocational Qualifications necessitating a new system for examining people.

### Students

The Chiltern receives no government aid, so the recession has made some difference to the in-take. A video has been

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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I once told my colleague that flattery would get her anywhere, a fact she took to heart when she went over the top singing my praises in last month's edition of the 'Bridge'. But I hasten to reassure her and anyone else interested that it is not as a result of what she said that I am once more back in the role of Katy, but that I do have a few items to tie up which will be better in the form of a column. As to the future, well if I have anything to say no doubt I will say it, but I do hope more people will continue to contribute to odd items of news. Even the odd letter, such as the one in last month's issue, is just what we need, so keep it coming.

### FIRE OVER CAVERSHAM

I've just read a most fascinating book. It's probably not a work of great literary merit; apart from anything else the writer has got himself and probably his readers a bit confused over whether 'Are you 17' is a novel or a documentary. But for content it would take some beating.

At first I was very disturbed by the assumption, at the beginning, that people went around in the last war giving out white feathers to those men who, though of Service age, seemed to settle for the soft opinion of working with the Fire Service instead of joining the Forces. I suppose it did happen, but then I was in London during the blitz, so we early learned to appreciate what the fire service did and, indeed, one of my most vivid recollections was when travelling on a bus down the Old Kent Road, after a very heavy raid, I saw a very bewildered, weary and discon-

solate fireman gazing hopelessly into a hose which was producing mere droplets. He'd obviously been hard at it all night but this was too much — he said it all and I shall never forget him.

So I did know something of what the firemen did but I had no idea about so much. I didn't know, for instance, that firemen from Reading were sent as far as the south coast and the Midlands to help there. Nor did I realise how much these men, and women, had to improvise, both with equipment and with providing for their own comfort, if you can call it that, putting up makeshift beds in unlikely places, fighting to get proper clothing and going ages without really drying out because of lack of waterproof trousers, great coats and so on. Even little things come to mind, such as the fact that Reading firemen found time to collect and send parcels to the widows and children of firemen killed in Coventry.

This book is an absolute wealth of information, not least about how Reading, Newbury and surrounding areas, suffered; so much, it seems, was deliberately, and probably wisely, kept from the general public. I could go on all day about the subject, instead I recommend anyone interested to buy or borrow this book and discover, for instance, what a big part Caversham played

Later I was directed to our good friend Norman Kent, who proved to be a further mine of information, including some very amusing stories, having served as the only permanent full-time messenger for a time before joining the army. Like

Alan Sandall, the author, he joined the Fire Service by giving a false age until he too disappeared into the Navy. When time permits I hope to pick Norman's brain on the subject. But then, if I may say so,



— E.S. Archer  
Anne and John Rowe of "The Fondue Pot".

this was all part of my history — I wonder if it was part of yours.

### THE FONDUE POT

Our photographer handed me this photo which he took of Anne and John Rowe while on a recent visit to the Fondue Pot in Prospect Street, and asked me to write a few lines. I do so very willingly because since I mentioned the opening of this place some months ago I've taken the opportunity to sample their wares. I doubt if I shall ever be a fondue fan, though what I had was really delicious, but it is proving very popular and bringing in customers from all over the place. But home-made soup at lunchtime, snacks and deliciously-filled baguettes are just great. Most of all I appreciate the very friendly atmosphere, the lack of rush and willingness to provide whatever a customer wants if possible, witnessed by the fact that when I saw Anne the other day she stressed that they were anxious for feed-back and suggestions. Even a mid-morning coffee or afternoon cuppa can provide a very enjoyable and relax-

ed interlude. Try it for yourself — I don't think you will be disappointed. But I should mention that they close from 4.30 in the afternoon until, I think, about 7.30, to enable them to catch their breath.

without a lot of them. So think about it.

### MORE HELP FOR OTHERS

In a short item recently about the activities of Kate Wiggins, Emma and Victoria Hillier, on behalf of Somalia, I said I was sure we'd hear more of their activities in the future. I hadn't realised it would be so soon, but already I can report that Kate and Emma between them have just raised nearly £90 on a 24 hour fast — doesn't sound much but it also entailed going round soliciting sponsors — no easy job for youngsters only too conscious of the effect of the recession on ordinary people. This time they are working for a Christian caring group. One wonders what next!

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## "THE DEEP BLUE SEA"

The Deep Blue Sea, by Terence Rattigan, was presented by Caversham Theatre on 18th, 19th and 20th February. The action of the play revolves around Hester who is known to neighbours, (since the events take place in 1950 and not in 1990,) as Mrs Page, as she is living in sin with test pilot Freddie Page whilst still married to Sir William Collyer. A clergyman's sheltered daughter, she had accepted marriage to Judge Collyer as being the role of a dutiful hostess until the day when she was swept off her feet by a passionate, obsessive and self-immolating love for Freddie.

When the play opens she has recognised that she is between the devil and the deep blue sea, the devil being her seemingly insoluble problem: she does not love Sir William and Freddie cannot match her love for him. The final straw has been his failure to remember her birthday, and the deep blue sea in the form of suicide by unlit gas fire has beckoned. She is restored to life, and ultimately to living, by Miller, a discredited doctor of foreign extraction, convincingly played by Bob Green, who has himself been tempted by the oblivion which the deep sea offers. She does not start to live again, however, until her dilemma has been explored in highly effective scenes with Freddie and Sir William.

Freddie, a Battle of Britain pilot who was only really happy when shooting down Messerschmidts or on the beer with the boys, and for whom girls were just part of the fun of life, cannot fathom Hester and the intensity of her love. Sir William, on the other hand, has been able to offer her only affection: both have loved her in their fashion and plead not guilty to the devilish dilemma from which she seeks escape.

All three principals rose to the challenge of Rattigan's powerful scenes. Liz Martin splendidly conveyed Hester's conviction of being unable to return to Sir William, her resignation to the end of the affair with Freddie, her panic when it was clearly imminent and her smouldering indignation when the propriety of her love was questioned. Richard Stainthorpe was excellent as Freddie, never guying his Raffish aura but making him an essentially sincere character deserving sympathy not blame. Peter Ludlow as Sir William was suitably dignified and bewildered by Hester's irrational rejection of the life he offered.

One of the assets of professional theatre is a supply of actors in the right age range always waiting in the wings. Try as he might, David Munns could hardly portray Philip Welch, the naive, gauche, novice husband, dismissively referred to by Hester as 'the boy', who had the effrontery to lecture her on the nature of love. On the other hand Isobel Pravda, though a promising young actress, was a little too young to convey effectively the character of his novice wife. Julia Marshall was Hester's fussing, mothering landlady and Peter Anderson made the most of his role as Freddie's squadron and nineteenth hole buddy, Jackie Jackson.

The play was effectively directed by Jackie Case, who for the first time had forsaken acting for producing.

E.M.A.

## SWAN SAGA (Part 1)

For generations swans have been fed by hand at Caversham Bridge. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that where such flocks prevail, they will seldom move far from their food source, which would seem to be innocent enough.

Recently, however, the local Representative of 'Swan Lifeline' invited me to peruse their Magazine which contains truly horrifying photographs of swans and cygnets dying from injuries sustained from shooting, vandalism and fishing-tackle.

The swallowing of discarded hooks and now the banned lead-shots are shown to be the main dangers, together with entanglement of rods and lines left unattended.

Shooting is, of course, illegal under the Protection of Birds Act 1954 and subsequent amendments, whilst vandalism in all its anti-social aspects must sooner or later be met at fundamental roots.

The situation would seem to be exacerbated in areas of high concentration of both anglers and swans, such as the Norfolk Broads at holiday times, when many 'casual' and inexperienced (sometimes youthful) anglers meet, head-on, large flocks of swans awaiting food.

As a fly, sea and coarse-fisherman for more than fifty years and a long-standing Member of the Reading & District Angling Association, I strongly commend that Body's Rules which strictly prohibit any act which may cause danger to wildlife or the local environment, with appropriate penalties for any infringement.

One can well understand Swan Lifeline's opposition to coarse-angling when daily they deal with severe injuries resulting from it. I believe, however, that with increasing numbers of anglers, methods and means of reducing these problems and also ensuring and improved general welfare for water-fowl, must be found, and I hope to offer a few observations on this subject shortly.

Any reader interested in the protection of swans and other birds, may care to contact the local Swan Lifeline Representative, Mrs. Joan Hammond (phone 481458) and the Representative of the Reading Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Members Group, Kit Brownlee (phone 566836).

SCOPS OWL

**SATURDAY 8th May**  
**ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD AND HANDYMAN SALE**  
**10am — 12 noon**  
at  
**ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALL, GROVE ROAD**  
**EMMER GREEN**

### CAVERSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY May 21st Demonstration

Scheduled for May 21st, the Caversham Horticultural Society will present a Demonstration and Talk titled "Flower Arranging" by Mrs Jo Jeffrey. This will take place at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road, Caversham at 7.30pm.

Mrs Jeffery is Area Representative of the National Association of Flower Arrangers for Berks, Bucks and Oxon. She is also President of the Chiltern Edge Flower Club at Sonning Common and holds week and day courses on Flower Arranging and Floristry at her Kidmore End home.

It is anticipated that there will be a good turn out of members and friends for what promises to be a very interesting evening and the Society intends to raffle the flower arrangements after the demonstration.

If you are interested in the subject, why not join members at the Arthur Legge Centre? For those wishing to join the Society, membership forms will be available and a year's subscription is still only £1.50 for a husband and wife, reduced to 75p for Senior Citizens.

For further information about the Society, please contact the Chairman Mr Peter Handy on 473745 or the Membership Secretary Miss Sheila Bryant on 473441.

### CAVERSHAM W.I. MARKET

Caversham W.I. Market meets every Friday morning in Church House (just along from Waitrose supermarket) and is open to the public from 9.30-10.30am. It has recently moved from the upstairs room to a smaller room downstairs which some senior citizens have found preferable. A delicious selection of homemade cakes, biscuits etc is available. Also fresh eggs, some craft, vegetables, flowers and plants at certain seasonal times of the year. Coffee is available at a modest charge.

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# SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



## St. Peter's Caversham

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

African Palm Crosses at all services  
8.00am - Holy Communion  
9.15am - Holy Communion (sung): able-bodied meet  
9.10 at Caversham Court for procession into church  
11.15am - Morning Prayer  
6.30pm - Evensong

### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week:

7.00pm - Holy Communion

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

9.30am - Holy Communion  
8.00pm - Holy Communion (sung) with vigil to midnight

### GOOD FRIDAY

8.00am - Holy Communion  
12-3pm - THREE HOURS' DEVOTION

conducted by Revd David Hastings

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Holy Communion  
9.15am - Holy Communion (sung)  
11.15am - Morning Prayer  
6.30pm - Evensong

## St. Margaret's Mapledurham

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

African Palm Crosses at all services  
8.00am - Holy Communion  
11.00am - Holy Communion (Sung)

### GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am - Devotional Service, followed by walk to St Peter's through Thameside country with prayer and praise (ideal for all ages). "Taxi" service back to Mapledurham to collect cars.

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

11.00am - Holy Communion (Sung)

## St. Andrew's Caversham

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

8.00am - The Eucharist. Distribution of Palms  
10.00am - Family Eucharist (Sung). Distribution of Palms and procession

6.30pm - Evensong followed by the Eucharist

### HOLY WEEK Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday:

8.00pm - The Eucharist - Address series "Why me?"

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.00pm - Sung Eucharist (preacher) Rev. Richard Chown (Washing feet, start of vigil)

### GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am - Good Friday Liturgy  
11.00am - Children's Good Friday Service

### EASTER EVE

8.30pm - Easter Vigil and Holy Fire

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - The Eucharist  
9.15am - Family Eucharist (Preacher Revd Richard Chown)  
11.15am - The Eucharist (said - with hymns)  
6.30pm - Evensong

## St Barnabas

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

8.00am - Eucharist (1662) with blessing of Palms  
9.30am - Procession with Palms, and Parish Communion (Starting from Church Hall)

### 8th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm - The Last Supper Eucharist in the Context of a Meal in the church hall (Bring a main course)

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm - The Proclamation of the Cross (no communion)

### 10th April - EASTER EVE

9.00pm - Waiting for the Risen Christ (Reading for the Vigil)

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Eucharist (1662)  
9.30am - EASTER SERVICE. The Services of Light, Baptism and Communion  
6.30pm - Sung Evensong

## St. John The Baptist

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

8.00am - Holy Communion  
10.00am - Procession of Palms and parish Eucharist

### 5th April - Monday

8.00pm - Eucharist

### 6th April - Tuesday

8.00pm - Eucharist

### 7th April - Wednesday

10.30 - 12 noon  
'Journey to the Cross'  
a session for children

### 8th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.00am - Eucharist  
8.00pm - SUNDAY EUCARIST OF THE LORD'S SUPPER & STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR followed by a watch until midnight

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am - 'Journey to the Cross' a session for children including a short all age service at 11.30am

### 10th April - HOLY SATURDAY

10.30 - 12 noon  
'Journey to Easter Day'  
a session for children  
8.00pm - THE EASTER LITURGY: the Service of Light, Lighting of the Paschal Candle and first Eucharist of Easter

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Holy Communion  
10.00am - PARISH EUCARIST FOR ALL AGES

## Caversham Park Church

### 4th April - Sunday

11.00am - Communion and Dramatised reading of Gospel

### 11th April - Sunday

11.00am - Easter Communion led by Phil, Joy and the Young People

### Holy Week services

Overall theme for the meditations: "The seven sayings from the Cross". Unless otherwise stated services will be held at 51 Galsworthy Drive.

### 5th April - Monday

7.15pm - Meditation and Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

### 6th April - Tuesday

7.30pm - Meal, Meditation and Communion (Rite A) venue to be announced

### 7th April - Wednesday

10.30am - Meditation and Communion (Rite A)

### 8th April - Thursday

8.00pm - Washing of Hands, Meditation and Communion (Rite of South India)

### 9th April - Friday

10.00am - Family Workshop (in the school hall)  
7.30pm - Meditation

### 10th April - Saturday

8.00pm - Meditation on the Tomb (in the school hall)

## Caversham Baptist Free Church

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am - Joint Service with Methodist Friends

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

10.30am - Family Service  
6.30pm - Evening Service

## Caversham Heights Methodist Church

### 8th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

2.30pm - Network (Ladies Fellowship) Communion  
8.00pm - Lovefeast

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am - United Service at Caversham Baptist Church

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Communion Service  
11.00am - Christ is Risen  
6.30pm - Easter Service

## Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

10.30am - Easter Service: Preacher Mr John Coleman  
6.30pm - Communion Service. The Revd John Boakes

## Caversham Hill Chapel

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am - Family Worship at the Chapel

### 11th April - EASTER SUNDAY

10.30am - Worship at the Chapel  
6.30pm - Worship at the Chapel

## Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship

### 11th April - EASTER SUNDAY

10.45am - Family Worship at Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion

## St. Paul's U.R.C. York Road, Reading

### 8th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm - Free Church Federal Council service of Holy Communion

### 11th April - EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am - Easter Morning Breakfast and Holy Communion  
11.00am - Easter Festival Family Worship  
6.30pm - Holy Communion

## Society of Friends

Services as usual

## Our Lady and St. Anne's Caversham

### St Anne's, South View Avenue

#### 1st April - Thursday

First Confessions at 3.30pm. Penitential Service (with Confessions) 7.30pm.

#### 4th April - PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

Sung Mass on Saturday, 3rd April, at 5.30pm with Blessing of Palms and Reading of the Passion.  
Masses on Sunday (4th) at 9.45am and 6.30pm. Blessed Palms will be available after Masses. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6pm.

#### 6th April - Tuesday

Mass 'of Chrism' at St Aloysius, Oxford, celebrated by the Archbishop at 7.30pm.

#### 8th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Procession and 'Watching' (7.30pm)

#### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

Stations and Sermon 10.30am. Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord at 3.00pm. Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Confessions afterwards.

#### 10th April - HOLY SATURDAY

Confessions 11-12, 3-4, and 5-6 (no later than 6) EASTER VIGIL Ceremonies with Blessing of the New Fire, Blessing of the Paschal Candle, Service of Readings and the Vigil Mass with Baptisms and Reception into the Church. Begins at 8.00pm.

#### 11th April - EASTER SUNDAY

Masses at 9.45am and 6.30pm.

## Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road

### 4th April - PALM SUNDAY

Masses at 8.30am and 11.15am. Blessing of Palms (outside if fine) before 11.15am Mass.

### 6th April - Tuesday

Mass at 10.00am

### 11th April - EASTER SUNDAY

Masses at 8.30am and 11.15am

## New Testament Church of God

### 9th April - GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am - 4.00pm  
Fasting and Prayer

### 10th April - SATURDAY

11.00am - 3.00pm  
Fasting and Prayer

### 11th April - EASTER DAY

11.00am - Divine Worship

N.B. The PROCESSION OF WITNESS for Good Friday will take place from St James' R.C. Church in The Forbury at 10.15am (Arranged by Churches Together in Central Reading)

**AROUND THE CHURCHES**

**CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN'S**

Having had good practice at providing 300 seats where we normally have 150 for the Institution of Stephen and Christine Rowe it seemed easy to do it all again one week later for the Parishes' confirmation service. The service was held at 6 p.m. on Sunday February 7th and the twenty five candidates were not only supported by their Parents and Godparents but by large numbers of their congregations again filling St. John's church to the doors! The day was very special for all, but especially for the Moloney family whose Mum had a new baby in the morning and was proudly present to see her daughter, Hannah, both baptised and confirmed. The baptism was performed by the Rev. Christine Allsopp and the confirmations by Bishop John who joined them all for refreshments afterwards in the Caversham Hall. Those confirmed were Sarah Balls, Alan Bradbury, Jacob Bradbury, Kate Dark, Natalie Dismukes, Stephen Dismukes, Helen Gomm, Selina Graham, Eleanor Guy, Sarah Jackson, David Lloyd, Isabelle Lorenc, Hannah Moloney, Wendy Murphy, Claire O'Brien, Mark Preston, David Small, Charlotte Smith, David Smith, Sarah Tucker, Sarah Walker, Caroline Warner, Darren White, Rebecca White, and Rebecca Wyatt.

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH SPRING FESTIVAL**  
May 16th - 23rd

The preparations for the eight day programme of events for the Spring Festival organised by Caversham Baptist Free Church continue. The Festival planned for May 16 - 23 is a part of a "40 Day" project of special events in which all the Baptist Union Churches of Berkshire are cooperating.

The team of four conducting the Festival will be led by Derek Cook of Marantha Ministries. Mr Cook will interview six local people during the local "Songs of Praise" which will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 16th May. Among these interviewees will be a printer, a housewife, and an ex-BBC engineer. Special ladies' events are planned for Monday 17th, and on Wednesday 19th the "Piper's Island" restaurant has been booked for a men's evening which is to include a meal.

For the young at heart a Christian Rock Band will be enhancing their enjoyment on Saturday 22nd. Throughout the Festival the Church premises will be open at announced times for visitors to enjoy flowers and exhibitions.

Daytime activities projected will include visiting local schools to speak to assemblies and teaching sessions. Interest in this will no doubt be intensified by the fact that Derek Cook has just returned from Jerusalem, where for several months he has been acting Chaplain at the Garden Tomb.

**LINK GROUP KNIT-IN**

On Monday 1st March the Caversham Group held their only fund raising event of the year - the annual knit-in! This proved to be a most enjoyable and profitable evening!

Knitters included Link Group members together with other members of local churches who had kindly agreed to join them. For the first time this year, they were pleased to welcome several gentlemen whose contribution was much appreciated and who earned the praise of those with more experience! All the knitters had been sponsored by friends and fellow members of their congregations and as a result a record amount was raised for the Group's funds!

The money will be used by the Link Group to help many local charities. Each member of the Group is actively linked with each of the organisations supported and it is through their involvement that they are able to spot the need for help and to respond quickly when support is needed.

The Link Group would like to thank all their knitters and all those who sponsored them. The squares they produced will be donated to the Save the Children Fund to be made up into blankets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Just a few of the busy knitters.

**ST. BARNABAS FELLOWSHIPS ARE ONE YEAR OLD**



Interaction between the age groups. - O. Jewiss

April sees the first anniversary of the formation of the five St. Barnabas Fellowships which embrace the whole congregation. Numbers, up to a total of about 80, regularly attend the monthly meetings, organised on a regional basis in people's homes. Through the fellowships we are seeing a deepening of the spiritual life and the St. Barnabas family life of the congregation.

Coincidental with the first anniversary all the Fellowships will be coming together in St. Barnabas Hall on the evening of Maundy Thursday for a Fellowship Meal or Agape with Holy Communion. We shall be using the form of service and guide lines commended by the House of Bishops in the Lent, Holy Week, Easter Services and Prayers.

In addition to the Fellowships attended by the adults, a Fellowship for the younger members of the congregation has just been started. However, the young are all part of the family and every attempt is made to involve them.

One such event, a Fellowship Tea Party, is illustrated in the pictures.



A Fellowship Tea Party - Rosehill Thursday. - O. Jewiss

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**St. Andrew's Fellowship**

An encouraging number of members met on a cold, damp, misty February evening to be transported into the warmth of sunny Israel when they heard a most interesting account by Muriel Popplewell of the doings of a party from St Andrew's when they visited the Holy Land last May.

The spoken word was followed by some very good slides shown by Pat Cleare, and those present felt they really knew more about making a pilgrimage, while for some who had made previous trips to Israel it was an evening of delightful nostalgia.

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### BACKING OUT OF BUGS BOTTOM

The surprise was not so much that there should be an application to permit seven more houses in the fourth phase of building in Bugs Bottom as that it should come from Barratts and not Higgs and Hill. Having made what most people thought was a foolhardy decision to go ahead with their plans to develop Bugs Bottom when the housing market had hit rock bottom, it was rather assumed they would stagger on with it for at least as long as they remained solvent, but it appears they have at last seen what any schoolchild could have pointed out to them ages ago. Right from the start there was no demand for that kind of house, the site was going to be expensive to develop with all those gradients and later the conditions imposed added to the cost and meant that no money could come in from any sales that could be made until a large sum had been paid out in preparing the site. It also appears that Barratts are not exactly bursting to buy the set-up, but are prepared to consider it if they can build to a higher den-

sity and to a less high standard of finish.

This application must be resisted. These conditions were fought for and gained at the end of a long and bitter battle to ensure that if this unwanted development had to take place it should at least be as good a quality one as possible. What we could now be left with is a run-of-the-mill estate which will generate even more traffic than the one for which permission was finally granted.

What the outcome will be is still unknown. The satisfaction of being able to say 'We told you so' is always short lived. In this case the damage has already been done. Only time will tell whether it can be contained or whether even more is to be inflicted on the valley and the community that surrounds it.

### HEMDEAN ROAD

In the meantime, Hemdean Road and those needing to use it are the main sufferers. Car owners living in the stretch affected can only move their vehicles in and out with difficulty. No real arrangements for refuse

collections and essential services seem to have been made, and dust, noise and mud abound. Early warning notices were inadequate, leaving motorists unfamiliar with the area wondering what to do. Just whom does this development benefit? Not even the shareholders of Higgs & Hill now.

### UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

Another major planning proposal is in the news with the decision by South Oxfordshire District Council to refuse permission for the thirty-six hole golf course and to turn down the enabling plan which was designed to generate income from a number of other developments in order to repair and maintain the thirty-eight listed buildings on Mapledurham estate. The decision was not an easy one, but it can be of little consolation to the Eyston family to know that their problems were recognised and would have to be attended to.

The Planning Committee con-

sidered that a golf course would be totally out of keeping with the character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and, in the event of its not being a success, any reversal to agriculture would be difficult and highly unlikely. As far as the enabling plan went, the committee acknowledged the national importance of the historic core of the estate (i.e. the village and its immediate setting) but felt the estate had not sufficiently explored all the other options for keeping it in good order, something the estate would doubtless deny.

There was much debate about the merits of selling off parts of the estate, though it was agreed that its unity of character derived from its being under a single ownership over the centuries. This would also raise the question of who would buy parts of it, and what they would do with it. Try to put a golf course on it, perhaps. For what crumb of comfort it is to the hard-pressed owners, the committee has agreed to set up an independent assessment to try to find some way forward. It is in the interests of all who care

for the countryside and for the national heritage that a solution be found before it is too late.

### CANOE CLUB

Leighton Park Canoe Club is a great success and has an even greater future ahead of itself. Its present buildings along the Warren next to Caversham Court are now in a poor state of repair and completely inadequate for the requirements of a modern competitive canoe club. The problem is that their plot is too small and they wish to use some of the neighbouring allotment land. Naturally the allotment holders are objecting, both those who will lose their plots and those who will find their ground in the shadow of the new buildings. These allotments are very popular and always have a long waiting list. They occupy land that used to be the kitchen gardens of the Court.

Not only allotment holders object. Users of Caversham Court fear that extra activities will impinge on the peace and tranquility of the gardens and will

turn to page 9

## 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.

### 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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## RESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

by Watchdog

Continued from Page 8

overshadow the historic gazebo. The informal space along the Warren is already fully occupied, by attenders at church services, particularly weekend weddings in the summer, and events in Caversham Court, at the very times when the Canoe Club will be busiest. To formalise this parking space will do nothing except further urbanise the Warren.

If the Canoe Club wants to expand, this is the wrong site. It must look elsewhere, possibly along the opposite bank or else be prepared to remain a less ambitious concern. Other established users of that area, although their pursuits are less spectacular, also have their rights.

### Two guest columnist this month.

#### RESTORATION OF WARREN WOODLANDS

Rosemary Bayford, secretary of Warren and District Residents' Association writes about work being done to maintain what is probably Reading's best known and favourite view.

Anyone walking along the Warren in the last few weeks will have noticed that work is being carried

out on the escarpment. Brushwood has been cleared, dead tree trunks and roots removed and some dangerous trees felled.

For about ten years this Association has been seeking help and guidance to preserve the scarp, which is such an important feature of the Reading landscape but is something of a mixed blessing to its various owners. Although there is evidence of ancient woodland, most of the trees were planted about the turn of the century. Now parts are owned by the County and Borough Councils, the remainder by individuals.

The age of the trees, the thin chalky soil, the two great gales (and many lesser ones) and the lack of rain in recent years, have all taken their toll and the woodlands have been in a sorry state.

Things began to look up when the draft Borough Plan identified the area as a Wildlife Heritage Site and Wildlife Corridor. The Berkshire Structure Plan also highlights its scenic importance. Then after many unsuccessful approaches, a call by the Association to the Countryside Officer at the County Council pro-

duced advice about grant aid and, just as important, a survey of the land to identify the work needed and the cost.

At the end of December, after more than a year of discussions, several setbacks and with the agreement of the owners, Berkshire County Council were instructed to put the necessary restoration work in hand.

The scheme has attracted grant aid from the Countryside Commission, who are helping with costs of tree surgery and providing and planting new trees. The County Council is providing considerable financial aid, and moneys from the Borough Environmental Fund have enabled work to start on the Borough land. The individual owners are making sizeable contributions. The Association has received support and encouragement from many, not least Cllrs. Fuad and Putt, who both live 'on the spot' and have helped tremendously in obtaining financial aid from the County and the Borough. Work should be completed by the end of March, to be followed by a four-year maintenance scheme.

In February, grey and with work in progress, the scarp looked a mess, but spring is coming. New growth will take over, scars left by all the dead and fallen timber will start to disappear, tranquility will be restored and the wildlife will continue their enjoyment of a verdant and flourishing area. The whole length of the escarpment will have received much needed attention and will present the prospect of a revitalised landscape.

It is our contribution to keeping Reading 'green'. Now all we need is some gentle rain — and some sunshine!

#### RECYCLING IN CAVERSHAM

Rob Angell, Environmental Campaigns Officer for Reading Borough Council, contributes the following:

At the moment we are recycling about

6% of domestic refuse in Reading. That means 94% of it (about 64 dustcarts full every day) is still dumped into Smallmead tip. Here it gives off methane gas, adding to the greenhouse effect. It also potentially leaches toxic liquids into ground water supplies to contaminate them. Hence our desire to increase the amount we are recycling.

To do this we need as many recycling sites as possible. Experience in Europe has shown that one site for every 2,000 people produces the maximum return. Reading currently has one for every 9,000 people. After April we should be getting towards one for every 6,000. As you can see, we still have a long way to go, so every site is valuable.

Albert Road Recreation Ground car park is, in many ways, a very good place for a recycling site. It is close to where a lot of people live without being too close for the noise to bother them and it is in the type of residential area where people tend to make good use of recycling facilities. The car park has a tarmac base which is strong enough to hold the weight of a full recycling bank. The main stress will come from the lorries that empty the banks. However, the condition of the car park will be reviewed after the six month trial period.

The emptying of the banks will normally take place once a week, during working hours on a weekday. The drivers of the lorries do this work all the time and will be aware of the danger of children playing near the banks.

The site at Albert Road will have a bottle, can and paper bank. Some other sites will have a textile bank, but to ensure that only as much space as can be realistically spared is used, there will not be one here. About three parking spaces will be used for the banks.

Local voluntary groups in Reading can 'adopt-a-site' to help keep it clean and keep an eye on

it for overflowing banks. Reading 69th Scouts have been recycling paper in Caversham for many years and have agreed to adopt the Albert Road site. They will be able to continue their own paper collections if they want, but will now be assured of an income of £550 a year from the site. They will also be able to claim some extra money to produce local publicity material to promote the site and let the people know that they are benefitting from it.

Hopefully we can all look forward with optimism. More recycling in Caversham will benefit the environment and 69th Reading Scouts. I will also be more than happy to hear comments and ideas for the safe running and development of the site, and to negative ones that I can take into account at the end of the six month trial period.

#### DIARY DATE

MONDAY 29th MARCH, 8.00pm, Church House, Church Street. Annual General Meeting of Caversham & District Residents' Association.

After the formal business of the meeting has been concluded Mr. Colin Thompson, Traffic Operations Director of Reading Buses, will speak about Reading's bus services.

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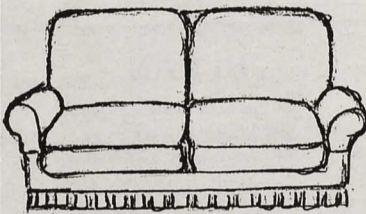
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## the CLUBS

### Caversham W.I.

The February meeting started sadly with a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Phyllis Colley, Institute Secretary who died suddenly in January. A fund in her memory has been established to buy a rosebowl for the President's table.

The speaker, Mr Lamb, showed slides, with a most interesting commentary and musical accompaniment, on the Thames at Maidenhead

The competition, for a photo of the Thames, was won by Mrs Sylvia Myzso. Members were reminded that the next meeting in March would be the AGM and a bring and buy.

### Caversham Heights TG

#### TEA-TIME COLLECTABLES

This was the title of the talk given by Mr Martin Rendall, when he and his wife came to Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild recently. Mr Rendall has roots in Caversham. Many years ago you could have had a good

browse round when he was at the Yard in Prospect Street. As far as porcelain is concerned he recommended a visit to the Percival David Foundation in Gordon Square near Kings Cross in London for a really enjoyable experience. He said that tea was first spoken of in this country in 1658. In the eighteenth century tea came from China by clipper, and being expensive was stored, locked, in the kind of fine wooden box that he had brought along with him. The quality of Chinese porcelain teapots has never been bettered; such a pot is worth more than a silver one. Before the advent of porcelain you drank from pewter vessels and used wooden platters. Lovely specimens of British bone china from famous firms such as Spode, Copeland and Royal Doulton have been made in the past, also silver articles. A copper kettle made before the industrial revolution would show a tinker's touches.

Washing in hot soapy water and then rubbing with a dry cloth is sufficient to keep silver bright. Afterwards keep wrapped from the air.

The guild was sad to learn of the death of Edith Matthews at Christmas. In February, however, Eva Hursey's 90th birthday was given a special celebration.

A talk about Crete, at social studies, given by Ray Goodman, brought the month to a close.

### Caversham Community Association

The speaker on the first of February was Mrs. Joan Hammond who is a member of the 'Swan Lifeline'. Her garden verges on the River Thames near Caversham

Bridge and she and her husband are always watchful to see if any injured swans need care. (Mrs. Hammond's talk duplicated the information of Scops Owl on P.5. q.v.). At the end of this interesting talk a collection was made by club members and a raffle held, with prizes of cakes and fruit provided by Margaret Cameron, Maida and George Feast, the proceeds of both were given to Mrs. Hammond for the 'Swan Lifeline'.

Mrs Eleanor Cryer was invited to the club on the eighth of February to relate her experiences when she visited Uganda as a guest of Dr. Eldad Karumaura and his wife Dr. Deborah Karumaura and their four children. Mrs Cryer had befriended the two doctors when they came to England as students and was godmother to their children. The family lived at Kawanda Research Station and their home was in what had been a colonial bungalow. There is much poverty in Uganda, many people wear ragged clothes. Repairs to buildings, roads and amenities had not been done since colonial rule ended in 1952 and no new buildings erected. Tribal wars had caused damage and there was much corruption. Armed men committed theft and young boys with guns did likewise. The people Mrs. Cryer met were happy and polite, the small gifts she gave them were gratefully received, especially pens and paper, as children had to be supplied with their own writing materials before they could go to school. The disease of Aids was rampant, many people dying from it including thousands of children. Mrs. Cryer described a visit paid to the Bushini tribe — Dr. Karumaura's uncle was the leader of the tribe. She also visited Merchison Falls and made a trip up the river Nile. The climate was good, the rain and hot sun resulted in plenty of fruit and vegetables so there was no starvation. Christianity was the main religion, six per cent of the people were

Moslems. Mrs. Cryer worshipped at a well-attended service held at an open air Pentecostal church. Instruction is badly needed in Uganda on hygiene and medical health to combat disease, Mrs. Cryer raises money by her talks for the purpose of sending a trained worker in this field to Uganda. Club members were fascinated by the informative talk and made a collection to help Mrs. Cryer in her worthwhile aim.

The following week a Valentine Party was held with an American supper, each member bringing their share of food which resulted in a good selection of sandwiches, cakes and savouries. The Buttons and Bows Accordion Group provided the entertainment, with Barry Strong as leader.

John Shoesmith was the vocalist and led the members in community singing. The music was varied and cheerful and included oldtime choruses; traditional songs, Al Jolson favourites and popular melodies from over the years. The Valentine competition was won by Wendy Colton with a heart-shaped ornament, Maida Feast received second prize with her shortbread, also heart-shaped. At the end of the evening Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked the entertainers for a very enjoyable performance.

The meeting on the 22nd February was for a social evening. Various prizes were distributed to the winners of the games played.

turn to page 11



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## the CLUBS

from page 10

### STAR Reading Branch of the University of the Third Age

#### February Activities

The monthly open meeting had as its speaker Mr Ken Moyise on the subject 'Finance in Retirement'. Amongst much helpful advice he pointed out that many pay income tax unnecessarily on their Building Society savings; he urged all to check their Bank and Credit Card statements, and above all he pointed out how much trouble would be saved if everyone made a will.

A new group has started to read French plays twice a month. Also a new group on Conversational German will meet twice a month at the new venue at Church House. The larger room, also at Church House, will enable more to join the Yoga group. Another new venture took place at Pegasus Court in Tilehurst. This was on 'The History of Art' and was well attended by members.

The Books group studied the 'Anthology of English Literature' from which fourteen year olds will be tested, and thoroughly approved it. The Playreaders enjoyed 'The Winslow Boy'

by Terence Rattigan. The Music group heard John Stoll on 'A Good Performance' illustrated by various pieces of music discussed as to their merits. The Travel Group had talks on 'Iceland' and 'The Amazon from source to sea'. The Debating Group, now renamed Discussion Group, had as its subject 'That old fashioned courtesy should be encouraged'. Thirty-one members joined the walk to Sulham Church where they delighted in the mass of snowdrops.

New members are always welcome at Star. Please ring the membership Secretary Mrs Grace McGregor Reading 866037.

### Chazey W.I.

Members of Chazey W.I. meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month at the Mapledurham Pavilion, off the Upper Woodcote Road, at 8pm. Interested visitors or potential new members will receive a warm welcome.

An interesting programme has been planned for the coming season and will include a talk about "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf" on April 6th, a trip to Alton Brewery in May, and a Freehand Porcelain demonstration by a Potter in July. Theatre trips, a barbecue and Movable Feast are just a few of the activities to look forward to. For further information and a programme, please contact Jean Pugh on 472949.

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### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

In February the ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild enjoyed a fascinating talk and slide show on the Wildlife of Bugs Bottom, given by Mr David Chandler. For nearly thirty years he has run a wildlife hospital in his garden and has rescued countless birds and animals, many of which went on to live long and fruitful lives. One of Mr Chandler's special loves is owls, of which there are many in and around Bugs Bottom and Emmer Green. Foxes and Roe and Muntjac deer also live in this area and are healthy and long-lived. While most wildlife activity takes place at night, there is still a great deal to be seen during the daytime. At the moment there are three badgers resident in Bugs Bottom. Should they move it is hoped that they will find a new home somewhere on the edge of the golf course.

The meeting was busy with preparations being made for the Federation "Spring into Summer" exhibition in May, and details of arrangements for the Guild Outing in June being announced.

The Arts and Crafts group had a demonstration of Bread Dough Craft last month and admired beautiful flowers and wall plaques made using this medium.

The Words and Music group watched and listened to the second act of "Carmen" and it is hoped to enjoy the finale later this year. A large group of members attended the ballet "Romeo and Juliet" at the Hexagon and pronounced it a great success.

The Ramblers are continuing to walk, no matter what the weather, and arrangements are well in hand for their holiday in Ireland in April.

With the approach of the AGM in March and a new guild year there was much to look forward to in 1993/4.

### Maplewood W.I.

At the February meeting members were entertained with a talk and film entitled 'A Curious History of British Food' given by Miss Sarah Lane of British Gas. Miss Lane began by demonstrating the aids British Gas can supply for disabled and elderly people to ease the use of difficult taps and controls on fires and cookers, and to assist the partially-sighted and blind.

The film which followed illustrated the history of flavourings brought to these islands by the invading Romans. Their more sophisticated cooking introduced new ideas to the British cuisine which remained after the Romans had left.

Later, the Normans brought elaborate dishes and in medieval times the haute cuisine of Britain was recognised as the nonpareil of cooking. All this extravagance was abhorrent to the Puritans whose influence in Cromwell's day led to the demise of rich and elaborate dishes. The reign of Queen Victoria, who extolled good plain cooking, led to British food becoming an international joke, although the quality of English and Scottish meat especially roast beef, soon gained respect and emulation.

Throughout the ages we have imported and modified dishes from abroad. Potatoes became popular only two hundred years ago; chips arrived from France in 1870; tomatoes became popular in the sixteenth century; cheap sugar came from the Spice Islands and today, new tastes and ideas from the East live side by side with our native foods in our diet.

This interesting film was followed by a food quiz competition won by Mrs M. Bolam.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs. E. Harden, and the prize for the year's entries by Miss W. Simmonds.

### Rosehill W.I.

The February meeting was on the 3rd and Miss Nancy

Vincent addressed the meeting in the absence of Mrs Stockhill.

The talk was by Mrs M. Crozier, entitled "Life as a Bargee's Wife". She told about the coal barges which travelled the Bridgewater Canal, and her life on the Midland canals from Birmingham. She herself had made articles for use on the boat, a jug and stool, etc, all beautifully decorated and painted in bright colours. She retired to put on the traditional dress of a bargee's wife, shawl, skirt and apron, with an enormous sunbonnet.

There was an exhibition table with photographs of water scenes.

### Caversham Ladies Club

The January meeting was welcomed and opened by Mrs Brenda Strong in the absence of Mrs Harwood, who is still indisposed. Mrs Strong asked members to remain silent in respect of Mrs Whiteway, who had died at the weekend. Mrs Whiteway was a founder member and noted for her cake making for the Club's parties, etc. She was greatly respected by all members.

Then the Revd Christine Allsopp was introduced, who gave a most interesting account as to how she first came into the Ministry.

At five years old she was taken to St Alban's Cathedral Harvest Festival and from then on expressed her wish to attend church. Much later, whilst reading Chemistry at Aston, Birmingham University, she met her husband and started a Sunday School in Aston. After marriage they moved to Twickenham, becoming involved in church work; whilst there she met the Deaconess, and later was approached by the Minister as to becoming a Deaconess. Later, after a part-time course and three children she eventually came to be interviewed by the Revd Richard Kingsbury at St Peter's Caversham, where everything has worked out well. It was a risk, but has proved to be a happy one.

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