



CAVERSHAM

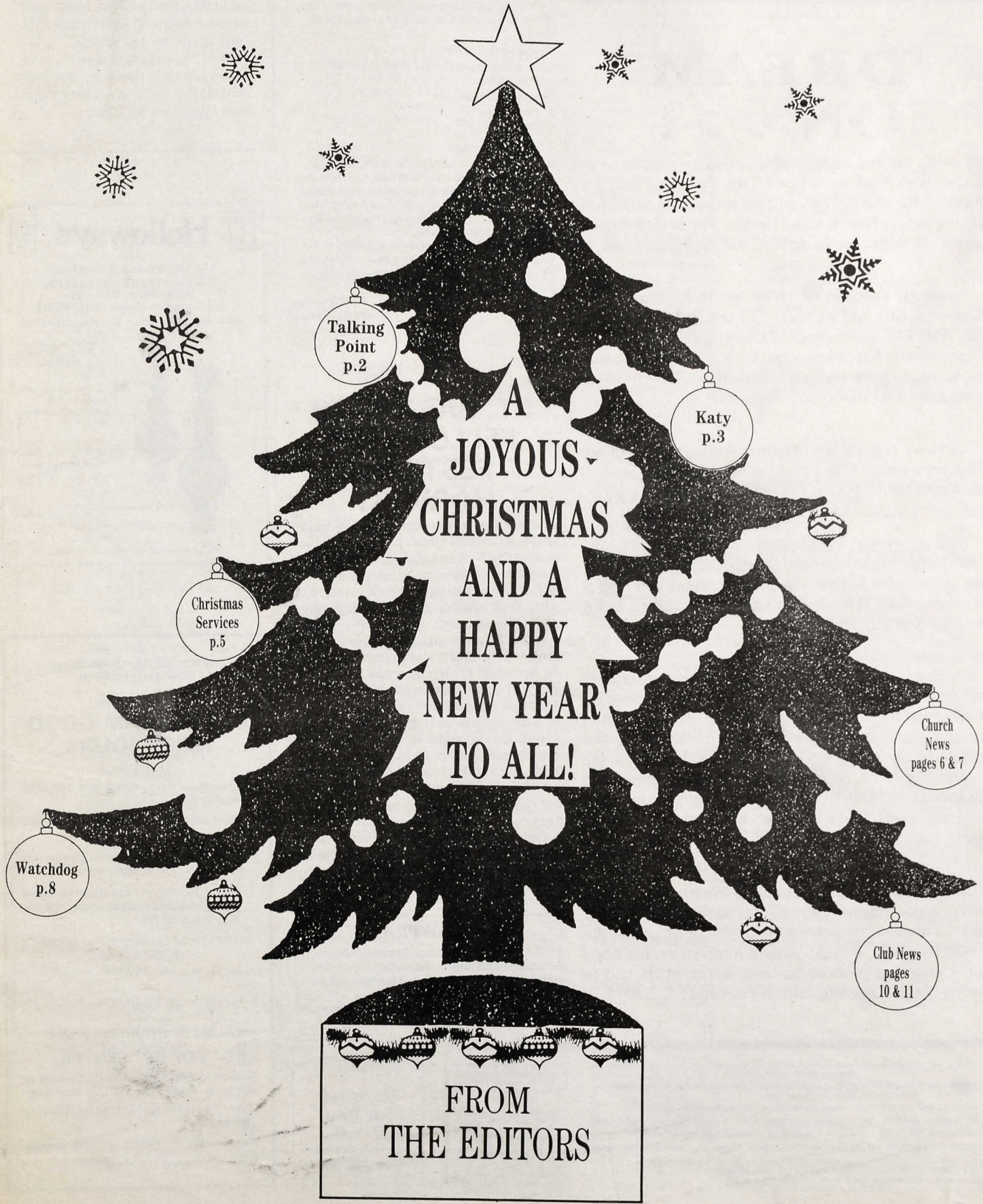
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A
JOYOUS
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL!

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FROM
THE EDITORS

D/EX.1758/30/12

TALKING POINT

by
Canon Richard Kingsbury
Rector of St. Peter
and St Margaret



DREAM ON . . .

BROKEN dreams, dashed hopes, missed signposts – we know them. God seems to take His own good time and leave us floundering. He made promises from Noah's ark grounding on Mount Ararat, to His Son in Gethsemane agony. Moses never made it to the Promised Land.



Promises, promises . . . Now we look ahead to the Christmas Crib and wonder. "What might have been?" No, WHAT IS! The message of Christmas is not a Readers' Digest instant-happiness formula. It is our Creator teasing us on, to keep faithful, hoping for the future which ultimately is in His hands, not ours.



So, as we prepare for Christmas, can we let go of our short-term plans? Listen again to His promise in Jesus: 'I am with you always, to the end of the age!'



Whatever we go through (remember the Israelites' forty years in the wilderness) and despite the dreadful suffering of so many in God's world, we shout and sing at Christmas that 'THIS IS OUR GOD! In a manger, facing hostility and an early death.'



Christmas is inextricably linked to Easter, grounds of our only hope – as for countless generations before us. 'Gather up the fragments that remain' said Jesus after feeding the five thousand with hope. We bring our fragmented lives, our broken dreams to the child in the manger, Emmanuel, God-with-us, to be gathered up in His love as He broke His life in the Last Supper Sacrament to assure us of God's promise that 'nothing in life or death' can ever take us from divine love.



Christmas is a time for penitence. We have turned our backs on this promise and still dare to blame God. 'Turn back, O man . . .' Kneel before the cradle of love in the Christmas stable. Repent. Accept forgiveness. Let hope in the enduring promise be born in the world and in ourselves this Christmastide and beyond . . .

POST BAG

Dear Editor,

You may like to publish this recipe for what I call "Miracle Cake" – the main reason being that it NEVER FAILS, despite stomping around in the kitchen, opening and shutting the oven door, etc.

To give due credit, it was broadcast by Jimmy Young over twenty years ago, when my children were tiny and I was eager for quick, easy recipes, but it then became a favourite for fund-raising at charity events, when I sold differently flavoured slices of the cake – and sold the recipe!

Miracle (Yoghurt) Cake

- 1 pot natural yoghurt (small) – THEN USE THE POT AS A MEASURE
- 2 Pots caster sugar
- 3 Pots SR flour
- 1 Pot cooking oil
- 2 Small/medium eggs

Flavourings – this is where the fun starts, as you can use anything. Add dry spices with flour, but try coconut, cocoa, ginger etc. My family favourites are mixed spice with sunflower seeds or almond and apple (small pieces of raw apple, almond flavouring, then flaked almonds sprinkled on top before baking).

Plonk all the above ingredients in a bowl, mix thoroughly and bake in a lined 8" cake tin – or a loaf tin. (I batch bake three loaves using a large pot of yoghurt) Gas mark 3 for about 1 1/2 hours.

Best wishes,
Barbara Graham,
4 Kelmscott Close,
Caversham

ST. BARNABAS FELLOWSHIP FESTIVAL HARVEST

Much of the activity apart from Sunday at St Barnabas Church now revolves round the Fellowships. Five groups on a regional basis cover all associated with the church, whether they are active or not. Two further groups, which have recently started, cover the young people. Each group meets at least once a month to share and to care and ends in bringing their concerns to God in prayer; some groups meet in between for more serious study and prayer. One Sunday each month the concerns of one group are brought in prayer into the worship of all through the intercessions. Also on a monthly rota basis Fellowships are involved in other aspects of the services. It was therefore fitting that this year our Harvest Supper should be a coming together of the Fellowships when almost 80 gathered in St Barnabas Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Junior Fellowships.

ALL AGE PRAISE

The December All Age Praise service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church will be at 9.30am on Sunday, 19th December. Everyone welcome.

LIFEBOAT NEWS

The local RNLI Association had a happy and successful day at their Annual Bazaar on Saturday October 23rd and made a profit of £443.93, thanks to the hard work of their helpers, and to the support given by the public.

The "Good Shepherd", the Church's own lifeboat, has saved twenty-eight lives since she was launched in 1988.

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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.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Bailey, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Kevin Corrigan, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

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All contributions for January issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 1 December.

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

The dates for February will be Monday 3 January and Wednesday 5 January.

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

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Just in time for Christmas I've discovered a fascinating place, known as 'Cat's Cradle'. Tucked behind the car park and the back of the club in Church Street, this craft shop is run by two enterprising ladies, Diana Polisano and Teresa Bowles. Though small it is delightful and so reminiscent of what I call Christmas shops, familiar to people visiting Europe, the USA and other places. They deal in all kinds of crafts, are willing to give advice or tuition for anyone who wants it, and they sell, among other things, many odd and

attractive items, some of them very inexpensive, which would make excellent gifts for last minute shoppers. They don't mind browsers but are only open from 9.30 to 3.30, so don't leave it too late. Among others, they include work done by local artists and very beautiful it is.

MORE CRAFTS

What a talented lot we have in Caversham. My next door neighbour is producing - I think for her own use - a lovely selection of small pictures, painted beautifully and well mounted. An asset to

any home. I don't know if she is interested in making them for sale but will try to find out.

In the meanwhile and on a much larger scale, I recently called on a house in Westfield Road to see some beautiful pictures produced by Michael Burnet-Smith. Better known as a very well qualified architect, he is currently turning his hand at producing pictures of local scenes, suitable for small businesses or hotels. They really are lovely so I hope some of them will find a home in Caversham. Again I will try to find out more before I write again.

in an effort to be helpful. But I wish they would give somebody the job of keeping an eye on the check-outs where queues can build up at a rapid rate, usually just when you want to use them. They do keep one section for people with baskets only, but if they had somebody keeping an eye on things generally, they could perhaps move people around a bit and ease the situation.

NUTS ABOUT CAVERSHAM

And I'm not referring to the green-grocers though they do deserve a mention, especially the one on the precinct which has had a lovely display of cut flowers, plants etc., as well as a good section of fruit and vegetables. But I do really mean I'm 'nuts about Caversham'. I think it's a lovely place to shop and get to know people, but if you are on the ball about planned developments, gird up your loins for the battle ahead. Once again we are under attack by developers, whose only interest is to make money. I'm sure Watchdog will produce much more information in her column.

VETS

I'm very sad to hear the vets in Prospect Street have changed hands and will be reorganised. Alas, we shall be losing Mrs Chambers, who is moving elsewhere. She has given wonderful service in a very unassuming way, to the people of Caversham, and says she intends to keep up her contacts here. One thing we can do to keep in touch is to call at the pet shop where Jill and Jerry will know about the latest developments, anything to do with animals. They are another couple we just couldn't do without. Oh dear, I'd love to give more time to all this.

CATS ETC.

While I think of it, a plea from the Cats Protection League

who are still trying to find homes for some of their cats. They are doing a marvellous job, appreciated by all but can do with our support, whether it is in finding homes or helping to raise funds.

Some of us feel strongly about the need for a PDSA nearer home - they are a boon to elderly people who can't travel far and often can't afford high veterinary bills. But why, oh why, doesn't the PDSA make an effort to set up a dispensary near enough for people to reach them. I did once make enquiries but it seems the young man from head office, only too willing to load me up with raffle tickets to raise funds, simply wasn't interested. To be honest, he did admit that he was only filling in time at Head Office while looking for another job.

ACORN

Tamara, wife of Michael (see feature on crafts) has asked me to pass on the news about this healing ministry which organises services in Caversham Free Baptist Church. Those of you interested in healing fellowships will find a visit to one of their services both rewarding and enjoyable. So here is a list of future meetings; they start at 7 p.m.,

preceded by a prayer meeting at 6.15 p.m.

Saturday 27th November: Preacher Neil Raymond from the Acorn Prayer Fellowship.

Saturday 29th January: Preacher Rev. Chris Justice from the Chapel on the Hill.

Saturday 26th February: Preacher Dr John Sumitra, a medical practitioner and Methodist local preacher from Tilehurst.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

It seems something I wrote about the Rev.

Leslie Griffiths recently struck a chord with one of our readers who rang me to say that Mr Griffiths had actually been back and talked to the people of the Caversham Heights Society. He was able to tell them a lot about the recent happenings in Haiti and about his own part in trying to help President Aristide. Sorry, this came in rather late, so I can't say more at this stage - it would be nice if somebody would write up this kind of thing for our readers.

AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

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MORE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Most of you will, of course, have done your Christmas shopping by the time you read this but, if not, don't forget the local bookshop, especially the shelves at the back of the shop. They have a lovely selection of small books, books of postcards, notelets etc. I popped in the other day with an eye on the eternal Christmas rush when I'd decided to find gifts for a group of people I'm visiting tomorrow and probably won't do again before Christmas. With the help of Lindsay and John I was able to find a selection of suitable items, many under £4, which I know, will be acceptable. And, of course, they have many paperbacks, some produced especially for Christmas.

Then there are always the florists, fascinating at this time of year and the antique shops. I could go on indefinitely but for those of you who don't like going into Reading - and who does these days - you could find a lot of what you want locally. I've travelled around quite a bit in the past but don't think I've ever found such a friendly lot of shop owners and assistants. Once again I've been asked to mention Waitrose where the assistants fall over themselves

PICTURES

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WINTER WINGS AND SUMMER MEMORIES

As we approach the year's end, long after summer migrants have returned to Africa, dull browns and leaf-fall replace the mellow russets, golds and orange of Autumn, the forested evenings being again exacerbated by the irritating ritual of 'putting the clocks BACK'.

The Autumnal anti-cyclone centred over Britain brought a moderate fall of Redwing, but by no means as heavy as the usually high-pressure system over Scandinavia would have done at that time. The calls of Redwing can be heard at night as they pass over Caversham, some of them being en route for southern Spain.

Scottish estuaries and lowlands begin to fill with thousands of ducks, geese and swans from the Arctic, many a wild and lonely moor and glen ringing with their haunting voices.

Late August saw a small party of us fulfilling our longstanding 'pilgrimage' to East Anglia, where for two nights we camped beneath the north Norfolk shingle-ridge - now thankfully, entrusted to a Conservationist body.

During the second night, following heavy rainfall, the wind backed excitingly from South to North-East, with the usual results! On that wind came rare species and within thirty minutes, almost a hundred bird-watchers had congregated on the shingle-ridge at Cley coast-guard station. Information was instantly received by 'bleeper' from a similar group at Sheringham, some nine miles to the East of us, regarding birds heading in our direction. Within a few minutes, they would usually fly past, whilst occasionally other became 'lost in transit'!

A few hours later, we recovered our breath - and 'equilibrium' high up on Salthouse Heath, overlooking the North Sea. At the side of the road, we discovered an exhausted Continental Robin, its throat and breast being a slightly paler red than that of our 'garden variety'. We soon entrusted it to a well-known local twitcher and 'bird-doctor', to whom our hearts instantly warmed when upon gently examining it he quietly said, "You poor little fellow - let me see what I can do for you." (He could so easily have remarked, "Oh - a Continental Robin, eh?")

Truly this man had a similar tenderness for one of God's small creatures, and was following in the footsteps and tradition of his well-loved, and late-lamented predecessor, Richard Richardson of Cley, a highly respected GENTLE-man, in the fullest sense, and a renowned bird-artist.

As we breathed a silent prayer for the recovery of our tiny charge, we knew that it was in safe and caring hands.

SCOPS OWL

NEWS OF FORMER CURATES

Bernard Metcalfe who came to Caversham as a deacon in 1972 and has been team rector of the Totton Team Ministry near Southampton since 1984, is moving to Essex where he will be vicar of Great Bentley and Frating with

Thorrington. When he left Caversham he went to Aylesbury Parish Church.

Peter Atkinson, at present Vicar of Dedworth, Windsor, goes in December to Aylesbury where he will be a Team Vicar and Team Missioner. He was priest-in-charge of St John's Caversham from 1969 to 1975.

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WAREHOUSE DEDICATED AT THE LAUNCH OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

"helping people to help themselves . . . by helping others" encapsulates the work of Christian Community Action which was launched on 3rd November by an evening of worship and dedication in the unusual setting of a warehouse in Whitley.

As a result of his experiences working at the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre, Nick Crowder of Caversham Hill Chapel felt called by God to find a means of recycling surplus goods to the needy and in so doing providing valuable and tangible tasks for some of the users of the Drop-in Centre by using them to help collect, refurbish and distribute the goods. Borne by conviction and trust in God these ideas have come to fruition through the free provision by the Borough Council of 5,000 square feet of warehouse space in Bennet Road. The work has now started and is staffed by a team drawn from the Drop-in Centre. It is intended that the activity will be an expression by the whole Church in this area of an outworking of Christian faith through deeds. The initiative has been warmly encouraged by the Bishop of Reading.

Members from many Reading churches joined in the dedication of the warehouse by the Revd Chris Justice and learnt from the Project Director, Nick Crowder, about how the work developed. Powerful testimony from the team drawn from the Drop-in Centre demonstrated how their lives have been changed through the witness and work of their (now) fellow Christians.

This venture now needs support from Christians locally through prayer, finance, practical help and the donation of recyclable products, including household furnishings, clothes, electrical appliances, prams, toys, which will be collected, sorted and delivered by the team. For further information contact: Christian Community Action, Orchard House, 18 School Terrace, Reading RG1 3LS.

2nd CAVERSHAM PARK BROWNIES

Since September 1992, when the pack heard of the death of their little Brownie friend, Marianne, they have been fund raising for an air conditioning unit in the children's cancer ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where she was treated. Over the past year money has been raised with a sponsored walk, an auction, a car wash and a sponsored swim with the help of all the Brownies and their families. It is with great pleasure that they are able to give Mrs Ryder (a social worker for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund) a final contribution of £228.28 which will bring the total raised to £1600.

We are very grateful to all Brownies, their families, Micklands School and everyone who has helped in any way to enable us to have achieved such a wonderful tribute to our little Brownie friend whom we will never forget.

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Christmas Services



ST PETER

- 12th December**
9.15am Toys and presents invited for needy children
- 19th December**
6.30pm Carol Service (traditional readings and carols)
- 24th December**
4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS and carols
- 25th December**
8.00am Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION (ideal for all ages) with carols
Morning Prayer with carols
11.15am Morning Prayer with carols
- 26th December**
8am and 9.15am Holy Communion
11.15am Morning Prayer (No Evensong)

ST ANDREW

- 24th December**
4.30pm Crib Service and Candlelight Procession
11.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
- 25th December**
8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Sung Eucharist (Families with children especially welcome)
- 26th December**
8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Family Eucharist
6.30pm Said Evensong, followed by Carol Singing (chosen by those present)

ST BARNABAS, EMMER GREEN

- 12th December**
9.30am Toy Service (Bring gifts for deprived children if you wish)
- 19th December**
9.30am Advent 4 Parish Eucharist
4.30pm Carol Service
- 24th December**
4.30pm Crib Service (Children especially welcome)
11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25th December**
8.00am Said Communion (1662)
9.30am FAMILY COMMUNION (Children may bring a present to show)

ST JOHN

- 19th December**
10.00am Parish Eucharist with Christingle
6.30pm Parish Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24th December**
4.00pm Carols round the Crib
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th December**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist for All Ages

ST MARGARET MAPLEDURHAM

- 24th December**
2.30pm Crib Service
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS and carols
- 25th December**
11.00am HOLY COMMUNION and carols

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

- 19th December**
11.00am Family Carol Service
3.00pm Confirmation
- 24th December**
11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25th December**
11.00am Christmas Family Communion
- 26th December**
11.00am Christmas Worship
- 2nd January**
6.30pm Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols for Epiphany

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S PARISH

- 19th December**
3.00pm Carol Service at St Anne's
- 24th December**
10.00am Morning Mass at both churches
10.30am-12 noon, 4.00-5.00pm Confessions at St Anne's
6.00pm Christmas 'Midnight' Mass (anticipated) at Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road. Carols from 5.30pm. Blessing of Crib.
- 25th December**
8.30am Mass at Richmond Road
9.00am Mass at St Anne's (Children)
10.30am Mass at Richmond Road
11.00am Mass at St Anne's
NO EVENING MASS
- 26th December** **Feast of the Holy Family:**
8.30am Mass at Richmond Road
9.45am Mass at St Anne's
11.15am Mass at Richmond Road
6.30pm Mass at St Anne's
No other Mass or Service

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

- 12th December**
10.30am Toy Service. Revd Anne Wilkinson-Hayes
6.30pm Worship
- 19th December**
10.30am Morning Worship. Revd Gordon Thomas
6.30pm Revd Gordon Thomas. CAROLS
- 25th December**
10.30am Christmas Day Service. Mr Norman New
- 26th December**
10.30am Morning Worship
NO EVENING SERVICE

Carol Singing at Reading Station on Wednesday 22nd December 4.30pm - 6.00pm organised by Churches Together in Central Reading

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

- 19th December**
10.30am Family Service
3.00pm Keyhole Club Party at Hill Primary School. (All primary school children welcome)
6.00pm Christmas Service for all the family
- 25th December**
10.30am Family Service
- 26th December**
10.30am Family Service

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- 5th December**
11.00am Toy Service
- 18th December**
3.00pm Polio Fellowship carols
- 19th December**
4.00pm Christingle Service
- 24th December**
11.15pm Christmas Eve Watchnight Communion Service
- 25th December**
10.30am Christmas Day Praise
- 26th December**
11.00am Christmas Carols
- 2nd January**
11.00am Covenant Service

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

- 5th December**
10.30am Toy Service and Parade Service
- 12th December**
6.30pm Nativity Play performed by the grown-ups
- 19th December**
10.30am Children's Christmas Service
6.30pm Carol Service
- 25th December**
10.30am Family Christmas Service

ST PAUL'S URC

- 12th December**
11.00am Gift & Toy Service for clients of the Drop-in Centre and Homestart families
- 17th December**
7.00pm Carol Concert. Free admission. Retiring collection for local charity
- 19th December**
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight followed by coffee and mince pies
- 24th December**
5.00pm Carol Singing in the neighbourhood
- 25th December**
10.00am Family Festival Service

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

- 25th December**
10.30am Meeting at Church Street, Reading
- 26th December**
No Meeting

AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Well rested from Summer holidays and the Autumn/Winter/Christmas/Michaelmas term begun with many of our children either beginning school or moving to Secondary School, life at Church too was renewed with vigour. A delightful piano concert was given in the church by Jane Robson with a range of music to please all tastes. A tape is available for those who missed the evening and the proceeds were given to "Musicians in Hospital" fund who provide music for the hospitalised and terminally ill in hospices.

From the peace of the concert to the hurly burly of the Mothers' Union Jumble Sale. The usual bargains well sorted over and the funds showing slight swelling. But are they pricing themselves out of the market, when hall and advert are costing £40 before you start the sale?

Monday mornings are no longer the time of wasday blues but a happy throng of Mums, Dads and childcarers with their youngsters singing choruses and enjoying stories and activities. The Pram Service - 10am - every Monday morning. A warm welcome awaits you and your child.

The last two years have seen Lent Groups exploring our relationship with each other and God and with a confident step forward one of the ideas to spring from the Groups has led to Advent Groups exploring Prayer. Pathways to Prayer groups are the chance to talk about, learn about and practise different ideas.

Harvest again saw the season starting with the collection of tins for the Drop-in Centre, quickly followed by the Harvest Supper with entertainment by the Barbershop ladies - a fun evening preceding the Harvest Festival Parade service when the church was full to the seams with youngsters, parents and gifts. A magnificent response of gifts and money raised by our expert auctioneer Becky Ilderton with the perishable goods, following the service. Harvest Celebrations were movingly completed with the Mothers' Union Service. This year they played host to Christian Women Together in Caversham and with the help of the younger Christian Mums a really wonderful service was held with the centre point being a quiet, dramatic and at times demanding prayer address given by Mrs Fi Radford who chose hospitality as her theme and at times had the church so quiet one dared not breathe. The generous giving she evoked in the collection told its own story.

October saw the climax of three years' hard work when the Garden of Remembrance was dedicated together with Memorial book and stand by the Archdeacon of Berkshire. Another very thought provoking sermon around Recreation, Resurrection and Renewal. Great interest in "our Bird" has now been generated by the "Pelican in her Piety", a statue crafted by Eric Stanford, as the central focus. We will always remember the rains of October as the men dug out the garden's semi-circular pattern in pouring rain so that it could be planted with winter pansies.

Both Church and Mothers' Union welcomed Margaret Kerr, a school friend of Christine's mother from Canada who has worked and travelled extensively with a Christian Missionary Society. She gave two illustrated talks for One World Week and again left many memories, but perhaps the most outstanding one for this present season was the happy picture of an African child with all she needed for Christmas, a new dress and a bowl of rice to share with her family.

October finished as it began with a piano recital, this time by the American born German, Mark Swartzertruber, who gave a Beethoven programme, much enjoyed, generously donating the proceeds to St John's Church and a retiring collection to ARMS.

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CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

Confirmation: Sunday, 19th December, 3.00 p.m. at Caversham Park Primary School. Bishop John Bone will be confirming a number of people from Caversham Park Church and other churches. All are welcome to come and join in this celebration of commitment to Christ and His church - the first such service to be held in Caversham Park.

Triple F Services

"What are they?"
"They are services based around words that begin with the letter 'F'. You could say they are Families and Friends in Fellowship worshipping together - with a bit of Fun added in."

"What happens in them?"
"Well, at the Harvest Triple F there were four collages, made by different families and the school, to represent the four seasons. Jesus is 'the man for all seasons'. Of all the words suggested for the four seasons, three stood out: Forgiveness, Faithful and Friend. Whatever the season, Jesus brings us forgiveness, He is faithful and is our friend."

"What about the 'Fun' bit?"

"There was plenty of that in the October Triple F, when the theme was music. 'fff' musically means fortissimo - very loud - and the children (and some adults!) got carried away, playing their instruments with great gusto, accompanying the hymns and songs. Suggestions for the theme ranged from 'fanfare' through 'flute' and 'flugelhorn' to 'Faure'. The whole service was a celebration of and thanksgiving for the gift of music."
"So when do these Triple F's happen?"
"On the fourth Sunday morning of the month."

"What is the theme for the next one?"
"Well, it's the day after Christmas - any suggestions? Feel free to forward them to Phil - but not if they're flippant, farcical or fantastical!"

Birthday Celebrations: January 9th at 3.00 pm (no morning service on that day.)
Preacher: Rev. Stuart Woodward, formerly at Woodley Baptist Church, now at Kenton, Harrow. Stuart preached at Phil's licensing. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

MOTHERS' UNION LINK

Sylvia Kassulamembra presenting an album to St. Andrew's Mothers' Union, Nachingwea, Tanzania from their Link Branch, St. Peter's Caversham and St. Margaret's, Mapledurham.

St Andrew's Fellowship

An appreciative audience came to hear Kevin Corrigan talk and show slides of Santiago de Compostela. Kevin, who is one of the Caversham Bridge Editors, has made the pilgrimage to Santiago three times, once by motor caravan, then by mountain bike and finally, on foot. His slides were mostly taken on his bicycle trip, which he started from France.

The track in some places was rough and obscure, but signposted by yellow arrows and cockle shell signs, the old pilgrim sign. He went by himself and stayed mostly in pilgrim shelters, some extremely primitive.

The pictures were lovely and showed the mountains

and the beautiful old towns and villages. The evening was much enjoyed by those present.



ST PETER'S WIVES

December is always a busy month for St. Peter's Wives and this year there is a full programme to enjoy. The Christmas dinner on the 19th December will be held at the Mapledurham Golf Club. On the 14th, members will be carol singing to raise money for Sue Ryder, and on the 21st, for their regular meeting in Church House, they will hold their usual Christmas party.

Looking back, a summer walk was held on a pleasant August evening and although all members arrived back at The Pack Saddle, there had been much concern when it was realised that three or four had strayed from the main party.

Mrs Hazel Blackburn was with the Wives for their monthly meeting in September and fascinated members with her talk on beekeeping, and displayed many of her products. The slides she showed were also much appreciated.

The return visit in October of Mr K. Sands was much enjoyed and, with the help of slides and a tape recorder, members were singing along with Marie Lloyd, Harry Lauder and other much loved music hall stars.

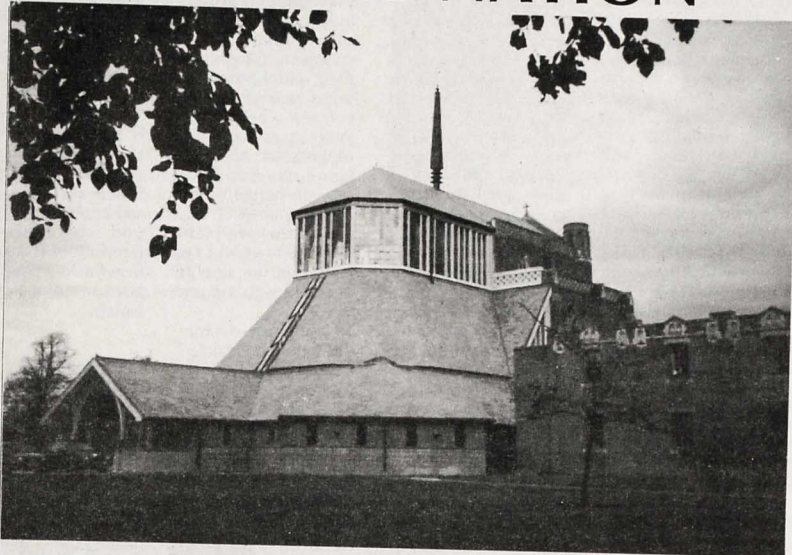
In January, the Group will welcome Mr. I. James to talk on St. Fagan's Museum and in February, the Rev. E. Brazell will take the Wives "Travelling with a Music Examiner".

daughter, both profoundly deaf, the service taken by the Chaplain for the Deaf was the most moving of all with the entire service signed and spoken by the Revd Williams.

In final thanksgiving, we give praise for the life of Evelyn Cook who died sadly on October 25th. She served St John's in so many capacities all her life, belonging to Young Wives and Mothers' Union as well as serving the Church, as a whole. Friends will remember her leading the oratory prayers and baby sitting for the Young Mums housegroups most recently. We extend

our love and prayers to son Christopher and his family as we do to all our members who have suffered bereavements recently. John Rutter's requiem performed liturgically on October 31st by St John's choir with friends from the Parish, University and Sainsbury Singers, was a beautiful tribute to all past loved ones. The haunting sounds of solo flute, drum, oboe, voice and piano together with tremendous sound of the crescendos will stay in memories. This was a service where people unashamedly cried together, remembered and were refreshed. Thank you.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

BERKSHIRE YOUTH
LEAD THE NATION

— O. Jewiss

Every other year representatives of the 25 or so Churches or Associations of Churches which comprise Churches Together in England come together at Swanwick with representatives from all the county ecumenical bodies to examine where we are ecumenically and to plan for the future. Among the key issues emerging this year was the need to be concerned for what is happening to young people, to empower them within the church and enable them to participate more fully in our church life. Subsequently some prominence has been given nationally to the activities of Churches Together in Berkshire Youth Ecumenical Link Project (YELP) to which reference was made in the July issue of *Caversham Bridge*. Other parts of the

country are now being encouraged to follow Berkshire's example.

We now learn that they have exciting plans to start the New Year celebrating Youth Together in Berkshire with a range of activities under the general Epiphany theme "A Festival of Light". Thus between 6.45pm and midnight on Sunday, 2 January 1994, young people from 15 years and upwards will be gathering in the dramatic setting of the newly extended and opened Douai Abbey, just up the hill from Woolhampton. The evening, which will include a barn dance and a bring and share supper (and costs £2), will end with Taizé style worship in the Abbey. Those who have seen the illumination effects at night inside the Abbey know that this will be quite spectacular.

Our pictures show Douai Abbey from the south west and the County Ecumenical Officer, Sister Janet Wilcox (on the left), and Miss Helen Bates, who has taken over recently as the Youth Liaison Officer for Churches Together in Berkshire and from whom further details may be obtained (Tel No. 0635 201604). Both have a substantial involvement in planning this event.



— O. Jewiss

CAVERSHAM GOES
FOR GROWTH

— O. Jewiss

As a follow through from the theme of this year's Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Caversham members of the local churches have literally been sitting at the feet of the Revd Harry Weatherley, the Berkshire Baptist Association Evangelist, learning about Church Growth in a series of four stimulating and challenging seminars during the autumn. This forms part of the local preparation for the forthcoming mission to Reading "Thames Valley Alive - Good News '94". From an analysis of the kind of world we live in, those present gained an understanding of what Church Growth means, explored how we came to faith and discovered what practical steps needed to be taken to overcome the obstacles to growth in our own worshipping communities in order to nurture the ten vital signs of growth: constant prayer, respect for Biblical authority, effective leadership, a mobilised membership, eventful worship, continuous evangelism, community life, compassionate service, openness to change, and released resources.

Two further sessions with the Revd Harry Weatherley on "Friendship Evangelism" are now planned for 19 and 26 January, 1994, at 7.45pm in the Baptist Lounge. Those interested should contact the Revd Phil Abrey.

One picture shows part of the group held in riveted attention by the Revd Harry Weatherley who is seen in the other picture swapping experiences with the Revd Phil Abrey, Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham, during a refreshment interval.



— O. Jewiss

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

LONG RUNNING SHOW

IN the course of this autumn and winter Reading centre plays host to three long running shows. The Snooker Championship occupies the Hexagon for the last two weeks of October and in December and January Peter Pan will be pulling in the crowds for five weeks. Beating these two by a long chalk will be a little heralded show in the adjacent Civic Offices, running from the second week in October through to just before Christmas. Its title, the Public Inquiry into the Revised Reading Structure Plan, is not likely to be a crowd puller, yet it will have an effect on the lives of the people of Reading far beyond anything the other two can produce. However, it is not without its following of attentive listeners, many of whom will also be participating in the performance. In true dramatic style, they could roughly be divided into goodies and baddies.

In this case the goodies are represented by Reading Borough Council and those who side with them. The Borough's far-reaching plan for maintaining, improving and enhancing public life in Reading over the next decade has been produced after taking into consideration points made during the consultation exercise on the original draft plan. Far too long even to summarise here (copies are available in public libraries), it would be difficult to criticise it in any but minor ways.

Yet it has its critics, who by and large could be cast as the baddies, and they will be, and indeed are, out in force to put their points. They usually come from outside the town and they see it as a place where big profits can be made, profits that

in most instances will not be for the benefit of the people of Reading. The Borough needs all the support it can get if it is to defend its plan against their massed ranks.

Caversham and District Residents' Association will be there on all relevant occasions and when it puts its case it will largely be supporting the Borough. The main proposals affecting Caversham are for Queen Anne's School playing fields. Queen Anne's is well endowed with open space and much as the large area to the south of Henley Road has been appreciated as providing a valuable lung with views across to Reading, this is not going to remain a green area surplus to requirements for much longer. Reading Borough Council sees it as a much needed site for low cost housing. Other powerful interests though have cast covetous eyes on it and Safeway is pressing for its use as a large super store with allied parking. This will bring noise and traffic into an area relatively free from it and its effects will also be felt on the nearby shopping area of central Caversham. Everyone would rather see the site remain as it is, but given the choice between housing and a superstore, few will have difficulty on deciding which they prefer.

The Residents' Association will also be carefully following the matter of that hardy perennial, a third Thames bridge, removed from Berkshire's Structure Plan by the Department of the Environment, supported by Reading as a positive way of relieving Reading's (as well as Sonning's) traffic problems and opposed by South Oxfordshire as opening the flood gates to development in their area.

LANDSCAPE OR LISTED BUILDINGS

Meanwhile at the same time as Reading's Inquiry was taking place a shorter one was being held at Sonning Common into South Oxfordshire's failure to give a decision on Mapledurham Estate's

application to construct a thirty-six hole golf course together with club house, function room and parking on land to the west of the A4074 on the opposite side to the new existing golf course. After much debate over a long period of the pros and cons, individuals and organisations have had to make up their minds one way or the other and from views expressed at the Inquiry, it was very evident that most people did not find these plans an acceptable solution for the undoubted problems of the estate. A way has got to be found of saving its listed buildings without destroying the landscape in order to do so.

KEEPING READING GREEN

When Cllr David Sutton, Chairman of the Borough Leisure Committee, came to speak at the public meeting organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association on Reading's public gardens parks and open spaces he introduced many of his listeners to sites with which they were totally unfamiliar in other parts of the town. People tend to be very parochial about parts of the town they know and don't know.

He began by saying that Reading's priority, above everything else, was to defend from large scale and commercial development, the town's key open spaces, these being along the river valleys, and the woodlands, particularly those in Tilehurst, whose greenery can be seen across the valley from Caversham. There are of course, other important issues in the town, but once these green spaces have gone they will be gone forever. It will be a mistake that can never be put right.

Not all of this space is in public ownership. In fact, most of it is not, which makes it all the more vulnerable. Without it, Reading's character will be totally changed, and changed for the worse.

Cllr Sutton spoke of the useful work being done by the various 'Friends of...' and joint

management groups in helping to maintain their local open spaces. In Caversham Clayfield Copse is a good example of the former and the Warren escarpment of the latter. Although some development may be permitted on open spaces it will only be where planning benefit will be gained in the way of enhancing that open space.

New parks, even in this tightly constricted town, are being formed, notably at the coalyard, next to Tesco, beyond King's Meadow, and on the old Huntley and Palmer sports ground in Kensington Road. Ultimately the aim is to bring about a Kennel linear park. In Caversham, the new development at Dean's Farm will bring with it public access to the remaining land and action is being taken to regain possession of View Island and restore it as a public amenity.

Bugs Bottom has, alas, been lost and all the Borough can do is to see that the park-

land part of the development reaches a high standard, even if local people think it a poor substitute for real countryside.

There are still areas of the town where there is no open space within easy reach and there are still problems of care and maintenance. Reading is fortunate in what it possesses but cannot rest on its laurels.

PSEUDO COUNTRYSIDE

Bugs Bottoms remains a sore point and the developers seem intent on rubbing salt into the wound. They are now naming the new roads on their housing estate. So far we have Hunters' Chase, Winterberry Close and Midsummer Meadow. It was too much to hope they would choose names from the list of those submitted in a recent competition. Forelawn Place, for instance would have been appropriate, as would Longon View.

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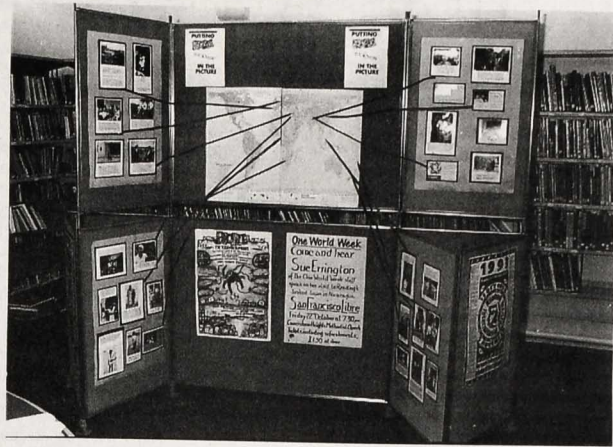
PEOPLE WE KNOW — AND SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

THE One World Week theme of 'Putting People in the Picture' was colourfully illustrated by an exhibition in Caversham Library showing 'people we know' and 'people we don't know'.

Members of Caversham churches contributed pictures of people they knew in distant parts of the world. One was Khalil Touma, an agricultural adviser to Palestinian farmers in Gaza, whilst another was Kiyoko Toda who studied stained glass in England and now makes it in Japan.

A less happy picture was of people we don't know — but need to know about. Here was nine year old Mariel Majok who walked one hundred and twenty miles in the Sudan to find food, her two brothers dying of starvation on the way. Then there was Parameswari, a young Sri Lankan mother who picks tea on a hillside, working all day for little more than the price of a B.R. cuppa.

One World Week puts us in the picture — and works for the day when there will be fewer pictures of Mariel Majok and Parameswari and more of Khalil and Kiyoko.



— Peter Bean

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ACHILLES RANGERS' NEW BOATHOUSE



— E. S. Archer

On the 18th October 1991, the Achilles Rangers' Warren Headquarters was razed to the ground in a blaze and much of the Guides' equipment was destroyed. On the 17th October 1993 the new boathouse was opened, after two years of determination and hard work raising funds by selling everything from plants, Christmas Cards, Tupperware, and holding Jumble Sales. Rangers, Guides, families and friends from all over Reading and surrounding areas attended the opening ceremony, which was presided over by Susan Hill, the South-West Regional Boating Adviser for the Guides. Ann Jefferies, Group Leader, spoke of the efforts of the Rangers in helping to clear the site of debris and raising the necessary funds (helped by the Guides and Brownies) for the re-building, and said how pleased she was to see so many Rangers and Guides come to use the boathouse for sailing on the Thames (which they did with great enjoyment on that sunny afternoon!) The boathouse is available to all Rangers and Guides of the Reading area and there will be courses on rowing and canoeing each summer. A plaque was unveiled commemorating donors towards the necessary £20,000 raised by all the hard work.

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South Berks Concert Band and D.E.B.R.A.

South Berks Concert Band is a local band which, as part of its activity, raises funds for the charity: D.E.B.R.A. (Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association). D.E.B. is a genetic disease causing blistering and shearing of the skin and of internal skin linings, (after very trivial injury) sometimes leading to severe mutilation and even death through secondary infection.

Throughout the summer the band performs a series of Sunday afternoon 'bandstand concerts' in nearby towns, e.g. Newbury, Basingstoke etc and in Hyde Park. In the run-up to Christmas they also obtain agreement to play a selection of carols at local supermarkets. At all these venues they collect for

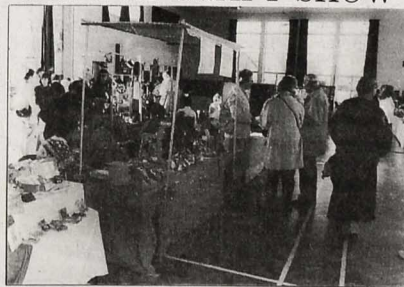
D.E.B.R.A.

The major fund-raising activity is a concert of carols and seasonal music and this year the concert will again be held in Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th December. Tickets, which include coffee and mince pies during the interval, are

priced at £2.50 for adults and £1.25 for normal concessions, and are available in advance from Sally Hallett (474460) or from Sharon George (414359). A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Anyone wanting more information or interested in joining the band (rehearsals on Friday evenings at Theale), should contact Sharon George (0734 414359).

SCHOOL CRAFT SHOW



— E. S. Archer

Emmer Green School's Craft Show organised by the School's P.T.A. was very successful raising £525 for school funds.



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**Caversham
Ladies Club**

MRS Harwood chaired the meeting and welcomed the members to their annual October Autumn Fair. The weather was very kind and it was good to see so many members present after the long days of heavy rain.

The outing in September was a beautiful tour around the Enbourne Valley. The scenery with lots of trees just turning into the lovely autumn tints, was breathtaking, and the villages passed through, delightful. The tour ended up in Marlborough for tea and shopping before returning home. Again the club was lucky in having sunshine. All agreed it was a very enjoyable outing.

It was then time for members to look around at a very gay and interesting show of cakes, nearly new, crafts, groceries, and of course, the White Elephant stall with its many unusual bargains, plants, books, etc. Bags were soon bulging and the

usual 'cuppa' very welcome.

Mrs Harwood announced that £91 had been handed over to Mr Bennett, Treasurer of Sue Ryder, being proceeds from the Garden Party and monthly collection at the Ladies' Club. Mrs Harwood thanked the members for their generosity to this very worthy cause and stated Mr Bennett would be coming to the club in the near future to explain the wonderful work that went into the Sue Ryder Home.

The meeting closed with a reminder that the next meeting was a talk and slides on those beautiful creatures, seals.

Rosehill W.I.

There was no meeting in August, however, members met and enjoyed a garden party at Mrs Russell's home and a coffee morning at Mrs Coombs's.

The talk at the September meeting was by Miss Tina Hobbs, on Aromatherapy and Reflexology, and was very much enjoyed.

The October meeting was on the 6th when a Harvest Lunch was partaken before the 2pm meeting. Members all stood in silence in memory of Mrs Lorraine Morris who had died a few days earlier. She was a member for many years. Mrs Gillings then opened the "Harvest" meeting by talking about "Our Village", Emmer Green. Mrs Ellingham followed with pictures and information as she was born in Emmer Green. Others followed with interesting facts. A lot of springs and swallow holes are in the area, some draining into the large pond near the post office.

There was an exhibition table of horse brasses.

Chazey W.I.

After the summer's outdoor activities, President Mrs Jean Pugh welcome members of Chazey WI back on the first Tuesday in September to Maple Durham Pavilion. Plans were discussed for the winter season when the Social Group, Scrabble Group etc will be meeting on a regular basis. "What our Working Grandmothers Wore" was guest speaker Mrs Phyllis Nye's subject, a historical fashion talk illustrated by slides.

"Here Today - Gone Tomorrow" was the theme of Mr David Walker's illustrated talk at the well attended October meeting.

Seven members attended the Autumn Council Meeting at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre.

In November, guests were invited to an Open Meeting. Owing to illness, the scheduled speaker was unable to come and it was at very short notice that Mr David White stepped in with an illustrated talk on "The Seals of Canada" with some amazing photographs.

Plans are being laid for the ever popular Moveable Feast which will take place in February.

**Caversham
Community
Association**

Pat Snow made a welcome return visit giving members information on taking cuttings and planting bulbs ready for next spring. The next Monday was a Whist Drive evening under the care of Doreen Crawley; the winners were Lee Hammond and Wendy Colton.

An amusing evening was enjoyed by members with the visit of the Reverend George Neal. He had many anecdotes of his life experiences, proving that church life has plenty of lighter moments.

The month ended with the traditional Halloween party. The prize for best costume was won by Monica Suggett, and members

enjoyed a supper of hot sausage and onion rolls, followed by suitable 'spooky' games.

Members were saddened by the news of the serious illness of Freda Haines who usually does the press reports and all joined in wishing her a speedy recovery. Another sad piece of news was the death of Evelyn Cook, a long standing member who was always willing to help. She will be greatly missed.

**Caversham
Heights
Townswomen's
Guild**

Mr D Noyes showed more pictures from his collection to members of Caversham

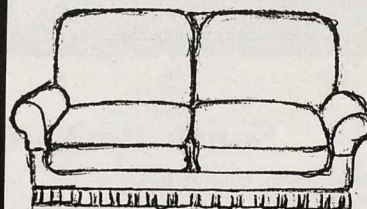
Heights Townswomen's guild at St Andrew's hall in October. Many of them were taken in the mid-sixties and, by a skilful process of fading one picture into another, Mr Noyes showed the changes that have taken place in the last twenty-five years in Reading. In particular it was seen how the inner distribution road has swallowed up properties and outlets, so many small businesses. He commented that we no longer go shopping, choice is made for us now by the media and supermarket. During the rebuilding of the flint wall in Forbury Road the site of the north gate of the abbey was found,

turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

also the skull of an abbot, now removed to the museum.

Langston's was at 1A, West Street, and Drew's the hardware merchant came to Reading in 1931.

The Royal Theatre in Friar Street, sadly burnt down in 1937, was found to be the site of an Augustinian chapel.

The guild hopes to see more pictures in the future. At social studies Miss Jackson

was going to speak about Reading street names.

Maplewood W.I.

Maplewood W.I. members (those who wished to) came at 1pm, and enjoyed a generous and delicious

Ploughman's Lunch arranged by the Committee. The speaker was Mrs Susan Leach, who spoke sincerely about the history and work of the charity "Barnardo's".

The Institute were pleased to welcome a new member, Mrs Betty Price.

After tea, everyone was thoroughly bewildered trying to recognise their fellow members' photographs when

young. Oh, how we change through the years!

Coins were collected for ACWW. That stands for the Associated Countrywomen of the World, which means WI members have over a million friends all over the world.

You will be very welcome at future meetings. Ring Joan on 473990 for details.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The October meeting was opened by the chairman, Mrs J. Spall, and it was learned that the Guild had been invited by their Park Ranger contact and friend, Miss Tina Gower, to provide and serve refreshments at the forthcoming "Apple Fayre" to be held at Caversham Court.

Members enthusiastically made plans for baking cakes and apple pies towards the occasion. The meeting continued with a Beetle Drive, much merriment ensuing. Members agreed later that this had proved a most enjoyable change.

The Sales table included many Harvest items and the well-subscribed competition was for a small Harvest basket. The winner proved to be Mrs Elsie Hodgkinson whose beautifully arranged basket was topped by a very hungry looking chocolate mouse!

The day for the Apple Fayre, 23rd October, dawned cold, although clear and sunny, and members arriving at Caversham Court to make early preparations soon made the interior of the marquee provided for refreshments into a hive of industry. By the time the Fayre was opened all was ready, and soon Guild members were busily serving out cups of tea or coffee plus biscuits and cakes and soft drinks for children.

A sales table of home made cakes and apple pies etc. was soon proving most popular with eager customers. During the busiest sessions members were grateful to be able to call on

reserve helpers from two neighbouring Guilds, those of Emmer Green and Caversham Heights. Members were agreed at the end of the afternoon that it had been a happy and successful event and look forward to next year's Fayre.

Last month, the Guild's President, Mrs A. Smith, along with two members of the Arts and Crafts group, Mrs B. King and Mrs D. Smith, had been privileged to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebration tea of Henley Townswomen's Guild in Henley Town Hall, a splendid and memorable occasion with the speaker, Lady Evelyn Barbirolli, adding extra joy and laughter with her fund of anecdotes on aspects of her life with her late husband, Sir John.

Forthcoming events include a visit to Reading's newly re-opened Museum and, in late November, the T.G. Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Reading, followed closely by the Guild's Birthday lunch in early December at the Technical College.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in October on a Tuesday evening in St Barnabas Hall. Although it was pouring with rain there was a really good turnout of members for this meeting.

Minutes were read and the Guild business was under way. There will be an opportunity to learn to crochet at the next "Arts and Crafts" meeting. Members who are keen to learn are asked to take along a crochet hook and wool. The next meeting of "Words and Music" will be held in St Barnabas Hall instead of a member's house because of the number of members anxious to listen to the informal talk by Nancy Vincent on Jane Austen. Members were also looking forward to their Sonning Mill Theatre Trip.

The Ramblers had

a very pleasant walk around Cockpole Green and for their second walk, although hindered by the amount of rain, the ramblers decided to walk around Dinton Country Park. They were fortunate enough to be in one of the hides looking at the herons when the rain started. The third walk will be a town walk ending up at the Forbury Gardens because of the wet weather.

Scrabble evenings will start again in November. There were plenty of helpers for the Jumble Sale held in October. Some of the proceeds will go to a local charity. The Emmer Green Guild birthday party was to be held on 27th October in St Barnabas Hall. There will a competition at the November meeting for the most interesting Christmas Table Centre display. Members will be writing to their M.P.'s to show concern that VAT will be added to heating bills.

The talk and demonstration for the evening was on Microwave Cookery. Members were informed of the many different types of microwave ovens and there was certainly plenty of technical information on Microwaves and what type of dishes to use. The demonstrator cooked a three course meal and members were given Microwave Recipes to try themselves at home. The meeting ended and once more members went out into the rain.

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