

# FATHER ANTHONY JONES

## - New Catholic Priest

**F**ather Tony Jones, as he prefers to be known, arrived in Caversham as the new Parish Priest of St Anne's on 15th November 1994 and was formally inducted on 2nd February 1995, (see report on p.5). Born in Rugby in 1950 his family moved to Newcastle under Lyme when he was five and he has always considered himself very much a North Staffordshire person. Following primary schooling in Newcastle and secondary education at Cotton College near Stoke on Trent he entered the Birmingham Diocesan Seminary, Oscott College in Sutton Coldfield, in 1968 to train for the priesthood.

\* \* \*

His time at Oscott came in the aftermath of Vatican 2 when great changes were in the air and even the curriculum was being continually modified. Two individuals he particularly recalls from those student days were the then Rector of Oscott, Fr. Frank Thomas, and his spiritual director and Theology lecturer, Fr. Pat Kelly, both of whom he regards as having had a major formative influence on his life.

\* \* \*

On completion of his studies in 1974 he was appointed Deacon in Bucknall, Stoke on Trent, and was finally ordained priest on January 25th 1975, just twenty years ago. Following his ordination he was appointed 2nd assistant priest in the large parish of Kings Heath, Birmingham, where he rapidly gained experience of the full range of pastoral duties.

\* \* \*

1978 brought a radically different sort of experience when, at the Archbishop's suggestion, Fr. Tony joined the British Army as a Catholic chaplain. Following initial courses on the full range of non-weapons training, he was commissioned and posted to Germany where he ministered to the needs of an ever changing population of military personnel and their families and exercised his A-level German on the local inhabitants. This was followed by a posting to Northern Ireland where the presence of Catholic chaplains in the British Army occasions some difficulties

for the simplistic labelling that tries to identify where an individual's sympathies might lie in the province. He celebrated Mass in a variety of military premises with wall decorations varying from mug shots of local terrorists to the Unit's display of pin-ups!

\* \* \*

Following postings to Blandford and Bovington camps, Fr. Tony relinquished his commission and returned to Birmingham in 1982 as secretary to the recently installed Archbishop, Maurice Couve de Murville. This appointment provided a unique insight into the diocese and its work and its links with the Bishops' Conference and with the Vatican. It was for a fixed term and, on its conclusion, he returned to pastoral duties as Parish Priest of Norton le Moors, an inner suburb of Stoke on Trent.

\* \* \*

In 1990, Fr. Tony was granted leave of absence for a year's study and, following a suggestion from the Archbishop, undertook a course in the School of Applied Theology at Berkeley, California, attended by priests and sisters from throughout the English



Fr. Tony Jones cutting the welcome cake following his induction.

speaking world. The whole Berkeley experience, both the course itself and the opportunity it provided to study the problems of pastoral work in the unique environment of San Francisco, proved, he said, a most fulfilling experience that comfortably exceeded his highest hopes.

\* \* \*

Returning to the UK in 1991, Fr. Tony took over the parish of Nuneaton and, once again, immersed himself in pastoral work prior to his most recent move to Caversham. Having put much effort into rationalising and refurbishing the church premises in Nuneaton he was relieved to find those in Caversham in good order and was now looking forward to the parish centenary in 1996 and the opportunity that would provide to celebrate its past and to re-dedicate it for the future.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile, he was finding his way around the parish, getting to know its members and their needs and interests, and felt it would be premature to make any kind of mission statement so early in his ministry. He was conscious that Caversham lay at the southern extremity of the diocese and hoped that, as Dean of South Oxford, he would be able to provide a two way liaison between Caversham and the diocesan centre. Caversham's proximity to Reading, which lies in the diocese of Portsmouth, resulted in his also being an honorary member of the Reading deanery and, again, he hoped he could provide an effective two way link between Caversham and its southern neighbours.

\* \* \*

For his spare time, he hoped that Caversham's proximity to London might yield the opportunity for some theatre going - Nuneaton had been handy for Stratford upon Avon - and he had noticed the number of local golf courses. While remaining a devotee of the Staffordshire Moors, the Berkshire Downs might tempt him into his walking boots and he would, of course, continue to read - history and biography for preference - listen to music and go to the cinema.

## TALKING POINT

by  
THE REV. JOHN BOAKES  
Gosbrook Road Methodist Church



# LENT SUGGESTIONS

Is there anybody who is keeping a New Year Resolution? Perhaps you didn't make one. They are so difficult to keep day by day into the future. But here we are at Lent with the opportunity again to 'resolve'. If you are 'denying yourself', make sure that money not spent is given to a good cause, and that time saved is used in a beneficial way. Above all, deny yourself not for the discipline of keeping a rule but for the joy of going forward to Christ's Kingdom.

Let us observe Lent with expectancy. Let us grow spiritually as day by day throughout this period we follow a thought out plan. For quite a few of us this will be linked with the Ecumenical House Groups. If you haven't already joined one, do go along and not only gain from the experience but also give the encouragement of your presence and interest. If you haven't a scheme for Lent, let me make a few suggestions.

First, the very ordinary one of reading that 'good' book. Choose carefully - taking advice, looking round the book-shop or library (if not amongst your own books) and maybe have a trial run of a few random pages before making your firm decision. The secret is to read the book systematically - a number of pages or a chapter a day. Take your time, reflect, ask yourself, "What does God want me to receive from this?" Maybe it will be a case of reading the pages, chapters, whatever, more than once. Maybe you can share your reading with someone else, maybe you can copy key phrases or write down your thoughts after each 'reading'. Grow with your chosen book, make it your Lenten companion leading you to Easter.

Secondly, prayer. Again adopt a system (at least for part of your prayer). Perhaps you can put a person's name down (in advance) for every day of Lent; holding that person in your thoughts before God throughout that day. Perhaps you might choose to add a town, area or country for every day - spending time in learning something of the place's situation. Perhaps your prayers could include a 'need' each day - there is such a variety of troubles, problems, diseases, concerns to choose from. Perhaps you might review different parts of your own life day by day - physically, mentally, spiritually - your emotions, relationships, likes and dislikes and so on. This is more challenging and may require you to have someone you can share with as you daily examine yourself. Remember not only to plan the day before you begin but constantly to pause to remind yourself of God's love with you.

Thirdly - and possibly needing more time - explore, what I call the Progressive Alphabet of Faith. The idea is to take each letter of the alphabet day by day and make that the starting point for your exploration of say: hymns, books of the Bible, Biblical characters, aspects of Christian Faith. Hopefully to encourage you: 'A' has the hymns 'A safe stronghold our God is still'; 'Abide with me'; 'All hail the power of Jesus name'; 'Amazing Grace'; 'As we are gathered, Jesus is here' etc. etc. The books of the Bible: Amos, Acts. Biblical characters: Adam, Abraham, Andrew etc. Aspects of Christian Faith: Ascension, Assurance, Atonement etc.

Just suggestions. But the idea I put before you is that Lent can be a fascinating, planned period of Christian Growth leading again to Jesus Christ - Crucified and Risen. He will grow in our lives as we take time to meet with Him.

## 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 Eucharist and Sunday School  
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)  
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

#### St Andrew's

8.00am The Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)  
First Sunday, Family Eucharist  
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns)  
6.30pm Evening Prayer  
An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

#### 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, 3rd and 5th Sundays)  
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)  
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)  
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st 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)

#### 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 Anne's Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

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

#### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road

11.00am every Sunday

#### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.30am

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

#### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

9.30am Sunday School  
11.00am Divine Worship  
7.00pm Evening Service

## POSTBAG

### THE ACROSS TRUST

Dear Editors,

I am writing to you as the local "Across Trust" organiser. The Across Trust is a charitable organisation which specialises in providing the sick, handicapped and terminally ill with the opportunity of taking part in a pilgrimage or holiday of a lifetime, on many occasions, their last.

The Trust have several individually built ambulances for this purpose, some with eight beds and sixteen seats; the larger Alligator ambulances have fourteen beds and thirty-two seats. The ambulances also have cooking facilities and carry oxygen, plus other medical equipment. The cost of the smaller two vehicles is £250,000.

The volunteers who travel Across not only give up their time from work, but like the people we take, pay for the privilege of caring for their VIPs' every need for up to ten days.

Over the past seven years I have been leading a Pilgrimage to Lourdes and due to the medical needs of our travellers we require the services of both doctors and nurses, who also pay their own way. I am seeking to raise sponsorship not only for myself as the Group Leader, but also to help fund a doctor and two nurses to travel with my Group which is travelling to Lourdes on 6th October this year. The cost per person in 1995 will be £419.

Can you help in anyway, be it large or small, to enable a sick person to travel, or help with the expenses for a doctor and nurses to travel. I do hope so.

If you have any questions relating to The Across Trust please do not hesitate in giving me a call. If any member of your organisation wishes, I could visit their local Church/youth group/organisation to tell them more about The Across Trust and its work.

Yours etc.

Eric J. Hillier

The Across Trust (Caversham)  
12 Buxton Avenue  
Caversham RG4 7BU  
Tel: 01734 471046

## MAJOR MICHAEL PAXTON

The Caversham Bridge News would like to congratulate Major Michael Paxton of St Peter's Hill, Caversham, on his award of the OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to the local Community.

For several years Michael has had to combat multiple sclerosis and cancer and this he has done by helping others.

Although in a wheelchair he has triumphed over immense adversities. Always cheerful, always working hard for others, he is an example to us all.

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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 advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 6 March.

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

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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## DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Caversham Hill Chapel was full to capacity, with people standing and an overflow in the entrance hall, for the United Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The large congregation included representatives from all the churches in Caversham; almost every denomination had some part in the service, which was led by the Revd Mike Holmes. Early in the Service a lively but sensitive contribution to the worship was made by the choir of the New Testament Church of God. The reading from the book of Nehemiah introduced the theme 'Building in a Broken World'. A slide presentation of the life and scenes of Caversham and Emmer Green, showing its recreation, work, shopping and residential areas, schools and worship



— O. R. Jewiss

The Revd Mike Holmes (on the left), who led the Christian Unity Service, and the Revd Chris Justice who preached. The Revd Mike Holmes moved from Caversham in February to become pastor of a Pentecostal Church in Bridgend, South Wales. We wish him every blessing in his new ministry.

centres, provided the focus for prayer on that part of the world where most of those there were most likely to have the greatest influence in drawing others to Christ.

The address was given by the Revd Chris Justice who used the example from Nehemiah of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem as a model for the task of the churches in Caversham. He reminded us that the churches are together likened to the bride of Christ; more than any other bride she should be attractive to all. Whatever our tradition, God was our Father and, like it or not, we are all brothers and sisters and part of the same family which hallows God's name. We all had a job to do rebuilding Caversham by commending God and His Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed us, to those who do not know Him. Subsequently those present restated their beliefs through words used at baptisms and rededicated themselves to God's service.

## ORGANIST HITS A HIGHER NOTE

On January 1st St Andrew's bade a sad farewell to their organist.

Although Philip Aspden had only been officially organist and choirmaster at the church for three years, he had been part of the community there for all but one year of his life. He used to sit on the organist's bench fascinated by the sounds which came forth from the instrument since he was three years old. Perhaps he knew one day that he would become the "Man in charge" even then.

Philip was appointed upon the departure of Ian May, but even then he had been playing for major festivals since he was fourteen, and the incoming and present vicar viewed the whole business of a fourteen year old playing at Midnight Mass with a certain apprehension. He need not have worried and everything was well in hand. The Revd Bill Carpenter had no doubts as to the skills which he was taking on when eventually Philip was appointed as organist and choirmaster at his church.

Although he had no experience as a choirmaster, Philip very quickly showed that in this field he could learn, and over the past three years St Andrew's has enjoyed the best in choral music.

Now, Philip has decided to seek pastures new in order to develop what could well become his career. He had accepted a post as organist and choirmaster at Christchurch in Reading. "Our loss," said the Vicar, "is Christchurch's gain. They have a bigger instrument, and a larger choir, and therefore a greater challenge for Philip. I wish him every blessing in his chosen future."

From the time of his appointment as organist at St Andrew's at the early age of seventeen, Philip's musical talents had always been apparent. He enjoys playing and singing and it is so good that he can inspire others by his enthusiasm.

And so, on the first day in 1995, Bill presented a cheque to Philip which reflected the gratitude of the congregation to him for his music, dedication and hard work over many

## SPECIAL CIRCUIT DAY

The twenty-four churches of the Methodist Reading and Silchester Circuit invite you and other friends to

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11th March 1995

Coffee morning and Lunch at Tadley Main Road Methodist Church  
2pm Afternoon Circuit Exhibition and activities at Hugh Faringdon School with a Discussion to be led by the President, and a bring and share Tea.

Activities include banner-making, flower-arranging, resource materials and under 11s activities.

7pm Evening Rally at Wesley, Queen's Road, with President as speaker.

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## BILLY GRAHAM GLOBAL MISSION

16, 17 AND 18 MARCH

As foreshadowed in the January issue of the *Caversham Bridge* the transmission of Billy Graham's Global Mission from San Juan, Puerto Rico, will be relayed by satellite to the Loddon valley Leisure Centre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 16, 17 and 18 March, 1995, at 7.15 pm on each occasion. Although this will be the only centre in Berkshire, the relay is being received worldwide in 180 countries. Locally it provides another opportunity in this Decade of Evangelism for anyone interested to hear the Christian message, this time from probably the most famous evangelist of our age using the very latest technology.

This relay is being organised by Churches Together in Wokingham, who look for support from Christians throughout Berkshire while offering an opportunity to all seeking after truth. Further information should be in the local churches or may be obtained by telephone from 01734 792169/791038 or 781199.

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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

### CATS AGAIN

Many of you will by now have purchased the new set of stamps. The subject is CATS.

I was pleased to meet a lady, Elaine Groves, who has had a great deal to do with the recent publicity and she was able to tell me about the latest venture. It seems a local postman, Carl Appleby sponsored this and Wilbur, Snedley and Mollie, who are being cared for in temporary accommodation on Mayfield Drive were duly photographed. I

hope I've got their names right but that is what comes of scribbling notes on shopping lists in Caversham.

I'm not quite sure how the drawings of the cats by Elizabeth Blackadder of Edinburgh eventually turn into a lively set of stamps, but it must have involved many people.

I know I've written before about the work of the Cats Protection League, so I will spare you a long screed and only tell you if you are interested in the work

of rescuing wandering cats; if you feel you want to get involved, just give a call to Elaine on 482902 and discuss it with her. It is an answer phone so please leave a message and a phone number where you can be reached. Donations are very welcome too and the address is 133 Mayfield Drive, Caversham, if you feel you can help in any way.

### CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

I was very sorry to hear that the lady who

tried to run a health food shop in Hemdean Road was unable to keep the business going. But I was more than pleased to hear that the shop has now been taken over by The Friends of Reading and District Cancer Care. I called in the other day and found that, although they have only just opened, they already have a good stock of items for sale including a room, a small one admittedly, containing a fascinating assortment of books. They too have an answer phone, so a call on 566757 will ensure that anyone interested will be given all the information they require. One thing I do find helpful is that they can arrange for the collection of goods when mutually agreed. Clothes, books, bric-a-brac, etc. will be very welcome and you will be doing a real service to this cause, and I do know that many of you will be only too anxious to help this organisation.

## AHOY THERE - SEE THE BIRDS?

On average, a tiny bird-pager loudly 'bleeps' - or discreetly vibrates (according to mood and location of its user), twenty times daily, to provide complete and instant coverage of every rarity reported in Britain. Operating by satellite, it stores ninety-nine messages in its memory-bank, continually up-dating movements of each bird to avoid wasted journeys.

Whilst this is unlikely to interest 'garden' bird-watchers, it may advantage the adventurous, prepared to travel to see their birds - but - let us remain at home!

Earlier this year a juvenile Redpoll fed contentedly upon a seeded flower-head in my garden, barely fifteen feet from the French-windows. A 'garden' bird? Yes, occasionally, but usually more arboreal.

This nondescript, pale-headed, brown-bodied bird with two buffish wing-bars, LACKING the adult's red forehead, may be mis-identified as female house-sparrow 'in the bleak mid-winter' gloom.

As winter winds blow, many arctic birds can be seen on the large, combined waters of Sonning Eye and Henley Road gravel-pits.

Golden-eye, Shoveler, Pochard, Wigeon, Teal and Gadwall ducks are present in relatively large numbers, with wintering Cormorants, Grebes, Coots, Tufted Duck, Swans and Canada Geese. Some three-thousand mixed gull species come in to roost late each afternoon.

From an exposed Eastern bank of Sonning Eye, during a cold, near gale-force south-westerly, I telescoped a huge, bulky, sandy-coloured gull, broad of wing with rounded tips, dwarfing most other species in flight. It was at least a mile away, towards the Henley Road side of the water. Almost certainly it was a rare Glaucous Gull from Eastern Greenland or Arctic Europe.

This wealth of bird-life - in Caversham - is barely five-hundred metres from residents of Henley Road and Caversham Park Village area.

Anyone who feels so inclined may care to enjoy seeing these winter visitors from far-off lands, at first-hand - you will not have far to go!

Who knows, by the time this is printed, 'your' Glaucous Gull may well have appeared on 'our' pager!!

At Theale main gravel-pit are three more black-and-white beauties. Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver and Black-necked Grebe can be seen with 8 x 40 binoculars from the Boat club area. As entry is strictly private, go through to the Club Office and politely request permission to view the birds please. The Secretary is amenable to considerate birders, if asked.

Also watch for a sprinkling of uncommon Mediterranean gulls mingling with the Black-headed species.

SCOPS OWL

## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of Caversham Good Neighbours was held in Church House, Caversham on Monday 16th January and attended by a small but enthusiastic group of helpers.

Canon Richard Kingsbury took the chair as the Chairman, Mr Ben Archer, was unwell, and his thanks were passed on to all drivers, office helpers and helpers, also to Mr Kent who ably keeps an eye on our office when we are not there.

In the Secretary's report Chris Baker mentioned that eighty per cent of telephone calls received were for transport. The balance sheet showed a healthy position with donations up by £70. Betty Stark was thanked for so ably acting as Treasurer.

An interesting talk by Peter Hargrave of Reading Crossroads followed. Currently they have sixteen paid carers and recently initiated a twenty-four hour response service.

## FARMSHOP CLOSES

For many years people in this area have been patronising the Godfrey's farm shop at Goring Heath. Although the shop lies outside the circulation district of Caversham Bridge News, nevertheless Mike and Maureen have been regular advertisers in this paper.

Sadly they closed down their business at the end of January. A blackboard outside in the car park broke the news: it also said "We shall miss you all". We too, shall miss them, but realise they must need a well earned rest after so many years running the shop.

We wish them every happiness in their retirement and hope Maureen enjoys her hobby, weaving.

CHRISTOPHER D. KEEN A.R.I.C.S.

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## FATHER TONY'S INDUCTION

February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord commemorating the occasion when Mary and Joseph took the Infant Jesus to dedicate Him to God in the Temple in accordance with the Jewish Law. By happy coincidence, February 2nd 1995 was also the day set for the induction of Father Tony Jones as Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Anne's when he and the members of the Parish jointly dedicated themselves to God's work.

The church was filled with parishioners both from Caversham and from Fr. Tony's

previous parishes and the actual ceremony, which was conducted by Auxiliary Bishop Terence Brain during a celebratory Mass, took place in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading and representatives of the clergy of other denominations in Caversham.

After the reading out of the Archbishop's formal letter appointing Fr. Tony as Parish Priest and the latter's Profession of Faith, the Bishop pronounced the solemn formula of Induction inaugurating Fr. Tony into his new responsibilities. The appropriate documents

were then signed by the Bishop, Fr. Tony and the Chairman and Secretary of the Parish Committee in view of the congregation following which, one by one, members of the congregation brought forward various objects such as the Priest's stole, the Church keys, a copy of the Bible, the chalice and paten etc which Bishop Brain presented to Fr. Tony as symbols of his priestly duties.

On completion of these formalities, Mass resumed, concelebrated by Bishop Brain with Fr. Tony and some 10 other priests. Amongst the latter was former Parish Priest, Fr. Plunkett Shannon, who served at St Anne's from 1973 to 1980 and is now living in well deserved retirement. The choir led the congregation in song and at the end of Mass there were brief speeches of welcome to



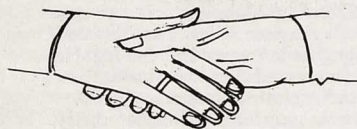
Servers and celebrants leaving the altar.

Fr. Tony by the mayor, on behalf of the Borough, and by Canon Richard Kingsbury, on behalf of fellow clergy of other denominations.

After Mass, everyone retired to a reception in the Church Hall where a buffet had been organised by members of the Parish. A

splendid array of food greeted the guests, culminating in the cutting by Fr. Tony of his welcome cake and its distribution to one and all - a delightful end to an evening, memorable in both spiritual and social terms.

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## NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S



Fr. Meagher chatting with some of the congregation after his induction.

On the evening of Friday 20th January, some 50 parishioners from St Anne's made the journey north to Staffordshire to assist at the induction there of Fr. Meagher, till recently Parish Priest of St Anne's, in his new parish of St John the Baptist in the village of Great Haywood.

The actual process of induction was conducted by the Dean of Stafford, the Very Rev Canon Kevin Good, who formally presented Fr. Meagher to his new parishioners and read out the official letter of his appointment by the Archbishop of Birmingham. Having renewed his Profession of Faith, Fr. Meagher then pledged himself to work as pastor to his

new charges who, in their turn, formally welcomed him to the parish and pledged themselves to support him in his work.

The ceremony took place in the context of the Mass which was concelebrated by Fr. Meagher with some dozen fellow priests from the Stafford Deanery and elsewhere in the archdiocese, including Caversham's own Fr. Norman Millard. In addition to parishioners from Great Haywood and Caversham, the congregation included the local MP, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Stafford and their ladies, and clergy from neighbouring non-catholic churches; music was provided by the joint choirs of

Great Haywood and Caversham.

Following Mass, refreshments were served in the adjacent school and Fr. Meagher cut his official welcoming cake. Alas, the coach journey back to Caversham meant that the St Anne's contingent had to leave while things were in full swing but they took with them an overwhelming impression that Fr. Meagher and his sister Bridie were now ensconced in an exceptionally friendly and welcoming parish.

Fr. Meagher's induction was closely followed by that of his successor at Caversham, Fr. Tony Jones, which took place on Thursday 2nd February and is reported above.

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# A TASTE OF MEDICINE IN UGANDA

by Patrick Anderson

**H**aving spent the last twenty-eight years working as a General Practitioner in Caversham I was pleased to have the opportunity to be able to spend most of last November working at the Kuluva Church of Uganda Hospital, which is situated in a remote part of north west Uganda on the border with Zaire.

Kuluva hospital was founded with the help of the Africa Inland Mission in the 1940's by two English Missionary Doctors, brothers Ted and Peter Williams. Peter, who is now in his seventies and still lives in Reading, provided me with a great deal of useful background information as well as helping with the arrangements for the visit. Kuluva hospital is set in a rural district on land donated by a friendly local chief and is about five kilometres from the nearest town Arua. In spite of all the troubles and turmoil that Uganda faced in the 1970's and 1980's, the hospital has flourished and now provides basic inpatient and outpatient care for the surrounding population, as well as running specialist projects in eye disease, leprosy, onchocerciasis (river blindness) and community health.

The medical staff consists of four Doctors; an American, who is the Medical Director, a German who is a member of a four person Medical Mission Team from Germany, a Ugandan trained surgeon and one doctor from the UK whom I replaced whilst he took annual leave. The Ugandan Nurses were ably supplemented by four ex-pat trained Nursing Sisters who came from USA, Korea and Germany. These nurses were all actively supported by Christian Missions in their own countries.

## Flight Out

To reach the hospital I first flew to Entebbe. The airport terminal is brand new and sits right on the edge of the beautiful and impressive Lake Victoria. As this was my first visit to Africa, I was feeling rather apprehensive on landing, and this was not helped by the sight of the tiny single engine

plane which was to take me on the next leg of my journey. I had never flown in a light aeroplane before, and by comparison with the huge modern jet I had just stepped out of it seemed very basic. However the Dutch captain was reassuring; he firmly told me to sit absolutely still and not to touch any of his instruments! Then after inviting the five passengers to join him in a prayer for a safe flight he took off. Although the trip was quite uneventful I spent the next hour trying to remain motionless and wondering if there were any parachutes on board!

Fortunately the plane flew low so we had excellent views of the dark waters of the Nile and the surrounding bush which looked surprisingly green and fertile. Arua Airport proved to be just a rough landing strip in a field but the pilot managed a beautiful landing and I was efficiently handed over to the waiting hospital transport, a Jeep. First stop was Arua town centre where the driver disappeared to do some shopping. As I was soaking in the local atmosphere, especially the heat and the noise, into the back of the vehicle jumped a young American lady carrying a live chicken! She introduced herself as a nurse from the hospital and said the bird was for her supper. At that point I felt I had arrived in Africa!

## The Hospital

After this it was off to the hospital and work. The hospital compound was surrounded by a high wire fence and for added security patrolled by uniformed guards equipped with bows and arrows, twenty-four hours a day. I was made to feel very welcome and warmly accepted into the Hospital community. My accommodation was a tin roofed bungalow on the edge of the hospital compound, adequately furnished by a German couple who were on leave. There was a large patio with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. At first light some days I was enchanted by the sight of small monkeys

playing in the trees. To my great relief, after a couple of days of domesticity, Lea, my housegirl, appeared. She carried out all the household chores with her fifth child, Gloria, strapped to her back in true African style. Lea was very good natured, smiled constantly, made good cakes and probably didn't understand a word I said.

## Straight to work

I was assigned to the children's wards and spent most of the time examining and treating large numbers of mostly very young children. There were perhaps fifty or so children in the wards at any one time with up to a dozen admitted and discharged each day. A majority of the children came from the local villages but a surprising number came from further afield, including Zaire and the refugee camps to the north on the border with the Sudan. There was no hospital transport for the patients so everyone arrived on foot, except for the fortunate few who had bicycles. This was particularly brought home to me on my first night when a poor fellow was admitted with a nasty gunshot wound to one leg. He had been transported the seven miles from his village to hospital on the back of cycle!

Ward work commended with daily rounds at 7am when all the inpatient children were individually seen, assessed and treatments planned as appropriate.

A limited number of basic pathological investigations were available. The commonest medical conditions I encountered were malaria, gastroenteritis, pneumonia, meningitis, anaemia and a great variety of interesting intestinal parasites which I had previously only read about in medical textbooks! The chronic conditions included diabetes, asthma, several different kinds of cancer including Burkitts Lymphoma and HIV infection. Although the hospital staff did their best with the facilities available the child mortality rate was higher than it would have been in England and this often left me feeling inadequate and sad.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Patrick Anderson (right) with some of the hospital staff.

## Continued from Page 6—A TASTE OF MEDICINE IN UGANDA

The children in the ward were well looked after by their relatives who often shared their bed. Two to a bed was regarded as normal, three was overcrowded! Although the wards were old, drab and sparsely furnished, the atmosphere was friendly and positive, and occasionally enhanced by the appearance of stray chickens pecking their way through the ward! The relatives helped each other preparing meals on open fires just outside the wards and when necessary sheltering from the frequent torrential rains in small adjoining mud huts. Sometimes patients requested discharge before their treatment was completed. I swiftly learned to comply otherwise they would run away over night, which meant they avoided paying the hospital charges. Although these were minimal i.e. outpatient consultation 20p, minor operation 100p, major operation e.g. amputation or hysterectomy 300p, collection was crucial for the hospital finances. Although the hospital preferred cash, when the patients had no money, payment was accepted in local produce e.g. chickens' eggs, fruit or vegetables. Routine work continued until the late afternoon. Except for urgent operations electricity from the hospital generator was only available for two hours each evening, so a torch was invaluable for after dark activities.

The hospital has an active building programme and a new operating theatre suite has just been completed. The X-ray department has recently acquired a scanner and there are ambitious plans for more developments, including a hydroelectric scheme to give a regular twenty-four hour electricity supply. There is a flourishing nurse training school and student nurses seemed to come from all over Uganda, attracted by the hospital's reputation.

### The Christian Message

Active Christian ministry plays a central and important part in the life of the hospital and each day starts with a morning service for everyone, conducted in English and the local language Lukbara. The Christian message is enthusiastically promoted and there are many converts among the local people. In addition evangelical teams go out from the hospital to a

variety of centres including local prisons on a regular basis.

### Local Life

The Ugandan people I met were very friendly and interested in hearing about life in Britain, in turn I got the chance to learn something of their customs. As elsewhere the women seemed to do most of the work. Typically they walked with a baby strapped to their back, carrying their possessions on their heads, most walked barefoot or wore only flipflops. Early each morning, just after sunrise, local women would come to the hospital carrying large quantities of fresh fruit and vegetables in baskets on their heads. They would set their wares out most attractively on the ground as a mini market and wait patiently for customers. On one occasion I found three such women sitting with their produce on the front steps of my bungalow. Needless to say they made a sale. The fruit was excellent especially the bananas, melons and oranges. The staple food for the Ugandans is Kasava, a root vegetable which is dried in the sun before consumption. As part of this process it is spread out in large quantities on matting laid on the ground where it seemed to provide a tasty meal for the wandering chickens and goats!

I was fascinated to discover that even today a man may have several wives and that large families are still the rule, although I was told this is becoming less common nowadays because of the expense, particularly the school fees! There is no free education. The wealth of a family is measured by the number of animals they own. The local economy seemed to go something like this: One chicken costs about one pound, seven chickens are worth one goat and seven goats buy one cow. A bride price of approximately seven cows is paid to the bride's family as a dowry on marriage. This is a considerable expense for the bridegroom's family, but indicates how much value is placed on the bride to be. The Ugandans were surprised to learn that a

bride does not have to be paid for in Britain.

### Moving around

Apart from the time spent working at the hospital, I did get a chance to see a few other places in the Arua district. I visited the Diocesan centre, where the newly appointed Ugandan Bishop has his headquarters. A start has been made on building a new cathedral there, many years of work lie ahead. I also visited a large Catholic centre founded by the Italian Fathers from Verona.

In keeping with their traditions these monks have successfully established a small vineyard which each year produces two crops of grapes from which they make wine. This was in direct contrast to the Kuluva hospital where I was based which is an alcohol free zone. I spent some time at a large local secondary boarding school at Mvara. My visit happened to coincide with the headmaster's end of term talk to the assembled school. I was amused to hear him ask the pupils to stop dyeing their hair different shades of pink and to try and study during the day and sleep at night and not the other way round. Prominently displayed on the school notice board was an announcement that several girls were being suspended for spending too much time at a local disco when they should have been asleep in their dormitories! It seems teenage problems are similar all over the world!

### ...and Farewell

At the end of my stay a small party was arranged; following the local custom a goat was purchased from the market, barbecued for four hours over a charcoal pit and served as the main dish. As I had never eaten goat before I tried it with some hesitancy, but I am delighted to report that it proved to be very tasty, and there were no after effects!

All in all I feel the trip was well worth while. It gave me a definite insight into the developing world and some of its problems, as well as a great appreciation for the people I met who choose to spend their lives working in one of the more remote parts of the world without most of the creature comforts we at home take for granted.



Some of the locals near Kuluva Hospital



Housegirl Lea with baby Gloria

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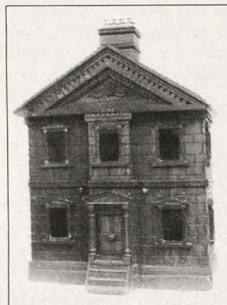
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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### Giant bins lining the Streets

There is no shortage of contentious subjects this month, so to start with let us take one that sooner or later, and mostly sooner rather than later, will affect every household in Caversham.

Wheeled dustbins, commonly known as wheelie bins, are the cause of the trouble. They have already been introduced experimentally in certain parts of the town, including Caversham, and before long they will have spread throughout the borough. Like them or not, there is no going back on this, as too much money has already been sunk in the scheme.

There are of course those who prefer these things to conventional dustbins, and many more who couldn't care one way or the other. However, in an area such as Caversham there are a large number who are distinctly unhappy at the prospect. These are the people who live in terraced properties, those whose gardens are on a steep gradient between their house and the street, those in detached or semi-detached houses with a garage occupying the whole of the space between their house and the edge of the property, and people who keep their car off the road in their drive with no room to wheel a bin past. Altogether this accounts for a high proportion of Caversham properties. These people will virtually have no alternative except to keep their dustbins in their front garden.

On the whole it is true to say that those who take some pride in the appearance of their property avoid doing that, yet already in

those parts of Reading where wheeled bins have been introduced there are streets of terraced houses with a dustbin outside each house, and this is a pattern that will be repeated all across the town, and not only in terraced properties. The impact of all this will do nothing to improve the appearance of the town.

The impression that has been given to all those who have complained is that the only exemptions, apart from those for people who are physically unable to manage these large bins, will be for those terraced houses which give directly on to the street, not a very large number in Reading, and those with front gardens too small to hold a wheeled bin.

However, tucked away in the small print of one of the leaflets issued by the Borough Council in reply to the question, 'What if I think my property is unsuitable for a wheeled bin?' is the answer 'Your property would be unsuitable if a bin could not be taken to a front collection point without wheeling the bin through your home.'

Did this escape the notice of all those people living in terraced houses who already have a wheeled bin, or did they actually choose to have a bin they could only leave in their front gardens? Everyone in that position who does not wish to have a wheeled bin should insist on their right not to have one. Caversham and District Residents' Association is defending the right of all occupiers of terraced property to refuse to have these bins if they do not wish to, and have enlisted the support of local Councillors to achieve this.

This will not entirely remove the blot of large bins lining the streets of the town but it would reduce it considerably. However, it does depend on the message reaching the thousands of terraced houses in Reading. The other houses with problems are probably stuck with them unless they can show that a serious difficulty applies to the majority of houses in the road, when they could try pressing the

case that the whole street is inappropriate to the introduction of wheeled bins.

It is, by the way, possible to request a smaller bin rather than the very large standard bins. These smaller ones are larger than the average conventional bin.

You may also well be wondering why wheeled bins are being introduced at all in view of the cost of having to provide everyone with one, when previously people bought their own, and having to purchase or adapt the collection vehicles. Apparently the running costs are much lower and will ultimately result in savings. It will also be less hard on the refuse collectors who suffer from back and other muscular strains from lifting heavy bins all day long, and who not infrequently are cut by broken glass and, even worse, on occasions have been pricked by used hypodermic needles which can penetrate their thick gloves. So the tale is not all bad, but it does show far too many signs of not having been thought through sufficiently.

### One way system on the Agenda again

Contentious subject number 2 is the new traffic package for Caversham. Traffic proposals these days must not be seen in isolation. The package contains a number of good things, such as giving buses priority by controlled traffic lights and by moving certain bus stops to better sited points. It overlooks the need for easing the way for pedestrians at Henley Road, Peppard Road, Prospect Street junction, and the Church Road, Church Street, Bridge Street junction, nor does it give a phase for safely turning from Church Street into Church Road. It is to be hoped these will get put right as the result of the public consultation exercise.

However, what has really roused strongest objections is the proposal to revive the one way system for Prospect Street, Westfield Road and Gosbrook Road. This has never been popular, though it has been tolerated during

road works as a short term measure. There is nothing in these new proposals to make people change their minds.

If some real gains could be demonstrated in the way of improvements in the three streets concerned, people might be persuaded to look more favourably at the proposal, but a vague suggestion that there could be improvements is not enough. The two must go hand in hand. Until this can be shown, the reaction is likely to continue to be hostile.

None of this is to suggest that there is not scope for plenty of improvement in these three streets. Prospect Street is dominated by moving traffic. Try crossing it at any point except the pelican crossing. Squeeze round delivery vehicles unable to get into the day-long full Chester Street car park to service premises which back on it. Cars meeting half way along Westfield Road where there is parking on both sides have a nasty reversing job to do, and for residents it is anything but restful, even for those living at the end that looks across the recreation ground.

At the moment there is a certain amount of money available to spend on an overall improvement of traffic movement in Caversham. Residents and the County must come up with something that will be of lasting benefit. This kind of opportunity does not often occur.

### Local Bridge for local needs

Thorny topic number 3 is the long standing one of a third Thames bridge. Age old friendships can be torn asunder on this one, as the advocates of a local bridge for local needs clash with those who say such a bridge can only be a step on the way to a link-up between the M4 and M40, which will ruin the Oxfordshire countryside, who in turn clash with those who say that a major bridge linking into the national network is all that makes sense.

Reading Borough Council has now come out firmly in favour of the first option which

they also see as being inextricably linked with Reading becoming a unitary authority, though preferably with more rationalised boundaries than is at present on offer from the Commission. The Borough is as adamant as Oxfordshire County Council that such a bridge must not be part of the national network. Caversham and District Residents' Association has stated that it would rather have no bridge at all than a motorway link-up.

Sonning, meanwhile, even more than Caversham, suffers a twice daily invasion of 'foreigners' through its picturesque streets, and across its totally inadequate ancient bridge. Sooner or later these problems have got to be resolved. At last some kind of movement can be discerned. Confrontation though will get no one anywhere. Consultation is the only way ahead.

### Caversham names

A booklet about the names of Caversham's streets, buildings and places that have a local link will be of interest to Caversham people. Some names, such as Lady Jane Court (not even the builders know) and Bugs Bottom (lost in the mists of antiquity) cannot be explained, but others, like Clayfield Copse, Coldicutt Street and Hemdean have interesting derivations. Banbury Gardens recalls Sir William Knollys, Comptroller to Elizabeth I, who lived at Caversham Park. He later became Earl of Banbury and his splendid tomb in Rotherfield Greys Church is well worth a visit. John Malpas, the writer of the book, says he was depicted as Malvolio in Twelfth Night because of his susceptibilities at an advanced age for pretty young women.

I must advance the claim for Sir Thomas Posthumous Hoby of Bisham Abbey (also with a splendid tomb) for this doubtful honour — which is another indication of how interesting this booklet is. It is available at £2.75 from Caversham Bookshop.

# RETIREMENT OF RICHARD JACKSON AS ORGANIST AT ST BARNABAS

**A**FTER 21 years as organist at St. Barnabas Church Richard Jackson retired at the end of 1994.

He returned to play at the farewell Thanksgiving Service for his ministry of music at the church on 22 January, 1995. It was a service constructed around his favourite hymns with appropriate readings from Old and New Testament and from the Akathist of Thanksgiving by Gregory Petrov. After the service presentations were made to him from congregation and choir.

These included the book "The Story of Christian Music" and a cheque as tokens of appreciation for his ministry in Emmer Green. He will be long remembered at St. Barnabas for his enthusiastic and loyal service and lively music; this octogenarian, who celebrated his 82nd birthday the day after his farewell service, has

apparently more energy than many half his age. Twenty one years at St Barnabas was only half the story of his musical contribution in this area. As Richard Jackson goes into a musical semi-retirement (he will still play regularly one day a week at the Crematorium and occasionally help out at St Barnabas and elsewhere) it seems right to reveal more of this remarkable musician. I am grateful to him for providing the basis of this article by talking so freely about his life.

### Early Days

Although Richard does not come from a musical family, he has been playing the piano since he was three or four and started on the organ after his confirmation 67 years ago. He has an obvious gift, since from the start he played four part harmony

by ear and could read music from a very early age.

He does recall a few lessons around the age of 10. Born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, the son of a smallholder and local baker, he attended the local school, previously attended by D.H. Lawrence. At 13 he was awarded an Intending Teacher Scholarship, which saw him through grammar school and Nottingham University, where he read History and subsequently gained his teaching diploma. At this stage he graduated from the harmonium in the mission church to the pipe organ in the parish church, which he was allowed to learn, providing he sang tenor in the choir.

His first appointment as a church organist was in 1937 in Nottinghamshire, where he was also a primary school teacher. However, he only held the post for 9 months as a consequence of a move later in the year to another teaching position in Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. It was there he met Flora, a Scottish teacher from Isle of Skye, whom he subsequently married in a hastily rearranged ceremony on the very day the Second World War broke out, the planned wedding day having to be cancelled because of the war.

### The War Years

Like so many of his generation, Richard's career was interrupted by war service which for him was in the Royal Army Education Corp via the Royal Artillery. Until just before D-Day much of it was spent in a home posting in Bedford. He recalls that, while restricted in camp for the fortnight before D-Day, he was called upon to play the piano for an hour each day, which he did from memory without music, and the music was relayed to the whole depot over the tannoy; no doubt it was Richard's contribution to keep up the morale of the troops. He went over to France in the July and he says he did not get his feet wet; the Mulberry Harbour was by then in place!

He was there in time for the breakthrough at Caen and followed behind the Guards, helping to set up an administration in the liberated towns.

He arrived in Brussels one day after it was relieved among scenes of great excitement. There he says was the highpoint of his career, which was as the organist at the Thanksgiving Service attended by Field Marshall Montgomery in the Embassy Church on the Sunday after the liberation. Although he does not remember much of the detail, he relates proudly "I played him out with Jeremiah Clark's Trumpet Voluntary!" He remained in Brussels for a year and saw service in Germany before



Presentation to Richard Jackson

O. R. Jewiss

being demobbed in February 1946.

### Previous Appointments

In the early post-war years Richard taught briefly in Bournemouth before moving to Oxfordshire, where his wife taught in Shiplake and Richard in Benson, to where he cycled each day from their flat in Henley; later he taught in Henley. At about that time he was playing the organ at Dunsden, which in turn led to his appointment to the headship of a small school in Dunsden between 1950 and 1958. During this period he underwent a period of further musical training on the organ and gained his Associateship of London's Trinity College of Music. He later moved to Micklands School and between 1958 and 1964 was organist at Shiplake. The final nine years of his teaching career until his retirement in April 1973 was in Maidenhead. For the same period he was organist at St John's Caversham.

After retirement from teaching Richard and Flora intended to move to Edinburgh to be near their daughter and son-in-law and might never have come to St. Barnabas. However, in the period that they were trying to sell their house in Reading, and having resigned as organist at St. John's, their daughter and son-in-law moved south to Reading, where Richard and Flora remained and so Richard was able to become the organist at St. Barnabas.

### Views and Passions

Richard speaks of the tremendous satisfaction he has gained from playing in the local churches. "I am living church music; my head is full of tunes; music enriches your worship," he says. He certainly has a large repertoire of music, much of which he can play by ear without music. He believes that in the smaller parish churches it is important that the organist bears in mind the congregation and that the choirs should sing with the congregation.

Richard is also a lover of the very best of church music. Every Wednesday he and Flora listen to the radio broadcast of Choral Evensong from the

cathedrals and colleges of our land; he has a stack of recordings to supplement his listening. As often as he can he goes to London to attend Evensong at Westminster Abbey, where he makes certain he gets a seat close to the choir. On these trips he spends the morning indulging his other passion - art. He is a friend of the Royal Academy of Arts and is a frequent visitor to their exhibitions, as well as visiting the National and Hayward Galleries and the British Museum. He is also keen on his garden, particularly the flowers.

Among his regrets is the lack of time in much of contemporary music. He looks back with pleasure on the days when the combined choirs of Caversham got together for the Patronal Festivals, when the stronger choirs helped the weaker ones. It was a period when they all went off and sang at St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel and at Tewkesbury.

Handel's four Coronation Anthems are his favourite church music; Michelangelo is his favourite artist; and the fairly recently acquired three manual electronic organ at the Crematorium is his favourite organ in Caversham. This he will continue to play on Wednesdays as one of the panel of regular organists at the Crematorium. He is also very fond of the little one manual organ at St. Barnabas Church, but regrets that most of the sound goes into the choir vestry.

### Thank You, Richard!

For almost 45 years Richard Jackson has been loyally, faithfully and enthusiastically contributing to the worship of many people in this area through his music. Often this has been at significant times for a family: at a baptism, a marriage or a funeral. Very many of us owe him a debt of gratitude. As he slips into semi-retirement, no longer bound to a particular organ stool every Sunday, we wish him and Flora a happy, healthy and restful time. Thank you Richard for sharing your talent with us for so long!

Owen Jewiss

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# the CLUBS

## Rosehill W.I.

At their January meeting a moment of silence was held in remembrance of member the late Mrs Pearce.

Members were reminded that their 'subs' were now due.

The walkers had two walks and a lunch during January and decided if the weather was too wet they would walk on the pavements. Scrabble is still enjoyed each month at 22 Courtney Drive and new members would be welcomed. A kneeler has been ordered for members to work and give to their local Church, and a coffee morning raised £33.80 for their funds.

At the main meeting Miss Bannon spoke and showed how to make ribbon roses, and members were keen to try to make them themselves.

## Caversham W.I.

The first meeting of the New Year saw the President welcoming everyone for a members' evening. The growing of cacti and succulents was the subject of the talk from fellow member, Sally Brooker; her knowledge and enthusiasm were very evident.

A social time followed and the raffle was drawn. Advance notice was given of the limerick competition at the group meeting in April so rhyming brain cells can be sharpened.

## Caversham Afternoon T.G.

A large number of members and visitors braved the weather for this the first meeting of the New Year. The chairman gave information on the Spring Event "T.G. on Holiday" to

be held at Twyford in May. Members learned much about the various classes and competitions within this event and plans for the Guild's entry would soon be under way.

An outing in March would be to "The King and I" at the Hexagon, Mrs E. Odey having booked seats for members.

The speaker, Mrs Parsons, kept members interested with her talk and slides on the Grade II listed Mansion House in Prospect Park. Mrs Parsons, a member of the Civic Society, gave her talk much historical background; the land, it seems, was originally owned by the Liebenrood family, the house being built in 1760, wings added forty years later. Frances Kendrick, an heiress pre-1700, from Kendrick House at Whitley, bought an estate at Calcot and met Benjamin Child (whom she married) by the heart-shaped pond in the Park. They bought the house but she never lived there. Nevertheless her ghost it is said still appears there and indeed appeared to warn workmen of a deep well near to the house, at the time when Whitbreads were excavating and renovating in preparation for opening what is now their "flagship".

Before the meeting ended the month's birthday people were congratulated and the competition for a poem was judged, Mrs D. Smith's 'Memories' being narrowly the winner from Mrs G. Gale. Meetings are on the third Thursday each month at 2pm in Church House. New members/visitors are always welcome.

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## Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and wished all members a Happy New Year. The meeting was well attended despite the weather being so cold, but members were soon cosy and warm. Mrs Strong said, before continuing with the afternoon's business, she would like to ask members

attending the Christmas lunch if they had all enjoyed it, and all agreed it was a lovely lunch and a happy atmosphere. Mr Barry Strong and his two friends had added to the enjoyment, playing all through lunch and then afterwards, playing songs all knew which were sung with much gusto by members, finishing with lots of the well known carols. A really happy afternoon was enjoyed by all present, appreciation of the three musicians was shown in the usual applause and Christmas wishes expressed to all as in previous years.

The first meeting was given over to members' complaints, views, ideas, outings etc. But there were no complaints; all had enjoyed past meetings, so it came to outings. By popular choice Bourton on the Water came tops, so a date would be given at the next meeting and the outing would be a full day one.

Chairman Mrs Strong then proposed members take part in a comic quiz which was a success and made a lovely final and funny end, apart from the welcome cuppa all were waiting for before the meeting closed.

## St Peter's Wives Group

Caversham Plate Bell Ringers entertained at the well attended Christmas party. A week later, carol singers followed their now traditional route in the Sheridan Avenue area, raising £138 before returning to the welcome warmth of the Chairman's home for mince-pies. Added to the proceeds from Autumn Fair, £350 was sent to the Sue Ryder Home.

The speaker at the January meeting was John Rhodes, Project Manager for the new Reading Museum. He described the old museum, opened in 1883, reflecting Victorian civic pride. A large, diverse selection of donations flooded in. The important Silchester collection was loaned and the quality of exhibits gradually improved. An art collection was established, while the museum began to concentrate on natural and local history.

Displays dated, but were not improved due to uncertainties over the building's future. Eventually, the Council agreed to restoration rather than demolition. In 1989 the museum closed for refurbishment. Founded by Saxons, a centre against the Vikings, a great medieval town around the

Abbey, a wealthy Victorian town, Reading has a fine heritage; the modernised museum aims to demonstrate this to townsfolk and visitors. The first phase of this museum opened in 1993 with exhibits illustrating periods of that heritage, a Silchester area and the magnificent Bayeux Tapestry replica, and attracted 150,000 in a year. Two more phases are planned, then the restoration of the concert hall and finally the organ. It is hoped for completion by the millenium.

## Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At the first meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild in 1995 the Chairman wished all members a very happy new year. The speaker was Mr Martyn Allies on the subject "Celebrating Columbus". He spoke about the life and explorations of Columbus, who was an Italian born in 1451, and illustrated his talk with slides. Columbus made four major voyages, the most remembered being the one in 1502 when he discovered mainland America, but it was not really until the middle of the 18th century that his life and achievements were celebrated. At that time the Americans were looking for a hero who wasn't English and Columbus was an obvious choice. A lengthy biography was written, a university and a state were named after him and it was hoped to re-name the United States of America, The United States of Columbia, but a small country in South America beat them to it and has been named Columbia ever since. In 1892 the USA issued a series of stamps to celebrate Columbus and Chicago held a grand exhibition. In 1992 Spain held their own exhibition, EXPO '92, at a cost of £2 billion, in celebration of Columbus and one wonders who will host the celebrations in 2092? Mrs E. Fuller gave the vote of thanks for a most enjoyable and unusual talk.

The Guild continues to be very busy with the Arts and Crafts group making plans for the Federation Exhibition - T.G. Summer Holiday - to be held at Twyford in May. An advance notice for March of "An Evening with Mrs Gaskell" was announced with some recommended reading for beforehand. The ramblers have continued to walk every fortnight despite very wet weather although they

have had to keep to roads and walk locally. Two more walks were scheduled when it was hoped that the weather would be rather kinder than of late. The Guild jumble sale will be held on Saturday May 13th in St. Barnabas' Church Hall.

So far in 1994/5 £120.25 has been raised for "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf", the result of various fund raising events organised by members. Finally it was the Chairman's pleasant duty to welcome a new member, Mrs Pat Faulkner.

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## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

THE SCENTED GARDEN

There is much more to smelling flowers than is generally believed. The production and retention of scent is dependent on physical conditions such as for instance the presence of a hedge. What we used to call attars are now known as oils. Scents can be classified into ten groups, one of which, the heavy group, can trigger asthmatic reactions. Others are rose, violet and aromatic groups, while certain groups attract only flies and smell unpleasant. You could say that scented flowers in a small garden give better value for money. Because of them their owners go out there and even those with poor eyesight can find enjoyment.

So said Mrs R. Campbell-Preston, a student of plant sciences, speaking at the main guild of Caversham Heights Townswomen in St Andrew's hall in Caversham in January. It was amazing to see from the specimens she brought along just what would give pleasure from its scent. Some of the keen gardeners present bought plants or bulbs, and Mildred Hutchison gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all.

It seemed like being in the wake of one of the many famous women travellers such as Lady Hester Stanhope or Freya Stark when Mrs Sedell returned to social studies later in the month. The second part of her illustrated talk about Nepal was another journey, all part of a holiday with Saga, who, it seems, do go further than Torquay!

After a flight from Kathmandu to see Mount Everest, known locally as the Black Mountain, the party went off into the Terai region, a flat productive land criss-crossed by rivers in the far west, in reality an extension of the great Indian plain. They came to know more about the wildlife there, seeing a tiger once and learning surprising things about elephants.

## 2nd CAVERSHAM GUIDES and Dogs for the Disabled



A year ago 2nd Caversham Guides, who meet at St Andrew's Hall, had a visit from Miss Oldfield and her friend and helpmate, Larry. The Guides learnt how Larry assists Miss Oldfield to lead an active life, although she is restricted with arthritis and asthma and has difficulty in balancing.

When he is wearing his harness he can support a wobbly person. He is

also adept at picking things up from the floor, fetching the phone and answering a whistle of distress from his owner. Larry is one of a growing number of dogs for the disabled. Each one is trained to meet the individual needs of his owner and is on duty when wearing his jacket.

The training and equipment for each dog is very expensive so those concerned have many ways of

raising money. The Guides had been collecting tinfoil, foreign coins, wool and stamps and in the photo are presenting their contribution to Miss Oldfield on her return visit. She told them about a new symbol which will be exhibited by shops, etc. which are happy to allow dogs for the disabled on to their premises.



2nd Caversham Guides.

- Valerie Wing

## KEEPING THE THIRD WORLD WARM



Some years ago Edwina Currie had the Sfatuous idea that old people could keep cosy in the winter by knitting themselves woolly hats and scarves.

Fortunately my mother, Ruth Ortner, has a centrally heated flat, so instead of needing to take the above lady's advice, she has made some forty large knitted patchwork blankets for SCF and Oxfam.

Not bad for nearly ninety-four years old!

B.B.

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## IN MEMORY - KAY CLIFFE

It is with deep regret the recent death of Kay Cliffe at the age of forty-one is reported.

Some of you knew her as a fine dressmaker with many happy customers, some of you knew her as a member and Sunday School teacher of the Caversham Heights Methodist Church,

some of you may even have known her as one of the best actors in St Lawrence Players. What you may not have known was that Kay was born with a damaged heart and it was its sudden failure before an anticipated transplant that caused her death. Amongst her many skills though, was her ability

to cheer others and work without rest in spite of her condition.

Those who knew her knew a caring soul; those who knew her will be sad at her passing.

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### St. Andrew's Fellowship

St Andrew's Fellowship January meeting was very well attended for one of the members' well-loved type of programme. This was a travel slide and talk by Mr John Howes about Iceland and Greenland. Apart from one ninety year old lady in the gathering, no one else had been to either country. Mr Howes had taken early retirement from British Rail several years ago and almost immediately embarked on the interesting and demanding career of arranging trips for travel firms.

This entails a wide knowledge of the history of the country and many practical abilities as well. It was a fascinating evening which passed all too quickly, and it is hoped Mr Howes will come again after some of his future tours.

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