

THE RIGHT VALUES FOR OUR CHILDREN

PRESSURE BRINGS RESULTS



After fifteen years of teaching Religious Education at Highdown Ruth Johnson is retiring. The job to which Ruth was appointed in 1980 was created as a result of pressure from local clergy, notably the Revd John Grimwade, and parents who deplored the absence of R.E. in the curriculum at Highdown in the late 1970's. Ruth's brief was to provide the resources for the teaching of Religious Education for the first three years at school.

As Ruth looks back she reflects that it was hard at first. Some of the staff were wary but gradually they realised that Religious Education had a contribution to make. After five years the Inspectorate suggested that lessons should be doubled to two a week for pupils in the first three years, then as the department continued to thrive, pupils were able to take a GCSE in RE and now it is being offered to the Sixth Form as an A-level subject.

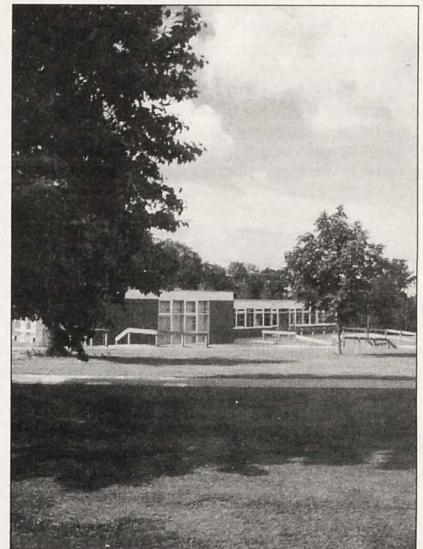
Ruth is grateful to the local clergy who have continued to support Religious Education at Highdown and to be sensitive to the needs of the department. In particular the Revd Bill Carpenter and the Revd Nigel Hardcastle have given considerable input on a regular basis and Mark Hatcher and the Key Bunch from the Chapel on the Hill have made a valuable contribution.

The Education Act which requires Religious Education to be taught in schools refers to the imparting of spiritual and moral values. Richard Wilkins, general secretary of the Association of Christian Teachers writing in the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday 31st May made the point "For children lacking a faith background, education in Christianity provides moral and spiritual bearings." The syllabus also requires that students should learn about other faiths, thus making it apparent that most other religions have similar high ideals and standards.

Ruth believes that Religious Education does have an important part to play in giving children an awareness of what she describes as "the spiritual dimension" which is sometimes lacking even if moral values have been taught. She also believes that children should have respect for the beliefs of other religions and should realise that the ideals of other faiths often affirm the teachings of Jesus. However, she senses that some parents these days nowadays have not time for religion and sometimes that is reflected in the attitude of their children to the subject. She adds that certain sections of the media reinforce this attitude by making fun of Christian beliefs and ideals and this can make teaching the subject more difficult.

Nevertheless, many children do enjoy R.E. particularly when activities such as the making of a Passover meal or an Easter feast when the meaning behind these occasions can be explained. Ruth has also been impressed by the insight and maturity shown by students, even quite young ones, when participating in discussions. She adds that over the years many parents have been very supportive and so have the headmaster and many of the staff at the school. She emphasises that Religious Education is not a soft option, it demands the same skills as any other discipline and should be accorded the same status as any of the other humanities.

Ruth herself had a firm foundation in the Christian tradition, both her



parents, who are now in their eighties, were officers in the Salvation Army. Her elder son Timothy, also a Salvation Army officer, is stationed at Stevenage and her husband, Howard, is manager in charge of the Care and Share charity shop in Gun Street, Reading. Ruth came to Reading with her parents in 1959 and started her teaching career at Caversham Secondary Modern (on the site of what is now Thameside Primary School).

After her marriage to Howard they set up home first in Wrenfield Drive and then in Priest Hill. While their two sons were growing up Ruth taught part-time at Alfred Sutton School for Girls. By the time she went to Highdown her boys were already pupils there and too well settled in, she reckoned, for the arrival of their mother on the staff to be a problem!

Ruth is looking forward to her retirement, to being able to relax in the evenings with Howard instead of doing lesson preparation and marking, and to be able to spend more time with her younger son Philip's children, Daniel aged four and Hannah, aged one. She is very happy that the department that she has built up will pass into the capable hands of Mrs. Ros Myers who lives at Peppard Common and is at present teaching at Littleheath School.

TALKING POINT

by
The Reverend Nigel Hardcastle
Vicar of St. Barnabas



WELCOME TO THE BUGS BOTTOMERS

Slowly, all over the upper part of the Hemdean Valley known to us as Bugs Bottom, houses are appearing and families moving in. May I welcome all the people who live there and wish them well. Indeed we do more than wish you well. We at St Barnabas Emmer Green and those at all the other churches are, of course, praying for you

WELCOMING PEOPLE EVEN IF NOT WELCOMING THE DEVELOPMENT

Many people in Caversham do not welcome the sight of houses arising in this once quiet rural valley. It has been sad to hear the quiet disturbed, to see the sides of hills scarred, to see the death of the place we knew. No wonder some people campaigned so hard against the development.

We may not welcome the houses and roads, but we do welcome the people. The old Bugs Bottom is dead. We may mourn for it. Some will always remember it. But life goes on and we have to make the best of what is, not live for ever in the "what might have been". Now the change is certain and we must make the best of what is now to be. Developers, new residents and old, can all do their part.

WHAT DO WE WISH YOU?

What are we at St Barnabas, praying for you? As always we leave this in part to God for God's love is able to do more than we can think or imagine. Yet, providing we do not try to give orders to God, it is good to think what God would do. We may come to realise that we may have a small part to bring it about.

THE BEST THAT HAPPENED WHEN THE REST OF CAVERSHAM WAS BUILT

You in Bugs Bottom are not alone. Most of the streets of Caversham and Emmer Green were built on green field sites in living memory. As I go visiting I often ask, "How long have you lived here?" Frequently the answer is, "Since they built this road in 1938, or 1952, or 1964." Often these original residents have a particularly strong community. As the first residents moved in they felt they shared the same experience. They got to know each other. They helped each other. Perhaps to begin with everyone in a road knew each other. The original inhabitants often welcomed new people when they moved in. But eventually either the new person didn't want to be welcomed or the old community had turned in on itself and couldn't be bothered any longer. Cars altered the way we live. Some new people would become really part of the community. Others would not. The community fragmented. A remnant of the old, original inhabitants remained. A small network of young mums might meet at the local school gate. A few people have chosen to get to know each other. Others are quite happy to be no part of the community. Their neighbours are an irrelevance unless they make a nuisance. Some people are lost, socially isolated or even physically in need. A person could be dying in some roads and no one would know.

COMMUNITY AND CARING

I suppose that one thing we might pray for Bugs Bottom is that it may not remain for ever a set of individuals and individual families. I pray that neighbours may meet and care for each other. This doesn't mean you have to return to the old ways. We can respect those whose main relationships are elsewhere. Everyone deserves as much privacy as they require. But I hope that people will say "hello" to the neighbours and get to know them. Then there is a chance for relationships to grow if necessary, or to remain small until the relationships are needed.

GROUPS AND CHURCHES

Community no longer works as simply as the old village and street communities of the past. There are other ways communities work as well. If the car has weakened some communities, it makes others possible. People all over Caversham meet in an astonishing array of groups, social groups, groups for young parents and groups for children. There is golf and tennis and allotments and a New Testament Greek Group. There are environmental groups, residents' associations and of course the churches. I hope that all these groups will welcome you.

ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

Like many churches St Barnabas offers all sorts of activities. There are house fellowships where you can get to know a few people who live in your area. There is a group whose concern is to help our South African Student. There are people working for the homeless in Reading. There are groups for young people, social and religious. The Junior Church and Creche meet most Sundays at 9.30am. If you play any instrument there is the music group, if you sing there is the choir etc.. Whether you are religious or not you are welcome, just as you are.

MAKING CAVERSHAM LOVELY WITH LOVE

So I welcome you to Bugs Bottom, to Caversham with all its groups and clubs, to St Barnabas and all the churches. We pray that your life here will be blessed in every way, physically and spiritually. We pray above all things that you will discover the greatest blessing that God or Life can give, the gift of love, the gift of being able to give love as well as the gift of receiving it. In loving and being loved we experience what we Christians call "The Kingdom of God". Love could make Bugs Bottom and the rest of Caversham lovely again.

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

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All contributions for August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 July.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 5 July.

The dates for September will be Monday 5 August and Wednesday 7 August.

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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CAN YOU DRIVE?

This newspaper has disappointed those running Caversham Good Neighbours in their previous requests for drivers in the past. Can we confound them by providing some response to this special plea?

Helpers, particularly drivers, are needed. You can offer on a regular basis or on an "only if desperate" list. Runs are mostly to hospitals, clinics, surgeries, and a disc is provided for hospital trips. There is rarely a long wait, and it helps if you let those in charge know you are a voluntary driver. Although most people do not claim for what is normally a short run, it is felt that the funds could cope with payment of 25p a mile. Do please give this your earnest consideration and ring the Good Neighbour office (Monday to Fridays, 9.30 to 11.30am on 483466.)

LINK GROUP

Forthcoming events.

The Link Group will have held their Annual General Meeting on Monday, 26th June and the next business meeting after that will be on Monday, 31st July.

A social evening will be held later in the year to celebrate the group's 21st birthday; watch out for details of this extra special event.

Further information from Barbara Graham 482043.

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(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)

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

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

The Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,

The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.

The Rev Sheila Nunn, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 4744138.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Renewed threat of Superstore

Once the Elliott's site was vacated everyone knew something else would have to go there. The idea of a superstore was first mooted at a public inquiry into the Reading Structure Plan but no one seemed to be taking it very seriously. It provided a useful stick with which to beat the even worse proposal for building a superstore on the former Queen Anne's playing fields, but it was clear that no real spadework had been done on it.

Now it has resurfaced as a serious proposition. The whole thing leaked out when it was revealed that the owners of property along Gosbrook Road, adjacent to Patrick Road, had been approached with very attractive offers to buy their property with a view to their being demolished in order to improve access to the site, which would increase the chances of planning permission being granted.

Small businesses in Caversham are not on the whole making fortunes for their owners, so no one would blame anyone who took up the offer. It would, however, bring about widespread change in Caversham if this led to the application being successful.

Situated as it is only a short distance from the central shopping area, a large store with ample parking space

could well draw present users of these shops to itself whilst being sufficiently far off to deter their car borne customers, notoriously anti-pathetic to any unnecessary walking, from exploring other shops in the vicinity.

Whilst this proposed development can hardly be called 'Out of town shopping' or a 'green field site' of which the undesirable effects on traditional shopping centres are now being acknowledged by the Department of the Environment, yet nevertheless its effect on Caversham would be the same.

Waitrose brings a lot of people, apart from those living locally, to Caversham, every week. Lo-cost has a substantial following, whilst across the river, but in many ways having more affinity with Caversham than with Reading from which it is cut off by the railway line, Tesco draws large numbers to itself because of its huge car park, its cheaper petrol, and sometimes lower priced daily goods.

Do we then need another superstore? The answer must be No, and particularly No if that store is going to alter the existing trading pattern of a shopping centre that has served people well for more than a hundred years.

Electoral Landslide

The local election results all over the

country brought with them the sound of Conservative heads falling to the anti-government axe. Across Reading the results all followed the national trend, except for Thames Ward, where it would take a lot for the electorate to forget its ancient loyalties. Even there though, its safeness as a Conservative seat cannot be taken for granted. Ken Putt, its sitting councillor, got back by working hard for his ward and maintaining a high profile there. Even so, he had no overall majority over his two challengers and Thames lost its usual record of having a higher turn-out than anywhere else in the Borough. A lot of people must have decided to stay at home and watch TV instead of taking a stroll to the polling stations.

Caversham Ward, which has never been a safe Conservative seat and shows a marked tendency to follow the national voting pattern, to no one's surprise, returned a Labour Councillor, Steve Waite, who lives in the Ward though he has never been on the Council before. In Peppard Ward, the Labour Party did not make much of a showing, but the Liberal Democrat Bob Green, again a new face for the Council, won the seat twice over, once for the Borough and once for the County, where this was a by-election. He will be joining Ian Fenwick, who won Peppard for the Lib-Dems last year, on the Borough Council.

It may not seem fair that hard-working local Councillors should have to carry the can for what the national government is doing, but that is the way politics works. Local government has suffered particularly badly over the last few years from cuts in its grants. It is at local level that government most affects people's daily lives, so it should come as no surprise that chickens are at roost. The prospect of

next year's elections must already be giving candidates much food for thought.

Busy Roundabout

It seems incredible that planning permission could have been given for a petrol station and car wash to be sited on the edge of an already busy roundabout, but there it is, up and in business at the Caversham Road-Richfield Avenue junction. Presumably there were no planning regulations to say one could not be built in such a position so permission had to be given.

Today, local planning committees seem to have little power beyond vetting applications to ensure that they do not infringe planning regulations. The fact that local conditions can mean that no one likes what is being done holds no water so, until planning committees are given a bit more discretion about what they pass, we can expect to see this kind of thing happening time and again.

Green Day Success

The Green Day in Caversham Court was a great success, with large numbers of people enjoying a day out which entailed neither spending large sums of money nor damaging the environment. There were music, owls, jugglers, stilt walkers, a maze, a giant snakes and ladders, and a tempting array of food in the refreshment tent. A variety of stalls and displays suggested ways in which everyone could reduce the damage which modern living imposes all too often on the environment.

One of the worst examples shown was that of the problems caused by the use of so-called 'disposable' baby napkins. Disposable is just about the last thing they are. One baby being changed, say five times a day, for up to two and a half years, presents enormous problems of

disposal which the manufacturers gloss over. Nappy washing is far from being fun, but there are various up to date means of relieving this chore which are more hygienic, cheaper, and little more onerous than purchasing pack upon pack of 'disposables.'

Football Pitch For Hire

Caversham Court itself is looking better than it has for the last two or three years, but it is still not what it was not so very long ago. The terrace supporting wall is still in a very weak state and is propped up whilst awaiting the not inconsiderable sum needed to repair it. Meanwhile, the wisteria along the wall, once the pride and joy of the garden, is either dead or dying. Fortunately, just outside the gardens the wisteria tumbling over the Rectory garden wall is some compensation. The top lawn of the gardens however, turfed for a second time, seems to be following the wisteria to oblivion. Is this because it is on the top of the foundations of the old house which would also explain why the original lawn did so badly? Perhaps the foundations of the old house should be revealed and made a feature of the gardens.

The lower lawn is not doing too well either, but this is because it is regularly used as a football

pitch regardless of flower beds, daffodils, or any wimps who just want to sit and stroll in the gardens and enjoy them. With the open spaces of Christchurch Meadows and even the opposite side of the river available, it is difficult to see why these gardens have become the in-place to kick a ball around. Whether these are the same people who decapitate the irises and daffodils and throw them into the

pond along with crisp bags and drink cans, is not known.

Once the by-laws, in the course of preparation and at present held up somewhere in the depths of the Home Office, are enacted, they will give some authority to the police and park rangers who can now be ignored when they point out the error of these lads' (and they aren't often lasses) ways.



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BERKSHIRE CHURCHES PRAY TOGETHER

This seemingly unremarkable headline is very remarkable because 50 years ago you would not have expected to find Salvationists, Quakers, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists and members of the Church of England and monks of a Roman Catholic Abbey meeting and praying together, let alone exchanging information on aids to worship including the rosary, icons, vestments, the use of silence, the use of music and the Bible. In response to a challenge from the Bishop of Reading, made two years ago when he was Chairman, this was in fact what a large gathering of members of all the main line denominations were doing at Douai Abbey at the Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Berkshire in early May. Jesus prayed that His followers might be one as he was one with the Father, so that the world might believe. When we can come together in prayer are our divisions now so great?

Keynote address from Maranatha Community

After a minimum of formal business the Salvation Army opened the real business of the day with prayer in their style. The keynote speaker was Dennis Wrigley of the Maranatha Community, an inter-denominational group helping to revitalise the churches. It positively helps and encourages its members to be more effective Christians in the places where they live, work and worship. Maranatha is a prayer meaning 'Come Lord Jesus'. In the belief that God is speaking with great urgency to the churches and to the country, the Community have produced over the past 18 months 'A call to the Nation' and 'A call to the Churches'.

In his address Dennis Wrigley, assisted by others from the Maranatha Community, spoke about God searching for us, impatiently waiting for us to ask Him, God taking initiatives and the presence of Jesus in the resurrection appearances. He spoke of the closeness of Jesus, feeling His breath, being touched by Jesus and the centrality to the Gospels of the healing of Jesus. Since we are the Body of Christ we have to allow ourselves to be the instruments of healing in a broken world and we can only be those instruments when we touch others. It was a talk that conveyed meaning through words and experience, for it was interspersed with prayer: prayer with hands outstretched, prayer for our neighbour to left and right whilst touching him or her, group prayer in fives or sixes. It was powerful, it was arresting, it was not what most of us had been used to but it was very meaningful.

Aids to worship

If the day had any fault it was that there was too much in it. During breaks for tea and supper we were able to examine a whole host of exhibits about prayer and spirituality: there was material from Iona, Taizé and Maranatha Communities, the National Retreat Association, Corrymeela Link, Christian Aid and CAFOD, from Julian and Lydia Groups, the Society of Friends and the Society of Franciscan Pilgrims, additionally there were books on prayer, spirituality and worship from our local St Andrew's bookshop and from Churches Together in England.

Different styles of worship

Mrs Sandy Dutton and a team from Easthampstead demonstrated the contribution of liturgical dance to worship. We had tasters of



M. Diver

Some of the Berkshire Church Leaders and Officers of Churches Together in Berkshire are pictured with the speaker at the Annual Assembly at Douai Abbey. They are from left to right: Dr John Perkin (Society of Friends), Dr Owen Jewiss (CTB Chairman), Abbot Finbar Kealy of Douai, the Bishop of Reading (the Rt Revd John Bone), Mr Dennis Wrigley (Maranatha Community), Sister Janet Wilcox (CTB Ecumenical Officer), Major Raymond Houghton (Salvation Army) and the Revd Nelson Bainbridge (United Reform Church).

worship in the Iona and Taizé styles and descriptions of the meaning of Quaker worship (insufficient time had been allowed for a meaningful silence). Finally we joined with the monks in the Abbey for their service of Compline which was followed by their usual Saturday Litany to Our Lady sung in Latin. We had a feast of ideas and examples of resources on aids to prayer and brief experiences of prayer and worship in different styles. There was a richness in diversity and an opportunity to learn from each other and to do it together.

Continuing prayer

If ecumenism is to succeed it must be nurtured by prayer. To this end Churches Together in Berkshire has appointed a Liaison Officer for Spirituality to encourage and enable ecumenical prayer groups throughout Berkshire. Mrs Catherine Hayne (Tel 01734 587400), who occupies this post, has started a meditative ecumenical prayer group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month between 12.30 and 1.00pm at the Minister Church of St. Mary in Reading. Those in central Reading at

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: MAYC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Anyone who managed to see 'Songs of Praise' on June 4 will have caught a glimpse of something very powerful and exciting in the church of the 1990's. In the 1940's a Methodist minister had a vision for a youth club movement within the church to bring the love of Jesus directly to young people. So the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs began. This year, fifty years later, 16,000 young people met together in London to celebrate their faith and to bring vitality and hope to the church. 'Squash', the youth fellowship group at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, is proud to be part of something much bigger and to be able to share in this annual weekend.

Young people are leading the church in a powerful way — showing how we should care for the world and its people and bringing a vitality and relevance to our worship and lives as Christians. The experience of 16,000 young people worshipping together is memorable. Even more memorable if you consider that for the last 50 years young people have travelled to London from all over the country for the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs annual London Weekend. The Weekend started as everyone gathered in Battersea Park on Saturday, May 20 for some talking, singing and a general opportunity for an amazing atmosphere to build.

After the morning's events there was a concert in the Big Top at Battersea Park entitled 'Hot House '95' with Christian bands and some of the latest chart music. The bands were really cool and the graphics used on the video screens were

brilliant. This gave everyone a lift and we were in high spirits as we left. We travelled to the Royal Albert Hall to watch the show. This year, the 50th anniversary of VE Day and of MAYC'S foundation dominated the show and a war-time family linked the acts together. The next morning, after very little sleep, we went to worship in the Big Top. During the service, we were joined by a group of Africans and we were each asked to write our talents on cut-out hands which were passed to the stage as an offering of service to God.

To finish off the weekend, we all met in Battersea Park for a final send-off to MAYC President and to throw our pompoms of friendship. We also held up keys which each represented 10 homes which need to be built to help combat homeless-

ness. Press photos were taken to promote the MAYC 'It's a scandal' homelessness project. A

brilliant end to a brilliant weekend!

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST ANNE'S ANNUAL CONCERT

The Fifth Annual Concert of St. Anne's parish was held on Saturday 20 May. This event has grown to be the highlight of the parish calendar and this year was no exception. The concert began with the St Anne's School recorder group, opening with Panis Angelicus, better known as the theme tune to the recent Joanna Trollope adaptation of *The Choir* by the BBC. The youth of the parish seemed to be the theme for the evening as the next act was two of the recorder group, Anna Freeman and Stephanie O'Donnell, but this time playing the flute, this duet played three pieces, ending with a rendering of "The Entertainer."



P. Freeman

St Anne's School recorder group.

There then followed a change of style as Patti Naxton, leader and soloist of St. Anne's choir, treated the audience to some excellent solo pieces, including Purcell's "Music For A While." The remainder of the first half, with the exception of the last act, was all performed by the youth of the parish. Miguel Calvo on cornet was followed by Liam Brooker on guitar who also did a duet with the as ever convivial host for the evening Terry Bryanton.

Four members of the recorder group then returned, this time on clarinets and tambourines, with a piece dedicated to their music teacher, Mrs Dallmeyer, who had died recently. Victoria Naxton then provided a rendition of Bach's "Sonata In G Minor" before the St. Anne's choir ended the first half with some excellent choral work.



P. Freeman

St Anne's Choir.

The second half started like the first half, with the recorder group. This time the players were split into different groups based upon experience. The standard of the groups, led again on piano by their tutor and school teacher Mrs Bradbury, was a credit to the school. Maria Featch and Anna Smith then entertained the audience with a trio of songs. Cliff Nash, a parish concert stalwart, then performed on piano, followed by Mrs Rowley, the mother of a parishioner, who gave a marvellous rendition of "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square".

Terry Bryanton then played two excellent solo pieces on classical guitar, one of which, "Sakura" (Cherry Blossom) by Yocoh, held the audience spellbound. Berna Macdonald then provided some further solo renderings, including Mendelssohn's "When Love Is Kind," before the choir returned for what the programme called a 'sing song.' This finale included "The Sun Has Got His Hat On," "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah," "Daisy" and "We'll Meet Again."

accompaniment to so many of the performers during the evening. The audience retired after being entertained for nearly three hours, the concert having set a very high standard for the parish centenary concert to be staged in 1996.

Heartfelt thanks go to Fiona Stokes for providing the piano

BISHOP CHALLENGES THE CHURCHES ON MISSION AND EVANGELISM

The Right Revd John Bone, Bishop of Reading, told Churches Together in Reading at their Annual General Meeting in May that they had an important role in keeping the challenge of mission and evangelism constantly before the churches. "Should not every congregation be invited to say what they are doing, set out their plans for the future and report their progress at the end of each year?"

Moving forward by word, life and action
In a stimulating address based on *Acts 4. 32-35*, he reminded the large audience that the purpose of the Church is the communication of the Good News of what God had done in Jesus Christ. Our role in communication, witness, proclamation, evangelisation and mission was defined in the time of the apostles. We should follow their example and like them bear witness by word, in life be united as a body of believers, and in action support those in need.

Owen Jewiss



O. Jewiss

Left to right: The Revd Elizabeth Brazell (Chairperson), the Rt Revd John Bone (Bishop of Reading), Dr Beldon Bensley (temporary Secretary), Miss Jean Sawyer (Treasurer) and Mr Norman Preston (Chairman-elect).

YOUTH TAKE LEAD AT CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

The Caversham Christian Aid Week Service was one of the most memorable and lively ones for many years since most of the input came from the youth of four of our churches. The Heights Methodist Church had turned the chancel at St Barnabas Church in cardboard city for a dramatic sketch entitled 'It's a scandal' dealing with the problem of the homeless and disadvantaged and the attitudes of others towards them. St Barnabas' youth symbolically turned the world upside down so that the poor in the Third World ended up on top!

A reading from *Corinthians 12* reminded us that we are all one body and that we need each other. Alone we are like the disjointed bones in *Ezekiel 37*, but the young people at St Andrew's showed, through means of dramatic dance, how the Spirit of the Lord brought life into the dry bones that had been scattered in the valley.

Much of the music was provided by the Music Group at St Peter's which, when combined with the youth at St Barnabas in another piece of active drama, showed how all involved with Christian Aid, whether giving or receiving, were marching together and marching in the love of God. St Barnabas Church was turned into a sea of movement during the rendering of this South African hymn which many of the staid older members of the congregation found difficult to resist. That night the worship was vibrant and the Spirit breathed life into the bodies that were there.

Owen Jewiss



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

OPEN DAY AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

A church as busy as the Heights Methodist Church has much to show. At the OPEN DAY on Saturday 13 May visitors were able to wander through a maze of 37 stalls, which overflowed into the church from the hall, to see what activities do take place on the church premises. One stall explored worship, another Sunday Starters whilst a third investigated the mission of the church. Youth work was represented with Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade; Squash showed something of what the teenagers do on a Sunday evening. On the social side, Stay-a-while invites retired people to lunch and organises trips by Out-a-while; Be-a-better-Neighbour group helps people to understand some of today's problems, like living with deafness or cancer, or understanding Alzheimer's Disease; Community Care showed photos of what help is given to disadvantaged people in our community. Visitors were invited to examine the church's new publicity and see how we get news into the media; and they were offered the benefits of joining a House Group. Organisations such as Dancing Class, Berkshire Bee-keepers and Townswomen's Guild, who use the premises, displayed their wares. Especially comfortable were the two easy chairs flanking the church pastoral display, the latter representing the 29 pastoral visitors who keep in contact with almost 500 people. Stalls for National Children's Home Action for children, Playgroup, Teddies Toddler Group all showed concern for children; whilst the Berkshire Polio Fellowship illustrated its long links with the church. There were many more stalls, such as the Network display of what 60 ladies do with their time every other Thursday afternoon.

During the day there was a constant flow of activity on the stage in the church. Children from the Playgroup were enchanting as they sang their songs and performed a little play, whilst the Townswomen's Guild had their audience laughing at their short play. The Singing Group and instrumentalists entertained in the afternoon and flower arrangers demonstrated their skills.

The whole was part of the church's Christian Stewardship review, looking at how people use their Time, Talents and Treasure in thankfulness to God.

A successful church depends upon everyone to play their part. This was never better



- Mrs E. Morgan



- Mrs E. Morgan

illustrated than at the OPEN DAY. On the following day at the Family Service the minister, Rev David Moody, was able to offer thanks to everyone for their generosity; a generosity which comes from our response to God's generosity to us through Jesus Christ. If we accept that Jesus is an integral part of our life this is how we respond to him in thanks for all that he has done for us.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Open Day.

MORE THAN £17,500 NEEDED FOR ST BARNABAS ROOF

When, to begin with, the architect told us we needed a lot of work on our roof and it would cost about £12,000, we rejoiced that that was almost exactly what we had saved over the last 8 or so years towards such a situation. Unfortunately, when the tenders finally came in, the most economical firm wanted almost £17,500 when VAT was included. On top of that there will be architect's fees etc.. The most expensive firm wanted nearly £23,500 for the same work! If any one out there would like to help make up the shortfall, all contributions will be gratefully received.

We have known for some time that there was something wrong with the roof. Rain would sometimes come in through the roof but not always. Was it when the wind was in a certain direction? Putting in some sarking felt might cure it but be very expensive. I have suggested at times that liturgical umbrellas for the choir might be the solution! Finally other minor repairs revealed the underlying problem. The nails, now 65 years old had rusted and begun to give way. Some boards were slipping to be held in place by the next. What was needed was to remove all the tiles, treat the wood, refix battens, replace the tiles. While the scaffolding is up it makes sense to: add sarking felt, repair the chancel cross and check the vent for any needed repairs. Then we hope the roof will last another 50 years.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY FOR MUMS

Caversham Baptist Free Church are at present running a "Mothers and Others" Bible Study on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 11.30. It is aimed primarily at Mums with Toddlers and a creche facility is provided but anyone is welcome. We meet for coffee and biscuits at 10.00am and then have about an hour's study and discussion. The group is led by the Pastor's wife, Shelagh Edwards, and is friendly and informal, so if you would like to come along we would love to meet you.

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)
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)

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11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The months continue to race by and life seems to get busier and busier — when you read this, half the year will have passed. On Sunday 7th May a very moving and thoughtful service was held at St. John's with the British Legion members and their standards and banners. The church was full of local people and all ages took part. Many came back to the church on the Monday to see the exhibition organised by the support group for the Children's Society as part of a street party held in the churchyard as a fun day for the children. It in fact turned into a fun day for all ages with the "middle-ages" having a great sing song with Jim Plunkett in the church and teaching the children all the old songs and the children giving their elders a splendid rendering of Old Macdonald with full sound effects. Two raffles took place, one for the children and one with a splendid cake donated by Warings, the Bakers, which carried the emblem of the Children's Society. A magnificent sum of £234 was subsequently given to the charity. A definite highlight for the children and certain members of the Mother's Union was "Wet the Vicar", but the most accurate aim came from the assistant vicar!

The week finished off with a very enjoyable Barn Dance and supper. Christian Aid week followed with the initial service at St Barnabas and a busy week of street collecting — people seemed less reluctant this year and the increase in money was pleasing. The children meanwhile have been very busy working on the Children's Gift Day project. The diocese has a link with the diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa and the project was all about a shanty village of Galeshewe on the outskirts of Kimberley. Their church of St James wanted to renovate a church as a nursery for the under fives so that the older children could go back to school. They at present stay home to enable the parents to work. St John's children have been learning a little about the area, making books for the nursery and devising ways of fund raising.

Bearing £75 a group of twenty children and adults set off for the Archdeaconry gift day at Ranelagh school, Bracknell. A good day was enjoyed with lots of work shops — making masks, bivouacs, jewellery, mitres (as well as a special one for Bishop John to wear in the service), face painting, badge making, drama and dance etc.. We were able to enjoy a picnic lunch around the cricket pitch before the united service led by the Bishop wearing his new mitre. We were lucky enough to meet Revd Peter Monangeng who is at present here in Oxford from Kimberley and Kuruman Diocese. The service culminated with the children letting off helium filled balloons in the six colours of the South African flag as a prayer was read.

Mother's Union

The May meeting of the Mother's Union was our now familiar Flower service, when flowers are laid in front of the Altar and later taken to the sick or house bound. This is always a happy meeting shared with our Methodist friends and is also a time for admitting new members. This year we had two new members in Sylvia and Marjorie Usher and welcomed two old members who have come to live in our area namely Mrs Joyce Wicks from St. Michael's Tilehurst and Mrs Pat Allum from St Agnes and St Pauls.

Mayfair

May finished with our best Mayfair yet, when, yes we did it — we raised over £1,000! June began on the happiest note of all with the church's birthday, Pentecost or Whit Sunday. We welcomed Revd Peter Monangeng to St. John's as celebrant and were able to learn lots more about the church in Africa, in many ways far ahead of us with its straightforward uncluttered approach to worship. The diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman is one and a half times bigger than the United Kingdom and has just 23 priests, less than Reading has! The children were pleased to see him again and the service ended with them releasing red balloons to mark the start of Pentecost.

THAMES VALLEY COMES ALIVE AGAIN IN PENTECOST PRAISE

The eve of Pentecost was the occasion for a sequel to 'The South Bank Show', which was arguably the most popular happening during Thames Valley *Alive*. Under the direction of the Revd Elizabeth Brazell 'Pentecost Praise' was another evangelistic event within the format of a mainly musical evening. This time the venue was the Minster Church of St. Mary in the Butts to which the large number present, including the Bishop of Reading and Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, were welcomed by the new Rural Dean, then Revd Brian Shenton.

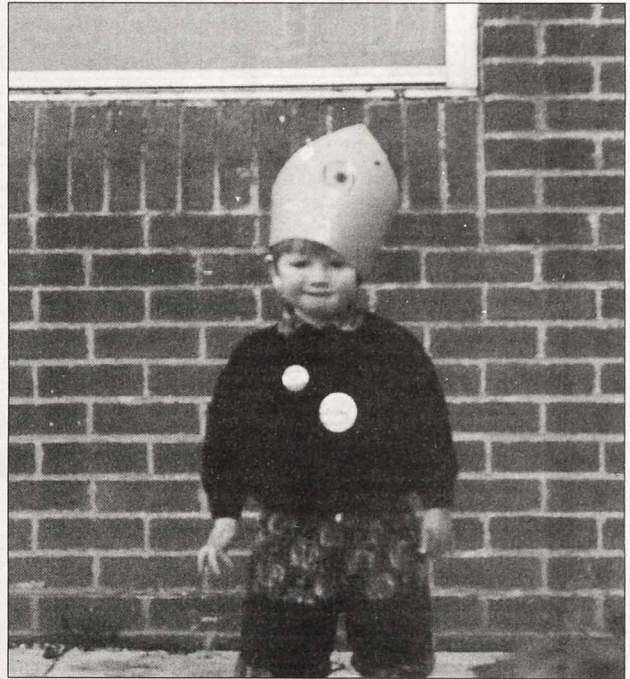
The Thames Valley *Alive* Orchestra and Choir provided an introductory sequence of modern hymns and led the worship during the evening. There was some dramatic dancing and a sketch with a clear message, plus some excellent pieces by the operatic tenor, David Ashmore-Turner, and some high quality unaccompanied singing pieces by Tallis and Gibbons by the Thames Valley *Alive* Singers. Martin Cavender had been unable

to come but had sent in his place as speaker the former Bath and Wells Diocesan Adviser on Healing, the Revd Peter Hancock. He turned out to be a master of wit; I doubt if I have heard so many jokes from a pulpit before. This led into a strong evangelistic call to dedicate one's life to Christ and provided a subsequent opportunity to be anointed with the Holy Spirit. Many remained to have prayerful hands laid upon them.

It was a good evening that in many ways recaptured some of the essence of Thames Valley *Alive* but, as it was a one-off event, it neither engendered the same degree of anticipation among church people, nor the same degree of participation from the wider church and beyond, than had been the case with the earlier mission. It did, however, ensure that evangelism remains in a prominent position on the agenda of the churches in Reading and that members from the various denominations can come together in large numbers to praise God. Owen Jewiss



Welcome lunch break.



Thomas Rowe at the Mitre Workshop, foreseeing the future?

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

THREE CHEERS FOR HIGHDOWN

By now, thank goodness, we can put VE Day firmly behind us. As far as this district was concerned it doesn't seem to have had much impact on the locals. The reasons are many, not least, as a young friend of mine said when asked how she was going to celebrate, she and her friends weren't even born at the end of the war, so why celebrate.

That's perfectly true but I suppose for that reason if no other, one should mention the only 'do' I managed to get to was the exhibition held at Highdown School and produced by the pupils. I've certainly seen more exhibits elsewhere but this one had really caught the atmosphere, mainly with the use of sound and lighting. And one shouldn't forget the young people manning the exhibition and only too willing to impart information. Good luck to them — we shall look forward to further events in the future.

CHANGES IN CAVERSHAM

Meanwhile rumours about what is going to happen to Caversham are still as vague and unhelpful as ever. But here again one really should congratulate those who kept up the good work of protesting about stupid ideas and continued to produce graphs, collect signatures and provide posters. What will happen eventually is anyone's guess but if public opinion is anything to go by we certainly won't see one-way traffic in Lower Caversham (the latest figures suggest that from about 20 roads in the area, only 2.7% were in favour of one-way driving and 97.26% against) and hopefully no more supermarkets of whatever kind in the immediate area, resulting in yet more closures of our local shops. True we have one or two new shops, including A. and A. Discount in Prospect Street, selling discount household goods. Apart from this nobody seems really interested in taking over some of our empty shops, though Ashers on the precinct is now a home for Help the Aged. I only hope they have more success with their appeal for helpers than the Cancer Care people in Hemdean Road, who have some excellent things on sale but most days nobody to man the stalls. Where is all this voluntary work the Government seems anxious to harness. All the same, I wish them luck and hope things will improve.

SUMMER SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS

Blackcaps are the only warblers which have passed through the sycamores of Hemdean House School this summer, the sole, unconfirmed record of breeding for the area being on the west side of Blenheim Road.

Swifts as usual arrived in silence, scything through the insect population on bowed wings with mouths agape. Later

their shrill screams could be heard almost anywhere. House Martins, blue-black on top with white rump, and the long tail-streamered Swallows soon followed.

The early arrived Sand Martins soon began to excavate nesting-holes in appropriate gravel and sand-banks alongside rivers and gravel-pits. The pale-brown back with brown 'collar' across otherwise white underparts make good camouflage at adopted habitats.

In the evening they settle on wispy willow-twigs at the waterside, producing a variety of photogenic sculptures in silhouette against a backdrop of the setting sun.

The migrant Hobby with its near black upper plumage, looking like a huge Swift, may be seen hawking on small birds and insects which are then consumed on the wing.

Some readers are keen to know where interesting birds can be seen during different seasons. Unfortunately, due to

varying weather and other conditions, accurate forecasting is difficult. There are many noteworthy resident birds within walking distance and migrant species may well be found at the same time.

Basic equipment must always be, say, 8x40 binoculars, Field Guide, note-book and pencil, and appropriate 'quiet' clothing for camouflage and protection.

Areas which annually produce good migrants (including Hobby!) are the Thames (East and West of Kings Meadows) where currently, Sedge Warbler and Common Tern are performing well.

Balmore (Woods) — Warblers and Nuthatch (resident).

Maple Durham Recreation Ground (Woods) — Chiffchaff, Blackcap.

The Warren (Chalk-pit end and westward) — Warblers, Owls, Woodpeckers, occasional rarities.

Clayfield Copse Nature Reserve (Emmer Green) — Green and Great-

spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatch, occasional Spotted Flycatcher.

Hedgerow borders of above's recreation ground:-

Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Yellowhammer (res.)

Any reader seriously interested in whereabouts of current rarities may care to

phone me on (01734) 461719, just ask for 'Scops Owl'. Better still, hire a bird-pager at a

'fiver' per week — averaging some twenty calls a day, you will miss nothing.

If finding a sick or injured bird, please convey speedily, to the nearest veterinary and NOT to myself.

'Stranded' nestlings (fallers from nest), replace or put nearby out of reach of predators. Parent birds will tend to their needs.

SCOPS OWL

FAREWELL TO ASHERS

But I must say how sorry I am that Ashers are no more, though I don't blame the owner who had done a long stint of supplying greengrocery, flowers etc. for many years. Mr Asher has been anxious to give up for some time, but we shall miss him and his staff.

MORE NEWS PLEASE

Which reminds me, when are we going to have news of what is happening in other parts of Caversham. I have appealed more than once for news from around Caversham, especially with things changing all the time. But 30 years is really an awfully long while to keep up writing local news and we badly need new blood. Can you help? The editorial staff can always get things typed up or even edited, but they need the material to work on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDITORIAL STAFF

I'm not a member of the editorial board so I can, I hope, be forgiven for congratulating those who are, particularly on the excellent production of Ben Archer's obituary with the delightful pictures of the stained glass windows which he took before his death. And I've been asked to say how grateful the Shaylor family were with the coverage of Betty's death. Altogether the June copy was a very good publication and for once we can be forgiven for covering so many events in the local churches at Easter time. We don't want to put anyone off reading, or taking, the 'the Bridge' but it is, after all, produced by Caversham churches and we can afford to let ourselves go sometimes.

OUR VETS

Last month we mentioned that our vets were looking for new premises and had finally found something suitable. Today's 'Evening Post' carries the news that planning permission has been given them for extensions to 65 Oakley Road and car-parking for eleven cars. It seems only six people objected to this extension, so we are looking forward to seeing the building and the vets in action in their new abode; all that remains now is to acquire the premises and go ahead. Our best wishes to all involved.

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A SILVER FAREWELL

Visitors walking up the functional staircase in the Baptist church to the School Lane Playgroup are cheered by the bright and jolly home-made posters — daffodils in glorious yellow, black and white pigs to celebrate Chinese New Year, sheep, butterflies. Once inside, a bright and jolly Pat Jenkins continues the welcome and shares her enthusiasm for the playgroup with which she has been associated for 25 years.

Early Days

Pat, the mother of three daughters, first used the playgroup in School Lane for her second daughter, and after the third had left, offered her help if it was ever needed. Those in charge were not slow in responding and Pat became a whole-hearted helper, so much so that she was asked to take over the group. She took what was then called a "Supervisor's course" at Southlands while continuing at the playgroup, and in 1972, became qualified.

Premises

The building in School Lane became unsuitable, with a car repair shop

working noisily close to it, and Pat asked the Baptist Church, where her children went to Sunday School although Pat herself was not a church member, whether a room could be made available in what is now the Dance Centre. They stayed there until the premises were sold. This was at the time of the re-ordering of the Baptist Church, when a room, purpose built for the playgroup, was part of the new construction. In the six months gap before moving in, the Head of Thameside School offered to house the playgroup and gave tremendous support, so that Pat's ideal would now be for playgroups to be part of an extended school life, the children moving up into "big" school at 5.

Day-to-Day running

As you would expect, all that is necessary to expand the children's minds is there — sand, water, playhouse fully equipped, slide, painting and colouring, bricks and educational toys, and all are used to the full. Some warm days mean that time can be spent playing in the secure Baptist

car park. On other days the children might be seen sitting on the church steps watching and noting the traffic passing. Milk and biscuits are provided and each day a story is told in a quiet time. Events are marked — a birthday cake for that special day, the church invaded for pancake day.

The playgroup (open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 12 noon) can cater for a maximum of 24 children and for this a supervisor and 3 helpers are essential. A full team is there now, but sadly Pat and one of her 10 year long helpers are retiring in July. Pat's daughter Julie is currently the deputy supervisor and is taking the diploma to qualify as a supervisor. She

has other employment for part of the week so cannot make this her only job and interviewing is on hand for Pat's replacement. She stresses it is only part-time and remuneration is commensurate.

Pat Jenkins

Looking at Pat Jenkins it is easy to see what a rewarding life she has. Her 25 years enjoying the playing at floor level (which has mostly been superseded by ever-increasing paper work), being part of the children's lives, has done wonders for her. Although the playgroup has been independent from the church, it has always been very supportive. Pat became a member of the Baptist church and is now a Deacon. She has

been on the committee of the local branch of the Playgroups Association and she is at present Chairman of the Link Group. Although Pat is retiring from this regular commitment of supervisor, it is clear that she has many more years of service to offer. Congratulations on a well-filled 25 years and best wishes for continuing fulfilment in the years to come.

Farewell Party

A celebratory party will be held on Saturday, 15th July and Pat would love to see all past helpers. If anyone reading this has NOT been contacted and would like to be included, please 'phone Pat on 478502 or Shirley Strong on 476955.



— Owen Jewiss

Mrs Pat Jenkins with children of the School Lane Playgroup in the Upper Hall at the Caversham Baptist Free Church.

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OBITUARIES

HAROLD WOODAGE

For over 35 years until his death in late May, St Barnabas choir has benefited from the solid figure and bass voice of Harold Woodage who occupied the corner seat in the back row over that period. Persuaded to join the choir by Dr (now Lord) Brian Morris, the choirmaster at the time, he remained loyal to the choir until prevented by his final illness; his last service was Palm Sunday. Harold and his wife Joyce moved to Emmer Green 39 years ago, when he was a serving officer of the then Reading Borough Police Force. After 25 and a half years in the force, which by then had been absorbed as one of the twelve Divisions into the Thames Valley Constabulary, he retired as Chief Inspector in

charge of prosecutions. He subsequently worked for another 19 years, until his retirement in 1993, as managing clerk in a firm of solicitors.

Harold was also a well known cricketer; he played three times a week for the police as a young officer and subsequently joined Woodcote Cricket Club, where he was not only one of their batsmen but also secretary for a number of years. He was succeeded as secretary by his wife Joyce, who shared his love of cricket. His interest in sport, and particularly cricket, continued after the end of his playing days only 5 years ago. He was also a prominent freemason, having been Master of his local Craft Lodge and Head of his Chapter Lodge. Among his other

interests were foreign travel and music; his two sons ensured that his musical tastes were catholic.

Sadly just over a year ago Harold had to have a major operation for cancer from which he appeared to make a rapid recovery. With indomitable spirit, whilst receiving further treatment, he was to be seen regularly in the choir during his last year, a year in which he and Joyce were able to take a holiday. At Easter he was struck down again by the illness and despite treatment died on Ascension Day, just a few months short of his 67th birthday. Reading Crematorium was packed for his funeral service and Harold himself would have been pleased with the quality of their singing. Many share with his wife Joyce

and their sons Richard and Nicholas, and their families, in the loss of Harold and give thanks for his life. He will be remembered as a loyal, quiet but forthright man of integrity.

Owen Jewiss

MAT MAUNDER

There will be a number of readers of this newspaper who go each summer to pick their own fruit and vegetables at Chazey Court Farm along the Lower Warren, and they will be greatly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mat Maunder on May 6th.

Mat belonged to a West Country farming family, and he took over Chazey when his father, who had come there in the early part of this century, died.

To begin with Mat took up a Naval career.

He went to Dartmouth Royal Navy College at fourteen and there he won the sword of honour for his year. He served in the Royal Navy until he was twenty-six and then turned from the sea to the land and looked after New Farm, Mapledurham, where he lived with his wife, Judy, and their family; so most of his life has been spent among the fields and woods of this glorious piece of Oxfordshire countryside beside the Thames. It is no wonder that after his family his next greatest love was for his part of England where he had grown up, with its rural traditions, its peace and tranquillity and the beautiful setting of the ancient farm house that was the family home.

To Mat's family we extend our deepest sympathy.



Caversham W.I.

A strawberry supper was on the menu for Caversham's May meeting. The president, Miss M.

Cameron, welcomed members and conducted the business section of the meeting. Everyone was congratulated on the help given at the recent group meeting.

Popular songs and monologues were provided by the gentlemen of 'The Whets' and then everyone enjoyed the varied spread of the bring and share supper. After the raffle was drawn everyone went home after a most enjoyable evening.

University of the Third Age

Have you retired from work but not from Life, then join the University of the Third Age, who have such group activities as First Aid, Chess, French, Short Story reading, Arts, Yoga, Music, Popular Culture, Walks and a Luncheon Club.

There is also a general meeting in the Abbey Room at the Central Library at 2pm on the second Thursday of each

month and an Open Meeting on the fourth Monday at 2.15pm in the Kennet Room at the Civic Centre.

Anyone interested, please contact F. Butters 01628 27112.

Caversham Afternoon T.G.

Mrs M. Cottrell from the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed was the speaker for May and gave a very interesting and informative talk.

The Sue Ryder Foundation is an International Charity. There are some 80 homes in many countries, giving care to those in need. In this country there are 22 homes, half being for cancer patients and the remainder for people otherwise disabled. The Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed (Joyce Grove) was opened in 1979 as a specialist hospice and patients were then cared for on the ground floor. Now there is provision for 25 beds and day care for 45 patients. Plans are currently in hand to move the offices to the top floor so that accommodation can be provided for respite care. Although it is a specialist hospice, the main aim of the Home is to create a secure, warm, friendly, and above all, a homely atmosphere for patients and their families, at the same time maintaining a high standard of care throughout.

Much fund-raising is

carried out by the Home and its 12 support groups, monies raised going directly into the Home. This financial aid is vital. Friends of the Sue Ryder home too give valuable support and volunteers also do sterling work in a variety of ways. Additional help in this direction is always welcome.

There were many entries for the competition "Wartime Memorabilia" and

great interest was shown in the variety of items (some perhaps long forgotten) which had been unearthed and were on display. The winner was Mrs E. Hodgkinson.

The social studies/craft meetings have resumed for those members interested.

Meetings are held at Church House at 2pm on the third Thursday of the month and visitors/new members are always welcome.

turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

Caversham Community Association

The beginning of May found members welcoming a return visit from Bob Aggiss. His wonderful slides of pot plants, and container planting were most inspirational and provided many handy hints.

Although not usually open on a Bank Holiday, an exception was made the following week to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day. A long table and Union Jacks and bunting gave the air of a street party. Members enjoyed a period sing-along and reminiscences of wartime life.

Talents were on show the following week for a members' evening. A variety of readings, some comic, some serious, were given by Olive Howard, George Feast, Peggy

Jefferies and Monica Suggett. Maida Feast demonstrated a tea-loaf recipe and brought a previously made one for everyone to taste. Beryl Latcham showed a basket flower arrangement and Margaret Cameron presented a quiz to stimulate the brain cells.

The month ended with a most enjoyable slide and sound effects presentation from Mr Copeland on 'Curiosities on your doorstep'. Many unusual objects and buildings are around if we have our eyes open and know where to look.

Caversham Heights T.G.

The chairman began the evening by welcoming guests and members, then distributed birthday cards. The golden wedding anniversary of Nora Goodman was then celebrated with sherry and cake.

The Guild has had a very busy month, they began on Saturday 6th May by taking part in the Federations' "T.G. on Holiday". It was a very successful day and enjoyed by everyone who attended. They also participated in the Caversham Heights

Methodist Church open day, where many visitors showed interest in the Guild's stand and enjoyed an excellent play from the Guild's flourishing drama group. Tuesday evening, 26 members visited the Hexagon Theatre and enjoyed "Call Me Madam."

The evening's speaker, Mrs L. Maynerd, was then introduced and began by telling us how she came to be an aromatherapist later in life, by following her interest with training. She then explained about the range of essential oils, what they are, where they come from and how they are extracted and processed. She then distributed small samples amongst the members, of frankincense - uplifting, grapefruit - refreshing, and yarrow - relaxing. The oils were never used singly but in an appropriate mixture, but she explained that first she had to become acquainted with her patient in order to discover the best way to help. Mrs Maynerd then demonstrated on Barbara Tyler, a volunteer from the members, how she would massage using a certain mix of oils. Barbara lay on a padded couch warmed by an electric blanket, and although at first members listened to Mrs Maynerd and asked pertinent questions, a silence gradually fell and everyone almost succumbed to the relaxing atmosphere. They definitely envied the volunteer!

The May meeting of the Social Studies Group enjoyed a talk given by Mr Frew on Tasmania and the Scrabble Group met as usual.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Members were reminded of the time the coach would be leaving, from near the Doctors' in Hemdean Road, for their day trip to Bourton-on-the-Water. What one hoped for to finalise the trip was a day of sunshine to enjoy it fully. Club business was soon completed and Mrs Strong then introduced Mr Jessop who was the speaker for the afternoon and had brought along slides of Malaysia, taken when he had been visiting and working over there, and what a wonderful show it was with the breathtaking beauty of so many trees rising above each other. Some were well over two hundred feet high with hundreds in every direction. There were

temples and buildings with their beautiful figures, Indian, Chinese and many more, with their real gold decoration. There were poppy fields, coffee, bananas, even chocolate nuts growing in abundance. The 'ooohs' and 'ahs' from members showed how much they were enjoying watching the towns so different, with flowers everywhere and the people from so many countries, with big smiles. The enjoyment by members was due to Mr Jessop who talked and explained everything so clearly that when time had caught up with the Club, members said they could have watched and listened for lots more from Mr Jessop.

Appreciation was very well shown by members; a really great afternoon.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in St Barnabas Hall on Tuesday evening 9th May. ARTS & CRAFTS - There was a visit to Fairings/Littlewick Green on Thursday 25 May. Fairings is a plant lovers garden including Herbs. On October 25 Wednesday there is to be a visit to Kidlington for a cooking and gardening day.

WORDS & MUSIC - Enjoyed their evening on "Comedy" which included a Morecombe & Wise tape. The meeting on 22 May was a video on "DIVAS" (prima donnas & goddesses). It included famous people singing and tales from two doormen from Covent Garden.

RAMBLERS - On April 13 enjoyed a river & country walk around Hurley & Marlow. The Ramblers have also enjoyed a walking holiday on the Isle of Wight where they had really wonderful weather. The walks were from 7 to 10 miles and the Ramblers walked over different parts of the island each day. They enjoyed it so much they intend to revisit the island.

The Garden Party of August 10 was discussed and a suitable garden for this event is being sorted out.

Programme Planning was the discussion for the evening.

Next month there will be the competition for the Nora Pollards Vase. This is to be one flower or one spray including foliage in a container or vase.

The talk for next month will be from "Barbara of Waves" on Hairdressing & Care.

St Peter's Wives Group

The speaker at the St

Peter's Wives Group meeting in April was David Merryweather who brought an impressive selection of slides to illustrate his talk on the pictures in the National Gallery. He explained that the paintings to be seen there were the most representative of any gallery in the world, dating back to the thirteenth century. The group was then guided through a range of painting from Italian and Dutch religious subjects through the renaissance to more secular subjects including portraits and landscapes. Famous British artists were represented as were the French, emphasising the impressionists. As he showed the slides he pointed out details and techniques, set them in context and provided relevant history, speculation and stories.

The speaker at the May meeting was "Academician" Hyrddin Davies, thus honoured by Russia, who talked on nuclear energy, electricity and power. Slides illustrated his detailed knowledge of its history and technology, and mind boggling statistics were given. Comparisons were drawn between nuclear and non-nuclear energy as were comparisons between the energy consumption of rich and poor countries. From this it was an easy step to explain why the world continued to need an increasing amount of energy. Having established the need for additional power, the speaker described the effect of different methods on the environment, the political attempts being made to reverse unwelcome trends and what he perceived as the benefits of nuclear production.

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