



PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST. ANNE CAVERSHAM



1896-1996

IT was on Low Sunday 1896 that the first public Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated in Caversham and Low Sunday 1996 was, therefore, the centenary of that historic visit by the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, who conducted a Centenary Mass of Thanksgiving concelebrated with his secretary, Fr. Stephen Saunders, and Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Jones. Over 250 parishioners packed the church to hear the Archbishop recall those early days of 100 years ago and the faith that had sustained the first tiny congregation of 13 and helped the parish to flourish and grow to its present size.

After Mass everyone retired to the Parish Hall for a 100th birthday party where the Archbishop was able to meet informally and talk with parishioners. The walls of the Hall were decorated with collages prepared by the children of St Anne's School relating events in the history of the Parish to contemporary events in the world at large while another room housed a fascinating exhibition of old photos, record books and other historic items charting the growth of the Parish over the years.

In the course of his homily during Mass, the Archbishop made particular reference to the incorporation into the church building during the late 1950's of the Medieval shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. The centrepiece of the

Centenary celebrations has been the commissioning of a silver crown to adorn the statue of Our Lady which stands in the shrine and, on 4th May, a party of parishioners left for Rome taking with them the crown to be blessed by the Pope. A formal coronation ceremony will be held on Sunday July 21st at which the Papal Nuncio will officiate.

However, there are several other events due before then. On Thursday 6th June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the grounds of historic Mapledurham House will be the venue for a solemn Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The car park and picnic areas will be open from midday and the service will begin at 1pm; those attending are advised to bring their own folding chairs! A Jumble Sale is to be held on 8th June and on Sunday 23rd June there will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. This will start with the renewal of Marriage Vows at the 10.30 Mass which will take the form of a Family Youth Mass and be followed by a family picnic at Mapledurham. It is hoped that people will make their way from Caversham, not only by road but by other means such as walking, with a treasure hunt en route, and by river boat. The festivities, which will run from 12.30 to 4.30, will include games such as rounders, football and cricket and, of course, a barbecue, concluding with a short service.



The Archbishop and Fr. Tony Jones at the entrance to St Anne's.



The Centenary Mass.



The 100th Birthday Party in full swing.

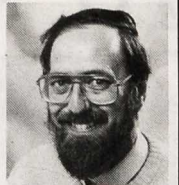


Choir Director Patti Naxton, Fr. Tony & Parish Pastoral Council Chairman Peter Lennon.

D/EX 1758/33/6

TALKING POINT

by
The Rev. Philip Abrey
Caversham Park Ecumenical Project



“CALLED TO SERVE”

The other day the phone rang. It was Clare from Thames Valley Radio to ask me to do an interview about my favourite hymn. Difficult that. It depends on my mood. Members of Caversham Park Church will by now have realised that my choice of hymns goes in cycles, not usually Christian year ones. Oh yes, and it had to be on C.D., most important. And one final thing. Could I go into the Reading studio and chat about my work as County Ecumenical Officer. Great. To be honest I didn't want to do it that day - the diary was pretty full, but I agreed to go at 5.30pm which was she said an ideal time. It wasn't. I arrived and met 'Roving Rog' who IS TVR in Berkshire. Try as he might he couldn't get a line to Oxford, so we resorted to the phone, eventually. Great, only it wasn't. We'd hardly got going when Clare cut in and said we'd have to come back to the interview in 3-4 minutes... it was nearer 10. Still it did have benefits. I had a few minutes peace and quiet. The interview concluded at five past 6, 35 minutes after arriving at the studio. That's fine you say, but what hymn did you choose. I wanted 'Brother/sister let me be your servant' but it has never been recorded, so I ended up with Graham Kendrick's 'The Servant King'. Why? Both hymns reflect servanthood, and that for me is what the Christian faith is about - serving others. In these days of so called equality the word 'servant' has largely disappeared from our language. Not so many years ago some universities had 'fags', wealthy homes employed whole families 'in service', and people accepted their role.

One of the most challenging stories in the Bible is about serving. When Jesus left the table at the Passover meal before he died to wash the feet of the disciples he was turning social convention on its head. Washing dusty feet as guests arrived was the most menial task a servant could be given. There were no servants in the upper room, only Jesus and the 12, and the 12 didn't offer to do it - they either didn't think or they were so full of their own importance. Even the disciples had an order of importance and they all felt that washing feet was below them. They'd rather have dirty feet than get be called a servant. So Jesus did it. No wonder Peter protested. None of the 12 knew how to handle it. Can you imagine it. The managing director acting as doorkeeper at the staff dinner; the hospital chief executive emptying bed pans for the nurses; the archbishop washing up on a retreat for those training for ministry. Convention turned on its head.

I remember the song "If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all". That's greatness, that's power, that's importance. When we lived in Wigan one of the local churches was called "The Church of Christ the Servant". It was on a large housing estate and was a sign, that, like its leader, Jesus, it was there to serve.

We can pray, preach wonderful sermons, say the right things, but in the end the most powerful expression of the life of Jesus in us is that we're willing to serve, and allow others to serve us. God calls us to serve, but all too often our pride, our sense of our own self importance gets in the way.

I conclude with a story of two bishops. They both held informal get togethers for their ministers and families. One had a team of ladies, who came in, prepared the food, cleared away and washed up. The bishop mingled. The other bishop, with his wife and family, prepared the food, met and mingled with his ministers, ensured they had food and drink, and then washed up. Which one challenged his staff more? Which staff noticed?

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)

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

POST BAG

BIG BANDS

Dear Editors,

I am seventy two years young, and my favourite music is that which I first heard in my teens and twenties, namely the music of the Big Bands - Glen Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, to name but a few.

Today for the bargain sum of 99p I purchased a cassette in Smith's of Joe Loss and his Band playing the music of Glen Miller to which I have just been listening. This prompted me to think that there must be many more people living in Caversham who share with me a love of the sounds of those Big Bands which today one seldom hears broadcast. If you are such a person I should like to hear from you, and if there is a sufficient response I shall try to arrange an afternoon or evening get-together.

Most Tuesday and Thursday mornings I visit Caversham's Pop In in Church House for a cup of coffee and a chat, and you can contact me there. Incidentally the Pop In can always do with helpers who are willing to offer their services for one morning a month.

Hope to hear from you Big Band buffs.

Yours etc.
Pete Littlewood
(Address Supplied)

THANKS

Dear Editors,

My family and I would like, through your columns, to thank our many kind friends and neighbours for the cards, letters of sympathy and donations to The Stroke Association sent following the recent death of my dear husband, Allan.

Our grateful thanks also go to Dr. Paige and District Nurse Mrs. Gaby Mauger of Balmore Park Surgery for their kindness to Allan during his illness.

Yours sincerely,
Anne Bliss

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

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All contributions for July issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 5 June.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 3 June.

The dates for August will be Monday 29 June and Wednesday 31 June.

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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The Editors regret that owing to the amount of copy received, some articles have had to be compressed and some held over to a later date.

FEED THE CHILDREN IN BOSNIA

Over the past four years I have read reports and with increasing sadness watched on television the plight of the refugees in former Yugoslavia but found great difficulty in grasping the complexities of the rival factions and the escalating violence.

So I was pleased but filled with trepidation when I had the opportunity to go to Bosnia last November to witness first hand the role that Feed the Children plays in helping so many thousands of beleaguered children and their carers.

I flew with two colleagues from Heathrow to Zagreb and then took an internal flight to Split on the Adriatic coast. The following day we drove in convoy to Vitez in central Bosnia and then on to Tuzla in the North.

Nothing that I had read had prepared me for the level of devastation that I saw as we drove - very carefully - on roads potted with holes and between mined grass verges.

The first signs that we were entering an area laid bare by shelling were burnt out cars and buses followed by the detritus of ordinary living, chairs, tables, washing machines, televisions, toys, books, photographs and clothes piled up and rotting by the side of the road. Nature had rapidly taken over with vegetation growing in the ruins of the houses. White flags poked from burnt out chimneys and gaping roofs.

We passed ghost towns, no people, no animals, no birds and

suddenly in the midst of such devastation we saw washing hanging from a line and realised that people had moved back into the area perhaps to live in the gutted remains of their former home. For where else did they have to go?

Many of them have gone to live in collective centres, that awful chilling expression reminiscent of Orwell's "1984". The centres are usually former schools where the pupils have fled or been killed. I remarked on the amount of external and internal damage and the former director of one school replied laconically, "Schools made the best targets. They could kill the most people."

The classrooms were crowded with babies, toddlers, teenagers, young women and the elderly; no men over the age of about 14 or under 65. They are all gone.

There was a cloying smell of poverty and despair. Thirty or forty bunk beds in each room with washing strung everywhere, blankets laid across the floor for warmth and cardboard in the windows.

We drove to the Kuplenko camp in the far north, a valley that is home to 22,000 refugees. As we drove past the checkpoint and into the valley thick blue smoke curled up to meet us, the smoke from hundreds of chimneys, reminiscent of a Wild West movie but instead of wagons drawn in a neat circle round the fire and peacefully

grazing horses, there was every kind of habitation with one thing in

common, smoke curling from the roof, the tell tale sign that these were places where people lived.

Lorries and even tractors with a frame of plastic sheeting over the cabin to make a home. Homes made of wooden pallets with sods of frozen turf anchoring the plastic down. Cars, the seats removed and blankets draped across them to give a vestige of privacy. Hundreds of tents with brightly striped plastic awnings and washing hanging from the guy ropes in the chill air.

One young man showed me his "home". The floor, the walls and the roof were constructed entirely from Feed the Children pallets. Inside there was a bed, a shelf and a small wood burning stove. He said to me, "I never sleep all night because I am afraid if I don't wake up to put more wood on the fire my son will have frozen to death before the morning."

No-one should have



to live like this.

Feed the Children have a big presence in Bosnia and I am proud to be part of the team of volunteers and staff who work so hard in Caversham to help children not only in Bosnia but in many other parts of the world to have a better quality of life.

This is an extract from a more comprehensive report prepared by Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury on her return from Bosnia.

If you would like a copy or would like to know more about the work of Feed the Children please telephone Chrissie on 01734 584000.

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Because you buy this paper the Board of Directors of the Caversham Christian News were able to decide at the Annual General Meeting to donate £250 to our locally based charity

FEED THE CHILDREN



The money will go towards the provision of Baby Boxes for Bosnia.

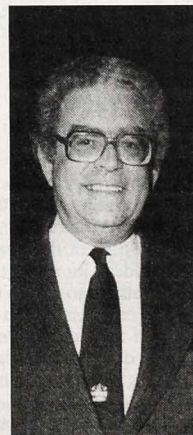




SUE RYDER HOMES - NEW CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to Mr. Ken Bennett who has been appointed as the Sue Ryder Home's Honorary Chairman. He knows the work of the Home well, having been its Treasurer since 1990 and he will take on his new responsibilities with his usual high efficiency and gusto.

Ken Bennett has always lived up to the ideals of Rotary - Service Before Self; he is a member of the Caversham Club and a past President and Treasurer of it. A regular worshipper at St. Peter's, he has served the church in many capacities including churchwarden and is currently Treasurer of Church House. We wish him well in his new post and are confident that he will receive much support particularly from the local community.

The retiring Chairman of Sue Ryder, Major Leslie Edmonds, will continue as Chairman of the Fund Raising and Appeals Committee. The new Treasurer is Mr. Roy Cundy FCA and the other change in senior management is the appointment of Sister Gill Sanderson to the Post of Deputy Matron. A good team is assembled to continue the fine work undertaken at the home at Nettlebed.



Ken Bennett, newly appointed Hon. Chairman of Sue Ryder Home.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

CREEPIING URBANISATION

There is an old photograph of Church Street, Caversham in the early years of this century showing women in long skirts and wide brimmed hats strolling sedately along the village street and there is a glimpse of thatched cottages, no longer there, though the north side of the street is still recognisable. Nowadays the picture has completely changed. Teeming traffic, bollards, traffic lights, red road surfaces and, if pictures could reproduce sound, constant noise, have totally urbanised the street. This is a busy, dangerous place, they all shriek, not a quiet village street.

The query raised in last month's column about how necessary all this really was has now been echoed by many more. Not only has it used money that could have been better spent elsewhere, it has changed the character of central Caversham. For years the expression 'going down to the village' has raised smiles among newcomers. Nowadays they would wonder whatever was being talked about. However it seems unlikely that anyone is going to come along and take the lights away, so the only thing is to learn to live with them and perhaps make

better use of them. There now seems little use for the bus lane in Hemdean Road as what with the lights and their smart cards busdrivers have little difficulty about exiting into Church Street. If it were removed, it would reduce pressure on Rectory Road and Chester Street, neither of which is suitable for through traffic. Prospect Street would also become less congested and pollution would be reduced. The cost of doing this would be minimal compared with what the traffic lights cost.

RUBBISH TIP

The patch of grass in front of the bill boards in Bridge Street is only too often covered with litter. Currently added to this are five overflowing wheeled dustbins. For a year at least nearly half the grass has been covered with a huge poster that the bill stickers tore down and simply left there. Numerous letters from Caversham Residents' Association seeking to get it removed have produced no action. It seems to be no one's responsibility. Someone must own the land and they should be thoroughly ashamed of the state they have allowed it to get into. It can only make a bad impression on people coming to Caversham for the first time. Come

to that what is the use of posters urging people to purchase goods that can induce cancer?

RECYCLING

It is a pity there is not a paper recycling container in St Martin's carpark that will take all kinds of paper, but this is doubtless for reasons of space. The nearest ones to take directories, envelopes and glossy junk mail are at Rivermead and Hills Meadow and to drive there simply to deposit recyclable material defeats the whole object of the exercise.

What is particularly infuriating is to arrive at the skips and find them full. A notice nearby enjoins people to take their offerings back home if this is the case and not to dump it alongside, but of course that is what happens. If you have loaded up the car you are reluctant to reload it again, and if you have cared for the environment by walking you are not going to lug it all back home together with your shopping so it gets dumped, and then carted off with the ordinary rubbish, the notice informs you. It is essential that these skips are regularly emptied.

CONSIDERATE CONTRACTORS?

A Considerate Contractors' scheme exists in Reading whereby builders are encouraged to keep

pavements and roads in the vicinity of their sites clean and free of obstructions.

They have to pay to belong to this but they can win a prize or a commendation if they do. Pedestrians in Henley Road where there is a pavement only on one side, have frequently found their passage obstructed by cars, mud or building materials.

Contractors should be obliged to clean up after themselves whether they belong to the scheme or not. Why should pedestrians who are probably already losing a much valued open space have to make detours into the traffic or arrive home with muddy shoes? Pedestrians in the vicinity of Bugs Bottom have suffered similarly.

SPRING BURSTS OUT ALL OVER

After a long hard winter, the daffodils and spring flowers arrived bang on cue for Easter. St Peter's Churchyard looked lovely and in nearby Caversham Court the Pasque flowers came out a few days before Easter Sunday. The wild cherry did not wear white for Eastertide but it did a week or so after when it joined the blackthorn that should have been out two months earlier. The only discordant note was that with the arrival of the better weather games of football and later cricket take place in Caversham Court and balls are kicked and batted about with a total disregard for the surroundings.

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CAVERSHAM & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SUCCESSOR TO MOLLY CASEY

The first meeting of the New Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 15th April 1996.

Honorary officers were appointed:-

Hon Chair-Person	Annette Hendry	Re-Appointed
Hon Vice-Chair	Ian Brown	New Appointment
Hon Secretary	Bob Winter	New Member
Hon Treasurer	Stewart Bolton	Re-Appointed

Bob Winter, a new member of the committee, succeeds Molly Casey who relinquished the position of Secretary at the AGM.

Mr Winter comes from a family who have lived in Caversham since the turn of the century. He was born in the village and has been a resident for more than 50 years. His parents and two of his children continue to live in Caversham.

For 21 years Bob Winter lived in Westfield Road, where he was born, and then moved to Emmer Green with his family. Since then he has lived off the Henley Road and for fifteen years was a resident of Chazey Road. Last year Bob moved to Heron Island in Lower Caversham.

Despite deep roots in the area Mr. Winter says that it is a daunting task to succeed Molly Casey as Secretary. He would be pleased to learn of any issues which Caversham residents would like to be considered by the Residents Association. He can be contacted by writing to him at his home address which is

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

EASTER RHAPSODY AT ST BARNABAS

Although the observance of Holy Week and Easter at St Barnabas generally follows a traditional pattern, the involvement of a steel band at the Easter Egg Service was an innovative addition this year. The Last Supper was commemorated on Maundy Thursday by a celebration of Holy Communion in the Church Hall in the context of a meal and was followed by a watch in the Church until midnight. The events on Good Friday culminated with the Proclamation of the Cross during the last hour that Jesus hung there before his death. Earlier in the day the young people had gone on a Good Friday walk, whilst others from Caversham joined the Mayor of Reading and Central Reading Churches in a procession of witness in the centre of Reading.



- O. Jewiss

The joy of Easter was heralded by the Ceremonies of Light on Easter morning. Baptismal Vows were renewed during the Easter Communion Service and at the end of the Easter Egg Service in the afternoon Akeila and Ainsley Edwards were baptised. This was a Service in which the young people re-enacted to a full church the events of Holy Week and Easter, including Jesus' death on the cross, burial in the tomb, resurrection and appearance to Mary Magdalen. No one should have been left without a knowledge of the Easter events and the claims that they make. The Rhapsody Steel Band that accompanied some of the hymns and played during the Service brought a new and vibrant dimension to the worship.



- O. Jewiss

Our pictures show the Good Friday procession of witness entering Broad Street in the centre of Reading and the Rhapsody Steel Band playing during the Easter Egg Service at St Barnabas Church.

BANGLADESHI PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR LITERACY

Following our item last month "Caversham church helps educate Bangladeshi children" we have been asked to clarify the report.

The main emphasis is not on children being educated; this is an adult literacy programme (though aiming at Education for All by 2000AD). There are no teachers under this scheme which uses volunteers to explain the pioneer literature from which illiterates can teach themselves, as its title "Nijera Shikhi" ("Let's Teach Ourselves") implies. Nothing like this has been attempted before and there are a thousand a day coming to learn by this fast, low-cost method, which was devised by Methodist minister John Hastings who will be in the UK until June 10th and again in September to speak to interested groups. He will be preaching at Christ Church, Woodley, at 10.30am on 1st September.

ERIC MAULE

The Board of the Caversham Bridge would like to express its sympathy to Mrs Peggy Maule (advertising editor) and to the family of Mr Eric Maule, whose death occurred recently. A full appreciation will appear next month.

FAREWELL TO MICHAEL ARCHER



- O. Jewiss

Michael Archer is seen here with the Revd Nigel Hardcastle in the Church Hall after the Service.

St Barnabas Church said farewell to Dr Michael Archer on Easter Day, prior to his move to Maidstone so that he could be nearer to his work. The Revd Nigel Hardcastle marked the occasion by a small presentation in Church. Michael has been a regular worshipper at the Church for 23 years, during which time he has held office as Church Treasurer and for the last seven years has sung as a tenor in the choir. He left with the good wishes of all the congregation.

ST. ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

St Andrew's Fellowship met for a well attended talk on the Wartburg Nature reserve at Bix Bottom at the beginning of April. The Speaker produced some beautiful slides of butterflies, including several that were already flying round people's gardens, small animals, plants and magnificent trees.

He answered many questions from his interested audience, some of whom were sad to hear that the normal life span of a butterfly is as short as one day, and at most is only four days.

Those who heard him are planning to visit the Reserve which is not far from Caversham.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BERKSHIRE CHURCHES BREAK BARRIERS AND BUILD BRIDGES



— Daphne Jewiss

At the Annual Open Day were (from right to left) the Revd David Clark (former Acting County Ecumenical Officer and organiser of the day), the Revd Phil Abrey (County Ecumenical Officer), the Bishop of Reading, the Revd Derek Wales (Moderator of the Wessex Province of the United Reformed Church), and Dr Owen Jewiss (Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire).

At the Churches Together in Berkshire Annual Open Day at the end of April representatives from local Churches Together and Local Ecumenical Partnerships throughout Berkshire met at Piggott School in Wargrave to pursue further the reconciliation theme of the Building Bridges Lent Course. Caversham Park Church was well represented. In a number of workshop sessions the themes of youth work, family life, faith and the culture of the modern age, the work situation, and rich and poor across the world were vigorously explored.

Demonstrations from the Reading Meditation Centre, Bridging the Gap (guidance to the unemployed), Family

College, and the Association of Inter-Church Families supplemented the formal sessions. Glimpses were given of new developments within local Churches Together; these included all the churches in Twyford cancelling their Sunday morning services and coming together for a combined morning service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the opening of a Christian Coffee Shop and Resource Centre in the centre of Datchet, and two new inter-denominational churches meeting in halls in the Bracknell area. A refreshing feature of the day was the surprise appearance of the excellent Girls' Choir at Piggott School who gave beautiful renderings of 'Strawberry Fayre' and three Negro spirituals.

FAITH AT WORK

The appointment of the Revd Hugh Lee as the Development Officer for Mission in Work and Economic Life in the Oxford Diocese has been heralded as a bold initiative aimed at building up the witness of the Church in the workplace. His presence, just five months after taking up his appointment, as the speaker at the recent Annual Meeting of Reading's Industry, Trade and Employment Mission, was therefore of some interest.

Before taking up his present appointment the Revd Hugh Lee had worked for 30 years in the energy industry: first with the National Coal Board, then British Coal and

Advisory Body drawn from employers' and church representatives. Together they will be thinking how the Christians in the 1,000 or so churches in the three counties can influence employment and economic life.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITY

In the second part of his Industrial Mission time Hugh Lee is helping churches to develop 'faith at work' initiatives and will be persuading them to include the world of work in their thinking and action. This means putting the subject on the agenda of the church meeting alongside the routine



— O. Jewiss

The Revd Hugh Lee (left) is pictured talking to Miss Sue Penson (ITEM Industrial Officer) and Mr David Collin (retiring Chairman of ITEM).

latterly with an American based energy consultancy. He has seen an industry subjected to very great change and has had experience in both the state and the competitive commercial sectors. He continues to work with the energy consultancy for a third of his time.

He emphasised that work is where Christians and non-Christians meet on equal terms. He wants to counteract the feeling among some that the local church does little to help those who worship there to live out their Christian life at work; he sees the world of work as an area of opportunity for mission and evangelism.

RAISING THE PROFILE

He now works on Industrial Mission in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire for the rest of his time. One part of his activity is to work ecumenically with the Industrial Chaplains' team helping to develop a strategy which will give more clout to and ownership of their activity. He will be assisted by an

The differences between the attitudes and action of the workplace and those of the Church were explored by those attending the meeting in a participatory session. We were left with the thoughts of Oscar Wilde that as a society we are in danger of "knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing".

METHODIST NEWS

LOCAL PREACHERS' CELEBRATION

The whole of Methodism will be celebrating 200 years of local (lay) preaching on Sunday 2nd June, with every Methodist pulpit throughout the country occupied by a local preacher. In the Reading and Silchester Circuit, there will be a Circuit

Local Preachers' Recognition Service to recognise newly-qualified Local Preachers on the evening of 9th June at 6.30pm at Oxford Road Methodist Church. The main local celebration will be at Newbury Methodist Church on Saturday 8th June at 7.30pm, when four Methodist Circuits (Andover, Basingstoke,

Newbury and Hungerford, and Reading and Silchester) will join for the dramatic presentation, by Local Preachers from the four Circuits, of "With Confidence We Tell" written by Terry Hughes.

AMERICAN CHOIR'S EUROPEAN CONCERT TOUR

As part of their European

concert tour, the Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church of Miami, Florida (USA) will give a concert at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Thursday 20th June at 7.30pm. (Gosbrook Road and Caversham Heights churches will be jointly hosting the Choir in members' homes.)

Under the direction of Dale Tucker, the Choir is hailed as one of the best in the South Florida area and has grown musically. It regularly provides meaningful music, not only for the church services but also for events in the greater Miami area. The Choir made its first European concert tour in 1992 to Germany, Austria and Switzerland and began singing for its tour of England shortly after. The 23 members of the Choir represent people from various age groups and life-styles. Several members hold college degrees in music, a few are students, and many have sung to the Lord for years. The youngest (15) and the eldest (81) will both be singing on the tour of England and Wales. Music presented on this tour will consist primarily of compositions written in the last decade by composers from various countries. The Choir also sings standard literature regularly and has

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST DIARY

- JUNE 2 11am Mrs. Sheila Ayres from Basingstoke
6.30pm Mr Stuart Rooks from Henley
- JUNE 8 Four Circuit Celebration at Newbury
- JUNE 9 11am Holy Communion - Rev. Tom Stuckey, Superintendent Minister
6.30pm Circuit Service at Oxford Road Church
- JUNE 16 11am Mrs. Margaret Havers from Tilehurst
6.30pm Mr Norman Lindsay from Oxford Road
- JUNE 23 CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
11am Rev. Brian Coleman from Truro (former minister)
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev. Brian Coleman
- JUNE 30 11am Rev. David Moody
6.30pm Mrs. Margaret Locke-Wheaton from Wesley

performed in recent years Faure's Requiem and Handel's Messiah with orchestra. Dale Tucker, Director of Music and Organist for the church, has led this Choir for four years, is a recognised name in music publishing, and has performed extensively across the US and Europe. He presented a number of organ recitals in England during the summer of 1995. Tickets are £3 (under 16s free) and can be obtained from the Church Stewards of Gosbrook Road and Caversham Heights or by telephone Jeanne Farmery on 483441 or David Herbert on 478209 from Sunday 26th May.

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BLACK AND WHITE SERVICES

AROUND THE CHURCHES

METHODISTS WITH A MISSION



- Courtesy Reading Evening Post

Youngsters enjoying Treasure Island Club at the Heights Methodist Church during Holy Week.

On Good Friday Caversham Heights Methodists combined with other Caversham Churches (St. Andrew's, the Baptist Free Church and the ecumenical church at Caversham Park) with six ministerial students from Wesley College, Bristol, in presenting the Christian message through St. Mark's Gospel. The roles of Jesus, his disciples, Pharisees and bystanders were taken by a succession of people of both sexes with an age range of 7 to 70. It was a very lively performance. The shriek of the demon-possessed man was blood-curdling, for the actors really threw themselves into their parts. Perhaps the two episodes most imaginatively presented were the Parable of the Sower and the restoration of sight to blind Bartimeus. Actors symbolised the sower's seeds, and when the lady playing the seed choked by thorns convincingly simulated being strangled by a gentleman playing the thorn bush, everybody jumped. As Bartimeus was

first recovering his sight he said, "I see men as trees walking" and a picture of men walking was projected on to the wall. It began with a blur and then became clear, showing how Bartimeus must have felt. The Reverend David Moody, minister of the church, read the final sombre chapters of the Trial and Crucifixion with moving effect. The audience left, impressed by the vitality, flow, and organisation of the production as well as its deeper meaning.

The ministerial students also held a highly successful 'Treasure Island' holiday club for children on three mornings of Holy Week, provided the caller and musicians for a traditional barn dance, and took part in an overnight 'Sleep-Walk' at Beachy Head, organised by the Squash youth club.

On Easter Sunday the congregation gathered to celebrate the Resurrection. In the words on the cover of the church magazine - "Jesus is Alive - Official".

ST ANNE'S NEWS

The church's year climaxed, as ever, at Easter with the ceremonies of Holy Week steadily building to the First Mass of Easter on Holy Saturday evening. Maundy Thursday commemorated the events of the Last Supper with the ceremonial washing of feet during Mass and watching before the Blessed Sacrament till midnight at the Altar of Repose. On Good Friday, the altar and sanctuary were bare and the tabernacle stood empty as the Liturgy of the Passion was conducted with the reading of the St John Passion, the Prayers of Intercession and Veneration of the Cross.

Finally, the evening of Holy Saturday brought the Solemn Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter preceded by the Service of Light in which the Paschal Candle was lit and carried in procession into the church. The Vigil Mass itself was the occasion for the Baptisms of Raymond Smith and Liza Palmer and the reception into the Catholic Church of Michael Dinner.

After all that, Low Sunday could have been something of an anticlimax. However, it was on that same Sunday 100 years ago that Caversham had its first public Roman Catholic Mass and the Centenary Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Birmingham and the 100th birthday party held in connection with it are described elsewhere. However, Low Sunday 1996 was also the day on which the Archbishop had to confirm to the members of his diocese, what had already been foreshadowed in the press; that in the light of concerns expressed by Bishop Hollis of Portsmouth, the proposals concerning the formation of a Thames Valley diocese would not be proceeded with.

It has always been plain that Berkshire had less to gain from the proposals than had Oxfordshire but it was disappointing news nonetheless. Archbishop Couve de Murville nevertheless emphasised the value of the consultations that had taken place and indicated that he would be discussing further with Oxfordshire clergy, which for this purpose included Caversham, how better to meet their Parishes' needs within the existing diocese.



Archbishop Maurice addressing the congregation on Low Sunday.



The Blessing of the Paschal Candle at the Service of Light.

AN EASTER TREAT AT C.B.F.C.

Easter is, of course, a very special kind of celebration - the commemoration of the most special thing that ever happened. As Christians we remember and, hopefully, live out the Easter message all through the year, but we still like to mark this particular day in the church calendar.

At Caversham Baptist Free Church, the celebration on Easter Sunday was in the form of a Communion Breakfast, followed by the usual family service.

First of all, the whole communion loaf was shared among those present and then we were served a lovely breakfast consisting of cereal, perfectly-cooked eggs, juice and toast with real butter and marmalade. For all this we had Peggy Ide and her ladies in the kitchen to thank.

During the meal, some members of the church gave short testimonies, read poems or shared something relevant to the occasion. At the end of the meal we shared the communion wine as Our Lord would have done all those years ago. And so concluded the first part of our morning worship.

With many hands making light work, the church was soon transformed back into its usual state ready for a

CAVERSHAM MINISTER MOVES TO ASHFORD

After nine years as Minister at St Paul's United Reformed Church in York Road, Caversham resident the Revd David Clark is moving to Ashford, Kent. In Ashford he will be continuing to develop the ecumenical aspects of his ministry through looking after three joint URC/Methodist churches, a task that he will share with a Methodist minister.

In addition to his ministry at St Paul's, the Revd David Clark will also be remembered in Reading for his involvement in the ecumenical work. For the first seven years he was also the Industrial Officer for Reading's Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM). In connection with ITEM he has been Chaplain to Berkshire County Council at Shire Hall. During his time in Reading he has served as Secretary and Chairman of the Reading and District Council of Churches (the predecessor of Churches Together in Reading) and produced their Newsletter. For six



The Revd David Clark enjoying spring sunshine.

months until April he served as Acting County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Berkshire and for a longer period edited their *Broadsheet*. He was also very active in Churches Together in Central Reading.

David Clark will be much missed, particularly in ecumenical circles where he has made a large contribution since he came to the town. Caversham Bridge and its readers send good wishes to David and Alison Clark and their family as they move to Kent. We pray that David may be richly blessed in his new ministry, for which he will be instituted on 22 June.

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SPRING PLEASURES

By Hortus

A recent visit to the West Country provided an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the masses of primroses now flowering along the roadsides, in the banks and hedges. This was not evidence that primroses are an endangered species. In that part of England they are profuse and, I think, are becoming more evident each year.

Spring is a delightful time to be down there, with the golden gorse gleaming across the moors and thrift and valerian just beginning to break into bloom on or near the coastal cliffs. It is also the time of year when the Cornish put on their annual Gardens Festival as the proud gardens of that county open to

display their treasures. One can quickly become overwhelmed by trying to take in too many in a short time so we tend to visit only one garden each time we go there. This year we chose to visit one recently opened to the public, which had been 'lost' since the end of the First World War. These are the Lost Gardens of Heligan on the south coast between Pentewan and Mevagissey. They are well worth a visit if you are in the area.

They are a 'Theme Park' *par excellence* without all the paraphernalia and noise of a glorified fun fair. The gardens were originally the centre of the Tremayne family estate at Heligan and enabled its community to be self sufficient

almost everything. Created in the late eighteenth century and developed during the nineteenth century they contained collections of palms, tree ferns and bamboos as well as magnificent camellias, rhododendrons and magnolias. The gardens were labour intensive, receiving a knockout blow at the beginning of the First World War when a substantial part of the staff left to serve in the armed forces. More than half the staff perished in the Flanders mud. The gardens then declined and without regular maintenance went to sleep. They were discovered in 1990 and since that time there has been an ongoing, ambitious project to restore them to their original glory.

The work has

involved removing massive amounts of undergrowth and loam and ivy feet deep to uncover the old paths and restore shrubberies. In the vast walled kitchen gardens self sown trees and brambles fifteen feet high were cleared away. All the old greenhouses where vines and peaches grew have been restored and, once again, vines and peaches flourish. The melon houses, the pineapple pit and banana house have also been restored to be put to use as they were a hundred years ago. Work still continues to bring the whole area and buildings back to life to show how a Cornish estate operated then.

The third area of interest is the Jungle

garden, laid out below the main house (itself no longer part of the estate). At the top of the garden are views down to the sea at Mevagissey. The garden follows a steep valley down towards the sea. It is reminiscent of the gardens at Trebah and Glendurgan with the banks of jungle plants and trees edging a stream which cascades down the valley through three pools.

What we found so inspiring was the amount of progress achieved in less than five years. So much has been done yet so much remains to do.

Like the primroses these gardens are no longer endangered and are enjoying a renewed lease of life giving pleasure to all.

LONG WINTERS AND LATE ARRIVALS

For a few comparatively 'dormant' months we have stayed at home and enjoyed the winter birds, together with regular species of garden, field and gravel-pit.

As these words are being written at April's end, our long winter has barely broken, one mild day being followed by others requiring sweater and anorak.

Summer migrants have again been deterred by the extended cold

conditions delaying reproduction of the natural food-chain.

Nothing daunted, our 'wander-lust' caught up with us. We ventured forth, all too soon, to the north Norfolk coast. Our hopes at best, were upon an early Spring rarity or a few passage migrants.

As so often happens these days, time was limited. Nights under canvas beneath the shingle-ridge were chilly and damp with sea-mist and fog. The redeeming feature consisted of a wide variety of night-flyers, many of which were identified by their contact-calls.

Very heavy north-eastward movements of Redwing made one reflect that some of our Caversham visitors may well have been amongst them! Whimbrel, Teal and Wigeon passed through in lesser numbers, having been preceded by the main body. We wished them well as they headed out across the North Sea.

So fascinating and exciting were these calls, that one was almost afraid of falling asleep, lest a 'speciality' was missed. Spring arrivals could also be heard, including Sandwich

Terns, Swallows and Sand Martins. These were confirmed in increasing numbers at daylight. Skylarks and Meadow Pipits were singing well as the occasional 'single-note' Rock Pipit identified itself.

A Black Redstart, Firecrest, Marsh Harriers and a lingering flock of Brent Geese above Blakeney Point were good to see.

Unfortunately, search for an Arctic Redpoll and Serin proved unproductive.

On-shore winds are those most eagerly awaited by the twitcher along the north Norfolk coast, but south to south-westerlies prevailed, ultimately producing rainfall. Only the leading edge of that occluded front could have brought a rarity, but failed to do so.

Two days after our return, however, news arrived of a Spotted Crake at a Tring reservoir. We took immediate action and were well rewarded - a very good bonus indeed which appeared our ill-timed efforts farther afield.

April concluded with an American Coot at Stodmarsh (Kent), a 'FIRST' for England. The lengthy round trip was successfully

accomplished in under nine hours from Caversham. All our activities were enthusiastically accompanied by Scooby, my twelve-year old King Charles 'twitcher'!

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DIARY OF A VICTORIAN VICAR

The following are extracts from a diary kept by the Reverend Francis Thackeray, Vicar of Mapledurham 1883-1919. He began his diary while he was still a master at Eton College. After the death of his wife in 1880 he decided to take the living at Mapledurham and moved there with his three young daughters, Lily, Ada and Theo. It was not his first introduction to this quiet Oxfordshire village for he had several times taken over from the previous vicar, Edward Coleridge, while Coleridge went on holiday.

I have only picked out entries that seemed of interest and my own comments on these entries follow in brackets.

Francis Thackeray, like so many of his day, was deeply interested in antiques, and one of his hobbies was to collect fossils. He did this with great enthusiasm, often travelling to Europe to find them and to look at rock formations. He seems to have spent a great deal of time travelling to London and Eton for various reasons and holidaying at home and abroad.

MK

1884
June 22: I began Evening Service for the Summer on Sunday which the people have never yet had here.

July 9: I took the bellringers and choir to Oxford. We saw a great deal in the day and they much enjoyed it. (This would have meant going by waggon to Reading Station).

February 12: I saw a brimstone butterfly, the first this year.

March 6: Went on a sleety, cold night to preach a Lent sermon at Kidmore (End). On returning, Scammell (the groom) drove me in the dark into a field by mistake. Home at 10.15pm.

May 4: We had a large garden party - 50 in all - very successful. Two sets of relations came to it. Lady Shakespeare and the Fred Thackerays who are at Caversham. (They lived at Balmore House).

1886
January 8: The worst snow storm since January 1881. A huge limb of Archbishop Sumner's cedar came down (John Bird Sumner was vicar of Mapledurham 1818-1828. He was Archbishop of Canterbury 1848-1862. It was he who planted the great cedar in the vicarage garden).

July 12: Mrs Rose (from Hardwick) lent us their gondola. (Mrs Rose had a Venetian gondolier complete with his boat, brought from Venice to row the family on the Thames).

December 26: A fearful snow storm at night. The cedar has again suffered.

1887
June 21: The Jubilee Day. Nice service, the church was crowded. In the Park at 1pm and excepting half-an-hour was there till 9.45pm. Everyone was very happy with races, games etc. I presided at the dinner. (This was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.)
July 10: A son of Lord Augustus FitzClarence (a natural son of King William IV) the former vicar came. The deodar (tree) on the lawn was here in the time of his father, who died in the

study in the year 1854 (from a carbuncle).

December 29: Miss Butler the school mistress is very ill with bronchitis. I walked to Mr Fannings house at Bozodown and brought her back some grapes.

1888
December 25: We all dined at Hardwick and came away loaded with presents. There has not

worked with the children at the school at Arithmetic.

May 6: Lady Mary Mills (wife of the tenant of Mapledurham House) called and gave us a lovely altar cloth from Venice.

1892
April 5: First day on the river.
July 21: The School report troubled me all yesterday. We are

1894
January 4: Said to be the coldest night for 35 years.
November 18: The water



Fishing at Mapledurham c1930. The lock keeper's house on the Purley bank is new. The earlier one was on the Oxfordshire side of the river - a whitewashed house with slate roofs it featured on early Jarold's picture postcards.

been a single funeral this year. This has not happened for more than a century. The last time was in 1785.

1890
November 30: Icicles on the mill wheel. The coldest night but one in November in the last 32 years. The glass was at 20°F. (The mill wheel would have been turning all the time, so icicles would only have formed if it was intensely cold).

1891
March 28: A terrible fire at Hodmore farm. One rick was blazing still when Harry (his son) and I got there. We took

threatened with a warning if the Arithmetic and Spelling are not improved.

August 23: Today I saw a rare butterfly. Thecla Betulae (brown hair streak). It settled on my hand and remained in our hall till next morning when I let it out. I have seen it in Switzerland but never before in England.

1893
March 1: I was going from Evening Service at the School when Twilight our pony would not be got out of the stable. The illness flew to his brain and in three days he had to be shot.
March 27: Harry kindly

came into the church and I had the service at the Vicarage. This is the highest flood since 1768.
December 25: In going to dine at Hardwick we were upset and had to walk half the way. The fly (carriage) we were in suffered from the floods, we believe, and broke in two parts. The Roses kindly sent us back in their conveyance.

1895
February 6: A very cold night. In the kitchen garden the glass went down to 23 degrees of frost.

February 10: We had a fearful shock and fright. In the evening we had smelt something and looked everywhere but in the right place, the Lobby next to the Study. I heard a heavy fall and was horrified to find one side of a large bookcase on fire, Ada rushed to our housebell and went off to Mapledurham House for help. I caught up two rugs and held them against the flames till men came with Merryweather's fire engine and Ada brought Hardman's bottles from the church. The men worked very well and in half-an-hour they got it under. Many old books, prints and papers were burnt or scorched, alas!

I must have been the cause, having gone into the room with a candle and ignited, unwittingly, some of the papers I had lifted for fear of the floods. It is a merciful deliverance. I could not sleep much after it.
February 29: Lady Mary Mills is dead. So young and beautiful.

To be continued



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the CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild had a good attendance for their April Meeting. After reports on finance, visits to Federation, forthcoming Rambles, the Speaker was Mrs Chumbley on Chiropody, when members were shown shoes that were good for their feet and others less so.

Mrs Dobson thanked the Speaker and the Chairman, Mrs D Smith, closed the meeting after the raffle and competition winners named.

The Social Studies afternoon comprised a very interesting talk on photography by Mrs Varina Clark who showed examples of her competition entries and told of the comments the Judges had made. Tips on how to use the camera and answers to questions put by members of the guild were generously given. In all a very happy afternoon was had by all.

Caversham W.I.

The president, Miss M. Cameron, welcomed members including a new 'face' transferring

from an Oxfordshire W.I. and gave details of future events, including the group meeting and a trip to My Fair Lady at the Hexagon. The programme for the coming year was available and the county newsletter was perused.

In the absence of the expected V.C.O. members were introduced to the three resolutions and expressed their views while enjoying a cup of tea. After the raffle was drawn, the birthday flowers were given to Sylvia Myszor.

Caversham Community Association

April began with members boarding a coach for a trip to the T.V. Studios to see a recording of 'Talking Telephone Numbers' - a most interesting experience.

The next meeting found everyone in a party mood as they celebrated the club's forty-fifth birthday - sapphire anniversary. Everyone sat down to a meal of salad, French bread and either salmon or ham, followed by an assortment of desserts. The entertainment was provided by the Woodford Singers who gave an excellent programme of popular songs. After cutting Maida Feast's delicious celebration cakes the raffle was drawn to end an entertaining evening.

The last meeting in the month is usually the AGM, a particularly sad one as the President, Ted Howard, had recently died. A donation in his memory had been sent to Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed. His wife, Olive Howard, has agreed to be President and conducted the election of new officers and committee: Chairman - Maida Feast, Secretary - Margaret Cameron, Treasurer - Muriel Waite. A discussion on finance followed with the news that the rent was being increased again. After some suggestions for future meetings members went home anticipating more fun and fellowship.

New members are

always welcome - just come to the Arthur Legge Centre on a Monday at 7.30pm.

Rosehill W.I.

If someone referred to 'a delightful girl' and 'a delightful boy' which plants would spring to mind? The answers, Sweet Cicely and Sweet William, emerged during a quiz at the April meeting.

Our advertised speaker was unable to come so the talents of members were called upon to hold the interest of the meeting. Mrs Ridley contributed a quiz on flower names and from Mrs Weaver we heard about her recent visit to her son in Geelong, Australia. While there, she visited the small hamlet of Talbot, near Ballarat, for a meeting of the Country Womens Association. The Association is the nearest equivalent in Australia to the W.I. here and members were interested to hear a comparison of the two organizations. Mrs Stockhill reported on the Spring Council Meeting at which members were asked to contribute coloured pens and stationery for 'education packs' to be sent to children in Bosnia.

At Rosehill Institute's Birthday Party on 5th June entertainment will be provided by Henley Bellingers (St Barnabas Hall, 2.00pm); visitors are welcome.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Mrs Clarice Lott very ably chaired the April meeting in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman.

After the general business and reports, Mr Reg Harper, a "Hobbyist Beekeeper", was introduced to unravel the mysteries of Beekeeping. He had brought along many artefacts to help him give a very interesting but detailed account of what is involved, helped by his wife who also showed the slides.

After a fascinating talk it became very clear what "Busy as a Bee" really means as a tree is in bloom for only ten days, and the bees have to work very hard to collect the honey. It would seem that the Beehive is not so much a home as a factory and

NEWS FROM HIGHDOWN

Poet Michael Rosen visits the English Department

In February, Highdown welcomed the poet Michael Rosen for a poetry session with Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Michael Rosen was visiting Reading as part of an event linked to the Anne Frank Exhibition which was shown at the Town Hall in January. The poet read a selection of his poems, talked about his own experiences as a Jewish boy growing up in Britain, and answered questions put to him by his audience.

The German Exchange

From 22nd March until 4th April Highdown was host, once again, to the Realschule Schesslitz in Bavaria. Eighteen pupils, aged fifteen-sixteen years and their teachers, Frau Ursula Krapf, Frau Elizabeth Sieben and Herr Rudolf Taitel, enjoyed a varied programme of visits to Bath, London and Oxford and a day was spent in Reading visiting the Mayor's Parlour, viewing the Bayeux Tapestry and going on 'The Journey of a Letter' at the Royal Mail Depot in Caversham Road. Many Highdown teachers kindly gave up their free periods to give 'special' lessons to the Germans.

Art Trip to Paris

At the crack of dawn on 16th February, the art students from Years 12 and 13, chaperoned by Mr Armstrong and Mrs Graham travelled on a long twelve hour coach journey to Paris. After a very short night's sleep they went to the Louvre and the Picasso museum. They also visited the Musee d'Orsay and the Musee d'Art Moderne, and walked to the Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysees, before returning across the Channel in a gale force 8 wind!

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the CLUBS

from page 10

bees must have an inbuilt computer. In fact to produce one pound of honey a bee flies the distance equivalent to three and a half times around the world, but of course a bee doesn't fly, he "kind of paddles with his wings!" Oh to be a drone which is completely cosseted and spends its life waiting with its friends for a virgin bee to come along!

The Social Studies Group also had a very interesting April meeting, when they were taken along The Kennet and Avon Canal by Mr Crosier a very enthusiastic member of the Trust. Showing slides of the dereliction before a new lock was rebuilt and the change to the area afterwards, clearly showed what a beautiful asset it became in every way. It was a slow process because of the high cost and tremendous work

involved but something to be proud of and for the enjoyment of everyone.

The Scrabble Group meets as usual and Jan Brown is a contestant in the Area Finals.

There is always a friendly welcome in St Andrews Hall, Caversham, on the third Tuesday of the month. Why not come along?

Chazey W.I.

Resoundingly Unanimous Agreement

The Resolutions to be included in the Agenda for the 1996 Intermediate General Meeting were put to members by Mrs Wendy Robinson, Voluntary County Organiser, on May 7th, for discussion and approval.

First was a request to the Government to support students from families of limited income by a realistic living grant. There was a lively debate about this one. Those with experience of students informed members of the extras required and their cost. Food, fuel & rent were to be expected and affected the whole community but equipment and

books were costly and tended to reduce money available for living expenses.

Unanimous agreement was almost instantaneous on a Resolution calling for Skills for Living to be a compulsory part of the national curriculum. Cookery, food hygiene, nutrition, budgeting and parenting are skills fundamental to the nation's wellbeing and Chazey members felt strongly on this. In periods of high unemployment budgeting is a survival skill and the ability to re-pare good, cheap food becomes essential. This was the second Resolution to be discussed but was felt to be by far the most important.

The third Resolution urged NHS dental treatment to be available to all. There are 108 dental practices in Berkshire of whom only 29 accept new NHS patients. Lack of regular mouth inspection can affect the early recognition of oral cancer.

Of course all the Resolutions entail much money, but the meeting heard the remark that if all the children were taught Skills for Living, then students would live better and the whole population would not need such extensive dental repair. There's really no reply to that!

St Peters' Wives' Group

The Chairman announced at the April meeting of St Peters' Wives' Group that the summer outing for this year would be a visit, in June, to Dorney Court. She then introduced Mr Ian McCauley from Reading Borough Council, who was to talk about Reading's long awaited Oracle shopping centre; the first part is now scheduled to open in the spring of 1999, with the remainder a year later. Reading Borough Council and BICC are joint developers and, following a major archaeological investigation this year, which could reveal much of interest, work on the site will begin. It is expected that this new complex will make Reading one of the top twenty destinations in the country and prestigious stores have already booked sites. The centrepiece will face the Kennet, along which a dedicated cycle route is planned, and

there will be an open space between Minster Street and the river. As well as two levels of shopping areas, leisure facilities including cinemas and restaurants are to be provided and there will also be facilities for the disabled. Car parking will, of course be included, and re-cycling centres. However, it will not be all shopping and leisure as forty residential units are also planned. A short video showing the proposed centre preceded the talk and a lively discussion followed, ranging from Reading's current shopping facilities to transport and parking concerns and various associated topics. The Group will welcome the Oracle's opening.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The new Chairman Marion Cooper started the meeting on Tuesday evening 9th April by introducing her new committee.

ARTS & CRAFTS - next meeting will be on Gardens.
WORDS & MUSIC - Holidays will be the theme for the next meeting. Members will exchange ideas and stories on successful and disastrous holidays.
RAMBLERS - The first walk was a bus ride to Savacentre and a 4 mile walk around Theale. Second walk was around Wargrave. This was a circular walk and very wet underfoot. There will be organised Horse & Cart rides on April 25 & 30.

The Jumble Sale will be held in St Barnabas Hall on May 18. Pauline Young won the decorated egg competition.

The speaker for the evening was Mr J. D. Rogers who spoke on The History of the Postal Services. Mr Rogers is not a member of H.M. Postal Services. He is writing a book and is still collecting information for his book and wishes to hear people's opinions.

It was a really interesting talk and Mr Rogers is definitely to be recommended as a speaker. He showed members slides and told many interesting aspects of the Postal Services.

Next month's meeting will be held on the 14 May and the speaker will be Mr Penrose on Kilt Making. There will also be a Sales Table of plants.

Caversham Ladies Club

It was Easter Party time for the Club and the lovely, attractive sight of all the different goodies laid out on the long tables was certainly very tempting to see. Mrs Brenda Strong opened the meeting and welcomed the members, saying how good it was to see many present, and thanking them for all their kind and generous contributions.

Members were told their outing to Compton Acres, then on to Bournemouth, would be on 30th May instead of on the earlier date given.

Top table had the usual Easter Cake at the centre, decorated by Mrs Queenie Strong with almond paste and various items that represented what Easter stood for. Mrs Queenie Strong had been responsible for this job over many past years and members showed their appreciation in the usual way. It was now time for the Chairman to say Grace, and members to help themselves to the lovely spread in front of them. Tea was taken round by members of the Committee which is their usual role at Club parties. The cake was then cut and taken round and an egg was given to each member. Time eventually caught up and many willing hands helped to restore the Club to its normal appearance. With all leaving with lots of thanks, the meeting closed at 4pm.

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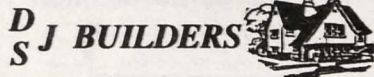


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