



JOURNEY INTO FAITH

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF A PILGRIM



LONG long before the present parish of Our Lady and St Anne came into existence, Caversham was a notable centre of pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. The shrine's modern counterpart is incorporated in St Anne's church and, as part of the Parish's Centenary celebrations, a silver gilt crown was commissioned and made for the statue of Our Lady that graces it. In early May, the crown was taken by a party of parishioners to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. One of that party, Ian Cane, recounts his experiences on that journey.

Cicero said "We are duly stirred by the very spots where the traces exist of those whom we love and admire." This may aptly describe a pilgrimage but for Christians there is a great deal more. Pilgrims seek a strengthening of faith, make penitential acts in reparation for past failings, obtain grace for themselves and others to lead a better life and joyfully praise God. It was in that spirit that thirty five of us from the Parish of Our Lady and St Anne set off on our centenary pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi after Mass and prayers in the Chapel of Our Lady of Caversham.

Next morning in Rome we attended a solemn Mass in the Basilica of St Peter, an impressive occasion with dignified ceremonial and music. The coach which had been reserved for our exclusive use had been immobilised by a one day drivers' strike so we were rendered afoot as were pilgrims in days of old. Most of the afternoon was spent in the Vatican. Many climbed the numerous steps to the top of the dome of St Peter's from which a stunning view of Rome was seen including the Papal Gardens and the smallest railway system in the world. This could be seen as a truly

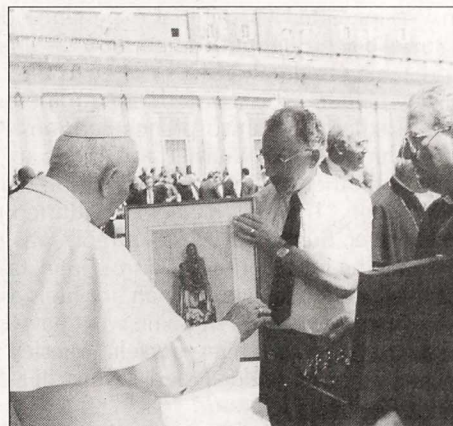
penitential act and I saw many at the top that I would not expect to have made it.

The next morning saw us at the Catacombs, the ancient Christian burial grounds. First, in a small chapel, a quiet simple Mass was celebrated at which all members of the Parish, living and dead, were remembered as they were to be at all subsequent services. As we filed through those darkened passages the weight of centuries seemed to fall away and we felt at one with the early Christians. Our next stop was the Church of St Paul outside the Walls, the present church dating from 1823 on the site of one built in 386. It now has fine mosaics, a pleasant cloister and medallions of all the Popes to the present day.

After an entertaining and energetic lunch at an Irish pub, visits were made to the sights of Rome including the Baths of Caracalla, the Fountains of Trevi and Castel Gondolfo. A visit was also made to Sta Maria Maggiore, an imposing shrine dedicated to the Mother of God, and to a chapel close by which contains the original picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour dating from the 13th Century.

The following day we were in the English College where priests have been trained for over 400 years. Paintings on the walls of the chapel depicted the hazards facing priests in Elizabethan England. It was during the Mass here that a parishoner, Clifford Nash, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church in a great happy ceremony, a wonderful conclusion to a journey into faith. Afterwards we gathered in the peaceful college grounds for a group photograph.

In the afternoon we visited the Pantheon, the Forum, the Coliseum and St John in Lateran.



Peter Lennon presents The Pope with the photograph of Our Lady of Caversham following the Pope's blessing of the Crown held by Fr. Tony Jones.



Mary Raman accompanied by her husband Paul is blessed by The Pope.

The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and St John is the Cathedral Church described as the first of all the churches of Rome and of the World. Nearby was the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs), 28 marble steps brought to Rome by St Helena from Pilate's Palace. Christ is supposed to have walked on these steps during his trial. Pilgrims who made the arduous journey up them on their knees were rewarded at the top with a chance to rest in two fine chapels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TALKING POINT

by

The Rev. John Boakes

(Gosbrook Road Methodist Church)



METHODIST LOCAL PREACHERS

As I write, the Methodist Church is having a time of celebration. We are remembering, with amazement and thankfulness, that Methodist Local Preachers have been officially recognised for 200 years. How did it all begin?

John Wesley, after his spiritual experience on the 24th May 1738, travelled throughout the country, as an Anglican clergyman, preaching to great crowds - often in the open air. He had various lay helpers who assisted him at different centres. One, Thomas Maxfield, began to preach sermons. When the news reached John Wesley he hurried to London to 'check this irregularity'. His mother met him, asking for the reason for his obvious discontent. "Thomas Maxfield has turned preacher I find," was his answer. Susannah Wesley's reply was to have a lasting influence on the future of Methodism, "John, take care what you do with respect to that young man, for he is as surely called of God to preach as you are. Examine what have been the fruits of his preaching, and hear him yourself." Wesley took this advice and after hearing Maxfield agreed, saying, "It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."

However, it wasn't until the Annual Methodist Conference of 1796 that Local Preachers were given official status. Since then there have been regular quarterly meetings for them. These are, amongst other matters, for sharing in Christian Fellowship and encouragement; for introduction, consideration, and discussion of subjects relating to aspects of conduct of worship and preaching; and for acceptance, oversight of training, and recognition of new Local Preachers.

The training of a Local Preacher, who must be a committed Christian, usually takes between 2 and 3 years. This includes: assignments, projects, tutorials, two written exams, two interviews on one out of three Services taken each quarter. But the most important question always to be asked is: "has the man or woman been called by God to be a Preacher?"

Roughly 13,000 in this country have been accepted as, 'fully accredited Local Preachers' (usually at a Recognition Service) and Sunday by Sunday take the great majority of Services held in Methodist Churches. In the Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit we have 24 churches (some of them United Congregations) holding about 40 Services each Sunday. There are 48 active L.P.s, 8 unable to take Services and 12 'On Trial'.

As I near the end of my Ministry, amongst much for which I thank God has been the sharing with these men and women as Preachers. Incidentally, every Methodist Minister has first to be a Local Preacher. I would suggest that not only could Methodism not continue in its present form without them but that they are often more able and competent as Christian Preachers than many of us who are Ministers. However, we give God the Glory as we share in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ enabled by the Holy Spirit.

JOURNEY INTO FAITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Wednesday came the highlight of the Pilgrimage when we were present at the Papal Audience. We were part of a vast concourse of people from all over the world. As the name of each group of pilgrims was read out, so each group responded with a cheer; small though our number was, our cheer was loud enough to evoke a wave from the Pope. Later came the climax when Father Tony Jones presented the crown that had been specially made for the statue of Our Lady of Caversham to the Pope for his blessing. Peter Lennon, Chairman of the Parish Committee, presented a framed coloured photograph of the statue to the Pope who in response gave the Parish his blessing. A little later, Paul Raman and his wife Mary who has Parkinson's disease received with other sick pilgrims the Pope's personal blessing.

Most of us had time to make some personal pilgrimages, a small group went to Cassino, others to the newly restored Sistine Chapel. I for my part visited Santa Maria della Concezione where the bones of 400 monks are arranged in bizarre patterns in the crypt, an artistic but grisly reminder of our mortality, and to the quiet modest church of St Cecilia, patron saint of music.

The last two days were spent in Assisi, a city built on a hill, rich in history and redolent in the spirit of St Francis and St Clare in whose footsteps we were privileged to walk. We visited the great Basilica of St Francis with its murals illustrating his life. We were able to see the tunic he wore and the stone he used as a pillow as well as his tomb and the church of St Damiano where he wrote his "Canticle of the creatures."

The Basilica of St Clare contains the crucifix from which St Francis received the

message that he should rebuild Christ's church. Most remarkable was the little chapel of the Porziuncola which is contained in the much larger Santa Maria degli Angeli. This little church was the third one that St Francis restored. It was here that he died and that St Clare started her religious life. In Rome the car seemed to reign but here God's people reigned. Here Heaven met the earth, the immortal the mortal and God met us.

One afternoon we visited Gubbio, an ancient city 30 miles north of Assisi in which St Francis worked among the lepers. Our pilgrimage ended with a very moving Mass in the Porziuncola church. It seemed appropriate on that occasion that we should join hands for the Lord's Prayer, signifying our union with each other as the people of God, and with God and his friends in heaven.

We returned with a genuine feeling of happiness convinced that we had received an avalanche of blessings. By day we had walked with the saints and martyrs, in the evenings we enjoyed ourselves in the best Chaucerian tradition, new friendships were made, old ones strengthened. Nobody became ill, got lost or run over. Much credit must go to our spiritual director. Fr Tony Jones, who gently guided us without appearing to do so. I feel that for us all nothing will ever be quite the same again. To make this Pilgrimage was to finish the Parish's first century and to begin the second.

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The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd.

Tel: 472788.

(The Rev. Andrew Tyler, Hon. Asst Priest)

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

478239.

The Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,

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

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Rev. A. N. Lawrence, 6a Hemden Road. Tel: 470816.

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 August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 3 July.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 1 July.

The dates for September will be Monday 29 July and Wednesday 31 July.

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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POSTBAG

Caversham Names

Dear Editors,
Your readers might like to know that my booklet "Caversham Names" (reviewed in the March 1995 issue of the Caversham Bridge) has been reprinted and is now available at Caversham Bookshop.
Yours sincerely,
John Malpas.

Library Competition

Dear Editors,
I thought that you might like to put some news about Caversham Library in your newspaper. We recently ran a reference competition in which we asked 10 simple questions, e.g. "In which year was Enid Blyton born?" and "Which local school did Kenneth Branagh attend?" - the answers to which could be found in the reference books at Caversham Library. The entrants than had to complete a tie-break, "I like coming to Caversham Library because..."

The prize of an atlas goes to Caversham borrower Ann Kedge whose tie-break was "I like coming to Caversham Library because it's probably the best library in the world". The answers to the competition are available at Caversham Library for those who could not find them. We thought that it was a little bit different for the library to hold a competition for our adult borrowers, and hope to do something similar in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Delaney
Acting Group Librarian, Reading

Thanks Again

Through your columns I should again like to express my thanks for the generous cheque with which I was recently presented to mark my retirement as secretary of Caversham and District Residents' Association. I was delighted with the lovely necklace (and, of course, the large box of my favourite chocolates) and although I was told a cheque was to follow I had no idea it would be such a generous one.

I have already bought a ticket for Covent Garden with it and a new suitcase to take the place of my veteran one which Alitalia finally finished off. The rest is likely to go on improvements to the garden.

All these will remind me of the interesting years of working with CDRA. How lucky I am to be rewarded for doing something I liked.

I have every confidence in handing over to Bob Winter and hope he also finds as much enjoyment and interest in it as I did.

Yours sincerely,
Molly Casey

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)

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Caversham Heights
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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

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service

The Way It Is

My privilege has been to write bird-articles for the 'Caversham Bridge' in excess of four years.

Apologies must go to readers whose interest may extend little beyond 'garden' birds. This worthy activity is one in which I have ashamedly, contributed little.

My 'Home and Garden' list exceeds eighty species, some having been identified by call in flight, but behaviour-patterns of 'regulars' have been sadly neglected.

Unquestionably, home-observation possesses many virtues. There are those who have been drawn into research through studying 'Cause and Effect' of everyday occurrences. Did not the apple which 'gravitated' to Newton's pate, prompt into contemplation one of the world's greatest scientists?

Two classic bird-books come to mind; 'Life of a Robin' by the late Doctor David Lack and 'Down the Long Wind' by Garth Christian - once of Blakeney - where else! Both books prove that fact can sometimes be stranger than fiction. They may still be available from Libraries. Each is a 'must' for any bird-watcher.

Shortly after WW2, bomb-devastated areas of London attracted breeding pairs of Black Redstart. My

'Mentor-to-be' and I searched unsuccessfully, locating them many years later in far-flung places. During recent times they have occurred in Reading, being seen on Heelas' roof and the old railway station.

Several weeks ago an excellent film about rare birds and twitchers was presented on Channel Four T.V. Unlikely as it may have seemed, the programme adequately depicted 'The Way It Is' - pagers and all.

Twitchers really do charter air-transport to 'have' a rarity - provided it is rare enough. The acquisitive term is part of a twitcher's language, implying involvement, dedication, and satisfaction of attainment (when successful) for effort and expenditure.

In 1984 we visited the New Forest to have a Two-barred Crossbill. A young

Scot barely sixteen, from far Dumfries, joined us at site. Upon receiving the 'gen' (news) he had thumbed lifts all the way and intended to return by the same method. Personal hazards concerned him not one whit. 'Dipping Out' (failing to see the bird) was his ONLY fear - I knew the feeling!

So long as such red blood courses through the veins of our younger generation, SOME hope for society must remain.

STOP PRESS. A recent, nostalgic venture with my mentor, reminding us of yesteryears in Scotland, produced an unidentified, ringed, 'stripy-headed', Sparrow with yellowish breast-band. This bird was NOT American or a European Rock Sparrow. Did it REALLY 'give itself up' for our reunion? Scops Owl

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Electoral Trends

The results of the local elections at the beginning of May came as no surprise for they followed the pattern of the rest of the country. Conservative heads fell in all directions or else experienced severe bruising. Peppard's Mary Irwin was replaced by a Liberal Democrat, Chris Bott. In Caversham where Pauline Palmer had stepped down the candidate nominated in her place was defeated by Sue Stainthorp who will now join husband Richard, currently Chairman of Planning. It would take more than an ordinary landslide to dislodge Conservatives from Thames but, all the same, Jeanette Skeats, new to local government, had the smallest majority recorded in that ward. She was also the only Conservative in Reading to win a seat and now joins the three remaining Conservatives on the Borough Council.

The Liberal Democrats, still with only six seats, become the official opposition. This, as far as I am aware, is the first time the Liberal Democrats have been the opposition party to a Labour Council while Conservatives are relegated to the third division.

Pauline Palmer

One councillor who will be missed is Pauline Palmer. She has served Caversham ward, in which she lives, for several years. She knew it well and worked hard on its behalf. She was knowledgeable on Council matters herself and kept her electorate informed on what was going on. She has been leader of the opposition and as such never missed a move in challenging the ruling party. Unwanted supermarkets, unwanted one-way systems and housing on unsuitable sites were amongst the causes she took up, keeping in touch with the objectors and supplying them with information they required.

Hardworking councillors such as Pauline, regardless of their political affiliations, show local government at its best. It is also reassuring

to know that in spite of the expenditure of a lot of hot air and the hurling of brickbats which are only too apparent in Council Chamber debates councillors usually co-operate and work together for the good of the town.

Trees

Trees are in the news again. First of all, a magnificent cedar of Lebanon at Treetops, the former children's hostel on St. Peter's Hill, is under sentence of felling as it is right on the site of one of the houses proposed for the garden. The house itself will be converted into flats. Caversham is not short of trees but it could be if the Planning Committee did not take a firm stand when applications for felling are made. Enough have already been lost. Trees such as a mature cedar of Lebanon cannot be replaced overnight. They are longlived so the argument that this one is near the end of its life will not stand up.

Several angry comments were heard when workmen arrived and severely lopped the horse chestnuts beside Caversham Bridge just as they were about to burst into sticky buds, the precursors to candles. They did not appear to be causing any immediate obstruction so there is no reason why passers-by should not have been allowed to enjoy them in their Spring garb after the long, dreary winter.

Meanwhile at St. Martin's Precinct the property corporation which owns the site has put in some attractive planters and a new tree. Their history with regard to trees has been less than creditable and this tree cannot be regarded as a replacement for the historic Holm oak which they killed some ten years ago but at least it is a step in the right direction.

Going through some old papers recently I unearthed some photographs showing a group of people hacking away at the bricks and concrete the owners had placed round the trees. Some of these people are no longer with us but others are still around keeping a watchful eye on the

local environment.

Good news is that the progress being made by the two black poplars planted on the Thames-side promenade near the end of Wolsey Road by Caversham and District Residents' Association has been maintained. The first to be planted has already made a mark for itself and the second, to replace a Lombardy poplar, lost in storm damage, is also doing well and should soon be beyond the stage when it could become a target for vandals.

Best Foot Forward

One of the political parties' election addresses, and I leave readers to speculate on which, drew attention to the ways life is made difficult for pedestrians in a town which advocates the benefits of walking for health and reducing congestion and pollution. It cited the Vastern Road-Reading Bridge roundabout in particular, and rightly too.

Once it was possible, if you were coming from Christchurch Meadows, to walk straight from Reading Bridge to the railway bridge just crossing Vastern Road to do so. Now you have to turn right at Vastern Road, walk quite a distance along it, press a button and wait for the traffic to stop, cross in two phases, walk back, go up and down some steps or balance on the kerb, to pass under the bridge, where by turning right, there will be another traffic lights-controlled crossing. If you absentmindedly walked on the wrong pavement under the bridge you would pay for your omission by having to go along Forbury Road to work your way back to where you wanted to be. These are all quite short distances from the point of view of a motorist but they all add up to an unnecessary expenditure of energy when every yard covered is by putting your best foot forwards, and in all kinds of weather too.

The huge roundabout that caused this problem is something inherited from the days when all that mattered was easing the way for cars. Surely there must be some way of easing the

way for pedestrians who are unpolluting, inexpensive to cater for and less likely to make demands on the National Health Service. Cars have their place and are very useful but walking is still the basic way of getting around.

A4074

The battle of the A4074 is hotting up after Reading Borough Council took unilateral action by announcing its intention of banning heavy lorries on the A4074 where it enters the borough as well as on the Henley Road. Oxfordshire predictably has objected. Talk, however, has been going on for long enough and it is now time for action. An alternative exists in the A34 and M4. Looking through some old copies of the Caversham Bridge recently I found a front-page spread asking, "IS THIS THE RIGHT

ROUTE?" It showed a picture of a huge tanker stuck across the Church Road-Bridge Street junction. The photographer was Canon Grimwade and one can imagine him triumphantly seizing his camera and dashing out of the rectory as he saw the traffic building up to prove the point that such vehicles should be banned from this road. It was an argument that had been going for years then. The time has now come for action!

Tablecloth

Townswomen's Guilds throughout Reading have been embroidering a large tablecloth with scenes from their area to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Reading Federation. This is on view at the Information Centre of the Town Hall. There are scenes of Caversham and the whole thing is well worth seeing.



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TRIAL BY JURY:

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Three years ago it was decided that St Margaret's Church really ought to have a loo and in May 1994 an appeal for funds was launched.

The septic tank arrived in April 1995 and was sunk under the church car park. Early in 1996 the foundations were completed along with all the necessary drainage work and the first line of bricks was put in place; the work done wherever possible by volunteers from St. Margaret's. So far all this has cost £3,900. Various forms of fundraising have been adopted. The recent "Buy a Brick for the Loo" scheme has raised over £400, so if you feel like having your name on a brick in a lavatory do get in touch!

Before May 18th this year there was £735 in hand and it was hoped to have the building completed by the end of the summer before winter set in. Indeed, it was imperative that this should be done or the efforts so far would be wasted BUT there was still the matter of raising a further £2,300 to meet the target by the end of August.

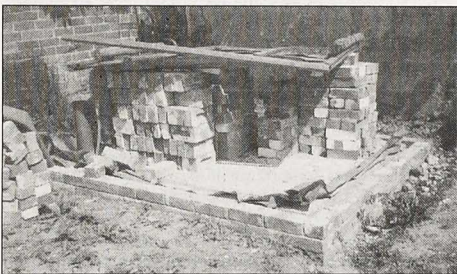
Then on Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th May with all the congregation working together and some wonderful help from friends at St. Peter's what seemed impossible was achieved and in that weekend alone £1308 was raised.

How did it happen? It came about because a little group from St. Margaret's decided to put on Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury". The idea for this venture was first conceived during a car journey to Birmingham last Christmas. This short piece was ideal for the number and experience of the St. Margaret's congregation, the majority of whom had never taken part in anything like that before.

However, under the expert guidance of their conductor, producer and director, Alison Wood, they achieved a performance of very high standard. The production involved many people behind the scenes who helped with staging, lighting and publicity. There were also those in charge of the catering and working in the kitchen as refreshments were served at both performances.

One glance at the programme indicated that this would be a very professional effort indeed and so it proved to be; but it was also the greatest fun and well worth the time and hard work put in by so many people.

WELL DONE ST. MARGARET'S



The loo so far.



Angelina and her bridesmaids. Bucket and loo paper not part of the show!



Angelina, the plaintiff, & the learned judge

SUMMER PROBLEMS

By Hortus

As I write this in the middle of May, it is dry, cloudy, windy and cold. That it has been dry, windy, sunny and cold for a couple of weeks is noticeable in my garden. Whereas three weeks ago the soil was most and crumbly it is now dry with a hard crust on top. The low temperatures have delayed the growing season by about a month and while nature will no doubt catch up by June/July, the lack of rain over the past couple of months does not augur well for a problem-free summer. Water or the lack of it could cause many headaches for gardeners over the coming months.

Whilst having a supply of rainwater to sup-

plement the tap is helpful, it is not inexhaustible. A twenty gallon barrel is soon used up. If it is possible a series of linked rainwater butts will effortlessly hold that much more. Gardeners will need to take additional measures to conserve and preserve their plants which need to be encouraged to put their roots deep into the soil to seek their own supplies of moisture rather than develop surface roots relying on what the gardener gives them. (Such roots are likely to be damaged in hot dry weather). It will be necessary to target water supplies to plants that need them - a good soaking once or twice a week is much more ben-

eficial than frequent sprinkles. Mulching plants (when the soil is moist) will help conserve moisture and keep the soil temperature lower. Mulching will also help suppress weeds which compete with plants for the available water resources.

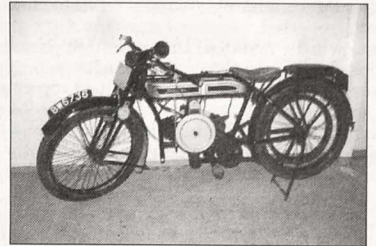
If plants are growing in containers it would be advisable to keep them in the shade during hot, sunny spells rather than leave them on the patio. Lawns will have to be left to their own devices. Although they soon show signs of distress in hot, dry weather, they bounce back quickly when the rains return.

Would you believe it? By the time I finished this the rain had started falling - but ever so lightly!

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT DEANERY SYNOD

Social and environmental issues dominated the agenda at the last meeting of the retiring Anglican Deanery Synod. Mr Richard Purkis of St John's and Mr Phillip Knight of St John and St Stephen's, a youth and community worker in the Newtown Project, reported on *Staying in the City*, a new report which updates the situation since the famous *Faith in the City* report which was produced ten years ago. Statistics from the latest report show that over the past ten years Britain has become richer; between 1979 and 1992 real incomes have increased by over a third. During that time the gap between rich and poor has widened so that the average income of the poorest tenth in 1992 was substantially lower than that of the poorest tenth in 1979. Over 30 years, homelessness has been increasing. Although over a similar period the health and life expectancy of the population has improved and infant mortality has decreased, those who are poor are still at greater risk.

Parts of Reading are Urban Priority Areas

Phillip Knight's experience in Reading underlined the fact that the Reading Deanery has within it parishes in the top 20 per cent of deprived areas in the UK. He had personally given advice and counselling to about 1,200 people in the past year on the Newtown Project which is now mainly funded by the churches in East Reading. He emphasised that the Church has a prime opportunity of working with the community around it. He challenged each parish in Reading to know its local situation, how the community and neighbourhood run and what the health, schools and housing situation are like. He then reminded us that it is non-Christian not to stand alongside people when they are suffering. The presentations were helpful introductions to the consideration of these topics which each parish has been urged to consider by General and

Diocesan Synods.

Safeguarding the environment is part of mission

The Revd Peter Harris, a former warden of the A Rocha Field Centre and Bird Observatory in the Algarve Region of Portugal, used examples of the work he had been engaged upon to illustrate the practical biblical application of caring for all creation. A Rocha is a Christian Trust working with international conservation organisations and the Portuguese Government. It brings Christians and others from the secular world together in a shared commitment to conservation and provides for many the first opportunity to see what the gospel means in everyday life. The Revd Peter Harris reminded us that we see the world as a resource for economic growth but because God made it, it is also a resource for respect. The most powerful reason it exists is for God, not us. The world around us is in a desperate struggle. Mission is concerned with human needs and one starting point is the whole of creation. Many feel for the seriousness of the breakdown between God and creation. The link is between God and his people. The solution is in restoring relationships. A frequent fault is we tend to deal with the symptoms of the problem and not the cause.

Outreach through mission

During the evening we had been reminded that mission is seen as a target for outreach. Both subjects, which involve responding to human need by loving service, seeking to transform the unjust structures of society and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, were among the Five Marks of Mission that Anglicans in the Oxford Diocese have been asked to consider.

Owen Jewiss

AMERICAN INSPIRATION AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS

After a 6 week's invigorating stay at Caversham Heights, John and Carol Phillippe have returned to their home in Worcester, New York State - at least we found it invigorating; we hope they did not find it too tiring.

John decided to make their last service with us on 26th May (Pentecost Sunday morning) an American service as he would do it back home. (Someone had even provided a small American flag for the pulpit).

The Invocation, leading to the rousing strains of "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." was followed by a responsive prayer and the sung "Gloria Patri."

The talk to the children reminded us that all religions are not of equal value;

only Christianity preaches forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The enabling power of God's Spirit as illustrated by "dem bones, dem dry bones," and the Pentecostal Flame formed the main theme of the sermon illustrated by several anecdotes. We were reminded that, if we leave ourselves open to its power, the Holy Spirit can revivify the churches where, all too often, we leave 80% of the work (and giving) to 20% of the congregation.

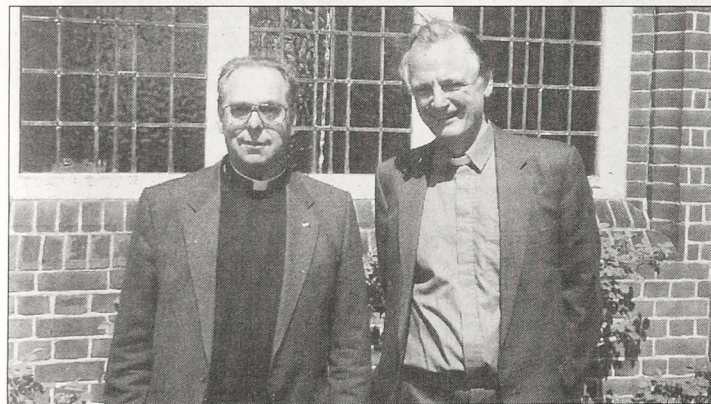
During the collection the Methodist Network Singers sang the Brian Hoare hymn with the chorus, "Freely, freely we have received; Gladly, gladly we love to give" and the Doxology to the "Old Hundredth" tune was sung lustily

as the sidesmen brought the "tithes & offerings" up to be dedicated.

John then said a few words of sincere thanks for the welcome and hospitality he and Carroll had received at the Heights, and gave a general invitation to us to visit them in the States (but not all together) and Ray Goodman, the Senior Church Steward offered our thanks and good wishes for their future. The service ended with the benediction and the hymn: - "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing."

As David and Joan Moody return to spend their last few weeks with us at Caversham Heights before moving on to Grimsby, we look forward to hearing of their experiences in Worcester, New York State.

Former Clergy back in Caversham



Seen in Emmer Green recently were former Caversham clergy the Revd Leonard Burn (left). Priest in Charge at St Barnabas from 1972-76, and the Revd John Stevinson, Priest in Charge at St John's and then St Margaret's between 1963-73.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST

DIARY

- July 3 7.45pm at Chandlers Ford: District Celebration for District Chairman, Rev Nigel Collinson, as he becomes President of Conference for the year ahead.
- July 7 9am Holy Communion - Rev David Moody 6.30pm Rev David Moody
- July 14 11am NCH Sunday - Rev David Moody 6.30pm Mr Ian Gowers from Wokingham
- July 21 11am Holy Communion Rev David Moody 6.30pm Rev John Boakes
- July 28 11am Rev Elizabeth Pennington from Beenham 6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev David Moody.

LINK GROUP NEWS

At the meeting held on 20th May Link Group members were given a fascinating insight into the history and work of the local charity, Christian Community Action (in partnership with the Good Soul Trust), by their Community Support Manager, Eileen Preston.

Eileen started by working for 6 months as a volunteer with CCA, inspired by the vision and devotion of Nick Crowder and his dedicated team of regular volunteer helpers, who "share hope with the poor and deprived" by offering advice, counselling, furniture and equipment - and other kinds of support. Their first high street charity shop has recently opened in Oxford Road. Constantly in need of funds, voluntary help and premises (they have changed address four times in as many years!) they are happy to give information about their work if you call 512323.

The Knit-In total has now risen to £683 - thanks again to all for this splendid effort.

The group has two new members: Barbara Macrae from Caversham Heights Methodist Church and Lorraine Vallance from St Margaret's, Mapledurham. Others interested in joining may like to come to the AGM on 17th June - further details from Barbara Graham on 482043.

...and finally, Anthea Prescott (tel: 478865) would love to hear from anyone who can drive Tea Party guests on the second Thursday afternoon of each month (regularly or stand by).

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St Andrew's United Reformed Church wish to thank the people of Caversham for their support in previous years and hope to see some of them at the new venue.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

GETTING READY FOR THE MILLENNIUM



- O. Jewiss

New and retiring Officers of Churches Together in Reading with Bishop Crispian at their Annual General Meeting: (from left to right) Miss Doreen Woods (Secretary), Mr Norman Preston (Chairman), Miss Mary Brockington (retiring Secretary), Bishop Crispian Hollis and Miss Jean Sawyer (Treasurer).

Bishop Crispian Hollis, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, was the special speaker at the recent Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Reading, when he urged local churches to prepare to celebrate the Millennium. Without Christ there would be no Millennium to celebrate and it is imperative that Christians are there at the forefront of the celebrations. He spoke from guidance circulated by Pope John Paul and by Churches Together in England.


Advice from Pope John Paul

The Pope is advocating a concentrated, three stage period of preparation during which 1997 would focus on the person of Jesus Christ, 1998 on the work and place of the Holy Spirit, and 1999 on God the Father, the Creator. These three years of preparation would culminate in the year 2000 which would be a celebration of the Trinity; it would also be a year of Jubilee. The aid agencies Christian Aid and CAFOD are working together on the Old Testament concept of Jubilee advocating the cancellation of Third World debt. Every Roman Catholic community was being urged to make a gesture to the poor in their midst by, for example, selling off unneeded property and using the proceeds to help the poor.

... and from Churches Together in England

A group brought together by Churches Together in England is urging Christians to participate in symbolic events at midnight on 31 December, 1999, such as the use of light in floodlighting churches and joining hands and saying the Lord's Prayer together. Short

acts of worship are being suggested for noon on 1 January, 2000. Pentecost Weekend is being suggested as another focus. On Saturday, 10 June, 2000, a Global March for Jesus is already planned. On the following day, Sunday 11 June, 2000, the entire Christian community is being urged to gather together to celebrate and witness to their faith in Jesus. Bishop Crispian urged the churches in Reading to start their planning now and gave examples of advance preparations already made in Portsmouth.

 **LIGHT** incorporated

Light Incorporated has been present in the Reading area for some time now, touching and affecting the lives of many.

Light Inc. are a five-piece Christian rock band, based at Caversham Baptist Free Church. The band was born during the Spring of 1991, and have been playing their style of jazz and blues influenced rock 'n roll to people in this area and beyond these past five years. The 'Light Inc.' sound consists of Guitar, Bass, Keyboards, Trumpet and Drums. Their material is a mixture of self-penned numbers and a selection of covers.

The story so far... Light Inc.'s first gigs of sorts came during the latter part of 1991, at youth clubs and as 'the pit orchestra' in Cinderella & Her Glass DM's at St. Anne's Hall Caversham.

Since those early days, Light Inc.'s gigging credentials include playing JAM, Reading's biggest Christian music festival, three times, including this year's event to be held on July 6th. They have been involved in many youth weekends and events, including last year's Berkshire Baptist Association (B.B.A. to you!) Youth Conference in Plymouth, Thames Valley Alive in 1994 (T.V.A.) initiative, and the B.B.A.'s 10% Tour. They've also played at a number of clubs, parties and many other different venues and settings, including most recently Coldingley Prison, fortunately at their own convenience rather than Her Majesty's! 1996, though, has been the most important in the band's short history so far, as they have ventured into the recording studio to record their first demo tape.

Information about Light Inc. has been circulated to churches and venues throughout the area. At present, the band are able to offer their services FREE OF CHARGE. Has your church, club, or whatever else you might be received one? If not, or if you're interested in finding out more about Light Incorporated, they can be contacted through either Martyn & Helen Strong (tel. 01734 479763) or Nick & Michelle Barnett (tel. 01734 464534).

Richard Ousley

NEWS FROM ST. ANNE'S

First, an apology; the gremlins managed to get themselves into last month's report of the Centenary Mass and readers must have marvelled at the vigorous old age of Archbishop Maurice who, seemingly, celebrated Mass on Low Sunday 1996 on the centenary of a visit he himself had made a century earlier. Alas, the truth is more prosaic and the text should have said that '... Low Sunday was the centenary of that historic event (the first public Mass of 1896). To mark the occasion the Parish was honoured with a visit by the Archbishop of Birmingham...'

The Centenary celebrations continue meanwhile and the Parish pilgrimage to Rome, during which several members had individual audi-

ences with the Pope, is reported elsewhere in this issue. Scarcely returned from Rome, Fr Tony was off again at Pentecost on the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes which he has organised for a number of years. Corpus Christi was celebrated with a Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the grounds of Mapledurham House and will be more fully reported in August's 'Bridge'.

The Archbishop returns to Caversham on 3rd July to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation and, on the 21st July, His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, will visit the Parish. He will celebrate 10.30 Mass following which there will be a Coronation of

the statue of Our Lady of Caversham with the crown, specially commissioned for the Centenary and personally blessed by the Pope during the recent Rome pilgrimage. This will be followed by an informal reception in the Parish Hall accompanied by an Exhibition recounting the history of the Parish.

On 24th July, the Parish plays host to a party of French and English pilgrims who are walking from Southampton to Reading. They will be following a route which, it is thought, may have been used by their medieval counterparts from south and central England making their way to Southampton en route to the shrine of St James the Great at Santiago de Compostela.

This service was postponed in May; let's hope the weather proves kinder in July.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

FAREWELL TO THE REV DAVID CLARK

In a special Thanksgiving Service on the evening of Whitsunday members of St. Paul's United Reformed Church and other friends bade farewell to the Revd David Clark prior to his move to Ashford. Mr Colin Ferguson, Church Secretary, (on the left) is seen making part of the presentation (which included a rose called 'Blessings') to the Revd David Clark.



David Clark completed his ministry at St. Paul's United Reformed Church on the 26th May with a service of thanksgiving for the nine years he has been in Reading. He was joined in the service by the members of St Paul's and by many of the friends that he has made in his wider ministry in the community.

When David was called to St. Paul's in June 1987 it was as a joint appointment with Industry, Trade & Employment Mission (I.T.E.M.) His

contract with I.T.E.M. ran out two years ago since when he has supplemented his ministry with counselling work at Shire Hall and as Acting County Ecumenical Officer. When this job ended it was only a matter of time before he would be called to a new pastorate.

David has always seen his ministry to be in the community and in building up ecumenical co-operation. Right up to his call he continued to act as industrial mission officer to Berkshire

County Council and to the Rivermead Centre, and he will remain much involved in the U.R.C. Industrial Chaplaincy Group. Ecumenically he has also served Churches together in Berkshire, Reading, and Central Reading in a whole variety of ways - newsletter editor, secretary, chairman, no job was too small nor too large for his enthusiasm. In 1995 he was elected vice-chairman of Churches together in Berkshire.

Locally David has become well known in

several schools, especially Highdown, where he has regularly led Assemblies, and his leadership at St. Paul's has been instrumental in the church supporting the Churches together in Reading Drop-In Centre and a local mother and toddler group. He himself has led an energetic group of Pilots. The greatest frustration of his ministry has been that in spite of all his commitment and energy the long awaited redevelopment of St. Paul's has still not happened.

Now David is called to serve three joint U.R.C./Methodist Churches in Ashford, Kent, one of which has already been redeveloped. We have shared much over the last nine years with David but the happiest must have been his wedding to Alison and the births of Jade and Zoe. As such it is sad for St. Paul's to see him move on, but we rejoice for him and his family in the new opportunities for ministry to which the Lord has called him.



Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild held their monthly meeting on a chilly May day and after the usual business the Speakers were Mrs Penny Russell and Mrs Elizabeth Rampton who brought along a video on the work of the Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Society who at present are situated in Patrick Road, Caversham. They gave a very comprehensive talk on the activities carried out and their efforts to

raise a large sum to build new premises when the lease runs out in the near future. Their cheerfulness in coping with the trauma of Multiple Sclerosis was very humbling. They were thanked by Mrs Adair who wished the well in their undertaking. Mrs Shepherd held an Arts and Crafts afternoon with some members sewing while others played Scrabble on the last Thursday in May. The Guild meets every month on the third Thursday afternoon at 2.00 at Church House, Caversham. Visitors are very welcome, come and enjoy the company, listen to the Speaker and

enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and biscuit.

The University of the Third Age, Reading

Once again this Association would like to bring to your attention that at present we have these group activities available: Swimming, Scrabble, Walks, Chess, Learning from Dreams, French Short Story Reading, Yoga, Books, Gardening, Town Study, Art Workshop, Bridge, Playreading, Crafts, Design Age, Travel Discussion, Writers, Focus on Reading, Cosmology, Photography, History of Art, Luncheon Club, Listening and Discussion.

These are supplemented by a General Meeting on the second Thursday of every month in the Abbey Room at the Central Library and an Open Meeting on the fourth Monday of each month in the Kennet Room at the Civic Centre, the next one

Continued on page 11

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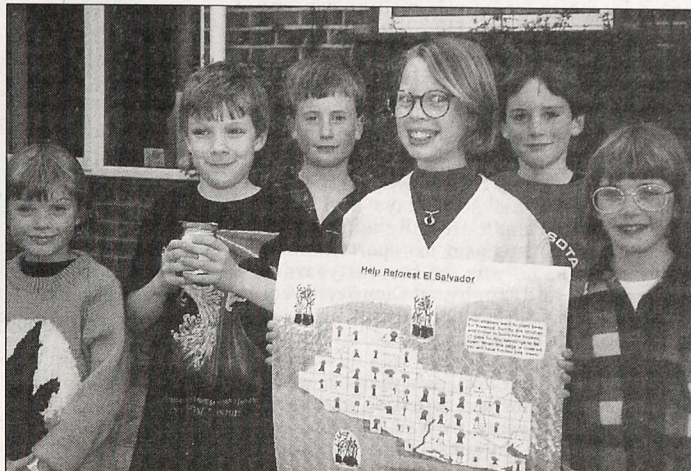
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YOUTH NEWS

TREES FOR EL SALVADOR FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST BARNABAS

A special effort started in Lent by the young people of the Junior Fellowship at St Barnabas resulted in sufficient money being raised to plant 244 trees in El Salvador. Enthused by the Christian Aid Project 'A Tree for A Tree' this group of under twelves used information sent by Christian Aid to set about saving money and getting other members of the congregation to sponsor the planting of trees for the reforestation project of this Central American country.

At the same time the group learnt something of the problems of El Salvador which remains environmentally damaged after ten years of civil war. It was during this war that the army deliberately destroyed thousands of acres of forest in order to flush out the rebels. Now there is a sense of optimism and hope among the people as they rebuild their communities. Although at present women and children are spending up to three hours a day collecting firewood, it is hoped that from the village tree nurseries new plantations will be made for firewood. Trees are also being planted to prevent soil erosion and to protect the precious water sources. In addition fruit trees are



being planted to improve the diet of the children. Other trees are now being grown for forage for the cattle and as a source of organic pesticides. Our picture shows some members of the Junior Fellowship at St Barnabas with their El Salvador Tree Project. From left to right are Ellen Wilson, Adam Harper, Tristan Aubrey-Jones, Joanna Wilson, Tom Clark and Sarah O'Riordan.

OGGY OGGY OGGY

Owing to GCSEs, only a few member of Caversham Squash were at the opening of MAYC's London Weekend 1996 held 17th-19th May. Clad in green and yellow, we were full of bright ideas for this year's theme, **Go On!**

Along with 16,000 other teenagers from Methodist Youth Clubs throughout Britain we tube-hopped to Westminster Central Hall to take part in a visual experience, **On the Edge**, a presentation created and performed entirely by young people. This was highlighted by the guest appearance of a native Filipino, whose homeland and livelihood are being destroyed by large mining companies.

The Weekend was the beginning of a campaign for the rights of indigenous communities, such as the Filipinos. During the course of the Weekend we also supported the representative from Columbia in his fight to save his ancestral land from the extension of the Pan Pacific Highway.

For us, the highlight of the Weekend was the show in the Royal Albert Hall, a vivid display of drama, music and dance. With every seat filled, there was an amazing feeling of togetherness and closeness to God.

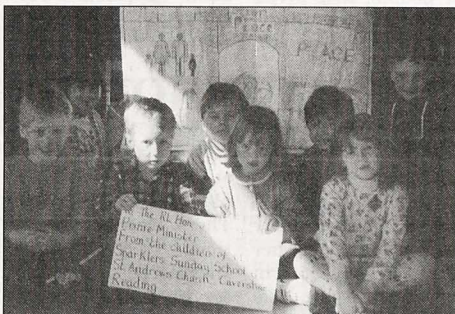
It was then back to the vicarage for a couple of hours sleep before an early start the following morning. Bleary-eyed, we arrived again at Battersea Park for the Sunday morning worship, a lively service with a lot of audience participation. Parables were conveyed through expressive movement and a live band accompanied our singing.

The closing ceremony of the Weekend involved the setting of a new world record - **The Longest Banner Ever Made**. Each group had been asked previously to make a banner expressing world unity. When we joined the banners together, aerial photographs were taken to be sent to the governments of indigenous peoples.

In the hope of making new friends through MAYC everyone threw pom-poms with their addresses attached.

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: BUILDING BRIDGES

St Andrew's Lent Project this year for the Sunday School followed the national theme of "Building Bridges."



"Sparklers" with the collage they sent to the Prime Minister.

Children were encouraged to write letters, draw pictures or join in making collages for various world leaders, urging them to continue to work for peace.

"Sparklers" the youngest two classes of 3-5 year olds made a collage which they sent to John Major. Features include a handshake, a dove of peace and both London Bridge and St. Andrew's Church! They were delighted to receive a reply from the Prime Minister's office. All the teachers were encouraged by the children's thoughtful contributions. Even the smallest seemed aware of the need for peace and reconciliation in our world.



10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Correspondence Secretary

17 May 1996

Dear Mr Carpenter

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recently received letter and for enclosing the photograph of the children and their work.

I am sure you will understand how busy Mr Major is and why, therefore, he is unable to write to the Sunday School children himself. However, he was pleased to hear that they have taken such an interest in this particular issue and sends them his best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Slee

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OBITUARIES

ERIC MAULE 1917-1996

Eric Maule, who left the world he so much enjoyed in the beautiful month of May, will be missed by many for he was well known and had many friends. He had lived in Caversham for more than seventy years having come here as a small boy from Barnet. He became a pupil at Hemdean House School when Miss Knighton was still its headmistress. Much later he was to become a member of its governing council. He then went on to Reading School where he thoroughly enjoyed his schooldays and made many life long friends. He fully admitted he had far more enthusiasm for sport than for his lessons and he was for several years to play cricket and rugby at county level. Nevertheless he did well enough at his work to join the staff at Barclays Bank on leaving school but was only there for a few years before war broke out and, as a member of the Territorial Army, he was called up and spent most of the war years in North Africa and Italy where again, in spite of the perils and hardships, he found long lasting pleasure in comradeship of those years.

Back in Reading after the war he rejoined Barclays and settled again in Caversham where for the last part of his working life he became manager of the local branch and was well known to his customers for his wise and friendly advice. He lived in Albert Road and had four children by his first marriage.

Later he was to marry Peggy, herself a well known Caversham resident. They spent thirty-one happy years together in their charming and comfortable house, also in Albert Road, where there was always a welcome for whoever called. It was shared by a succession of cats and dogs for, after people, Eric loved animals. His notable, some might say notorious, cat Sandy, whose action packed life



almost merited an obituary itself, died just a few weeks before his master.

Eric seemed to know everyone and if anyone was in need of help he was there to give it. He always had a store of anecdotes and reminiscences which he would recount with that characteristic twinkle in his eyes and which sometimes evoked from Peggy an 'Oh Eric!' leading to the suspicion that a bit of embroidery had been applied. For such an active man who enjoyed the good

things of life, it was a mercy that his last illness was comparatively short for he would have been unhappy if he had not been able to give help where it was needed.

Eric, walking with military precision along the road every evening with a dog on a lead was a familiar sight. He will be missed by many and particularly by his

large and loving family, which included nine grandchildren and a great grandchild. A full church for his funeral was a tribute to the respect and affection in which he was held and must have been a great comfort to Peggy. She will be left with happy memories of Eric and a family and many friends to support her.

M.C.

CECILY RUTH HAWTHORNE REMEMBERED WITH LOVE

The life of Cecily Ruth Hawthorne was remembered with love in a Service of Thanksgiving in St Barnabas Church during May, when family and friends from as far afield as Australia and Canada were gathered together. An appreciation of Ruth

Hawthorne, who died in the West Country during February in her 97th year, appeared in our April issue. The Service was taken by the Revd John Stevinson, successively Priest in Charge at St John's and then St Margaret's between 1963 and 1973; the Revd Leonard Burn, Priest in Charge at St Barnabas from 1972-76 also took part and

played the organ. There were appreciations of Ruth Hawthorne during the service and over lunch in the Town Hall afterwards when some of her poetry was read. At one time Ruth Hawthorne had a private school in Woodcote Road and some former pupils, now retired themselves, were among the congregation.



Before Ruth Hawthorne moved to the West Country six years ago she was often seen about in Emmer Green in her chariot 'Bluebird' on which she readily gave small children rides. Our picture, which comes courtesy of the family, is a memory of Ruth Hawthorne on 'Bluebird'.

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the CLUBS

Continued from Page 8

being a Convenors' Showcase on 22nd July at 2.15pm. This is a working display of all the above named groups.

For anyone interested in joining contact M. Butler on 01734 484088 or A. Jones on 01734 580085.

Rosehill W.I.

Students in Higher Education should receive a realistic living grant when they come from families of low income. This was one of several resolutions discussed at the May meeting with a view to recommendation to a national meeting of the WI in June. There was evidence that drop-out of students from courses was due to financial hardship and members felt that this represented an unacceptable loss of talent. Some members criticised students who misapplied their grant money but a majority supported reinstatement of full means-tested grants. In all, three resolutions put to the meeting by the Voluntary County Organiser, Mrs Collinge, found local support.

On the day after the meeting some WI members met at the Reading Hexagon for a view behind the scenes. As it happened, a perfor-

mance of 'My Fair Lady' was timed for that evening and the scenery and staging arrangements attracted much interest.

At the meeting on July 3rd (St Barnabas Hall 2.00pm) Mrs Parsons will speak on 'Making Porcelain Dolls'. Visitors are welcome.

St Andrew's Fellowship

A large gathering was present in May to hear the speaker at the last indoor meeting of the season. Mrs Mary Crozier came to relive for members the life of a woman on the canal longboats. She started off talking as Mary Crozier, disappeared for a few minutes, and reappeared as Sal Hawkins, the wife of a longboatman, complete in the appropriate costume.

She held her audience spellbound with her account of the hard life lived by the people who manned the canal boats. Their living quarters were about the same size as those in a small gipsy caravan, so absolute tidiness was essential. Children had to be watched keenly, and even so quite a number were drowned.

Her talk was enthralling and the audience was reluctant to let her go home.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

ARTS & CRAFTS - at the last meeting the theme was gardens and the many types of narcissus were discussed along with the weather

forecast since 1976. A member had actually kept a record of this. For the next meeting members are asked to take along a really old object including a story if possible. It will be an Arts & Crafts Road Show.

WORDS & MUSIC - no meeting in May due to illness. The theme for June will be discussed at a later date.

RAMBLERS have had a walk around Elvendon Priory to see the dafodils although they were later in blooming this year. The second walk was a Bluebell walk and these are also late to bloom this year.

The annual outing is now booked for June 18 to Hampton Court.

The T.G. tablecloth will be on view in the Link Room/Old Town Hall from 13 May. The Emmer Green square was worked by Mrs Barnes, Mrs Childs, Mrs Harvey, Mrs Pocock and Mrs Perrin.

Correction to last month's Decorated Egg Competition. There were two winners: Pauline Young for the Humorous and Jean Perrin for the Artistic decorated egg.

The speaker for the evening who should have spoken to members on "Kilt Making" was unable to attend through illness. Fortunately Edwina Childs a T.G. Member agreed to speak at very short notice. Edwina gave members a most interesting talk and slide show on "Ghana and the Gold Coast."

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Once again it was a very cold unseasonable evening when the guild met this month, but they soon forgot that they were still wearing winter woollies when the speaker started to talk on "The Life of a Shepherd".

Mr Atkinson, who looked more like a representative of Christian Dior (his former occupation) than the shepherd that was expected, from the beginning had members laughing, before he even started to tell how he had gained a large field and thought that sheep would make good lawnmowers! Mr Atkinson's powers of mimicry and manner of putting across to an audience information, are a never to be forgotten experience! Sheep are not as docile as they

would appear and escaping through a hole in the hedge seems only the beginning of problems.

The proposals to be voted on at the National Council Meeting at Cardiff were explained and discussed so that the delegates knew how to vote on the members behalf when they attended in June.

Another successful evening was spent at the Hexagon watching a performance of My Fair Lady and on another occasion a group of members participated in a Federation Drama Workshop.

The Social Studies Group learnt about a Tunisian Wedding from one of their members who had been privileged to be a participant in Tunisian life for 20 years. Weddings are a special event anywhere but it is the differences in other cultures and countries that make interesting listening. In this instance not only between country and town but how the Tunisians are retaining their old traditions whilst becoming a successful westernized country.

Caversham W.I.

The work of horticultural therapy was described by Mr John London, a volunteer from Trunkwell Park, Beech Hill. This little known but important charity provides gardening experience for handicapped people, encouraging them to enjoy a sense of purpose, and perhaps gain some qualifications. The gardens were displayed on a series of slides that explained the progress made since the gardens were donated to the charity in 1989.

After tea the President, Miss M. Cameron, conducted the business part of the meeting, reminding members about the meal at the Technical College in June.

The speaker judged the competition, a garden on a saucer, and complimented all the entries. The raffle was drawn and the birthday flowers presented to Mrs Olive Harris.

Caversham Ladies' Club

Mrs B Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and said it was good to see so many

members present, but firstly she had some sad news to announce. Mr Harris, who was going to show a video on Austria with Julie Andrews' Sound of Music accompanying, had very recently died. Mrs Harris was checking through his appointments book, and realised the Club's booking date was only six days ahead, so very kindly phoned Mrs Nelhams, Secretary, who thanked her for letting her know, and offered sincere sympathy from the Caversham Ladies on her sad loss. The Club then needed a speaker at short notice.

Mr Taylor's name came to mind, so "fingers crossed" Mr Taylor was phoned, and straight away (undo crossed fingers) he realised the dilemma, and after checking his diary, he willingly agreed to bring his slides along.

When Mr Taylor was introduced plenty of the members remembered from a good while back, how much they had enjoyed the earlier visit and recalled many of the slides shown then of beautiful flowers. One member said she hoped there would be similar ones. There was no worry about similarity. It was a beautiful show of flowers, swans and scenery. The 'oohs and ahs' from members showed their enjoyment and when the show had ended as time had caught up they said they could watch it again, so Mr Taylor, with the Chairman's agreement over time, said he would show just a small set of slides to please them. Members 'spoil' by Mr Taylor showed how appreciative they were in the usual way.

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