

A SUMMER EXPERIENCE AT TAIZÉ

Impressions from some of the young people who attended

Cast your mind back to the long, warm sunny days of summer . . . when, on a glorious Saturday evening in early August, Liquid Youth Group started their great pilgrimage to Taizé. It began in St Peter's Church, with a short service. Several of the general congregation came too, to wish us well on the journey, which both surprised and encouraged us. They had the pleasure of watching Sheila sprinkle us with (Holy?) water to mark the start of the pilgrimage and of sampling with us some of the chants we grew so accustomed to during the following week.

As we said our goodbyes to parents and as we chatted eagerly, we had absolutely no idea of what we were to experience in the following few days . . . most of us were apprehensive of "the effect" of Taizé. People talked of their lives being changed by God but most of us were more than happy with the direction of our lives! At our pick-up point in London, apprehension turned to fear as we realised that the majority of the people going were far too religious and old for our group. What had we let ourselves in for?

When we arrived at Taizé 20 hours later, hot, exhausted, and disorientated, we were greeted by the sight of thousands of people arriving and leaving from about 70 different countries. Taizé is a tiny French village set in hills scattered with vineyards, but to us it seemed to be an endless throng of people jabbering in their own languages, trying to communicate with everybody without regard for race or religion, singing to guitars or sitting, enjoying the serenity of Taizé. These first impressions didn't alter much during the week we were there!

With the welcome help of some adults from St Peter's who were staying a few miles from Taizé, we managed to get our tents up, and then set off to discover what daily life at Taizé was about. Queues! Queues for our meals (pasta, rice, pasta, bread, rice, pasta . . .), queues in the murky toilet blocks, queues for the cold showers, and the greatest queue of all at "OYAK" for the right to purchase one (yes, just one) glass (small, mind you) of beer. You needed it to recover from the friendly fight waiting your turn, so most of us settled for hot chocolate - still a queue but much shorter!

The days were very structured, but were very free within that structure. Taizé is an ecumenical Christian community and attending morning, midday and evening prayer is an important part of being there. The worship was different from anything we knew in Caversham, but over the week we found the music - repetitive yet always different - led us into a sense of prayer and worship. 7,000 people being silent is amazing! The majority of the day was spent in small "discussion" groups which studied a passage from the Bible or from a letter written by Brother Roger. There were only 70 English people there out of nearly 7,000, but we found that the only language most people could speak a little of was English, so few of us got much chance to use our linguistic skills - except for one of us who spent the week translating Romanians' French into English so that the Spanish in the group could understand, and one adult who became the official French translator for her group. Discussions often mutated into chats about life in each of our own countries, general issues affecting us all - and exchanging tongue twisters and silly songs in different languages.

But the night life was just as important as the structured day. By day, Oyak was a pleasant cafe-cum-mini corner shop where you could get a cup of tea or coffee and relax, but by night it was a heaving mass of sweaty bodies throwing themselves at the various queues in the hope of being able to buy a precious cup of beer (or tea). Behind Oyak was a small field, full of everyone else singing songs in large groups. Half the time we didn't know what the words were, but it didn't seem to matter. When it was the "Hokey Cokey" it certainly didn't matter! It was the feeling of unity among nations: there was no prejudice for everyone was your friend and everyone was friends with you.

So, what did we discover at Taizé?

"I imagined a lot of very religious people in church, but it wasn't like that at all. It was amazing how many young people were there - some had even travelled 4 days just to be there and everyone had the same aim - to find out about and deepen their faith in God, and to learn and feel the love that God has and shows in other people."

"What I noticed above all was the way that each one of us was totally accepted as we were - and how it seemed natural to accept others unconditionally. That, for me, is why Taizé is God's love in action."

"The thing that struck me most was the incredible feeling of friendship amongst the people I met. In today's political climate there is a lot of anti-European feeling, but having met such a friendly bunch of people, I am only filled with hope."

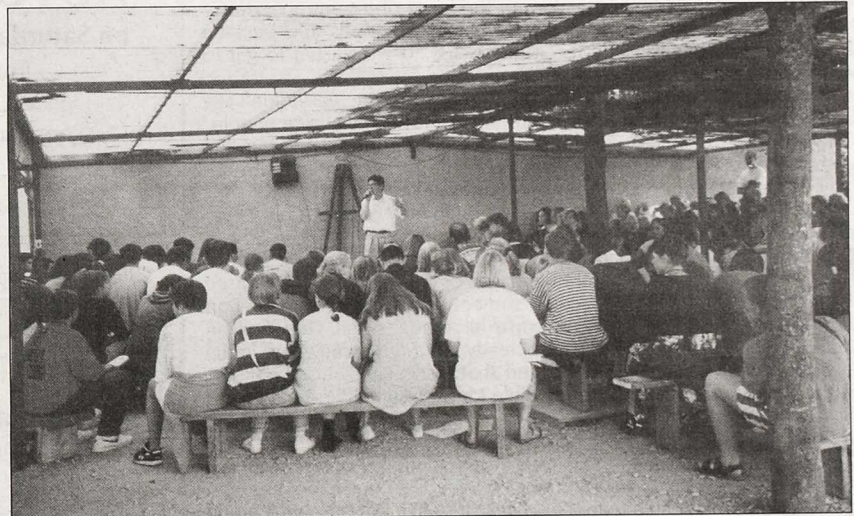
"We found the sense of unity and togetherness felt amongst all 7,000 Taizé pilgrims was most astounding. Regardless of nationality, age and gender, people came together to join in prayers, discussions, and endless singing and games. The special people we met and friendships we formed, gave us an insight into God's love."

"It was my fifth visit to Taizé; the place, the peace, the people and the songs get into your soul. It is a well-spring for me where hope and faith in the goodness of God's world are renewed."

"The life-style is so different - it is a real chance to separate yourself from the outside world. Taizé is a place you can only really learn to appreciate when you get back home."



• Group photo left to right - Back row Sarah Tucker, Rosalind Rutherford, Sheila Nunn, Jacob Bradbury, Joel Walmsley, Hannah Moloney. Front row: Aoife McDermott (St. Anne's), Sally Larkin, Kate Larkin, Jane Allen, Rebecca Hardcastle (St. Barnabas) Isobelle Lorenc, Elizabeth Allen.



• One of the Brothers leads a Bible study.



• The Feeding of the 7,000 is about to begin!

continued on page 3

TALKING POINT

by
CRISPIN FAIRBAIRN

Elder of Caversham Hill Chapel



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW, IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

Have you ever met any "celebrities"? Or more to the point, have you ever got to know any? Do you ever look at your TV screen and think "I wonder what they are really like, I'd like to get to know them as people".

I was recalling my teenage years the other day! I became a teenager in 1975 and soon got interested, as most teenagers do, in the latest music scene. For me that meant what was affectionately known as Punk Rock, I was drawn by the energy and insolence expressed by its practitioners.

Soon friends and I were heavily "into" the music scene and Saturdays were spent hitch-hiking to Wallingford to buy the latest singles. In the evenings we travelled far and wide to see our heroes playing "gigs" in various locations. We bought all the music papers and read and digested all they offered. We studied the record sleeves and memorised the lyrics with a dedication that our teachers wished we had applied to their particular disciplines.

Some performers became heroes and some were discarded out of hand, failing to meet our ideological standards, in fact they became objects of ridicule and derision, usually for such heinous crimes as the wrong clothes or drum beat!

Then one of us had a bright idea.

"Let's start a magazine" or a "fanzine" as it was known. And so, with the aid of an understanding father who let us use the office photocopier, the magazine was born. The advantage of calling the said publication a fanzine was that quality was not required or even desired by our readers and they weren't disappointed! But having said that it was quite a success even if our "O" and "A" level grades did come off the worse for wear as a result. Success for us meant doors opening into the heart of the music industry and our heroes stopped being posters on bedroom walls and became walking talking people in the same room as us! So we started to get to know our heroes as people.

Some of our greatest heroes turned out to be people we really didn't like and some of those we had written off turned out to be really nice people.

Isn't it strange how we make judgements of people based on the slimmest evidence often gleaned from very little or no contact with the actual person. I bet if I asked you what you thought about Prince Charles you would all have a ready answer for me though few, I suspect, have ever sat down and chatted with him or really got to know him.

I think we are often like that with God. We all have an opinion of Him and many have written Him off for one reason or another, very often based on misunderstanding. I came across someone a short time ago who wouldn't believe in Jesus Christ because he thought that God was an astronaut! He advised me that this was clearly recorded somewhere in the Bible but he wasn't sure where! I found that fascinating because in the years that I have enjoyed reading my Bible I have found little reference to flying saucers or little green men.

I wonder what conclusion you have come to about God?

At Caversham Hill Chapel this year we have had the joy of running three Alpha courses and we plan to do more next year. The course looks at who God really is and what He means to us as Christians. We have welcomed many guests on the course all of whom have their own ideas about who God is and are interested in what the Bible really teaches us about Him without being pressurised in any way or "preached at". As well as learning about Him we suggest that people ask God to meet with them in a new relationship.

It has been interesting to see how people's ideas often change as they see the loving, gracious and eternally faithful God of the Bible. I think that God is so much better to know than to read about and yet so many of us stop at just reading and fail to enter into a living and exciting relationship with Him, a relationship that He longs to bring to us.

So who is the celebrity that you would like to meet?

Maybe you won't actually get the chance but you do have the opportunity to get to know God. You can get to know about Him by reading or by doing an Alpha course or by talking to a Christian friend but you can really know Him by acknowledging your failings, thanking Him that Jesus opened the door for us to enter into a relationship with Him and asking Him into your life: now there's an exciting opportunity!

DO COME TO THE FAYRE!

The winter event at Caversham Heights Methodist Church will this year no longer have a spurious oriental ambience but a truly olde English one instead. No longer a Bazaar but rather a Christmas Fayre, it will be held on Saturday 30th November. Furthermore it will commence, not at the customary 2.00pm, but instead at 11.30am, which will enable patrons to enjoy a mouth-watering ploughperson's lunch once they have filled their shopping bags and emptied their purses – apart from a few coins for the ploughperson's lunch!

What has not changed is that the proceeds of the Fayre will be entirely devoted to charitable causes. This year the Fayre will benefit three children's charities. One is CAMP MOWHAWK, which provides short-stay respite care for severely brain-damaged and autistic children at a camp in Berkshire. Much of the care is given by boys and girls of the Newham Explorer Scout Troop from one of London's most deprived boroughs.

The second charity is CAMPUS, which again gives respite care. This time to parents of children in some of the poorest areas of Liverpool and gives the children a week in the country and the opportunity to take part in new and exciting adventures. Finally, the Fayre will support NCH ACTION FOR CHILDREN, the child-caring arm of the Methodist Church, which also provides respite care for children with a range of disabilities. Parents can know that their child will be cared for if the strains on the family become too much, if a carer has to go into hospital or if

they want to take a much-needed holiday.

Do support the Christmas Fayre. Your purchases will benefit both you and many deprived children and their parents.

Caversham Methodists at the Gosbrook Road church also hope you will support their Autumn Fayre which will be held at 2pm on the same day, Saturday 30th November, in aid of their church funds.

ABBEYFIELD HOUSE OPENED



The new Abbeyfield House at 11 Maitland Road, near Downshire Square, Reading was officially opened on 4th October 1996 by Richard Baker OBE. Others in the photograph are the Mayor, Cllr. Day, the Rt. Rev. John Bone, Bishop of Reading and Sir Anthony Durant MP, the two latter being Patrons of the Abbeyfield Reading Society.

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All contributions for December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 30 October. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 28 October.

The dates for January will be Monday 25 November and Wednesday 27 November.

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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Peter 1.24 (NEB)

All mortals are like grass;
all their splendour like the flower of the field;
the grass withers, the flower falls;
but the word of the Lord endures forevermore.

A SUMMER EXPERIENCE AT TAIZÉ (continued from page 1)



• Is it pasta or rice today?



• Eating in for a change.

One of the adults who shared the week with us writes:

Taizé: a contemporary icon

In the kingdom of God, we are told, customary ideas will be reversed. At Taizé, during July and August, the adults are there by courtesy of the young people. It was not so much an adult event with a separate youth programme, but the other way round. We

were on the margins for once, yet we were warmly welcomed and accepted: a salutary experience.

Our programme comprised a morning of remarkable reflections on six characters from St John's gospel, led by one of the community of brothers. These characters, he told us, were biblical icons, windows through which we could

catch a glimpse of the kingdom. Then every afternoon we met in small groups to consider questions, carefully chosen to help us apply the lessons of the gospel to our own, very different lives. The difficulties of communication, English being the common language, seemed somehow to add a freshness and a depth to the times of

exchange. We heard how hard it was to be a disciple in communist Russia, when the only way you could follow Jesus was "from afar". We could sympathise with those who found it hard to welcome "fashionable church goers" in modern Lithuania, when they had kept the faith in harder times; we understood one man's frustration

with the failure of the church in Spain to have anything to say to the young people of that country; yet we all heard Christ's call to follow him in persecution or apathy, poverty or affluence. It was as though the scriptural icons were multiplied by each person present, giving out not just six, but many more glimpses into the king-

dom worldwide.

Times of deep sharing. Times of silence by the "source" (spring), times of laughter and grumbles in the inevitable queues, and all of it bound together by the extraordi-

nary worship which characterises the spirit of Taizé. It was an unforgettable experience and I for one am grateful to the young people for allowing me to share Taizé with them.

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CAVERSHAM ART NEWS

Caversham Art Centre holds its Christmas Exhibition on November 9th from 9am to 5pm at St Mary's Church House, Minster Street, Reading. Admission free. Refreshments on Sale.

Ted Burnell, the Tutor from The Caversham Art Centre, will give a live demonstration of water colour painting at the St Andrew's-tide Exhibition at St Andrew's Church, London Road, Reading from 2-3pm on Saturday 30th November. The Exhibition is from Friday 29th November, 7.30pm-10.00pm until Sunday 1st December from 10.30am-12.30pm.

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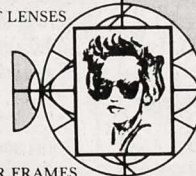
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT
By Watchdog**ALTERNATIVES TO THE CAR**

There are few of us who would be prepared to give up altogether the use of our cars, but the time cannot be far off when if there is not a voluntary restriction on their use a compulsory one will be imposed. There are already certain areas of most towns where their use is banned.

There are practical alternatives and these should be used whenever possible. Walking is one, which is much healthier for the person doing it and for the rest of the community at large. It can however only be done where the distance is not too great or if it is not necessary to carry anything heavy.

Public transport is the other alternative, which usually means either a bus or a train. Some parts of Greater Reading are served by trains as well as buses, but there is not much in the way of trains on this side of the river, so for Caversham it means buses. If these are going to woo people out of their cars they have to offer a number of attractions. Bus lanes are one way of doing this, but the buses also need to be there when you want them and fares need to be pitched at a rate that will not drive families straight into their cars.

They also need to be clean and comfortable and most of Reading's buses score well here. Some of the new ones are luxurious compared with the basic boneshakers to be found in many towns. However, if you have shopping, luggage or very small children they become less attractive.

Recently the No. 62 doubledecker bus has frequently been replaced by a single decker. Presumably costings have shown that a double decker cannot be justified. However this often means standing only for many passengers and an uncomfortable journey for others, particularly if you happen to be on a bus used by school children with all the paraphernalia they have to carry around with them. You will be lucky if you can struggle off at your stop when you reach it.

The Reading to London bus service is another route that has lost some of its attractions. It used to provide a wonderful late night service back from a theatre or concert visit, but that useful bus has been removed because it is said not to pay for itself. The last one of the evening still runs and the driver will still take passengers back to Caversham or Tilehurst but it can mean a wait up to an hour and a half after leaving the theatre or concert hall, an unwelcome experience on a chilly evening. Inquiries by deprived passengers (I refuse to use the term 'customer') are, as I understand it, prompting a review of this and may lead to some kind of adjustment.

ON YOUR BIKE

Cycling is one way of reducing polluting road congestion and improving your health, provided of course a car doesn't run you down and put you in hospital. There are some roads where only the intrepid would venture and I take off my hat to the surprising number who regularly cycle to work along Caversham Road. Motorists, please look out for them, especially in the dark evenings, and cyclists, please use lights in the dark.

It is good news that children's cycle training sessions are being held in Hills Meadow near the Golden Key to increase their skills and make them aware of the hazards they face.

Bicycles are enjoying a comeback with children, but mountain bikes are the status symbols even if the only 'mountain' they will encounter is the gradient to Caversham's higher ground. In this they resemble their elders, judging by the increasing number of immaculate four-wheel-drives appearing in the area, which, one can reasonably assume, have never met as much as a single undisciplined blade of grass, let alone a ploughed field or rough moorland.

ROUNDAABOUTS

Whilst on the subject of roads, admiring comments have been heard about the floral displays in the town's roundabouts. Caversham itself has none of these. We meet them across the river, where the one round King Edward VII outside the railway station has been particularly good. We could do with one, floral or not, at the junction of Lower Henley Road and Henley Road where it is usually a case of a quick dash and hoping you will make it.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT GAZEBO

Good news is that the Borough has commissioned a report into the condition of the Caversham Court Gazebo. Whilst the repairs of a few years ago rendered it weatherproof, it has a very patched up appearance and it and the causeway leading to it are very badly overgrown. Work is to be put in hand, largely on preserving the timbers from any further deterioration and while this is being done, which will take some time, the building will be made secure by shutters which will not be exactly in keeping with the style, but will only be temporary. This is a Grade II listed building which dates back to the middle of the seventeenth century and, as far as is known, is the only one remaining on the Thames. It can be seen in many of the early nineteenth century paintings of the area and deserves to survive for many more years.

This move on behalf of the Borough was inspired by an outing organised to see the gazebos of Ware, where eight out of an original twenty-five survive, most of them in good nick and being used for their original purpose of a viewing place. Those who went were entertained to afternoon tea in one of them, a pleasurable experience indeed.

Meanwhile it is pleasing to see that the water feature in the rockery is functioning once more, that the pond has been cleaned up and the ground outside the main gates, formerly rough, broken up and muddy, has been properly gravelled.

DOWN AT HEEL

With the oncoming of autumn the weeds which have been growing in gutters and on the edge of pavements will presumably die down. The maintenance of the environment costs money and that could mean a higher council tax, which would doubtless cause an outcry from certain quarters. Equally though, there must be many who would prefer to live in a town in which they can take some pride in preference to having a small amount of extra cash to soak up on the latest piece of consumer goods. Private affluence and public squalor is not the hallmark of an advanced society.

THE MOUNT

Considerable concern has been expressed at work being carried out in St Peter's conservation area on land attached to what was formerly Treetops hostel. Planning permission for the site has been refused both locally and on appeal, but nevertheless trees have been felled and the banks leading to the garden from The Mount have been cut back to the chalk. Fortunately the three cedars of Lebanon have so far not been touched and as tree preservation orders have now been placed on the remaining trees they are likely to be safe for the time being. However the presence of these three trees will prevent any extensive development of this site, but the situation needs careful watching. A dying copper beech tree only a few hundred yards away is a reminder of what happens to trees that are in the way of a development. The cost of land compared with the cost for unauthorised felling is an indication of what might well happen.

COMPOSTING

In last month's issue I spoke of the problems of disposing of garden refuse. Coincidentally Hortus was an article on composting. I had rather assumed that everyone in Caversham composted anything that was compostable, for the Environment Centre at Caversham Court is always emphasising the benefits of doing so. What I was referring to was the woody stuff from overgrown hedges, shrubs and trees. This is very difficult to compost unless you possess one of those handy machines for shredding it, and it takes up a lot of room in a wheeled bin. Would it be better to save it up for a once a year glorious conflagration?

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Caversham and District Residents' Association's mass leafletting of the whole of Caversham is bearing fruit with a steady flow of applications for membership. Membership does not impose any expectation of attendance at frequent meetings, but a large membership does give added strength to the voice of the Association when it comes to present its objections at the Public Inquiries that will shortly be coming up into the over-development of Caversham's few remaining open spaces. The sum of £3 sent to the Membership Secretary, Marian Fallowfield, 40 Matlock Road, RG4 7BS will cover membership until the year 2000.

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1896-1996

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS A GREAT SUCCESS

As part of the centenary celebrations the congregation of the Church of Our Lady and St. Anne held a Festival of Flowers on the 28th and 29th September. It was my first visit to the church. How pleased I was to escape the damp, grey afternoon outside and to share the delight of the steady stream of visitors admiring the skill and artistry of the Festival of Flowers Committee who had been ably assisted by flower arrangers from other churches and from the Chiltern Edge Flower Club.

The central theme focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son Jesus.

A glowing, golden welcome awaited us in the church porch representing Christ being found by His parents in the temple. Inside a flowing pedestal arrangement symbolised the news that Mary would give birth, while the Annunciation was beautifully represented with yellow and white posies and an angelically adorned archway.

Moving clockwise to the window arrangements figures and artefacts were skillfully combined with appropriate flowers to depict the news of Christ's birth to the shepherds and their homage, followed by the adoration of the magi. Simple blooms and earthy tones were used for the rustic shepherds whilst the kings and their gifts were represented by more showy and elegant blooms for gold and frankincense and subdued tones for the myrrh.

We then progressed to the alcove where the newly crowned statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary resides. This is not the one used originally in the Middle Ages at the shrine of our Lady in Caversham. That was probably lost at the time of the Reformation. But the statue is typically medieval because the Virgin is seated holding the infant Jesus; most modern statues have the Virgin standing. The statue is very beautiful, carved from a single piece of wood, coming probably from Germany or Austria, well known for producing religious pieces of fine workmanship. Roses, freesias and stocks had been used with particularly good effect to enhance the shrine and give it an almost bridal atmosphere of joy and femininity.

Across the chancel in front of the altar were grouped the striking arrangements recalling an occasion when the Mother of Our Lord intervened on behalf of the host and guests at the marriage feast at Cana saying to Jesus: "They have no wine", obviously expecting Him to do something about it which, of course, He did. As with all the arrangements the imagery had been carefully thought out and skilfully executed employing appropriate shapes, colours and artefacts. Then came the font with its delicate blue and white arrangement reminding us that God sent His Son in the form of a baby.

In the Lady Chapel yellow roses, dahlias and carnations were offset by white daisy chrysanthemums with green centres and complemented by variegated greenery to give an uplifting representation of Wisdom, which, we were told, is the first gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift which the Eastern Church regards as the female side of God. In stark contrast the next arrangement with its sharp, pointed foliage and more sombre tones reminded us that according to the Gospel of St. Mark the wisdom of the carpenter's son was rejected by the people.

This brought us to the time of the Crucifixion when Jesus gave Mary into the care of His disciple, John. An abstract form of wood bearing a resemblance to the arms of Mary clasped around her child formed the centrepiece of the arrangement. Blue, white and purple were used to symbolise the Virgin Mother, her purity and her sorrow.

A fitting climax was provided by the final dramatic arrangement which depicted Simeon's prophecy to Mary in the temple when he proclaimed "He is destined for the fall and the rise of many... and a sword will pierce your soul too." How poignant were those thick tassels of loves-bleeding and how skillfully and imaginatively the arrangers had risen to the challenge of representing the old man Simeon and the young mother in the temple.

We had gone full circle.

A great deal of thought and artistry went into the preparation of this lovely Festival of Flowers. It was quite obvious from all the interest being shown that it gave great pleasure to all who attended, a pleasure enhanced by the gracious welcome given by the stewards and by the delightful live music being played in the background. MT



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEW HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS COMMISSIONED

At the beginning of October the ecumenical chaplaincy at the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust was strengthened when three new chaplains were welcomed and commissioned in a special service in the Chapel of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. For the first time a Roman Catholic priest, the Revd Father Alan Hartnell, has been appointed to the full time position of assistant Chaplain. In addition the Revd Christine Rowe (Anglican) and the Revd Heather McGivern (Methodist) have become part-time chaplains. They join the existing chaplaincy team of three, which serves not only the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals but also Dellwood, The Duchess of Kent House, Dunedin and the Berkshire Independent Hospital.

Ecumenical Service...

Mgr James Joyce commissioned the new chaplains within the context of an ecumenical service attended by the NHS Trust Chairman (Dr Peter Phillips) and in which the Revd Michael Jackson (Park United Reformed Church) preached and the Revd Brian Shenton (Anglican Rural Dean) led the prayers. The new chaplains were welcomed by Ann Sheen (Director of Nursing Services), the Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire (Dr Owen Jewiss) and the three other chaplains (The Revds Elizabeth Jackson, Judy Davies and Stephen Collinson).

... for an Ecumenical Chaplaincy

Earlier this year the Chaplaincy became a Local Ecumenical Partnership, one of only a very few within the hospital service. In a major hospital those who serve within the chaplaincy are very much at the cutting edge of Christian witness and service, ministering to patients, visitors and staff drawn from the complete spectrum across Berkshire. Although drawn from four denominations they are available to minister to those of many faiths and of none.

The Revd Christine Rowe, from St John's, Lower Caversham, is also a part-time chaplain at Reading Remand Centre, another Local Ecumenical Chaplaincy Partnership. The Revd Heather McGivern is a professional counsellor and a Minister in Secular Employment.



The three new chaplains are seen outside the Royal Berkshire Hospital. From left to right they are the Revd Heather McGivern, the Revd Fr Alan Hartnell and the Revd Christine Rowe.

CAVERSHAM HOSTS HISTORIC VISIT

Eight leaders from the Central Board of the Church of Sweden come to England this month for the signing of the Porvoo Statement, sealing the link between the Anglican and Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches. They will stay for three days in Caversham as guests of Canon Richard Kingsbury, chairman of the Anglo-Nordic Pastoral Conference, and explore aspects of English parish life and ministry.

The Swedes, four pastors and four laity, include a member of parliament, two professors, a senior doctor and a cathedral dean. Their visit will take them into Reading Prison, to see the work of the prison chaplaincy, on their first morning! They will spend time at our Local Ecumenical Project in Caversham Park with Revd Philip Abrey, area Ecumenical Officer, and study a variety of town and country parishes. The delegates will stay with members of St Peter's congregation and, no doubt, discuss their experiences deep into the night before going to Westminster Abbey on 28th November for the formal Porvoo signing ceremony.

WE'VE DONE IT!

St Margaret's have done it! Only in May we were busy raising the magnificent sum of £3,000 plus to make the loo beside the car park at Mapledurham weather proof before winter set in.

On Saturday September 21st the strong men of our church spent the day carrying out the final work and by the evening the loo was actually finished, the glass roof in place, the loo and handbasin installed and a splendid door completed the building. This is not one of those poky loos where you have to struggle round the door to get in and once inside find it equally difficult to get out. No, it is spacious and will be fitted out for

use of the disabled.

A trench had to be dug all along the path to the bell tower to take water pipes to the church (for a future project!) and bring electric cables to the loo. All this was on a Saturday, so the following day before our normal Sunday worship began we all stood round our loo and gave thanks as it was blessed.

It is quite amazing to find this project has been completed in such a short time and it was only achieved through the wonderful team work and spirit of St Margaret's congregation. They are to be warmly congratulated.

M.K.

SHARING THE HARVEST

"The most enjoyable concert in this church within living memory" was the enthusiastic comment of one of the audience at the musical treat that preceded the harvest supper of all Caversham Methodists which took place on 28th September at Caversham Heights Church. The concert was given a rousing start by Peter Bernard, who learnt to play the organ when a pupil at the Bluecoat School, and is now a member of the team of organists at the Heights, with 'Processional' by William Matthias.

The audience was charmed by Meinir Williams, a 'Singer of the Year' at the Llangollen Eisteddfod whose songs ranged from Bach's 'My Heart Ever Faithful' to 'Fish Gotta Swim' by Jerome Kern. The children present squirmed with horror and delight when Paul Hancock, a former soloist with the Sainsbury Singers, sang the Mikado's song with evil leers and intakes of breath!

The beautiful playing of the quartet of flutes (whose members were Sue Edmonds, Tess Hawken, Cathy Hughes and Tim Edmonds) was much enjoyed, as were the piano solos by Maja Bilic, a music graduate of the University of Sarajevo, who came to this country at the height of the war in Yugoslavia. Peter Bernard brought the concert to a similarly rousing end with Bach's celebrated Toccata and Fugue.

The proceeds of the concert and the supper were shared between the Churches in Reading Drop-In Centre for the Homeless and Needy, and the Churches in Reading Women's Centre. Each benefited by almost £136.

NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S

After a late summer lull, the Centenary celebrations resumed on the last weekend of September when St Anne's church was the setting for a Flower Festival. Flower arrangers from the parish and from other denominations in Caversham joined forces with representatives from the Catholic churches in and around Reading and friends from the Chiltern Edge Flower Arranging Society to create a beautiful display in St Anne's. The fruits of their efforts are more fully reported elsewhere.

As a result of their work, the church was beautifully decorated for worship over that weekend and made a splendid setting for 10.30 Mass on Sunday 29th September when the sick and handicapped of the parish received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The principal celebrant was Canon John Moran, the new Episcopal Vicar for Oxfordshire (and Caversham!) who was making his first visit to Caversham.

The church was well filled and included a number of

those for whom attendance might normally be extremely difficult or, indeed, impossible. In the course of Mass, Canon Moran and Father Tony Jones twice made their way among the congregation, firstly to bless the sick with laying on of hands, and then to anoint them with holy oil. The youngsters of the Parish, pre-school infants, delighted everyone on returning from their usual instruction period in the sacristy, by unexpectedly bursting into song to delighted applause from the whole congregation. Following Mass, an informal reception was held in the Hall at which Canon Moran was able to meet and talk with parishioners.

Looking ahead, the Centenary Dinner and Dance was due to take place at the Holiday Inn on Friday 10th October while the Parish AGM is on Thursday 31st. The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be celebrated with past and present priests from the Parish on Friday 15th November and the Centenary Christmas Bazaar is to be held on Saturday 30th November.



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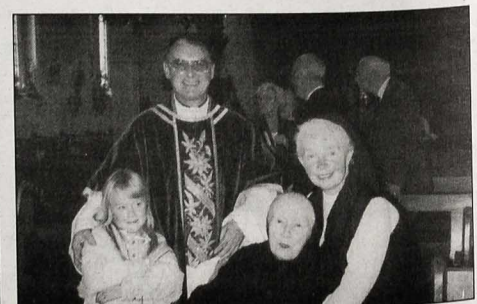
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

MICHAELMAS CELEBRATION

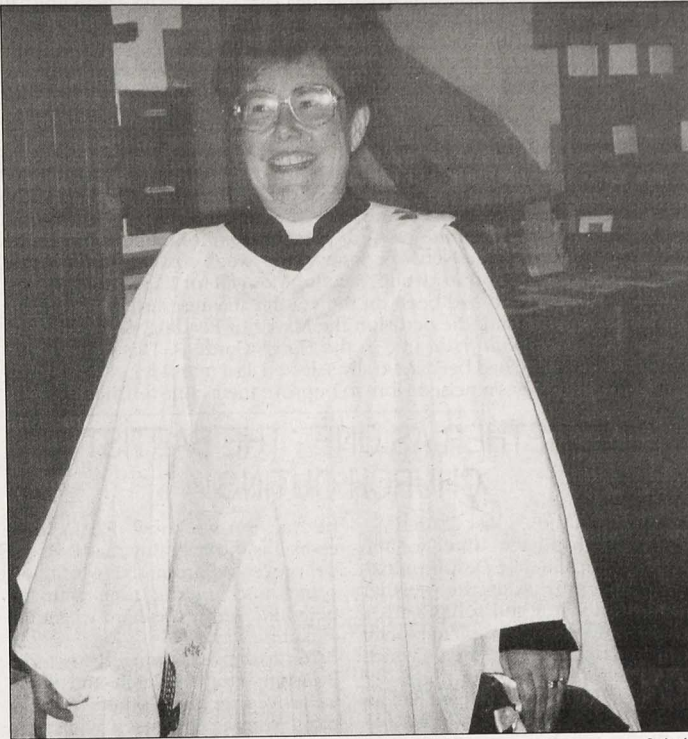
The ordination in Christ Church Cathedral by the Bishop of Oxford on the feast of St Michael and All Angels of fifteen new deacons all trained on the St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course is itself a cause for celebration. When two of those are to serve their titles in Caversham, Mapledurham and Emmer Green the celebration is all the greater. For the first time all those present in our small Cathedral were able to see; the Dean and Chapter had arranged for the service to be videoed and relayed around the Cathedral on small TV screens. Back in Caversham, Mapledurham and Emmer Green the celebrations have been continuing during October.

God's love celebrated in St Peter's

Many responded to the Revd Cathy Pynn's invitation to St Peter's Church to celebrate God's love with her in a specially devised lively service on the evening of her ordination day. In addition to the St Peter's and St. Margaret's congregations, friends were present from several other churches, where Cathy has had an involvement, and from Foster Wheeler's where Cathy will continue to work, now as a Minister in Secular Employment. The meaning of such a role was ably spelt out in a memorable sermon by the Revd Karl Wiggins, himself a Minister in Secular Employment for many years. Members of Hemdean House School, where Cathy Pynn is Chaplain, gave a dramatic reading of Jesus' first miracle. After the Service those present adjourned for refreshment to the Pavilion at Mapledurham Playing Fields where presentations were made by St Margaret's, St Peter's and from Foster Wheelers.

St Barnabas' welcome at Harvest Festival

The St Barnabas congregation will have welcomed the Revd Edward Tildsley, their new deacon who is also Chaplain to Shiplake College, after his licensing at a Special Service on the afternoon of their Harvest Festival in mid-October. A report of this event will appear next month.



O. Jewiss

Our picture shows the Revd Cathy Pynn at the door of St. Peter's Church after the service of celebration.

Helen Shapiro Concert

The Gospel according to a Jewish Lady

I didn't know what to expect as I walked into Loddon Valley Leisure Centre on September 14th, but I came away at the end of the evening greatly encouraged in my faith and I felt privileged to have been in the company of a fine Christian Lady.

Helen Shapiro not only sang her heart out - she poured it out in her marvellous, lively and often funny testimony on how she became a Christian. She began by telling of her start in showbusiness and launched into her popular hit "Walking Back to Happiness" - also a very apt title for her book.

Interspersed with songs such as "You're My Glory", "He is my Defence" and "Let us exalt His Name" the singer told of her Jewish upbringing and her long, hard search for the truth, inspired by her manager's decision to quit the music business to answer the Lord's call in another field. She began to think that he must have something special and she wanted that too. She recalled humorous moments such as her confusion when buying her first Bible, and the "fear and trepidation" she felt when looking for the first time into the "forbidden" New Testament. After making her commitment nine years ago the singer was able to quit her 60 cigarettes a day habit overnight and continues to sing out the Gospel message amongst her other work in the music business.

The evening came to a close as she was rejoined on stage by a gentleman, whom she introduced as Andy and was "standing in for Sir Cliff". He played guitar and sang with her about Brothers and Sisters, One Body and the fact that Jesus loves us as a mother loves her newborn child.

The singer had certainly overcome her cold to enliven what she had called a "refined and reserved" Reading crowd for a truly enjoyable evening.

After the performance the audience were invited to come forward for prayer or to speak with the lady or others present. In the short time we shared I asked Ms Shapiro if she had a special message for the Church in this area. She replied by referring to Psalm 122 and asked us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem - a very topical and urgent plea at this time and one we must act upon for her but mainly for Him. J.R.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

St Andrew's Fellowship met again in September after the summer break, and started its winter session with slides of a Baltic cruise shown by the Secretary, Bill Vincent. Several of the Fellowship faithful members were either away or had previous engagements, but there was an encouraging attendance who enjoyed the show. After tea and biscuits, Mrs Sheila Hodson arrived armed with scripts of Charley's Aunt, which was the play chosen for the October meeting.

LINK GROUP NEWS

Refreshed after the summer break, the Link Group met recently to discuss future activities, which will include The Knit-In' (beware of imitations!) and an Ecumenical lunch, to take place early in 1997. There are some new members - more about them next time - and the next meeting takes place on Monday 28th October (the group meets every third Monday). For more details, ring Barbara Graham on 482043.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

READING SAN FRANCISCO LIBRE YOUTH EXPERIENCE

Not everyone may realise that Reading has two twin towns: Düsseldorf in Germany and San Francisco Libre in the developing country of Nicaragua. In order to build up links between Reading and San Francisco a Youth Exchange Scheme has been established and the first party of young people has been to Nicaragua. Now money is needed for the exchange visit of Nicaraguans to the UK.

International Open Day

Members of several Caversham churches were present at an International Open Day held in The Harris Gardens of the University of Reading at the end of September to raise money for the second stage of the youth exchange. Stalls and exhibitions were present from a number of agencies including the Fair Trade Network, One World Week, Oxfam, Reading and Berkshire Refugee Support Group, Reading Council for Racial Equality and Traidcraft. Those who had been on the youth exchange and others gave a series of talks. To mark the occasion the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Jim Day, planted a *Robina frisia* tree in the Harris Gardens. This leguminous, nitrogen fixing tree had been specially selected as a reminder of the type of plants grown in San Francisco Libre to improve their impoverished soils.



O. Jewiss

The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Jim Day, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Day, is seen planting the *Robina frisia* tree in the Harris Gardens. He is being watched by Mark Errington, Cindy Warner and Vicky Westall, who have been on the San Francisco Libre Youth Exchange.

TOGETHER AS ONE - THE BAPTIST CHURCH OUTING

A party from the Baptist Church visited Bourton on the Water for the annual church outing. Despite initially gloomy grey skies the weather turned out warm and sunny and a large group enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grass beside the stream which gives the village its name.

In the afternoon we waited half an hour for a horse and cart to take us to Birdland, but it never turned up for us and, when we found that Birdland was less than a quarter of an hour's walk we decided to go on foot. The children in our party had got restless as we waited when passers by kept saying "Oh, still waiting then?" When we finally arrived there we found that Birdland was a beautiful place filled with the colourful wonder of creation. It seems wrong to keep these birds in captivity when God meant them to

be free, but we know that in some cases it is the only way that they can be prevented from dying out. We spent much of our time with the penguins and it was hard to get the children away.

Tea had been arranged for us in Bourton Baptist Church and when we arrived we found others from the party singing choruses whilst tea was laid out. The meal was delightful and provided further opportunity for fellowship.

On the way home we had to listen to the soundtrack from Grease, not one of my favourites, then we had some acceptable praise songs after which we had a tape of really old songs so all age groups were catered for.

Everyone enjoyed the day - here's to church outings, may there be many more.

M.D.



Patrick Bailey

Abbeyfield opening - Richard Baker cuts the tape.

METHODIST DIARY

Caversham (Gosbrook Road)

November 3 10.30am Mrs Tracey Darling of Tilehurst
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs
November 10 Remembrance Sunday -
10.30am Rev Rosemary Fletcher. 6.30pm Rev Judy Davies
November 17 Methodist Homes Sunday -
10.30am Deacon Vic Downs. 6.30pm Rev Rosemary Fletcher
and Deacon Vic Downs
November 24 Ecumenical Youth Sunday
10.30am Rev Tom Stuckey, Superintendent Minister
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Saturday November 30 Autumn Fayre 2.00pm

Caversham Heights (Woodcote Road)

November 3 9am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
11am Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Vic Downs
6.30pm Mrs Sue Rowell of Tadley
November 10 Remembrance Sunday -
10.50am Mr Ian Gowers of Wokingham
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
November 17 Methodist Homes Sunday -
11am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
6.30pm Rev Heather McGivern
November 24 Ecumenical Youth Sunday - 11am Deacon Vic Downs
6.30pm Rev Tom Stuckey, Superintendent Minister
Saturday, November 30 - Christmas Fayre 11.30am

OBITUARY

Mr Rob Whiting

Many people in Caversham will have been saddened by the very sudden death at the end of July of Mr. Rob Whiting, the friendly butcher whose business in Coldicutt Street must rank as one of the most happy and cheerful places in Caversham. Although he was probably best known to people in the Gosbrook Road area, his customers ranged over a much wider sphere both in Caversham and in the district beyond. He knew all of them by name and always greeted them with a cheery word. He was also a popular member of the Caversham

Bowling Club.

Some years ago he and his wife Marion "retired" to Cornwall leaving the business in the capable hands of his nephew Martin who bought it from him. However, after a comparatively short time they found that they missed their family and their many friends, and Rob undoubtedly missed the contact with his customers, so they returned to live in Woodley. He continued to work part-time in the business with his nephew right up to the morning of the day he died. His influence and the happy atmosphere he created in the business was gen-

erated to all who work there so that it is still a real pleasure to go into the shop.

He will be greatly missed and we offer our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

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There is great activity at St Andrew's Hall on Sunday afternoons as rehearsals, under the direction of the Vicar, Bill Carpenter, get under way for the production of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS PINAFORE.

Rehearsals commenced last February with a break for the summer holidays; they are now back in full swing.

Those taking part are full of enthusiasm and are confident that this

production will be as successful as the one they last produced back in 1994 of 'Joseph', which proved to be a 'Sell out'.

So singing with gusto and not the least bit 'All at Sea' HMS PINAFORE sails gaily on towards their 'First night' on Wednesday 20th November to be followed with shows on Thursday and Friday nights, all at 8pm, with a final show on Saturday at 7pm. In connection with this production there is also a children's colouring competition.

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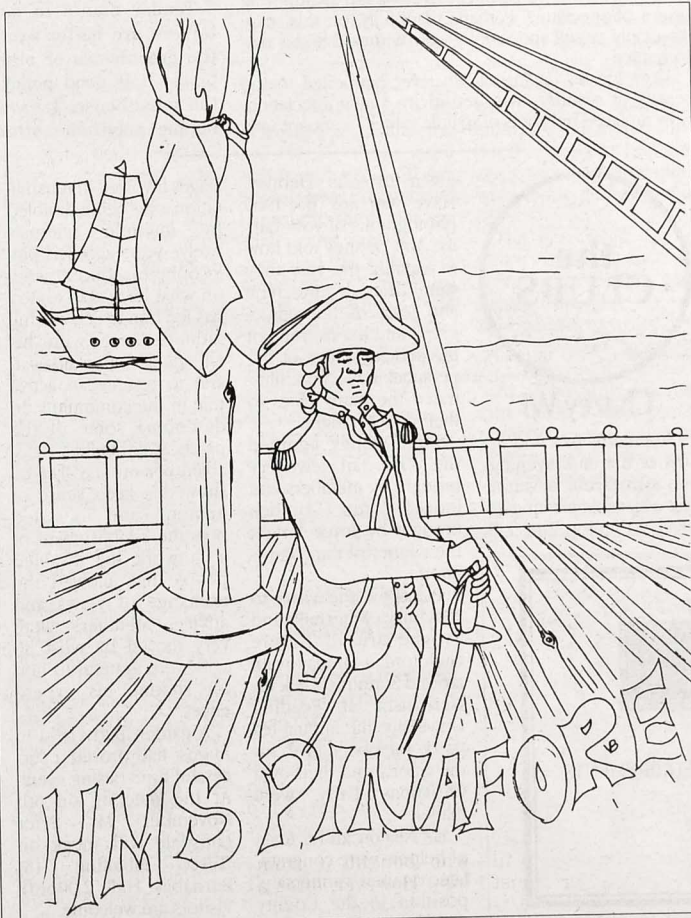
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A SEASONAL PAGEANT

In a setting sun, young House Martins 'clicked' noisily as they built up their body reserves for departure across land and sea. The parents had preceded them with an unerring instinct that their offspring would follow.

As the fish continued to ignore my tempting offers, there was plenty of time to reflect.

A Green Woodpecker gave a final 'Yaffle' before settling down on the island for the night, just as a sound like many baying hounds approached from out of the sunset. These were sedentary Canada Geese whose fifty silhouettes loomed large as they headed towards the local gravel-pits.

Moments later, and more exciting, the call of the Greylag Geese could be heard away to the west. Far north, they would have been true migrants but, here in Berkshire, were almost certainly of feral origin.

In late autumn, Scottish fields fill with newly-arrived Pink-footed Geese from Greenland, sometimes being joined by European Greylags.

A ringing, 'Whoop-Whoop' and 'Klo-Klo-Klo' of bugle-like timbre, high in the freezing north wind, announce incoming Whooper Swans from Siberia. They are 'edgy' and alert. Their 'clamour' should make the pulse of a fortunate viewer race with exhilaration. These superb creatures seek only the truly wild and remote areas, well away from mankind. On a distant mountain, Red Deer may be observing proceedings.

Here in the Northern Highlands, it is possible to look in several directions with a reasonable certainty that no other human being is within EIGHTY miles. In recent years, temperatures have fallen by -6°C below those at the North Pole during the same period! Only with extreme caution and a very high degree of experience should 'wild' camping be undertaken, - but I digress.

The afore-mentioned sunset, hungry House Martins, geese, and one Green Woodpecker, all occurred at the bottom of Wolsey Road. How many fellow passers-by, some walking their dog, or cyclists tearing aimlessly back and forth, would have noticed these wonders of nature?

Even the nearby angler, busily engaged in catching fine fish with every long-distance cast (and carefully returning them), would once have boasted an admiring group of spectators. Perhaps thankfully, on this occasion, only myself and Scooby were witnesses to his performance.

How life has changed! Whatever happened to the senses of wonder, awe, sensitivity and appreciation, now replaced by others of so little value? Scops Owl

the CLUBS

Chazey WI

Summer is past and the first of the dark evenings has arrived but nevertheless a sizeable group gathered to enjoy the talk

given by Mrs Debney. Have you any pre-1900 photographs of your family? Mrs Debney told how to identify the year they were taken by the type and style of the photograph and the clothing of the subject. Slides of her personal collection illustrated the many clues to their date of origin.

Mrs Debney admired the Victorian jewellery brought by members and judged the brooch brought by Joyce Wright the winner of the competition.

Plans for the visits to Newbury Watermill and Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Guildford, a Sunday walk around Sonning, a talk on Herbalism at Reading University, the annual tea party members give for the elderly and their own Christmas Party were made.

Liz Nealon and a team of helpers were congratulated on their 'runners up' position in the County wide Jubilee Cup competition for a W.I. Promotion Pack.

Scrabble afternoons have begun again for the winter season and the Social Group and Craft Group continue with their interesting programmes.

Chazey WI

At the September meeting Mr Michael Paxton, in his talk 'I know where I stand', spoke about the

WINTER PROTECTION FOR PLANTS

By Hortus

November is a month of transition, a month which can be one of the wettest of the year. It is also a month when fog is common - this can be to the gardeners benefit since it can prevent temperatures dropping below freezing. Dry days followed by clear nights can lead to sharp frosts. It is said that autumn ends when plants (as it were) 'shut up shop' for the winter. Most plants stop growing when the mean temperature goes below 43°F (6°C). In this area that is likely to happen in the latter half of the month.

Frost - tender plants will need to be protected from the drop in temperature. I have found that two layers of horticultural fleece fastened securely around such plants is quite effective since the ambient temperature within the fleece is about 5° warmer than the temperature outside. It is necessary to check regularly during the winter that the fleece has not been teased open by the wind. Fleece is also effective as a wind barrier. Last year I draped securely a single layer of fleece over a camellia and found that the leaves and buds came through the winter without wind-burn.

Tender plants in pots and containers are better overwintered in the greenhouse or other frost free place. It is good policy to insulate the greenhouse. I have used large bubble polythene attached to the

wooden frame of my house for some years now. It is installed in November and removed in the spring. The sheets of polythene are re-usable for several winters before they need to be replaced. The polythene is very effective in keeping out the worst of the cold. (Indeed suppliers claim that houses so insulated will be frost free). If the house is heated it helps keep down substantially the cost of fuel. There are aids available for fixing the polythene to metal as well as wooden frames. For my part I rely on drawing pins. It is necessary to keep the greenhouse ventilated during the winter since water vapour tends to condense against the inside surface of the insulation. If this is not dispersed problems could arise from damping-off and other diseases.

Some half-hardy herbaceous or semi-shrub type plants will come through the winter unscathed if they are given a thick topcoat of mulch. Groundfrost normally affects only the top surface of the soil and consequently does not reach the more deeply buried dormant plants. (However there could be a risk should there be a prolonged spell of sub-zero temperatures causing the ground to be frozen to a much greater depth.) In the spring such plants should throw up new shoots enabling old dead growth to be cut away and discarded.

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Turn to page 11

the CLUBS

From page 10

his account of its inception and the tours they have undertaken at home and abroad. An added bonus was listening to a tape of the choir with selections of differing types of music.

Caversham WI

The Harvest was celebrated at the September meeting with a delicious bring and share supper. Everyone was greeted by the president, Miss Margaret Cameron, after the summer break.

Business news included news of two charity donations from the garden parties arranged by two members. Plans for future outings were given and then the entertainment proceeded with various readings from Committee members. These included an Elizabeth Barrett Browning poem read by Mary Jenkins, an excerpt from 'Island Race' read by Ivy Butcher, a humorous poem from Margaret Cameron and an amusing look at the minutes of the meeting in September 1976 - only the prices have changed!

Supper was soon eaten

and then the President auctioned the produce brought. After the raffle, everyone voted for the competition - an animal made from vegetable. As there were only two entries, Sylvia Myszor and Margaret Cameron were declared joint winners.

Caversham Ladies Club

It was the Club's Harvest Festival and the long table was filling up with fruit, vegetables and lots of goodies; very exciting, but Club business first. Mrs Brenda Strong welcomed members to their meeting and dealt with matters arising. These were satisfactory and soon completed, with Miss P. Haines reading the minutes as a stand-in for the Secretary who although present, was not yet a steady 'helper'.

The Garden party held at the Chairman's bungalow, was very successful. The day was sunny and warm, seats were dotted around the garden amongst beautiful flowers and shrubs and tea was brought around! What more could one ask? Stalls were inside for browsing.

The trip for a tour of the Enbourne Valley, ending at Marlborough, also afforded much delight. There was greenery each side for miles and miles, and the villages with their thatched cottages brought many "oohs and ahs". Then came

Marlborough for browsing and refreshments; very enjoyable.

But back to the Harvest, as in previous years a member was picked and crowned Harvest Queen for the afternoon. The lucky lady 'recipient' was Mrs Wyn Steel, who was 'crowned' amongst members' cheers and clapping, and presented with a bunch of flowers. It was then time for the resident auctioneer, Mrs Phil Weston, to start on her afternoon sale. Members' bags soon filled up as the table was depleted. The 'auctioneer' at last was left with nothing.

Members were reminded the next meeting was their Annual Bazaar. The Committee were thanked by the Secretary for standing in in various ways while she was indisposed.

Theatregoers Club of Great Britain

Fancy a night at the Opera? A trip to see the latest Broadway musical? Or a visit to the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition? Or a show at Shakespeare's Globe? - or even maybe a tour of the aptly-named Apsley House: address - Number One, London?

Yes, but oh, the bother of getting tickets and the fuss of travel and parking... No problem, if you are a member of the Theatregoers Club of Great Britain. For membership of Theatregoers rings up the curtain on a programme of more than thirty theatre visits - often with a chance to meet the cast - and other special events, celebrity lunches and excursions to stately homes each year. Club President, Susan Hampshire, often joins members at Club events, and shares with them her delight in things theatrical and horticultural.

The Theatregoers Club has been taking its twenty thousand members to top shows for more than eighteen years and has eighty branches throughout the south of England covering twenty-three counties, which means that few people live far from one of the club's local coach boarding points planned to serve each branch. Local boarding points are at Cane End, Caversham and Emmer Green.

Full information about the Club can be obtained from Frances Sell, 0118 972 4434.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Garden Party held

in the Chairman's garden was a great success and the weather was sunny. There were lots of photographs taken this year - one was taken of Jean Dix, Marion Cooper (Chairman), June Hodges and Vi Morley wearing aprons made from 1996 Townswomen's Guild tea cloths. Original idea from Jean Dix.

Eight members went to Buckingham Palace and all agreed it was a wonderful day.

Four members entered the Heart & Lung competition for an embroidered picture. Edna Barnes has had her picture accepted.

Speaker for the evening was Mrs Beek. Her talk called "Over the Top" was a slide show and talk on a walk which Mrs Beek and her husband walked when on holiday in May 1994. The walk along The Dales Way Yorkshire 84 miles was explained so well that I think members thought they had actually walked The Dales themselves. Mrs Beek and her husband walked about 10 miles a day and one day walked 17 miles. We were shown eleven bridges along this River Walk. Spring flowers were still in bloom. The weather was good most of the time and they only lost their way once. They stayed two days in some places so they could sight-see local walks and National Parks. At Youth Hostels where they stayed overnight they met up with some school children and their teachers and had a musical evening with them.

It was a most enjoyable talk and I know members are looking forward to hearing more of Mrs Beek's travels next year.

Next month's speaker will be Mr Mark Taylor on "Our Library".

Caversham Community Association

September started with the arts and crafts competition evening.

The number of entries reached sixty-one with the photography classes being especially popular. Winners were as follows:

Photography

Flowers: 1st Joan Annetts, 2nd Joy Mackie.
Animal: 1st George Feast, 2nd Betty Colton.
Portrait: 1st Betty Petheridge, 2nd Wendy Colton.

View: 1st Pat Haines, 2nd Margaret Briggs
The Ted Howard Trophy, presented by Mrs Olive Howard, was awarded to Pat Haines for best photography exhibit.

Cookery

Sponge: 1st Betty Colton, 2nd Muriel Waite.

Jam tarts: 1st Muriel Waite, 2nd Betty Petherbridge.
Scones: 1st Wendy Colton, 2nd Margaret Briggs.
Small cakes: 1st Margaret Cameron, 2nd Wendy Colton.

Knitting

Child's garment: 1st Margaret Cameron, 2nd Joyce Roddy.

Adult's garment: 1st Brenda Strong, 2nd Elsie Prett

Toiletroll Cover: 1st Joyce Roddy, 2nd Doreen Crawley.

Needlework

1st Mary Franklin, 2nd Jean Dutton.

Flowers

Jam jar: 1st Anne Wright, 2nd Sheila Haines.

Arrangement: 1st Margaret Cameron, 2nd Muriel Waite.

Unusual container: 1st Wendy Colton, 2nd Freda Haines.

The Muriel Rampton trophy for best in show was awarded to Wendy Colton.

The following week was an informal games evening and members enjoyed cards, dominoes or board games.

The Revd Christine Rowe was the special guest for the harvest supper. She gave a thought-provoking talk on the harvest theme, two hymns were sung and members enjoyed a traditional supper. The produce brought along was then auctioned with funds going to the club.

The next week saw a return visit from Pat Snow with her interesting gardening trips and stories. Spring bulbs were also on sale and soon snapped up. The month ended with a whist drive but the rain dealt a hand and numbers were down. Doreen Crawley ably led the few present through their games.

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