

# IT'S OPEN!

On Tuesday April 30, the Mayor, Cllr R. Jewitt officially opened the Caversham Care Centre at Church House.

THE last day of April was the culmination of many months' hard work following on an idea for such a centre, a dream of the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme and of the Link Group. In her introduction, Mrs Doreen Bennett, Chairman of the joint committee, hoped that the office and the "pop-in" centre would be a focal point in Caversham, and she gave an outline of the functions at present envisaged.

## Small Room or Office

On duty in this room while the centre is open will be one member of the Link Group and Good Neighbour Scheme. They will man the telephone. They will also dispense the information carefully collected over the years, of caring, charitable and voluntary organisations where expert help of all sorts can be obtained. Here those offering help and those needing help will be channelled in the right direction. Here too will be kept a diary of forthcoming events. The production of a newsletter is also planned. The

room itself has been decorated and its sparkling freshness will go a long way towards making it comfortable and pleasant for staff and clients alike.

This room will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays as a "pop-in" centre for those with no specific problems but who would appreciate a warm welcome, a cup of coffee and a chat. The centre is aiming for four volunteers on duty at a time and are pleased with the initial response to join the rota. Mrs Bennett thanked those organisations who had helped, specifically the Church House Management Committee, who had agreed to let the rooms at a nominal rent; the Caversham Rotary Club for their generous grant which enabled the

telephone to be installed; the Phoenix Choir, for giving the profit from a concert at St Peter's Church; the Berkshire Nurses Relief in Sickness Trust; the Reading Abbey Rotary Club, and to Reading Consolidated Charities. People had been most generous and gifts of material, screens and carpets had all helped to transform the room. She said that she and her committee were very touched at the trust put in them.

## Borough Support

Cllr Jewitt said that as Mayor he should have no

favoured part of the Borough, but Caversham friends would know where his heart lay. The Good Neighbour Scheme had worked for 20 years, and the Link Group for 10, both successful and deserving of many plaudits. Their co-operation presently shown was to be admired. Caversham has the reputation of being caring and sharing and it was fortunate that some of its old village atmosphere continued. He was very happy to give the scheme his support and he declared the centre open.

Dr J. Rothwell, in his thanks to the

Mayor, said that as a member of the steering committee he knew how much hard work had been undertaken, and so all were to be congratulated. Although situated

in the heart of Caversham, the centre would certainly cover Emmer Green, Caversham Park Village and Mapledurham.

Among those present with the Mayor and Mayoress were Dr J. Rothwell and Miss E. Youens of the Good Neighbour Scheme and Mrs Doreen Bennett, Chairman of the Link Group and now Chairman of the Joint Committee. The Rector of Caversham and Mapledurham and other church representatives were also present, as well as Mr Ken Bennett, Chairman of the Caversham Rotary Club, Mrs Barbara Aird, Organiser of Age Concern and Mrs Christine Gabriel, Voluntary Services organiser.

★ ★ ★  
CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 483466.

Office: Open Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 11.30am.

"Pop-in" Centre: Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 12 noon.

**Volunteers to man the office and centre on a rota basis are needed. Please ring the above number. Later on, efforts to fund the centre will be made. Do give your full support to the Centre in all its aspects.**

## PATRONAL FESTIVALS

### ST BARNABAS'

Tuesday, June 11 at 7.45pm

Preacher: The Revd Eric Essery  
Rural Dean of Reading

### ST JOHN'S

Monday, June 24 at 8pm

Preacher: The Revd John Sumner  
*Come and hear the winner of the Justham Cup!*

22017

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

St Peter's Day —  
Patronal Festival  
SUNDAY, JUNE 30

9.15am Parish Communion — Preacher, The Revd Graham Lynch-Watson (his last service in St Peter's)

Afternoon of fun and games in the Rectory garden followed by tea

2pm — St Peter's folk only who will be preparing for

4pm — All parish participation

6.30pm Festal Evensong — Preacher: The Revd Colin Scott-Dempster (Rural Dean of Newbury)

88138

# TALKING POINT

By Father Thomas Meagher, Parish Priest Our Lady & St Anne's RC Church



## WHAT IS TRUE HUMANITY?

IT MUST be a truism to state that the New Testament shows us Christ's humanity: Christ, who, "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man." (Philippians II, 6, 7).

### Jesus the man

During His life on earth He showed us His humanity. He grew up in the care of His mother and foster-father, He walked the streets and lanes of Galilee and Judea, and often showed tiredness, dejection, tears and great compassion. He was fearful of His approaching Passion and chided the Apostles for sleeping during His Agony. He suffered in a way that we could hardly understand. At one point His humanity was so strong that the cry "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" was wrung from Him. It betokened a kind of disorientation, which those who have suffered extreme pain will understand. Such a summary of Our Lord's humanity can only be very sketchy.

### Jesus as God

Our Lord truly had a human nature; but equally as truly He had a Divine nature. That He was God can be shown just as clearly as that He was Man. And these two natures were joined in union in His Person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. At the Transfiguration, it was the Divine in Christ which showed through. Many times He showed the Jews by argument that He was God.

### From man to God

Indeed, His purpose in coming was not merely to redeem us from sin, but to give us the opportunity of heaven, the consequence of the Redemption. To do this we have to be raised up to a level which we call supernatural, by giving us a share in the Divine Life by Grace in this world and by Glory in the next. So, beginning with Our Lord, His human nature was exalted. "For which cause God also hath exalted Him." He was always conscious of His Mission. "For

this was I born, and for this came I into the world to bear witness to the truth." His service of men was to bring God to them so that they could be raised to God. Constantly His teaching was of this order. There is no more perfect set of maxims than that contained in the Sermon on the Mount, and in particular in the Beatitudes. "Blessed are the merciful . . . the peacemakers . . . those who suffer persecution . . ." He further told men to "turn the other cheek" when struck on one cheek, to go the extra mile with the stranger, to purify their evil thoughts almost to the angelic. The counsels were to fill out the ten commandments which "I have come not to destroy but to fulfil". His standard of perfection was nothing less than the Divine. "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

### The Sign of the Cross

Throughout His Public Life, His teaching had the lesson of the Divine. His parables of the Kingdom of Heaven drew an eternal moral from some of the most mundane things, such as yeast, mustard seed and a lost coin. The Divine intervention in the human was often spectacular, not merely in the miracles, but also in the forgiveness of sin. This was shown very neatly as a double action in the healing of the paralysed man. "But that you may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy): I say to thee, Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thy house." (Mark II, 10, 11). Always there is the wider horizon; the Kingdom of Heaven infinite in its extent, this world limited.

So we come to the Cross. "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews indeed a stumbling block, and unto the Gentiles foolishness. But unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (I Corinthians, I, 23, 24) Why so? Simply because the Jews and the Greeks of the time, and not only they, but so many others, judged results by worldly standards, often with the best possible (worldly) motives. Of course when Our Lord was at His most popular, the crowds, and the Apostles, wanted Him to have an earthly kingdom. St Peter voiced the worries about Our Lord's foretelling of His approaching Passion and Death, and was abjured by Our Lord "Get behind me Satan" (because St Peter had thoughts of this world and not of the next). Worldly wisdom takes no thought for the Passion, but Our Lord insisted that this was the way for Him to do His work for us " . . . now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself." (John XII, 32). Not merely

does Christ act thus, He draws us up as well, with Him.

This is the perfect illustration of the paradox which He put to us, that he who wishes to save his life will lose it; and that he who loses his life in this world will gain it for eternal life. It isn't simply a negative way of acting, because the lesson of the Resurrection takes things further. Because Christ has risen, we must seek the things that are above, not those which are below. If Christ by His Cross will raise all men by drawing them to Himself, and if by His Resurrection we must seek the things that are above, we must do as St Paul tells us and put on "the new man". The newly-reborn Christian, cleansed from sin by the waters of Baptism, the first of the results of Christ's saving actions to come to the soul, is given the new life of the Resurrection. With this new life comes a whole new perspective by which the Christian judges, the eternal standards now replacing the temporal.

### The sign of the Christian

And here is the great task of the Christian; certainly he must act as a human being, but always in the context of eternity. The Second Vatican Council's document "The Church in the World of today" has a very inspiring section on the role of members of the Church; that they are called to be the "leaven of society", raising men to the level of the Divine. It describes the inter-relationship of the Divine and the human, and shows, paradoxically, how we can truly become humanised.

Because we are composed of body and soul, there is always the danger of conflict between earth and heaven, for the natural world could pull us down. Our duty must be not to destroy the natural world but to

use it properly, to raise it. To what extent do we do this? Isn't there a danger not merely of being influenced by the world in our actions, but even more of using the standards of the world in our efforts, and defeating the whole purpose of our Christian life. Everything seems to go along swimmingly until we are really tested, until the only real solution to our difficulty is a spiritual one, one in which only the standards of God, sometimes extremely difficult to apply, will suffice. It is then that we are likely to take the easy way out. Time and again we will make an excuse for ourselves and often use a false kind of reasoning to justify our compromise.

### The World, the flesh and . . .

Isn't it also true, then, that we can now so compromise ourselves by taking the world's standards that we don't consider to be in the remotest degree wrong things that we believed previously to have been seriously sinful. It isn't hard to look for examples. Television, particularly, not merely depicts actions seriously against the Commandments, but does so in a blatant way which treats such transgressions of morality as normal and quite the thing to do. Such actions suddenly occur in the most bland of series, rendering them totally unfit for human, let alone Christian consumption. It would require an article twice the length of this one to detail such things, but suffice it to say that it is wrong very often simply to watch it. Is that our usual rejoinder to all this wickedness? Or do we not more often go with the futile worldly morality which treats people in the twentieth century as if they were quite different from those in Our Lord's time. We were ordered to teach "all that I have commanded", not a changed version, let alone an expurgated one. Mankind's tendencies remain depressingly the same when left to themselves.

Perhaps we have tried to make a paradise of this world by using the wrong standards. Surely that is what lies behind the difficulties experienced over "liberation

theology". This is an expression for the attempt to improve the lot of the poor in Central and South America; it tends to go wrong by the application of a Marxist solution to the problem — and all because the word "liberation" is used more of earthly liberation from the slavery of the economic circumstances than the freedom from the slavery of sin. Certainly there are serious injustices; certainly the Church has the duty to point these out. On the other hand, the individual's salvation is very important, too, and this can be overlooked in a welter of social humanism. In fact most "isms" when applied to this world are to be avoided. Materialism can be either rampant Marxism or rampant Capitalism and the religious person should avoid these extremes.

### To err is human . . .

All the above could lead to a pharisaical attitude so that we become "not like the rest of men", until we look again at Our Lord. His general advice is surely to hate the sin, but love the repentant sinner, and even excuse those who should know better. "Father, forgive them . . ." If our attitude is one which puts the kingdom of heaven first, we will love everyone, we will forgive our enemies, we will bless those who persecute us. In other words, we will follow the eight Beatitudes, Our Lord's programme for the Kingdom. We will raise ourselves and others, seeking first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and taking the human up to the Divine; at the same time we will be illuminating the human with the Divine. We will then become not simply human for its own sake, but we will become truly human, recognising by our conviction and by our lives that we really are created to know love and serve God in this life. We truly serve ourselves by "seeking the things that are above", we truly serve others by trying to raise them to that level.

Our Lord is offering us a Kingdom, but not of this world. As Christians we must all try to bring the kingdom of heaven to this world, and raise this world to the kingdom of heaven.



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

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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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is

# cruse?

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All widows and widowers are welcome at the two meetings held each month.

1. WHERE? St Mary's Centre, by St Mary's Church in the Butts, Reading

WHEN? On the first Saturday every month from 2.00-4.00pm  
1985 Dates:

June 1	Sept 7	Nov 2
July 6	Oct 5	Dec 7
Aug 3		

FORMAT? Informal — speakers — tea/coffee — outings on occasion

2. WHERE? Cruse Centre, 125 Oxford Road, Reading (junction of Oxford Rd/Waylen St)

WHEN? On the third Saturday every month from 2.00-4.00pm  
1985 Dates:

June 15	Sept 21	Nov 16
July 20	Oct 19	Dec 21
Aug 17		

FORMAT? Informal small group, no speakers, tea/coffee  
Come and have a chat, a cup of tea or coffee and make new friends

COST? If you decide to join Cruse, the annual membership fee is £3.50

**Further details on social activities can be obtained  
from the Cruse Centre — call during opening hours  
Weekdays 10-2, or phone Reading 588133**

## READING'S NEW MAYOR



Brian and Gladys Fowles

Photo — E. S. Archer

**Congratulations to Cllr Brian Fowles on his election as Mayor. Brian and Gladys Fowles worship at St Margaret's, Mapledurham. One-time members of St Andrew's congregation, the special Civic service will be held there at 6.30pm on Sunday, June 9. Brian's duties as a councillor keep him very busy and Gladys takes her full share. She runs the Jubilee Club at Mapledurham, as well as leading the prayer and support group there. We wish them well in their year of office.**

### CIVIC SERVICE

To commence  
the new  
Mayoral year at

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**POSTBAG**

Dear Editor

George Orwell's 1984 has come and gone with little evidence of its sinister predictions; or has it? Something just as disturbing, though in a guise we have not recognised is infiltrating our nation, and that is, its moral and spiritual decline. Increasing numbers of people are becoming engaged in the manufacture of weapons of every description (to say nothing of the many ordinary shareholders) irrespective of the devastating effects on human lives and property they can and are having, with many being sold to overseas countries, a sin against God and man. Is this not akin to the traffic in drugs, whose growers say they do it to get a living, for what else can they do?

More and more young men are being persuaded to enlist and learn how to use these weapons, the morality aspect never being mentioned. It is often said that nations have a right to defend themselves, meaning a state legalised right to kill fellow humans. This just is not true, and the myth should be exposed. God forbade the killing of another, with no exceptions, in the Ten Command-

ments given to Moses; likewise Jesus gave an alternative way in dealing with enemies, that if followed, would bring peace and prosperity to all mankind.

Freedom of speech is being suppressed, albeit through their own fault in view of the nature of their employment, on thousands of people at GCHQ, and similar establishments of espionage and international intrigue; eight-een thousand million is being squandered yearly on so-called defence that brings, not peace, but perpetuates fear, suspicion, mistrust, to the moral and material impoverishment of the nation; and millions overseas starve. The increase in crime, the evasion of taxes, the abuse of drugs, promiscuous sex, dwindling church attendance, all add to the nation's decline. A gloomy picture, but one that cannot be ignored. And there is still hope for the world, the individual.

On a Friday they crucified Jesus, He who came that we might be saved. On the following Monday He had risen from the tomb, whether physically or in spirit only I consider to be of secondary importance. What I do know is that He is alive

today, saving, redeeming, guiding millions of people through the world, including me. And He continues to call "Come, follow me, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life!" It is imperative that we return to God, through Christ and His teaching, for there is no other way to know and to do God's will. But don't be a "lone" Christian, a mere follower; join with others in the local church where you will find fellowship and help, a strengthening in the Faith that the world desperately needs but has rejected, help in the battle to bring in God's Kingdom on earth.

I was heartened to see on two Saturday mornings recently, about twenty young people from the Hill Chapel singing gospel songs, accompanied by guitars, on the green opposite the shopping parade at Emmer Green. I received a leaflet saying they had had an amazing experience of the love of Jesus in their lives, and wanted to tell others about it. They needed a John Wesley or a Donald Soper to drive home the message.

H. MARSHALL  
164 Kidmore End Road  
Emmer Green

Dear Editors,

Once again we shall be leaving our native town of Reading on May 15. We emigrated to Melbourne with our then young family in 1948, and spent many happy years in Australia.

We have spent nearly seven very happy years in Caversham; there is a real spirit of friendship and neighbourliness. People have been kind to us in so many ways, the warmth of greetings, little kindnesses, gifts over the years, it gives us a warm feeling, and gratitude.

Now we are going to live in a small new house five minutes' walk from our married daughter on Portland, Dorset. Because of some disabilities which come to us all sooner or later we need a little family support, which has been gladly offered.

To "Katy" we thank you for that lovely Golden Wedding card you sent; it is in our album with all the other cards. We've enjoyed your reports in the "Bridge".

To Molly Casey, the indefatigable hon sec of the Residents' Association of which we are members, our warm good wishes.

To M.K. thank you for those lovely articles about old Caversham.

We shall miss friends here and in Reading, but shall hope to keep in touch.

May God bless and keep you all; please remember us in your prayers.

JOHN AND HILDA  
ROBINSON

57a Kidmore Road  
Caversham

Dear Editors,

We are very concerned about the changes in the bus routes as they affect people living along the Peppard Road. The bus which ran three times an hour is now only half-hourly, and it does not now travel along Evesham Road on its way to Emmer Green. To get to the doctors' surgery near St Barnabas Church from Mander Court now means a change of bus and the timing is not helpful. It took my wife and I two hours to make the return journey to the surgery. We know many who used the bus for the surgery and to visit the community centre of an evening. They are not keen to make a change of bus at night.

Would Katy please be able to press for a change?

CHARLES SMITH

42 Mander Court  
Derby Road, Caversham

**LINK GROUP**

A meeting of the Group was held on April 22 at the home of Mrs Mary Bramwell. Members discussed the future work of the Care Centre both in the office and in the adjoining "Pop-in" Centre. The official opening of the Centre on April 30 is reported on elsewhere.

Final arrangements were made for the

forthcoming Annual Sale in the Baptist Centre. Members were urged to co-opt more helpers and to continue to collect goods for sale.

In spite of the obvious preoccupation with the setting up of the Centre and with the Annual Sale, the other activities of the Link Group are not neglected. The distribution of don-

ated furniture and household goods and the fortnightly tea parties continue. Interest is maintained in various local charities and Christine Williams is helping with a Mencap Youth group. A letter from the Reading Cyrenians gives news that a further hostel for the homeless is to be opened in Oxford Road and funds are needed.

**THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN**

ST ANDREW'S Sunday School meets in St Andrew's Hall 9.15am. Contact Mrs Sheila Ivens (477180) or Mr Peter Watsham (478744).

ST BARNABAS Sunday School meets in the Hall 9.30am. (Not 2nd Sunday in the month). Contact Mrs Jean Carroll, 45 Brooklyn Drive (472598). The children join in the 9.30am Family Service on 2nd Sunday in the month.

ST JOHN'S Nursery Church (for children up to 8 years) in church during the Sunday eucharist at 9.15am. Family Service 1st Sunday in the month at 11am (mainly for children over 4 years).

ST PETER'S Sunday School meets in the Rectory at 9.15am (except 2nd Sunday which is Parade Service). "Cherubim" Club for babies and pre-school children in church every Thursday at 2.30pm

ST MARGARET'S (MAPLEDURHAM) Sunday School meets at Trench Green Hall 10.45 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.

CAVERSHAM PARK At Caversham Park School 11am. Contact Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close (478430).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST Junior Church — Sundays 11am. Youth Squash — Sundays 8pm.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH Bee-Gees — Sundays 10.15am. Sunday School — Sundays 11am Young Peoples Club — Sundays 7.30pm.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH 10.30am Creche — up to three years. Beginners, juniors and seniors three to 14 years. Fourteen Plus Group. Secretary: Mrs V. Stott, 6A Hazel Road, Purley, Reading. Tel: 49186.

CHAPEL ON THE HILL: Children's Activities. Sunday 9.30-11am Boy and Girl Jucos (10-12 years); Boy and Girl Covenanters (12-15 years). 10.25-11.15am Nursery (3 and 4 years); Primary (5 and 6 years); Adventurers (7-9 years). During the second part of the morning worship there is a baby creche available. 8.30pm 16+ group meets. For more information please contact the Pastor: Chris Justice. Tel. 474529.

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### Grosvenor closes

A FEW years ago it was announced that the Grosvenor would be closing down, but in the event, nothing happened and those who commented on it were scolded by the brewers for rumour mongering. Rumours or not, only a few years have elapsed and once more the Grosvenor is to close down and this time it is to be demolished and the land to be used for housing.

This news in itself will not produce floods of tears as the Grosvenor lacks the charm of South Oxfordshire's country pubs and the historic aura of some of Reading's town centre ones, but nevertheless it has played a considerable role in Caversham life and its demise will mark the passing of an era. Rather more alarm is being experienced by local residents who fear that the housing might be too dense for the site and lead to lack of privacy as the land stretches a long way back from Kidmore Road. Some modifications to the application could reduce this and ultimately lead to quieter rather than busier conditions.

The flats development at the corner of Short Street and Prospect Street, which was first mooted at the same time as the original Grosvenor announcement, has after a long history of modifications and alterations, been granted on appeal. The Borough Planning Committee feared loss of privacy for Short Street and an increase in parking problems, but the Inspector did not agree. However he laid down some firm conditions about on-site parking and landscaping so let us hope



The Grosvenor Hotel, Kidmore Road Photo — N. Wright

they are all strictly enforced. Lack of staff at the Planning Office has led on more than one occasion to conditions being ignored by developers whose only interest is getting the job done as quickly as possible.

Although not in Caversham, general relief will be experienced at the news that Berkshire, in its review of the County Structure Plan, has dropped the controversial scheme for massive housing south of the M4 at Basingstoke Road, and is recommending that the M4 be regarded as the boundary of the built-up area. The thought of an expanse of solid building stretching from the north of Emmer Green and Caversham to Spencers Wood and beyond, almost to the borders of Hampshire, was a chilling prospect and it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State will not pressurise Berkshire again to accept more and more housing in a county already over populated.

### Quiet corners

In spite of being heavily built over, Caversham still has the odd corner to remind one that it was once a quiet Oxfordshire village. St Peter's churchyard

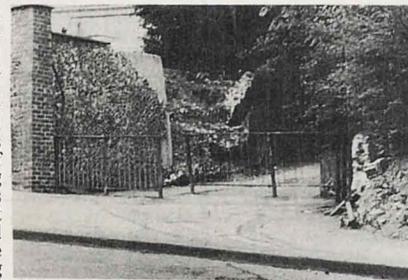
still has the air of a country churchyard shielded by trees from the grunt and roar of lorries chugging up St Peter's Hill, and it is beautifully kept by the borough gardeners. Thanks to the long cold winter the daffodils were retarded and all burst out in glorious gold for Easter, even if the weather for the festival did not match their message of renewal. The churchyard was a real delight throughout April, whilst below the crinkle-krinkle wall Caversham Court was also full of the joys of Spring. Sadly the big ash on the lawn has had to be felled. What a difference it would have made if the five healthy poplars along the river's edge had been left.

It is a less happy tale when it comes to the flint and brick walls of the lower part of the Mound and St Peter's Hill. A combination of time, the weather, vandalism and the odd runaway lorry has taken its toll and they are crumbling, breaking up and falling down. The high one retaining (until recently) the garden of Tree Tops is not a genuinely old one, being a concrete wall with a flint cladding, put there when the original wall was demolished some

twenty years ago to make room for the widening of St Peter's Hill. The others however date back to the days when flint and brick were the traditional building materials of these parts. It looks as if there will be nothing left of them before long, for no one seems prepared to take on the expense and responsibility of repairing them. Mass produced brick and chain link fencing will have to suffice.

### Run for your life

As was suspected, the time permitted for pedestrians to scamper over the crossing outside the Library conforms with that fixed by the Department of Transport. Cllr G. Lowe, Chairman of the Borough Transport Committee, is hoping that it might be possible to extend the time by a few



Flint walls collapsing in the Mound footpath Photo — N. Wright

seconds, which is as much as we can hope for. After all, it takes only a second to run someone over.

There are certainly plenty of opportunities of getting injured in the streets, what with broken up pavements, mostly from misuse, and potholes from the effects of frost. I had thought of offering a prize to whoever reported the worst one, but with so many contenders for the title, I would not have the spare time to

inspect them all. Perhaps the worst aspect is that we are gradually coming to accept this general deterioration and do not even expect to see repairs being carried out.

### Richfield Avenue

The plans for the development of the former "Pop" site in Richfield Avenue, which caused such a furore because councillors were kept in the dark about what was going on, have been thrown out by the Council because they failed to come up to the requirements laid down by the Leisure Committee. "Go back and think again" was the verdict. Plainly the developers were giving as little as possible in return for developing part of the site for industrial purposes.

The Borough Treasurer meanwhile has



Seat in St Peter's Churchyard — another quiet spot Photo — N. Wright

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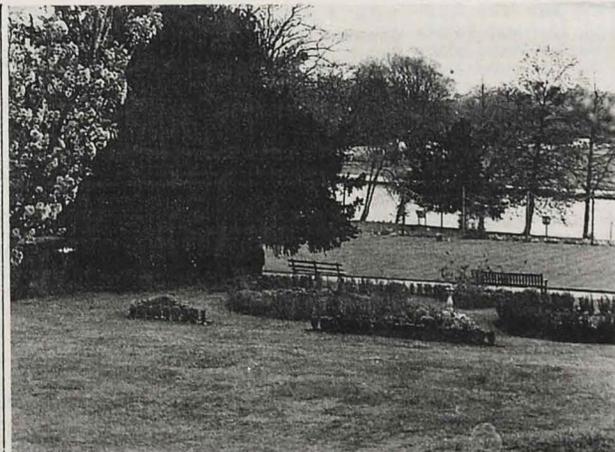
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Caversham Court from St Peter's churchyard — one of the quiet spots in busy Caversham Photo — N. Wright

# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## BAPTIST NEWS

Psst

DON'T let the Football Association know otherwise it will be curtains to any hope that the Baptist Church may nurture of being represented in the UEFA Cup Competition. But why all the mystery you may ask. The problem is that certain young ladies have been indulging in the unladylike pastime of playing football. What is more to the point is that they are pretty good at it for they recently won the final of the Reading & District Baptist Young People's Five-a-Side Football competition and brought home a small shield to prove it. And who are these young ladies bent on causing apoplexy in the football world? They are: Samantha Collins, Emma Coppock, Glenda Robertson, Melody Smith and Donna Stephen-Evans, and it seems that they have taken to heart the words of a twentieth century hymnwriter to "grace our sport".

### Encouragement

This year sees the 333rd Annual Assembly of the Berks Baptist Association. Nothing very special about that you may be tempted to



■ The Revd Dennis Weller

— Walton Adams

think for it is neither a jubilee nor a centennial year. However, for one man it is somewhat special. That man is the Minister of Caversham Baptist Church, the Revd Dennis Weller who, on Saturday, June 15, will be inducted as President of the Association at Windsor Road Baptist Church, Slough.

The President is required to have a theme for his year of office and Mr Weller has chosen "Encouragement". In the foreword to the Assembly's programme he makes reference to the lead given in the New Testament and stresses that this annual gathering is a family occasion at

which members and friends meet for fellowship and mutual encouragement. He refers to the opportunity it affords to consider plans for future strategy under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in particular to the growth of new churches. In this aspect of Baptist work and witness there is a great need to actively encourage and support by all means possible those in the forefront of such developments. He expresses the hope that the visit of the Revd Norman Wright, President of the Baptist Union, who will address the gathering, will be a further source of encouragement.

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## NEWS FROM THE HILL CHAPEL

ISN'T Easter wonderful? For Christians it really is the time for celebration! Without the death and resurrection of Jesus, His birth would have no relevance to us.

As we met together on Good Friday, it was primarily to give thanks to God for the sacrifice of His Son, and to remember His death in the breaking of bread. Rather than being a time of despair, we were able to remember Good Friday in the light of Easter Sunday and Jesus' resurrection and triumph over the power of darkness. We worship a living Saviour!

Our Sunday worship was in the Hill Primary School, in order to accommodate the extra visitors. During the service we were challenged by a short sketch performed by a number of the fellowship. Four different people were portrayed, each having an idol taking the Lord's rightful place in their lives. For one man it was his job, for a teenage girl it was a popstar, for another it was accumulating possessions and staying in fashion. The fourth lady was bound up by her own good works — they were more important to her than the Lord — and she was trusting in them rather than in Jesus. Each was attached by a

string to Satan (all in black and complete with a wicked laugh!). When challenged by the Word of God, three chose to carry on worshipping their idols, but one let go and wanted to learn of Jesus. As she did this, she was able to drop the string. It was a powerful reminder that we cannot serve two masters — either we are worshipping the Lord or worshipping a false idol. As we praised God together for the resurrection, it was, and is, important to remember that the Lord has to have first place in our lives.

★ ★ ★

Weddings are important to Jesus — remember he performed His first miracle at one! So it was a special joy to share in the marriage of two of our young people. As our new building overflowed with people, so our hearts overflowed as a body of God's children. In a world where so many people are cynical of marriage, and vows are held lightly, a Christian marriage is a very precious thing. In his address, our pastor reminded us that a threefold cord is not easily broken. As long as Christ is truly at the head of the marriage relationship, the contract comes with a guarantee! What a privileged position we hold as God's children!

## RURAL DEANS GALORE!

*Scoop for St Barnabas  
— Nostalgia for St Peter's*

The Preacher at the Parish Eucharist at St Barnabas' on their PATRONAL FESTIVAL, June 11 at 7.45pm will be the new Rural Dean of Reading — The Revd Eric Essery. Probably his first public engagement after taking office!

At St Peter's PATRONAL FESTIVAL (June 30) the Preacher at 6.30pm Parish Festival Evensong will be the Rural Dean of Newbury, the Revd Colin Scott-Dempster, once curate on the staff of this parish.

## ST ANNE'S NEWS

TO START with, a Development Fund — while at the final word on the famine appeal: Heights Chapel, after many superannuated upwardly revised pine and oak grand totals, the church benches definitive ultimate went under hammer at a more total can now be published: £3,636: a cheque was sent to the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development.

As April and the liturgical year reached their climax in the great Easter festivities, THE Group's April attendances at the services again improved this year; members and in addition, there were entertained and amused by Mrs M. Churcher, who reminisced over her twenty three years as a Store Detective. She emphasised the need for a sound basic training, the importance of observation and the need for a long memory. Looking ahead, Mrs Barbara Paddy Reilly, the Justham makes a welcome return to the Group on June 18 and on July 3 there will be an evening ramble. Prospective new members can ring Jean Pugh (Chairman) on Reading 472949, or would be welcome on June 18 at Church House, buted to the Parish 8pm.

## ST PETER'S WIVES GROUP

## CAVERSHAM CLERGY

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road, Tel: 479130. (Parish Office: Monday - Thursday 9.30-12.30. Tel: 471703).

The Rev David Milling, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road, Tel: 472788.

The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Tel: 475152.

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue, Tel: 471814.

The Rev Adrian Dorber, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green, Tel: 473095.

The Rev Peter Mullins, 25 Ilkley Road, Caversham, Tel: 472070.

### BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive, Tel: 478668.

### METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road, Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 Allhallows Road, Caversham, Tel: 482530

### UNITED REFORMED

The Rev Philip Lee-Bapty, 41 Highmoor Road, Tel: 471909.

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue, Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)  
The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Tel: 723418

# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

THERE has been a large wooden cross at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church over Easter. A crown of thorns was there to signify Christ's suffering. Daffodils were growing at the foot of the cross bringing a symbol of new life — and the cross was empty, assuring us of Christ's resurrection.

The Methodist members enjoyed and rejoiced in the varied services over the Easter period, sharing in services at The Baptist Church and St John's, as well as regular Sunday Services at Gosbrook Road.

The Women's Fellowship had an enjoyable Anniversary, with Rev Brian Skinner leading the Sunday and Tuesday services. The ladies were joined by friends from St Johns and the Baptist Church.

Mrs Julia Hackman (Circuit Wives Representative) organised a new venture for Wives Groups in the Reading & Silchester Circuit. An evening where all groups

joined together was arranged at Gosbrook Road. Each group gave an account of their activities which created a sharing of ideas. Groups were set up for discussion and to get to know one another. Mrs Marjorie Lowe of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church travelled from Chandlers Ford to address the meeting. Coffee was served and everyone enjoyed an informal time together.

At The General Church Meeting Mr David Herbert retired as Senior Steward and Mr Brian Bosier also from the office of Steward. Both were thanked for the work they have undertaken during the past few years. Miss Mary Prior becomes Senior Steward as from May 1.

Fund Raising events have got under way with a Jumble Sale raising £110 and Mr Les Cooper, Mr Mike Ford and Mr Gary Farrell taking part in the Reading

Half Marathon. These energetic friends were sponsored on behalf of The Church and The Boys' Brigade.

The Girls' Brigade have been busy taking part in Competitions in the Reading District. The contest was held at Whitley Hall Methodist Church, where the girls were tested on various activities which are included in their badge work. The girls from 1st Caversham proudly brought home three certificates which were exhibited in the church along with some of the work which had been entered for the competition.

March ended on a happy note with over 100 parents and friends joining the organising social committee of the Ambassadors for a Dinner Dance which was held at Foster Wheeler. Thanks must go to "The Friends of The Ambassadors" for putting on such a fine event. £370 was raised, including a £50 donation from The Marr/Munning Trust.



Photo — courtesy Hymore photographers  
Sarah Steer and Ian Savin, married at St Andrew's. Sarah is Cub Scout leader with the 69th Reading Cubs

## VALE ET AVE!

THE Rector announces with sadness yet pleasurable gratitude for his outstanding ministry the "farewell tour" of the parish by Graham Lynch-Watson, before Graham and Jane leave for their new parish in Warwick. Graham will feature ("last public appearance") at:

- St Andrew's June 9 (9.15am);
  - St John's June 16 (9.15am);
  - St Margaret's June 16 (11am);
  - St Barnabas' June 23 (9.30am);
  - St Peter's June 30 (Patronal Festival 9.15am);
- and — his last Sunday with us — at Caversham Park Church 11am.

His many friends are invited to his last appearance at CPV for worship at 11am and/or refreshments and parish "THANK YOU" 12 noon at CPV.

His successor at Caversham Park and on the staff of the parish will be the Revd Paul Kenchington. Paul is 31, with Clare his

wife and Philip, their year-old son, currently serving on the staff of St Mary's Scarborough. The Kenchingtons hope to move south to join us in July. Thank God for the Lynch-Watsons, for whom our love and prayer is assured. And no less thanks and prayer, please, for the Kenchingtons!

RJK

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## ST ANDREW'S SPONSORSHIP

THE congregation of St Andrew's Church, through the Missionary Committee, has now completed the first year of two very special kinds of sponsoring. No vast sums are involved, for, just £330 is required each year for four years. Under the "Save the Children" Scheme, two Indian

children, one a boy with no father and the other an orphan girl, are being helped and educated at a cost of £65 per year each. The remaining £200 is divided between two centres for needy children under the USPG. One in India, St Michael's School for the Blind for

about 100 students, teaches the boys to make tables, chairs and baskets and the girls to weave cloths, napkins and sheeting. The other centre in Tanzania, the Kwa Mkona Police Hostel cares for polio victims and assesses their medical and educational needs. They are fitted with calipers and crutches and prepared for operations.

Although the stories of these children are very sad, they reach a high standard of education and the replies which come back as a result of the letters and pictures which St Andrew's Church School and congregation send, speak of their gratitude and courage.

More than the necessary £330 has been sent in the first year, raised by coffee mornings, a concert and the Lent Project.

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WHEN Fr. William O'Malley celebrates his fifty years as a priest in June this year, he will be looking back on events he couldn't possibly have envisaged when he left St Patrick's College, Carlow, and which must have made his previous work as a teacher tame by comparison.

A native of Co Mayo, it is scarcely surprising that, appointed curate at St Francis' Handsworth, he found himself organising Gaelic games and running weekly dances for the large number of Irish workmen who had recently arrived in the district and who were not catered for socially in any way.

When war came and he was appointed chaplain to a workforce, mainly Irish, building an underground factory and living in appalling conditions, he immediately tackled the job of improving matters — extra huts, proper baths and toilet facilities, a laundry and medical attention were the outcome of his efforts. Eventually, now an army chaplain, he found himself on his way to Burma with a 60 pound pack on his back. Here, of course, conditions were terrible and his activities in the Far East would fill a book; he met some very interesting people and formed a life-long interest in this part of the world and its people. Later, as holder of the Burma Star, he was to become padre to the Reading Branch of the Burma Star Association.

Fr. O'Malley was discharged from the forces in 1946, spent

six years as parish priest in Atherton and from there was sent to Caversham where he quickly became a familiar figure in the streets, especially as during his early days here he frequently rode round on horseback.

His achievements in Caversham were many. One of his special interests was the education of young children and, as many people know, he was one of the instigators of the building of Hugh Faringdon School. He organised the building of St Martin's School on Caversham Park Village, a church at Sonning Common and another chapel on Caversham Heights. But his proudest moment was possibly when he was able to restore the Shrine to Our Lady at St Anne's, together with its 600 year old statue.

He retired as parish priest four years ago, but having lived so many years here and "fallen in love with the place and the people", he

decided to remain in the area. True he no longer rides a horse, but his beret is still a familiar sight as he walks round Caversham. On his 80th birthday earlier this year he was delighted to receive a telegram from the Pope.

This is but a brief biography of his life. It would require far more space than we can manage to pay tribute to Fr. O'Mal-



Fr. O'Malley was a founder member of the board of the "Caversham Bridge". Though he resigned some time after, he has always retained his interest in the paper

was at home with everyone. Brought up in a good Christian home, one of the main tenets of his life has been, as he said, to remember always "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man" and he knows no barriers when it comes to mixing with his fellow man, young or old. He's a bit of a rebel really, but obedience to those set in authority above him is very firmly rooted in his life and his "battles" have been devoted to such matters as trying to persuade everyone in Caversham to wear roses on St George's Day.

He has, as he himself acknowledges, had a very full and rewarding life. The staff of the "Bridge" would like to add very sincere good wishes for his jubilee and express the hope that he him sweets saying will be active among us for a long time to come.

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# AFRICA'S FAMINE — OUR ROLE

The south of Mali, the area which I visited, is generally fertile and underdeveloped, with a considerable potential for increasing food output. Life in some villages is normal, but in the poorest villages there are very real problems. In Kantola village in Mali's Fana region, for example, stocks of millet and sorghum — staple food for the 200 villagers — are almost empty. Not until the rains come in June can they plant seeds for this year's harvest. It will be September at the earliest before the harvest can be reaped and stores replenished. Kantola people are among the 30 million Africans whose lives are threatened by famine. It has been too dry to grow the vegetables they normally grow. Their problem is how to find enough food to stay alive over the summer months. Soon they can no longer avoid taking the step they dread — selling their cattle to raise money for food. They see no alternative. But the villagers rely on cattle to help plough their fields. Without cattle this June, the harvest will be lower.



The people of Djiguiyara village near San, close to the Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) border, have already begun to sell their cattle. Djiguiyara's poverty can be seen by the fact that when their water pump broke down recently, villagers could not afford the £6 needed to mend it. The village chief points out that the small amount of food that is left in the stores, is being kept for the planting season in June "so that we can be strong enough to work then".

One of the most impressive aspects of village life in Mali is the very careful use of meagre resources.

In southern Mali — where most of the country's food is produced — around 500 out of the area's 3,500 villagers face problems similar to Kantola and Djiguiyara. For many in these poverty stricken villages, it will be the humble mango, which grows in abundance, that stands between life and death this summer. The villages are all supposed to be

By  
John Madeley

**ST PETER'S Reader, John Madeley, recently travelled 1,200 miles through Sahellian villages in Mali, one of the African countries affected by famine. He believes the church has a key role to play in helping the people who are most affected.**

that even in the most seriously affected famine areas, not everyone was a famine victim. In parts of Ethiopia life seemed quite normal. It is the very poorest who are the main victims".



Children in the Mali village of Djiguiyara village, near San, face the prospect of four months with very little food.

covered by a £70 million government scheme to help them increase food output; this receives aid from a number of sources including the World Bank. But the scheme excludes poorer villagers and the people who are most at risk of famine.

A little publicised fact of Africa's famine

is that only the poorest are dying. In Ethiopia, a senior Oxfam official, Dick Copeland, says he was "struck by the fact

that the poorest often get left out of government schemes and official aid projects. Lip service is paid to them of course, but the poorest have such little power. They are not producing anything the world wants, they have no political

The same is true in

borrow — no credit for seeds — too few seeds planted — meagre harvest — not enough money to obtain credit etc.

Can that circle be broken and the poorest helped to be self-sufficient? The fact has to be faced

God's love in action — that church in Mali was showing just that. The poorest also need a church — that means us — that will speak up on their behalf, to move governments and the international community into action. The money we give to Christian Aid and other voluntary bodies is vital, but beyond giving we need to remind our governments and agencies like the World Bank that official aid schemes must include, not exclude, the poorest. We need, I believe, to show a degree of righteous indignation that aid too often excludes the very people who most need it.



This summer the World Bank is to launch a £1,000 million scheme to help Africa's famine hit countries. Unless credit restriction are easier than those which apply in the Mali project, then such help will be useless for the poorest.

Could I therefore suggest three courses of action for readers: 1. Give to Christian Aid till it hurts — you are helping to save lives; 2. Use your democratic rights to urge the government to give aid to meet need, not narrow economic considerations; 3. Also urge government to give more money for research into the foods which the poorest eat, such as for example millet, a crop which grows in as little as 14 inches of rain a year. If the poorest have higher yielding seeds, they can get on with the job of growing more.

Mali. The project I visited lends farmers money for seeds, fertilisers and equipment, and help them to extend acreages growing food crops and cotton. Some spectacular results have been achieved; in Fana region, the area growing maize has trebled in the past five years, and output has increased despite last year's drought. In the better off villages, the project has brought benefits, and food stocks are generally adequate.



But in the poorer villages, people are too poor to offer any guarantees they could repay any money they borrowed. When I visited the area in late March, there was a fear among the poorest that they would not be able to buy seeds for planting in June. As they will not qualify for credit for seeds, a vicious circle operates — too poor to give guarantees you could pay back any money you

clout, they are too poor to satisfy credit requirements.

It is surely at the point where the church very definitely comes in! In one of the poorest villages I visited in Mali, I asked how on earth people would manage if they could not afford to buy or be given credit for seeds. A local church, I was told — a Roman Catholic church in a nearby town — had brought seeds and was preparing to distribute them to the poorest villages. Later I saw for myself the seeds in store.

Mali is a former French colony and the local church was receiving help from French churches. I had been in a former British colony, it may well have been Christian Aid that was providing the help — as Christian Aid works through churches in the developing world. What the visit helped me to realise was the crucial role of the church in caring about those who everyone else was forgetting — the poorest of the poor.

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John Madeley is planning to take part in the 50-mile London to Brighton cycle ride on June 30 (Britain's biggest participatory event after the London Marathon!), to raise money for seeds for Africa's poorest villagers. He would be delighted if readers would sponsor him. Every £5 raised should buy enough seed to plant a hectare of land — and that should in turn yield nearly a tonne of food at harvest time. Could "Bridge" readers aim at helping Africans to plant out 200 hectares this summer? The money will go through the Eritrean Relief Association, and also Christian Aid, to projects to distribute seeds to the poorest. Offers to 19, Woodford Close, Caversham. Tel: 476063.

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Sun Life and South Pole

LEISURE afternoons are held on the first Wednesday in each month at Mapledurham Hall. The visit by members to Harwell in February proved most informative. Social studies are planning an outing in June to a theatre in the near vicinity. The drama group continues to meet. At the meeting in April of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall Dr R. D. Thompson spoke about his time at the South Pole 15 years ago. There has been a 30-year ban on territorial claims since 1959, but over 40 years of continuous research has been carried on there by the British. Dr Thompson was at two bases for periods of about 1½ years each, and slides showed how ships slowly made their way through the pack ice to reach them. One iceberg was 95 miles long. People who had been there for, say 13 months, were only gradually intruded on, because the sense of isolation that the few men had become accustomed to, could only gently be overcome. You had to have a sense of humour in order to put up with each other and conditions.

Having a bath for instance meant digging out blocks of ice and melting them. Fewer blocks were needed in a small tin bath in the cosier

kitchen, using the water for washing clothes as well. All had a turn at cooking, sewing, scrubbing and meteorological work. Chinstrap and Emperor penguins were sadly missed when they were away from the base.

Mr John Smith from Sun Life of Canada Assurance Company said at Social Studies at the end of the month in Highmoor Hall that since leaving his career as a teacher he had never ceased to realise his good luck in enjoying his job and being able to show a caring attitude to clients.

## Caversham WI

ANYONE who thinks flower arranging is only for those with time on their hands would have greatly benefited from the talk given by Jane Cleman to the Caversham Women's Institute in April. Mrs Cleman, herself a WI member, had obviously planned beforehand the kind of thing she was going to display and had brought along the necessary materials, but the actual making up of five different arrangements took her only just over an hour. First she showed her audience what could be done with greenery alone, bearing in mind that gardens were at times short of flowers; then she moved on to beautiful arrangements of spring flowers and table settings for special occasions. Her talk certainly gave the uninitiated an entirely new approach to the subject and was much enjoyed.

The competition which she judged afterwards was for a flower arrangement in an egg cup, Sylvia Myszor being judged the winner, followed by Kathy Fullbrook and Mary Thompson.

## Maplewood WI

AT THE April Meeting of Maplewood WI Miss S. Y. Townend of the Reading Museum School Service gave a talk illustrated by slides and exhibits on the very extensive range of items which are loaned out free to schools in Berkshire to help teachers illustrate lessons and projects. This service, which was started in 1911, has grown considerably and now covers geology, biology, history and geography.

The competition, "A posy for a Leading Lady" was won by Mrs D. Appleton.

## Caversham Ladies Club

THE Easter party was held in April as usual. This year there was a change, instead of the committee preparing it, serving tea, etc. it was taken over entirely by a group of members and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Not least the committee. The competition was a small chocolate egg in a tea-cup, and this was judged by Mrs Billingham, the winners being first Mrs Leach, second Mrs Mander, third Mrs Harwood and fourth Mrs Wallace.

There was also competition for a doll in aid of Mencap and this was won by Mrs Johnson.

The afternoon ended with the distribution of new laid eggs to the members.

## Chazey WI

THE NEW committee, with Cathy Sell as president, welcomed members to the April meeting. Mr Tony Searle showed a fascinating film that he had made about typhoons in Hong Kong. The film had been commissioned to explain to the local community the cause and effect of their once, or twice yearly typhoons. Had the members been residents themselves, they were left in no doubt about the storm's devastating effects.

Once a typhoon is imminent, having been carefully monitored at the Royal Observatory, warnings are issued, people are advised to take all necessary precautions, loose objects must be secured, doors and windows firmly closed, children and office workers go home. Everyone is advised to stay at home so that all roads are clear for emergencies. There are special shelters for ferry boats. The group were able to sense how relentless the wind and sea become and it was easy to see how, in spite of extensive precautions, the typhoon still takes its toll, leaving, in its wake, floods, landslides, many homes destroyed and people homeless. Many are killed or injured.

Mr Searle told the members that he had made the film over two years, but, by skilful editing, the effect was that of one complete storm.

## Caversham Community Association

ON APRIL 15 Tony Carson visited the club to tell the members of the work of the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project. This provides a night shelter at the Keep, near Brock Barracks in Oxford Road, for homeless people — many in ill health and with drinking problems — who have been sleeping rough. Mr Carson said that the shelter was expensive to run even though a Reading Borough Council grant was given. Gifts of meat cooked or frozen were appreciated, as were men's underclothes and socks, towels and dessert-spoons. A collection was made to assist in the REAP's work.

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 29. Amongst the officers re-elected were Beryl Latcham as Secretary and Ivy Masterman as Treasurer. Maida Feast was elected as Chairman. The retiring Chairman, Margaret Cameron, gave a report of the club's meetings and activities during the past year and thanked the officers and committee for their work. A vote of thanks was given to Miss Cameron for her work during her year of office. It was decided that the charity for the coming year should be for Kidney Machines, Florence Abell agreed to continue as collector.

The meeting on April 22 was to celebrate the club's birthday. Members of the committee and club had been very busy making salads, cakes and trifles etc in preparation for a very good meal. Birthday cake was served later

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# REFLECTIONS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

By Bill Vincent

IT WASN'T a life-long ambition to go to the Holy Land on a Pilgrimage, so many travellers had spoken about the commercialism that prevailed, so we had ruled out such a journey. But we had known the Leader of the Inter-church travel party for nigh on forty years. He it was that asked me to be a Reader to help him with his two Parishes in Huntingdonshire, and it was to be his last trip. So we went.

## Easter

Our visit coincided with the Easter ceremonies of the Eastern Church, a week later than ours, so Jerusalem was bursting with people; some stalwarts rose from their beds at 4am to join in with the services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but not all.

The daily Eucharist, the reading of the relative passages from the Bible and prayers at places visited helped us to grasp the significance of what Our Lord did for us, and the biblical background of the old and new testament.

## Old and New

To those of us who were not seasoned travellers it was a source of wonder-

ment to see the modern day Scribe, sitting at a folding table on the pavement with a typewriter, both the scribe and the client in flowing Arab robes, or again a camel resting on the pavement opposite the hotel, patiently chewing the cud. Innumerable small boys trying very hard to sell book-marks, olivewood camels and beads. On the more serious side parties of children on educational trips being escorted by their mentor with an automatic gun, tucked under his arm.

## Wailing Wall

A visit to the Wailing Wall was especially interesting as it occurred within the feast of the Passover and so there were many more Jews there than is normal. Jews of the Ashkenazim, wearing their wide brimmed hats sometimes edged with fur. Their hair cut in a fringe with ringlets hanging down on

either side. Long square cut black frock coats, some wearing shawls around their shoulders. Only men, and they had to have their heads covered, were allowed in to see the oldest part of the wall and the Jews at their devotions. I saw about ten of them dancing a religious dance. There was a tremendous sense of Biblical atmosphere here, the Bible of the old testament, but we had to hurry away in order to keep up with our guide.

We followed the Via Dolorosa on the Good Friday of the Eastern Church; there were so many people that it was difficult not to be distracted; but nevertheless was very moving. Twice we were moved to one side to make way for processions of Priests and followers, but they were preceded by "Path makers", men in black robes carrying heavy staves with which they rhythmically banged the pavement as they made a path for those following behind, these were Armenians and Syrians. In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre two stations had to be treated as one because the Greek orthodox Church were worshipping there and there was a tremendous press of people. Luckily we had another opportunity to revisit the Church when it was not so full and appreciate it at our leisure.

## The Dead Sea

Leaving the crowds and dust of Jerusalem we went east almost up to the Jordanian border. When we turned south to travel along the coast of the Dead

Sea, we were heading for Masada, the amazing fortress where the Zealots held out against the Romans for three years. Rather than submit to the Romans they preferred death, and so cheated the Romans of their victory. Although Josephus the historian told the world about Masada, the actual site was discovered quite by accident. In 1947 an army officer was scanning the countryside through field glasses and he noticed some ruins, these turned out to be the fortress. A four minute trip in a cable car took us to a landing stage from where we climbed a further two hundred steps to the top. Here we saw the relatively sophisticated fortress, and we could see the sites of the Roman Camps which besieged the Zealots. On our way back we saw the entrance to the cave in which the scrolls were found in 1947 by a shepherd boy. We then carried on to a bathing place where we bathed in the sea, very refreshing especially after a shower to wash away the salt.

## Sea of Galilee

After a week in and around Jerusalem we moved up to Tiberius; because of the delicate political situation we were not allowed to go via Jacob's Well but instead we took the Valley route via Jericho and Bethshan. This was of particular interest because of the intensive agriculture. Date palms, bananas, olives, avocados, citrus fruits and pomegranates, irrigation being a "must". On our last

day it rained and we were told that that would be the last rain until October. The hotel at Tiberius stood high above the town (a twenty minute walk) but giving most wonderful views of the Galilean Sea. From our room we could see Magdala, and Capernaum and the distant hills. The colour of the sea could be a deep blue and quickly change to grey, in the same way stiff breezes coming down the Rift valley would rapidly blow the trees and whip up waves on the sea. Our stay here was more relaxing, and less emotional. We visited the source of the River Jordan. Some people collected samples to take home but I was quite content to wash my hands there. Members of our party came from afar as Minneapolis USA, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Burton-on-Trent, Reading and London. Roman Catholics, Quakers, Methodists and Anglo-Catholics being represented. I am glad that I went on the pilgrimage; not only has it deepened my understanding but it has stimulated my search for more knowledge of the Bible and our Faith.

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6.30pm Evensong

St John's  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST  
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)  
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)  
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)  
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)  
11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)  
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham  
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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6.30pm Evening Service

**METHODIST**  
Caversham, Gosbrook Road  
11.00am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

**Caversham Heights**  
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11.00am Morning Service  
6.30pm Evening Service

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## WE RECORD

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Elisha McNamee

St John's  
March 17 Charlotte Lamborne  
April 7 Andrew Freeborne, Daniel Hicks, Benjamin Earley  
April 14 Anna Wooldridge, Nicholas Byrd

St Andrew's  
March 3 Thomas Berresford  
April 21 Anna Hanks

Caversham Park  
April 28 John McIlwee, Paul Evans

St Anne's  
April Heather McDonnell, Roderick Featch, David Treanor,  
Laura Clenaghan, Elenisa Charitou, James Mullaney,  
Jessica Holland, Robert Parsons, Emma Parsons,  
David Parsons, Hannah Parsons

### MARRIED

St Peter's  
March 23 Ricky Goodchild and Sara Harris  
April 13 John Gent and Dawn Hancock  
April 27 Michael Metcalfe and Wendy Andrew

St Andrew's  
April 20 Ian Savin and Sarah Steer

Chapel on the Hill  
April 27 David Palmer and Katherine Anstead

### BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

St Peter's  
April 27 Jonathan and Marion Clay

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