



AN ETHIOPIAN TALE OF TWO VILLAGES

"TAKE a picture of the donkey," they asked me in the village of Harate which lies in a valley of incredible beauty in Ethiopia's eastern province Hararge. They were laughing as they did so and wondering how I would respond.

I had spent the morning at Harate, followed around by almost everyone in the picture (the one with no donkey) and photographing everything else — but *not* the donkey! I said I would be delighted to take a picture of donkey and after doing so there was more laughter; some applauded and went over to pat the donkey on the back. What seemed to please them was that I had considered him worthy of a picture!

"We didn't think you would want to take his picture," said one of the villagers, "but you see he's very important to us. He gives us fertiliser to help us grow our crops and when we take our goods to market they go on his back."

As I watched that much-loved donkey ambling along it somehow gave me a new insight into that first Palm Sunday. No one could ride a donkey with any dignity. To ride a donkey, as Jesus did, is to stay close to the ground and be bumped and banged along in a pretty rough fashion. There is nothing stuck-up about it that's for certain.

Bumping and banging along in a pretty rough fashion is Ethiopia today. I was visiting the country (in January) to write about attempts to rehabilitate small farmer agriculture after perhaps the world's worst ever famine. To try to survive the famine many small farmers sold their tools, equipment and cattle. A United Nations development project is helping with replacements but the pace is slow going and many of the isolated villages are still desperately short.

The rains have come — almost

Rains have been good in some of the chief food growing areas especially in central and western regions of the country where harvests this year are expected to be good. In one area in the centre of the country I watched a bumper harvest being gathered in — the answer I thought to those who say that what Third World

agriculture needs is our technical expertise. They know how to farm in Ethiopia all right — but many don't have the means to do it.

But in Hararge and also in the northern provinces of Eritrea, Tigray and Wollo, the picture is much bleaker. Rains have been generally light and famine is by no means over. The Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission says that crops in 22 of the 39 regions of Hararge "have almost totally failed". In most other areas, says the Commission "the harvest will not last more than a few months". By April this year it seems likely that Hararge will face a major famine, affecting as many as 2 million people.

Need for food aid

Harate is a lucky village, the only one I visited in Hararge where food was reasonably plentiful. By contrast I travelled to one isolated village called Tumega not far from the border with Somalia. The villagers told me that they harvested a small crop in December last year but that by January it had all been eaten. Until their next harvest in July they are dependent on outsiders to keep them alive.

I was told by Mr Raj Narula, local director of the New York based relief agency CARE, which distributes food aid in that area, that some 750 villages are now like Tumega, without food of their own, and that by April another 1,000

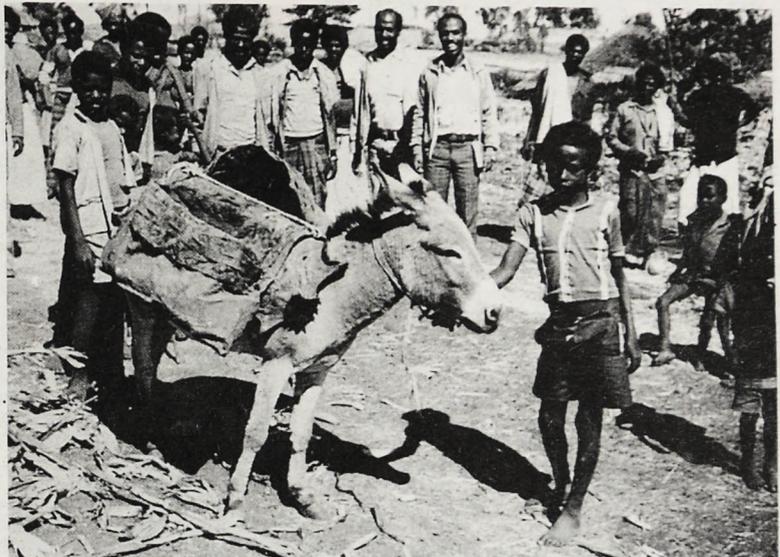
will be in that position. CARE has 43 distribution centres in Hararge and is well organised to cope, but success will depend on more food aid coming from abroad. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church — which is supported by Christian Aid. Save the Children Fund and OXFAM are also active in the province.

The potential of the country

Latest estimates of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation suggest that Ethiopia will need 900,000 tons of food aid this year of which 700,000 tons is already there, on the way or pledged, leaving a gap of 200,000 tons. Hararge province alone will need an estimated 240,000 tons. With luck the food aid should come in and the famine should not lead to widespread deaths.

But the irony of Ethiopia is that it is a potentially rich country and with the right kind of development aid could be self-sufficient in food. In Tumega village I noticed a river running through the valley. It was not tapped for irrigation — they explained they did not have the money, the equipment or the know-how (there are some things for which our know-how is needed!)

Irrigation facilities are practically non-existent for the great majority of small farmers in Ethiopia, yet it is one of the hilliest countries in Africa. There is ample opportunity to catch the rain from hills and



Harate village — donkey "by request"

— John Madeley



Harate village — my guides!

— John Madeley

mountains and use it to irrigate fields to allow farmers to escape from the vagaries of the weather.

OXFAM, Catholic Relief Services and the Christian Relief and Development Association, which coordinates the work of aid agencies, have helped with a small number of irrigation projects, but the need is vast — there are 3,000 villages in Hararge province alone.

Need for development aid

The snag is that Ethiopia receives very little development aid for projects such as irrigation that would give a firmer

base for their agriculture and make famine less likely. Ethiopians receive less development aid per head than almost any other country in Africa — only £4 per head a year against an average of £16.

The British government gives Ethiopia no development aid at all but has indicated a willingness to give £2 million in aid for agricultural rehabilitation. It would prefer to channel the money through non-government agencies as it does not like the political colour of the Ethiopian government. But such a small amount is tinkering with a huge problem.

Ethiopian people should surely not be

made to suffer because of their government. The problems they are enduring make them more, not less, deserving of development aid.

Finally — Ethiopia is I think the 15th country in Africa I have visited and I say without hesitation I have never met such lovely people. I think especially of Tumega and the small amount of money needed to provide irrigation. Many Ethiopians are suffering and I hope they will get our unstinting support, not only in donations but in urging our government to start a development aid programme with a reasonable amount of money.

TALKING POINT

— An Editorial Viewpoint

JESUS THE TROUBLEMAKER

DURING the past week we have seen many spectacles of anger expressed in our society. There have been feuds within government, demonstrations expressing frustration against government policies, examples of the hostility of sections of authority against other sections of the community, of anger and frustration between management and worker. In addition there are the regular sights on television of the results of criminal attacks against individuals and against property. All in all it is an unedifying spectacle of the level of violence in society. Many would have us believe that with the greater level of communication today we as a society are more aware of what goes on and it may be that with more of us around in an increasingly confined area there is greater chance for the different elements in society to make their feelings felt.



How does the Christian react to this? Certainly while there has been a history of violence and dissension within the Christian Community, parts of it have developed the idea that all expressions of anger and violence are wrong and should be avoided. This is summed up in the phrase "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild", which associated with the idea of "turning the other cheek". Such a view is narrow and ignores at least one episode in Christ's life which isn't often talked about. That episode is the one where Jesus is recorded as having overturned the tables of the moneychangers and driven them from the Temple premises. Taken at its face value this is as good an example of Civil Disobedience as any we see today. No, however much we might like to think that the Church is the ally of law and order we are reminded that our Christian faith is grounded more in the concept of justice — for the poor and oppressed as well as, and probably at the expense of, the rich and privileged.

However interesting that aspect of the story of Jesus' action might be, there is another avenue which needs exploring — anger and the way it is used. Many of us have great difficulty in expressing emotions, particularly such as anger, because of an aversion to unpleasantness or because of fear of the consequences or perhaps because we only become aware of anger when it becomes explosive. Emotions are very powerful forces which affect the way we live. The energy they release in us fuels our wills and desires — in fact how we live and behave. Unresolved anger can lead to frustration and hate and all their attendant evils and illnesses. So much of the trouble in our society stems from our problem emotions — anger, hate, frustration, fear. It stems from the way we handle those feelings and the situations

they create. So much energy in our lives is dissipated — wasted energy that could be used far more effectively elsewhere.

There was not so long ago a young man who couldn't always get his own way. In his anger and frustration he took to lashing out and kicking in doors. The energy that was put into those kicks had to be seen to be believed. Fortunately he had a receptive mind and when it was suggested to him that he could use that energy far more effectively in other ways to his benefit he found he did not need to kick down doors. Indeed by using that energy positively he became a far more effective player of his chosen sport.

Let us return to our Biblical story. Jesus when he was angry confronted those who caused that feeling. He did not get others to do it for him. We may find it difficult to be direct and prefer to engineer confrontation indirectly. Involving others makes the unpleasantness worse and does not achieve a satisfactory resolution of the problem. Matters become political and blown up out of all proportion.

The next point that comes from the narrative is that Jesus took responsibility for his actions and saw the episode through. It is so easy for us when something starts going wrong to try to evade the responsibility and shift it on to another's shoulders. The action which Jesus took was drastic and although the authorities did not react immediately ultimately Jesus was on the way to the Cross.



There are clearly occasions when differences between two sides cannot be resolved to mutual satisfaction. One has only to think of the problems of apartheid in South Africa, the present impasse in Fleet Street, the continuing nuclear/anti-nuclear debate where it may never be possible to reconcile the opposing parties. One may have to give way to the other or both may co-exist. The Church is often regarded as a major reconciling factor but its primary purpose is to reconcile man to God before reconciling man to man.

Jesus was mindful that for God his Father the Temple should be a place of prayer but man had made it a den of thieves. There was no room for compromise with the forces of evil so Jesus expressed his anger positively by driving out the moneychangers thus flouting the law. There is no doubt that in many situations today Christians can be in situations where they are convinced that God is saying to them stand up, speak out for the right and face the consequences. And they act accordingly. Before we condemn violence out of hand, let us be sure it is not justified in the sight of God.

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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Postbag

DEAR Sirs,

Plan International
How interesting to read about Plan International by Mr Allies in the February issue, about our responsibility to share our wealth for example through sponsorships with the world's many needy.

Tear Fund, a Christian Relief Organisation run a similar sponsorship scheme (along with their extensive relief and aid programme) which has proved tremendously fruitful.

However, in their schools run by Christians, they emphasize God's word and teach about the love of Jesus to all humans, the love that makes people everywhere in every situation feel blessed, rich and free.

Tear Fund's intention to feed but "not by bread alone" brings lasting freedom and joy and through one child's faith, whole families have turned to God's word and now pray for us.

I myself have found strength and life in that same message and am grateful to people all over the world spreading the Good News.

Please do consider Tear Fund and other Christian work among the needy.

(Mrs) L. K. ROUT
65 Priest Hill,
Caversham.

DEAR Sirs,

Sunday Trading

Thank you very much for the balanced article on Sunday trading legislation. By the way, was it a joint editorial view? If not, should it not have been attributed?

"Oh Sabbath rest by Galilee" — for most of my life, Sunday has been for me a treasured gift of a bountiful God, but it is not so for everyone. For many of our neighbours it is a bore and a burden. We were right to value it, but wrong to try to impose it on others by legislation.

Long before now, we ought to have been studying and negotiating to preserve the best features of the British Sunday, consistent with tolerance and the welfare of the whole community. We are told that thousands of people have written to their Members of Parliament. May I express the hope that having discovered this avenue of Christian influence, they will make it a habit. How many of these correspondents have ever written to assert the Christian way of unselfish love in place of pragmatic materialism, as a national policy? Or

urged that our country set an example in adventurous, risk-taking peace efforts.

Most important, just now, let them say boldly: "Most of us are Protestants, and we live in friendship and mutual respect with Roman Catholics, and we will back the Government in any enlightened initiative to bring understanding and justice and peace to Ireland."

JOHN CLARK
6 Cawsam Gardens,
Caversham.

The writer of the February "Talking Point" was John Mullaney, a local trader. He is also a Roman Catholic and was reflecting the view of the Catholic Church in England and Wales as expressed for example by Bishop McCartney of the Birmingham RC Diocese in an article printed in the Catholic weekly newspaper, "The Universe" in February.

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Cars of character – made in Caversham

1919-1931

FOR a long time I had wanted to write a piece about the Herbert Engineering Company which operated in Wolsey Road, Caversham for several years from around 1914. Then last November I met an old acquaintance, Mr Reg Kingston, who had worked there all that time ago. He was able to add much information to the little I had already gleaned. A chat with Mr Good of Hemdean Road, another local resident of many years with a great knowledge of vintage cars also proved most helpful. At last I felt I had enough facts to go ahead.



This small company was founded by Mr Herbert Merton and at the beginning of World War I it was building gearboxes for the Basingstoke firm of Thorneycrofts. In 1916 the little engineering factory was busy stripping out and rebuilding Le Rhone and Clerget rotary aero-engines. Pieces of broken plane, either shot down or crashed, were crated up and sent to Caversham to be stripped out and re-assembled. Once

rebuilt they were put on a jig and wheeled out to a big concrete platform where a flat propellor was fitted for testing. The man who swung the propellor was the late Mr Jack Brook and the chief test engineer was Mr Roland Sully who with Mr Vic Curtis, the works foreman, had already had experience with the earliest motorcars. Indeed Mr Sully had had his own taxi business as early as 1906. Another member of this highly skilled work force now numbering around six hundred and fifty was Mr Tom Uffen. Such was the importance of their job that the factory operated all round the clock.

With the ending of hostilities in November 1918 the war work at Herberts stopped almost immediately and the company did what so many small engineering firms up and down the country were doing — they began to build motor cars — for the age of mechanised transport had arrived.



It was quickly agreed to have a car designed and made by October 1919 ready to



(Above) A staff outing in 1917 when the workers for a short while forgot about aero-engines and spent a few hours in Wallingford.

display at the Motor Show. Actually two were completed in time, one for use in demonstration to interested customers, the other for display purposes.



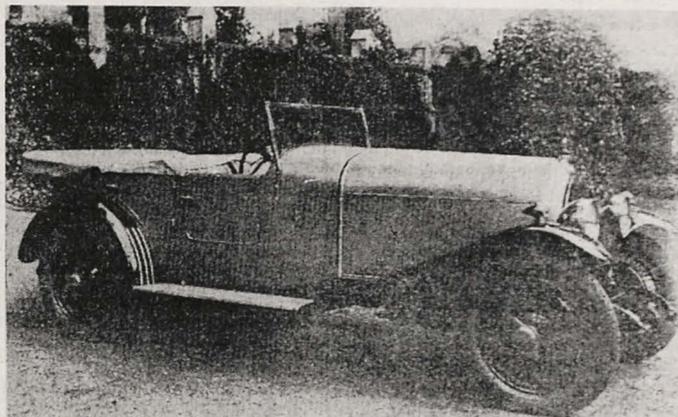
William Morris took an interest

But although cars were made in quite large numbers the beginning of the Depression was looming and business did not go well. By 1924 the company was in difficulties and Mr Merton put his little engineering works in Wolsey Road up for sale. One prospective buyer was William Morris (Lord Nuffield). He showed great interest in the factory and wanted to build Morris cars there, but Thorneycrofts were the highest bidders and they bought the whole concern apart from a small piece of land at the far end, which Mr Merton retained. Here he put up a much smaller workshop and continued to have cars designed and built there, including several that raced at Brooklands.



Finally in 1931 the little business closed and Caversham's "Cars of Character", as they were called, ceased to be made.

M.K.



(Right) A Car of Character c. 1929. The wall behind it looks suspiciously like that of Caversham Court.

WHOLE HEALTH

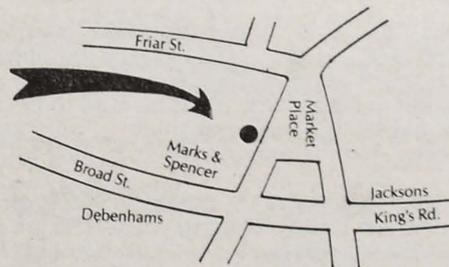
Reading's new health food centre and take-away

39 MARKET PLACE

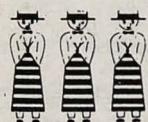
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Christianity and Animal Welfare

ON the 25th January 1986 the Christian Consultative Council for the Welfare of Animals (CCCWA) held a Conference on "Christians and Animal Welfare — The Way Forward" at the Westminster Conference Centre. This looked at the Christian perspective of the increasingly important subject of animal welfare. As stewards of God's creation and in view of the practice of factory farming, it is urgent that the Christian should ask what practical bearing his or her faith has on such contemporary practices.

Chairman for the day was the Very Rev. Edward Carpenter, the former Dean of Westminster Abbey and Chairman of the CCCWA.

The churches were represented by the Most Rev. Bishop Agnelus Andrew, President of the Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare, the Rt Rev. John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, the Rev. John Cameron, Minister in the Church of Scotland, and Lord

Donald Soper, Patron of the CCCWA.

These five Churchmen were complemented by five representatives from various other groups, dealing with subjects from Factory Farming to Vivisection and other Animal Experiments. The audience participation in the packed hall during Question Time was extremely lively and passionate but thanks to Dr Carpenter's most competent chairmanship, roused feelings could be aired without getting out of control.

The Bible and Animals

The Church's voice was clear and strong in Bishop John Baker's (Chairman of the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England) reflections on theological texts: no animal food was eaten before the Fall of Man; respect is needed for all species; we have only become blood-thirsty conquerors through Sin; God rejoices in other creatures for their own sake and it is an important duty of all Christians to

look at the world through God's eyes and to see his creatures as He sees them. He also reminded us that Christianity had brought Blood Sacrifice to an end and that we can find our way to NEW insights with trust in the Holy Spirit at work in our lives in the PRESENT.

Lord Soper took up the theme of Blood Sacrifice and told us of a question asked at school "Who was upset when the Prodigal Son returned from the Far Country?" "The Fatted Calf", answered one of the boys. During further contemplation of the subject he reminded us that we need a "Living" interpretation of the Spirit of Jesus.

The CCCWA want us to understand that we are not owners of the Living World and that love and compassion for God's creatures with whom we share the planet are essential Christian virtues.

The Christian and vegetarianism

The question was asked, "Do we have to be vegetarians to

work for animal welfare?" The panel answered that we do not have to be vegetarians to care about the conditions of livestock kept in a cramped, unsuitable and totally unnatural environment.

This could be redeemed by good husbandry and there are signs that the tide is turning in favour of CARING versus mere profit and efficiency because "Nature Hits Back" at exploitation with disease and degeneration.

For many, vegetarianism is one of the answers to some of the problems of animal welfare and it is a fast growing lifestyle. The mass of information in all the media and the vegetarian produce and fare in shops, supermarkets and restaurants, are evidence of a change in customer awareness and demand.

We found the conference an informative, challenging and exhilarating experi-

ence because of a redeeming and lively sense of humour (trust the Clergy!) amid all the serious and depressing evidence of acute suffering among the animals. The Clergy and all the other Christians and non-Christians assembled found common ground in the following words by that great Christian Albert Schweitzer: "Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace".

Barbara Latto

**Katy
in
Caversham**

REGULAR readers will have missed this stimulating column — our dear Katy has not been too well. We all wish her a speedy recovery and hope to have her column back with us soon.

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PLAYING FIELDS
AND PAVILION**

Mrs Connie Bartlett who has for some 15 years been responsible for the bookings of the pavilion has now retired and her place has been taken by Mrs Gwendoline Lawton, 128c Woodcote Road, Caversham (Tel. 481057), to whom all future applications should be made. A considerable debt is owed to Mrs Bartlett who has given generously of her time and abili-

ties over a long period.

It is proposed over the next few months to give some details of the clubs who are regular users of the field and pavilion starting with the following:

**Mapledurham Lawn
Tennis Club**

One of the users of Mapledurham playing fields is Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club founded about 30 years ago. They have use of three hard courts which can be played on in all weathers. Some hardy members play throughout the winter whatever the temperature! From April to September club members may play in organised games on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The club have this year two men's doubles, mixed doubles and ladies' doubles teams playing in Oxfordshire LTA leagues. The teams have achieved steady progress up the divisions in recent years. The club will welcome applications for membership from players of a reasonable standard. Present annual subscriptions are £20 for

an adult, £35 for a family membership. Applications should be made to Nigel Stanbrook, 16 Venetia Close, Caversham (Tel. 482200).

**Mapledurham
Cricket Club**

The cricket club runs two Saturday sides and one Sunday side and plays in the Berkshire League. Nets are available at Bulmershe College on several evenings a week at the beginning of the season. The club welcomes new members and would also like to hear of anyone willing to score or umpire. The contact is John Ramsay, 196a Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham (Tel. 471045).

**Blagrove Women's
Institute**

The Blagrove Women's Institute monthly meeting is held at Mapledurham Pavilion on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. The next meeting will be on May 6, 1986. Why not come along on your own or bring a friend. You will be warmly welcomed.

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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

EVEN LONGER DELAYS

"LONG DELAYS, Caversham Bridge under repair" announce the preliminary warning notices, blandly ignoring the fact that there are long delays even when it is not under repair. Stifling their groans, motorists would do well to reflect that if it had not been done soon it would have started to follow the example of

its famous predecessor and more or less have fallen apart.

Of course when its two predecessors were replaced (not merely repaired) wheeled traffic would have been far outnumbered by foot traffic and ferries and a footway appear to have sufficed to get them all to and fro. That would never do for today's volume of traffic and the need to get from A to B as

quickly as possible. So after a brief respite from delays caused by the IDR we once more settle to slow-moving queues.

That will not be the end either. The Cross-Town Route will be the next on the scene, with the all too familiar notices going up again. Yet come to think about it, the one we could least do without is Caversham Bridge itself, so as we fume and fret we had better remind ourselves how much worse it would have been if nothing had been done at all.

doubt brought more traffic to the area as people who used to go further afield for their shopping now find they have a good supermarket much nearer.

Some of these people, particularly those who do not live in Caversham, venture beyond Waitrose and find Caversham has some other good shops to offer. It is a pity there isn't something to tell them of the interesting shops to be found in Prospect Street.

However, it has also become very plain that with the advantage of having so many lines under one roof, Waitrose has also taken trade from established shops. When it comes to it, like it or not, loyalty plays little part with shoppers. Convenience easily beats it and is indeed rapidly

overtaking costs as the main influence. The shop that combines both of these is bound to win. Waitrose scores heavily on the first and sometimes, but not always, on the second. It is good to see the other shops fighting back, and we wish them success. Even if shoppers are low on loyalty they do appreciate service and that is where Caversham shops can score. It could be the factor that makes the difference between continuance and closure.

Hard frost

Some of Caversham's worst potholes, to which this column recently drew attention, have now been dealt with, but alas, several weeks of unbroken frost from late January onwards have played havoc with road surfaces, and new ones are rapidly forming. It might be compared with painting the Forth Bridge, which has always been a continuing job, except that with potholes the reason they keep on appearing is that the road surface is already in need of being made up. As long as cuts in public expenditure are regarded as the overriding factor, the problem will only get worse.

Diary date

Caversham and District Residents' Association Annual Meeting. Monday, April 28, at 8pm, at Church House, followed by speakers and discussion on Berkshire's proposed extension into South Oxfordshire.

Shopping in Caversham

With the Waitrose supermarket being open for nearly eighteen months, it is now possible to see the effect it has had on the centre of Caversham. It has without

OBITUARY —

Mrs Hilda Hodges

MRS Hilda Hodges died on Monday, February 3 aged eighty-seven years. She leaves a daughter and five grandchildren, of whom she was very proud. She came to Reading from Wales in 1947 and joined St Andrew's Church where she continued to worship until July, 1985 when she became housebound.

She was a practical Christian and was interested in everybody and everything, and saw the coming and going of many of St Andrew's Priests-in-charge. She was a member of St Andrew's Mothers' Union and the Working Party, and was well known for her skills as a needlewoman.

For the first years at Reading she had the responsibility of looking after her husband who suffered from multiple sclerosis, and on his death continued to live in Kidmore

Road. It was a great hurt to her when, in early 1985, her younger daughter, Gill died.

She was a great believer in spiritual healing and to this end supported the Guild of St Raphael at St Andrew's and faithfully prayed daily for a large number of sick people. Until a year before her death she was also a member of a Meditational Prayer Group held weekly at Springfield St Luke, and led by a member of St Andrew's.

To sum it all up, she was many faces to many people, and above all she served and loved her Lord until her death. Her funeral service took place at St Andrew's on Monday February 10 and her ashes were laid alongside those of her husband and her daughter in St Andrew's Garden of Remembrance. Thank you Hilda for your witness to us all. J.E.G.

Sue Ryder Support Group Caversham

THE Group recently held their Annual General Meeting reviewing the activities and welcoming Denis Rogers from the Home at Nettlebed, who has a collective responsibility for the support groups and fund raising. As a result of the year's work £500 was sent to the home. We were represented at the Caversham Pop-In Centre at Christmas and together with our own endeavours we sold well over £400's worth of Christmas Cards. We sincerely thank you all for your support.

Sadly as we go to press

we have learned of the death of Mrs Joan Turner who has fought against cancer for several years, but who supported us greatly and was able to spend her last few days in the loving care of Nettlebed with her family.

Plans are made for attending School Fairs like the Easter Market at the Hill and the Highdown Fair (May 17) and to hold the Annual All Sorts Fair (October 11) at Caversham Hall. Also the fund raising Committee at Nettlebed will be holding Summer and Christmas Fairs there again. More on these next time.

WELCOME BACK!



— E. S. Archer

After an absence of six years, Sylvia Jones has returned to Caversham Library as branch librarian.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE HILL CHAPEL

DURING the last few weeks we have been particularly considering the matter of evangelism, and how the Lord wants us to reach out to those around us who do not know and trust Him. We have been grateful to Mike Mortimer of the Wallingford Ridgeway Fellowship for pinpointing seven areas which should concern us as Christians.

Firstly, we must be leading godly lives — then we will be seen to be different from the world around. Healing of the sick and compassion for people are very much interlinked, but vital if we are to represent Jesus here in Caversham. Before we can expect to see conversions, it is important to find those in whom the Holy Spirit is at work, as they will be ready to accept the good news of Jesus.



As a fellowship we are becoming more aware of the physical and material needs which many people have, and we must work at meeting those. Closely following this is being able to offer rest in Christ to those who are weary of life. Lastly, these six areas need to be bathed in prayer — that we know the mind and will of God so that we

may be co-workers with Him.



At the end of February we were very pleased to welcome Tony Goodman, working in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, to our Sunday meetings. Tony is in fellowship with W.E.C. (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ) which is based at Bulstrode near High Wycombe.

Taking Joshua 1 v. 14 and 15 as his text, Tony exhorted us not to forget our brothers in Africa. He shared with us some of the difficulties which beset the Church in Guinea-Bissau. In particular he emphasised the problem of working under a communist government, with much corruption, problems of which we, even in "post-Christian" Britain know nothing. Often the local laws are such that the taxes imposed on transporting and selling food make it uneconomical for the farmers to produce it in the first place.

Nearly half of the population of Guinea-Bissau is Muslim. Thus when a new convert confesses to having thirty wives, what ever does the missionary do? Tony shared with us how one such convert saw God deal with this problem without any human intervention. As time went on his wives

dwindled away — some left in disgust that he had become a Christian, others no doubt died. Eventually the man was left with one wife — and he's very happy with her.

As a church we felt very much challenged by Tony's visit. We need to be open to hear what service God is calling each one of us to. We can all pray for our brothers in Africa, that God will sustain and support them and that the church will grow — in numbers and in maturity.



Following last month's report, we reproduce the above picture taken on the occasion of the presentation at St Andrew's to the Millings. Taken with the Millings are the Rector, the Rev Richard Kingsbury, Mr Ken Bennett and Mr Alf Martyn-Johns, churchwardens, and Mr David Cooper and Mrs Molly Sidford, District Wardens of St Andrew's.

— E. S. Archer

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

ST MARGARET'S have recently said farewell to Victoria Laughter and her family. To Victoria they owe a great deal of gratitude, for each week she cleaned St Margaret's after Mrs Durrant moved to Sonning Common and was no longer able to help. Victoria's loving care of the little church has been much appreciated and St Margaret's are very grateful that Mrs Floyd, who now lives in the village, has so kindly offered to take Victoria's place. The congregation wish the Laughters every happiness in their new home.

The Pancake Party held in Trench Green Hall on the Saturday before Shrove Tuesday was a great success with some fifty coming along to devour the pancakes and in some cases — toss them. Those who have lived in the rural part of Mapledurham for many years will remember Maud Pickerin who died on February 7th. Maud and her husband, Tom, came to Mapledurham in the nineteen fifties and lived in a flat over the Victorian Vicarage stables in the village. Both attended St Margaret's. Although

it is now some twenty years since they left to live in Goring there are still some who remember Maud's generous hospitality and her wonderful cooking. On many occasions she gave breakfast to visiting clergy during interregna. It is a tribute to her cheerful friendly self that several of her

old friends from Mapledurham kept in touch with her all these years and visited her regularly at her little home in Goring where over the last year she lived without her beloved Tom. We shall miss you greatly, Maud, but your memory will remain with us in the years ahead.

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ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION

AT the February meeting Mr W. A. Vincent told how he became a Lay Reader and how he is able to assist the clergy in their work. Many questions were asked and all members enjoyed the interesting and informative afternoon.

"Tea on Sunday" is a new venture to be hosted by the Mothers' Union to provide a social time for those who would like company. To start with this will be held monthly on the second Sunday of each month commencing on Sunday, April 13 from 4pm — 6pm in St Andrew's Hall. Afternoon tea will be available at a reasonable price.

More news about the discussion on the ORDINATION OF WOMEN to be held on May 28 at 8pm in St Andrew's Hall: the team leading the discussion will be four members of the Church of England Synod — two from the House of Clergy and two from the House of Laity. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation. PLEASE BOOK THIS DATE NOW.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

HAIL AND FAREWELL!

Elmslie Perkins
FEBRUARY 1986 marked the loss from St Andrew's Caversham of two well-loved workers for Christ. First Dr David Milling, priest-in-charge, who moved to Broadhinton in Wiltshire and then later on in the month Elmslie Perkins, who as a Reader had served Caversham well. He came to Caversham from Sheffield in 1976 when he became the Official Receiver for Reading. He very quickly joined forces with the team of Readers and Clergy in the Parish, leading discussion groups, preaching and taking services such as Matins and Evensong, and in Lent, Compline.

Two fairly recent introductions to the Reader's sphere of activity have been in the ministry to the bereaved, entailing visiting the bereaved, comforting and preparing them for the funeral service which he then takes; follow-up visits may also be made; the second is the taking of the consecrated Elements to housebound worshippers, or extended Communion as it is called. These activities which Elmslie and other Readers of the Parish have been carrying out are much appreciated by the recipients and it is a most rewarding form of service from the Reader's point of view.

Elmslie, with his ever-ready smile and shining morning face as Shakespeare would have said, had great gifts as a counsellor and he has been much valued for his advice. He was never too busy or so occupied that he could not spare time to talk with people who approached him. Although Elmslie is a

dedicated Reader, he is not so spiritual that he was no earthly good. His experiences in the Army and as the Official Receiver have given him a depth of understanding enabling him to carry out his duties as a Reader as a true servant of Christ. St Andrew's owes a depth of gratitude to Elmslie for his effective treasurership of the Hall accounts, enabling this part of the Church's work to be carried out economically and effectively.

Elmslie and Irene have moved to Cornwall to be near their family, but there is no fear that "Idle hands will turn to mischief" as the Parish to which they are going is very much under-staffed by clergy. His talents will be welcomed and used to the full I feel sure. Elmslie could not have done so much for the Parish in general and St Andrew's in particular if he had not had the support, encouragement and love of his wife Irene. We thank them both most sincerely for all that they have done and wish them every happiness and God-speed in the next chapter of their lives.

Frank Baker

God never closes a door without opening another one. As Elmslie departed, so the Parish was able to welcome Frank Baker and his wife at Festal Evensong at St Peter's Church on February 9, when Canon Denys Ruddy, Warden of the Oxford Diocesan Association of Readers, licensed Frank Baker as a Reader to work in the Diocese. Canon Denys Ruddy was acting on behalf of the Bishop of Oxford.

Frank and his wife moved to Caversham last August to be near



Frank Baker

their daughter. Frank was a Church Army Officer in 1939 responsible for a Mission Church. After enlistment in the last war he carried on his Church Army work concurrently throughout the war years, holding a commission in the RAMC. After the war he surrendered his Church

Army licence to devote his time in the service of the YMCA. In 1964 he was licensed as a Reader and has served in that capacity ever since. He is currently Trustee and Chairman of Personnel Committee of Dorothy Kerin Trust Burrswood, Trustee and Deputy Chairman of Help the Aged; Trustee and Executive Committee member of Voluntary and Christian Service, Trustee and Chairman of the Acorn Christian Healing Trust in support of the work of Bishop Morris and Anne Maddocks.

We hope that Frank and his wife will be happy in Caversham and we consider ourselves lucky that such a devoted Christian has come to be amongst us. W.A.V.



More of those taking part in the SCF Valentine Party (see p.9)

Above — Karen Reid and Anna Milne

LINK GROUP

A MEETING of the Group was held on February 24 at the home of Mrs Doreen Bennett. The Chairman, Mrs Pat Jenkins, introduced Mr Ben Guppy from Heathcroft Children's home in Marshland Square, Emmer Green. This is a short stay Home for mentally handicapped children and young people up to the age of nineteen years. The aim of the home is to give parents and families relief from the care of the children for short periods, not longer than three weeks at a time and usually four or five nights. The home has fifteen bedrooms with twenty beds so most children have separate rooms. The aim is to give individual stimulation of sight, sound and touch to the most severely handicapped, while those able to attend school travel from the home. Day care is also offered and occasionally baby-sitting for short periods. The home is financed by the Social Services. It is hoped that this kind of service will increase with even smaller units. Visitors are welcomed at the Home — it is essential that the work is more widely known about.

Members then discussed the work of the Group. There had been several offers of furniture and this had been used to help people being rehoused or in other special need. The fortnightly tea parties continue though defeated by the weather on one occasion!

Work at the Care Centre continues. A buffet lunch was held at the home of Mrs Lynda Bates on February 5 so that all the workers at the Centre could meet and discuss ideas for the future. The Pop-In Centre now has several "regulars" and numbers are slowly increasing. Arrangements were discussed for the forthcoming sale which will be reported on in a future edition.

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UNITY AND 'THE LORD'S TABLE'

IT was good to learn, in a recent Caversham Bridge of the inspiring service of unity, held in the Roman Catholic church at Sonning Common. However, it did appear that, in the description of the consummation of that service at the communion-rail, that division became tangibly apparent. It is easy to feel there is some reproach in this, but far better to understand the background against which this division still exists in order that we may work and pray together to a more complete unity.

History has quite a lot to do with it — perhaps much more than theology. As a Methodist, I see the "coming to the Lord's Table" as in no way conditional on membership of any section of the Christian Church, let alone being a Methodist. It is on this basis we extend our invitation. But our history, along with most other similar denominations, goes back little more than three centuries, whereas Roman Catholic history has its roots many centuries

earlier, when it became a vast spiritual and social influence in the developing years of Christianity during and after the spread of the Roman Empire. Among the nations and cultures which emerged eventually it became influential in the political sphere as well as the religious one. It was not surprising that in both spheres it needed to

GUY WILLIAMS

demand full allegiance and exert real power if it was to maintain authority over identifiable peoples.

Hence the "closed shop" — for want of a better term — by which it could hand out privileges and penalties to its followers, exercising both through its priests. Indeed, to maintain any standards and promote the Christian faith, this may well have been essential. Through colonisation by the nations of Europe the faith and practice of the Roman Catholic Church spread far into the "new" western world, along with its strong political influence. But for this the Christian church may well have shrunk in effective terms to very small dimensions. But, as a result, our British section is but a small part of the wider Roman Catholic Church, and bound by considerations and practice which range far wider. Fundamental change is thus more problematic.

It was the authoritarianism (and political power) of the Roman Catholic

persuasion against which Cromwell fought so successfully in the 17th century, but never succeeded in rooting out its spiritual influence among many faithful followers.

But he was in reality to replace it with a new order, equally authoritarian in its insistence on permitting to "communion" only those who "conformed" by baptism and confirmation. It is only in very recent times that this has changed. As little as 12 years ago, invited to preach in a local Anglican church, it was necessary for the priest in charge "to invite me on this occasion to partake of the elements". Now, in good standing with my own church, I may do so freely.

Wesley preached that salvation was for all who sought the Saviour, and, while many who were of the Anglican church received his message, so did great numbers who had no links with it, and so were barred from recognised observance of the "Sacrament". Wesley and his followers had perforce to offer their wider invitation "to all who love their Lord", or the faith and the fellowship which they offered would have been but a farce, in much the same way as was the insistence of early Jewish Christians that gentiles must be circumcised before they could be accepted.

This "open table" was clearly right for our Methodist tradition, but one has to recognise that by establishment and long-standing practice it was and is far harder for the other churches to come to this point. Indeed,

among many of their own people, it would as yet be an unthinkable proposition, for rooted beliefs go deep. I am convinced however that, while mutual understanding can grow immensely, this is the supreme barrier which we must all overcome, if union is to be achieved. After all, it is sinners, not saints, that our Lord calls to His table!

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**A WORD
 OF PRAISE**

ON Thursday, February 6, Caversham awoke to a bitterly cold morning and several inches of snow yet the papers arrived on time, so did the milk and also the post. At one paper shop all 22 delivery boys and girls turned up as usual. Not one was missing. We should indeed be thankful to everyone who has to turn out so early in such unpleasant weather conditions to bring us papers, milk and mail.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

THE final count for this year's Half Marathon is over 7,300 and as always many late entries had to be refused. This is again a record number for the event but with the restricted facilities at the South Reading Leisure Centre and with certain road-works around the course we could not gamble on taking on even larger numbers.

When the klaxon sounds at 10.30am on the 6th April around 6,500 people will start pounding through the streets of Reading along with over 20 wheelchairs. Because of the change of start venue, Caversham will come a little earlier in the Race and the runners will reach the 7 mile mark just before turning from Richfield Avenue onto Caversham Bridge. At this point there will be a Drinks Station and a Time Clock so that the runners can check their time at this stage of the Race. Because they are only just over halfway the competitors will still be tightly bunched when they reach this side of the river. The leaders should be at Caversham Bridge by around 11.05am and between 11.15 and 11.35am the majority

will be passing through Caversham. As always this will be a very good area for viewing the Race. Please remember that between approximately 11am and 11.45am it will not be possible to get into or across Lower Caversham.

Last year we had a very exciting Race and a very close, tightly knit group of 5/6 runners racing stride for stride right the way to the Finish. With the standard of entries this year we have the prospect of not only a very exciting Race but also an exceptionally fast one to compare with anything seen before in this country. The winning team from last year, Basildon A.C., will be competing as will a very strong team from Aldershot & Farnham A.C. led by Bernie Ford who has won many leading Half Marathons and been a first class runner at 10,000 metres on the track. Also in contention should be the first three from last year's Race — Kingston Mills from Shaftesbury Harriers, Keith Penny from Cambridge Harriers and Merv Brameld from Invita A.C. The winner of two years ago, Mike Hurd, will be running and now

that he is 40 he should be the first Veteran to finish. A newcomer to our Race will be John Boyes, a postman from Bournemouth who holds the record for the Glasgow Marathon, the second largest full Marathon in the UK. In the Women's Race we have the wives of two of the leading male contenders in competition for first place in their category. Glynis Penny, who finished 2nd in the Women's Race last year will face tough competition from Ann Ford of the Borough of Hounslow A.C. who has a best time of 71 mins. — well inside the existing Women's record. The event will also be very competitive in the Wheelchair section as we have all three previous winners competing.

Further down the field there will be

great competition between the Fun Runners, Joggers and first-time performers from every walk of life who's one aim will be to reach the Finish. We have an abundance of clergy of all denominations taking part, both local and from as far afield as the Isle of Wight and London, including the Rev. Alan Wilson from St. John's Caversham who will be running under No. 2363. Turn out and give him your support on the day.

We have had some very bad weather over the last six weeks but I hope this has not prevented those taking part from keeping up with their training because the more you have prepared the more you will enjoy the day and the better you will feel when you cross the Finish line. There are many from Caversham taking part — Good Luck to

you all on 6th April and I hope you enjoy your Run.

As in the past the main charity to benefit from the event will be the British Sports Association for the Disabled but there will be many people running to raise money for a vast number of charities and good causes. It is always difficult to identify exactly how much has been raised but an approximate estimate for the last three years would be something well in excess of £100,000. The Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Caversham will be collecting on the day for various charities: a vehicle will be following the Race with collectors and there will be collectors at certain parts of the course including Caversham. Please give them your generous support.

SAVE THE CHILDREN VALENTINE PARTY

THE Caversham Branch of SCF held their annual Valentine Party at St Andrew's Hall on Saturday, February 15. About seventy supporters of SCF enjoyed this now traditional get-together.

Each year entertainment is provided by some group or individual. This year a number of youngsters from the Jeannine Greville Stage Academy pro-

vided their services and talents free of charge. Ages ranged from eight to eighteen, led by Guy Brown (fourteen) from Gee Gee Pets, Prospect Street. His brother Giles proved an entertaining and capable comper.

The Chairman in thanking the youngsters pointed out that it was fitting to be entertained by children who have such talents and can

develop them, a contrast to the majority of the world's children who are the focus of the SCF fund raising activities. It was also most gratifying to find such an enthusiastic and generous group of children in Caversham.

Refreshments were provided by members of the committee and other helpers. Together with a raffle the evening raised over £120 for the fund.



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COUNCIL**

The West Berkshire Community Health Council represents the public's interest in Health Service affairs in Caversham, Reading and West Berkshire.

The twenty-four members of the Council are drawn from local authorities, voluntary organisations and other sections of the community. They form an experienced independent group, representing your health care interests.

Council meetings held regularly are open to the public and notes are put in the local press

The influence and effectiveness of the Council depends on the weight of public opinion behind it. Views, ideas, proposals or complaints on any aspect of local health affairs — from individuals or from community or other groups — are welcome.

The more views that come to hand the better the Council can act on your behalf.

For further information, call or telephone our friendly staff
John Stevens (Secretary), 10 Gun Street, Reading
(behind Heelas) Telephone Reading 595678

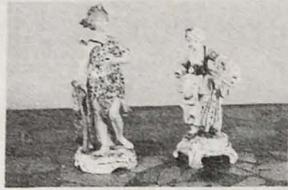
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ROUND THE CLUBS

The National Council of Women of Great Britain

Kennet Branch

AT A meeting in February at a member's home, the group were very interested in a talk given by Councillor Martin Salter speaking on the question "The Poverty Trap, is it still with us?" His views and examples of poverty bore out members' ideas that poverty is definitely still with us, due to environment, not making ends meet and other social factors. The National Council of Women are at present discussing the outlined changes to the welfare benefit system, proposed by the government white paper, with a view to offering comments. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Vicky on Pangbourne 3260.

Chazey WI

"HOW to kill your Houseplants Slowly" was the title of February's talk given to Chazey WI by Mr Osborne from Burchett's Green. It was an amusing account telling what or what not to do with house-

plants. The general advice was the care of plants but there was an interesting digression into the realms of ecology. Thanks were given by Christine Harvey, and later, during the business of the meeting, the group offered thanks to the organiser of the very successful Moveable Feast held on February 1—spirits had not been dampened by the cold wet and windy evening.

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent welcomed members to the February Meeting. After news of crafts, playreading, Rambling and Scrabble, the speaker was Mrs M. Body—her subject "A Woman's Place". She went back into history, giving examples of women's work up to the present time, and doing it successfully. There was a book stall, members bringing unwanted books. The competition "An Open Sandwich" was won by Mrs Barge.

Blagrove WI

THE bitterly cold day did not deter members from attending the February meeting, chaired by Mrs Muriel Popplewell, and a warm welcome awaited the newest member and also a visitor. The proposed programme for the next twelve months was outlined by Mrs Ford and approved by the members.

Mr Boxer told of a train journey across Europe through France, Germany, Austria, Rumania, Yugoslavia to Venice. He showed many lovely slides, and whetted the appetite for such travels.

The raffle was won by Mrs Wright and Mrs Pritchard. The competition winners were Mrs Housden, Mrs Ogden and Miss Chapman. A very warm welcome would be given to any new members who would like to attend, perhaps as visitors at first.

Caversham Community Association

THERE was a good attendance, despite the chilly and damp weather, at the social evening held on the first Monday in February. Vicki Scheel presided over the Nearly New Stall which gave the members the opportunity to sell their unwanted goods. A proportion of the proceeds was given to club funds. Icy weather following a heavy snowfall

the previous week deterred some of the members from attending the Valentine party arranged for February 10. The party was in the form of an American supper, everyone brought a tasty contribution to the refreshment table. After some Old Tyme dancing a Valentine card competition gave the artistic members a chance to show their skill. Peggy Martin and Elsie Prett were joint winners. Musical games and more dances completed a happy evening.

Chick and Betty Fowler were welcome visitors on February 17 when they brought some excellent slide films of their world tour to show the members. Betty gave an informative description of the places portrayed as Chick projected the slides. The film show started with Australia and included views of Brisbane, Alice Springs and a fascinating glimpse at the life-style of the Aborigines. The tour continued through New Zealand then on to Tahiti where Betty was garlanded with flowers on her birthday. Photographs of America followed including the Hollywood Bowl, San Francisco and the Golden Gate. Thanks were expressed to Mr and Mrs Fowler for a most entertaining evening.

The attendance was again reduced on February 24 due to the continuing wintry conditions. However, an entertaining "Quiz" evening was enjoyed by the members with Muriel Waite opening the proceedings with a musical quiz. Other club members followed with more questions, small prizes were awarded to those with the highest scores.

Caversham Heights TWG

Canal and Church AT THE meeting in St Andrew's Hall in February of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild, Mr D. Crosier told of the history of the Kennet and Avon canal. A member of the Canal Trust, which was formed to try to restore the Canal, he told how the task was being assisted by a youth opportunities scheme. With the use of slides he introduced members to Blake's Lock (there is a museum there), Chestnut Walk and other parts of the canal in Reading, apart from many other beauty spots. Now many stretches are being used by boats, walkers and fisher-

men, and there is provision for disabled fishermen in some places. Turf-sided locks are only found along "our" canal. One of the most interesting points along the whole of the canal is at Crofton, near Great Bedwyn, where a very old steam-driven beam engine can still be used to raise water, and can be seen on Bank holidays. There was a bring-and-buy sale at the meeting and news about the formation of a singing group. Some excellent productions had been seen at the TG National Drama Festival at Stratford-on-Avon and other outings to theatres and the Ideal Home Exhibition were taking place. At social studies in Highmoor Hall the organist and choirmaster from Greyfriars church, Mr F. G. Spriggs, a Londoner with a feeling for history and author of a book, described how the Grey or Franciscan friars, after praying about it, did move from an earlier church near Caversham bridge. Archbishop John Pelham of Canterbury, himself a friar, warned the Abbot of

Reading to find land for them and they were able to commence ministering to the poor from the new church in Friar Street in 1311. There was no chancel but private devotions were held in the friars' quire. Original doors and arches can still be seen. In Henry VIII's time the friars were driven out and the church used as a town hall and even a prison, but from 1863 it has continued the evangelical tradition of its early founders.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

AT THEIR first meeting of the New Year, Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were entertained by Mr F. Terry and Mrs F. Clarke, ably accompanied by Mrs K. Robson on the piano. Mr Terry outlined the history of the English ballad from the very earliest known, Sumer is icumen in, to the present day. Ballads have always been popular except for a period of twenty years, during

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

Cromwell's reign, when they were banned. The Victorian era was the golden age of sheet music, with increasing affluence in the middle and upper classes, and the advent of the modern piano. Boys and girls were taught to sing and play and musical evenings round the piano were extremely popular with most families. Mr Terry and Mrs Clarke illustrated the talk with the singing of

several beautiful ballads of every type and from all ages; a lovely way to spend a dark January evening.

The Guild voted to support The Salvation Army and the Home Farm Trust as their charities of the year, while continuing to support Dhaka. Details of an outing to Chewton Mendip in June gave a lift to everyone's spirits and made them think of summer days and sunshine.

On a bitterly cold evening in February, a large group turned

up to hear Mrs Jennifer Cawte speak on the work of the Save the Children Fund. Both groups share the same President, Princess Anne, and the Townswomen's Guilds nationwide are busy raising money to fund a Nutrition Unit in Dhaka. Members were most interested to hear more of this work, and of the very wide range of work undertaken, one third of it in the United Kingdom. Save the Children Fund is non-racial, non-political and non-denominational. It must be invited to work in a country by its Government, or in the United Kingdom by the local councils. The main aim of the Fund is the relief of suffering, with the emphasis on self help; it usually works on a project for a period of five years, at the end of which it is hoped to leave behind fully trained local people to carry on the work. Save the Children Fund pioneered the introduction of playgroups into hospitals about forty years ago, and those in the Royal Berks and the Battle hospitals were started in this way.

During the evening a raffle took place in aid of Dhaka, and was won by Mrs E. Weaver and Mrs I. Dovey. A scrabble Day had also raised money for this project, and the Arts and Crafts, Social Studies and Rambler groups had all been meeting as usual. The meeting in April will be on 22nd of the month at 7.15pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, when the speaker will be Mrs Nash on Beauty-Colour Coding. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

solos and poems. One of the founder members of this Darby and Joan Club, Mrs Dorothy Dawkins will be sadly missed from our meetings for a while. Her husband John died suddenly in February, and she is at present staying near her daughter in Devon. "Dawkie" joined the WRVS in 1949 and she has been a great helper and tremendous support to Club Leaders and members alike. Several members attended John Dawkins funeral on February 19 and the Club provided a tea for relatives afterwards.

A talk and slides on Egypt, the QE II and Canada are amongst our future events. An outing to Bowood House, Calne, Wiltshire, is planned for May.

Caversham Ladies Club

MRS Harwood thanked all the members who had braved the dreadful elements of our weather to attend their club meeting, but she assured them it was worth coming as Mrs Shirley Strong would be giving a demonstration on how to make and decorate Easter Eggs. If the exhibits already made and on show, chickens, large and small decorated eggs, loose chocolates and a lovely heart shaped box also filled with chocolates, were anything to go by, then the members were in for a treat, and Mrs Strong's demonstration was just that. After a mouthwatering talk and demonstration when members were told where to purchase moulds etc, and how easy it was for them to make the sweets in their own kitchenettes, they were filled with the urge to get started. This is when one would like to see a little fly on the wall to see all their efforts!

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

THIS is the first comment from the Club this year.

The New Year session started with a visit from Harold and Fred, when we were highly entertained with a wide variety of nostalgic songs from yesteryear.

The Pantomime Cinderella at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford at the end of January was a very lively show guaranteed to blow away any Winter Blues. There was a very welcome high tea provided at the Hare and Hounds, Watlington on the way home.

Bingo went with a swing at the beginning of February and the Fir Tree Club Singers turned out in force to give us a marvellous programme of songs

Mrs Strong gave the chocolate heart shaped box to the Club and the sum of £2.75 was raised towards club funds. Mrs Strong had offered her services free to the club, but the members wished to show their appreciation and a donation was made to her. This she kindly accepted and said she would give it to the Baptist Church Mission for children.

After a few minor details of future events followed by a most welcome cup of tea, Mrs Harwood wished them all a safe journey back home.

Maplewood WI

MAPLEWOOD WI welcomed representatives from the other Institutes in their Group to the thirty-first birthday party on January 21.

Mr Partridge from Englefield Garden Centre gave a lively and informative talk on the care of houseplants, several lovely specimens of which he had brought with him. He then conducted a quiz on houseplants brought by members.

The special birthday tea was much enjoyed, especially the birthday cake which was made by Mrs Palmer and cut by Mrs Armstrong.

The news that the rent for Watlington House is set to rise by a very large amount is a sad blow to all Institutes in the County following as it does so closely on the Denman appeal.

St Peter's Wives Group

DESPITE the very coldest of weather in February, there was a warm welcome for Linda Clark — Personnel Manager of Yellow Pages. Mrs Clark outlined her career route to personnel work and treated the Group to a flavour of her day to day work at Yellow Pages.

The Group's next monthly meeting is on April 15 in Church House at 8pm with the intriguing theme "Beetles and Biscuits".

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ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
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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10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (1st and 3rd Sundays)
MORNING WORSHIP (2nd and 4th Sundays)
FAMILY SERVICE (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am Morning Service (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST

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

Caversham Heights

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday only)
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's
9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)

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St Martin's School
9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House
6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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April 23 — 13 Newton Avenue (Rosemary Randall)
April 30 — 51 Galsworthy Drive (Clare Kenchington)

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St John's	November 24	Christopher Lemon
September 1	December 8	Tracey Kay
	January 5	Charlotte Harris
	January 19	Sarah Pembroke
	February 23	Kerry Sheppard
September 8		Believer's Baptism — Chapel on the Hill
September 15	January 26	Matthew Justice, Mark Hatcher, Sharon Jarvis, Francis Caton
September 20	February 9	Brian and Sheila Jones
November 3		

MARRIED

St John's	October 5	David Pearce and Jacqueline Broadhurst
September 7	October 12	Peter Marchant and Rachel Gaunt, Philip Blackburn and Linda Shoemith
September 28	October 26	Nicholas Ward and Susan Strange, Helen Russell and Ian May
	December 21	Paul Duffin and Samantha Smith

DEATHS

St John's
September 6 Winifred Stratton
September 19 Norman Surman
September 27 Kathleen Head
September 30 Christopher Sturt
October 2 Ella Irons
October 4 Jessie Larler
November 12 Dorothy Hughes
November 14 Henry Cosslett
November 25 Bessie Brooker
November 27 Iris Ostridge
December 12 Edna Page
December 17 Ernest Smith
December 31 Ernest Beasley
January 2 Kathleen Phillips
January 3 Ernest Goodyear, John Stratton
January 9 Frederick Cox
January 15 Francis Skidmore
January 16 Eric Lovejoy
February 24 Joan Turner (died following a long fight against cancer. She was greatly loved and all our sympathy goes to her family).

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