

YOUTH AIDS HANDICAPPED

By Sarah Boardley

FOR their appeal in 1985-1986, Caversham Heights Youth Group "Squash" chose the British Institute for Brain Injured Children. Once they had decided upon this charity they increased their knowledge of the Institute's work by getting to know Jake Elson and his family. Jake is brain injured and it was his parents David and Iris who told them about the Institute. They told also of the tremendous progress Jake had made under the guidance of the Institute's staff and with the help of many local volunteers.

They launched their appeal with a coffee morning and then held a Jumble Sale. Several members ran in a Fun Run and this, thanks to sponsors, raised money for the appeal. In November they held a thoroughly enjoyable Young People's Barn Dance at Trench Green Hall which was a great way of raising money.

Chris Butler operated a gardening scheme over his summer holidays and put a third of his earnings towards the appeal. This, combined with a third of the money Squash members made from their babysitting service, raised £160 over the year.

Altogether they managed to raise £570 for the Institute. This money was gratefully received by Jake and Iris Elson on behalf of the Institute and will be spent on equipment and training needed for the development programmes of many brain-injured children.



The top photograph shows Jake and his mother receiving a cheque for £570 from the Squash treasurer, Janet Nagle. Photo: Simon Hicks

THE poster had announced 'a frank and open discussion on the ordination of women' on Wednesday, May 28 at St Andrew's Hall. The debate was led by two 'pros': Hilary Unwin and the Rev. Richard Kingsbury and two 'antis': Canon Anthony Boulton and Claire Gough. All are members of the Church of England Synod. As an interested outsider, I looked forward to a fascinating evening. I was not disappointed. In fact, in a small way, I think all of those present felt themselves part of a chapter of church history.

The Case Against

Canon Boulton of St Giles' parish in Reading, based his opposition to the ordination of women on the effect it would have

on the authority of the Anglican Church and on its links with other Christian churches. He saw the male priesthood as essential, grounded in Scripture and tradition, the two mainstays of the Church's teaching.

The Case For

Hilary Unwin, in contrast to the reasoned argument of Canon Boulton, spoke from personal experience. She spoke of the joy of 'having the Gospel preached from where I stood,' by a woman priest. Many women, however, have experienced the pain of having their vocations denied or frustrated. Deaconesses possessing an abundance of the priestly quality of being 'channels for worship' are at present denied the chance

WOMEN PRIESTS: Prejudice or Principle

of using it in the priesthood.

And Again Against

It was interesting, next, to hear the case against the ordination of women from a woman's point of view. Claire Gough argued that so many aspects of the church's work were open to women that there was no need for them to look to the priesthood for fulfilment. She cited Mary, St Clare and Mother Theresa as examples of non-ordained women who had transformed the world through their faith

and courage. There was, she felt, very little that the priest did that was not open to the 'common priesthood of the laity'.

The Rector's View

Richard Kingsbury disagreed. How could representing Christ at the altar be described as a small thing? He had encountered women priests in Sweden, even in High Church parishes, and compared the experience to discovering colour television after knowing only black and white. He reminded us that

Synod had already voted to remove the barriers to women preparing for the priesthood. This July, Synod will vote on whether to carry the process one step further. He predicted that the vote for the ordination of women would be carried, but that it would inevitably lead to conflict within the church. The whole issue, he felt, had to be considered not only in the light of scripture and tradition but in that of the needs of society and the will of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

And So To The People

A lively discussion followed. Many people spoke of how personal encounters with women priests had

opened their minds to accept the concept. Others asked how a woman who experiences a vocation to the priesthood can possibly accept rejection.

Canon Boulton felt that such women, however sincere, were mistaken. With one exception, all the speakers from the floor looked forward to the ordination of women.

In summing up all 4 speakers spoke of their confidence that the Holy Spirit would guide the Church in all its discussions on this most vital question. From the informal conversation that followed the meeting, it was clear that all present had gained new insights into the whole role of women in the church.

L. M.

TALKING POINT

by Ralph Rogerson — Minister of Caversham Heights Methodist Church

DUCKS INTO SWANS

"SWAN SONGS" are for swans and farewell speeches for Tory candidates at by-elections. Therefore, as I possess neither the grace nor charm of either species, I will refrain from very much "Nine-years-in-Caversham-how-it-and-I-survived" stuff, 'ere I depart. In any case, there has been enough "Le roi est mort — vive le roi" among my Anglican Clergy friends recently for much excitement to stir as a little Methodist clerical collar flips off its Caversham axis towards Whitchurch, Hants.

Many thanks, though, for ecumenical blessings "undeserved, that have marked my erring track," and for the enrichment of mind and spirit that has come my way as we have sought to demonstrate together our essential one-ness in Christ.



Among many other things I have learned during my years in Caversham, I have become especially confirmed in a conviction that the church has to be totally committed to the deprived. As Christ's Body, the Church must set forth in corporate action and in the personal lives of members the values, life-style and basic stance of Jesus, in which case the poor must be "always with us" in worship, prayer, praise — in all we do. Otherwise "what are we to make of the wandering teacher who typically carried no purse, had nowhere to lay his head and yet appeared to be fond of parties, particularly in disreputable company." (John V. Taylor — "The Go-Between God").

This is not to say the deprived are always right or that no abuse colours aid schemes from time to time. Clients of the labour exchange are just as capable of fraud as operators on the Stock Exchange; Social Security claims as well as Income Tax Returns can be fiddled. Sin never was class-conscious! But it remains true that the Church, if true to Christ, must be for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed, the deprived.

Whatever "situational theology"

means or doesn't mean — to me it means discovery of the Cross upon which Jesus died for all interwoven into the horrors and tortures of South Africa and Northern Ireland and it discovers the Holy Spirit at work in Band Aid and Sport Aid. Bob Geldof, Omar Khalifa and many others may not be best pleased to be called "Christian" but I, for one, would not insult the Holy Spirit by saying He can only enter a human situation after receiving human permission. If the Holy Spirit was not in running shorts with those multitudes on Sunday, May 25, then that Yobbo MP who called Bob Geldof a Yobbo was right — and that I can't believe!

"There is only one Gospel, and it speaks clearly of both individual conversion and the struggle for a new humanity." (Beatriz Malano Couch). The Kingdom has to do with the changing of the heart and with the changing of society. That is the **totality of the Gospel** — and Jesus Christ knows nothing of one without the other. The Heart of the Gospel is not that God is Love. The Heart of the Gospel is that the God who is Love has set forth that love in down-to-earth terms in Jesus Christ.



But, we never forget that the church is not just a club for the religious; nor a haven for the unfortunate; nor a counselling centre for the distraught; nor a cosy huddle for the bible-puncher; nor a dilettante discussion group for the theoretical theologian; — though "a little bit of what you fancy" may do you a little bit of good — even in the church. But, FIRST, the church is a community that with FAITH, HOPE and LOVE strives in this world among the souls for whom Christ died — pointing them and all God's creatures, towards a Perfect Dawn in a Perfect World and a Perfect Life — where ugly ducklings become Swans and have a song to sing! Alleluia!

(Note: Ralph Rogerson will be leaving Caversham Heights in August).



Postbag

Dear Sirs,

It is very evident that many of today's problems and difficulties affecting the Social Services and other aspects of our society, too many to itemise, are due to the crushing burden of "defence," and it would appear that the armed forces are running the nation's economy. But that is the choice of the people, so what right have we to criticise and grumble? Christ's Gospel of love and salvation is replaced by retaliation and destruction, both of human lives and vast quantities of natural resources, so that in answer to the many crying needs of all sections of our people, we hear the oft-repeated excuse "There's no more money available!"

Dear Sirs,

I read with interest and some concern in the May issue of "Caversham Bridge" of the plans to build new accommodation in St Peter's churchyard. I had seen no previous references to such a project, which will undoubtedly have considerable impact upon the environment of St Peter's and Caversham Court, an area much loved by all who know it. The opinions of local residents have not, as far as I am aware, been sought; and the repeats in "Caversham Bridge" suggest

that there are several other options worthy of consideration, such as modernisation of the stable block at Caversham Court.

I hope the PCC can reassure local residents that all possible solutions are being thoroughly explored and public opinion fully consulted before any final decision is made.

Yours etc.,
V. P. Abel.
28 Auburn Court
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All contributions for the September issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, August 27.
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, August 22.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.
Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Telephone Reading 471703.
Printed by Thames Valley Newspapers Ltd, Tessa Road, Reading.

POOR JOHN BLAGRAVE

ON A Saturday early in February 1723, John Blaggrave, a farmer of Mapledurham, said goodbye to his wife and left home to sell corn in Reading market. It was the last time they were to see each other, for on his return from a most successful business trip he was murdered.

It appears that having crossed over Caversham Bridge on his way home, farmer Blaggrave stopped for a drink at the old Griffin Inn at the foot of St Peter's hill, an ancient tavern even in those days. There he bragged that he had sold his corn well. Unfortunately for him there were those present who heard this and decided to rob him. John must have stayed drinking for a long time for he met his end around two or three of the clock on the Sunday morning.

robbed of all his newly acquired wealth and left to die. However the evildoers were caught at Goring.

Three skeletons

This sad story was reported in one of the first editions of the Reading Mercury, which was founded in 1723. The short account ended "... three persons were taken upon suspicion".

In 1888, when the large house, Westdene, was being built (it lies opposite the junction of St Peter's Avenue and Woodcote Road) a drive was in the making. In the course of its construction

three skeletons were found two feet below the surface. All were stretched out stiff as if they had been hanged.

Two belonged to a couple of men and a little way apart was the skeleton of a woman. It is interesting to note that the great field on which Woodcote Way now stands was known as the great Gollow or Galley field. It is marked as such on the Tithe Award map for 1843. Were the remains those of the three persons apprehended at Goring and had they been taken, as was so customary, to be hanged at the place of the crime? Westdene

is almost part of Woodcote Way. John Blaggrave was certainly murdered only a few fields beyond Caversham.

Mrs Lybbe Powys, a well known local diarist in Georgian times also wrote about this incident, but she told a different story saying that John Blaggrave was killed by a certain Ambrose Strange near the Roebuck Inn. Now the Roebuck is found at Tilehurst beside the main Reading to Oxford road and if the victim had used this route home he would have had to cross the Thames by the ferry there and then taken the long way home through Mapledurham estate. It is true some people from Mapledurham did use this road, but John must have had a horse and wagon for his sacks of corn and would hardly have chosen this way home. As Mrs Lybbe Powys was not born until ten years after the incident it would appear that the Reading Mercury told the correct version of the occurrence.

Looking

through the parish records of it in 1723. The this period it was good lady stayed sad to see John on for several B l a g r a v e years at the farm included in the and never remanlist of those ried, either runpaying Poor Rate ning it herself or in 1722 and then with help from to find that her family or Widow Blaggrave neighbours. M.K.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The pastures in the wild are rich with blessing and the hills wreathed in happiness, the meadows are clothed with sheep and the valleys mantled in corn, so that they shout, they break into song.

Psalms 65.

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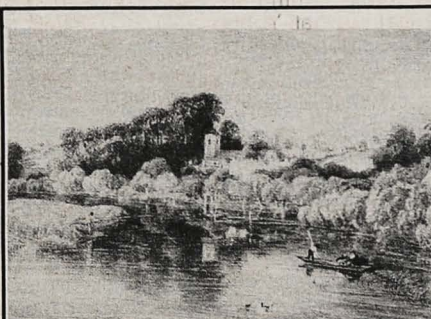
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A JOURNEY INTO ILLNESS

I WAS diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis four days before the big conference of the "Future of Work" at Maidstone on April 27. Curiously at first the diagnosis did me nothing but good. I looked better — many people remarked on it — "You look ten years younger" said someone. However, it wasn't long before some of the bad effects of this disease, that brings to muscles at random creeping weakness, made themselves felt. Most noticeable to me was a speech difficulty. This was

totally unexpected and a great shock. To a man who makes his living by speaking, deprivation of speech or a hint of it is catastrophic. As a preacher of the Word my existence is threatened.

I found also that my balance was getting worse. My *bête-noir* was steps down unsupported by a hand-rail. As churches, particularly around the altar, abound in such fussy flights of steps, what with that and the difficulty of projecting my voice, I found it very difficult to

take services. Now I find that my place in church is confined to the pews, which is what it is for most people after all.

Reactions

As for how people reacted to my illness, I noted two things. Sharing it enabled some people to open up, and to share some suffering or sorrow of their own. And the reaction of so many people was very practical along with the sympathy. I can remember in particular one old friend when I told him of the fight I was having with my voice said, "Remember this. If you ever have to go to a meeting and think you won't be able to say all you want to say, let me know and I'll come along and I'll speak for you — I'll be your voice. After all, we've known each other long enough so that I know what to say."

An important thing that happened during the summer was my encounter with two doctors (in a non-medical way). It was my local Vicar, Paul Gibbons, who introduced me to Jean Mutimer. She has MS but at the moment is enjoying a remarkable period of remission. She works almost full time in a very busy practice. We got on well from the start. Though from widely differing church backgrounds (she is a member of Maidstone's Free Evangelical Church) we found our Christian faith a strong common bond, and I value her biblical fluency.

Steiner Insights

The other doctor I was introduced to on the Tonbridge Road was Dr David McGavin. The significance of that meeting has to be seen against the background of my growing interest over the last three years in the thought and ideas of Rudolf Steiner.

Steiner, who lived from 1861 to 1925 was a leading



Many readers will remember David Clift, curate at St Peter's from 1963-67. His wife Mary did a great deal to help get this newspaper going, and died sadly in childbirth only a month after leaving Caversham. We are honoured to be able to reprint from "Insight" (24 St Peter's Road, Margate, Kent) this article by David Clift, giving this very personal account of his fight with multiple sclerosis. David is at 41 Buckland Hill, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0SA and would be very happy to hear from any of his old friends.

opponent of scientific materialism. Man is essentially and primarily a spiritual being, not a physical one, and he can get immense help from being in touch with the spiritual world around him. He argued that Western Man was over-intellectualised and should pay more attention to feelings, to the imagination, to the emotions, to the body and the space it occupies, and to nature and all its rhythms. Though a very unorthodox theologian he was deeply and totally committed to Christ.

Steiner's ideas have always attracted considerable attention in the teaching and medical professions, particularly in Germany and America. David McGavin practises his medicine with Steiner insights, making use of different aspects of human personality in the healing process. Alongside orthodox medical methods he makes use of natural medicine, that is herbal and mineral.

Realism

It was after the summer holiday when things started up again in September that realism set in. This MS was here to stay. It seemed to be the slow, progressive type — not the one that operates by fits and starts — the second of which seems to offer more likelihood of periods of remission. Orthodox medicine could offer no cure. Unorthodox medicine had come up with one or two treatments which helped some people, most noticeably, Hyperbaric Oxygen, that is the breathing of oxygen in a decompression chamber under pressure. Unfortunately I turned out to be one of the 40% whom this

treatment does not help. However, the experience was not without benefit on the social side. I met so many people, and as we all had MS most people were prepared to share their experiences, and I learned a great deal.

About now the Bishop of Maidstone came actively on to the scene. At first he canvassed the possibility of moving to a lighter job, but it soon became obvious, at least to him and to Judy, my wife, that as things were going the next step was, in fact, to early retirement. When she first used those words, after a subsequent telephone conversation with the Bishop, I shied away and couldn't accept it at all.

But early retirement — that was taking a drastic step, which I could not conceive. I had a bad two or three days. Slowly I was able to take a more positive viewpoint and actually realised that there were two activities which I could undertake "in retirement", which were just now presenting themselves. First, I had just been offered an honorary research post at the University of Kent at Canterbury. This provides an opportunity to link my contacts in industry with research-based thinking going on in the University.

Secondly, the work at David McGavin's practice in the Tonbridge Road, has got off to a good start, administered by a Trust of which I am a Trustee. There is scope for more personal involvement in this very interesting project, as I am not only a patient there but also available as a Counsellor.

The Way to Go

This sense of being shewn the way to go — I can call it no other — was reinforced by a remarkable experience I had in Arras in November, when I went over as part of a small Canterbury delegation to the Enthronement of the new Bishop of Arras. We were warmly welcomed and generously treated, leaving us in no doubt as to the value the Arras people clearly attach to the Canterbury link. But I received a personal nudge from an unexpected quarter. Over the years I have become friendly with the former Bishop of Arras. When I saw him he lent me a book about MS which he had just received. It is by a Swiss doctor of some eighty years who has for the past forty years been treating MS entirely by methods of diet. As I dipped into the book over the week-end I was able from the vantage point, as it were, of Arras to look across to Maidstone and have a view of my life. I saw a picture of someone who was coping pretty well with the disease but was not actually meeting it head-on. This book, so strangely

come before me, seemed to indicate a path and a direction.

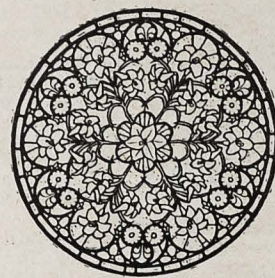
I am finishing this off on Christmas Eve. What is the state of play now? Six weeks ago, in conversation with a friend, I coined an aphorism; "The worse I get the better I feel". It sounds just smart but was in fact true. I wouldn't say the same today. The MS is a bit more advanced and poses a threat to daily activity. I have two dreads about what a friend graphically called "the body of our humiliation" could inflict on me. I dread becoming completely incontinent and I dread being deprived of my

speech. Clearly both these things might come to pass.

I have a tremendous sense of resilience about the present and the future. Each day of my life is different, and I have a sense of going along a path, and that I must look out for signs that will make plain the way.

Spiritually I am aware of new strengths and new inspiration.

I am deeply grateful for my family's support and good humour which underpins anything I can do outside. They see me at my worst, and both figuratively and literally have many extra burdens to bear.



David Clift has been Industrial Chaplain in The Canterbury Diocese since 1973. He is an honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

A JOY FOREVER?

The Warren escarpment and Hemdean Valley both had, perhaps, no more than an outside chance when Reading Borough Council put them forward as being worthy of inclusion in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, when it is considered that an AONB is only one down from a National Park. At the same time they are outstandingly beautiful in their context of an urban setting. There can be few towns with clearly defined boundaries that can boast anything comparable within their domains.

Nonetheless there was some disappointment when the Countryside Commission decided not to include these two in the extensions they are proposing for the AONB. Although areas are designated because of their scenic qualities and not to save them from threatened

development, inclusion all the same does bring a certain measure of protection, and it was always felt that if Hemdean Valley were designated, it would make it that much more difficult for developers to fill it with houses. That possible lifeline has now gone.

South Oxfordshire, on the other hand, were more fortunate with their proposals. They had suggested including all the land south of the existing AONB as far as the Reading Borough boundary and stretching eastwards towards Henley. The Countryside Commission has excluded land south of Kidmore End but has included the area west of the A4064 between Caversham and Mapledurham as well as a stretch extending towards Henley, east of Sonning Common. It has also, incidentally, recommended the removal of parts at

present included on the north east fringes in Hertfordshire.

We in Caversham will be particularly pleased to see all the land formerly making up Blagrave Farm and other nearby countryside included, as there is no doubt that developers' greedy eyes will shortly be resting on it, and apart from that, it is gratifying that our own bit of countryside should receive this public recognition of its beauty. We can now hope with a little more confidence that it will retain its charms for future generations to enjoy. If ever Berkshire does take over the five parishes (perish the thought) this might strengthen their stated resolve to restrict growth there in accordance with existing policy.

Meanwhile a group has been set up to persuade the Countryside Commission to reconsider its decision to exclude some of the areas recommended by local authorities. Anyone with views to express should write to the Countryside Commission, S. E. Regional Office, 30-32 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7RA.

Vandals strike again

Now that lighter days and better weather are here at last (and after that bitter winter and long cold spring it seemed as if it would never happen) we can lift up our eyes unto the hills once more, but if the hill that meets our eyes happens to be the flank of Hemdean Valley, what a sorry sight it is they see. The small site adjacent to the built-up area, which was unfortunately given outline planning consent years ago by the Department of the Environment's predecessor, has been scarred beyond recognition and redemption. The building firm which contrived to keep its permission "alive" by a little half-hearted digging through the years has now gouged out half the hillside, that part of the valley which the Reading Urban Wildlife Group in its survey described as being the most interesting from the point of its plant life, so that both contours and vegetation have gone. As a consequence it will limit the

type of building that can be put on it, regardless of what was permitted in the original detailed planning consent. In addition, as far as can be told, many other conditions are being disregarded. This is a disgraceful and deplorable state of affairs and it is to be hoped that the Borough Council will bring the full weight of the law to bear on those responsible.

It is a frightening example of what could still happen in the rest of the valley, and all the more depressing when it is considered that the whole valley was at least considered for inclusion in the AONB.

Further attack

At the time of going to press, the result of the Hemdean Valley Public Inquiry has still not been received. Messrs Higgs and Hill are leaving nothing to chance, and when the review of the County Structure Plan invited comments from interested parties, they at once weighed in with their argument that, as intensive development to the south of Reading was meeting with strong opposition, vacant land to the north of Reading should be earmarked for growth, thus relieving pressure on overburdened areas (and lining their pockets, but they didn't actually say that). The gods then smiled upon them for they were one of the lucky ones picked to give evidence at the inquiry into the Structure Plan. These do not work like ordinary public inquiries, where anyone is allowed to put their views, but instead certain bodies are invited to make their submissions.

So now, having exhausted those compelled to listen to an inordinately elaborated presentation of their case, they are about to repeat the whole performance at the coming inquiry. If they can't get their way by one means, they are jolly well going to do their best to get it by another. It is possible to object to the choice of those invited to give their views, so Caversham Residents' Association has written on the grounds that the invitation should be withdrawn as the matter is the subject of a public inquiry, still with, or only just

decided by, the Department of the Environment, or alternatively that it is a highly controversial matter and if one side can put its views, so should a representative of the other.

A thing of beauty is only a joy forever if those who value it are constantly vigilant, for Mammon is always ready waiting to seize it and turn it into hard cash.

Electoral entertainment

Spectators of the political scene looked on with delight this year when, instead of the usual apathy that characterises local government elections, Thames Ward, which to give it its due always registers a high poll, provided a piece of real excitement. The sitting councillor, Hamza Fuad, who has earned the reputation of being something of a maverick, had not endeared himself to his fellow-Conservative councillors, so in spite of the fact that his ward party had already nominated him, the councillors put forward their own nominee. This meant that for the first time ever the result in Thames was not a foregone conclusion. To their credit, Thames Conservatives voted for their own man, and Councillor Fuad got back, but with the Alliance's Martyn Allies barking closely at his heels, only 187 votes behind him. Meanwhile Councillor Fuad, who now holds the council balance in

his hands, has achieved public notoriety by voting how he thinks instead of how the group thinks. Whether that is a good thing or a bad thing is not for this column to say.

Meanwhile in Caversham Ward Councillor Fred Pugh, whose political opponents have to acknowledge the work he puts in on behalf of his ward, was returned with a comfortable majority, but in Peppard Ward Tory Geoff Canning narrowly escaped defeat by the Alliance's Ian Fenwick, who came within 27 votes of victory. It looks as if local politics are going to be far more lively than they have been for a long time, and that can only be a good thing.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

THE brains of the Anglican community in Caversham and Mapledurham were out in force on Wednesday, May 14. All the five other churches had accepted St Andrew's challenge to a quiz, which was only one of the many celebrations that are going on this year in aid of the 75th Anniversary of St Andrew's.

Each team had four members and, with six teams, there were two heats — the winner of each heat going forward to the final. Buzzers were rigged so that only the fastest buzz showed on the panel lights and that team was then spotlighted so everyone knew who was expected to answer that question. The Question Master was David Cooper and he kept the proceedings going with firmness and sympathy!

In the first heat were the teams of Caversham Park, St Barnabas and St Peter's. There were four rounds of questions with the second and fourth rounds being exclusively on the buzzer. The first heat started off with very close scoring, but by the third round it was obvious the final place was between St Peter's and St Barnabas. In the event St Barnabas got there with 78 points to St Peter's 66 and Caversham Park's 44.

In the second heat (St Andrew's, St Margaret's and St John's) St Andrew's led from

the start and never lost the lead but won only narrowly with 63 over St Margaret's 61 and St John's 48. After a short break for refreshments, the battle was set for the final clash of brains!

St Andrew's led at the end of the first round, St Barnabas at the end of the second; although St Andrew's won rounds 3 and 4, St Barnabas held on to the lead to come out the eventual winners by 83 points to 79.

St Barnabas were very worthy winners, who, apart from having a very strong team, played the buzzer very well, their inspired guesses keeping them in front at the end.

With enthusiastic teams, participating audience, efficient electronics (thanks to David Cooper), superb scoring by teams led by John Gazzard (especially when the going got hectic) and very welcome refreshments (supplied by a team led by Victor and Vera Smith) this proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening.

We have been asked to make it an annual event, and this certainly seems a good idea. We would be grateful for criticisms from anyone present so that the next time we can overcome any hitches we did not notice ourselves and strive for a more perfect presentation.

Three cheers for St Barnabas and all the other teams, and here's to the next time!

ST PETER'S NEWS

"THERE are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics" — so Disraeli quotes Mark Twain in his Autobiography. At St. Peter's annual church meeting, confidence was drawn both from the number attending and from statistics for the past year quoted from the church registers.

The Rector reported the second highest ever number of communicants and a sharp increase in numbers being baptised. Stressing that each request for Baptism signifies a family's wish to adhere to the Christian Faith, he reported 35 Baptisms in 1985 (compared with 6 in 1975) and — on the number of Baptisms in the first (winter) quarter of this year

— anticipated in excess of 45 for 1986.

The policy of keeping St. Peter's open in daylight hours had in 1985 produced over 100 visitors' signatures in the Visitors' Book, ten times the number a decade ago. Gratitude was expressed to the small team of "church-watchers" and John Stratford appealed for more volunteers for this ministry as the summer approaches.

On the thesis that each statistic is about people, these trends were welcomed by the meeting as a sign of hope that St. Peter's is increasingly perceived by the people of the district as their Church, with a welcome for young and old.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL

THIS month our pastor, Chris Justice, had an opportunity to visit Poland again with Jeff Howden, another Reading pastor. Their visit lasted just over a week, and this time the purpose was visiting and teaching Christians outside the capital, Warsaw.

For the first weekend they met with a group of young people at a lakeside camp and concentrated on teaching them on the subject of "personal evangelism". Obviously seve-

ral were quite ready for this teaching, as during the course of the weekend they gave their own lives to Jesus! The programme at the camp was quite intense, interspersed with brief walks down to the lake, trying to avoid the mosquitos!

Following the youth camp Chris and Jeff visited a group of small rural churches, mainly meeting in homes, which had been recently planted by a local pastor. Here they were very encouraged by the life and vitality of the Christians, together with a real openness to learn and move on in following the Lord.

During one Sunday morning service this month we were pleased to hear from one of our young people, Paul Salmon, and to pray for him as he set off to join a YWAM training programme for four months. YWAM stands for "Youth with a Mission" (and not "Young Women After Men", as Paul seems to think!).

Paul is now at a training centre in Sussex, and the course is aimed at bringing young people to spiritual maturity and to an openness to discover the Lord's will for their lives. Paul is very dear to us, and we look forward to hearing how the Lord leads him during this time.

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

ALLELUIA — Jesus is risen says the brightly coloured banner made by the Sunday School for their Anniversary. On May 11th the children sang songs and shared some of what happens each week in Sunday school. Evidence of the hard work put in by teachers and scholars was encompassed in the banner they had made depicting the risen Jesus on that first Easter Sunday. It is always a joy to share in worship with the children.



Suzanne Fogden and Charlotte Dove with the Sunday School Banner.

— Eunice Cooper

A discussion on the Home Missions report "Sharing in God's Mission" took place, when we were joined by friends from Henley and Bradfield Methodist Churches. The report holds many questions and is indeed a document to make the Methodist Church look at itself and assess the way forward. This proved to be a very useful evening.

The Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corps had their first outing on Sunday May 18th when they went to the Solent Youth Band Contest at Gosport. Everyone enjoyed the day out together and all were delighted to see Francesco Lattanzio receive the award for best field commander.

Fund raising events have taken place despite the weather. A very successful cake stall was held. This was organised by Helen Barrand and £85 was raised. Helen is to be congratulated

on her first fund-raising event. A barbeque was held at the home of Gerry & Gladys Alderman. This could have been rained off, but friends still enjoyed an indoor get-together and the refreshments were great! Here's to the next time.

The united service

for Caversham, held at St. John's was enjoyed by Gosbrook Road members. There was disappointment that the Rev. Ralph Rogerson was unwell, but special joy in being together to worship and praise the Lord. We look forward to being together again in the not too distant future.

The Rev Peter Atkinson

Peter Atkinson was priest-in-charge of St John's from 1969-1975. He is leaving St Mark's, Sunderland, to be Vicar of All Saints, Dedworth, Windsor, and friends who knew him might like to know that his institution is fixed for Sunday, August 10 at 2.30pm.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

ST ANNE'S Church is still in the throes of refurbishment. It has now reached a stage when noticeable results are being achieved. Already the aisles are looking much brighter whilst the whole Church is benefitting from the

improved lighting. Away from the work in the Church the Parish enjoyed a pleasant evening for the annual Corpus Christi procession and Mass at Mapledurham House at the end of May.

We offer our con-

gratulations to all the children who made their first Holy Communion at St Anne's on Saturday, June 14. Fr Meagher said how much he looked forward to welcoming these children and their parents to weekly communion at St Anne's.

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KIT IN CAVERSHAM

THE law of averages would lead me to suppose we shall have some sunny days before autumn. Working on this possibly naive assumption, I took it into my head to visit some of Caversham's green areas. Really I was thinking where to take children, from the very youngest, for a bit of a play.

Kids' Caversham

The riverside is ever an attraction. There is so much always happening on and along a river. Caversham Court, as ever, is a delight to stroll around; so tidy and refreshing. For those of us with prams there are parts that can be a bit difficult, but these are avoidable.

Further down river just before Reading Bridge we come across swings, slide, paddling pool, tennis courts and a putting green. I have heard complaints about the pool but it must be very difficult to keep clean. I do think that railings around it both for safety and to keep dogs out would be an improvement.

Old Father Thames

One of the most varied short walks in Caversham is to follow the towpath under Reading Bridge along the backwater. Once past the car park there is a little-used area of grass and a rather depleted adventure playground. This can afford fun for older children — up to 50 years of age in my experience. But it seems to have seen better days as several exciting items are missing judging from the skeleton poles remaining.

By clambering

over a low wall I followed the path on the other side of the backwater and crossed the weir. This can cause anxiety to adults and children and rightly so. It looks as alarming as it is. But respect for the river is something we should instil in our children. So many tragedies are reported each year in our stretch alone. I dread to think how many lives Old Father Thames claims each year. One question which someone might be able to answer is whether one can legally cross the weir. Notices indicate not, but common usage and lack of barriers lead in practice to its being well used.

CPV

Although the river is an important feature of Caversham not everyone lives within walking distance of its attractions. With this in mind and pushing buggy and baby I set off to explore other parts of kids' Caversham. CPV enjoys several green areas. The tennis courts, football pitches, cricket square of Clay Field Copse together with its woods and leafy walks give children the opportunity for a mixture of discovery, adventure and areas for ball games, kite flying or just lazing in the sun!

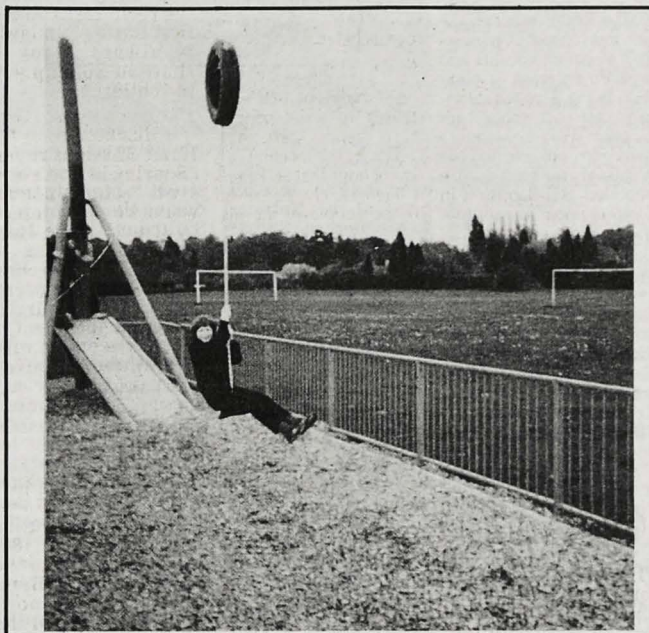
I have always found the pond in the middle of CPV

a little disappointing. The ideas are there, but so are the vandals. Old bags, bottles and rubbish rather mar its pleasures. Not so the swings near the CPV Centre. A very sensible safe slide built into the natural slope is a good idea. It was a pleasure to see all the facilities in use by children ranging from tots to teens.

the ground leading to the swings can get very soggy and it makes for heavy going with a pram or push-chair.

Still I do enjoy my visits to this park overlooked by a charming row of houses on one side. At weekends one can usually expect the additional benefit of entertainment from a football match.

the new adventure playground in Mapledurham Park. Fenced in to provide a safe area, I strongly recommend a visit. It is divided into two sections, one for very young children, and another for the rest of us. The ground is strewn with wood chippings to soften the impact of any fall. The most popular item on my



Emmer Green

Emmer Green park near the golf course provides a good old-fashioned piece of entertainment with climbing frame, slide, swings and roundabout. It is always well frequented but can get rather sordid with cans and crisp bags. Unfortunately broken glass made the area rather dangerous. This alone speaks volumes for the case for a resident park-keeper rather than warden. It seems a popular place for teenagers in the late evenings. The park has suffered for years from a drainage problem. Despite a great deal of work

Caversham Heights

Not often enough, as the bathroom scales testify, I play tennis. I usually go to the Albert Road Recreation Ground. I much prefer the soft landing of a grass court and Albert Road boasts four of these together with two hard courts. There is also a bowling green and a play area with swings. A very helpful and friendly attendant is always at hand. At £1.40 per hour the courts are excellent value and well within the reach of a child's pocket money, when divided between participants.

Unfortunately the weather to date has been rather poor but last Saturday it was most encouraging to see all the courts in use with children on three of them enjoying the afternoon and the tennis.

Mapledurham Park

I have left to last

A little moan...

One little moan! After praising only a few of the Caversham play areas, surely I can be excused this. I would strongly suggest fencing round all the play areas. It gives the children a defined safe area to play in. I am not anti-dog but equipment such as swings do prove rather inviting substitutes for trees to our canine friends! And on a more sombre note for this day and age, a fence does give an indication as to who should be near the children using these facilities.

...and a thank you

There are many other green areas I haven't mentioned which only goes to show how well off we are for them.

I hope with summer coming the children will be able to go out and enjoy them. Let us

not forget all those who work in our parks. They often go unnoticed but it is a continuous job. It is also money well spent. If we treasure our green areas and want them well maintained we must be ready to have the workforce on the spot to do the job.

Kit bag

I don't know about helping anyone to pack up their troubles, but if anyone has any titbits of information, comments or items of general interest they would like included in this column, then please drop the information into Church House, c.o. Kit in Caversham. With any luck I shall be able to cram them into my kit bag, mix them together and pull out something that our readers will find amusing or informative or possibly both.

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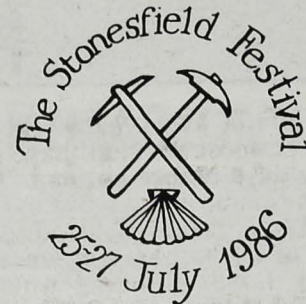
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Every four years since 1970 John Grimwade has been involved in a summer festival. So remembering the Caversham Festival of 1982 he decided Stonesfield should have one in 1986; the idea caught on and the whole village community has been drawn in.

The Festival is to start on the evening of the village feast, St James' Day, Friday, July 25th. The Village Silver Band will lead the congregation in procession through the village to the church by 7.30pm. As they enter the congregation will get their first glimpse of the Flower Festival, which will continue throughout the weekend. Bishop Tinsley, formerly Bishop of Bristol, will be preaching and one of the lessons will be read by Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. After the service there is to be a reception in the rectory garden.

The Stonesfield Chasuble

A superb red chasuble will be worn for the first time at the Parish Communion that evening. It has been designed and made at Christ Church Cathedral Embroidery Centre and Mrs Doreen Sheil, a parishioner of Stonesfield, has been working on it with other members of the centre for over a year. As soon as the Stonesfield Festival is



Doreen Sheil working in the cathedral on the chasuble for Stonesfield.

over it is to be exhibited at the National Exhibition of Church Embroidery; this is held once every ten years and is to be at Hereford Cathedral.

Village gardens and mines

The celebration continues throughout the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th July. Seven village gardens will be open and also two of the old slate mines for which the village was once famous, as it was from them that so many of the Cotswold buildings got their slate roofs. An exhibition of village history is being held in the school and of local crafts in the village hall.

There is to be Morris dancing and other

street entertainment during the morning of Saturday, 26th July and that evening a group of Oxford Pro Musica give a concert in the parish church; tickets for this are £2. Lunches and teas will be available at several places during these days. Canon Ronald Jones, a former rector, returns to preach at the Parish Communion at 10am on the Sunday and the Festival is to conclude that evening with a community and ecumenical service at 6.30pm.

Although the Festival is intended as a time of rejoicing rather than a money-raising event any pro-

RUNNING FOR AFRICA

Reading played its part in the Race Against Time on Sunday, 25th May, when upwards of 4,000 people ran in Prospect Park over a 10 Kilometre distance.

In the first Run in the morning 700 took part and raised around £7,000 in promised sponsorship. This set the tone for the day and it was no surprise that by the time the World link "Race Against Time" was due to start, thousands had gathered at the Start Line. The result of this massive participation was that the total amount raised in Prospect Park was around £30,000. This was Reading's main contribution to Sport Aid but it was by no means the only Run taking

place in the town and surrounding area.

There were many smaller events taking place in and around Reading, including the patients and staff at Borocourt Hospital who had their own walk around the grounds of the Hospital.

The serious athletes played their part when at four o'clock at Palmer Park in the middle of an Inter-Club Athletics Meeting, everyone was invited to run around the track and contribute to Sport Aid — a good collection was made.

This worthwhile cause certainly touched the hearts of the people of Reading and the response was tremendous.

Turn to page 11

Stonesfield Festival

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CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE — ONE YEAR ON

THE first anniversary of the opening of the Caversham Care Centre was marked on Thursday evening, May 22, by an open meeting at the Centre's offices in Church House, Caversham. Well attended by some fifty representatives of various charitable organisations, statutory services, local churches and local Council, the meeting began with a welcome from the Chairman, Mrs Doreen Bennett (above centre, with Deputy Chairman, Mrs Paula Andrews, right, and new Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Arnold).

In her assessment of the work of the Centre over the past year, Mrs Bennett said that she hoped the trust put in the project by those who helped with its setting up had been well justified. Ideas for the future were always welcome, however, and those attending would be given the opportunity after the meeting to pass on their ideas during the break for refreshments. At that time also, people would be able to talk to helpers at the Centre and to one another to exchange information and experience. The Chairman particularly welcomed the Mayoress, Mrs Gladys Fowles, who had taken time out of her very busy schedule to attend the meeting.

Reminding the meeting that the Care Centre had originally been set up by the co-operation of the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme and the Link Group, Mrs Bennett said that its aim had been a co-ordinating centre for

all the many caring organisations in the area. Good Neighbour scheme files, with their six area organisers, had been transferred to the Centre. The Link Group spent many months contacting all kinds of organisations, adding to their personal contacts built up over the years. These organisations were asked to detail both the help they offered and the volunteer help they needed. About fifty of these were now on the Care Centre files which, together with a quick reference card index system, meant that the two volunteers in the office were able quickly and efficiently to find a source of help for the problems presented. The volunteers (who man the office each weekday morning from 9.30 until 11.30) were also kindly, sympathetic people ready to provide a listening ear to anyone 'phoning or calling in with a problem.

Treasurer, Mr Ken Bennett, said that while the Centre was not about making money or raising funds, funds were obviously necessary both for the Centre to set up its office, and so that it could continue its work as a useful and caring body. He expressed the Centre's gratitude to all those who had helped with donations over the past year, including Church House proprietors whose generous assessment of a very low rent for the Centre contributed greatly to the continuing viability of the Centre. A healthy balance of over

£400 would however need regular topping up over the next financial year.

A clear idea was given of the kind of problems and calls for help which the office received by Mrs Paula Andrews (Deputy Chairman). From practical help and advice for the elderly and infirm, to the kind of help provided by a sympathetic ear for anyone ringing up to talk about their worries. Wherever possible, the Centre aimed to match up those who offered help and those who needed it in whatever field. Volunteers too were always welcome.

Miss Esther Youens, retiring Secretary of the Care Centre and also Secretary of the Good Neighbour Scheme, illustrated the kinds of situation where requests for help could be channelled by the Centre to the Good Neighbour Scheme's network of drivers. Transport took up about seventy-five per cent of requests for help, but not only for the elderly or the sick: drivers had recently been able to help a mother with a young child with speech problems who needed regular treatment at the Royal Berkshire Hospital by providing weekly transport from the area just outside Emmer Green, where public transport was few and far between. Their reward was to see the marked improvement which the treatment made in just a few weeks. Links with other volunteer bureaux around the country had also proved valuable in passing on information from worried relations. Miss Youens put in a plea for more volunteer drivers who were always needed so that they could provide as wide a coverage as possible.

The channels through which offers of furniture and other household goods were directed were detailed by Mrs Anthea Prescott of the Link Group. The Katesgrove Family Aid Centre, the Priest Hill Mother and Baby home, REAP at Brock Barracks, and those under the care of the Social Services, all benefited from others' generosity. And more is always welcome!

A big "thank you" to the work of the Centre was given by Mrs Sybil Holbrook, Senior Nurse, Health Visiting for the North Sector of the West Berkshire Health Authority. Having worked in Caversham for five years, Mrs Holbrook said that she knew the area had multiple needs, and this is where everyone as a member of the community in Caversham could help. Communication was the key, and that was just what the Care Centre was providing.

In all the areas mentioned by earlier speakers it was the volunteer help which could best fill the gap between professional involvement and a friendly face and a listening ear. Mrs Holbrook also suggested a possible new project for the Centre when she described the involvement of a group of widowers with the



L-R Mrs Elizabeth Arnold, Mrs Doreen Bennett and Mrs Paula Andrews

— Courtesy of Caversham Care Centre

Katesgrove centre. They had been meeting weekly to learn how to care for themselves, by themselves, but learning together. Living alone can often be difficult especially for those who have lived for so many years with someone else. Perhaps the Centre's volunteers could seek out loneliness wherever it occurs in the community. She told the Centre that it should not be put off by such labels as "do-gooders". "Care on", she said. The community needed more "do-gooders".

Mrs Peggy Baldwin described the light-hearted and relaxing atmosphere of the "Pop-In" Centre which took place twice a week in the large room next to the Care Centre Office. It provided a place for refreshment and conversation, companionship and concern, and occasional musical accompaniment! Although the regulars were inevitably in the retirement age bracket, the "Pop-In" aimed to appeal to all people in Caversham and regular events, such as a Bring and Buy Cake Sale in June, she hoped would attract more visitors.

Finally, Mrs Barbara Aird, of Age Concern, expressed the gratitude and confidence felt by the local charities for the work of the Care Centre, which provided a very important source of help in the community. "One of the derivations of the word 'community' was 'the stage of being shared or help in common'. Surely this describes the work of the Caversham Care Centre — and long may it continue."

Mrs Bennett closed the formal part of the meeting by thanking whole-heartedly all those who had been involved in setting up the Centre and working so hard for its success. She particularly thanked the retiring Secretary, Miss Esther Youens, who had been with the Centre from its beginning and another member of the Committee, Dr Rothwell, who had to retire through ill health. She wel-

comed the new Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Arnold. Another founder member of the Care Centre was Mrs Lynda Bates, who had now moved away from the area, but who had been a tower of strength throughout the difficult period while the Care Centre was becoming known. All the volunteers had been loyal and determined throughout and she felt that the Centre could begin its second year with confidence. After refreshments, during which time those attending were able to talk to helpers from the Centre and also exchange ideas with other bodies, Mr Richard Kingsbury, Rector of St Peter's Church, Caversham, added the churches' thanks to those already expressed, and endorsed Mrs Holbrook's plea for volunteers to continue to Centre Office. The alternative, he said, was to "do bad" or to do nothing. Where the inspiration sprang from, the need for caring in the community would always be there, and that is what the Care Centre was doing.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Emmer Green T.G.

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in May to discuss their programme for the following year. Discussions were also held regarding the motions to be put forward at the National Council Meeting to be held in June at the Royal Albert Hall,

namely the dumping of nuclear waste, the restriction of food additives and the legal position of surrogate children.

The July meeting of the Guild will be held on 15th of the month at St Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green when there will be a speaker from Heelas. New members and visitors are most wel-

come to attend at 7.30pm.

Rosehill W.I.

Miss Vincent welcomed members to the May meeting. To help their delegate, Mrs Weekes, at the AGM in June, Mrs Smith VCO ably explained the resolutions and asked members to vote on them. Last month quite a number attended the Group Meeting at the Bluecoat School at Sonning. A very pleasant evening with Mr Michael Fish, the weatherman, as speaker. Members heard sadly of the death of Miss Celia Stevenson, who resigned some years ago on account of ill health. Since 1963 she and her sister were members and very successful in craft competitions. The competition this month was for "A miniature rock garden eight inches in diameter". This was won by Mrs Rutter, Mrs Withers second, Mrs Gillings third.

Blagrove W.I.

Two very successful social events were held in April at the home of Mrs Popplewell, the president — a coffee and scone morning and a tea and cake afternoon, both well attended. At the May monthly meeting the President's table was very colourful with the birthday posies and table decoration of spring flowers. Mrs Parks VCO explained the resolutions to be voted on at the Albert Hall in June and the delegate was made aware of the members' wishes as to her vote. The spring theme was also evident in the entries for

the competition for a garden on the dessert plate, won by Mrs Thomas, 2nd Miss Reynolds and 3rd Mrs Ogden. They all showed great imagination and skill.

A warm welcome awaits any visitors or new members at the Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion on the first Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm. A poster showing the details of each meeting is on show by the entrance gateway.

Caversham Heights T.G.

Nuclear Power and the Duties of a J.P.

Members at the May meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's Hall, heard from Mr John Ward, Engineering Support Group, Engineering and Design and Manufacturing Division, Harwell, who was accompanied by Mr J. Philpott, about the method of nuclear processing. Spent nuclear fuel is mostly reprocessed at Sellafield where highly radioactive waste in liquid form is stored. It is planned to incorporate this waste in glass encased in concrete below ground.

The meeting ended with questions which centred around the safety aspect. The two gentlemen did their best, but it was felt that as the nuclear age is so young, no one really knows with absolute certainty what will happen in all circumstances.

At social studies Mrs Ann Barroll, a dietician as well as Justice of the Peace, spoke about work in the lowest or magistrates' court. She described how JP's are chosen, their voluntary status, training and number of ½-day sessions expected of them in a year. 95% of all crime comes through the magistrates' court and the Probation Service can help with cases. Bail is usually allowed, and community service can be ordered instead of a prison sentence.

St Peter's Wives' Group

Over forty members and friends welcomed Mrs Ann Thurley to their May meeting. St Peter's Wives' Group was treated to an enthralling evening as Ann talked enthusiastically about goat breeding to upgrade her stock, milking and spinning. She was particularly excited about the Angora goats that have

recently been imported from Tasmania, although the workload that she had undertaken to meet Ministry standards was quite overwhelming. Ann also showed the Group a selection of slides and had brought with her garments made by herself and other Guild members. After coffee Ann spent some time showing members how to card and spin the fleece.

A week later, a group of members, with husbands and friends, were at the Hexagon to witness the "Ceremony of Electing the Mayor".

For their July meeting, St Peter's Wives' Group has hired a double-decker bus and on the 22nd will be visiting several hostels in the area.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild were privileged to visit the House of Commons and receive a guided tour of its historic buildings and treasures. This was arranged by Mrs Gale who also took a party of members to the City of Bath for the day. During Reading's Festival Fortnight, another outing was to the Hexagon where they saw the Victorian play "Gaslight". The speaker at the guild meeting was Rosalind Renshaw, journalist and Women's Page editor of the Evening Post, her amusing talk gave an insight into the trials and tribulations of the life of a journalist.

Caversham Ladies Club

The meeting opened with apologies from Mrs Harwood stating that the Culinaire demonstrator expected at the meeting had left his firm, and 1987 would be the earliest date they could arrange for a future visit. So it would be an informal meeting that afternoon, as there had not been time enough to find a replacement. But surprise, surprise, ten minutes after the meeting opened in walked a smiling young man from Culinaire, who on being told he had supposedly left the firm, was completely mystified. However, it did not take him long to unpack and set his equipment up, and soon he was giving a fine display of deep oil cooking, accompanied by plenty of wit

and laughs, with his efforts. It really was a magical hour watching limp frozen "things" being turned into attractive apple fritters, banana fritters, fish, meat, sausage rolls, etc. But just looking at them after the cooking for three to four minutes each item, was not the finish, the "chef" cut each item into small pieces so that every member had a taste. This went down well as there had been quite a few doubting faces over the short cooking time. However, everyone was unanimous in congratulating the demonstrator over the excellent taste, quickness and lively, happy presentation. They would have been happy to stay on listening and watching him, if time had

Caversham W.I.

Caversham W.I. joined Sonning Glebe, Mill Green, Woodford Park, Rosehill and Chazey W.I.s at their annual Group Meeting on Thursday, April 17, at the Bluecoat School, Sonning, culminating in a talk by Michael Fish, the BBC weather man. He gave an historical background of how people used to try to forecast the weather and the now modern, sophisticated means of satellite on to a fast,

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

large computer. It was interesting to hear that Britain had been chosen to predict the weather for all the world airlines because our system was superior! The evening concluded with a well-prepared supper by Sonning W.I.

Then on May 15, members discussed resolutions which were to be raised at the Conference in the Albert Hall. The competition for the month was a wild flower arrangement.

New members are always welcome at Caversham W.I., who meet at 7.30pm on the third Thursday in every month at Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham.

Chazey W.I.

Chazey W.I. celebrated its fourth anniversary in true style for the May meeting at Mapledurham Pavilion. The birthday

cake was made with the combined efforts of Mrs Theresa Redding and Mrs Janet Field. It was transformed into a work of art by Mrs Gail Russell, whose expertise in delicate icing fooled many into thinking the cake was decorated with fresh flowers. The first slice was cut by Mrs J. Finch, the visiting VCO and all present agreed it tasted just as good as it looked.

Mrs Finch talked about the resolutions on the agenda for the AGM of the W.I. which is held in the Albert Hall in June. Members were given the opportunity to discuss the points raised and make their feelings known to Mrs Gail Russell who kindly offered to act as delegate.

With a membership of one hundred and a healthy waiting list, Chazey W.I. is able to offer a full and varied programme as can be seen by some of this month's activities.

The Scrabble Group has completed its last meeting this season and the Health Club enjoyed a visit to the Hexagon where the Southern Gas Board joined forces with Marks and Spencer demonstrating cooked dishes from around the world. The visit to the Mayor's Parlour was of particular interest as the Mayoress (Mrs Gladys Fowles) is an active member of this group.

Mr Michael Fish, the BBC weather man, visited the Group meeting at Sonning which was well attended. Suffice to say, Chazey did not emulate last year's first place in the annual competition! Lastly, the long-awaited trip to the Magic Circle was most enjoyable, although no magic carpet appeared when transport was most needed!

Maplewood W.I.

The May meeting started in tune with a violinist, Mr J. Bache, playing and talking about a variety of musical items including old favourites "Tea for Two" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes". After tea discussion of the Albert Hall resolutions was led by Mrs J. Parkes VCO and the link delegate was instructed how to vote. Mrs P. Turner won the flower of the month competition.

The Spring Group meeting held at Woodley was well attended and members enjoyed the Rev John Stevenson's talk "God gave me a Microphone". He was for many years a speaker on Radio Solent and now shares a weekly spot on Radio 210.

The competition for a garden in a seed tray produced some very pretty entries but Maplewood's president Mrs J. Le Mare was highly commended for her most original "Vegetable Garden" complete with compost heap!

Two members were invited to Reading School when the Queen came to the quinqucentenary celebrations and Mrs P. Heaward, wife of the senior tutor, was presented to Her Majesty.

Caversham Community Association

There were two meetings only in May due to the two Bank Holiday Mondays. The first meeting on May 12 was for a whist drive. Doreen Craw-

ley was in charge and ready to give advice to less experienced players. Kit Ewer had the highest score and won first prize, Joan Henwood was in second place and Gerry Czornij received the consolation prize. During the break for refreshments the members were able to look for bargains at the Nearly New stall.

Mr John Gurnett, a member of the Berkshire Family History Society, was the visiting speaker on May 19, his subject being "Family History". Mr Gurnett gave a fascinating talk and encouraged the members to trace their ancestors and make their own family tree. He advised those wishing to do so to use their own birth certificates as a start and to collect photographs identifying members of the family. The idea was to make an interesting family history and not just a genealogical exercise. There were many sources of information to be had, including inscriptions on tombstones, parish registers and birth and marriage certificates at St Catherine's House, London. The Chairman, Mrs Maida Feast, expressed the appreciation of the members to Mr Gurnett for his informative talk.

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

The meetings in May were very well attended. The Rev Paul Kenchington spoke at the afternoon meeting about the "Ministry of Healing" which was very inspiring and left members in no doubt about the POWER OF PRAYER.

Fr Tony spoke at the evening meeting about the "Liturgical Seasons", their meaning and the use of colours to emphasise each season. The solemnity of Advent and Lent and the joyousness of Easter were portrayed through music.

The May "Tea on Sunday" was well supported and was enjoyed by a wide range of age groups from four years to the eighty plus year olds. It is hoped that this pattern will become established over the coming months, when the young and not so young can enjoy a chat across a very friendly "tea table".

Afternoon tea of sandwiches, scones, cakes, and of course the cheery "cuppas" is fifty pence including waitress service!! Why not join the party sometimes on the second Sunday of the month — including

August — and see the Mothers' Union in action.

A quotation for an article in a recent Diocesan Magazine says "The ladies are first and foremost worshipping Christians, and only secondly Mothers' Union Members. But as Mothers' Union Members they do so much to make their presence felt in all sorts of ways".

FESTIVAL TIME AT STONESFIELD

Continued from Page 8

fits will be divided between the West Oxfordshire Community Council, a project for the unemployed at the Mayflower Centre in Canning Town and a leper clinic in Khar-toum.

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CAVERSHAM DIARY FOR JULY

July 1 — St Andrew's Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, in the Hall — Mothers' Union Overseas — Mrs Ridley
July 1 — Blgrave WI, 2.30pm, Mapledurham Pavilion
July 11 — 3rd Reading (St Peter's) Scout Group Annual Barbecue on the Rectory Lawn, 6.30pm. Games, stalls, Morris dancers
July 12 — St Andrew's 75th Anniversary: Cricket match at Carterton and tea with the Rev M. Loveless
July 13 — "Tea in the Hall," 4-6pm, St Andrew's Hall, for those who would like company
July 15 — Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, 7.30pm, St Barnabas Hall: Speaker from Heelas
July 15 — St Andrew's Mothers' Union Evening Meeting, 8pm, 20 Ashcroft Close
July 17 — Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, 2pm, Church House, Caversham WI, 7.30pm, Church House
July 19 — St Andrew's 75th Anniversary: Organ recital, 8pm, St Andrew's Church, by Nicholas Sherwood, organist All Saints, Ascot
July 20 — St Margaret's Day, 11am, Family Communion at St Margaret's followed by shared picnic lunch in grounds of Old Vicarage
July 22 — St John's Mothers' Union Garden Meeting, 2.30pm, 191 Henley Road

WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Peter's
March 2 — Caroline Brunnen, Henry Mee
March 9 — Amy Harding-Baynham
March 23 — Thomas Sheppard
March 29 — Alan Twinney
April 6 — Lee Grimes
April 13 — Caroline Welch, Robert Fowler
April 19 — Charlotte Parker
April 20 — Matthew Adams
St Anne's
April — Michael Reynolds
Child Dedication — The Chapel on the Hill
April 13 — Benjamin Hedley-Lewis
April 27 — Simon Young
Believer's Baptism — Chapel on the Hill
March 30 — Stephen Brice
May 25 — Harold Watts, Andrew Blackburn

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St Peter's Sara Barber, Kathryn Cutts, Jackie Cutts, Susie Mee
St Andrew's Vishnu Barran, Laura Greatrex
St John's Yorko Tipton

Confirmed by the Bishop of Reading at St Andrew's on May 21

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July 30 — 20 Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)

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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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