



BY GOD'S GRACE WE WILL!

Spring came early to Caversham this year

On 14th January cars queued to enter Caversham Park Primary School, 'home' of Caversham Park Church, for the historic signing of the Local Covenant Document, inaugurating our Local Ecumenical Project.

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The Mayor's limousine, the Bishop of Reading's saloon, cars with regional leaders of the Methodist and Baptist Churches, Berkshire's Ecumenical Council and the Reading Council of Churches, deposited their important passengers. Shortly before the ceremony a distant altercation arose over the car park's last space between the Rector of Caversham and the Rector of Dorchester (John Crowe — Caversham Park's first minister, with whom it all started 18 years ago). Age compromised with beauty, the two rectors demurely entering together.

Inside, the hall was decked with dignitaries. Caversham and Mapledurham's churches were represented, some more than others. Paul Kenchington and Peter Holbrook introduced newcomers to the special Caversham Park Church atmosphere by their relaxed, joyful leading of worship. How do you 'design' a once-for-all ceremony like this? No problems for CPC. A skilful blend of praise, prayer and penitence formed a natural context for history-in-the-making.

God's covenant promise in Jeremiah and Christ's Covenant Prayer in St John's Gospel reminded all

present of their calling, backed by hymns old and new, with a straight-to-the-heart offering by CPC's music group. Then came the Promises and Signing of the Covenant. What could have been a contrived ritual turned out a challenge to all to build on what has been achieved over the past 18 years at Caversham Park Church. Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, united in the pledge to work together, sealing this promise with representative signatures. Any who sneaked a look at the Document afterwards saw the very first signature belonged to Oxford's Bishop Richard — an encouraging, anticipatory vote of confidence.

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Prolonged applause greeted Paul Kenchington as he added his signature. All recognised how he above all others had played the vital role under God's guidance in bringing about the Local Ecumenical Project.

In his sermon, the Revd Geoffrey Reynolds, Superintendent of the Baptist Union Southern Area, reminded Caversham Park that only by acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord could anything be achieved. One was reminded of Caesar's conquering boast — Veni, Vidi, Vici — as Jesus was praised for His claiming our area as His own.

Since last September's 'Swanwick Declaration,' two Local Ecumenical Projects have started in Reading — Lower Earley and Caversham Park. The constitution

of our LEP, with practical and financial details, now has to be worked at. But any sceptics should have been there on 14th January, to experience for themselves the spirit of willingness and trust.

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Spring came early to Caversham on 14th January. Twelve times, as the commitment to work together was made, we heard the affirmation resound — 'BY GOD'S GRACE WE WILL!'

(Postscript for omen-seekers: Berkshire's Anglican Ecumenical Officer, the Revd David Castle, who played a major part in helping CPC's LEP come about, discovered shortly before

coming to Caversham on 14th January that the Diocese has

honoured him as a new Canon of Christ Church Cathedral Ox-

ford. In this honour, Prayer for Unity, conferred just before the 1988 Week of Caversham has special reason to rejoice!)



The Rev. Paul Kenchington signing the Covenant, overlooked by a strong ecumenical band of clergy

CARNIVAL OF PRAISE

Saturday, 21st May 1988

THOSE BEAUTIFUL FEET TO WALK AGAIN!

Following last year's first ever Carnival of Praise procession through the streets of Caversham, many have expressed a strong wish to hold this public witness of faith again this year. Indeed there is clearly a strong feeling that this should become an annual event.

It has been decided therefore to "Make Way" again

this year, but to change the date from Easter to Pentecost weekend — Saturday 21st May.

The route and music will be much the same as before with some minor alterations and some additional songs. It is hoped in addition to arrange a youth concert in the evening and that the "Carnival" witness on the Saturday will

link with the Methodist open-air witness in Caversham Court which takes place the next day, Sunday 22nd May — a truly open-air weekend!

As before, the procession will assemble at St Peter's at 10.00am and start from there at 11.00am. Two practices only will take place — the first on Saturday 23rd April

at 7.30pm at Caversham Hill Chapel, Peppard Road, and the final one on Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm at Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street. If at all possible please try to come to both of these practices to run through the old songs, rehearse some new ones, and generally have a great time together of preparation and praise.

TALKING POINT

By the Revd Richard Kingsbury



(Rector of Caversham & Mapledurham)

GROANING OR REJOICING IN TRAVAIL?

Forgive me, gentle reader, if this month's 'Talking Point' seems unduly Anglican. Our C of E parish is evolving. For better or for worse? History will judge. Let me outline what's happening, so that your talk about us can be based on fact rather than fantasy.

Draft proposals are, as I write, being prepared by the Diocese of Oxford for the Church Commissioners, before coming back for wider study. These propose the establishment of The Caversham Group Ministry. They will take the best part of 1988 to come to fruition.

At present in our one parish we have the ancient parish churches of St Peter and St Margaret, with daughter churches serving the districts of St John, St Andrew and St Barnabas (St John's is 100 years young this year!) and the 'notional' district of Caversham Park. Actually all our 'districts' are notional, existing for convenience but having no legal ecclesiastical status. A Group Ministry creates parishes of St John, St Andrew, St Barnabas and Caversham Park, with St Peter and St Margaret remaining linked, to make up FIVE PARISHES IN A UNITED GROUP. The daughters come of age!

Caversham Park Church has just become a Local Ecumenical Project within the existing parish. It would remain as such within the Group. From an Anglican point of view, though, it would have pastoral teeth for ministry in a legally recognised area.

So what difference does this make? To the

man on the Reading Transport omnibus — very little! Except that for the key points in life (baptism, marriage, funeral) his family will turn to their local parish church. Eucharist communities — a very New Testament idea — are the basis for all pastoral ministry. The Anglican church family round the Sunday altar at, say, St John's might thus feel more direct concern for and responsibility toward the life of its local neighbours, for whose benefit it exists. I have a hunch most Cavershamites think their nearest Anglican church is their 'parish church.' Legal distinctions between daughter churches, districts, parishes, are lost on them. So we could say that under this Scheme the Anglican parish is doing no more than tidying up legal loose ends.

The Group Ministry has been approved by the Parochial Church Council and by the Diocese of Oxford (whose project it now is!) It's different from our neighbouring Tilehurst Group Ministry in one important aspect. Tilehurst brought into a Group existing parishes which had, like Topsy, 'grewed up.' The 'Caversham Group' gives the key of the church door to churches already in the family.



Instead of assistant curates, St John, St Andrew and St Barnabas would have incumbents, legally bound to work together with the 'incumbent-status' minister of Caversham Park Church

and the ancient (in terms of historical office) Rector of St Peter and St Margaret. What we now call 'District Church Committees' would become Parochial Church Councils within the Group Ministry.



Are we selling out on the past! Depends whether you talk about 'splitting up the parish' or (as I prefer) evolving the parish into a Group. The words we use shape our attitudes.

Thank God for the pan-Caversham and Ecumenical projects we have. These exist in their own right and, Group or no, will thrive. The wise vision of my predecessor, John Grimwade, ensures this. They are not based on any one church but exist for the whole community.

God's Church is more exciting (I hope) than the Anglican parish of Caversham and Mapledurham — though it is part of the Divine Excitement. Plans for an Anglican Group Ministry are aimed to match the aspirations and needs and gifts of our parishioners. Groaning in travail? Or evolving for our grandchildren's sake? Your Anglican clergy, when they leave Caversham (or are wheeled away in bathchairs) would like to leave this part of the divine vineyard in good heart, properly constituted for the sake of the future. God's future! We believe the proposed legislation ensures this and is with God's guidance. We ask your prayers and goodwill, that our glorious past may serve an even more exciting future.

CHRISTIAN AID IN CAVERSHAM

Towards the end of last year, Reading and District Christian Aid Committee decided to disband and reform on an area basis in various parts of the town such as Caversham, Tilehurst, Lower Earley etc. It is hoped that by operating in smaller units the existing links between neighbouring churches can be used more effectively, and also bring churches and their Christian Aid representatives closer together. It would also streamline communications generally, as each local group would have direct contact with Christian Aid HQ and our Area Representative based in Oxford.

Following two meetings in Dec/Jan of a number of Caversham Church representatives, a Caversham Christian Aid

Group is now in being, with the Committee comprising all the former Caversham Ward representatives. The Chairman is Ken Shield, 39 Conisboro Ave, Caversham (tel 473709), the Secretary Keith Stephen-Evans, 11 The Ridgeway, Caversham (tel 473619) and the Treasurer Roy Barnes, 11 Courtenay Drive, Emmer Green (tel 471410).

It is hoped that in addition to Christian Aid Week (this year from 16-21 May), churches either individually or sometimes together will organise special events throughout the year to enable Caversham to make a real contribution towards Christian Aid work throughout the world.

Saturday Night is Music Night — Christian Aid Style Two of Reading's

top choirs are giving concerts in St Mary's Butts Church. Reading in aid of Christian Aid during 1988:

Saturday April 23rd at 7.30pm — The Phoenix Choir.

Saturday December 3rd at 7.30pm — The Reading Male Voice

Choir.

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CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

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

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

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

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

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

BAPTIST

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

The Rev Dr Philip Egglestone, 324B Hemdean Road. Tel: 470554.

METHODIST

The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 All Hallows Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

POST BAG

WELL DRESSING

Dear Editors, I've just been watching a programme on well dressing, and although I have no artistic talents, nevertheless the beauty displayed by these dressed wells made a forceful impact on my senses, so

much so that it has prompted this letter.

Caversham is the proud possessor of St Anne's Well, in time, say, for St George's Day or for Easter or the Spring Bank Holiday Sunday?

Yours etc,
Pete Littlewood
11 Moss Close,
Caversham, Reading.

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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All contributions for April issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday March 2. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday Feb 26. The dates for May are April 6 and April 1.

AN OLD THAMESIDE FAMILY

Sixteen years ago last February the ancient cottage in this photograph was demolished to make way for the flats beside Caversham Bridge. In two days it was reduced to a heap of rubble and dust and saddened many older people in the district. Originally the home of the Freebodys, a very old Caversham family, it was known as Willow Grotto.

The Freebodys must surely have the distinction of being the family who have lived in Caversham longer than any other for they 'traded as ferry men, bargemen and boat builders from 1257 until 1964' when Mr E. H. Freebody retired. For generations members of their family were laid to rest in the old churchyard surrounding St Peter's church.

Spring and Summer must have made the cottage beside the Thames a pleasant home indeed. The large plot of ground surrounding it gave ample opportunity for gardening, so much enjoyed by Rose Dorothy Freebody when she lived there.

Stones forming part of the garden's rockery were excavated from the bed of the river during the building of the present bridge and were believed to have been part of the foundations of the Medieval Chapel of St Anne built on the original ancient bridge.

Winter at Willow Grotto would have been a different story with the swirling sound of flood water rising in the darkness or occasional long freezing periods when the river was gripped from bank to bank with ice thick enough to walk on.



What changes in this Oxfordshire village the Freebodys must have seen over the centuries. In 1257 the original bridge at Caversham would have still looked very new to the Freebodys living near it. Perhaps they were around when it was built or even helped in its construction. No one

knows the exact date of its building but the first written record of its existence comes in 1231.

Did they watch Dr London directing the local barge men to place the gold, silver and jewelled image of Our Lady of Caversham 'fast locked and nailed up' in a chest on the next barge leaving for London?



Pageantry and Fighting

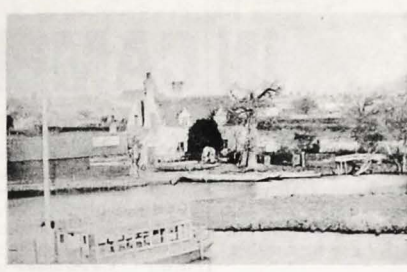
Were they there to witness Queen Elizabeth I being met at the bridge by William Green, Sheriff of Oxfordshire, as she came to the home of the Comptroller of the Royal Household, Sir William Knollys, at Caversham Park in 1601? It is said that part of the festivities on that great occasion included a magnificent water pageant.

Twelve years later a similar visit was undertaken by Queen Anne, wife of James the first. Surely members of the Freebody family were among the crowds on each of these events.

How did this riverside family fare when the fight for Caversham Bridge took place on April 25, 1643? One soldier present that day wrote 'our ordnance is perpetually beating down houses... It is more than likely that poor Willow Grotto received some damage being so near the crossing. It is to be hoped that the family were safely out of the way when all the trouble began.



There must have been great excitement one day in 1813 when a steam boat passed by Caversham for the first time. Perhaps the boat building Freebodys began to dream of a day when they, too, would be constructing such craft. Certainly they owned three steam launches, as they were called, by the end of the eighteen hundreds. They were named the Grotto, the Thirlemere and the Royal. They also owned a trading barge in earlier times, a good investment, for by 1835 the traffic in water borne goods totalled fifty thousand tons, while road traffic accounted for a



mere one hundred tons.

There is no doubt too, that their table was often graced with fine fresh fish taken from the Thames; eels from the local eel bucks and salmon as well, for they were plentiful in the seventeen hundreds and often caught in the eel traps. Eel pie and eel stew were favourite dishes among riverside families even into the start of this century and very probably the Freebody housewives knew many other good ways of making a tasty meal from the plentiful harvest that the Thames then yielded.

Another cause for excitement was the day of the first Reading Regatta held at Caversham in 1838. Even before this date a race had taken place between two four-oared cutters manned by 'Reading Gents.' No doubt the Freebodys were there at all such events to join in encouraging cheers. Later they probably took part in some of the races themselves.



Not just boat building

When the accompanying photograph was taken some time around 1880 there were several other little businesses beside the Thames at Caversham as well as all the barge and boat building. Behind Willow Grotto was a little parchment factory owned by the Hulberts. They were also leather dressers and made whiting with the lime pits beside their other two industries. There was also reputed to have been a small glove factory in the same area. Now parchment is mostly made from the skin of sheep and so are gloves. It is highly likely that the skins were cured in the lime pits and the best pieces used for parchment whilst the rest was made into gloves, and all these three little businesses were situated close beside

each other for the sake of convenience. Very early in the eighteen hundreds Edmund Hennighan was a fellmonger in Caversham. A felling is a dealer in skins, so possibly all these ancient crafts had been practices in the village well before the Huberts came on the scene.



Life in and around Willow Grotto must have always been busy, but not the mad rush that it so often is today. Many people in Victorian times were still very much country folk with a countryman's slow, steady way of tackling long hours of labour. And yet there was time to find and enjoy moments of ease. Picture the Freebodys at the end of a long, hot summer's day sitting under the old tree in front of the house, or beside the porch, or patiently waiting for a bite as they fished from the river bank in the cool of the evening. Willow Grotto saw it all, joy, sorrow, great events, new inventions, work and play.

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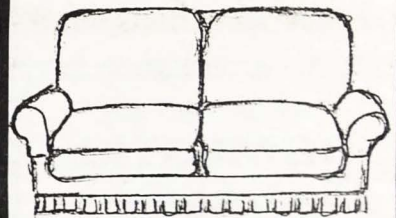
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CAVERSHAM IN CAMERA

A massive photographic project has been launched in Caversham which will keep members of the Caversham Camera Club busy for nearly a year.

The aim of the project is to capture on film the very essence of Caversham and the people who live here going about their work and leisure pursuits. Photographs will be taken of people, places and events in the sun, rain and snow, and of course at night as well as during daylight hours. Prizes and trophies are being lined up now in anticipation of a large and profusely varied entry of pictures, from which the best will be selected for inclusion in a special 'illustrated talk' which will be shown in many parts of Great Britain. It could also be sent overseas where pictures of English life are always welcomed by foreigners and expatriates alike.

Sponsorship of events such as this project are an essential part of its success and Caversham Camera Club are delighted to accept the challenge of the project with its generous offer of prizes, trophies and publicity backing which has been put forward most kindly by Ivan Williams, proprietor of Marparts, the Caversham based supermarket specialising in motor spares and accessories.

Ivan has lived and worked in Caversham for many years, and is well known for his active support of many local groups including the church and the theatre, as well as taking part in a wide range of local sporting activities. His sponsorship of the Caversham photographic project will be of great material help

in assembling a pictorial record of Caversham past and present for the benefit of not only strangers in far-away places but also future generations of Caversham dwellers who will want to know what the people and their environment looked like in 1988.

The project, open to members of Caversham Camera Club, will run for approximately twelve months during which time it is hoped to capture the various aspects of Caversham life as influenced by the seasons and other outside factors. History will also be investigated by the Camera Club's members who hope to be allowed to copy old photographs and pictures, in private ownership, showing the changing face of our surroundings. The final outcome of the mammoth project will be a set of the best two hundred slides selected from probably more than a thousand entries coming from the ever expanding local Club which, at the last count, had no less than thirty-seven actively snapping members.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded by Ivan Williams to Club members whose pictures are judged to convey the most realistic impressions of life in Caversham past and present, although the usual

skills associated with good photography such as composition, exposure, accurate focus and so on will have an important bearing at the selection stage.

At some future date, if further sponsorship can be negotiated, the whole 'illustrated talk' could be reproduced as a picture book with descriptive text, but that stage will not be reached until well into 1989 which is a long way off yet. We still have most of 1988 to enjoy and a lot of pictures to shoot!

Through the year you may often come upon Club members staggering around Caversham under seemingly mountainous gadget bags containing the most extraordinary array of non-photographic knick-knacks as they try to put on record the everyday face of Caversham. The gadgets carried are only used to add 'genuine' realism when the real thing is missing from an otherwise perfect shot, such as watering cans, seagulls, decorative shrubs and in fact all the bits and pieces that no self-respecting photographer would dare to leave home without! They won't expect to find everybody smiling for them, but the occasional word of encouragement will probably go a long way towards a prize-winning picture.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH HOUSE COMMUNIONS

March 2nd 29 Wordsworth Court
9th 5 Gifford Close
16th 8 Bramber Mews
23rd 92 Lowfield Road
30th 1 Elstow Avenue

Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association

The Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. The Association members meet regularly, every fortnight, in the winter months and have excursions during the summer. The meeting place is the Hall of the Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road, Caversham. Two excellent

meetings held in January have been very well attended. On January 6th a talk about methods of propagating plants entitled 'New Plants for Old' was given by Mr Graham Talbot who is a member of the staff of the Berkshire College of Agriculture at Burchett's Green. On January 20th Dr

Michael Keith-Lucas who is a lecturer at Reading University and one of the Association's Vice-Presidents, talked on 'Some Flowers of the Iberian Peninsula.' The Committee tries every year to include at least one travel talk and this covered in a nutshell a journey round the whole country of Spain and showed some of the particularly interesting flowers to be found there.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

A HELPING HAND REQUIRED

As the snowdrops and aconites came out, bringing brightness and light to the winter days, so did an outbreak of carping and curmudgeonliness darken the place. And whilst on the subject,

may I claim the first snowdrop of the year, fully out and blowing in the wind on New Year's Day. Or is there someone out there who can beat that?

But to return to the carping. Workmen have been busy in the area

lowering kerb stones to make it easier for wheelchairs, and also of course, prams and baby buggies. This a long overdue improvement which must already be making life easier for many, but what do we hear? There has been an outbreak of carping about what silly places to choose, and as if anyone would want to cross the road at such dangerous points. The fact is that unless one chooses pedestrian crossings, everywhere else is dangerous. The active do not all walk back to one of the few pedestrian crossings whenever they wish to cross the road, so why should those with restricted mobility be expected to? All the crossing points are anyhow near to where there is traffic light control. Even the most impatient motorist who regards pedestrians as fair game is likely to hesitate on seeing a wheelchair user crossing the road.

The other example of curmudgeonliness occurred over the proposal to put mobile homes on land earmarked for eventual expansion of the cemetery. Caversham Residents' Association has not opposed this because there is little other land available, the need is desperate and the application is only for temporary use. The land will still be there when the dead need it; in the meantime the living can make good use of it. In no way can the pressures on existing services which this small development will exert be compared with that from much larger developments of permanent homes.

DEAN'S FARM

A more threatening application is that to build twenty houses at Dean's farm (and these won't be low cost housing to rent) because the accompanying road lay-out is designed in such a way that it can be extended all along the land towards the river and eastward making any future application to build along as far as Sonning Eye more likely and bringing the nightmare of a completely built over South East England that much nearer.

BALMORE HOUSE

Another case of over-development is the site of the Balmore House. Once the army vacated the site, development became inevitable. An application to turn the house into flats was welcomed, but one to cram around fifty houses into the grounds was rejected. This would have detracted from the setting of this still gracious house and completely changed the quiet and secluded nature of this corner of

Caversham. Not that that can survive anyhow, for even a low density development is going to change the rural feel of a place where nature and remnants of the past still retain their hold. However, something of its character could still be kept.

TOUGH TIMES FOR PEDESTRIANS

At Caversham Bridge the pedestrian is better off than during all the months of road works but still has to walk further than before the whole business started. Surely this least demanding, least polluting and healthiest form of transport should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

Those who wish to walk along the south bank between the two bridges and then proceed to the shopping area of Caversham find they must now go under the bridge, up beside the hotel and then up on to the bridge, having waded through mud and water, which it is to be hoped will be cleared up by the developers. They then have the task of crossing the road again but this time amidst the traffic. As far as can be seen there is going to be no access to the road on the downstream side at all.

I am reliably informed that at Reading Bridge there will ultimately be adequate pedestrian facilities. At the moment they face death, an assault course or a long meander to find the safest crossing points.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

On the subject of traffic, Cllr A. Page has sent answers to questions raised at the Autumn meeting on traffic, after he had checked with the Technical Services Department. Briefly the use of the two bridges as a one way system would bring more disadvantages, and the new road systems, when completed should instead ease the traffic problems. The controversial Westfield Road - Gosbrook Road - Prospect Street one way system, though speeding traffic flow, attracted so much opposition that it was decided not to make it permanent.

THE OTHER HOTEL

Meanwhile in Caversham Road, the other new hotel is making progress. It has certainly smartened up the corner on which it stands, though with that busy road in front of it, it is going to need constant maintenance if it is not to deteriorate in appearance. It certainly looks as if it will be able to provide the kind of service which the old Caversham Bridge

hotel did and the new expense account one never will be able to do. With parking at a premium in the whole of that area the car park behind the hotel seems hardly adequate, particularly if staff cars also have to be accommodated. There could be problems here. It is however usefully situated for train travellers.

POLL TAX

The controversial poll tax continues as the centre of debate, with its supporters contending that it will be much fairer and will give individuals more of a stake in local government whilst its opponents say that only the better off will benefit and the cost of collection will be very much higher.

Reading Borough Council has produced an information pack setting out the point of view of the Government and the point of view of the Council. It sets out all the pros and cons of the case very clearly, and was in fact produced for them by Issue Communications Ltd., their P.R. firm, the employment of which has itself been a matter of controversy. Copies are obtainable from the Borough Treasury Department at the Civic Offices.

CHEERFUL ITEMS

Some happier notes on which to end. It is good to see that work is in hand on the Caversham Court Stable Block. This is one of Caversham's oldest buildings and will now be brought back into community use.

Reading Borough Council and Reading Civic Society are combining to produce a series of town trails. The first will cover the town centre, and the second, gratifyingly, part of Caversham, in the Hemdean Valley, Surley Row, Balmore part of the world. How Bug's Bottom will feature in this, with a decision still to be made, remains to be seen.

Also to be welcomed is the Sunday afternoon opening of the Museum and Art Gallery between the hours of two and five, at a time when people and families are more likely to be at leisure to see the exhibits, and with no parking problems of course. The current exhibition, Decorative Delights, is indeed a delight and on a cold winter Sunday afternoon it had a steady flow of visitors.

It is on until 2nd April.

DIARY DATE

Caversham Residents' Association Annual General Meeting. Monday 21st March, 8.00pm Church House. A video of the Bugs Bottom walk will be shown.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NO F.T. — NO COMMENT!

From his arrival in early '86 to his departure on 11th January Father Tony Dalton (affectionately known as F.T.) evoked both thought and comment from the congregation of St Andrew's. His single minded commitment to the principles of Anglo-Catholicism quickly fired the imagination of many in Caversham and the daily celebration of mass soon became re-established.

Although he achieved a lot in a short time, regrettably Father Tony found the call of the North too much to resist and has taken the opportunity to return closer to his beloved Cumbria. He has left with our prayers and best wishes for Accrington, hitherto best known for the once famous football team 'Accrington Stanley.'

His final few days with us were action packed and hectic. On Thursday the Sunday School Staff entertained Father Tony to thank him for the sup-

port and inspiration given. The following evening it was the turn of the Choir; not surprisingly this was at the Packhorse where F.T. had become accepted as 'Honorary Chaplain.'

Saturday 9th saw the Epiphany party, all one hundred and twenty-five tickets sold and a reserve list. We were honoured by the presence of the Rector and Angela, plus most of the parish clergy. The Rector thanked Father Tony for what he had brought to St Andrew's and underlined his determination to ensure its continuation during the interregnum. On behalf of the congregation he presented a cheque to help defray the costs of settling into a new Vicarage. After some moving words in support of his colleague Father Adrian Dorber lightened the proceedings with a most amusing presentation to Father Tony of 'Gentlemen's Undergarments' in a full

range of liturgical colours. The evening's entertainment started with a visit from an 'African Bishop;' following this, star acts from the District were presented to a well fed and good humoured audience.

Sunday came and in between four services and belated attempts to commence packing, Father Tony braved the Sunday School party. His simple direct approach had made him a very popular figure with the children and over sixty enjoyed a rousing afternoon. In the now established tradition the children were presented with Christian books courtesy of the Church Working Party, beautifully inscribed as a reminder of the children's year at St Andrew's.

We will miss Father Tony, but are confident in the knowledge that we will be remembered in his prayers.

Jennifer Jellymann

WATCH OUT— ANT IS COMING!

What's ANT? ANT stands for All Night Takeaway — but everything goes smoothly — everything from running the drama workshop to making sure no booze is brought onto the premises. As well as the serious side — learning to value yourself and seeing what gifts God has given you — the emphasis will be firmly on having a good time. There will be a barn dance sometime after midnight. And just before dawn we are all going swimming! The pace never slackens till breakfast at 7.45. And the theme of ANT will be reflected in the worship which forms an integral part of the night. Of course, 'Takeaway' means food, and food and drinks will be available at various times during the event.

ANT is the successor to Breakout, the 1987 all night youth event. The tremendous success of Breakout can be measured by the response of the young people who took part. They threw themselves into all the activities and went away saying, "Please put another event on next year. We want to do it again."

Months of planning and preparation have gone into ANT. Dozens of volunteers — mostly youth workers — have come forward to offer supervision, security, counselling and other skills. On the night a

large team of adults will be making sure everything goes smoothly — everything from running the drama workshop to making sure no booze is brought onto the premises. As well as the serious side — learning to value yourself and seeing what gifts God has given you — the emphasis will be firmly on having a good time. There will be a barn dance sometime after midnight. And just before dawn we are all going swimming! The pace never slackens till breakfast at 7.45. And the theme of ANT will be reflected in the worship which forms an integral part of the night. Of course, 'Takeaway' means food, and food and drinks will be available at various times during the event.

Are you interested? Are you free on the night of 15th-16th April? ANT is coming to Earley St Peter's on that night. Have you got £2 spend on a Takeaway? More details are coming soon, along with booking forms. Meanwhile you can contact your youth leader or ring Stuart Currie on 872935. But whatever you do, don't miss the mighty ANT.

LINK GROUP

If there was a certain sense of déjà vu amongst the older members when the Link Group met at Suzi Robinson's house on 25th January, it was good to notice the enthusiasm amongst more recent members at the annual discussion on preparation for the Good-as-New Sale, this year arranged for Saturday, 30th April. As usual arrangements are being made to hold it at the Baptist Centre, which being at the end of Prospect Street, is a good 'calling-in' place for those doing their Saturday shopping in Caversham. Approaches are being made to the good folk of Caversham Park Village Association, who have lent their clothes rails for many years free of charge. The Sale is indeed a time when the Link Link appreciates outside help, including that of their long-suffering families!

The proceeds of the Sale are the main funds for the Link Group, which during the year supports many 'needs' in Reading, stretching from supplying items of equipment to hostels and hospitals to helping individuals who may be in a moment of crisis in their lives. Of course the Link is always interested in hearing of such needs and will help as much as they can. Speakers are always welcome at meetings to expand on the needs of local caring organisations, and since the Link now has representatives from nearly all the churches in Caversham, appeals can have a wider range. With many years of activity behind it, the Link Group look forward to busy and worthwhile times ahead.

In addition to good-as-new clothes (which can be tried on at the time), Link Group look forward to plants, cakes, toys, bric-a-brac and times ahead.

NEWS OF CLERGY

The Rev. Leonard Burn (formerly at St Barnabas') is to be Vicar of Bengeworth near Evesham.

The Rev. John Stevinson (formerly at St John's & St Margaret's, Mapledurham) to be priest-in-charge of Leamington, Hastings and Birkbury, near Rugby and to be Diocesan Ministry Development Adviser and Executive Officer of the Diocesan Pastoral Committee, Diocese of Coventry.

The Rev. David Milling, (formerly St Margaret's and St Andrew's) one of the Kennet Team Ministry, has resigned.

The Rev. Eric Essery, Rural Dean of Reading, has been appointed an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

Did you know that the Rev. Graham Lynch-Watson (from CPV Church) was once curate at St Mary the Boltons, where the Rev. Stephen Bartlett (also at one time at CPV) was recently inducted as Vicar?

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SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND CAVERSHAM BRANCH

The Valentine party held at St Andrew's Hall raised over £160. Entertainment was provided by the Reading St Andrew's Scottish Dancers. The area representative Mrs J Cawte presented Miss Margaret Annison with a certificate for long service to the fund.

Volunteers needed for house-to-house collection — call Caversham Bookshop.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

The twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Caversham Bridge Good Neighbour Scheme was held on Tuesday 19th January, in Caversham Hall, St John's Road, and chaired by the Revd Alan Wilson in the unavoidable absence of Mr Ben Archer, the new Chairman of the Scheme.

The Secretary reported another very busy year in every way. Requests for transport to the hospital, for Doctor's appointments etc., and to take the elderly and disabled to various Clubs continue to grow, and despite a slight drop in the number of drivers available, six hundred and sixty-two recorded journeys were undertaken — nearly a hundred more than in the previous year.

Currently the Balance Sheet is very healthy due to two particularly generous donations and proceeds of a Jumble Sale held at the end of last year. However the Com-

mittee is now encouraging drivers to claim mileage expenses as potential drivers should not be put off by the cost of petrol, and also rent of the office has to be budgeted for and increased telephone expenses due to the increased workload.

A very interesting and thought provoking talk was given by Marjorie Hamilton, Age Concern Co-ordinator for Caring for the Carers, and many interesting points for discussion followed.

Any Caversham resident interested in learning more about the Good Neighbour Scheme, or willing to help either as a driver or as a visitor to a lonely or household person should contact Esther Youens, Secretary, T.N. 479048, or call at the Care Centre Office, Church House, Caversham, on any weekday morning between 9.30 am and 11.30 am.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

After a long absence this article is now hopefully back on the 'road'. Caversham Methodist Church has enjoyed some special occasions and services over the past few months and we have the Stewards, the Choir and the young people to thank for their hard work and dedication.

The Sunday Night Youth Fellowship are practising hard for the Circuit Youth Display entitled 'Teenscene' where they will be putting on a snooker item with human balls. The Ambassadors Band will also be taking part.

The Women's Fellowship look forward to their Anniversary in March and in May along

with all Methodists there will be great celebrations to mark the two hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the conversion of John and Charles Wesley. All over the Reading and Silchester Circuit churches will be putting on special commemorative events.

□ □
□ □

At Gosbrook Road on May 21st/22nd there will be a Flower Festival depicting Charles Wesley's hymns. Members are very enthusiastic about this and it should be well worth a visit. The Flower Festival will be open on the Saturday and on the Sunday after the Open Air Service

at Caversham Court. Teas will be served on the Sunday so why not come along after the service and enjoy the flowers, fellowship and food.

Through this newspaper we have to record our thanks to Mrs Eileen Herbert for all the work and dedication she gave to the 1st Caversham Girls Brigade. Eileen has now retired as Captain of Company after many years. It is regretted that the Company has closed for the present — but who knows what the future holds.

We also regret that we have to record the passing of Mr Ted Curling, a well loved member of Gosbrook Road. He is sadly missed. Please see separate obituary in this newspaper.

LOCAL CHILDREN RAISE MONEY FOR RBH

The children of Micklands Nursery Playgroup raised the total of £100.54 for the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Anniversary Appeal. Appeal's Organiser Mr Michael Brown visited the playgroup to receive the money on behalf of the Royal Berks. Mr Brown was served with coffee and mince pies, as were parents and friends in 'Ye Old Lantern Coffee Shoppe' where the money was raised. Many thanks to all who supported this venture.



Eunice Cooper

Michael Brown receiving money for the RBH from Liam Shanly, Clare Wise, Bryony Wood, Kathryn Eighteen and Matthew Berresford, of Micklands Nursery Playgroup.

UNCOVERING THE PAST

Much work has been done in St Peter's Church in clearing the Vanderstegen chapel, which houses the new organ and was the home for very many years of the old model. Much of the old woodwork was used to make a new floor where the organ pipes were, saving a considerable amount of money. Under the

floor where the old console stood, was revealed the oldest stone tablet known to date. The inscription, not all completely decipherable, reads, "Here lyeth the bodie of Dorothea Brigham daughter of Tho Brigham gent. Who departed this life the 18th of Octo: 1630 being 3 yere x months & dayes." The last word is unreadable.

THE READING BACH CHOIR

The Reading Bach Choir will be performing in St Anne's Church, South View Avenue, Caversham on Saturday 5th March. The major work being presented is the St Luke Passion by Schultz. The Choir has been among the foremost in the area for over twenty years, performing a wide variety of choral work in four con-

certs per season. They also provide beautiful music for weddings, very well received at several local churches last year. Enquiries through Derek Shew, 482960.

ST Andrew's Mothers' Union

It was a happy occasion on January 24th when at the Family Eucharist the Rector commissioned Mrs Jenny Jellyman to the office of Enrolling Member. The love and good wishes of all members go out to Jenny as she takes up this important and arduous task, but which with her many gifts, she is so well equipped to undertake.

The February meeting was preceded by a ploughman's lunch. Despite a cold, wet afternoon there was a good attendance, and a lively discussion ensued on "The M.U. Past and Present." An exhibition of membership cards and photographs of Branch activities brought back many happy memories.

DID YOU KNOW?

that there is to be a special course for sidespersons, "Supporting Sidespeople" on Saturday, 12th March from 10am to 3.30pm at St Peter's Church, Earley. It will be led by the Rev. Keith Lamdin, Adult Education Officer in the Oxford Diocese. Fr. Adrian Dorber 473095 has details.

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RECRUITS GALORE TO JOIN THE BRIGADE

On Sunday Jan 24 a packed congregation witnessed the enrolment of the 2nd Caversham Girls Brigade Company at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. The 21 members of the company paraded in their full uniform for the first time.

The company was established because it was felt there was a need in the area for an organisation catering for girls aged between 5 and 8 years. When the company started in October there were 16 girls from 5 to 13

which rather floored the company captain Mrs Monica Sanders so they decided to have 3 sections. The company is now made up of explorers, juniors and a senior section who meet at the Methodist Church Hall in Highmoor Road every Thursday at 6.30 pm.

The girls work for badges which are related to four separate activities — spiritual, educational, physical and service.

In the Summer they are hoping to join the local Boys Brigade

company on a camping trip to the Isle of Wight.

The only difference between the Girls Brigade and any other Youth Group is that a company must be affiliated to a church. There has been some amount of religious instruction (but not indoctrination!)

The Girl's Brigade is not a Methodist organisation and the company is looking for new members from any denomination. Anyone interested should contact Mrs Monica Sanders on 472223.

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Forty-eight members of Caversham Heights Church spent a week in the Holy Land at the end of February. The whole congregation has been invited to share in the pilgrimage of Lent. A prayer guide has been written by the Minister, Rev. Keith Sanders, and all the services during Lent are based on the various locations in the Holy Land.

At the Parade Service on Mothering Sunday, 13 March, all the young people will be

given sunflower seeds to grow to bring the flowers for Harvest decoration. On Sunday 20th March there will be a choir from Arnhem in Holland sharing in the worship and on Palm Sunday there will be Palm Crosses from Israel distributed to the congregation.

Following his previous visit to the River Jordan, Mr Sanders will be replenishing his supply of water for baptismal services.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

OBITUARIES

Edwin William
(Ted) Curling

It is with regret that we at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road, record the sudden death of Ted Curling on December 28th, 1987. Ted was very well known to many Caversham people, being manager of Platts Grocery Stores on Donkin Hill for a great many years. In fact Ted devoted much of his life to the grocery trade, firstly as a very pleasant, efficient and helpful shop keeper and secondly as secretary of the Thames Valley Branch of the National Grocers Benevolent Fund. This voluntary job kept Ted busy with the organising of functions which raised much money for the Fund to distribute in times of hardship. Ted was a respected and loved member of the Thames Valley Committee and it is an indication of his esteem that over £650 has been received by the Fund in his memory. Ted was supported with a very able and loving family in all the work he undertook. Whenever anyone called at the family home a warm welcome was assured.

But Ted had other strings to his bow, in previous years he had been a grand help and support to the Guides in Caversham, and at the Methodist Church he was a member of the Property Committee where his busy 'beaver' moved many jobs along and encouraged others. Ted was also secretary of the National

Children's Home Appeal for Caversham and undertook this job with the same enthusiasm as he did everything else.

Ted was a well loved member of the community and wishes of care and concern for his family on his death came from far and wide. American friends had grown to love him and said they felt they had lost a friend too. Mr Ted Curling was a friend to all and will be remembered as the welcome host of either shop or home.

Ted leaves a daughter, Julia, son-in-law Chris and grandchildren Catherine and Stewart.

Miss E.M.F.
ALDERSON

Miss E.M.F. Alderson died in the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed on 22nd January aged eighty years. Miss Alderson was the first headmistress of the Hill Primary School when it opened in 1950. Throughout the eighteen years until her retirement she aimed to assure the fullest development of each pupil in her care. Ever open to new ideas she would, with her staff, assess their value and accept only the best for her

school. Parents were encouraged to visit the school and talk freely with the headmistress. In addition, she did sterling work on the Board of the Diocesan Education Service.

Molly's interests extended beyond the church and education. She served for a number of years as a magistrate and was chairman of the Juvenile Court Panel for a short time. She was also a long standing member of the Elizabeth Fry Probation Hostel Management Committee.

Molly lived for several years at Springfield St Luke prior to its closure. She contributed to the corporate life of the Home and in many and various ways. She gave generously of her time and talents, arranging musical evenings and other forms of entertainment, helping with flowers, the garden and the library. She was a wonderful and generous friend to many, but above all she had a deep faith based on regular worship in the chapel.

Miss Alderson was an enthusiastic supporter of the "Caversham Bridge," she was for a time on the board of Directors and was one of the first four Trustees.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LINK GROUP

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CAVERSHAM DIARY

- | | |
|------------|--|
| March 2nd | Methodist Hall, Gosbrook Road, 7.15. Reading & Dist. Gardeners Mutual Improvement Assoc: Pest, Disease and weed control in the garden. |
| March 5th | St Anne's Roman Catholic Church 7.30pm: Reading Bach Choir |
| March 13th | Corrymeela Sunday. |
| March 16th | Methodist Hall, Gosbrook Road 7.15. Reading & Dist. Gardeners Mutual Improvement Assoc: Plants for the Connoisseur. |
| March 19th | Sue Ryder Jumble Sale, Caversham Hall. Details Ann Deane 473798. |
| March 21st | Annual General Meeting Caversham and District Residents' Association 8pm Church House, Caversham. |
| March 30th | Methodist Hall, Gosbrook Road, 7.15. Reading & Dist. Gardeners Mutual Improvement Assoc: Gardens of Myddleton House. |

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT THIS COLUMN DOES SOMETIMES GET READ and I was pleased that Mr Barker had taken up my appeal for more news, though I should remind him that the problems of having to go to press so early should

never deter anyone from letting us have news, however late. Meanwhile, I hope he finds the editor's explanation satisfactory if not very comforting. Thank heavens I don't have to get involved in editorial matters; my job is easy by comparison —

though if I'm allowed to I'd like to take the opportunity of congratulating the editor whose devotion to duty last month meant dealing with the proof stage while in hospital.

More News

Very welcome too was a call I had from Peter Atkinson, one-time priest in charge of St John's and very actively concerned in the publication of the 'Bridge'. Peter had seen my appeal and rang to say, in case we were interested, that after twelve years in the north he is now back in the Oxford Diocese as Vicar of All Saints, Dedworth, near Windsor. I believe there has already been a considerable renewal of local contacts so some readers will know too that Anne, after teaching cookery in a Sunderland School, is now cooking for the elderly in two day centres in Windsor. And for good measure Richard, now 21, is studying Dutch at Hull University and spending his third year at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, while Stephen, in his final year at school in Windsor hopes to go on and study electronic engineering.

Peter also tells me that John and Jo Stevenson will soon be leaving for the Coventry Diocese where John will be priest in charge at Leamington, Hastings and Birmington.

And for good measure I've been reading in the 'Newbury Weekly News' that Peter Sear, one-time deputy editor of the 'Bridge' and priest in charge of St Barnabas, is leading a fight against development of fields in Thatcham. I do think we should send him our best wishes.

More Please

So keep the news coming please. And if I may be so bold, one final appeal to priests and ministers of other churches. Very often members of your congregations are well known to others in Caversham, and we really would appreciate news.

From Mongolia

I've always liked to bask in reflected glory and take great pride in numbering among my friends people of considerable ability. So it was with delight that I ran into Alan Sanders recently — he featured in these columns many years ago when he first made a trip to Mongolia and produced a book on the subject. Alan is one of the most unassuming people I know, so it wasn't easy to find out from him that he had made further visits to Mongolia in recent years and last year had another valuable reference book on the subject published. Alan and his wife, Nora, who teaches at Shiplake College, are stalwarts of the local Baptist Church and I understand one of their sons, at present at

University, is hoping to enter the ministry in due course.

Speaking of Books

I'm told the subject of possible VAT on books is again on the cards. There's no need to expound what this would mean to readers and to the book trade — so it would help if as many readers as possible popped into the local bookshop and collected a bookmark saying 'No to VAT on Books' to forward to the European Committee Against Taxing Books.

Saying 'Thank You'

No need to say more but I heartily agree with Richard Kingsbury who wrote in a recent edition of the 'Reading Chronicle' on the subject of saying 'thank you'. As an old Russian friend of mine used to say, I like my thank-yous. One thing I feel sad about is that so many gifts sent to children are not acknowledged though Mum may mention the subject in her letters. Much as I hate to join the ranks of those who say 'When we were young ...' I can't help feeling sad that the days when children were sat down to write their own thank-yous, however short, seem to be over with few exceptions.

The Travel Agency

As for me, well I must say thank you to our local travel agency who once more have come up trumps and spent hours trying to fit members of my family into what are very often rather unusual travel requirements. No effort seems to be too much — only hope they enjoy their own holidays for they deserve to.

Cobblers Required

Wouldn't it be nice if we could have our own shoe repairers in Caversham again. I know one of the cleaners takes in repairs, but it's not the same as going direct to a shoe repairer and I do hate trailing into Reading to have a boot stitched up.

Good Planning for a change

Like many others, I think Reading is the end just now, with all the new developments, but one glorious exception is the new building alongside the Abbey Gateway. I take it that it's some form of office development but for my money it's the best I've seen anywhere in years and the garden at the back, which I hope will remain open to the public, is quite something. Other developers please copy.

Caversham

As to Caversham, well it could be worse I suppose, but once again we are subject to holes in the

road and pavements which are almost past belief. And somebody didn't show much sense when it came to dropping the pavements in certain places, presumably to enable easier crossing for people with prams or wheelchairs. One or two of these dropped kerbs are proving a great help but the top of Prospect Street, for instance, where nobody should be trying to cross anyway, seems to me to contain some wholly unnecessary bits of hacking about.

Congratulations to Pauline and David

Last year I mentioned that Pauline Duckett had taken over the hardressers in Prospect Street. She and her team have worked very hard over the past months, so it's not surprising that they made the most of the reception in January on the occasion to Pauline's marriage to David Feeney. It seems a good time was had by all, not least by Pauline's young daughter, Alison and her friend, who took some very good candid camera shots which I hope to see eventually but promise not to publish. And I hope it won't be out of order to say I'm sure all Pauline's customers will want to send her their very best wishes.

School Reunion

There must be some people living in Caversham who attended Newtown Secondary School. It is good that a school which closed decades ago is remembered with such affection by its ex-pupils that they are arranging a reunion party in the autumn. Anyone interested, ring Rod Fuller (67126).

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Ladies Club

It was a pleasure to see so many members attending this first meeting of '88 said Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opening the meeting, and although it was a little late, Mrs Harwood said she wished everyone a very happy new year. This first meeting of the new year, as in previous years, is a members' affair, when inquests over activities, grumbles, suggestions, etc., are sorted out, and improvements, how and where, can be ironed out. Finally the year ahead, regarding outings, speakers and so on is arranged. It was a lively and happy atmosphere and members were very contented with their club, so the matter of outings was next.

To make choosing a place to visit easier, Mrs Harwood suggested that out of the names members had put forward, the meeting should write its choice on a piece of paper and put it in a basket on top table, Mrs Melhams (Secretary) would then count them and announce the favourites, which satisfied the members.

Mrs Harwood and Mrs Queenie Strong had taken a cheque for £30 to the Royal Berks which members in various ways had contributed to. A

lovely certificate with a drawing of the Royal Berks Hospital as the main feature had been sent to the members thanking them for their gift. Mrs Q. Strong said her husband would frame it for the club, and every meeting it would be on show near a collection box which Mrs Harwood hoped they would contribute to, no matter if only pence. It weighed heavy at the end of the meeting, so the club is off to a very good start.

Caversham Ladies Circle

Mrs Hatwood regretted she had not been able to attend the club's Christmas Lunch held at Chiltern Chase, owing to illness, but had been told members had enjoyed it very much. A provisional date had been given to the manager for this year's lunch.

After the usual light refreshment the meeting drew to a close with all wondering "where had the time gone."

Blagrove WI

On January 13th thirty-three members came to Mapledurham Pavilion for a three course hot meal and a glass of wine to celebrate the institute's twenty-fifth bir-

thday in style. The event was judged a great success and cries of "When we can do this again?" were heard!!

Dr Foley-Fisher was the speaker at the February meeting and cleared up many misunderstandings about the Goodwin Sands — a lot of members quite thought they were of quicksand. Apparently the area originally owned by a Mr Goodwin and could have been part of the mainland before a change in sea level. The constantly changing shape and position of the sandbanks still are a hazard to shipping. There was an exhibition of child studies, photographs and drawings brought by members. The raffle was won by Mrs Reed.

Chazey WI

In the January meeting, Simon Jones, of Holloways, gave an interesting talk on "Antiques," listing the main criteria, monetarily speaking, as replacement value, open market value and probate. He said that the Thames Valley had "quite a lot of good stuff," and there must be many unknown water colours to be discovered.

The Christmas Carol singing raised £50 which was given to Peppard House, the home for han-

dicapped young people.

The cake decoration course was a great success, and the participants were delighted with the results; grateful thanks to Gail Russell for taking the course.

The competition "Guess the weight of Berks Federation Executive Committee", raised £5.60, which was duly sent to Watlington House.

Maplewood WI

Maplewood W.I. have enjoyed two celebration meetings recently. In December the meeting was preceded by a very enjoyable Christmas lunch provided by the committee. Afterwards Miss Helen Anderson talked about the tragically short life of Kathleen Ferrier and played a selection of her records.

January was the thirty-third Birthday of the Institute so a tea party, with many guests from surrounding Institutes, was organised. The speaker was Mrs Annette Waites on "Childhood Words and Wisdom." There was an impressive display of pot plants and quite a good number of exhibits in the Flower of the Month competition which was won by Mrs Rose Painter.

Caversham Heights TG

Buttonhooks and Butterflies

You would not think there was much to say about buttonhooks, yet at the January meeting in St Andrew's hall Mrs S Brandon amusingly told members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild about her collection of buttonhooks, gloves, boots and shoe-lifts. Men started wearing boots around 1800, and an age of gentility flourished for both sexes eventually. Ladies wore long buttoned kid gloves all day, and servants or sons and daughters would help in the buttoning of the close fitting boots which father wore. There were tiny boots for children too and button hooks were widely used.

At social studies in Highmoor hall Mr E Aspdon, speaking on "All Things Bright and Beautiful," showed a photograph he had managed to take of a hedgehog feeding at night and many others of birds, flowers and insects throughout the year. The metamorphosis of a damselfly or caterpillar can be observed. Watch out if the ants are making pets of greenfly on the beanstalk! Did you know goldfish in a pond eat

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

Emmer Green TG

mosquitoes, or that the water skate is a valuable insect? Wasps only become a nuisance after their larvae have grown up. Leave some nettles growing for the caterpillars to eat and more beautiful tortoiseshell, comma, brimstone, peacock and Red Admiral butterflies will be helped to survive. The wonderful world of nature is only a stone's throw away from our back door. A donation has been given to the cardiac monitoring unit at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in memory of the death of a member's husband, Mr Peter Davidge.

The very mild evening enabled 57 members and their guests to attend the January meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, to hear Mr M Bridge of the Met Office give a most interesting talk on The Weather. He began by giving a brief history of weather forecasting dating back to 1854 and went on to describe the highly technical work carried out at Bracknell today.

The Bring and Buy stall was very busy. A visit to the Ballet and a guided tour of Greyfriars Church was planned for February.

The Chairman Miss Nora Pollard, con-

gratulated members on the final results of their fund raising for The Royal Berks Hospital. A certificate from the hospital with the slogan 'You have not waited — You have donated, showed a total sum of £685.85p given by the Guild. This certainly was a good start to the New Year!

Caversham WI

At their January meeting Caversham W.I. were shown glimpses of Spring and Summer when Bob Aggiss gave an illustrated talk on gardening. Slides were shown on how beautiful an ordinary garden could look, as well as exhibition blooms for local shows. The last slides showed the magnificent flowers and vegetables on display at Chelsea.

Mrs Urbanek won the competition for a vase of winter flowers.

Meetings are held in Church House (next to Waitrose) on third Thursdays commencing at 7.30 and new members are always welcome.

St Peter's Wives Group

In January, St Peter's Wives Group invited Mrs Katrina Mitchell of the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work Inc to talk to them about her work. Mrs Mitchell is involved in all aspects of the Adoption Society but more particularly with supporting single mothers before and after they have their babies. Her talk outlined to the Group all the specialises caring and preparation that is involved in adoption and also the support given to the single parents living in the three homes in the area. There were many questions for Mrs Mitchell from a very interested audience. Mrs Shirley Longstaffe proposed a vote of thanks.

On March 15th Mrs Mollie Harris who has written books on various subjects including cookery, her Oxfordshire childhood and walking, will be talking to the Group.

The Leisure Time Club for Disabled and OAPs

The Club started back on January 11th and enjoyed a chat about Christmas and the party. New members were introduced and then Bingo was played. On Monday January 18th Bill Thorpe came along to play old time songs on his electronic organ. Win and Peggy sand and several members got up and danced. Everyone said what a good afternoon it was and a big 'thankyou' to Bill.

The Club still runs on the second and third Monday of each month in St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green from 2.15 till 3.45 pm, with a concert party, slide shows, talks etc. If there is anyone that could help entertain in any way, please could they phone me, Sylvia on Reading 475260.

Caversham Community Association

The members met again, after the Christmas holiday, on the 4th January for a social evening. It was the date for paying the annual subscription for club membership and, once the dues were paid, everyone settled down to enjoy the rest of the evening. Henry Buckland, a club member, provided the entertainment singing delightfully in his pleasant voice some old and some modern ballads. The audience appreciated the singing and joined in some of the songs. Mr Buckland thanked Nancy

Nelams for her able accompaniment on the piano. Wine and fruit drinks with an assortment of biscuits and cheeses were provided at refreshment time.

At the next meeting the following week, Simon Theobalds, the Regional Executive in the Thames Valley for Television South and based at the Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading, gave an informative talk. The area involved, with its headquarters at Southampton, stretches from Brighton to Weymouth and up to Reading. The organisation tries to cover news items of interest but limited time means that they have to be selective. Mr Theobald said that cable and satellite television will come in the future and that could mean more channels. At the moment with four channels standards can be maintained, but with so many channels standards may drop. The audience asked many questions and a lively discussion took place, resulting in an interesting and enlightening meeting, with suggestions given on future programmes for T.V.S.

There was a 'Quiz' evening on the 18th January. Members of the committee had been busy compiling a variety of questions and competitions which kept everyone occupied. Prizes were awarded to the winners of each contest.

The members came to the clubroom on the 25th January, bearing a variety of articles, for the Bring and Buy sale held that evening. Some good bargains were available at the auction that followed of these goods. A total of £29 was raised to help subsidise the cost of evening outings, to be arranged for the members, later in the year.

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St Peter's

March 27 — PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
- 9.15am — SUNG EUCHARIST
- 11.15am — Morning Prayer (Distribution of Palm Crosses at normal morning services)
- 6.30pm — Fauré's Requiem (sung by united choirs from the parish)

HOLY WEEK — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:

- 7.00pm — Holy Communion
- Maundy Thursday:
- 9.30am — Holy Communion
- 8.00pm — SUNG EUCHARIST
- GOOD FRIDAY
- 12-3pm — Three Hours' Service of Devotion, conducted by Canon Wilfred Browning

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
- 9.15am — SUNG EUCHARIST
- 11.15am — Holy Communion
- 6.30pm — FESTAL EVENSONG

St. Margaret's Mapledurham

PALM SUNDAY

- 11.00am — Parish Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.30am — Devotional Service

EASTER EVE

- 11.00am — Confirmation and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
- 11.00am — Parish Communion

St. Andrew's Caversham

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
- 9.15am — Family Eucharist
- 11.15am — Holy Communion
- 6.30pm — Evensong (said)

HOLY WEEK — Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

- 8.00pm — Eucharist Rite A with address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 8.00pm — Sung Eucharist Rite B with address followed by the Watch

GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.15am — Liturgy of the Day

EASTER EVE

- 8.00pm — Service of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
- 9.15am — Family Eucharist
- 11.15am — Holy Communion
- 6.30pm — Evensong

St. John's

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion (1662)
- 9.15am — Parade and Family Communion

HOLY WEEK — Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

- 7.30pm — Prayers and Meditation in church

TUESDAY

- 2.30pm — MU Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 10.00am — Holy Communion (1662)
- 8.00pm — Holy Communion at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
- 9.30pm — Stripping of the Altars & Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00am — Passion and Litany

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion (1662)
- 9.15am — Holy Communion
- 11.00am — Family Service

St. Barnabas'

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am — Eucharist
- 9.15am — Assemble in St Barnabas Hall for the Blessing and distribution of Palms, followed by the procession into Church
- 9.30am — The Solemn Eucharist of Palm Sunday and the Reading of the Gospel of the Passion
- 6.30pm — Stations of the Cross and Devotions

Monday in Holy Week:

- 8.00pm — Eucharist and Address

Tuesday in Holy Week

- 7.00am — Eucharist

Wednesday in Holy Week

- 10.00am — Eucharist and the Sacrament of Healing

- 8.00pm — Eucharist and Meditation

Maundy Thursday

- 6.15pm — for 6.30pm Assemble in St Barnabas Hall for the Passover Meal (tickets required)

- 8.00pm — The Solemn Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, followed by the stripping of the Altar and the watch before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00am — Service of Penitence and Stations of the Cross

- 2.00pm — The Solemn Liturgy of the Passion (including the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion)

EASTER EVE

- 5.00pm — Evensong and Meditation
- 5.30pm — Confession and Spiritual Direction

EASTER DAY

- 5.00am — The Easter Vigil and Mass of the dawn (This includes the Easter Ceremonies, the Vigil, the blessing of the Baptismal waters and the renewal of Baptismal Vows) The Liturgy is followed by Breakfast in the Church Hall

- 8.00am — Eucharist and renewal of Baptismal Vows

- 9.30am — Sung Eucharist and renewal of Baptismal Vows

Caversham Park Church

PALM SUNDAY

- 10.40am — Procession from Community Centre and

- 11.00am — Morning Service

HOLY WEEK — Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

- 7.30pm Short Service of Meditation at 1 Aldenham Close

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 8.00pm — House Communion at 1 Aldenham Close

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00am — Children's workshop &
- 11.30am — Short Service at C.P. Primary School

EASTER DAY — Easter breakfast followed by

- 11.00am — Holy Communion

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

PALM SUNDAY

- 11.00am — Family Worship with distribution of Palm Sunday Crosses

- 6.30pm — Music along the Way of the Cross

Wednesday 30th March

- 8.00pm — Sounds & Sights of the Holy Land

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — United Service — preacher Dr. Philip Egglestone

EASTER DAY

- 8.30am — Easter Day Holy Communion followed by a Church breakfast

- 11.00am — Easter Day Family Worship — 'In the Garden'

- 6.30pm — Easter Evening Service

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

PALM SUNDAY

- 11.00am and 6.30pm Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 8.00pm — Holy Communion — united Service with St. John's at Gosbrook Road — preacher, the Rev. Alan Wilson

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — United service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

EASTER DAY

- 11.00am — Service
- 6.30pm — Service with Holy Communion

Society of Friends (Quakers) Church Street, Reading

- 10.45am — Meeting. Third Sunday 7.30pm Church House Caversham

Roman Catholic

Church of St. Anne, South View Avenue

Week ending Saturday April 2nd. Penitential Services throughout the Reading Deanery during the week.

PALM SUNDAY

- 5.30pm — Saturday Evening Mass. A sung Mass with the Blessing and Procession of Palms

- 9.00am and 11am. Sunday Morning Masses. Blessed Palms will be available during the day

- 6.30pm — Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Monday

- 7.15am — Mass at Convent
- 9.00am — Mass

Tuesday

- 7.15am — Mass

Wednesday

- 7.15am — Mass. Also 9.00am

Maundy Thursday

- 9.00am — Mass for those who cannot attend Evening Mass

- 11.00am — Mass ('of Chrism') at St. Aloysius, Oxford

- 8.00pm — Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, with Procession to the Altar of Repose. Watching until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — Stations of the Cross and Sermon
- 3.00pm — Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord. Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, followed by veneration of the relic of the Cross. Day of Fasting and Abstinence. Collection for the 'Holy Places'

Holy Saturday

- Confessions as announced
- 8.00pm — Vigil of Easter with Blessing of the New Fire, Blessing of the Paschal Candle, Service of Readings, Vigil Mass with Blessing of Baptismal Water

EASTER SUNDAY

- 9.00am — and 11.00am Masses. No other Masses or Services

Church of Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.30am — and 10.30am and 5.00pm: Masses. Blessing and Procession of Palms before 10.30am Mass

Tuesday

- 10.00am — Mass (For Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, see details for St Anne's — *except* Confessions on Holy Saturday as announced)

EASTER SUNDAY

- 8.30am — and 10.30am and 5.00pm: Masses

Caversham Baptist Free Church

PALM SUNDAY

- 11.00am and 6.30pm Services

Wednesday 30th March

- 11.00am — 11.30am Service of Prayer for Healing and Meditation

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — United Service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

EASTER DAY

- 10.30am — Baptismal Service
- 6.30pm — Holy Communion

United Reformed Church, York Road

PALM SUNDAY

- 11.00am — Family Service

Wednesday 30th March

- 7.30pm — The Passion Story. Meditation using reading pictures & music

GOOD FRIDAY

- 11.00am — Service

EASTER DAY

- 11.00am — Holy Communion

Chapel On The Hill

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — in the Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY

- 10.30am — (in Hill Primary School)
- 6.30pm — in Chapel