



April
1988

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No 281

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SPECIAL YEAR FOR MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE

THIS YEAR ALSO MARKS THE THIRD CENTENARY of the birth of the poet Alexander Pope who spent a good deal of his time at Mapledurham House in the company of the two sisters Martha and Teresa whose portraits appear as children in the library and again when fully grown in the saloon, the first of the upstairs state rooms. Alexander Pope also influenced the original layout of the gardens.

May 1st is National Mills Day when extra attention will be drawn to the ancient mill now in full working order with flour being ground by the old millstones turned by a giant water wheel.

On 9th and 10th June there is to be a Country Fair when numerous crafts and craftworkers can be seen. The whole season starts off with a flourish on Easter Sunday, April 3rd to music by Cholsey Silver Band.

It is no mean achievement that Mapledurham House has remained in the same family over the years in view of the many pressures and setbacks past owners have had to withstand. As far back as 1643 the house was besieged by the Roundheads who took all of value they could find. This was only a year before the death of Sir Charles Blount a fine soldier and scholar accidentally slain at the siege of Oxford leaving a son who was murdered at the tender age of nineteen. Up to 1821 the family was forced to

1988 has a special significance for Mapledurham House for it is just four centuries since the building of the present house began. Earlier manors had been owned by the Blount family but it was in 1588 that Sir Michael Blount raised the sum of £15,000 to build the imposing house in existence today.



In the library is some valuable Catholic recusant literature of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries smuggled into England on pain of death. A further reminder of the family's Catholic beliefs lies in the cluster of oyster shells visible on one of the gables at the back of the house, an indication that a safe refuge was here for those of a similar faith.

Much of the furniture is large, some, such as the Sheraton sideboards in the dining room being specially made to fit into alcoves, and that once most prized possession, the four poster bed, dominates the main bedroom. Surprisingly it is covered by a meticulously worked cover composed of fifteen thousand pieces of eighteenth and nineteenth century dress materials, many of which would be fashionable today.

Two royal personages known for their interest in family houses of the Tudor period have visited Mapledurham House. Queen Mary in 1932 and more recently in 1982, the Queen Mother who planted a tree in the grounds to commemorate the occasion.

Today, on the special opening days visitors can enjoy taking refreshments in a peaceful area within sight of the River Thames and the Old Mill against a backcloth of one of the old original manors and behind it historic Mapledurham house itself.

E.M.F.

pay Double Land Tax as Catholics, but despite many problems the family held on to its inheritance, the property eventually passing to the present owner John Eyston who has made a home for himself, his wife and their three children in Mapledurham House.

Up to 1988 half a million people have visited Mapledurham House since it was opened to the public

in 1967. An interesting feature is the collection of family portraits alongside landscapes of considerable merit. A skillful portrait of Alexander Pope is by Sir Godfrey Kneller and by the same artist, Martha

Blount. On the second stairway is a full size painting of Sir Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, Earl of Devonshire (1576-1621) a cousin of Sir Michael Blount and favourite of Queen Elizabeth 1. Another famous

painting now back in its rightful place after being exhibited in this country and in America, is Lady St John of Bletso c. 1615 related to the Blount family by marriage, painted by artist William Larkin, one of the

first English artists to incorporate a landscape into paintings.

Among many interesting pieces of furniture is the settee and occasional chairs covered in tapestry worked by the nine daughters of Michael Henry Blount (1789-1874), one of whom married a Charles Eyston in 1863, bringing the line of succession to the present owner, John Joseph Eyston in 1943.

EASTER GREETINGS

The Editors of the "Caversham Bridge" would like to wish all the readers of the paper a peaceful and holy Easter

TALKING POINT

By Rev Peter Mullins



Asst. Curate
St Peter's & St Margaret's

CHRIST IS RISEN

'Christ is risen!' 'I beg your pardon?' 'I said 'Christ is risen!'' 'Well?' 'You aren't meant to reply 'Well?' You should say 'He is risen indeed — Alleluia.' 'Why?' 'It's a sort of traditional christian greeting. They use it all the time in eastern orthodox countries instead of saying 'Good Morning.' 'Why don't they say 'Good Morning' like everybody else?' 'They do — but Easter is so important they have a special greeting for this time of year. Shall we give it another go then? Christ is risen! Look I think you may just be trying to be difficult. We are both members of this church. Why not just reply to the greeting and we can go home.' 'Do you think our Bishop believes it?' 'Of course he does. He published a paperback about it last year. It is called 'Christ is risen.'*' 'He is risen indeed!'' 'At last your getting the idea!' 'Anything to please. Some Bishops don't believe in it though do they?' 'It depends what you mean by...'

'My Uncle Ted always warned me against people in the church who say 'it depends what you mean by something.' 'Have you ever read the story?' 'I hear it read in church every year.' 'Yes, but have you ever sat down and read it through?' 'There is no need to. Either you believe Jesus dead body was restarted, or settle for the view that the disciples had a nice cosy feeling that everthing was alright really. Trying to puzzle through the story in the Bible isn't going to help much. Either way you'll end up on the same side as at least one of the Bishops. I like the 'nice cosy feeling' theory myself. Can't we just settle for 'Good Morning' like last Sunday?' 'There isn't a Bishop in the land who thinks that Jesus dead body just restarted. And there isn't one who thinks the resurrection was just a nice cosy feeling for the disciples either. You ought really to read the story for yourself.' 'But what else is there left to think...?' 'That God has done something new! There is no other explanation which

will fit. There are lots of bits of the story which tell us that the person who appeared was the same person who had died...'' 'Such as?' 'Have you ever noticed that in the story of Jesus restarting the body of his friend Lazarus the dead man walked out of the tomb wrapped in his grave clothes, but that in Jesus' tomb the grave clothes were left behind?' 'Well, as it happens, no I haven't.' 'If you read the story you'll find that you can't settle for any view less than God beginning his act of re-creation, the first fruits of the promised kingdom being picked, the good news that death isn't the most important fact of life, the promise that we will be changed...' 'Goodness you seem very excited by all this. I don't know what to say.' 'What about 'He is risen'? Alleluia!'

*'Christ is risen' by Richard Harries (Mowbrays 1987 £2.50). Try also 1 Corinthians 15 (which is the earliest account we have) and one of the gospels such as John 20. Compare John 11.44 with John 20.6,7.

POSTBAG

GARDEN OF REST

Dear Editors,
St Andrew's Fete, 25th June, 1988 will be in aid of landscaping the Remembrance Garden of Rest.

Almost a quarter of a century ago at 3pm on the 25th November, 1964, the Bishop of Reading came to St Andrew's Church, Caversham, and consecrated part of the garden which surrounds the south side of the church.

This sacred spot has become a quiet and peaceful garden, wherein rest the ashes of one hundred and forty loved ones of the parish. How appropriate that they include a very well known member of St Andrew's who loved and tended the garden for many years, Denis Slade.

Some years ago I proposed that we should pull

down the old air raid shelter in order that we could extend the garden, to improve the view, not only from our St Andrew's Hall, but also, more importantly, to enhance the total setting of our lovely church.

Our Rector, Richard Kingsbury, has kindly given permission that we may proceed with this project and I have gladly accepted this opportunity to write to you to ask for your support at the many functions which have been organised to pay for this development.

Our plans are to have an architect designed landscape garden which will incorporate a grotto, centred

around a statue of our own St Andrew. These plans will be on display in the Church porch as soon as they are completed.

It could well be that many of us may wish to make a personal donation to the memory of a loved one. This donation, which would be recorded appropriately, would remain as a lasting memory in gratitude. Our Remembrance Garden of Rest could be made such a beautiful setting which would have its own very special blessed atmosphere.

Our fund raising programme is very varied. Our

Rector has kindly agreed to open our fete and has approved the events which will support the whole project. Listed below are just some of the events:

Inter-church quiz
Barn Dance
Wine Party
Music Evening
Coffee Mornings.

Initially I would be grateful if anyone wishing to give a donation in memory of a loved one would send these direct to Rev. R. Kingsbury.

I sincerely trust that you all agree that this project is one which will give us all the greatest pleasure and a true sense of achievement. Please would you give your fullest support.
Victor Smith

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.

CHURCH'S TREASURES

Sir,
I think it is quite monstrous of the Pope to suggest clergy sell their churches' treasures. I sincerely hope no one does this here. The treasures were given to the churches in the sure and certain faith that they would be preserved and

kept safe for ever. I don't think anyone has the right to sell our heritage.

Yours etc,
(Mrs) Nancy Banfield
1 Mander Court,
Derby Road,
Caversham.

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Church House, 59 Church Street

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BEAUTIFUL FEET

NB First rehearsal — Saturday, 23rd April 7.30pm at Caversham Hill Chapel.

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

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All contributions for May issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday April 6. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday April 1. The dates for June are May 4 and April 23.

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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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

SEVERAL YEARS AGO WE FEATURED YOUNG GUY BROWN from the Pet Shop, when he appeared on TV in a children's song and dance series. Bearing in mind the more charitable activities of Pop stars of the day, I joked to Jill, his mother, that he'd be buying her and Jerry a mansion in the country for their old age. Now, at the age of 16, Guy's future seems much less of a joke because he doesn't seem to have looked back since. Last summer he was at the Edinburgh Festival in 'Guys and Dolls' and in between appeared as guest tap dancer with Will Gaines, one of the original American Jazz 'Hoofers'.

Since then he has been on a Leisure Course, partly funded by the YTS, under the auspices of Melody Urquhart Management, of Suffolk. Last Christmas found him working as sports organiser and DJ at a holiday camp at Pontins Hemsby; they were so impressed that they have booked him for a 32 week season from Easter to the end of October, as assistant entertainment manager, assistant technician, compere and organiser of junior snooker tournaments and so on. So it looks as if, whatever happens, he will find a future in entertainments and Jill and Jerry might yet get their country mansion.

Meanwhile, for those who remember Guy's older brother, Murray who also used to serve in the shop, you might like to know that he is now

married with a baby daughter, is stationed with the army in Germany and is coming back next month to Aldershot on a course for his next promotion.

And don't let us forget William, the big grey cat. When he cut his back leg very badly recently, 'Get Well' cards arrived from all over the place, including one simply addressed to William the Cat, Pet Shop, Caversham. William asks me to thank everyone and say he is gradually improving.

Hats off to the Post Office

Talking of postal deliveries, my sister and I were most impressed when a letter arrived for her simply addressed to Mrs Thomas, Caversham — not the most unusual of surnames. Some clever soul at the P.O. had written across the envelope: "Try 63 Road, Caversham".

But it's a shame so much of the average postman's time and energy is taken up with carting around "You and You Alone" kind of rubbish. Most of it goes straight into the bin anyway.

J. P. Motors, Past and Present

It's good to have news of old friends, so one of our readers was delighted to meet the two gentlemen who retired from this firm last year — I wrote about them at the time. It seems they are both thoroughly enjoying retirement. Meanwhile I continue to get good reports of the pre-

decessors.

Shops and Services

While on the subject, we'd be glad to have news of anyone who has given any of our readers particularly good service. Now that I'm no longer able to go chasing them all up personally, I do rely on you to see that nobody is left out.

Our friendly butchers

One shop, or shops, I do frequent myself are our old friends, Jennings. This month I took time to check on some of their very helpful staff — shame on me, I should have checked ages ago, particularly on May Lewis, the very cheerful lass who worked for so long in the shop at Prospect Street. It seems she has been with Johnsons of Hemdean Road for some considerable time — still as friendly as ever. Meanwhile Pat Williams, who took her place in Prospect Street, carries on the tradition set many years ago by people like Bruce. How many of you, I wonder, remember his greetings to his 'lovely ladies'.

Pat tells me that Andy Horler, who has been with the firm for 18 years and works in the shop at St Martin's precinct, is leaving to work for an estate

agent, while Chris Grundy, after eleven years with the firm, is emigrating — don't know where, I'm afraid.

Antiques

Knowing my interest in antiques, a friend rang to say that Acorn Antiques, previously of Kingwood Common, have taken a house on the corner of Briants Avenue and Marsack Street and already have it packed with some lovely items. I'll certainly pay them a call when I can (Tuesday to Saturday, normal hours); in the meanwhile I continue to pop in and see Pat Howard — I'm always sure of a great welcome and often find odd items of interest within my price range. And, of course, I continue to keep an eye on the other two shops in Prospect Street which often display interesting items in their windows.

Flowers and Stalls

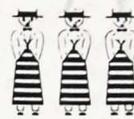
Rumour has it that another market is opening in Prospect Street. Now do we really need it? For that matter do we really need a flower stall in Church Street when we have an excellent florists nearby and greengrocers which occasionally have spring flowers for sale. I'm all for folk trying to make an

honest crust, but it must be a bit hard on those who have to pay rates and other overheads. I'd be interested to know if, for instance, such stalls need planning permission. Go on, tell me I'm prejudiced. Of course I am for over the years I've had such excellent service from our own florists, even if perhaps it costs a few pence more, and on the rare occasions I've been dissatisfied with anything, I've been encouraged to take anything back or at least let Pat know about it.

Our Four-footed friends

I mentioned dogs last time; now, alas, I have one more 'beef'. There seems to be an increasing tendency of some (very few I'm sure) Caversham people to allow their dogs to foul our pavements. There are obvious difficulties about coping I know, but I suggest that those who do offend in this way should arm themselves with pooper-scoopers. And please don't think I'm anti-dogs; there are some delightful friendly one around Caversham and if ever I have a brain storm it might well take the form of me capturing one to take home. I don't suppose the cats would like it, but I guess they'd get used to it.

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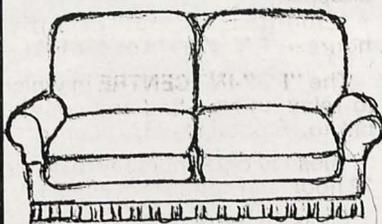
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Bursting at the seams

Incredulity and furious opposition from all sides greeted the shock news that Nicholas Ridley is prepared to allow 43,500 houses to be built in Berkshire between now and 1996. It is all the more surprising in that in June 1986 he had stated that Berkshire was no longer to be regarded as a major growth area.

It was because of the enormous increase in housing that took place during its years as a major growth area, which resulted in a general clogging of the arteries in the county, that the County Council, in its draft replacement Structure Plan, whilst rejecting with some reluctance the concept of really low growth, agreed that the maximum extra houses it could accept without seriously damaging the quality of life for everyone already there was 36,500. This represented a considerable reduction in the rate of building that had been going on, let alone a reduction of the housebuilders' demands for the provision of 59,000 dwellings.

The Secretary of State agrees with Berkshire that the rate of building must be reduced, but he considers the council's proposals too low if the economic prosperity of the county is to be maintained. He has therefore increased ('modified' is the word he actually uses) the total by 7,000 and even specifies where these extra should go. Newbury, Wokingham, Bracknell and Slough are the unfortunate places chosen and in the cases of Wokingham and Bracknell the only way of coping will be to extend south of the M4, hitherto regarded as a boundary against development beyond it.

Reading has been specifically excluded

from these proposals, except for small sites development, largely because the Secretary of State recognised that it is already clogged up, but, as the county town and a major shopping and employment centre, it cannot escape the pressures of all this extra development to the south.

Like a Perigord goose, Berkshire is to be stuffed to bursting point to produce short term prosperity, regardless of the fact that the process will kill it whilst in depressed areas of other parts of the country the crying need is for better housing and better employment prospects. Additionally the prospects of this once attractive county becoming part of a huge urban sprawl stretching from Newbury to London and beyond to the coast becomes that much nearer realisation.

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The County Council set out at once to fight the proposals every inch of the way. A mass petition, and a parliamentary lobby were organised and everyone has been encouraged to write to the Department of the Environment to make their comments. Their address is: D of E., South East Regional Office, Room 501, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH, but as the closing date for comments is 31st March, there is no time to lose.

Bugs Bottom

Where does all this leave Bugs Bottom? For one thing it shows that the need for houses (however much one might dispute that need) can be fulfilled without recourse to using Bugs Bottom.

Anyone who sat through the Public Inquiry of 1985 will recall the tedious hours spent by Counsel for the ap-

plicants going through endless statistics designed to show that Berkshire could only reach its target if Reading released this land to take 500 of the houses required. She performed her task with skill, so much so that the Inspector was convinced by it. If the Public Inquiry had taken place today the argument would never have stood up.

The Department of the Environment has written to the secretaries of Emmer Green and Caversham and District Residents' Associations asking for their comments on Bugs Bottom in relation to the Replacement Structure Plan as "the proposed modifications may be material to the Secretary of State's decision." This can only be a hopeful sign, though must not be interpreted as being anything more than that. It gives the valley a further respite as the Associations have been given to April in which to reply. This is something in itself, for last July all the indications were that the bulldozers would be in by October.

Come out to play

The Albert Road playing field's new children's play area is now operative and as early as February, with its unusually mild weather, was attracting an enthusiastic clientele. It can certainly be said that the playing field, apart from the bowls and tennis facilities, has never been so well used. Even if there are more needy parts of the town which could claim priority, there is no doubt that this new type of equipment provides a far better outlet for childhood energy than mum and dad's garden. The more built up the environment, the more essential it is to have places where children can safely play. Without that, society stores up trouble for itself.

Nimby

Our south Oxfordshire countryside certainly suffers, though less than it did, from visits from gypsies. Reading itself seems to suffer even more. Neither Berkshire nor Oxfordshire has much to offer in the way of permanent gypsy sites. Recently Oxfordshire's application for three possible sites came to Public Inquiry.

It was no surprise that residents of villages nearest the proposed sites turned out in force to object, although no

one actually opposed the principal of permanent sites. Of course no one is going to welcome a site, though the county went to lengths to find those which, while not being isolated, were not close to existing settlements and were reasonably screened. Of course, refusing to have a site won't stop gypsies from continuing to camp unofficially, whereas if there are adequate sites available a by-law can be passed bann-

Turn to page 5

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MORALS AT SYNOD

by John Madeley

IT WASEVER SUCH A POLITE OCCASION. The messages sent back and forth, were, as they say "coded". The Home Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd came to a fringe meeting to address members of the General Synod immediately after business had finished for the day.



Such is the utterly extraordinary and quite astonishing devotion to duty of Synod members that after a day considering clauses 23 to 39, subsections 94b to 119c of the Care of the Cathedrals measure, and listening in confusion to the technicalities of the issues behind the Warnock report, members remained in force to hear Mr Hurd.

Members warmed to the Home Secretary

when he began by saying "I have never agreed with those who say that the Churches should not comment on political and social issues". The government would welcome, said Mr Hurd, the churches as partners "in the effort to lift the cloud of discouragement which had settled on the inner cities".

A gentle knife followed: "We need to work together in church and state to rebuild the moral standards and values which should form the sure foundations of a cohesive and united nation". Code for "you should do more".



Then it was the turn of members. "It was all very gentlemanly" reported Margaret Duggan in the "Church Times". But, she went on, the gist of some of the questions

was that "it was all very well for the government to take the high moral ground and urge the Church in its duty of preaching, but it was government policies that were making it harder for the Church to do so. Selfishness and materialism were being encouraged by all the emphasis on wealth-creation, the commercial free-for-all, the erosion of Sundays..."

By a coincidence Mr Hurd was addressing Synod members midway through a debate on Sunday trading. It was then recalled how the government had wanted a complete free-for-all on Sunday shopping, with all the changes that would entail for millions of families. That policy was abandoned after a storm of protest. It hardly seemed that the change the government had wanted would provide an opportunity to develop

higher moral standards.

Again members had, only the day before, discussed the proposed community charge, the poll tax. Although the government does not lack for supporters in Synod, not one member in the entire debate spoke in favour of the charge — apart from a Government Minister.



The poll tax, it was pointed out, would help wealthier communities in the shires at the expense of poorer communities in the inner cities (what was that about lifting the cloud of discouragement from the inner cities?) it would divide families and was "inherently unjust", as one speaker said. Can such a change be called moral?



The week after Synod I was in Mali in west Africa, one of the world's very poorest countries. I visited villages where people had no food and received no outside assistance. I met people who could, this year, die of starvation. I visited one village that lies on the banks

of a huge river, whose harvest had been decimated by drought. A comparatively small amount of money could have provided that village with a pump to irrigate its fields.



I was left to wonder about the morality of government policies which have cut overseas aid by over twice as much as spending on domestic social services. I wondered whether the government might not try putting its own house in order before preaching to the churches.



One thought remains. Immorality is a sin of course but is it the only one? Has not pride been regarded by Christians throughout the ages as a far more deadly sin? Strange we hear so little about the evil of pride which has been called "the root of all sin". As Bishop Richard made clear at the Oxford Diocesan Synod in February, Christianity is about a great deal more than morality.

When a person is transformed by Christ, morality falls into place.

LIGHT FROM THE PAST

IN 1927 a pair of small candlesticks were made from an oak beam 400 years old which had been removed during building work at St Peter's. The candlesticks came into the possession of Mrs Kate Hawkes. Tidying their aunt's possessions after her death, Ron and Stella Kempston discovered the candlesticks, simply but pleasingly shaped from the 16th century oak beam, and "donated them back" to the Rector for St Peter's.

Thanking the Kempstons for

their imaginative generosity, the Rector wonders whether any readers recall Mrs Kate Hawkes (maiden name Knott, whose family once lived in Southampton Street, Reading). Any memories of her would be warmly appreciated by Mr and Mrs Kempston, 18 Chesterman Street, Reading — or information where the original beam was in church from which the candlesticks were lovingly crafted.

Watchdog

From page 4

ing unofficial camping, instead of, as at present, having to obtain a court order for each individual case.

Various sites had been reviewed in search for something that complied with the agreed criteria. At one, villagers felled the screening trees as soon as they got wind of what was proposed, thereby removing one of the reasons for considering it.

Another site under review was a former rubbish tip, so no one could claim a beautiful site was about to be desecrated.

Examination of the soil revealed there were unacceptably high levels of contamination from methane, cadmium, lead and zinc. Yet there seems to have been no public outcry about this. These deposits represent a serious danger to public health, and can easily leak into the water courses. Clearing

them up will be a costly and lengthy process. On the other hand, the undesirable mess left by gypsies can be cleared up within a few hours and cannot be compared with the dangers of heavy pollution at waste disposal sites. Prejudice and NIMBY were much in evidence on this occasion.

St Peter's Conservation Area

St Peter's church is at the centre of an area about to be designated a Conservation Area. It will cover the south side of Church Road, from the Griffin, and St Peter's Hill to just beyond the Warren, and on the north side will cover properties on either side of the Mount enclosed by flint and brick walls. It has architectural, historic and visual qualities which merit its designation. St Peter's church itself, a number of listed buildings, a good tree cover and attractive open spaces also contribute to this, while the

general layout has helped the area to retain a village-like quality. Caversham Court's inclusion on the provisional register of parks and gardens of historic interest under the 1983 National Heritage Act is a further indication of the importance of the area.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

Equal Opportunities at Caversham Methodist Church MEN as well as ladies are now enjoying the weekly Tuesday fellowship meetings. This seems to be the right step forward and keeps us very much in line with present day thinking. The Fellowship enjoys a good variety of speakers from local clergy to Methodist Circuit Ministers, and from the Salvation Army and The Baptist Churches, and also speakers from organisations such as

the Berkshire Scout Enterprises. A visit from the Chiltern Nursery Training College was also a great success. Any lady or gentleman will be made very welcome each Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Talking of welcomes — we are delighted to welcome home from a visit to New Zealand, Mrs Olive Harris and her husband Sid, we look forward to hearing of their travels. Also Bon Voyage to Eric Crutchley and Babs Chambers as they go

to visit relatives in Australia.

During February the Home Missions Anniversary was celebrated and a good evening was enjoyed with the Rev. Chris Justice from the Caversham Hill Chapel who spoke about his visit to Nigeria.

Lastly we must not forget CATHERINE and SARAH. Congratulations to Catherine Hackman on her 21st Birthday, and to Sarah Glassbrook on her 18th. Best Wishes to you both.



Some of the 48 members from Caversham Heights Methodist Church before their departure to the Holy Land.

courtesy Reading Chronicle

LINK GROUP

VISITS to Heathcroft in Emmer Green were principal talking points at the Link Group meeting on 22nd February at Anthea Prescott's home. During the previous month two parties of Link members had been welcomed to Heathcroft, given a talk on its activities and taken on a tour of the premises. Heathcroft (for short-stay handicapped children) and next-door Marshland Square (long-stay), provides a valuable respite for families and a really enjoyable break for the children concerned. It certainly seemed more of a

'hotel' than a 'home'. Looking round the building, Members saw bright single and double rooms with own washing facilities, cheerful dining rooms and well-equipped play areas, inside and out, with a few happy little people enjoying the fun, though most of the residents were at school at the time. Heathcroft seemed very well run, with teams of professional and voluntary workers. Whilst well-supported there were inevitably items still needed, and the Link were considering a donation from their Funds.

From the other side of Reading the Link

R.E.A.P. Representative reported problems on the continuation of the lease at Brock Barracks. R.E.A.P. just need to stay in 'The Keep' for another year or two until more permanent accommodation is provided elsewhere in the Town. It offers an essential roof to the homeless, and it seems there are too few such roofs available throughout the South of England. It is to be hoped they will be allowed to stay.

The Meeting concluded with arrangements for the Good-as-New Sale on 30th April at the Baptist Centre. (Please don't forget it!)

SHARING THE GOSPEL IN SONG

BY JOHN MADELEY

"CHANGE of heart as we give our lives to Christ... all your love as we feel the living life... the greatest gift for all the world".

You've listened to the Fishersfolk; you've been moved by music from Taize. Make way now for Caversham's own group "The Squash". Their tape is really superb — and it's all local talent.

When The Squash tape wriggled out of my Christmas stocking last year, I had that ever-so-slightly uneasy feeling. After all, some of the group I

knew — should I be reduced to playing it once, making polite noises and hope that no one would press me too closely?

Well I played it for the first time on a long car journey at Christmas. Somehow there seemed to be fewer mad fools on the road that day. My fist was shaken less often at offenders, real or imagined. Arriving at relatives, I insisted it was played again.

After only hearing it twice I woke up the following morning with the tune and those words from one of the

numbers "Change of Heart" ringing through my mind. "Thank you Lord for giving us your love" goes another. Thank you, the youth group of Caversham Heights Methodist Church for sharing your talents with us in this lovely way.

The tape is both enjoyable to listen to and an excellent aid to devotion. The words are profound, the rhythm is catching, the pace varies, with tunes that bounce along and others with a moving depth. It really does fill your heart with joy. What is most important is that

it spreads the gospel message in an attractive way and should be a real help in outreach. And I love the way the tape comes with all the words printed in a little booklet.

I hope the tape is only the first. I would have enjoyed an even greater range of pace but I'm sure that will come. Producing a tape like this must entail a lot of hard work — but there are gifts here that are too good to lose.

Do buy it. You may find that it helps God to enter more into your heart.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

IN December St John's heard of the appeal for money to help famine threatened Ethiopia. Jackie Grey, St John's Christian Aid representative, asked the congregation to fill a carboy with money to send to Christian Aid.

The congregation at the Christmas midnight service responded with £160, and the collection from the children's Christmas Eve service went into the jar. People collected at their firms' Christmas dinners and round their own family tables, they

gave in memory of those they had loved, friends pressed donations, and people emptied their loose change into the jar. Then the table it was stood on broke! So the jar never did get filled, but it did raise £570. The cheque was handed over to Christian Aid on February 7th. Of

course it does not end there; for Christians how could it? They remember, and many dare do no more than remember, before God, those it goes to help and pray for God's blessing and guidance on the work of those who will use it.



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NO F.T. — NO COMMENT!

The report under the above heading in the March "Bridge" was not as submitted by Mrs Jellyman and her name should not have been published as the author.

NOTICE

THE Annual General Meeting of the Emmer Green Residents' Association will be held on Tuesday, 19th April at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, commencing at 8pm.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST NEWS

THANK YOU
The Annual General Meeting of the Church, held on 23rd February, marked the retirement of Mr Bernard Miller as the Church's beloved secretary and Deacon. Bernard was first elected to the Diaconate in 1957 and two years later to the office of Church Treasurer. In 1961 he became Church Secretary for the first time. After seven

years, a break of three was followed by a further period of seven years as Treasurer again.

In 1979 the Church embarked on its redevelopment of the premises. Bernard played a key role in negotiating and supervising the scheme on the Church's behalf. This was coupled with his energetic leadership of the members' own works team. In 1982

the office of Secretary again fell vacant and Bernard served again until this February.

All of this work has been characterised by Bernard's enthusiasm and willingness to take on fresh responsibilities in his stride. This has, most recently, included the seeking for an calling of our Associate Minister, the Revd. Philip Egglestone.

During this work, the support of Ber-



Presentation to Bernard Miller to mark his retirement as Church Secretary Photos: N. Wright



nard's wife, Beryl, has been evident to us all. As a fellowship we have been greatly

blessed through their ministry.

At morning service on the 6th Mar-

ch, the Church showed its appreciation by presenting Bernard with a Good News

Study Bible and a cheque and Beryl with a large bouquet of flowers.

OBITUARY

James Norris Scriven who died on February 5th just one week before his eightieth birthday after several years of illness patiently borne, was committed to God in a simple but moving service at St Peter's Church on Thursday 11th February.

He will be very sadly missed by his wife and family and all who knew him will have their own special memories of James or 'Non' as he was known to his family and as John to his many Caversham friends.

He was born in 1908 at Almondsbury and educated at Thornbury Grammar School. He was an accountant by profession and worked for the Central Electricity Generating Board until his retirement, for the first eight years at Hayle in Cornwall, then at Blunham in Bedfordshire and finally at Reading in 1963.

In 1932 he married his first wife Dorothy, affectionately known as Britt, and together with their daughters Jane and Sue, they moved to Caversham

in 1963. They became members of St Peter's congregation and were soon involved in the life of the church. James was a member of St Peter's choir and also served both as Sidesman and Churchwarden and became an active member of various committees; he was also a member of the Reading Festival Chorus. The family spent three happy years in Caversham before Dorothy died very suddenly. James has perpetuated her memory with the hymn boards which hang in St Peter's church.

James retired in 1968 and on his marriage to Rene at St Peter's Church they moved to Sidmouth, where James had spent a number of holidays. They were both very much missed by their many Caversham friends. They returned to Reading in 1975 and attended both St Barnabas and St Peter's Churches.

He was a very keen sportsman with particular interest in Rugby, cricket and tennis; he also enjoyed

music and writing plays which he produced and directed for Dramatic Societies. He was a School Governor at Sandy and Chorister and Choirmaster at Blunham, Bedfordshire, and his knowledge of church music enabled him to compose a hymn which has been sung on a number of special occasions at St Peter's Church. He was an extremely modest man although his talents were many, and he endeared himself to all who knew him.

Above all, he had a deep and abiding faith in our Lord, which he exemplified by the last letter he wrote, which contained these words "One day, the time will come and then I pray I will hear the voice of my beloved Christ, and with my hand in His, I shall move forward with trusting footsteps and be met by Him I have always loved." James was indeed a true Christian and gentleman.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Rene and her son Julian and to Jane and Sue and their families in their great loss.

F.M.

POWERFUL PASSION

The stark simplicity of Schutz's St. Luke's Passion was movingly performed by the Reading Bach Choir at St Anne's Church, Caversham on the evening of Saturday, 5th March.

Under the brisk and disciplined direction of their conductor, Julian Williamson, the choir — and highly able soloists — gave a large audience in Caversham's bright and warm Roman Catholic church a markedly interlinked programme of 16th and 17th century music.



The St. Luke Passion of Bach's forerunner, Heinrich Schutz, was shown by this competent choir to be a starkly simplistic contrast to his successor's well known works.

Despite the lesser significance of the choir and unusual lack of accompaniment throughout, this work, sung in English, was interpreted to evoke the full power behind Christ's Passion, albeit in an Italianate style.

Dr John Campbell's crisp tenor was well balanced by Trevor Craddock's rich bass timbre, with the choir being calm

where necessary and dramatic elsewhere, such as in the moving "Crucify" cries, interestingly different from Bach's renderings.

The choir was also very able in their signing of the three little-known choral pieces by Schutz's own predecessor, Bianciardi, showing exciting virility in these remarkable and little-known hymns of Christian praise and mastering the intricate inter-weaving of lines and rhythms with superb aplomb.

The choir expertly sang one of J. S. Bach's original motets "Lobet den Herrn alle Heiden," which remains typical of the music he wrote for everyday church services, but nevertheless profound despite its deceptively basic form.

The choir seemed less happy, but no less competent, in singing in German Schutz's last work, the Deutches Magnificat. Although this covers difficult passages of contrasting tonality,

the Reading Bach Choir gave the appreciative audience a colourful insight to this fine example of the Venetian influence on 17th century German choral music.

Nicholas Houghton, now Leighton Park's Director of Music and shortly to leave to go to a similar post at Roedean, gave expert accompaniment to the choir, as well as playing the refreshingly unsophisticated "Partite Sopra La Follia" by Frescobaldi and J. S. Bach's delightful Pastoral in F major (BWV 590).

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THE MONASTIC VOWS

JOAN JONES WRITES:

Readers may be surprised to know how many people there are in Caversham who, often with the help of a religious community, endeavour to live a dedicated spiritual life within their day to day routine. An insight into some of the implications of the monastic vows which form the basis for such a life was sent in a general Advent letter from an Anglican monastery written by the Superior. It seems worth printing parts of it here.

"Perhaps it would be worthwhile to say something of the meaning of these vows. Maybe you will see the need to live in the spirit of them even if you are not called to the particular circumstances of monastic life.

Christian marriage, family and community life.

"Obedience is weak without the support of poverty and chastity. Poverty enables us to let go of all those sort of attachments to possessions and people which hinder true relationship with God and others. Clinging to anything prevents us from attending to the true riches of man, which is Christ in his Coming. He is bountiful and will provide for all our needs, on the one condition that we be thankful and share what we have with others.

That does not prevent good stewardship; but it does mean sitting lightly to the things of this world, a radical simplification of life, and not planning for the distant future! More than this poverty requires that we don't clutter our minds with the sort of good ideas which stimulate self-importance and temporal projects, but would hinder us in assimilating the Word of God and growing into the mind of Christ. Therefore there must be strict discipline in the use of the media, especially TV, and a willingness to keep the mind and heart open in the Holy Spirit for repentance, petition and the praise of God. "Chastity" is perhaps the most

mysterious (and unwelcome?) of the monastic vows today. It involves much more than merely abstaining from disorderly sexual behaviour. Its primary concern is to unite our desire (what we want) with God's desire for us and our co-operation with his will. In this sense it must have its appropriate expression in Christian married life too. Most people don't stop to think what they want until they are faced with what they don't want, or are frustrated in achieving what they do want. They live by what in Christian terms we call self-will. The Christian however has received the Holy Spirit of God in his inmost heart, and must allow his desire to be purified and redirected until it is wholly for God and his will. Then all the creative energy of his mind and emotion will be gathered into his obedience.

"To bring this about requires a purification and re-ordering of the memory and all the unconscious drives of life and while we learn to put our whole hope in Christ and in what he is doing in us and through us. By this means all the relationships of life are set in order and made fruitful in love.

"Such purification, illumination and unification cannot be achieved without much travail and suffering and long perseverance, but in retrospect that is seen to have been a blessed opportunity not to be set aside. No one of course is sufficient for these things. We need to share with others and learn from their example to make progress step by step as God enables us. We rely

particularly on the help of the saints who have gone before us. Above all we rely on the help and example our Lord's own Blessed Mother, who is also the Mother of all the sons and daughters of God the Father.

Today as I write, it is the feast of her Immaculate Conception and we have been thinking how the church as a whole needs to imitate her as a chaste and loving Mother in her nurturing of Christians. Without this good start and continuing support they will not grow to maturity in the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience. Then

we will lack bishops and priests, the heads and leaders of the Christian community, with the maturity of love needed to represent Christ the Good Shepherd who lays down his life to preserve the faith of his flock. There is perhaps no greater need in the church today, nor more effective way of serving the needs of the world, than to build up parish communities into stable, loving families in which mature men and women can apply the revealed wisdom of God for helping others to grow up into the maturity of Christ. Such is the way to fullness of life and joy for all God's children."

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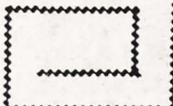
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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

reports, and were presented with tokens. Mrs Ingram, past Chairman of Berks W.I., gave a short talk about her hobbies, knitting and collecting thimbles, many from places she, her husband and friends have visited.

A new committee was formed and Mrs Barbara Weller was re-elected as President for a second year. The competition for "one portion of an unusual cold dessert" was won by Mrs Gillings.

The February meeting was very well attended and members were soon down to business, making dates for various activities. Mrs Ellingham has stepped down from being leader of the "Ramblers" for many years, though she will still walk with them.

The talk was by Dr Foley-Fisher, about churches of Romney Marsh, with slides. Romney Marsh is an unspoiled part of southern England, not far from Dungeness, and the small churches are set in quiet places, often surrounded by trees and daffodils in the spring. Sheep graze nearby and in one place a path had been made to the church over the marsh with a bridge over a stream. Even

then the church will sometimes be isolated by floods. John Piper painted many of these churches and wrote a book about them.

On a side table there was a large exhibition of pictures and postcards of favourite churches which were very interesting.

Emmer Green TG

Despite howling winds the February meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was well attended. Mrs M. Sutherland, reporting on the activities of The Arts and Crafts Group, said that they planned to make dresses and pants from the pattern printed on the Oxfam bags for the charity, and asked non-members to help by making garments at home. The outing in March was to a play at the Hexagon and a course was to be run on picture embroidery.

The speaker was Mrs M. Brown from Traidcraft, who brought a lovely display of the craft-work and food sold by the company. She explained that Traidcraft is a public limited company, not

an aid organisation, which helps people in developing countries to work their way out of poverty. This is achieved through trading fairly, buying their products and encouraging and developing skills in design control and marketing. The members found the slides showing women at work most interesting and many brought the finished products at the end of the evening.

Caversham Heights Methodist Wednesday Group

Recent well-attended meetings have included one opened by Mrs Monica Saunders, who introduced Mrs Dye and Mrs Warren, volunteer members of the local Victims Support Group. An introductory question-and-answer session revealed that the local police advise the Group of all burglary victims — a visit from one of the volunteers in the Group follows. The video "On the Safe Side" was also shown, which offers advice on home safety and security.

The local Hon. Secretary of the National Children's Home, Mrs Janet Bull, spoke about the work of N.C.H. at another meeting, and showed the video "Love and Let Go." It was stressed that the current philosophy of N.C.H. is primarily to keep the family together if possible. N.C.H. accommodates both handicapped youngsters and other disadvantaged young people. Support is also given to young offenders and drug addicts. Mrs Bull answered the many questions which followed, and appealed for volunteers for the annual house-to-house collection in September. Volunteers are also wanted for the Flag Day to be held in Caversham on 29th October. The proceeds of a Bring & Buy stall, amounting to £30 were given to N.C.H.

On 17th February, Mrs Brenda Coates, a former Secretary of the Group and a Needlework Teacher, led the meeting. She took the members through the basics of sewing, also the laying

on of a pattern, alterations and dealing with difficult fabrics. She brought with her several lovely garments she had made and used them to demonstrate button holes, smocking etc. It was a well-attended, friendly meeting.

Caversham Heights TG

Leisure and the Lake District

Did you know why there is so much mud bordering Richfield Avenue and why one side is very difficult to walk along? A new leisure centre is being built there at no cost so far to ratepayers, although there will be maintenance costs in the future. Mr Roy Brown, who joined Reading Borough Council last October, gave interesting details at Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's February meeting in St Andrew's Hall about Rivermead centre, which is to be opened in June. The centre will be in a natural setting supervised by the council gardeners and sports and swimming facilities will be available for all age groups. Because Hungerford must not be forgotten, a shooting area will be strictly supervised. The guild was invited to visit the centre when completed.

In addition, a social studies met in Highmoor Hall to enjoy Mrs Meryl Beek's cheerful account, which told with slides the story of a holiday by train from Ravenglass along the valley of the River Mite, then on foot among the hills to West Water, the River Duddon, Coniston and on to Rydal and Grassmere. (No rain in the Lake District? Who was so lucky?) It was a good evening.

Blagrove W.I.

There was a good turnout at the Annual Meeting on 1st March, a bitterly cold day outside but meeting up with friends always warms one, doesn't it? Mrs Joan Ford will be continuing as President for a second year with a new Secretary — Mrs Muriel Poppewell. Mrs Sawyer is taking a well earned rest after three years excellent work as

Secretary. Mrs June Davidge will be the new Treasurer.

The competition for a jar of home made marmalade was won by: 1 Mrs Housden; 2nd Mrs Price and 3rd Miss M Chapman whose birthday was on that day. The raffle was won by Mrs Holloway.

Caversham W.I.

The Life and Times of Josiah Wedgwood was the subject of a talk at Caversham W.I.'s February meeting. Mr Peter Couch showed slides of porcelain before 1759, then showed the different designs by Josiah Wedgwood. Afterwards he talked about various pieces of china and porcelain which members had brought to the meeting.

ANYONE FOR TABLE TENNIS?

Each Tuesday at 7pm about a dozen young people gather at Trench Green hall, Mapledurham. They are members of the Trench Green Table Tennis Club. Already they are entering teams for the Reading Table Tennis League for a second year running. The emphasis is on teaching the sport and plenty of guidance and encouragement is given to those wishing to learn by the two club leaders Phil Turton and Michael Dunn. Anyone who feels they would like to join would be most welcome.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

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

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

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
4.00pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
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CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)
11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
10.30am (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

METHODIST
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights
9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St Anne's 9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)
Our Lady of Caversham 8.30 and 10.30am, 5pm Mass
St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road 11am every Sunday,
6.30pm (2nd Sunday)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am.
Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm.
House study groups Sept — June Tel: 475783

WE RECORD

BAPTISMS

St John's
3rd Jan Cheryl Blackburn (St Peter's) 14th Feb Adam Holloway
10th Andrea Penbroke 20th Laura Simmonds
17th Clair Holloway Lianne Spiers
24th Samuel Ellis 21st Mark Cousins

FUNERALS

4th Jan Alfred Hinton 13th Albert Essex
Winifred Gray John Grove
11th Jan Ronald Gutteridge 21st Walter Sleaman
12th Florence Duthie

MARRIAGES

16th January John Dexter and Yvonne Collison
23rd M. Goddard-Crawley and S. Baldwin
13th February Denis Kalus and Julie Warner
20th Shaun Mitchell and Diane Cowen

CAVERSHAM DIARY

13th April 7.15pm Methodist Church Hall,
Gosbrook Road, Caversham, AGM of
Reading & District Gardeners
Mutual Improvement Association,
followed by auction of special plants.
19th April 8pm St Barnabas Church Hall,
Grove Road, Emmer Green, AGM
Emmer Green Residents' Associa-
tion.
30th April 10am-2.30pm Link Group Annual
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