

ROMAN FONT FOUND IN CAVERSHAM

A great deal of excitement has recently been generated in the field of archaeology by the discovery of a crumpled piece of lead in Caversham. This may not sound very interesting at first but when you realise that the find is in fact the earliest evidence of Christianity in the Thames Valley it becomes more interesting.

Chris Sealey of Lowfields Farm, Henley Road, was working at Redlands gravel pit near Dean's Farm when he uncovered the piece of lead and some timbers. The site foreman Kevin Brown then decided to call in experts from Reading Museum and Redlands Aggregates kindly donated the find to the museum.

Mr Leslie Cram, Keeper of Archaeology at Reading Museum, and experts from the Oxford Archaeological Unit have identified it as the remains of a tank used in Christian baptismal ceremonies during the 4th Century.



The subject of the tank and its implications is so interesting that I could not fit all that I would like to say into one article. Next month there will be a continuation article in the Caversham Bridge.

I was very lucky to be invited by Mr Cram to see the tank where it is now being restored by the conservation officer Mr Roger Kent. It was a fascinating visit and my subsequent interview with Mr Cram taught me a great deal about early Christianity.



The tank was found in a crumpled state at the bottom of a well. Thrown in with the tank were a Roman tile, a ladle handle, glass, pottery and what appear to be the remains of horse trappings. There were also two buckets made of wooden staves held in place

by
Frances

and it is hoped to present it in a shape resembling the original as much as possible. The lead piece measures approximately 232 centimetres long and about 45 centimetres deep. It is impossible to know the exact depth as the top of the tank is damaged and the lead thin and crinkled.

on display to the public in the autumn.

The tank is in a very crumpled state

The base of the tank is missing and

it is obvious from the knife marks around the bottom of the lead that the remaining piece was cut from its base and crumpled up before being dropped down the well. The tank was cast in two parts—the joins being evident. The decorations consist of a wavy line around the top rim, which were possibly made by a length of string being impressed into the mould. There are diamond patterns, possibly made by the same method,

around the tank and one highly significant 'Chi-Rho' cross symbol on one side.



The key 'Chi-Rho' cross symbol is the symbol of Christianity adopted by the Emperor Constantine during the first half of the 4th Century. By the year 313 the 'Chi-Ro' symbol had emerged from the eastern side of the Roman Empire as a Christian symbol. Other symbols were also used at this time. The Emperor Constantine had a vision which directed him to use this mark in battle. Winning the battle changed the status of Christianity and it became an official religion.

There was now no danger in being a Christian. In the year 314 a Council was held on the continent and was attended by four Bishops from Britain. We expect that

they came from the capitals of the four areas by which the Romans administered the whole of Britain. These areas were London, Lincoln, York and Cirencester. The Roman empire obviously had given Christianity official recognition.

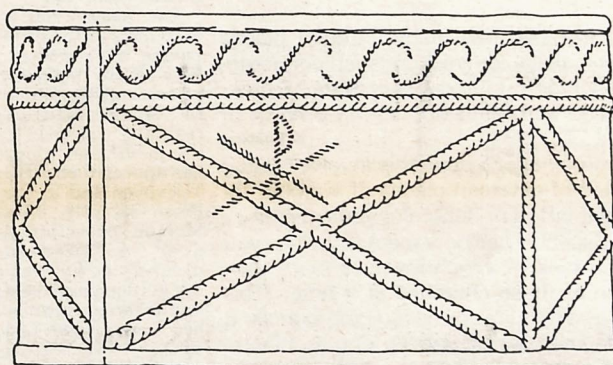
Christianity was growing in Britain but the natives of the country had their own religions before this. Caesar and other Roman writers spoke of the Druids and the fact that they were banned by the Roman Empire and driven underground. There is also evidence of Celtic religions amongst others.



One cult had a great reverence for the human head, which they used to put on pikes and take into battle! This was banned and the religious groups then made stone heads. One of these heads was found in Priest Hill in Caversham and one in Woodcote. They are now housed in Reading Museum. It is clear that other religions besides Christianity were practised in Britain and continued well into Roman times.



Finding the tank is particularly significant for the Thames Valley as up until now the earliest evidence of the Christian religion in this area was when the King of the West Saxons was baptised in the Thames at Dorchester in the year 635. Further details of the find and its relevance will be discussed in a subsequent article.



Line drawing of one section of the tank showing the 'Chi-Rho' sign.



Museum Conservation Officer Roger Kent working on the tank.

TALKING POINT

By Rev. Peter Mullins



IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

"Would you write the 'Talking Point' article for August 'Caversham Bridge'?" one of the Editors asked me "You could tell us why you are going to Ireland". Well I could. But it would not make a terribly interesting article in itself. If you want a 'talking point' it really ought to be about you in Caversham not me in Ireland. Anyway here goes . . .

What I am going to do is to study for a year at the Irish School of Ecumenics in Dublin. The School was founded in 1971 as a post-graduate institute for the study of ecumenical aspects of theology. Each of the four largest denominations in Ireland has provided a patron for the School. The Irish Council of Churches has recognised it as a major resource centre for the academic side of seeking reconciliation in the island. Trinity College, Dublin has taken on the responsibility for validating its degrees.



My reasons for taking the chance to go are personal. Before coming to Caversham I trained for ordination in a joint Anglican/Methodist college in Birmingham. Some aspects of our training (such as the courses we did in local hospitals) were organised jointly with the Roman Catholic seminary at Oscott near Sutton Coldfield. In our final year we spent a month living in each others colleges and beginning to do some study in the area of 'ecumenics'. In the summer before I came to Caversham a group of us from all three denominations went to County Donegal to help run some holidays with the Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme. N.I.C.H.S. takes children away on holiday together from the different communities in inner Belfast and Londonderry.

Now I can really look forward to the chance to reflect in detail on what lies behind all this. I am also very grateful to various church educational trusts who

are helping finance the year! I hope I can bring back something useful to whichever parish it is in which I will find myself working in a years time.

So, what about Caversham? I have been as guilty as anybody else in being so busy with the life of the congregation (or in my case two congregations) of which I am a member that looking outwards has always taken a back seat. But for your 'talking point' this month try a little quiz.



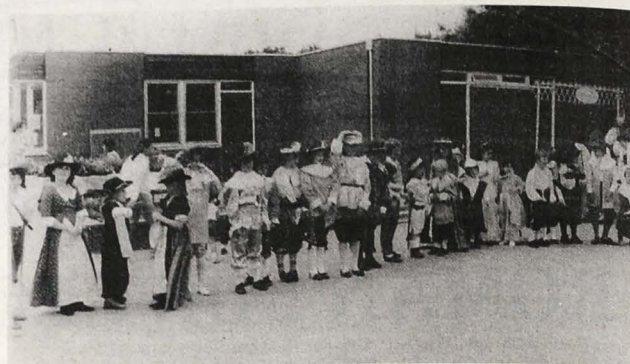
First see how many different places you can list where a christian congregation meets in the Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham area north of the Thames. How many different denominations does this involve? (I can think of nineteen places of worship for eight different denominations myself.)

Secondly see how many activities you can think of which involves more than one of these churches at a time. (This should be quite an encouraging exercise if you find your list gets as long as mine!)

Finally argue about the next, say, three things we or you could start doing to help us understand or help each other better.

As far as Ireland is concerned many of you will know that the Corrymeela Link is based in Reading. This newspaper has given it much publicity in the past. The Corrymeela Community is one of many organisations which promotes reconciliation in Ireland. The Corrymeela Link is the body which promotes the work of that community on this side of the Irish Sea. There is a whole area of involvement, education or prayer available through it. Recently Kendrick School made its annual travel project grant to two of its girls from Caversham who plan to follow up what they have heard about Corrymeela in their local churches by visiting the community. And the Director of the Link has just returned from spending a term studying at the Irish School of Ecumenics!

Roundheads and Cavaliers



E.S. Archer

"Roundheads and Cavaliers" on parade at Caversham Park School Fete.

Reading Gardeners' Centenary

The Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. At the Annual General Meeting, Mr Bill Baker, a much-respected Committee member and Programme Secretary for many years, was elected Chairman.

The Association is extremely fortunate in having as President, Mrs R.R. Merton, whose superb garden in Burghfield is regularly opened to the public and which has appeared on BBC Television and in the Press recently. Mrs Merton entertained over a hundred members at an evening garden party held on the terrace lawn at her home, The Old Rectory. It was a delightful occasion with refreshments served on the cedar-lawn; the garden has never looked better and especially so when flood-lighting was turned on as darkness approached and the moon came up. It was altogether a most memorable evening and a very fitting start to celebrations for the one hundredth year. During the evening Bill Baker presented Mrs Merton with two terracotta pots as a gift from members. These were beautifully planted up and will enhance another corner of her lovely garden. A decorated anniversary cake, made by one of the members was cut by Mrs Merton.

There is a number of celebratory functions organised for the next few months including a weekend in Norfolk in July and a lecture to be given by Mr Roy Lancaster on the actual date of the centenary in December and for which tickets will be available for non members to attend.

Come to Tea!

Every fortnight, for the past five years, a small group of Link members has been entertaining to tea about twenty guests, people who, for various reasons, don't get out as much as they used to do. Transport, tea, home-made cakes and lots of talk are provided.

The tea parties have proved their value.

One of our guests said "The tea parties have transformed my life." Another (over ninety and living alone) "It's lovely to think we'll all be meeting again in two weeks". Doctors and health visitors have asked for names to be added to our waiting list.

But it's not a one sided thing. Some of our guests feel like family

now, and we've gained so much from their friendship. They want to give help too, and the money they voluntarily put in a box pays for outings for handicapped children.

BUT — some of our drivers and hostesses have moved away, others are finding difficulty in carrying on.

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We need — Drivers, Cake makers and houses to visit.

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Please get in touch with: Mrs Peggy Coome Tel: Reading 472402, Mrs Vera Scott Reading 479179, or your Church's Link Group representative.

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EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Bailey, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Nigel Wright, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel: 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher, 20 Cardinal Close, Caversham, RG4 8BZ. Tel: 472660.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Unfortunately the 'Bridge' is late coming out this month, due to publishing problems, but I'm told the July number includes an article on Church vestments. So I'm sure local people will like to know that it is planned to have other vestments on show at Mapledurham House this September. Apparently they include some very old and unusual items and I for one intend to do my best to pay another visit to this lovely old house.



Local Shops Again

Following a couple of items in this column recently, there are two things I've been asked to add. One is that, as the closure of Jennings Shop in Prospect Street for alterations caught most of us unaware, people might like to know

that Pat Williams, far from being given the push, is happily driving around Caversham for the firm, so look out for her friendly smile. Jennings staff, although hard working, have always seemed happy and a lot of happiness has been passed on to the customers. There is a new and outstandingly happy member of staff just starting to learn the full range of butchery skills; she had been turned down by other shops simply because she is a girl and is also pretty. Well done, Jennings, to give her a chance.

The other item, alas, is that I've been asked to warn people not to take shoe repairs for granted but to ask the cost before leaving boots or shoes at the shop. My informant tells me that the shop in question will have to find a home for his boots since he is not prepared to pay such

an exorbitant sum that will cost him very little more to buy a new pair.



Welcome to Mark

I doubt many customers at Caversham Pharmacy do not know by now that Pat May gave birth to a son — Mark, I think, the name was — in June. In the short time she has been in the area she has become a popular lass. And, by the way, full marks to the locum and her assistants who have kept the shop functioning as efficiently and pleasantly as ever in Pat's absence.



How Honest!

Out of action for nearly two weeks, I was completely bowl-

ed over on my shopping expedition to be greeted by one of our shopkeepers who informed me that I'd left my change — nearly £4 — when I last called. Not knowing where I lived he'd kept the money wrapped up on a shelf for the next time I came in; since I had no idea I'd left the money behind, I was very pleased indeed to have it — it completely restored my faith in human nature.



St Peter's Festival

I wonder how many people managed to see the flowers at St Peter's Church during the festival. Perhaps lacking the grandeur of some previous decorations, it nevertheless was a very beautiful affair, the main theme being that

of St Peter the Fisherman, accounting for the boat and the many fishing nets in evidence. It is hardly fair to comment on any single arrangement since so many people produced excellent displays, but for my money the display of white flowers over the altar would take a lot of beating. It really was a very pretty affair and with a walk through Caversham Court, newly refurbished, to follow, it made a very enjoyable afternoon outing.



St John's

Surely St John's had never looked so attractive as it did for the Art and Craft Exhibition in June. The Tipton family, with their connections with the local Fine Arts

Department, the Ceramics Department at Goldsmith's College, London, and the Science Museum, together with our old friends, the Elliotts, produced a truly beautiful display of local arts and crafts. Again it is almost a shame to mention anyone in particular for so many people had contributed lovely items, the eldest exhibitor being 94 and the youngest, who helped with the pressed flowers, being only three. Jackie Grey made a beautiful cake and, not to be outdone, her daughter Louise produced another. Audrey Vince and her husband contributed the results of 50 years of craft work, and the

well-known Mander family were represented by four generations — how I'd have loved to possess the beautiful corner cupboard.

One could write pages about the lovely display of needlework, paintings, carvings, pottery and so on, but alas there isn't room.

But I do think I should repeat the comment made by one of the organisers, Kate Harris, who told me that the whole affair was achieved without a single cross word between anybody. So many congratulations all round for a truly splendid effort — let's hope we don't have to wait another 100 years for something like it again.

CHORISTERS CUPS

Psalm 23 to Phantom of the Opera, Bells of Aberdovey to Bright Eyes; these were just some of the song titles that expressed the wide variety of music by which a large and appreciative audience were entertained at St Peter's church on June 18th during this year's singing competition for the trebles of Caversham and Mapledurham's Anglican Parish choirs. This is the first time that the competition had been divided into two sections, and in accordance with Barbara Justham's ex-

press wishes, the "Justham Cup" is now competed for by the younger trebles under the age of 11 whilst a new section, called the "Denning Cup" has been opened up for the more experienced singers in the eleven to fifteen age-group. This has been made possible by the generous donation to the Parish of a second trophy by Audrey Denning. The "new look" competition got off to a tremendous start with eight very young singers entering the junior section and no

fewer than sixteen older ones anxious to get their hands on the new cup.

The adjudicator for both competitions was Mr Brian Fawcett, formerly organist of Pangbourne Parish church and well known in local music circles for his flamboyant expertise in choir and voice training. After both sections, he gave a detailed, often amusing, but

but which he interpreted and presented in a very confident manner. Runners up were Corrina Radcliffe and Ben DeVille. Sadly, Barbara Justham had a long standing family commitment which prevented her from being at St Peter's to present the cup to James Aspden, but this was very kindly done on her behalf by Peter Mullins.

Elizabeth Jones from St Peter's choir,

also received a vote of thanks for once again preparing the very welcome refreshments at half-time. But in particular, Richard thanked all the young singers for their hard work and enthusiasm, not only in the competition, but also for their cheerful and positive commitment to the musical traditions of the Parish and of Church life in general during the rest of the year.



Chorister Cup Winners E.S. Archer

firm and kindly analysis of each competitor's performance, each one being left in no doubt as to where improvements could be made in the future. Included in his summing up was a very searching analysis of the St Peter's piano, which according to local rumour, scored the lowest marks of the evening!

The winner of the Justham Cup for the under-elevens was James Aspden from St Andrew's choir who sang the Welsh air "Bells of Aberdovey", a difficult piece for a young treble to sing,

became the first winner of the new Denning Cup and received it from Audrey Denning following a sensitive and polished performance of "Think of me" from Phantom of the Opera, a piece guaranteed to test the vocal and breath control of the most experienced young singer. Runners up in this section were Jackie Cutts and Joanna Hodson.

Richard Kingsbury then closed the evening by thanking the organists and the adjudicator. "Catering Supremo" Marie Smith and her helpers

BATH LODGE REGISTERED REST HOME

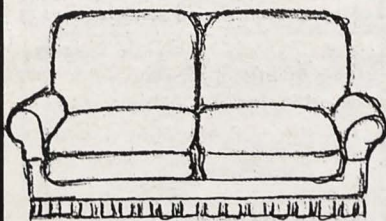
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

THE NEW RIVERSIDE SCENE

Imagine someone returning to Reading after an absence of a couple of years. He would scarcely recognise the area around Caversham Bridge and Richfield Avenue with so many changes having taken place in so short a time. Certainly in the eyes of those who remained here, no one seemed to be in much of a hurry to construct either the hotel or the roundabout, but now that both are finished they have completely altered the appearance of the whole junction.

The pub side of the hotel, if not the rooms at £79 per night and the average £30 per meal restaurant, seems to be doing a roaring trade and the sunless terrace looks down on a cheerfully plebeian scene where the local youth foregather and families come to feed the swans.

If our returned traveller were driving, he would be well advised to concentrate on the road rather than the surrounding scene, as many motorists seem to regard the roundabout as a free for all, rather than being subject to the normal rules governing such junctions. If he were cycling he would stand a fair chance of not surviving the experience and if walking he would need to realise that one no longer crosses a road by the shortest route.

If in spite of all this he managed to glance round, he would become aware that Goodman's iron works was no longer there and that he could no longer see the river through the trees, which surely were fewer in number than they were when he was last there.

He would doubtless give a sigh of relief to learn that the inevitable office block going up on the site is for a firm already in Reading and that it is to have landscaped gardens on the river side, which will conceal the car parking. Even in its incomplete state it can be seen to be on a more human scale than most of the monstrosities he is already familiar with in Reading.

Turning towards Richfield Avenue his eye would be caught by a small building resplendent in green and white and he might have some difficulty

in recognising it as the Gorge Cafe, determined with all the changes going on around it, not to be left out of things.

A little further along the road, he would be startled to see a barracks like structure on the far side of the newly extended car park. He would be forgiven for expressing disbelief at the news that it was designed with the blessing of the Fine Arts Commission. By now he would be wondering when he was going to get a view of the river which he could always remember as one of the attractions of this corner of the town.

Instead, his next view would be of a still unfinished building occupying an odd little site for which he always had a sneaking admiration for having survived for so long with nothing more useful than trees, bushes and weeds. He would soon learn that this is to be yet another eating place (he seemed to remember being told that there was also to be one incorporated into Salter's establishment on the other side of the bridge) and that there was plenty of room for sitting outside and admiring the view, that is when it wasn't raining, blowing, freezing or dark. However, like most people, he would feel amiably disposed towards the building because of its clock-tower complete with weather vane, even if its scythe-bearing figure reminded him that we are all but grass that today flourisheth and tomorrow is not.

By heavens though, whatever can that monstrous green roofed creation in the distance be? Cars pour into it and nifty little buses bearing on their sides the legend "Gold Rider", nip to and from it so it must be popular. Did it have to be quite so garish? Fit and healthy looking citizens pass through its doors and joining them our returned wanderer finds himself in a brand new leisure centre with everything he needs to take spare inches off his waistline and put them back again if he takes advantage of the bars and eating points.

He decides he must return for a longer visit as it really looks rather fun and should

not be judged by its outward appearance. At least one plus is that the mean little stream, not much more than a ditch, that crossed the meadow, is being landscaped and made a feature, so someone has tried. He also decides to walk back to Caversham bridge beside the river, because so far he has scarcely glimpsed it and that at least will be more or less as he remembers it. He has

happening. Stories and reports continue to come in of paths being completely resurfaced and stretches of potholes being filled in. Disbelieving at first, I witnessed this happening with my own eyes in our road. So do not give up hope. It will all come to pass in the fullness of time. Moreover, in some roads, and again ours is one of them, but don't get jealous, trees have been planted and

Secondly, this proposed new road will go through the countryside of South Oxfordshire which is very close to, and has been under serious consideration for inclusion in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Thirdly, if anything is going to encourage demands for an M4-A329(M)-M40 link up, this would be it. To sum up it would be an expensive waste of time, resources and money, and vandally destructive into the bargain.



SETTING TO WORK

The Cleaner Reading Task Force, the community programme scheme, whose work featured a month or so ago in this column, has now started work on Rotherfield Way Copse and the adjacent open space. This ambitious project, even more so if they continue through the space on the other side of Evesham Road as far as the Emmer Green Pond. Emmer Green Residents' Association have been kept in touch throughout with both this and the earlier scheme and have agreed to assist with the care of the sites once the Task Force has completed its work.

Besides giving its members a sense of purpose and new interests, the Task Force gives them useful skills and improves their job prospects. None can stay with it for more than a year, but many find jobs before that. It would be sad if Government legislation on local authority spending should result in the Task Force being disbanded. It would be a loss to the general public as well as its members.

you don't necessarily have to lose one to get one.

This, of course, is no consolation to Vastern Road - Caversham Road where mature trees have fallen to the chain saw as the inner distribution road carves its way on its inexorable course. After all, what is a tree compared with cutting minutes off your journey?

NO TO BY-PASS

On the subject of roads, it is almost time that talk of a northern by-pass for Caversham ceased for good and all.

Firstly, it would do nothing to relieve Caversham's traffic, as all the figures show, and common sense bears out that most of the traffic comes from the built up area of Caversham. In morning peak periods it gets heavier as it passes through the parts where most people live. These people are not going to turn in the opposite direction to which they want to go to skirt all round Caversham to avoid going through it.

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THEY SAID IT WITH FLOWERS

St Peter's was a stunning spectacle during its recent flower festival and all congratulations go to Mrs Mary Smith for her part in it, and to her and Eric and the other members of the festival committee, thanks and congratulations on making the four days of events go with a swing.

For those who were not actively involved in the flower arrangements, the first sight of the bedecked church was at the patronal eucharist on St Peter's day. Here a full church listened to an appropriate sermon from the Archdeacon of Berkshire, making his first official visit to the church. No-one

will forget his suggestion of arriving at heaven's gate with a piece of parsley in hand — parsley being one of the herbs attributed to St Peter. After the service many people stayed a while to look around, but slowly the voices died out and the church quietened down for those attending the all night vigil. People devoutly came and went, some few staying all night till the next morning's service. Thereafter the church was open for viewing, with stewards in charge and a well stocked tea tent in the churchyard. Many school parties attended among the hundreds of visitors.

MUSIC FOR THE GLORY OF GOD
Friday evening was the offering of St Peter's organist and choir. Their programme was a well-chosen mixture of composers from Handel, Mozart, Bach and Elgar through to Bruckner and Martin Shaw and the well-trained choral singing and organ playing was a joy. Kathryn Cutts, Helen Morrison and Mike Rose all sang solo parts.

...AND A LIGHTER NOTE
Saturday evening produced an evening of Home Grown entertainment, compered by Charles Croft. The

first half of the programme used the considerable talents of some of the younger members of the congregation, Zoe Smith, Pam Wing, Richard Radford on their instruments and Elizabeth Jones, Jackie Cutts, soloists, Pam and Jackie Wing (duet). The first half ended splendidly with two Flanders and Swann numbers spectacularly performed by Roger Antell. He and his family are fairly new to St Peter's and this considerable talent must be displayed again. How about the Harvest supper? After the interval, Charles and Marion Croft sang — she as soloist, then together as a duet. John Stratford preached a sermon that had the audience laughing in the aisles and Marjorie Tillman read a John Betjman poem. A treat was to hear Alison Wood (piano) and Sheilagh Winter (soprano). These two professionals have delighted us before and are always a pleasure to hear. Yvonne Milne joined them for a medley on the piano for three pairs of hands after Pam Wing (piano) and Catherine Harris (flute) had entertained, and so another good evening was over.

THE CHILDREN
A children's churchyard challenge was arranged by Ros Rutherford and proved a great success, ending with a picnic for all. Earlier in the day, a group of young recorder players delighted visitors to the church with their music.

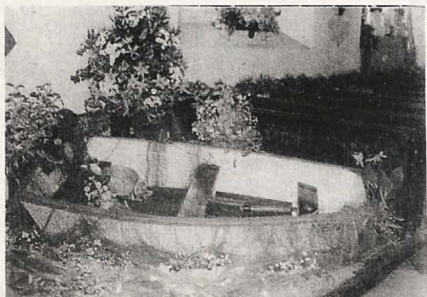


Such hard work by so many people contributed to the real success of this festival. Andrew Bosley must be congratulated on his orchestration of all the musical events, and Marie Smith for doing a magnificent job on the commissariat. Let's have it all again soon please!

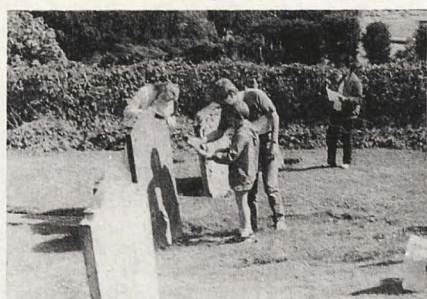
All photos by E. S. Archer



The Garden of Gethsemane



Peter the fisherman



Churchyard Quiz



"The cock crew" (Made by Sunday Club children)



"I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven"

Many coloured photographs of the flower festival have been taken and are available in the church. Do please come and look at them.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

New Priest for St Andrew's



Penelope is missing from this recent family photo.

The Reverend William (Bill) Brodie Carpenter is to be St Andrew's new priest. He is an energetic, young fifty-three year old, who has been in Holy Orders since 1979. First as Assistant Curate (NSM) in Hemel Hempstead Team Ministry, then as Assistant Curate (Stipendiary) at Bishop's Hatfield Herts.

After RAF National Service, he was engineer with De Havilland 1958-65 and a Medical Representative 1965-85.

His wife, Rosemary, happens to be a qualified social worker who (part-time) specialises with handicapped children. Rosemary brings manifold gifts and charm to match Bill's

own experience and charisma. Their four children are: Penelope (married, with infant son), Philip (civil servant), Timothy (archaeology student) and Teresa (sixteen, contemplating 'A' level studies at a school in this area).

Ordained by Robert Runcie, Bill brings personal gifts which exactly match the talents and needs of St Andrew's. Worship is his central priority (he learned its value early, as altar server); if you want to slap a label on him — and Bill is of people un-stereotypable — he is of the traditional but open-mindedly moderate Anglo-Catholic school. Youth work in his present parish has grown and flourished

dramatically. But as Pastor and friend Bill's ministry will be most widely valued in the area served by St Andrew's. 'He has a genius for fellowship' says one of his referees. 'He is just the priest we need. God be praised!' is the reaction of the Wardens and District Wardens after the pleasure of getting to know Bill Carpenter. (And, as a modest bonus, he has a delicious sense of humour.....)

Bill Carpenter will be licensed by the

Bishop of Reading at Eucharist 8 pm on Monday 19th September by which time the family will, please God, be happily settled into St Andrew's House for Teresa's new term.

Bill's Institution as first Vicar of St Andrew's depends on the date of the promulgation of the Group Ministry. This is scheduled for and probably will be November 1988. The tragic death (20th June) of the Revd Bernard Brown, legal secretary and lynchpin of Diocesan Pastoral Committee, may, though actually need not, affect the final timing of our Group's birth.

Please pray for Bill and Rosemary and their family as they look forward to joining our parish family. And pray that we may be ready and worthy to welcome and share their infectious enthusiasm for God's work here for many happy years!

MARCH FOR JESUS!

We so enjoyed joining in the infectious and joyful songs of Graham Kendrick, so ably led by a "lorryload" of local musicians we wish to share with everyone something of the colour and thrill of the Carnival of Praise march which took place on Whit Saturday through the streets of Caversham. Spectators exclaimed, "Isn't it colourful!" and "That was good!", but the most frequent question was "Which Church is it?" How good it was to be able to reply "All the Christian Churches in Caversham!" It was even better when asked, "Why are you marching?" to answer, "We wanted to show that going to Church is joyful — not dull and boring. We enjoy following Jesus, who is still alive, and wanted to share our joy with the people of Caversham".

We were amazed at the friendly reception (even from the delayed

drivers) — how glad people were to see us — with comments like, "I do admire all those young people having the courage to march like that, with those who are not so young. You hear such dreadful things about the young ones today." We replied, "They're not all like that. In fact, many young people are showing us older folk the way forward. We live in exciting times." Often people asked, "Is there a collection?" and were told "Not today. We're offering Jesus, and Jesus is free!"

Conversation The Heights amongst the marchers Methodist Marchers.

afterwards went like this: "It wasn't nearly as embarrassing as I thought it be."

"Oh no! It wasn't difficult!"

"Oh it was difficult! I didn't want to march, but I'm so glad that I did."

"I didn't know what to expect, but I'm glad I went because of the warm response of the people."

"There was a lively community feeling."

"Yes, it was a really good witness, showing how many Christians there are in Caversham and the joy that relying on Jesus brings us."

ST JOHN'S NEWS

A large congregation gathered for St John's Day Centenary celebrations. It was a very uplifting service held with the Bishop of Oxford, who preached. The choir sang an anthem by François Couperin (1688-1733) "In praise of God" during Communion.

Afterwards many old friends and clergy met and reminisced and enjoyed the refreshments which concluded with the Bishop's wife cutting the iced birthday cake which was then handed round with a glass

of wine to go with it.

A reunion of Ex-Cubs and Scouts of the 22nd Reading (Caversham St John's) in centenary year is being held on Sunday September 25th. A short service will be held in church followed by a cup of tea, biscuits and a "natter".

Please pass on the message and on let's have a super grand gathering. Contact Don Vince, 1 All Hallows Road, 474801, for further information.



E.S. Archer

The Bishop of Oxford's first visit to Caversham at St John's as part of their centenary celebrations.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

TREBLES CHOIR OUTING TO LITTLECOTE, HUNGERFORD

The trebles from St Peter's Church, Caversham went on an outing to Littlecote historic park, near Hungerford, Berkshire on Friday 3rd June. We met at St Peter's Church at 10.30, and organised who would go in which car. We took the A4 to Hungerford, then turned right, following signs to Littlecote. It took a while to sort out if we were a group of twenty or more, in order to get a reduced price. Eventually, after parking on the grass car park and reimbursing the drivers, we went to see the Tudor house.

Someone lives there, so you can't go in any bedrooms or the lounge etc. There were loudspeakers giving you information in each room, and there were people dressed up guarding valuables, and selling guidebooks. The adults who drove were much slower than us, so we had to wait. After they had caught up, we went to see a mini farm, with a well in the middle. One sheep was scratching himself on a wall, and it looked funny.

We then had our packed lunches in the cafeteria, which

took a long time, followed by going to a gift shop. The weather was not very good as there were showers all day.

At 2.00 some people went to see the Falconry, which, I was told, was very good and interesting. The rest of us went on a steam train ride around one side of Littlecote, and back. The tickets cost sixty pence each. We walked to meet the rest at the adventure playground castle, where we played on it in the pouring rain. There is a bridge going over the train track, and we stood on it on purpose when the train was underneath to get steamed.

We went to see the jousting at 3.30. We missed the first half of it as we thought it was cancelled because of the rain. The jousts charged at each other really fast on horseback, with a gret long wooden stick. I was surprised neither of them got badly hurt. The ends of their sticks kept breaking off when they charged at each other. The baddy won, except, just as they were about to give him the reward they

found he had a steel sword, so the defendant for Littlecote won the reward.

We didn't go to the garden and craft centre, the horse-and-craft rides, the rose gardens, the fortune teller (it was only open on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays), or the Roman mosaic and villa. Littlecote's phone number is (0488) 84000.

Thank you Mr Bosley for taking us. Thomas Lorenc

LINK GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the Link Group was held at the home of Mrs Suzi Mee on Monday, 27th June. It was a well-attended meeting and reflected the present enthusiasm in the Group for its activities. Suzi Robinson was confirmed as Chairman for another year, as was Janet Ferguson as Treasurer and Veronica Shew was welcomed as the new Secretary.

Various members reported on their 'Link' connections: Katesgrove. The representative reported that holidays had been successfully arranged and forthcoming outings would be supported by the Link Group.

Berkshire Womens Aid, have problems about their future function at the same time carrying a long waiting list of women needing their help.

Elliott Close/Allen House. A new creche workshop has been started, and work continues for one-parent families.

Parkinsons Society, badly need people with health & strength to help run events during the

day time for Parkinsons sufferers.

R.E.A.P. has a reprieve to continue at the Keep for the time being and Link representatives have helped with 'tidying up'... There are plans for extension of accommodation for the homeless in the future with help from government funds.

Cyrenians also provide accommodation for the homeless on a more long-term basis and have opened a new house in Reading.

N.S.P.C.C. regret the forthcoming loss of their Inspector in Reading. It is hoped the Link's good relationship will be re-

established in the future.

Caversham Care Centre Link members will in future be mainly concerned with the 'Pop-in' centre at Church House.

'Link' Tea Parties continue to operate successfully. Drivers are desperately needed, to take the elderly and disabled to these fortnightly events.

Members are very pleased to welcome The Rev. Paul Ketchington from Caversham Park at the end of their Meeting, to conduct a House Communion Service, happily reaffirming the ecumenical nature of the Link Group.

ST ANDREW'S FETE



E.S. Archer

St Andrew's Fete — the action.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1988

The total raised for Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week in May by house-to-house collection, donations and special events, in Caversham, Mapledurham and Emmer Green was £4,229.52. Sincere thanks to all helpers.

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.

Help Required

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SPRING HOLIDAY WEEKEND — VISIT TO READING'S LINK TOWN— DUSSELDORF

by P. Littlewood

Twelve members of the Reading Dusseldorf Association were the guests of the Dusseldorf Anglo German Club for the Spring Holiday weekend as part of the celebrations to commemorate Dusseldorf's seven hundredth anniversary.

Originally sixteen were expected but four could not make it, two having spent twelve hours attempting to obtain a berth on a cross channel ferry but to no avail.

I must confess that I was looking forward to the weekend with some trepidation as I only have a very rudimentary knowledge of German but I need not have worried!



Dusseldorf's Anglo German Club has no official ties with their City Council, and has over sixty members who meet once a week to practice their command of the English language. I was fortunate in being the guest of the Club's chairperson and her husband, Margret and Hermann Benninghoff, who lived in the centre

of the town. They have extensively travelled the world including China, and had recently returned from a tour of the United States.

No doubt you will have already read in our local papers the reports of the very full programme of local visits the Club had arranged for us so I will content myself here with giving you my personal impressions of the trip. However, before I do so I must mention Erica and Phillip Birch who so kindly arranged my transportation for me — many thanks.

My hosts, Margret and Hermann, immediately made me feel "at home", and it was as if I had known them for years!

During World War Two over eighty per cent of the town had been destroyed, and it has now been virtually rebuilt. Having been a wireless operator with "Phantom" (GHQ Liaison Regiment) during the war, and having witnessed the devastation the German cities suffered I can fully ap-

preciate the enormity of the task of reconstruction involved. The planners and builders of modern Dusseldorf are to be congratulated on their superb achievement. The bahnhof, or railway station only recently completed, is a joy to behold with its wide spacious walkway running below the platforms above, which are reached by escalators to each platform. What impressed me most was the large number of people promenading along the town's streets in the evenings, far more than one saw on the streets in the daytime. It was a joy and pleasure to take a carefree stroll in Dusseldorf. If only one could say the same about Reading's town centre — our planners still have a lot to learn!

There are five local breweries cum restaurants in the town where beer is brewed on the premises, and one can see the large gleaming copper vats. It was an eye opener to

visit the most popular where there must have been between three and four hundred customers being served, and the noise level of the numerous conversations was so high that one had almost to shout to make oneself heard! But with all the beer drinking not one case of drunkenness did I see.



What can I say about the members of the Anglo German Club? They were the most delightful and charming hosts I have ever met — nothing was too

much trouble for them, and we all look forward to meeting them again in April next year when they will visit us in Reading. Friendships know no language or territorial barriers, and one can never have too many friends.

Has this piece tempted you to want to join the Reading Dusseldorf Association? If so, please contact the chairman, Mr Martyn Allies of 26 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7BA. The Association's annual subscription is only £2.00 and its most recent event was a trip along the Kennet and Avon Canal in the "Lancing" on 22nd June.

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What is a Church?

The intrepid explorers of Thameside Primary School, armed with pencil and paper, set forth into the wilds of Caversham in search of local churches. Their quest took place during May and was directed to discover what these mysterious places were "all about": what secrets were harboured inside and how one compared with another.

Their brief was therefore to glean maximum information from all these Christian sources, so that the data could be recorded at base in a thoroughly scientific and analytical manner. Thus we were able to judge the excellence of one particular lectern on hearing one minor investigator murmur in wonder "Cor, that's good, ain't it!"

Sketches swiftly filled the drawing pads, computerised information was stacked away in each of the children's memory as names like Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, New Testament Church and Methodist flitted by in a

kaleidoscope of visits.

Back in the workshop the variety of pieces of information were recalled like the assembly of a jig-saw. Slowly it dawned that these strongly contrasting buildings had

Weller, and to Father Meagher and Pastor Lawrence. We hope that the work on display at Thameside School, which they are warmly welcomed to see, will further be a form of thanks and ap-



E.S. Archer

Mr R Wells, Deputy Head of Thameside School, with his intrepid explorers.

presented us with a largely common picture. It emerged that each worshipped God, each followed the teachings of Jesus Christ. Further we discovered that the Bible, a lectern, a pulpit, an altar, pews and pictures were, in one form or another, common to all our Churches.

Our grateful thanks are extended to The Reverends Kingsbury, Skinner, and

precipitation for their help and co-operation in making our visits so informative and pleasurable. Also I would like to add my thanks to the lady who was passing by whilst the group were waiting to make a visit, and who remarked on the good behaviour of the Thameside children, as they patiently awaited the door opening on one of their visits.

CAVERSHAM CARING AND SHARING GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the Caversham Caring and Sharing Group, one of one hundred such groups throughout the country, which was formed just after Easter 1987. We are a group of Christians from different churches in Caversham who meet together regularly (about once a quarter) to share and pray together and to learn more about issues of Third World development. We want to give ourselves, not just our money — to live more simply so that others may simply live.

The first project we have chosen to support is an integrated community health project in the Burtibang area of Nepal which was set up by the International Nepal Fellowship (I.N.F.). Our first gift was used to buy a grain moisture meter which is being used in field trials to introduce new strains of crops and to improve storage techniques.

The speaker at our June meeting was Dr Alison

Craven, a vet from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire and a pioneer of the project who on her return to Nepal in September will become assistant director of the whole work of the I.N.F. (a charity originally founded in Reading). She 'took us with her' on the difficult and exhausting journey into the remote mountainous regions (without any roads) which was necessary for their initial research to find the right area for this project.



We saw a beautiful land but one where farming has to be on immensely steep and unstable terraces; where there is poverty, malnutrition and disease alongside intricate basketry and weaving; and where strongly-built (though dark, smokey and sometimes cold) stone houses, several stories high, are built without a nail being used! We heard of the introduction of better indoor cooking stoves (with chimneys) not only to reduce the smoke but to use less wood, because it is in short supply. We saw the results of better agricultural methods (including

the growing of firewood trees); of the beginning of horticultural research to provide for a higher content of fresh food in the diet; and of families split up because the men have to look for work elsewhere (in India, for instance, or as soldiers in the Gurkha regiment).



Illiteracy is common among adults because education in schools is for five years only and must be paid for. Very few girls attend school for this reason and because they are needed to work at home and on the land. We were introduced to schools without any paper at all, where illiteracy was being tackled with slates and limestone chalk.

We heard of the mothers who must accept infant deaths as common-place. Fifty per cent of the babies die before the age of five years — mostly unnecessary deaths from dehydration, accidents and infectious diseases — so new local volunteers are being trained to weigh babies and run Mother and Child Healthcare clinics, medicine service centres and similar animal health centres.

A clean drinking water system is being constructed to

reduce disease and this piped water supply will remove all need for the women to make their two hour journey (both ways) to collect water. (Our group has played a small part in this by obtaining from the Water Research Centre free samples of the vital teflon material needed to bond the pipes together). Cottage industries are being encouraged to generate income.



We heard of the growing number of international workers in the team and of the continuing need for nurses, educators, nutritionists and development workers of all kinds who are prepared to live and work in this remote region so that, when the I.N.F. team has moved on, the Nepalese can continue the work themselves. To promote Christianity in Nepal is forbidden by law, but the team live out the Gospel in their daily lives and fellowship and pray that a church may one day be established there.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Charles and Lynn Baker, 95 St Peter's Avenue, at 8pm on September 18th, and it is hoped that others will join this happy ecumenical group.

WEDDING



Mr N. D. Berridge and Miss J. E. Eldon who were married at St Peter's Church, Caversham on June 4th 1988.

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Emmer Green TG

At the June meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild the Chairman, Miss N. Pollard, thanked Mrs D. Sharman for arranging two outings for the Social Studies Group. Members had enjoyed a guided tour of Rivermead, the new sports complex in Caversham and spent an evening as guests of Mrs K. Everett, Mayor of Reading in the Mayor's Parlour.

The speaker for the meeting was Mr R. Luff, a tea taster who had started his career in Ceylon and then travelled to India, Colombo and Kenya. He now runs the Tea and Coffee Company in Wallingford selling teas suited to local water and coffee beans roasted on the premises. After giving a brief history of tea and coffee, he showed

slides of the plantations and assured members that the workers are well treated. To end the evening Mr Luff arranged a tea tasting with a selection of teas that he had brought along.

The competition for the prettiest but-tonhole was won by Mrs G. Cave.

Blagrove WI

At the June meeting Mrs Humphreys stood in for the President who was attending the 60th birthday party of Winnersh W.I. Mrs Baker from the college of Agriculture gave a demonstration of attractive "Summer Entertaining". Now we just need the summer. Mrs Housden won the competition for Chocolate Chip cookies.

In July members

were treated to a wonderful display of Eggshells in the style of Faberge, given by Mr & Mrs Hayward. The intricate detail of the painstaking work put in to these works of art quite took the breath away. The competition for an unusual teaspoon was won by Mrs Moodie with Mrs Ogden and Mrs Maule joint second. It was good to see so many entries in this month's competition.

Caversham Horticultural Society

Caversham Horticultural Society was entertained on 9th June by Mr Ron Smith, who talked about some less usual plants. He started by saying that each plant really has a special personality of its own, some more endearing than others, and that each garden seems to reflect the character of its owner, some with perfect symmetry, others with a cottage garden effect.

Mr Smith showed slides of gardens which had a display of more unusual plants, such as Scotney Castle in Kent and Sissinghurst, where there

was a beautiful snowdrop tree, which members were assured was easy to grow!

Caversham WI

At the June meeting, Mrs Irene Lindsey of Chazey W.I., who also represented Caversham W.I. at the Conference in the Royal Albert Hall, gave a most interesting report of the activities of the day and the result of the resolutions taken.

Afterwards Mrs J. Still of Radio 210 talked about the Carline programme. She spoke of the phone calls received for help on so many matters, such as homelessness, aids, youth violence etc. She finished the meeting by answering questions put by the interested members.

Maplewood WI

The June meeting commenced with the president, Mrs Heather Baker, introducing the Link delegate, Mrs Rosemary Weeks, who gave a report on the AGM held at the Albert Hall.

This was followed by the speaker, Mrs Sue Brandon, who in-

vited members to take part in a quiz on items which would have been everyday objects less than one hundred years ago. This caused a great deal of interest and members were intrigued by such items as a skirt lift fan stand, amongst the twenty objects displayed. The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs Betty Clamp with a red rose.

Chazey WI

Chazey's June meeting was well attended and the members were given an enlightening talk on the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust. This was given by Police Inspector John Pearson who is an enthusiastic voluntary speaker for the Trust.

The first Village was built in Switzerland for orphans after the second world war. Twenty seven years ago the Trust decided to build a Village in England. They bought a mansion near Battle in Sussex where the Village was developed.

One hundred children from the Third World Countries like the Far East, India, Africa come to be educated and to learn practical skills. These bright children

are selected by committees in their own countries and they come from ten to eighteen years to get a good English education. They are looked after by House parents of their own nationality and live in community houses from the same country, thus preserving their own cultures and traditions. The children attend local schools and at weekends they are taught to use their hands — metalwork, bricklaying, carpentry, farming etc. The education is paid for by Sussex County Council, but funds must be raised to run the Village. The children return to their own countries to carry out and teach their new skills to their own people.

What an admirable way to help the Third World.

Caversham Ladies Club

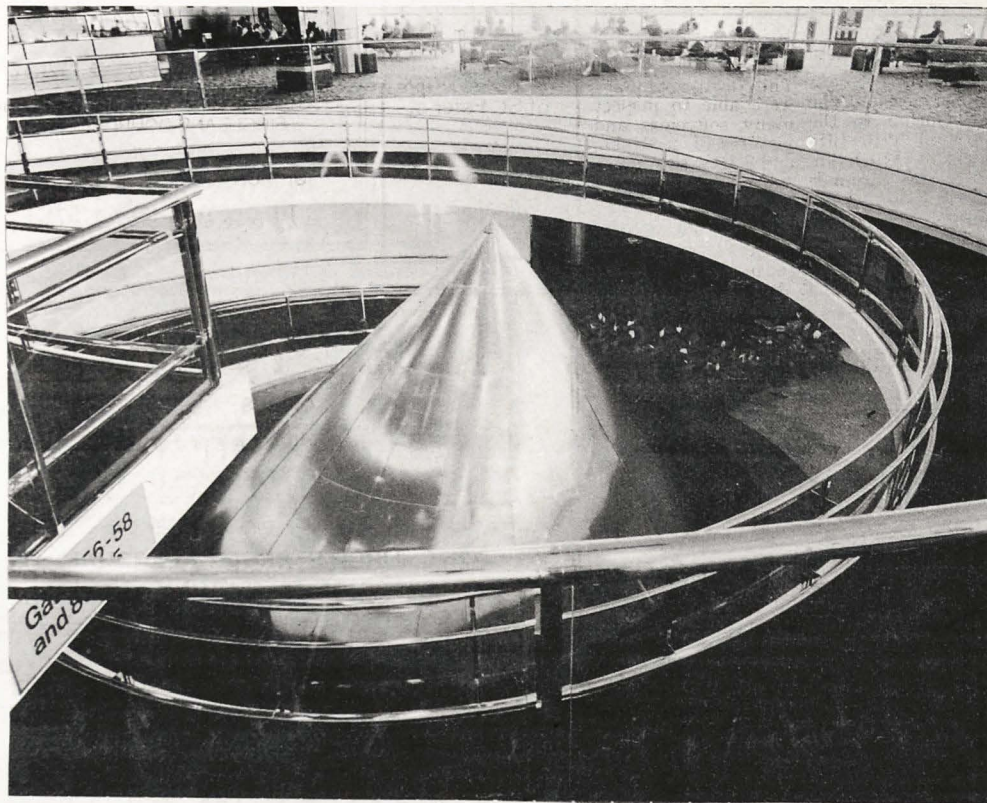
The June meeting was well attended and members were welcomed by the Chairman Mrs Harwood. After the usual business members were introduced to Mrs Brown, a representative from

Traidcraft, a trading company with a difference. Traidcraft is concerned with fairness, justice in trade, dealing directly with producer groups in the developing world, working to generate employment and enhance living standards for thousands who might otherwise have little hope. Mrs Brown gave an interesting talk with slides in this connection. She also brought many items, consisting of handicraft, teas, coffees and food stuffs etc, which members were able to buy. The afternoon proved to be most enlightening and interesting and Mrs Brown was very pleased with the result of her sale table. She was duly thanked by Mrs Harwood and members.

A coach outing to Southsea on Thursday 15th September is being arranged and members desirous to go, appended their names on the outing board. Teas was then served and the tea ladies warmly thanked.

The July meeting will have a representative from Dinton Pastures who will give a talk and slides. There will be no

Turn to page 11



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the CLUBS

From page 10

meeting in August; the usual Harvest Home will take place in September when gifts of garden produce etc will be most welcome.

Rosehill WI

The meeting on 1st June was to celebrate the Institute's twenty-fifth anniversary. Mrs Barbara Weller welcomed members and three old members to a buffet lunch at 1pm.

The afternoon meeting followed on with Mrs Armstrong, Berkshire Chairman and Mrs Lewis, Secretary, present. Ladies from other Institutes in the Caversham Group were also invited. Mrs Gillings was presented with the silver salver for most points in craft work during the year. Mrs Barge was runner up for the goblet.

Miss Pat Tyler then gave a very entertaining and amusing talk describing her trip to New York on the QE2 and back home on Concorde. Then came tea served by the committee with a beautiful iced cake made by Mrs Barge. This was decorated with pink roses and on the President's table was a bowl of pink roses, arranged by Mrs Smith. There was an exhibition of buttonhole sprays made

by members and given to the visitors.

The July meeting was opened by Mrs Weller who told members of the recent death of Mrs Betty Smith, a regular member, and up to the last few years, active on the committee, as outings and organiser and a keen rambler. She will be very much missed.

There is no meeting in August, but a Garden Party is planned, also a Ploughman's Lunch, both to be held at members' homes.

Mrs Weekes gave her report of her visit to the Albert Hall as delegate to the AGM.

The speaker was Mrs Langford from the Red Cross, who in a light-hearted talk told how to perform first aid should someone have a suspected heart attack. Members won't be quite so ignorant if they are confronted with such an emergency in future.

There was an exhibition of "Favourite" necklaces which was very attractive and some had interesting origins.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

The programme for the Spring & Summer Session has been varied and interesting. We owe a

great debt of gratitude to the many speakers (often with excellent accompanying slides) and the entertainers who brighten our Wednesday afternoons regardless of the weather. Mrs Beek with her talk and slides of Yorkshire and her Round Britain slides "quiz"; Mrs Noble on Queen Victoria and the Highlands; Mrs Moss with lovely slides on Devon, all transported us to the many beautiful parts of our country. Martin Beek with his Journey Across America and Miss Tyler on Canada & World Exhibition, took us much further afield with fascinating glimpses of other cultures and peoples. The Fir-Tree Singers, Harold & Fred, and the Rendevous Singers, gave us three delightful afternoons of nostalgic music and poetry. The Rev. Peter Mullins taught us more about Caversham and its surrounding area than many of us knew existed and we spent another interesting afternoon with Mrs Ritson and her beautiful dolls.

Some members were reluctant at first to join Mrs Rogers in her physiotherapy exercises but her friendly enthusiasm soon had us wriggling our fingers and toes and then arms and legs went with a swing. It was difficult for Mr Burden to choose the winner of our Easter Bonnet Competition last April such was the effort and imagination which had gone into the hats. The next party is a Garden Party at 34 Woodcote Road, which will end our Summer Session. The May Outing to the Cotswold Wild-Life Park was greatly enjoyed, the Summer Outing to Bournemouth is still to come. The club reopens after the August break on Wed. Sept 27th at 2pm.

Caversham Community Association

There was a Bring and Buy evening on the 6th June. Members brought a good selection of articles to be auctioned, the proceeds of the sale were given towards the cost of the evening outing held later this month.

The following week a group from the club visited the new Caversham Hotel built after the Caversham Bridge Hotel was demolished. A tour was made of the bedrooms, the dining room, banqueting hall, the swimming pool and gymnasium, the snooker room and

finally the bar. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by the members. The remainder of the club members attended a games evening at the club room and played scrabble, dominoes and shove ha'penny.

On the 20th June a coach trip was made around the beautiful countryside near Kingsclere and the Salisbury Plain, returning through Marlborough and Hungerford. A stop was made near Hungerford for refreshments and a meal.

Mrs Plant, a club member, gave an interesting talk on the 27th June. Earlier in the year Mrs Plant had visited her daughter Hazel and family who live in Bexley, New South Wales, Australia. A day to remember was on the 26th January, Australia Day, when Hazel and Mrs Plant boarded the train for Sydney to join in the celebrations for the bicentennial of the first settlement in Australia. The Prince and Princess of Wales were there for the occasion, with thousands of other people, to await the arrival of the tall ships in re-enactment of the event in Sydney harbour. Hazel and her family attended the Uniting Church, and her friends there planned a memorable trip to the south coast of New South Wales. Mrs Plant visited some fascinating places on this tour and had some good photographs to recall special moments. The club members were able to inspect many souvenirs and pictures of Australia, and if they so wished, ask questions on the trip.

Maida Feast, the Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Mrs Plant for an informative and enjoyable evening.

Caversham Heights TG

An outing to Bowood Gardens arranged by social studies group of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild and shared with members of the congregation of St Andrew's church was much enjoyed at the beginning of June. The sun stayed hidden, but there was no rain either during the journey or while the visit lasted. The very extensive grounds and the lake near Calne looked beautiful and well kept, persuading

many to take some gentle walking exercise. There were some interesting exhibits in the part of Bowood House which is open to the public, especially the 18th century drawing room.

Later in the month the main guild, its official business quickly completed, held its 27th birthday party. Members were joined at St Andrew's Hall in Albert Road by guests from the Tilehurst and Whiteknights branches and by Mrs Nora Schneider and Mrs Alice Smith from Berkshire Federation. Shaped like a diamond as befits the year of the Townswomen's Diamond Jubilee, the birthday cake was specially made by Mrs J Brown and iced by Mrs C Lott and Mrs D Moore, who with Mrs N Jones made the punch. Mrs J Davidge provided the excellent buffet supper, Mrs E Hawkins the artistically arranged flowers, and Mrs B Smith designed a birthday card.

Allan Bliss the husband of one of the guild members wrote an amusing comedy called "Honourable Occupation", which was performed by the drama group under his direction, and scooped the prize of a fruit cake from guild chairman Mrs Clarice Lott.

As we go to press we learn with regret of the death in hospital of Mr. Leslie Cropp of St. Peter's.

A full appreciation will appear next month.

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11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

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

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

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

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

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

METHODIST

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

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St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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