



ONE YEAR ON

NO 'church building' as such, just a sports pavilion, the kitchen, entrance foyer and cupboards for the Sunday school to meet in, but it was a happy 'Heights Fringe' of Caversham Hill Chapel that began the exile into a kind of promised land one year ago.

AT 10.45 on 16th October 1988, Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship met for the first time at Mapledurham Playing-fields Pavilion.

Leaflets were distributed through every door in Caversham Heights to announce the opening. They were read by the curious, the indifferent, those already committed to their own fellowship and the 'oh-no-not-another-bit-of-paper-coming-

through-the-letter-box-waste-paper-bin' folk.

A curious friend of mine tentatively asked "What do you do?" So I will endeavour to explain.

We meet together to worship God and hear what he is saying to us as a church. We share together the things that God has been doing in our lives, for the upbuilding of the church. Everyone who comes regularly is encouraged to

share, to pray, to bring a word of scripture or a song.

We have different people leading the worship and usually either Chris Justice or Mike Holmes, the ministers, preaching and teaching.

What is learned on a Sunday is then considered on a more personal level on Tuesday evenings, where the Fellowship is divided into three house-groups.

As we all live close to each other, we

are able to help out in practical ways too. I have just overfed a friend's fish for a week — still, they did not die, which is the main thing!

Our aim is to live the kind of lives that Jesus urged his disciples to live. Whilst this may be difficult as times, he promised that the Holy Spirit would help us. We are sure of God's love for us, warts and all. We know we have a responsibility to share that

love with the community in which we live and bring others to know that a personal relationship with the God of the Universe is possible through knowing Jesus as friend, saviour and Lord of our lives.

We are not, however, a closed community and would welcome anyone who is seeking a personal relationship with God. We do not feel we are in competition with other churches in the

area. We believe God has directed us to plant this new fellowship in order that more people can come to an understanding of the Good News about Jesus. Jesus spoke of this disciples as being 'fishers of men'.

There are plenty of 'fish' in Caversham Heights! Maybe you are lonely, or in need of help, or sick, or curious, or even indifferent; then we, along with the other churches in Caver-

sham, really want to help you. Maybe you have need of nothing, but we would urge you not to let your wealth prevent you from entering into the Kingdom of God.

If you want more information about Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship other than service times (which are given at the back of this paper) then please ring Caversham Hill Chapel — 474529.



SOME OF THE CONGREGATION OLD AND YOUNG DURING A SUNDAY'S WORSHIP.

★ ★ ★



Photos by Robert Young



'BETTER THAN ENGLAND'

FIRST IMPRESSIONS BY
THE REV. NIGEL HARDCASTLE, VICAR OF
ST. BARNABAS, EMMER GREEN

LIZZIE, our five year old summed up the reaction of the whole family to the Thames Valley about three days after we arrived. "This is much better than England!" she exclaimed. "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings . . ." We had indeed arrived in a place that was "much better than England". Nevertheless there are problems in paradise.

Some are the same as elsewhere. Some are the reverse. Too much in one place means not enough elsewhere.

I think in the first place, Liz was referring to the lovely countryside, the river, the hills, the leafy roads. I hope I won't come to take these delights for granted.

Jobs

I was struck by the parish. People in Reading had jobs! You can't get hold of them for visiting or meetings until 8pm. Everywhere jobs are advertised. Some require special skills. Some are paid at fantastic rates, but then look at the house prices! Other jobs are not well paid at all, but there are more jobs than people to fill them.

Unemployment was 28 per cent in my Birmingham Parish. Most Brummies are "grafters" and hate the lack of work, never mind the lack of money. Adults felt thrown on the scrap heap. Teenagers at school were asking "Why work? Even the ones who get exams don't get jobs!" The whole purpose of living was being undermined. I am told things are a bit better in Birmingham now, but only a bit.

Not far North of Birmingham each job still gets literally hundreds of applications. There is of course unemployment in Reading too. There is never an exact match between jobs and people. But the employment situation is much better than in London or Birmingham, never mind the north — in fact, much better than England.

Rat Race

Of course, the rat race is a problem of its own. Two people slaving away to keep the mortgage paid is just a different kind of problem. There is, however, no doubt which problem everyone prefers. And in Caversham the struggle is sometimes to pay the mortgage on the house in the Loire valley or the flat on the Costa Plenti.

There is a kind of irony. Even at the height of unemployment many of us were over worked to the point of exhaustion. In some factories the pace was frantic. In the next factory people sat idle or were laid off. Different problems that on the surface seem like the solution of the other problem. Of course it isn't quite that simple whether you believe in market economics or the planned state. But neither overwork nor unemployment can be the permanent will of God.

Homes

Lizzie's pleasure probably also included a delight in the Vicarage and its garden. As she told her class in London in amongst many giggles, "It's got three toilets!" For the first week she

ran up and down the garden laughing.

There wasn't the space in our London garden to pick up speed before you had to stop. Caversham has more than its fair share of lovely houses, lovely gardens and lovely views. How do you concentrate on giving pastoral care or planning the next church campaign when, out the window, the sun is slowly setting over Bugs Bottom?

Don't get me wrong, not everyone in Emmer Green is affluent let alone rich. Many houses are no more than comfortable. People dwell in caravans and small council flats. People live on the state pension or social security. Nevertheless, compared with Birmingham or London, things look good.

Yet housing is the problem. How do young couples afford to buy? And how can firms attract the labour they need if there is nowhere for the workers to live if they move to Reading? There are more people living in bed and breakfast accommodation in Reading than in any other town in the South.

A home is even more important than a job. If you have a decent roof over your head, things can be hard but bearable. It may take the intelligence of Mensa, the organisational ability of a managing director, the discipline of a Major General and the asceticism of a monk, but it is possible to survive on social security, just. But if you don't have a proper home

then things are unbearable.

Common Agonies

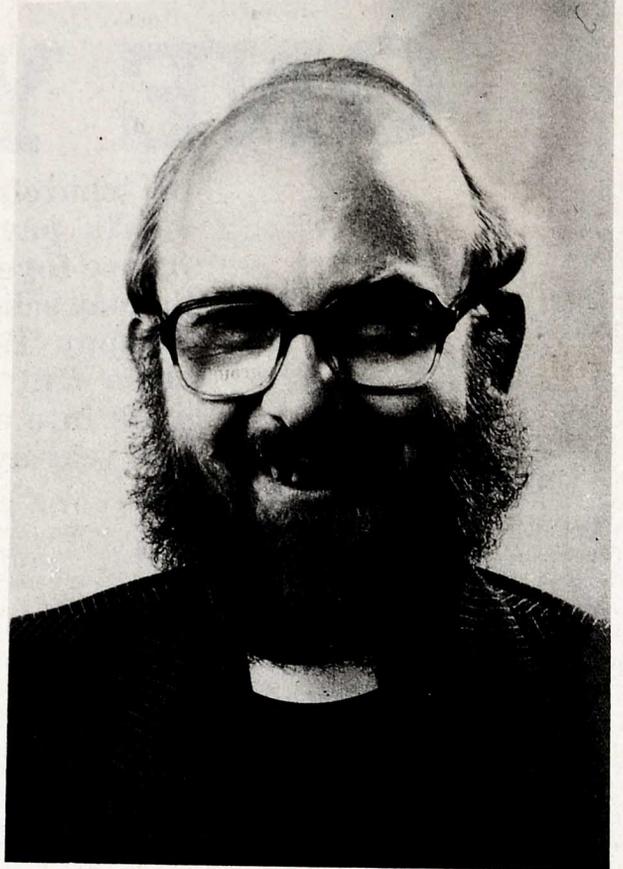
Some problems affect all mankind. If your child dies, if your husband is permanently handicapped, if your family leave you, if you become mentally ill, then it is really terrible. Money, a nice house in a nice area, and all the material things may help. But in the end nothing makes any difference. The agony is exactly the same. Jobs, homes and money are important, but as nothing compared with our families and our health.

The Haunting

I am almost ready to say that these problems are worse than any of the problems of poverty. But it is not true. I am haunted, not by what I saw in Birmingham, but by the streets of London. To take the weekday service at St. John's Waterloo I had to weave my way between the cardboard boxes people were sleeping on. The classical porch was open on three sides to the wind. About six people lived there. They left a gap between the cardboard boxes for priest and congregation to get to the service. Underneath the flyover, a few hundred yards from the Palace of Westminster, is cardboard city. Scores of people living on the streets, winter and summer, as if it was Calcutta. Like Calcutta, we all learnt to ignore the beggars.

One Kingdom

So here we are, in a place better than England, hoping we won't come to take the pleasures for granted, hoping our hearts will still be open to the agonies beyond our horizons as well as the agonies within them, hoping we can remember that we are all one family and that we will find Christ in the poor, hoping we may be the answer to each other's problems, hoping that in this place, better than England, we are still part of a United Kingdom, that hearts will not be closed and love will flow.



The Rev. Nigel Hardcastle

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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 Nov issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 October.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 29 September.

The dates for December will be Friday 27 October and Wednesday 1 November.

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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FULL OF BEANS AGAIN!

(1989 'Parish Holiday')

OVER eighty from Caversham enjoyed the annual 'parish holiday' week at Sandroyd School, near Shaftesbury, Dorset. New families quickly settled in, though several familiar faces were missing this year.

In beautiful surroundings, Sandroyd has an excellent heated indoor swimming pool. Drying towels and costumes flapped from window ledges within hours of the start of the holiday. Bowls, tennis, croquet, clock golf, badminton, squash, rifle-shooting, whist, bridge and a host of indoor games kept most busy during the week.

□ □

We began with baked beans and Sandroyd Eucharist, a liturgical stockpot brewed up by the Rector, with a lively music group led by the Dimmicks. A

quiet midweek Holy Communion was also appreciated by many. By the last day, the weather steadily improving, sunning bodies were draped over all the lawns.

□ □

Innovations this year included junior boys' and girls' dorms. The former had to be evacuated when a thunderstorm sent water cascading through the ceiling, though John K slept through the drama and woke wondering where everyone had gone next morning. The girls emptied Shaftesbury's supermarkets for non-stop midnight feasts. Meanwhile the senior boys' and girls' dorms were unusually disaster-free (as far as we know!).

□ □

A cricket match was convincingly

won by the young bloods despite guest appearances for the veterans by George (knees - together) Brown and Dr Patrick ('underarm or overarm?') Anderson and two innumerate umpires. Nubile maidens trounced not so young ladies at netball and terrifying athletic youths snatched a dramatic victory in a nasty basketball match against the wrinkles, most of whom were sent off at one stage or another by the 11 year old referee, who inevitably ended up fully clothed in the swimming pool. An indecisive water polo match was abandoned in extra time - big John Martin causing havoc in the shallow end. Everyone turned out for floodlit rounders which someone won. All in all, an unhealthy competitive week... Doris Lynch knitted

against the clock in the headmaster's potting shed.

□ □

The last night party began with a splendid feast, followed by prolonged entertainment, compered by a svelte David Payne, in which stars were once again the boys and girls. Trophies were presented. Most nail-biting final was croquet, won as dusk fell by Andrew Hill and Fiona Roach. 'Alternative Awards', presented by lovely Nigel Stanbrook, included the feather-duster Wally of Week, won this year against feeble opposition by Val Orpwood who got lost and took four hours crossing a few fields lots of times.

□ □

Louise Taylor celebrated 20th birthday and Mark Kingsbury 21st with dinner-jacketed

waiters and bubbly at dinner. Roger Hopkinson flew model aircraft through his 'duty officer' shift. Sue Martin hibernated for three days before going berserk with croquet mallet, Charlotte Hayton did not crash her mini but broke down miles from Sandroyd, Rodney Pinchen rearranged the school plumbing, May Smith ate a cream bun, we all enjoyed a lovely barbecue and came home 'tired but happy'. It was that sort of week - gentle, friendly, and occasionally hilarious.

□ □

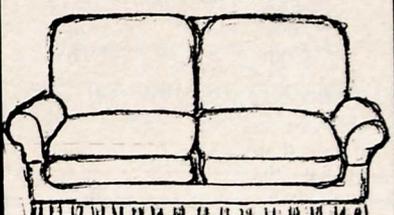
We thank Frances Hill and John Kavenagh and helpers for an excellent holiday and keep fingers crossed that this genial fixture can happen at Sandroyd next summer!

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WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS?

A few of the young people at St. Barnabas have been involved with Community Service Volunteers (C.S.V.). But what is a CSV and who can become one? The answer to the latter is easy. Anyone. The former is best answered by a brief explanation of my experience as a volunteer:

□ □

I was involved in an 'Independent Living Scheme' working and living with a family who had a seven year old physically handicapped boy. He was on a rehabilitation programme involving intensive co-ordination exercises as well as supplementary schoolwork. This required us to put in a lot of hard work motivat-

ing and encouraging him with a sometimes monotonous schedule.

□ □

During my time as a volunteer the main thing I came to realise was what a vast potential there is in all children, and that this potential is often untapped, underrated and little understood by the rest of us in society in the case of brain injured children.

□ □

You might well be thinking: "I couldn't do that, I'm not the right sort of person," but that is exactly how I felt. All I can say now is that there is no right or wrong person for voluntary work. Everyone has different qualities, all equally valuable,

which they can bring to a project. CSV believes that ALL young people can help in situations of human need and will not refuse placement to anyone aged between sixteen and thirty-five years who wishes to become a full-time volunteer. The only thing asked of the volunteers is that they offer a minimum of four months service.

□ □

C.S.V.s work in either:

- a. Independent Living Schemes working with individuals or families to allow them to lead independent lives within the community.
- b. Group Homes working with a very small group of people usually mentally handicapped or

mentally ill, helping them with independent living.

c. Intermediate Treatment working with young offenders, offering re-education and activities as an alternative to custody.

d. Area Social Work Teams, helping organise groups within the community e.g. Play Groups, Lunch Clubs etc.

□ □

e. Community Centre which run a wide range of activities such as Youth Clubs, Lunch Clubs, classes, social events etc.

I would recommend CSV to anyone considering voluntary work. If you're interested in finding out more about them write to:

C.S.V.,
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 David Westwell.

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By Watchdog

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A LOAD OF RUBBISH
A load of rubbish is dropped, every day throughout the year, in the streets, on the grass, in the rivers, just anywhere that is accessible to people. Not even the most beautiful places are exempt, and as for everyday places, their unkempt down-at-heel appearance seems to brush off on the people who frequent them.

Reading is no exception, as we all know. Caversham may not be as bad as many places, but there are still too many spots which look like tips. An unbelievable 80 tonnes of litter (not the stuff that goes into dustbins) is picked up from the streets of Reading every week, and of that 18 tonnes comes from the town centre. On Saturdays alone, 3½ tonnes is picked up from the town centre. It gets dropped faster than the Council can gather it up, so up till now the place has looked a mess most of the time.

However, changes have been taking place. More litter bins, of matching types, rather than a variety, have been introduced and commercial sacked rubbish will be collected regularly.

Since the beginning of August, the town centre streets have a thorough cleaning on six nights a week and a Sunday afternoon cleaning has been introduced. On the other six days of the week, there are four litter pick-ups throughout the town centre, and this includes the emptying

of all litter bins, which themselves will now actually be WASHED every month. The Borough Council owned car park stairwells and lifts will now be washed three times a week, so should no longer be so disgusting.

Outside the town centre, the main roads leading in are being cleaned at least twice a week and the bins emptied at least three times a week. And in the summer months, but this only started at the end of August, the town centre streets also will actually be WASHED every month. The rain is meant to do it for the rest of the year, and in the average summer too, it will supplement the Council's effort.

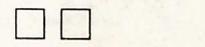
What seems rather minimal is that the towpaths throughout the town will only get cleaned twice a year. It is much to be hoped that the south bank of the Thames between the two bridges will get its turn pretty soon. It really is disgraceful.

However, extra cleaning, welcome though it is, is only dealing with part of the problem. It is necessary to tackle it from source, and the Environmental Health Department is well aware of this. Just how to stop people dropping their rubbish is one of the main difficulties. The provision of litter bins, teaching in the schools, putting up notices and even the law, hedged about as it is with ifs and buts, all seem to have no effect on those who automatically drop what they no longer require.

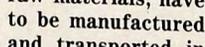
Over-packaging can be discouraged by identifying the particular type of litter that gets dropped. Fast food is a source of a lot of rubbish, though some fast-food outlets operate a cleaning-up system in their vicinity. Some

traders who produce more rubbish than their premises can store dump, or even methodically store, it in the streets, and others sweep their premises straight on to the pavements. Building developers have in the past treated the street as an extension of the site, but these are now being dealt with, much to their chagrin, far more strictly by the Borough Council. The Borough Council itself is also tightening up on the supervision and planning of its cleaning services.

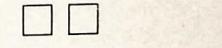
If all this is actually being carried out, rather than just being a declaration of intent, we should by now be seeing a much better maintained town centre and a noticeable improvement in the outer areas. There is also some evidence that the cleaner the place the less likely people are to drop litter. Who would dare drop anything in a Swiss or German town centre?



CADIC
Anyone with a little time to spare and the urge to leave the world a better place might consider starting a movement for the abolition of drinks in cans, called perhaps CADIC. Empty drink cans account for a large proportion of the rubbish left lying in the streets and countryside. The artificially coloured, flavoured and sweetened water that they contain must, in practically every case, be worth less than the can that holds it. The cans themselves use up raw materials, have to be manufactured and transported in energy consuming ways, and after occupying high rented shelf space, end up being kicked about the streets, or disfiguring open spaces. So far no

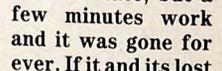


evidence has been produced to show that their contents compensate by being either nutritious or health giving. There are plenty more environmentally friendly ways of having a drink, and whatever small advantage they may possess in the way of convenience is far outweighed by the damage they do. Anyone looking for a cause to promote could do a lot worse than setting up a Campaign against Drinks in Cans (CADIC).



ANOTHER TREE GOES

As fast as Reading Borough Council plans to green Reading, the County Council sets about stripping it of its greenery. Forbury Road has lost all its trees (as well as the Plummery Wall) in favour of a dual carriageway, and the same has happened to Vastern Road. Now the last tree, a mature plane, has gone from the section of Caversham Road between Vastern Road and the railway bridge. Some fell victim to the storm of October 1987, but most of them went because they were of secondary importance when it came to spreading the progress of the car. This last one was in full leaf, and had taken many decades to attain its state, but a few minutes work and it was gone for ever. If it and its lost companions are ever replaced, it is going to be many years before they start to make their mark.



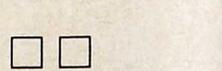
SPEED YOUR SHUTTLE

The Mikron Theatre Company, which is based in the South Pennines and lives and travels on an old

narrow boat, presents theatre in non-theatre venues, in all parts of the country, but usually close to the waterways. They visited Caversham Court in August, to give a performance of their lively show 'Speed your Shuttle (and change your tune)' and all for free, courtesy of Reading Borough Council, though there were opportunities to contribute.

It followed the changes brought about in the lives of the Pennines handloom weavers by the Industrial Revolution. The new up-and-coming mill owner whose daughter defied him to marry the son of a family of hand weavers, represented the great leap forward which trampled over the lives of those who failed to keep ahead, but it was far from being an evening of gloom and doom. The four actors who played all the parts, the lyrics and music, created an entertainment that was both moving and full of life, and held the audience's attention in spite of distractions.

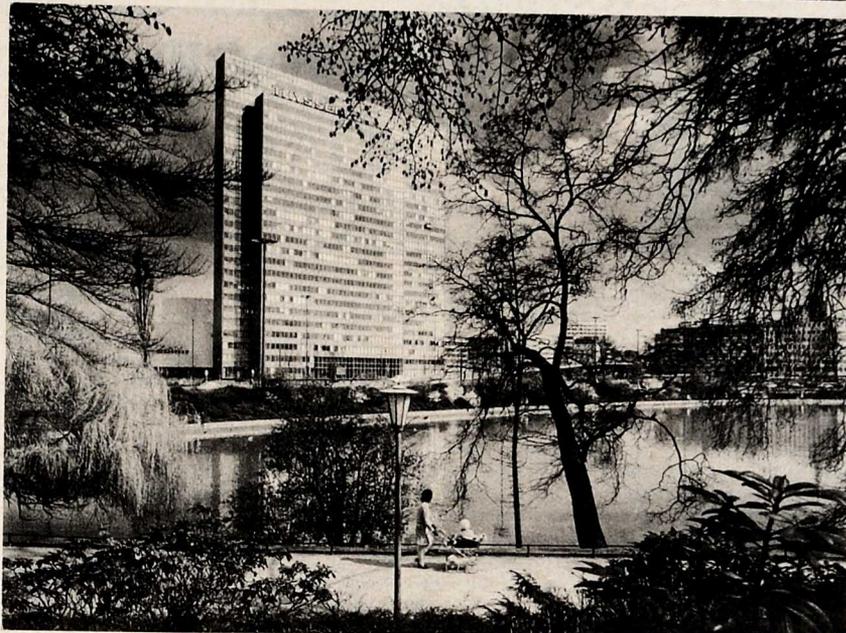
These included a fair going full blast on the other side of the river and the wail of fire engine and police car sirens as great billows of black smoke soared skywards as the University boat-house went up in flames. Altogether quite a night.



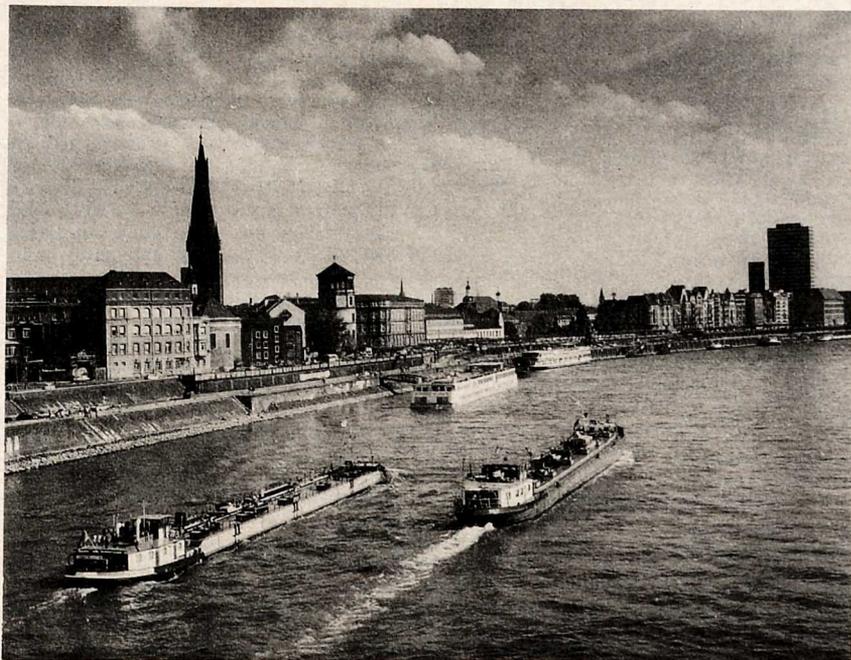
NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Michael Kenworthy Reading's new Director of Planning and Technical Services, will be the speaker at a public meeting organised by Caversham & District Residents' Association on 16th October, at 8.00 p.m. in Church House, Church Street.

THE ROAD TO DUSSELDORF



View of the 26 story Thyssen building from Düsseldorf's principal park, its Hofgarten.



Düsseldorf Rhine promenade, with St. Lambertus church and castle tower, its schlossurm.



Düsseldorf's Altstadt, its attractive "old town"

The road to Düsseldorf will begin, as likely as not, with the road to Windsor! Next year, from June 16th to 23rd, a party of members of Düsseldorf churches will visit Reading, and will look forward to their hosts taking them to that prime tourist attraction on our doorstep, the State Apartments.

Their hosts in Reading will have the opportunity of visiting Düsseldorf in 1991, and what an enjoyable time is in store for them, as many members of Reading and Caversham churches who have experienced Düsseldorf hospitality will testify. Parties from Reading and its twin town have been exchanging visits for the past 15 years, and many lasting friendships have been made.

If you think that you might like to take part in the next exchange and would like further details, ring Martyn Allies, Chairman of the Reading Düsseldorf Association on Reading 472007. Or even better come to a meeting in the Kenet Room of the Civic Centre at 7.30 pm on Thursday, October 26th when you can see a video of Düsseldorf and talk to those who have taken part in past exchanges.



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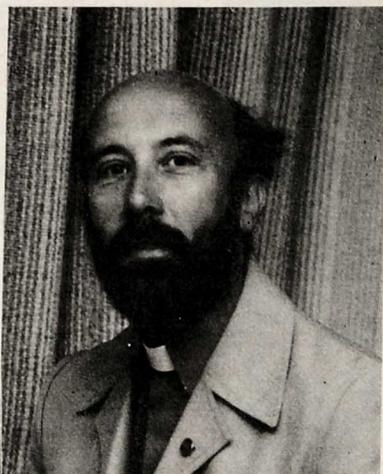
ST. BARNABAS' AUTUMN PREVIEW

AFTER the inevitable quiet of the summer months, as clergy and congregations recharge their batteries for the beginning of the Church's Year, autumn comes to St. Barnabas not with a whimper but a celebratory bang.

On September 10th an old friend of St. Barnabas, Dr. Guy Daynes, former parishioner at St. Barnabas and for the last twenty years a medical missionary in South Africa, was welcomed. But on October 8th autumn celebrations begin in earnest with the Annual Harvest Festival and Supper. This year emphasis is being placed upon the fruits of the Church's labours as they relate to individual members of the congregation. Each member is being asked to think most especially about their

particular contribution to God's world, community, family and friends. Members are contributing photographs of themselves at work, home or play, and also where possible a photograph of the fruits of their labours. These will be displayed on the notice board at the back of the church, and as the harvest gifts are offered at the altar, it is hoped that in this way the Festival will be a meaningful individual and corporate act of thanksgiving.

The following Sunday, October 15th, St. Barnabas will be delighted to welcome for the first time, the new Bishop of Reading, John Bone. A warm welcome will also be given to Chris Justice, Minister of Chapel on the Hill, who needs little introduction to readers



The Revd. Peter Sear will preach at St. Barnabas on November 19th.

of this newspaper. He will be at St. Barnabas on 29th October.

Last, but by no means least, St. Barnabas welcomes the return of an old friend, the Revd. Peter Sear, a former incumbent of the church. Peter will be preaching on November 19th. It will be remembered that he left Emmer Green to become Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Thatcham, a post which he clearly enjoys very much. One of the largest parishes in the diocese to have only one vicar, it could not be more different from Emmer Green, with its young and ever changing population and baptisms numbering about one hundred and seventy per year. Since Peter has been at Thatcham the congregation has doubled in size, necessitating changes to the interior of the

church to accommodate growth. Nevertheless, although St. Barnabas cannot compete with St. Mary's in terms of growth, Peter remembers his time there with pleasure, and has been able to take many Caversham ideas with him to Thatcham, one of which is an ecumenical 'outpost' modelled along the lines of Caversham Park Church. He is also hoping in due course to carry out a joint project with Age Concern to build a Church cum Old People's Day Centre, which it is hoped will develop into an ecumenical project. St. Barnabas wishes him luck in this challenging and exciting venture.

Meanwhile it promises to be a warm and exciting time at St. Barnabas this autumn. After this, what surprises can Christmas have in store?

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

THE summer months have brought many fors and againsts, as any season will. Lovely summer weather, continuing on into September (as I write this), but also many dry and dead looking gardens, and the trees outside our house turning brown making for a premature Autumn.



In the church there have been happenings of celebration and sadness. We congratulate the Barrand household as they celebrated the wedding of not just one but two daughters, Helen and Sally with little Zena being bridesmaid at both.



Congratulations are also in order for Joy and Peter Stephens as they celebrated their Silver wedding in July. We wish them happiness for the years to come. Other celebrations include The Ambassadors reaching the finals in the National Drum Corps competition, and also the British Youth Band Association. It gives the Church added pleasure to hear that as well as gaining good

results in the music world, members of the band have done well in their GCSE exams.

But as I said with the weather, there is always another side of the coin, and it was with sadness that we heard of the death of Gordon Prior, who had been a member of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church for many years. Gordon was a keen and experienced musician, had led the Church Choir, and was also an organist. Before coming to Caversham, Gordon played an equal part in the life of the church at Burghfield Common, where his passing was felt with as much regret as all who knew him in Caversham. In his younger days Gordon had led The Mortimer and Burghfield Choral Society, and was an accomplished soloist, taking part in many Easter works. Many people will remember Gordon, with a picture in their mind of him cycling around Caversham. He was a perfectionist in his music, with a sharp wit (which was with him to the end), he had a love of animals, and was a very keen gardener, but Gordon's greatest

love was for his Methodist church and his Lord. We are the poorer for his passing, but we rejoice that he is now 'safe home' on that heavenly shore. We wish to assure his daughter Mary of our continued support in her time of bereavement and readjustment.



August is also a time for comings and goings within the Methodist Church, as this is when ministers take up their new appointments. At Gosbrook Road, it was time to say goodbye to the Rev. Brian Skinner and his wife Barbara who move on to take up work in Nottingham, and hello and welcome to the Rev. John Boakes and his wife Doreen and their family. Karen and David Boakes will be living away from home, but can be assured of a warm welcome when they come home to Caversham for holidays. We do wish John and Doreen a happy stay in Caversham and look forward to sharing with them in the work of the church in all its many aspects.

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TO TRAIN FOR THE MINISTRY

Kevin Dunn, who has been a member of St. Peter's choir for a number of years, begins training for the Ordained Ministry in September at St. Stephen's House, Oxford. On Sunday 6th August at the Family Eucharist Kevin spoke of his vision and vocation. He spoke of the many distractions there were in life today, each one vying for our attention, and of how easy it was for us not to be listening to just what God was calling us to do. He reminded us of how the disciples listened, and followed.

He questioned just who and what a priest was. Was he just a paid Christian, a man of theology with certain specified duties to carry

out? No, the priesthood stood for much more than that. He believed it was a state of being involved, a living symbol of what we believe the Church to be, a focus of the church in humanity, and humility. The calling to the priesthood was a daunting responsibility, but he was quite sure that provided we continued to listen to, and heed the voice of God we would finally be led to Him and to His love.

It is a great privilege for St. Peter's to sponsor 'our own Ordinand' (though the vocation began in Co. Durham, Kevin's home county). We wish him well in his new vocation and will be following his progress with especial interest.

SILVER CELEBRATION



A closely guarded secret was exposed after the Family Eucharist at St. Peter's Church on Sunday, 20th August, when the churchwardens presented a startled Rector with a crystal glass flower vase and a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion of Angela

and Richard Kingsbury's Silver Wedding. The actual celebration was on 5th September (some may care to note the date to remind them of a Golden occasion later). Congratulations are offered to them with love and best wishes for the many years to come.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

"IT'S MISSION TIME"

By the time this issue of the Bridge is published, Partnership Mission will be in full swing. We give a warm welcome to our "partners" from Flat Rock Baptist Church, South Carolina, who have arrived after a 3,000 mile journey. The Revd Norman Ponder and the other five members of the team are joining members from Caversham Baptist Free Church and Caversham Park Ecumenical Church in a week long mission. The week concludes with services on Sunday 8th October at

10.30am and 6.30pm, to which everyone is welcome.

On the previous day — Saturday 7th October — there will be an open-air witness involving music and drama in St Martins shopping precinct starting at 10.30am, and during the week there are many opportunities for the teams to meet with Christians and non-Christians alike through coffee mornings, house to house visiting, a Mens Supper and open Housegroups.

A Harvest Supper will start the week off on Saturday 30th September, and the Sunday services will form part of the outreach programme.

AND KIDS — DON'T FORGET! You are invited to a Praise Party for 5-11 year olds from 5.30-7.45 at the Baptist Church on Friday 6th October.

A full report of the week will appear in the November issue of the Caversham Bridge.



Wendy Stormont and Douglas Smith receiving their awards in the St. Barnabas logo design competition.

ST. ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

Thirty people ruefully surveyed the weather when they got up on Thursday 10th August. They were due to set off on an outing to Winchester with St Andrew's Fellowship and it was raining, very hard! However by the time they boarded the coach it was already easing off and by the time they arrived in Winchester it had stopped and the umbrellas and mackintoshes were left behind while the party set off to ex-

plere the lovely old city. Indeed by lunch time the sun was shining and cardigans had to be discarded too!

After lunch the coach was reboarded and the party departed to the Hillier gardens and arboretum at Ampfield. This proved to be a most interesting spot with a vast acreage beautifully planted and landscaped. It had started

in quite a small way and grown and grown. It now belongs to Hampshire County Council who maintain it to a very high standard. Parts are planted with quite small trees which will not reach maturity for a number of years. Tea was taken in the house where the founder, Sir Harold Hillier and his wife used to live. This had magnificent views up a long avenue. The main house is not used for any specific pur-

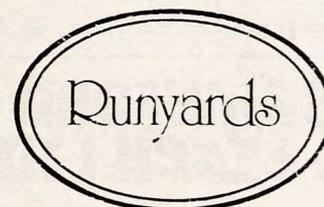
pose at present as it has not long been vacated.

After a look round the nursery and shop a tired but happy party again got back on the coach for the homeward journey after a very enjoyable day, thanks to the good organisation of Ken Bond.

CHRISTMAS

ARE YOU THINKING AHEAD?

Dates for copy for the December issue are Friday 27 October (advertising) and Wed 1st Nov (to Church House).



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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 Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road, Tel: 478239

The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road. 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 Saunders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, 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.

The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue. Tel: 474138.

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.

MEN OF ST ANDREW'S

Norman Kent, St Andrew's Impressario, Conjuror and Public Relations Officer, did the equivalent of pulling a rabbit out of the hat by getting together twenty-eight men in St Andrew's Hall to discuss the desirability of re-forming an organisation which had folded up twenty-five or so years ago.

After a delightful supper (provided by the wives of some of the men) the meeting heartily agreed to support the New Men of St Andrew's. Norman Kent agreed to be Chairman for the first year and Steve Barden, both arms being twisted, agreed to be Secretary, also for the first year.

The Reverend P. Egglestone

The congregation of Caversham Baptist Free Church has learnt with regret that they will be losing the services of the Rev. Philip Egglestone later this year. After three years in Caversham, he has accepted the call to the pastorate of Immanuel Baptist Church at Southsea, where he will start his new ministry in December. Phil will be greatly missed by the members of the Baptist Church and by his many friends in Caversham who do, of course, wish him well.

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A M.A.D. EVENING FOR ONE WORLD WEEK!

ONE World Week, 1989, takes as its theme "Value for People". An organising group, made up of people from several churches, has been working since the summer to organise an event with wide appeal. Their deliberations have resulted in an evening of the like of which has never been seen before in Caversham and Mapledurham which should, on no account, be missed!

The evening is entitled: "Value and be valued: a M.A.D. evening of home-grown entertainment". There will be two evenings — Wednesday, 25th October, commencing at 8.00 p.m. in Mapledurham Pavilion, Upper Woodcote Road, and also Friday, 27th October, commencing at 7.00 p.m. same venue; (the earlier time is to enable younger children to be there). What will actually

happen — you will have to come and see! (if only the organisers knew!). The only hint that can be dropped is that if you conclude that M.A.D. stands for music, art and drama, — you could be on the right track. But you do not need to be all or any of these things to come! Tickets are £1 each, 50p for children, including light refreshments. These are necessarily limited because of

space. Watch out for details in your church of who is selling them. In case of difficulty, ring Martin Allies, 472007, Connie Jarrett, 477562, John Madeley, 476063 or Keith Stephen-Evans, 473619.

Sunday, 22nd October. Preacher: Keith Saunders. Many churches will not be holding their normal service that evening. So please come — to both the mad and the non-mad! If you would like transport to either, this can be arranged.

Service

There will also be an ecumenical service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road, 6.30 p.m. on

John Madeley



HAVE YOU A STORY TO TELL?

By E. Burnell

By H. D. Marshall

MY wife and I, having alighted from a car a few steps from the gate leading to the church on a recent Sunday morning, found the pathway blocked by a small group of women and one man, none of whom we knew, chatting together. The man, seeing we were unable to pass, stepped aside, and, with a smile that I can only describe as radiant, full of brotherly love said, 'It's a lovely morning', to which I smilingly

agreed. He further hoped that we would 'have a good day', and I wished him the same. What, to me, enhanced that brief encounter was that he was of a race that some people despise, insult, and discriminate against; the colour of his skin and facial features showed that he was of African origin. We had exchanged greetings of goodwill; we had fulfilled Christ's command that we love one another. Of such is the Kingdom.

ON September 4th at Church House some forty people of the district were invited by the Reading Caversham Academy Art Centres to a lecture on the rise and fall of Reading's great Abbey told in slides of the paintings depicting the event, now in obscurity in the Abbey Gate buildings, Reading, where the glory and heritage of Reading's citizens is lost to a generation of their children and visitors to the town.

The paintings were the gift of Dr. Hurry to the Reading Council at Queen Victoria's death

for viewing at all times by the people of Berkshire.

For twenty years I have sought by appeals to Art Groups and School children to have them brought out to the public without success. Now that the new Art Gallery is ready their rightful place is there from where they were taken to make

room for an exhibition some years ago, and placed in the Abbey Gatehouse.

It is possible to see these paintings with a group leader and members of the public wishing to do so can phone me, Edward Burnell, 478496 when a date can be arranged with the Art Gallery Manager by myself.

GOLDEN WEDDING

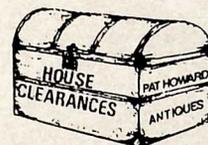


E. S. Archer.

Hearty congratulations to Richard and Flora Jackson. They celebrated their Golden Wedding on 3rd September. Richard is the long-serving organist at St. Barnabas' Church.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE IN CAVERSHAM



We have set aside a small grassy area on which to grow wild flowers, though a few are old established, such as St. John's wort, white campion, knapweed, ox-eye daisy, cowslips, agri-mony, horseshoe vetch and teasels that come up each year from seed dropped the previous year. The flower heads are loved by bees when in bloom, and by goldfinches when the seeds are ripe. A large clump of rosebay willow herb, as well as making a fine show attracts the speckled wood butterfly and the holly blue, never so numerous as this year, and the silver Y moth that flies by day as well as night. Golden rod is just coming into flower. Red campion, harebell and scabious, started from bought seed, are getting established, and ragged

robin has flowered for the second year.



At the end of this area we have made an artificial pond, the grassy banks reaching down to the water, giving a very natural appearance; where water lillies, kingcup, the greater willow herb, and yellow iris grow. Frogs spawn which produce other frogs, tiny creatures that hop out of the way as we walk around. Dragon-flies, darters, hawkers and damsel flies, hover over and around the water. One end of the pond is shelving and shallow, where birds come to drink and bath, fly to a nearby tree and preen themselves. With August here, the birds have ceased their singing, apart from the gentle cooing of the wood pigeon and



Chris Secker, a puppy walker for Guide Dog for the Blind, with trainee guide dog Yasmin, talking to children at Caversham Library.



Tina Hearne, a long standing lecturer for the R.S.P.C.A., gave a talk with slides at Caversham Library on "Responsible Pet Care."

collared dove amongst the trees. Sparrows and the various finches have left for the cornfields, eating their fill before and after the combine has done its work. Soon the birds will return to crop the ripening berries of the elderberry and hawthorn bushes. House martins and swallows weave the sky, eating and building up their strength for their long journey south, yet to come. Huge snow white cumulus clouds move slowly in a blue sky, that may later drop rain, hail or snow according to conditions.



I like to go outside on a bright sunny morning when the dew is on the grass and see

what appears to be a lawn studded with precious stones, diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires, a wonderful trick of nature. Oh, there is much to be seen and enjoyed if you look around and above.



Owing to lack of rain, apart from an occasional heavy downpour, our stream has ceased to run for many weeks, so this week we have been deepening the channel (ditching, I suppose the farmers would call it) ready for when the rains come and fill up the wide open end that we are confident will again attract the mallards.

Pictures by E S Archer

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Do any of the older folk who are reading this today remember the music-hall? The excitement, the joy of just going on a Saturday night to the old style music-hall in London or one of the provincial cities. This was before the days of television when the family home became more of a centre of entertainment, and just for a while at St. Andrew's Hall in August members were taken back to the days when music-hall reigned supreme. Mr. K. Sands it was who said that Victorian music-halls began to form themselves around 1840, when coffee houses in summer wanted to attract customers, so free programmes of entertainment by artistes were arranged. It was quite a few years before a charge was made.

So many places were mentioned, the Eagle in City Road, The Oxford with its high-class chandelier and decorated stage, Covent Garden where the aristocracy went. Later artistes would perform at the Edinburgh Festival. As the name implies, music-hall was predominantly music, music that you could hum, sing, whistle, dance to if you like, and which could be played on the piano in the parlour of so many homes. People went along to see certain acts, not only music but also tightrope walkers and fire-eating performers. So many interesting characters remained to be mentioned, engravings to be shown and songs to be heard that it is hoped Mr. Sands will come another time.

Rosehill WI

Mrs Weller welcomed members to the September meeting which was well attended. Events held during the August break were very successful, helped by the beautiful weather.

Especially good was the outing to Uppark House, so members were very sorry to hear about the fire there which occurred exactly two weeks later.

As a result of the Garden Party and Ploughman's Lunch the Institute was able to give £100 to Cancer Research.

The speaker was Mrs. Heather Wickham who demonstrated very competently microwave cookery, actually cooking five different dishes, recipe sheets for which were available.

The competition was for "A Portion of a Summer Dessert" which was won by Mrs. Joan Martin.

Emmer Green TG

The July Meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was entertained by a talk given by Mrs Rita Noyes reminiscing on past Federation events. This brought back many happy memories and recalled old friends.

Although the next meeting of the guild was not until September, the rambling group continued to meet and get the benefit of the long hot summer. The Social Studies group, too, were not idle having had a guided tour round the Post Office Sorting Office in Caversham Road and a visit to the Crown Court in Tilehurst Road to learn of the proceedings and to sit in on some of the cases being tried. Nor were The Arts and Crafts group left out, visiting Stonor Park on a beautiful day in July, touring the house, chapel and grounds.

Mr and Mrs E. Weaver kindly lent their garden for a very well attended evening garden party, rounding off a very busy four weeks.

The monthly meetings resumed in September with a full programme for the coming year. New members and visitors are always welcome to St. Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month.

St Peter's Wives Group

St. Peter's Wives have continued to meet during the summer. The speaker for June was unable to come at the last minute, due to sickness, and instead, taking advantage of the superb summer weather, members enjoyed a mid-summer walk along the Thames.

On July 15th members again served teas at the Sue Ryder Summer Fete. They made a delicious array of cakes and cookies, which were quickly sold.

Biographer Barbara Stoney delighted again at the July meeting with tales of research for her latest book and the people involved.

The August ramble took members through Bugs Bottom on a lovely summer evening, and they were able to appreciate the peace and tranquility of the countryside, and enjoy a glorious sunset.

St. Peter's Wives now look forward to an interesting Autumn programme, and new members are always welcome.

Caversham Community Association

The members met for a Tramps' supper and social on the 7th August. At this meeting there were prizes for the best costumes. Although the competitors were few, the members who came dressed for a life on the roads had taken considerable trouble and deserved their prizes. Evelyn Cook was the winner, with George Feast and Muriel Waite in second and third places respectively. May Payne and Alan Osborne were the judges.

Margaret Carter was welcomed again to the club the following week. This time her theme was Flower Arranging and Ornaments.

Mrs. Carter made some beautiful arrangements using some of her own favourite ornaments. A lovely old teapot made a centre-piece for pink and mauve flowers, a candlestick arranged with golden privet, ivy, yellow carnations and alstroemeria and a framed picture surrounded with golden rod, carnations and montbretia, were amongst the designs.

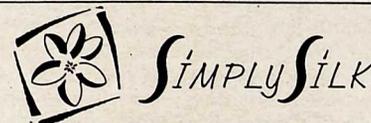
Altogether the flower arrangements looked lovely and, with the helpful advice given by Mrs. Carter during her talk, the members were given inspiration for their own efforts. Beryl Latcham, the Vice-Chairman, thanked Mrs. Carter for an enjoyable evening.

A whistdrive was well attended on the 21st August. Doreen Crawley supervised the proceedings and awarded first prize to Arthur Painter. The second prizewinner was Florence Abell. Any members not wishing to play whist could play other card games, etc.

Members who took part in the sponsored slim, for the Battle Hospital Appeal, have now completed their efforts as they set themselves a time limit. They are now busy collecting the money from fellow club members, families and friends.

There was an outing during the month to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The members met on the 9th August, a sunny day, and after a pleasant coach trip arrived at the famous home for old soldiers. They were met by their guides, two of the Chelsea Pensioners, who looked very smart in their uniforms. The members were then conducted over the grounds, the Chapel, the magnificent Great Hall — used as a dining room, and the Museum. The guides, including those in the chapel and museum were informative and welcoming and the members enjoyed their visit. After a cup of tea and the chance to buy souvenirs at the gift shop, it was time to leave for home after a very happy afternoon.

Turn to page 11



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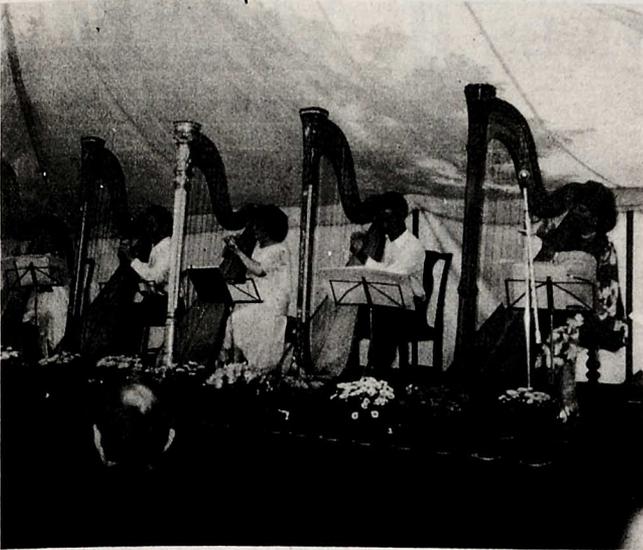
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Harpists at a concert in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Left to right they are: Siao Yen Lein, Ieuan Jones, Marisa Robles and Angel Padill-Crespo. The concert raised £1,400.

ANYONE FOR ANTIQUES?

Are you interested in antiques? The Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society has an interesting programme this winter ranging from The Treasures of Oxford, Stamp Boxes, History of Newspapers, Seventeenth Century Furniture, to the Glasgow School of Art. Two winter outings are usually arranged. The Society meets on the first Wednesday of the months October to December and February to May (except in April when they meet on the 11th) at the Chiltern Edge School 7.30pm in the Audio-Visual Room. The Annual Subscription is £8.50 for members. Visitor's fee is £1.50 per lecture, a refund being given if they join the Society. Correspondence to Mrs. J. Bowen, C.E.A.A.S., c/o Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, Reading.

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On Saturday 14 October 1989 at St. Andrew's Church Hall, the Acorn Christian Healing Trust in conjunction with St. Andrew's Mothers Union is offering a Taster Day in Christian Listening. Although this day workshop is intended

as an introduction to the full twelve week Christian Listeners training programme, which it is hoped to run early in 1990, it can quite easily stand alone, giving those who attend some teaching and some practice in

listening to others and to God. The programme starts at 10am and closes at 4.15pm and refreshments will be provided. There will be a small charge to cover costs. If you are interested in attending the Taster Day and would like more information, please speak to your clergy or telephone Fi Radford. Tel: 483965.



From page 10

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

Spring and Summer have been lively times at the above Club. Helped by lovely weather attendances have been high and the several out-door activities greatly enjoyed. In the early part of the year the variety of places and topics presented by our speakers ranged from New Zealand (slides and talk by Mr. Frew) to our local woods (a fascinating talk with slides, on wood turning, by Mrs. Priest). Mrs. Bennett showed us Zambia and Mr. Ebbs took us on a journey to Australia. Mrs. Beek 'walked' us along the Berkshire Ridge and with Miss Tyler we 'visited' Rome. Lovely and appropriate music accompanied our old friend Mr. Kirby's

delightful carousel of slides. Thank you to all these friends who took us in imagination to such interesting places and gave so willingly of their time and fellowship.

With Fred and Ralph, The Firtree Singers and the Rendevous Singers we had three splendid afternoons of songs and poems. An excellent tea was provided at the Easter Party by members and the committee with the usual Easter bonnet competition and dancing. The 270 dolls brought by Mrs. Williams on July 12th provoked great interest and comment, as did Mrs. Shattock's talk on The Save the Children Fund the previous week. A collection was taken and several interesting and useful purchases were made from her stall. Saville Gardens were visited in May, a superb time to see the magnificent Azaleas and Rhododendrons. Worthing was the venue for our Summer Outing. It was good weather on both occasions but the sun really shone on our Garden Party on July

19th. This Autumn we have speakers on Norway, Russia, Italy, Germany and Derbyshire with Outings to gardens in Oxfordshire and in December the usual Christmas Lunch.

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St John's
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9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service

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
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11.00am Parish Communion

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