

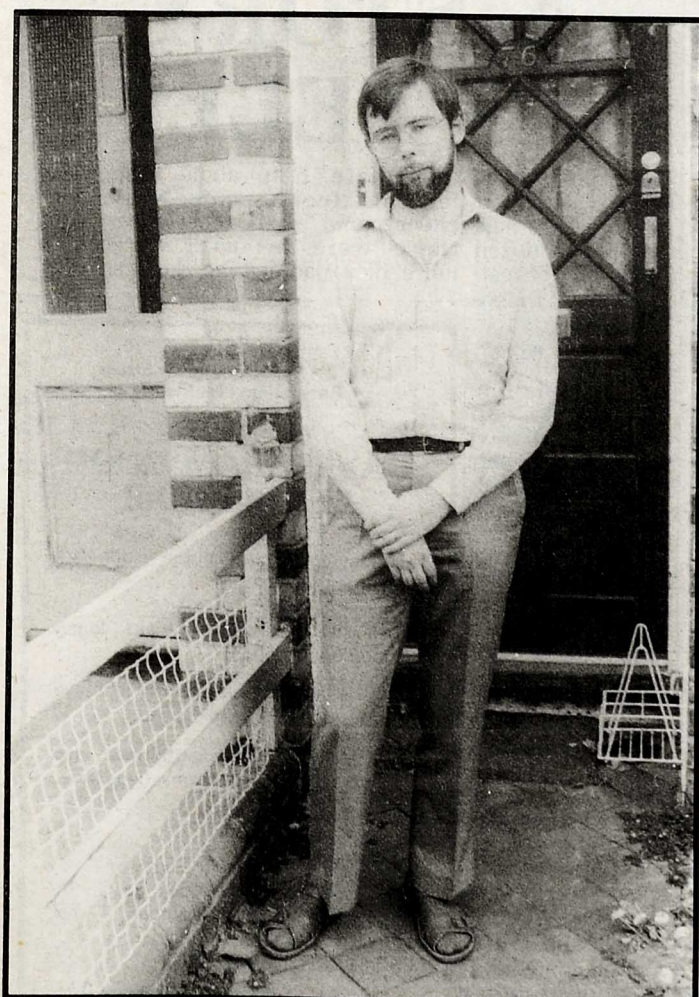


LICENSED AS READERS

On May 13th in a service at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, Margaret Dimmick and Philip Blackburn were licensed as Anglican Readers. This marked the culmination of three years of training, writing essays, praying and leading worship to gain experience, and it was fitting therefore that there should be a celebration of this event.

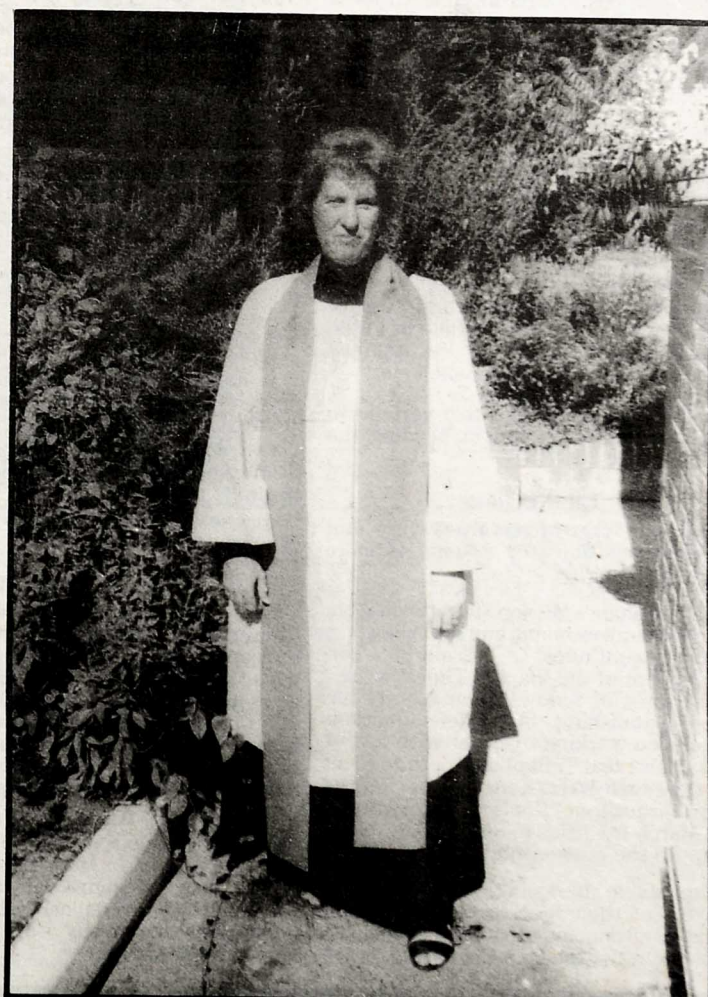
On that rather cool Saturday afternoon, members of the Churches gathered before the service for a picnic in Christchurch Meadows, and then the invited guests made their way to the packed Cathedral to hear Margaret and Philip, along with many other Readers from all over the Diocese, being welcomed into the fellowship of Readers and given authority to preach and minister.

The ministry of the laity was the theme addressed by the Bishop of Oxford on May 13th. Readers are a potent reminder that not the clergy alone, but all Christians together have a ministry to fulfil. It is to be hoped that many others will hear God calling them and respond, as Margaret, Philip and others have done, by offering themselves to His Service.



E.S. Archer

Mr. Philip Blackburn is based on St. John's Church, Lower Caversham. Philip, who is married to Linda (herself one of the Christian Listener's Group) lives in King's Road, Caversham. He is originally from Macclesfield, but has lived in the Reading Area for more than ten years. He is a Computer Programmer/Designer and trained as Reader at the Reading Christian Centre, St. Mary's. Philip's favourite hobby is reading; he is presently leading a Bible Study Group at St. John's.



E.S. Archer

Margaret Dimmick has been a member of Caversham Park Ecumenical Church for a long time. She brings to her preaching both her ecumenical experience and her concern for political and social issues, as well as a love for Jesus and the Gospel. However as a Reader she will not 'belong' exclusively to Caversham Park and indeed her ministry and preaching has already been warmly welcomed at other churches round Caversham.

TALKING POINT

By the Rev. Dennis Weller
Caversham Baptist Church



"ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN" — OR IS IT?

The World

AT this time of year most Christian churches celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving: town and suburban churches join their rural counterparts in displaying the fruits of harvest. One of our best-known harvest hymns begins:

*"Come, ye thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin".*

The blessings of God in creation have always formed an essential part of the Biblical message, so too has the responsibility of mankind for looking-after God's world and ours.

The situation in today's world forbids any complacency upon our part; what it reinforces is the Biblical doctrine of stewardship. We may only sing "All is safely gathered in" and mean it, if we are mindful of what God wants us to do in our time.

In some parts of the world 'winter storms' have begun to overtake us in the form ecological disasters. We are just beginning to wake up to judgement!

In this as in everything that pertains to mankind, salvation lies in heeding the Gospel of Christ.

The Kingdom

The time for sowing is always now, but perhaps the time for reaping is more urgently upon us?

Billy Graham's Mission 89 has ended, but the work of welcoming and discipling new converts continues. Of Mission 89 a correspondent of the 'Baptist Times' writes, "The spirit of fellowship and unity has been astonishing. All denominations have been working together with lots of prayer and zeal". Baptist superintendent for the North-West, Keith Hobbs, felt the same enthusiasm "I'm looking forward to the March for Jesus in September, it will keep up the momentum".

Baptists in Berkshire will value the prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ of all denominations as they embark upon their "Partnership Mission" together

with fellow Baptists from Piedmont Association, South Carolina.

There is a tremendous amount of hard work being done in our churches. Think of it in terms of the sermons we preach, the meetings we hold, the committees we serve, the teaching we give in our Sunday schools, the support we give to charitable agencies. But cannot all this be seen as preparing the ground, and sowing the seed? Where are all the babies and parents whom we have welcomed in Christ's name?

Where are all the young people who have passed through our organisations?

Where are the married couples who have made their solemn vows before God?

Perhaps we are waiting for God to reap our harvest for us?

"God gives the increase" means that God causes the crops to grow; it doesn't mean that God reaps the harvest and gathers it in.

It is OUR job to reap.

In the Church

The really important things in mission often happen after the mission team has gone home. If we had an influx of new converts would we know what to do with them?

If we were faced with a string of broken relationships would we know how to listen and how to respond?

It is the Church's job to reap the harvest of lives dedicated to Christ.

In our personal life

We need to ask not only whether the Church as an organisation is doing its job of reaping, but also whether in our own lives the harvest has been reaped. Many of us may thank God for the background of a Christian home and church. A lot of people have done their job in preparing the ground and sowing the seed. Have we reaped the harvest of their prayers and dreams for us?

When we next sing "All is safely gathered in", let us think not only of the natural harvest — important though that is — but of the spiritual harvest, and of our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

JOTTINGS FROM THE PAST

Sixty years ago, the St. Peter's parish magazine reported that one of their curates, Mr. Morris, would be leaving as he had had a call to work overseas. He had clearly made his mark in Caversham where he was "deservedly popular.... and has been a most able and indefatigable lieutenant." The article goes on to tell the parishioners that to find a replacement is going to be difficult. "Search has been going on for many months". Sweetly, the report ends, "There are, of course, always

curates to be had, and the Rector is never without applications when a vacancy on the staff becomes public. But that is not the way to get the type of man we are accustomed to on our staff".

In the same magazine is mention of the Parochial Fete and the last paragraph reads "We are depending on volunteers, and it is no excuse to say "I was not asked". This is to ask YOU. There will be a great Fancy Dress competi-

tion; ladies whether workers or not, are asked to dress in period of fancy costumes!"

A great Thanksgiving service was held for the King's recovery. The sermon was published in the Reading Standard and a copy was sent to the King. His private secretary acknowledged it.

There were four burials that month. Gertrude Tuck aged 26. David Workman 1 month. Kathleen Hiles aged 22 and Amelia Adams aged 80.

HAVE YOU A STORY TO TELL?

The front page of my current Reading Chronicle lists half a dozen paragraphs of really nasty happenings — theft, rape, arson and so on. Immediate help about than nasty left me feeling cheery and that experiences with there were far us all and write to more nice people the Editors.

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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.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

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

All contributions for Oct issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 6 September.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 1 September.

The dates for November will be Wednesday 4 Oct and Friday 29 Sept.

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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We must do the opposite and readers are invited to contribute their own stories. I will offer my simple one for starters. My daughter was going on holiday early in the morning on which a miniature sheet of stamps was to be on sale at the Post Office. She is a keen collector of English stamps and asked me to buy a sheet for her. Mid-morning I went into the Prospect Street PO — they had already sold out. Mr. Fussell immediately phoned other local offices and at the second attempt found me a sheet at Emmer Green. He needn't have done it; I might have got to Emmer Green eventually, but his

RAYMOND WILTSHIRE

Do you remember the days when, if you landed a good job, you felt you were settled for life? Now, if you haven't made several moves in your early years you are looked on as unenterprising. Being upwardly mobile is the name of the game. So it was very refreshing indeed to meet Raymond Wiltshire, who has worked on the Mapledurham Estate since 1948.

Raymond was born and lived in Wiltshire until he moved with his parents to Caversham in 1944. At the age of 15 he started work under Mr. John Bucknell, tenant of Park and Rose Farms on the Mapledurham Estate until his death in 1954. Then Mr. John Eyston, owner of the estate took the farms back and Raymond with them, and eventually Blagrove Farm, Bottom Farm, New Farm and Whittles Farm were all brought back into the estate under one farm manager. Raymond has worked for five managers in his career.

When Raymond started, there were nine working horses and two tractors. He was mainly concerned with horses, and delivered milk to Mapledurham Village by horse and milkfloat. The horses were sold in 1954. Thereafter mechanisation came into its own and he drove tractors and combine harvesters. The first tractor he drove was very basic with no cab; now they have luxury cabs and air conditioning. Raymond was concerned mostly with the arable side, but he also did relief milking, assisting with the sheep and tending the beef

cattle.

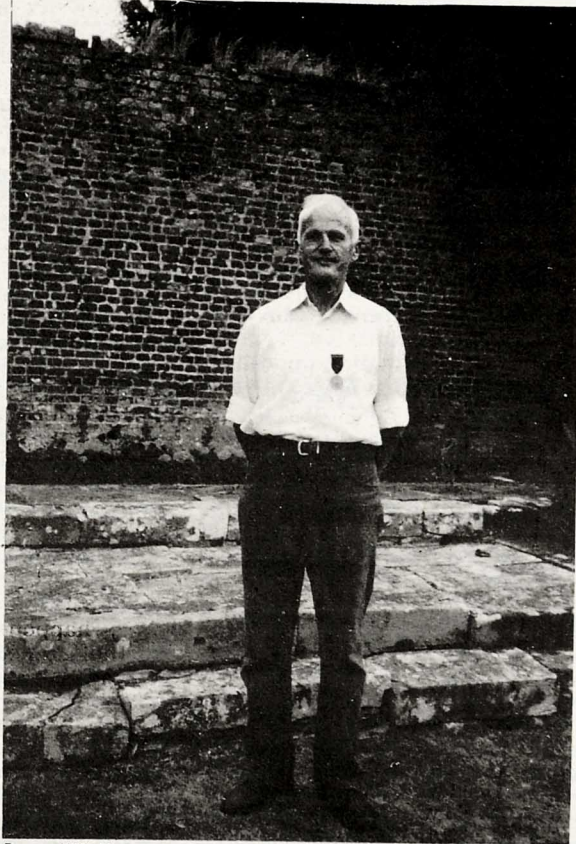
Raymond has, of course, seen many changes. In his early days, all cattle were driven by road and he made many journeys from Twyford, Checkendon and the fields near the Richfield Estate and the river. In those days the estate roads were gravel tracks. The main Woodcote Road going north ran to the east side of the Pack Saddle. He misses the elms and remembers the devastation caused by their disease and death, especially the splendid avenue leading to the front of Mapledurham House.

Raymond lives with his wife and their three daughters in an estate house tucked snugly between two thatched cottages. They are members of the Reading Baptist chapel. He is now in charge of the lawns and gardens at the big house, as well as keeping in trim the gardens of the holiday cottages. This is no easy job but to him a satisfying one and one which he does with skill and care and an eye to beauty.

On 4th July, in the company of his wife and daughters and in the presence of Mr. John and Lady Anne Eyston and their son Edward, Raymond was presented with a 40 years long service medal of the Royal Agricultural Society by the Earl of Selbourne. A fringe benefit is free admission for life for himself and his wife to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh. Here is a contented man and we shall all look forward confidently to the occasion 10 years hence when Raymond receives his 50 years' medal.



The 40 years long service medal.



Raymond Wiltshire by one of the new flower beds he has created.

READIBUS

This is the second part of the recent article on Readibus, which explains the booking procedure.

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us on 591767, or write to 24 Westcote Road, Reading. You can ask for someone to come and visit you.

Do pass on this information about Readibus. I'm sure most of you reading this must know someone who may need to use Readibus because they cannot manage the ordinary buses.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

NEW MAN AT THE HELM

The departure of Nicholas Ridley from the Department of the Environment naturally gave rise to speculation about how this might affect Bugs Bottom. It is a moot point as to how much influence a Secretary of State has on the individual decisions his department makes, but there is no doubt that during Nicholas Ridley's term of office a number of exceedingly unpopular measures were taken.

Water privatisation and the poll tax brought hostile reactions nationwide, whilst planning appeal decisions have alienated local populations as more and more they favoured the developer and rode rough shod over local views. Bugs Bottom was only one of many such decisions, the final one that really set the shire heartlands ablaze, as well as an effigy of himself, being Foxley Wood, the bucolic name dreamt up by developers for an area of Hampshire around Bramshill which they want to cover with 4,800 houses. The appeal went against the developers but Nicholas Ridley overturned it. Small wonder the local populace was up in arms.

Now that Chris Patten, who has a reputation of being 'greener' than Nicholas Ridley, is in charge of the Environment, will it make any difference to Bugs Bottom? To the result of the High Court action, it will make none, for the judiciary's decision will be on legal grounds alone. Should the decision be in favour of

the Borough Council, the Secretary of State is not bound to accept it, but he must review the case. One had little confidence that Nicholas Ridley would be swayed by a High Court decision once he had his mind made up. Perhaps Chris Patten will be more flexible, for it takes someone with an extraordinary lack of sensitivity to ignore the findings of a High Court judge. One reminder. It was not Nicholas Ridley but Kenneth Baker who signed the original Public Inquiry report, saying he "was minded" to grant permission. It was on that tiny chink that the massive subsequent opposition has been built and the developers held off for a further two years. The Foxley Wood People should take courage, as that was the expression used in their case too.

Foxley Wood may not be Reading, let alone Caversham, but a large settlement so close to Reading would have its repercussions on all who live here. The bell tolls for all of us.

HOT AND DRY

It would be perverse to complain of the long hot dry summer when three wet dismal ones preceded it. What does seem ridiculous is that there should be water shortages just because we get more sunshine than usual. These areas affected by a hose and sprinkler ban who have been struggling with the aid of a watering can to keep their favourite plants from shrivelling up, feel less than amused at being told to use the bath water. It is possible to recycle quite a

lot of water, but just how do you set about using the bath water, always assuming it is not foaming with bubble bath? Do you trog up and downstairs with a pail, a particularly thankless task if you have dutifully had a shallow bath, or do you attempt to catch it as it comes out of the waste pipe, or do you even fix up some sophisticated syphoning system? Thames Water do not actually tell us.

However, far more serious than this is the pollution of our drinking water. It is not easy to get accurate information but it is not denied that there has been an increase in the sewage effluent pumped into the Thames and its tributaries. Some people suspect it is even worse than that, by accident if not design. Boiling water can remove the danger from organic pollution, but not from chemical and radio-active pollution and there is no doubt that discharges from factories and at Pangbourne, from Aldermaston AWRE, find their way into our waterways.

It is entirely wrong that the country that led the world in provision of a plentiful and pure water supply should now be unable to provide its citizens with drinking water they can trust. There should be no question of feeling obliged to buy bottled water or boiling it. Unfortunately there is no quick and easy solution. There seems no reason why privatisation should improve matters, as there cannot be, or certainly should not be, big money in keeping people

supplied with a basic unglamorous necessity of life.

NEW RAILWAY STATION

The hot weather only added to the miseries of commuters trapped by strike torn trains. These regular users of the railway soon familiarised themselves with the idiosyncracies of the new railway station, and in the weeks of the strikes were often thankful to get back to it all, but those of us who use it less frequently are still earning to deal with its shortcomings.

Whilst there has been some improvement to the information service, the single small kiosk, which for a long time was manned by one person, is still an inadequate

substitute for the Travel Centre and information office it replaced. The intention apparently is that the booking offices can be used for this purpose, but who wants to make a long inquiry about the best way of getting from A to B on a Sunday, or what kind of rail card to

purchase, when immediately behind is someone with a train to catch? It will not do, any more than the old style of queueing system will do. It is time a single-queue system was introduced, whether or not the booking offices double as information offices.

There is a very long trek from the dropping off and car park area at the back of the station to the booking offices at the front, which themselves should have been situated much closer to the escalator. You then have to trail all the way back to your platform. If you have luggage, it is just too bad, because it is rare indeed to find a single trolley on the bridge.

It is not even possible to drop someone at the front of the station except with the greatest difficulty, for what the railings, the airport buses, and the pedestrian crossing, there is no available space even if you are

Turn to page 5

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CAVERSHAM — A SAVA CENTRE



The paper collection

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

From page 4

prepared to disregard the yellow lines. Yet there is empty space, of no particular amenity value, outside the station, that could easily be utilised for dropping off only, without turning it into a free car park for someone wanting to drop in to one of the nearby pubs or do a spot of shopping. It is also rather unnerving for women waiting at the back of the station at night to pick someone up, as it is far less frequented than the front.

The platforms, apart from No.4 which has had a face lift and been

slightly raised so left to look at it that the short legged closely enough to have less difficulty in getting onto trains, remain of its design, after as they were they have run up before, which and down means they have escalators, to and the same dingy fro across the dirt-attracting surface and are cold places to wait, with the only refuge panels when the sun is shining on them and humped into the bargain. Instead Philistine remarks like 'spending money on a bar of Toblerone instead of on a decent information office' are heard, which may be deplorable but is understandable.

Without wishing to knock the glass sculpture, because it is good to see a large enterprise commissioning works of art, the problem is that few people have time

We waited long enough for a new station. We had to have the Apex Plaza in order to pay for it. We deserved something that was more consumer friendly.

130 YEARS OLD Many happy returns to Hemdean House School, 130 years old this year. It celebrated with a party for past and present pupils and members of staff. Bob Avis, and old boy who left the preparatory department in 1921 and Mrs. Ruth Hawthorne who beat him by several years as she joined the school while Queen Victoria was

Go to Waitrose's car park on the first Saturday in the month and you will find a large van being stacked high with bundles of newsprint. Several charities man this effort to save paper and they each take a share in the profits. It is not only newspaper that is reclaimed here — in a far corner of this car park is a bottle bank and beside it another container for used tin cans — clean please, and more will fit in if squashed!



Caversham has always had an excellent record for helping to re-cycle usable material. Indeed there is hardly a moment during the busy part of any day when one cannot hear the sound of glass being dropped into the bottle bank.

Oxfam take tin foil, and sometimes someone there will take used stamps — so keep on saving and perhaps one of the more serious national newspapers will get it right in the end. There have been at least two articles fairly recently in one of them saying that we do not make enough effort to save usable material in this country. They should come to Caversham on the first Saturday morning every month and see for themselves.



By the way, there is also a new collection point for newspapers at Rivermead Leisure Centre in Richfield Avenue. Like the one in Caversham it is open until 12.30 on the first Saturday morning of every month.

ONE WORLD WEEK OCTOBER 22-29 ADVANCE NOTICE

This year's theme is "Value for People". There will be an ecumenical service on Sunday, 22nd October at 6.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road, and a "Value for People

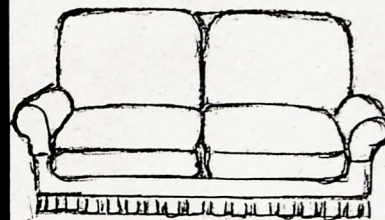
Cabaret" evening on Wednesday, 25th October at Mapledurham Pavilion, Upper Woodcote Road at 8pm. Further details in the next issue of the "Bridge" but, in the meantime — please diary!

still on the throne, cut the birthday cake which bore the school crest and its new motto 'Gaudete et ugade', chosen from the competition amongst the girls. The new school song, with words by Nicola Collings, a pupil leaving this year, was given its first public airing. It bore little relation to the improving sentiments expressed in the traditional school song, which probably explains why it was sung with gusto. The school is certainly looking forward with confidence to the future, whilst being proud of its long past.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST PETER'S CHERUBIM



A garden filled with Cherubim.

D. Bennett

On the hottest day of summer over fifty people, babies, toddlers, small children, plus one or two 'old' mothers or grandmothers, even a couple of

fathers, filled the small garden at 33 Woodcote road for the Cherubim end-of-session picnic.



"Cherubim" meets in St Peter's every Thursday afternoon at 2.30 for a short service, with action songs, stories and percussion band (even one-year-olds can join in that!) This is followed by tea and chat for mothers, squash and toys for children. Newcomers are very welcome — any Thursday from 14th September onwards.



Just come, or phone Mrs Doreen Bennett (473096) for details.

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS "Partnership Mission"

Preparations are now well advanced for the Partnership Mission to be run by Caversham Baptist Free Church later this month. Six members of Flat Rock Baptist Church, South Carolina, led by their minister, Revd Norman Ponder, will arrive on September 30th for nine-day outreach programme. Caversham Park Ecumenical Church will also be joining in some of the events.

After their long

journey our visitors will join us for the Harvest Supper when introductions will take place. Special Harvest services will follow on 1st October, when visitors will be especially welcomed to a time of praise and thanksgiving.

During the week numerous events will keep members of the visiting team and those from our own churches busy. These will include coffee mornings, a Men's Supper and Open House groups,

all with outreach in mind. A continuous programme of house to house visiting will back this up.

Children will join together for a Praise Party on Friday 6th October. Young people of all ages from Five to eighteen will be catered for on Friday evenings from 8th September, by the "Cornerstone" Youth Clubs. All are welcome to join in the appropriate group for their age on Fridays. The Praise Party will form part of this, and will be

particularly aimed at the five to seven and eight to eleven age groups.

On Saturday 7th October an open-air witness will take place in St Martin's Precinct at 10.30am, led by the Church's Music Group, who will also take part in many of the other events.

By the time the next issue of the Bridge is published, Partnership Mission will be in full swing — look out for signs of it in Caversham!

CHOIR VISIT



P.J. Bean

Checkendon Church choir visits Caversham Heights Methodist Church — 2nd July evening service.



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GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

St Andrew's Server Awarded Hon. Life Membership

On the 3rd July 1989 Cyril E. House, an Altar Server at St Andrew's Church Caversham, was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, for the completion of fifty years membership of the Guild.

Cyril joined the Guild in April 1930 when he was a Server at St Bar-

tholomew's Church Reading. In latter years he has been a regular Server at St Andrew's Church, Caversham.

The presentation was made at the Guild Office at St Mary Magdalene Church, Crowmarsh Gifford, Oxon by Group Councillor Len Canterbury, on behalf of the Guild Council.

Membership of

the Guild is open to ALL Altar Servers. Application forms are obtainable from the local Guild Secretary, L.S. Alder, 39 The Delph, Lower Earley Reading RG6 3AW and should be completed only after consultation with the Parish Priest. The Guild Office is held monthly at various churches throughout the Reading district.

LATE NEWS

On The Move

Caversham Park Village will be very sad to lose the Kenchingtons. Paul has been with them for four years and has done much to keep the ecumenical flavour going. He will become Incumbent of the parish of St. Philip and St. James, Hucclecote, Glos. We wish them all well. More anon!

ROUND THE CHURCHES

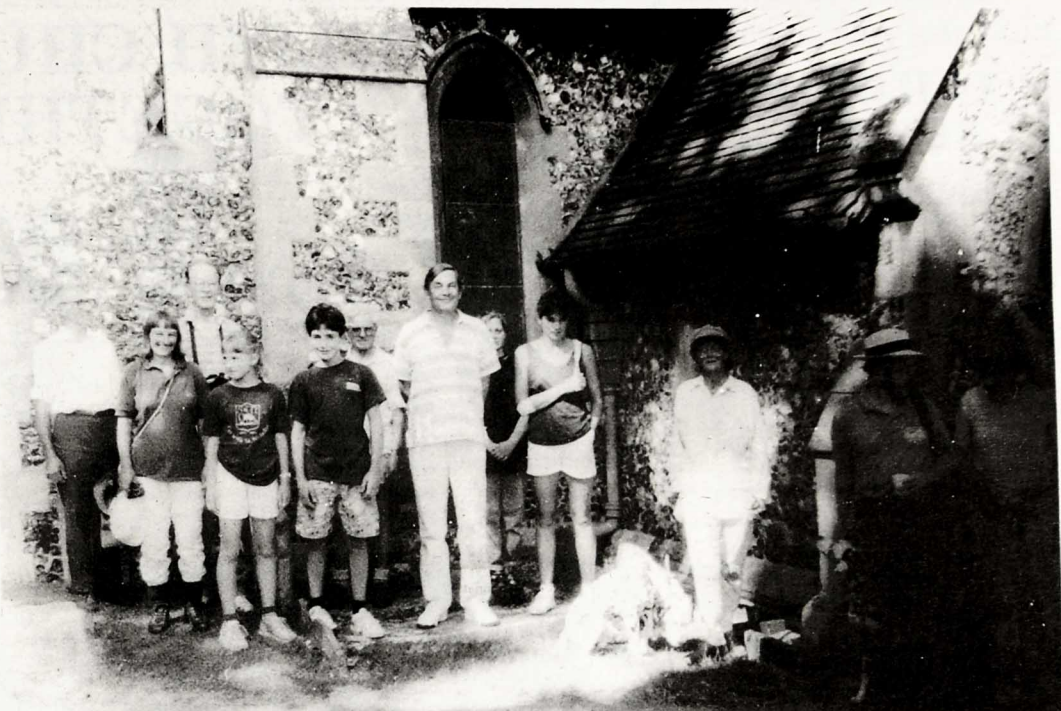
ST MARGARET'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Another perfect summer evening helped to make the patronal celebration its usual happy occasion. Although the church was not full to overflowing as has sometimes happened in the past, St Margaret's were delighted to have so many friends from other churches in the district. However, where were some of St Margaret's own congregation? Perhaps they were already on

holiday?

It would have been lovely to be welcomed to such a celebration by St Margaret's own church bells. Maybe they will ring out once again soon. They are greatly missed.

Sincere thanks to Bridget and Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce for letting the church use their delightful garden as a setting for the refreshments. Their kindness is much appreciated.



CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

The Bishop of Oxford arrives at St. Peter's at the end of the sponsored E.S. Archer walk from Goring in aid of the Church Urban Fund.



Caversham Heights Methodist Church — NCH 120th Celebrations.

P.J. Bean

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National Children's Home

1989 is the Birthday year of National Children's Home (NCH). In January the eightieth birthday of the Chairman, Lord Tonypandy, was celebrated and on 9th July there were special services throughout the country to mark the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the founding of the first home in Lambeth by a Methodist minister, Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson.

At Caversham Heights Methodist Church there was a triple celebration, the one hundred and twentieth birthday of NCH; the eightieth anniversary of the Sunday School and the

homecoming of the Revd Keith Sanders and his wife, after a three month sabbatical in the USA where he traced the ministry of John Wesley. The theme was "Welcome Home" and the children enacted birthday celebrations from around the world. Members of the Girls' and Boys' Brigade were on parade and after the service helium filled balloons were released and birthday cakes enjoyed.

In 1869, when Thomas Bowman Stephenson founded NCH, his initial aim was to provide residential care for needy children. This work continues, but

activities have expanded with the changing needs of our society. Today NCH cares for more than ten thousand children, but the work is increasingly in a community and neighbourhood context. NCH works closely with local authorities providing essential services for Britain's children, young people and their families. There are family support centres; telephone counselling services; independence units for young people and schools and rural schemes for families with disabled youngsters. A great deal of work is crisis intervention focused

upon the desperate, urgent needs of damaged children and their families, but NCH also undertakes real preventive work with its social workers on hand to help prevent problems in the home reaching crisis point and breakdown.

Locally there are Family Centres at Bracknell and Newbury working with children and their families in the community. During September there will be a House to House collection for NCH. Could you help? Please contact June Davies (471105) or Janet Bull (473935) as soon as possible.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES**ENGLISH CHURCHES TOGETHER**

by
JOHN MADELEY

These are exciting times for churches in England. From the autumn of 1990, if all goes according to plan, the British Council of Churches will be replaced by a Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, and, in England, by a body **Churches Together in England**. This will include among its members the existing member churches of the BCC but also the Roman Catholic Church and the black-led churches such as Caversham's New Testament Church of God. For the first time, all the main churches in England will be together in an official ecumenical body.



This coming together is the out-

come of much prayer and work over many years which culminated in the Swanwick conference in 1987, attended by 350 church leaders. This ended with a declaration — "We now declare together our readiness to commit ourselves to each other under God".



Swanwick was itself part of the 'Not Strangers but Pilgrims' process in

which we in Caversham and Mapledurham took part in those memorable 1986 Lent Groups.



Churches Together in Pilgrimage was one of the major debates at the July meeting of the Church of England General Synod in York. The Synod overwhelmingly approved a motion that the Church of England participates in the new arrangements.

"There has been a quite remarkable change in the ecumenical scene in these islands in the last five years", said the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt. Revd. Keith Sutton. He pointed out that there is "no need for local people to wait for national initiatives".



"Ecumenism is not a threat to our identity but an enlargement", the Archbishop of Canterbury reminded synod members.

As we thank God for the way the Holy Spirit has moved to bring us closer together, we might recall some words from the church leaders who gathered at Swanwick — "Our earnest desire is to become more fully in His own time, the one Church of Christ, united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission...In the unity we seek we recognise that there will not be uniformity but legitimate diversity".



Further Lent Groups in the "Not Strangers but Pilgrims" work are planned for 1990. For us in our community this would seem an opportunity not to be missed.

ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN DESIGN COMPETITION RESULTS

St Barnabas Emmer Green have just announced two winners for their Logo Design Competition. They have been looking for a design to use on the new Parish's noticeboard, headed

notepaper and publications. Two entries were so good that they have both been given a joint first prize.

The first design is a tree with a cross in front of it. The tree could remind you of the trees of Emmer Green. It is, of course, also the Tree of Life from the bible. This design was by Mrs Wendy Stormont.

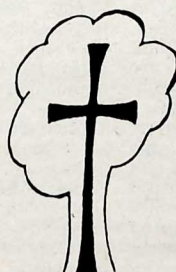
The second design has a figure with arms outstretched in

welcome and prayer. It looks like a priest praying. It reminds you of the cross. This design was by Mr Douglas Smith.

It was so difficult to decide between these designs that the judge held a straw poll among the congregation to see which they liked best. That didn't help much. There was only one vote in it.

"In the end we decided to give two joint first prizes!", said Nigel Hardcastle,

the Vicar of Emmer Green. "We will use both designs in different ways. We will use the tree with the cross as a general symbol for St Barnabas. We will use the other design with our worship material."

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SWAN UPPING AT CAVERSHAM

The third week of July sees the Swan Uppers at work and by the Thursday of that week they are somewhere on the river between Sonning and Pangbourne. Your reporter was fortunate enough to catch them at Caversham and the following pictures show the events as they happened.



One of the smart skiffs. Four of these boats, manned by men representing the Queen, the Vintners' and the Dyers' Companies, encircle a swan with Cygnets.



The birds are trussed and taken on board where this cygnet's beak is being nicked. (NB There is a pub on the river call the Swan with Two Necks — ie two nicks!)



Having made the nick, the loyal toast is drunk.



The ceremony over, mother and babies are handed over to Jane Sears, working on a project at Oxford on the swans in the Thames.

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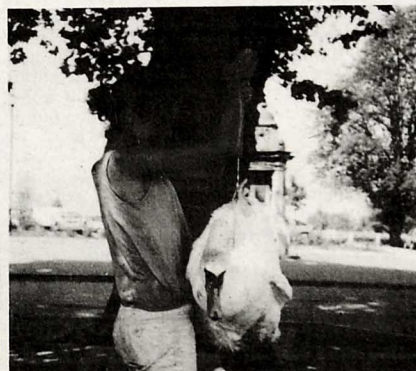
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Babies handed over ready for the next stage.....

Photos taken
taken by
Margaret Bailly



....which is weighing. The cygnets are also tagged.



Last stage of all — released back into the river where the whole family glides off, seemingly quite unruffled.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE IN CAVERSHAM

Spring and summer is birds-nesting time. No, not the time to rob nests of their eggs as we boys did years ago, (though it was the rule always to leave at least one egg in the nest) but for birds to raise a new generation of offspring to carry on their allotted task, eating insect pests, wire-worms, leather jackets etc. Here we have done much to assist the birds, putting up different types of nesting boxes in our little wood at the side of the house mentioned in my previous article; small boxes for tits, increasing in size for woodpecker, kestrel, little and tawny owls.

We have planted hawthorn hedges to a length of two hundred and ninety feet in which dunno, chaffinch, blackbird and thrush have nested. Magpies and woodpeckers nest in the higher hawthorn and elderberry trees. Tree stumps, two feet high, left standing when the mature trees were felled because of Dutch Elm disease are now covered with thick and bushy with ivy, have also been used as nesting places. But birds have their own ideas about nesting sites. Stock doves took over the kestrel box for

several years, the tawny owls used the little owl box and twice raised a pair of owlets. The box specially made for the woodpecker was filled with polystyrene (the bird likes to clean out any rotting wood lining their chosen hole in a tree), was commandeered by starlings.

When we bought our building plot, which was during the last war, there was a lot of tussocky grass growing on our and the adjoining plot which was open to our own. Before the house was built, I found a skylark's nest at the back of the plot, with its little approach run. In order to deceive would-be predators such as kestrel or sparrowhawks, the bird alights a few feet away, then runs to the nest, making a little track which was easily discernible to me.

Later on when walking around I trod on a tussock which gave out a peculiar squeak. On pushing aside the grass I found a partridge sitting on a nest, the bird remaining quite still. Thinking I might have injured it I picked it up, a few feathers fell away. Going to the house with the idea of examining it, I thought, perhaps it's

not injured after all, so tossed it into the air. Off it flew without difficulty and settled in the field about twenty-five yards away. I decided to watch it. Gradually it started returning, and within half-an-hour, it was back on its nest. Partridges, over the years, have occasionally strolled through the wood.

I remember once, many years ago, when walking along a quiet country road, suddenly coming upon a family of partridges, where-upon the chicks instantly 'froze', while the mother ran along the road in a distressed manner and dragging one wing on the ground as though injured, a trick to draw me away from the young birds.

Still on our wood, and before we acquired it, road surface water, channelled through underground pipes, ran into it. In the early days the water spread out over the ground and eventually soaked away. Although it was none of my business, I decided to channel it, turning it into a little winding stream, planting ferns, including the hartstongue, along its banks and clumps of the wild yellow iris in the

waterway. In rainy periods the water flows for weeks, widening to four feet at the end and with a fair stretch of open water. Mallards (wild duck) when flying around see the water and fly down to investigate, and stay awhile, swimming in the stream. Some wander into the garden (as many as six on one occasion) and onto the lawn, where we would feed them. One pair, evidently liking the quiet and seclusion, decided to stay and make a nest which they did on the bank at the wide end where there would be water for the ducklings when they were hatched. Every day for a month we kept an eye on the sitting duck to make sure no fox had found her; just seeing the top of her head amongst the growing grass and nettles. When at first she left the nest and came to the

house to be fed, accompanied by the drake, now a regular custom, we went to the nest to see what eggs there were; there were twelve, in rows in three, five and four, and well hidden under a thick layer of down and dry grass. Then one morning the duck was gone, egg shells open as in a normal hatching, not smashed, and not a sign of the ducklings. A fortnight or so later, the duck, this time accompanied by two drakes, came to the house and was fed as before. The top of her bill was noticeably damaged, perhaps through defending her young. Having fed, the drakes patiently standing by, she would waddle off with her two attendants following behind. Their visits became fewer and fewer, till now we have not seen them for several weeks; until next Spring perhaps?

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THE MARISA ROBLES HARP ENSEMBLE ENTERTAINS AT CHARITY CONCERT

A concert attended by some two hundred and seventy people was held on July 30th at the home of Drs Monica and Douglas Latto at their home Lethnot Lodge, Derby Road, Caversham in aid of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem Appeal for the Berkshire division of St John Ambulance.

In a large marquee on the lawn guests included Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The concert consisted of a recital of music with Marisa Robles herself joined by four of her outstanding pupils. Following the official opening by Lt Gen. Sir Peter Hudson, KCB, CBE, DL, RBIM, Appeals Manager, and a welcome by Conrad Latto as Master of Ceremonies, the musicians played excerpts from Handel, the Narnia Suite, Melodies from Ireland, and a lively Spanish Dance, Granados "Jota" and by request, "The March of the Brown Baran" an Irish song of the pipes. Each gifted pupil in turn played a solo piece, Siao Yen Lein who

finished her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in 1986, Susie Beffow equally proficient with jazz as with a classical repertoire, Juan Jones, winner of many major competitions and official harpist for the House of Commons and Angel Padilla-Crespo from Mexico, prize winner in 1988 of the Malcolm Sargeant competition.

Marisa Robles happily answered questions fired by members of the audience and the concert concluded with a vote of thanks being given by Dr G.T. Willoughby-Cashell K.St.J., Hon.Dsc, NBBS, FRCS, FCOPhth. who has recently retired as

Reading's leading eye surgeon for many years. He outlined the very important work being carried out in St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem. The Hospice founded in 1099 and for the last one hundred years maintained by the Order of St John, deals with the many eye complaints brought about by the appalling conditions in which inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Left Bank live, producing conjunctivitis, trichoma inflammation and cataracts. By 1960 the Hospital and fifty-five thousand patients and five thousand in-patients regardless of race, colour and creed. For the past five years an "Out-Reach" programme has been organised for visits to villages all made more difficult by the Palestine Uprising.

The proceeds of this concert organised by Dr Monica Latto who has recently been honoured by becoming a Dame of the Order of St John, will go towards providing equipment, instruments and the education of surgeons, technicians and nurses. EMF

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Caversham Heights TG

Here we are again, well on the way through summer and it's been very hot. Perhaps the Thames water man should have been invited round to speak while the water shortage in Caversham Heights was still a topic. Back to business: at our July meeting members commented on resolutions that had been discussed at national level. Amongst them were environmental pollution — and what is more topical than that — and probationary drivers. After passing their test should they have a "P" plate? Good idea. What about a speed restriction? Also a very good idea.

Our speaker came from MENCAP; she was Mrs Eleanor Cryer, who comes from Slough (echoes of Sir John Betjeman). She described with verve how this means being on call day and night, helping mentally handicapped patients to sort out their problems, thus helping them to lead happier lives. Although there are some very sad cases among her patients, she has found pleasure in being treated as an equal and in always being received by them uncritically and joyfully. How wonderful to find such helpers in the community.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood welcomed members to the July meeting; there were quite a few absentees owing to holidays. After the business

the CLUBS

matters were attended to members were given details of the September mystery coach outing which is to end with a fish and chip tea at Chiltern Chase Restaurant at Woodcote.

Mrs Moore, a representative from Telecom, was then introduced, and gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on the telephone system. She spoke of the many changes and benefits from the much improved system. It was all very informative and many questions by members were answered by Mrs Moore most fully; she was duly thanked by all.

Tea was welcome, as it was a very hot afternoon. Members were then reminded that the September meeting would be the Harvest Home, followed in October by the Autumn Fayre.

Donations were made to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Appeal Fund box, and it will shortly be taken to the Hospital to be opened.

Maplewood WI

At the July meeting of Maplewood W.I. Mr Houlden of Cliffords Dairies gave a talk on the British Dairy Industry, and Cliffords Dairies' place in it. The members were interested to hear of the wide range of

Dairies' activities in the milk industry and were told about the many varied kinds of milk products currently available.

Members brought their favourite milk jugs to show, and they made an interesting and attractive table.

There were thirty-three members present and the flower competition this month was won by Mrs Turner with a rose.

Rosehill WI

The July meeting was held on a very hot afternoon and it was lovely to see all the ladies in summer dresses at last! Mrs Weller welcomed everyone and as there will be no meeting in August she gave news of any activities still carrying on. There will be a garden party at Mrs Dicks on the 9th August, an outing to Up-park House in Hampshire on the 16th and a Ploughman's lunch at Mrs Weller's home on the 23rd.

A note is now made of birthdays each month so posies are presented to the ladies who were born then. A special one (an arrangement in a basket) was given to Mrs Carter who would be ninety later this month.

The speaker was Mr H. Godwin-Arnold on "Victorian Reading". He had slides to show, very old ones of buildings in Reading, churches etc. Brickmaking was a major industry here, so the majority of buildings were made with local bricks, many still surviving today.

There was an exhibition table, with pictures and cards of buildings, old and new. Altogether a most interesting afternoon.

Caversham Round Table

On Wednesday 26th July 1989 at 10am Phil Buckman, chairman of Caversham Round Table presented a cheque to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association at the Guide Dogs Training Centre, Folley Court, Wokingham. He presented a cheque for the purchase of four Guides Dogs costing £4000; he was accompanied by representatives of the Berkshire Guides who helped raise the money.

The money was raised as a result of the cooperation between the Berkshire Guides and Caversham Round Table who organised a sponsored swim. Over five hundred Guides from units all over Berkshire swam in the event. Round table arranged for pools, life savers, sponsor forms and marshals. The money raised was split equally between the Guide Units and Caversham Round Table who are donating their half to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Chazey WI

The President, Mrs Tricia Stringer, after welcoming new members and guests to the July meeting, stated how delighted all members were to see Rita Nash again

after her illness, and presented her with a flowering plant.

Final arrangements were discussed for forthcoming events, the visit of a party of London pensioners to Chazey, and the Car Boot Sale.

Members were entertained by the Marlow Folk Dance Club, and after instructions, members joined in the dancing enthusiastically, after which refreshments were much enjoyed.

A sad note to end a happy evening came when Chazey said farewell and thank you to Ann Hunt, a founder member and former committee member, who is leaving the area.

Caversham Community Association

The members met on the first Monday in July for an Old Tyme dancing evening. May Plant led the dancers through the various routines to make an enjoyable evening, some modern dances were included. Non-dancers could play card games etc.

On the 10th July Mr. Martin Allies visited the club. He is a member of the Reading Dusseldorf Link Association. The 'Link' was formed in 1947 when Reading adopted the badly war damaged city of Dusseldorf. In the beginning parcels of food, clothing and toys were sent to Dusseldorf. Later Dusseldorf children were invited to stay in Reading. In time these visits became a two-way exchange and the association was formed. In 1977 the statue of the Cartwheeling Boys was presented to Reading by Dusseldorf. Mr. Allies gave an informative talk and said that visits and cultural exchanges continue to promote peace and friendship.

The following week the members had the chance of describing the way they earned their livelihoods. Olive Howard commenced and told how she trained as a lampshade maker in the West End of London and worked there until the early years of the last war. The firm made lampshades for the liner Queen Mary, famous shops in Oxford Street, King Fuad's palace at the time of his wedding and also for theatres. Alan Osborne then told some amusing stories of his time at the Post Office. He started as a postman and eventually became Postmaster at Shoreham-on-Sea. Dolly Usher related how she applied for a job, as cashier-book keeper at Bedford Road swimming pool, and stayed there happily for 18 years. Ted Howard was the next speaker and gave an entertaining account of his training as an apprentice at small printers. When full trained as a compositor he joined the Co-operative Printing works and stayed with them until his retirement. George Feast gave an in-

formative account of his many years as a butcher. He told of the long hours he worked as a boy, especially when he was sent to Newbury market. Mr. Feast was well known in Caversham when he worked at Appletons, a local butcher. Henry Buckland gave an hilarious account of his training as a pot thrower at Tilehurst pottery. He went on to work at various potteries. He also did sign writing and coach painting for Vincents and told the members funny anecdotes. Finally, Margaret Cameron explained how she trained as a nursery teacher and worked in London for many years. She then returned to Reading and joined Coley Park Primary School teaching children of three to five years of age, basics of writing, reading, computer, physical education etc. and taking the children swimming and on walks.

Mrs Feast, the Chairman, thanked the speakers for and enlightening and interesting evening. On the 24th July some of the members walked to Mapledurham and back. They were met halfway by Dorothy Osborne who had kindly brought cold drinks to refresh the walkers. Other members played games at the clubroom, cards, shove ha'penny etc and enjoyed a chip supper collected by the everwilling Vice-President Ted Howard.

The last Monday in July was the occasion of a visit by Mr. Beeton, who brought back memories of the Old Tyme Music Hall. He gave amusing monologues, famous old songs and witty jokes with impressions of old comedians. Mr. Beeton played the violin skilfully — at one time he was violinist at the Shepherds Bush Empire Theatre — and accompanied the members in community singing. The evening ended with member Henry Buckland singing popular songs, accompanied by Nancy Nelhams at the piano.

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SEVENTH SUE RYDER SPONSORED WALK

Sunday 17th September, 1989

Our annual sponsored walk is a major fund raising event in support of the Sue Ryder home at Nettlebed.

Long walk, starting at 10am from the home by Maidensgrove to Christmas Common, returning by Cookley Green to the home, 14 miles.

Short walk starting at 11am 4½ miles. Food and drink at two caravans on the route and a pub at Christmas Common.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
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

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)

6.30pm (in Chapel)

10.45am Christian Fellowship at Mapledurham Pavilion.

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Annes Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30 and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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PRAYER MATTERS

By

Joan Jones

Starting on June 12th for four Mon-
days a group con-
tinued a quest into
prayer including our
interpretation and
difficulties. For
some this was a con-
tinuation of a Lent
Group.

We discovered
during the four
weeks how varied
people are and are
allowed to be in fin-
ding God in prayer,
how important it is
to accept oneself as
one is and approach
God openly and
honestly, knowing
one's many inade-
quacies. And learn-
ing that God only
wishes us to make
such a small move to
Him in order to give
us His great love. He
is just waiting for us
to turn to Him. He
does not force him-
self upon us, and

it is therefore essen-
tial that we do pur-
posefully and daily
turn to him.

Helpful ways of
establishing prayer
and the fact that
prayer develops in a
maturing relation-
ship with God were
discussed. One book
we dipped into was
'God of surprises' by
Gerard W. Hughes
(Published by
D.L.T.) which has
much to say about
the Christian
spiritual life and has
been extremely well
received by many
well known critics.
In chapter seven a
review for the end of
the day has the
potential for
valuable spiritual
insight.

For those who feel
the need to pursue a
quieter, more con-
templative way of

prayer another book
was found to have
much practical ad-
vice 'Prayer and
Contemplation' by
Robert Llewelyn
costing £2 which I
will be pleased to
supply if requested
(tel. 478692).

We concluded that
it is essential to find
a regular time daily,
that we keep
faithfully and pa-
tiently, in order to
give ourselves to God
and in so doing find
ourselves enlivened
by his spirit to do his
will and so increase
the integrity of our
Christian life.

John Madeley
adds - if any reader
is interested in con-
sidering prayer in
more detail in a small
group, over say a
four-week period,
please ring me on
Reading 476063.

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