

Life in the Friendly Islands

WHEN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA is mentioned to anyone who remembers Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, they immediately talk about Queen Salote. Despite the rain, she rode in an open carriage and smiled and waved to the crowds along the route. Tongans are used to getting wet, but the temperature is usually higher. Other readers may remember Songs of Praise the last Sunday in December 1986 when there was a link up between Tonga and Trafalgar Square. The Tongan shots gave the impression that skies were always blue and the sun always shone. My friends were quite envious to think that I was to spend two years in what looked like idyllic conditions. It is quite difficult to find Tonga on the map of the South Pacific as the largest island is only about fifty kilometres long and at most twelve kilometres wide. There are one hundred and sixty islands altogether and of these less than forty are inhabited. The total population is about ninety thousand. It is a good thing that Tongans were good navigators in the days before sophisticated aids or they would have missed their country when returning from expeditions.

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Captain Cook at the end of the eighteenth century called Tonga the Friendly Islands as he was greeted by

smiling faces and an invitation by the chiefs on Ha'api, to a feast. Little did he know that they planned to kill him and his crew so they could loot the ship. The chiefs did not get their act together, so Captain Cook went to the feast and returned to his ship. It is certainly true that Tongans are a friendly people and I experienced a great welcome at Church, by the family with whom I stayed and by most of the pupils in school.

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Although there is a Teachers' Training College and a small private university in Tonga, most Tongans who study for a degree do so abroad. At present there are not enough graduate school teachers to teach forms 5 and 6, so volunteers are needed and welcomed. My brief as a VSO volunteer was to teach Science in a Catholic Secondary School, or organise the department and give some inservice training to Tongan teachers teaching junior forms. The school was only ten years old when I arrived and was in the old capital, Mu'a about twenty-two km from the present capital, Nuku'alofa. Much had been built by Marist Brothers and local parents and the campus was attractive, spacious and well cared for. After teaching in a school with fifteen hundred pupils it was a relief to be in one of only five hundred and fifty pupils.

Jean Sawyer, well known member of the Baptist Church, retired teacher and Guide Captain, has recently returned from two years' VSO work in Tonga and writes as follows:

About two thirds of the staff were Tongans and the rest were from New Zealand, Australia, America and Britain. The students were usually taught in English but how school fees were charged by secondary schools, whether they were government or Church run. For families with numerous children it was not easy to and if they gained sufficient marks they had the choice of going to Tonga High School, otherwise they tried again the next year, or went to one of the Church run



Tonga: Girls in their dancing costumes



Tonga: A Birthday Feast

they coped with the different accents was a mystery to me. The state provided free primary education but find, on average, £60 a year for each child. After six years of primary education the children sat an exam

difficult. All the public exams were set in English and the Form 6 exam and School Certificate had been set by New Zealand, but Tonga is now taking over the latter.

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Apart from holidays and exams, there were three main events in the school year. The first was Sports Day. Every day after school in the hot humid weather in February and March there were sports practices. The students could be seen in a variety of attire, doing exercises or practising running and jumping. A day for the House sports was fixed and the whole school took part. Careful records of the times were kept and one of the Houses was declared the winner at the end of the day. The best athletes for each event were trained further to take part in the Secondary Schools competition. This was a two day event and most impressive. Each school built shelters round the track dominated by a grandstand and excitement built up as the events proceeded. At the end of Princess Pilolevu, the King's daughter made a speech and presented the prizes.

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The second main event was School Day. At Takuilau this started with a service, either in the local church or in the school grounds. After this, parents gathered on

the verandahs and spread out their family meal. This included yams or manioke, lu (meat covered in coconut cream and cooked in an earth oven) and pork. The staff and visitors ate in the staff room and the year the King's niece was the guest of honour, she was entertained in a separate room. For the afternoon each village was asked to provide entertainment. This was usually dancing. Sometimes one girl danced by herself, sometimes several would join in, occasionally the boys would do a war dance and finally, the whole school seated on a semi-circle of steps did a sitting down dance. Most of the movement for all the dances was with the hands. An intricate pattern which told a story was woven. Each was accompanied with instruments and often singing. During the performance, some mothers joined in, behaving rather like the fool in Morris dancing and the audience would slap money onto the dancers. This was the traditional way of raising funds.

□ □

The final event was Prizegiving when those with the highest marks in exams in each form were given prizes and certificates were presented to those who had worked consistently well. The guest of honour made a speech and

TALKING POINT

By JOHN MADELEY

Journalist & Lay Reader at St. Peter's



BETTER TO BE BORED?

"I'm bored". "It's all so boring". "Life's a bore".

Boredom has become the in-word of our age. It's almost trendy to be bored — hardly the thing to actually admit you enjoy life. It seems as though it is better to be bored.

As far I can see, the word "boredom" is not once mentioned in the Bible. Someone who knows about these things better than I do tells me that homo sapiens is the only creature capable of boredom. Now I do not believe that God does anything without a reason. A feeling of boredom could be God's way of saying: something is wrong with the way you live — change it.



Contrast boredom with what God wants for us — the God who loves us, who when he came to earth in the person of Jesus told us "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11.) And as St. Luke 11:21 tells us "Jesus was filled with joy".

A way out of boredom could be to look at what the Bible says about joy.

One of the most beautiful books I have ever read is 14 pages long and about the size of a small envelope. I can recommend it to anyone who is bored — and whether they admit it or not, is looking for something better. Written by Sister Penelope of the Community of St. Mary the Virgin, it is called "JOY". (available price 50p inc. postage from CSMV, St. Mary's Convent, Wantage, Oxon.)



The book tells us that the Old Testament writers had no less than 5 different words for joy. To the authors of the Psalms, joy bursts through on many occasions. Ps. 15:15, for example: "when I awake, your presence will fill me with joy". Ps 30:11 "You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance, you have taken away my sorrow and surrounded me with joy".

Joy was a central part of life of Jesus. His joy runs throughout the New Testament, like a deep silent river under his whole life, Sister Penelope reminds us. Everywhere he went he spread that joy. It was infectious, his disciples picked it up. In the first epistle of Peter we read, "so we rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express".

Joy is the special property of Jesus. ("Joy is heaven already present in our souls", said John Wesley). And it is clear that Jesus wants with all his heart to share His joy with us. He wants the joy in our hearts to be complete. The love He shows, the forgiveness He brings, the new life He gives, are reasons for joy to be in our hearts.

But you may say — "come off it. I have a boring job, boring relatives, boring neighbours, boring friends. How can my boredom possibly be turned into joy?"

"JOY" points out that the wonderful thing about the joy that Jesus gives is that it is not dependent on whether things around us are going well or badly. His joy means that we are happy under any circumstances. "How can I not be happy," asks Sister Penelope, "when I am working with Him for the world's salvation".

She tells the of St. John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople at the end of the 4th century. He suffered dreadfully, and unjustly, for offending the Empress. He was detained and made to walk for miles without food or drink. He made no complaints. His Prayer at all time was "Glory be to God for all things".

If we can see all things as a gift, then our attitudes are transformed. We give thanks for everything, whether it is outwardly good or not so good. Our eyes become fixed more on God and less on ourselves. "The soul whose eyes are ever fixed on God and not on self", says the book, "picks up a lot of incidental joy from the small things of life and sometimes great joy too".



A thankful heart means we are more likely to see God in the "ordinary" everyday things of life. In the ordinary we find joy not boredom — "the ecstasy of the ordinary" becomes possible. We wait on God wondering what he will send. Gladys Aylward used to pray — "Lord I don't know what you have in store for me today — but I just can't wait to find out".

It is clear from the gospels that joy cannot be a selfish thing; and encounter with joy is likely to make us more sensitive to the needs of others, in our inner cities, in the developing world, or perhaps much closer to home. We shall be concerned about suffering and stand with those who suffer — who may have much to teach the "healthy" about joy.

Well I've read all this, a reader might be saying, and I still feel bored. 1 John 1: 5-7 sounds a warning — "if we say we have fellowship with Him and yet at the same time walk in darkness, we are lying both in our words and actions".



If you still maintain it would take a lot to part you from your boredom, walk the Chiltern Beech woods this May. Marvel at the fresh young green above your head and the bluebells at your feet: (plug: come on the Christian Aid walk on May 20th.) Feel the wonder of God in creation. "God gives us things richly to enjoy", Says Sister Penelope, "and it is churlish not to make the most of them".

Better to be bored? Or better to accept the gift of joy? Sister Penelope would agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie that "joy is the flag that flies in the heart of every Christian".

CHRISTIAN BOOK COLLECTION FOR CAVERSHAM LIBRARY

ALL the Christian Churches of Caversham — Free, Roman Catholic and Anglican — have combined to present over 120 Christian books for adults and children to the Caversham Library. The inspiration behind this donation came from the Christian Book Promotion Trust, an interdenominational independent charity, which aims to advance the Christian faith through literature.

The Trust believes that many people today are seeking through the Christian faith, answers to the moral and spiritual problems that confront them. Yet for a variety of reasons they may feel unwilling in the first instance to identify openly with any Christian church or institution, but may prefer to pursue their search in the anonymity of a public library.

It was in response to this that their FAITH IN PRINT scheme was developed, based on a book list compiled by a distinguished panel of men and women representing all the main denominations. Their selection

reflects the mainstream of Christian thought and experience and provides a balanced and regularly updated list which has won the approval both of Church people and librarians.

The suggestion for introducing this scheme to Caversham came from Mrs Felicity Radford, a former librarian, who runs the bookstall at St Peter's Church. A firm believer in the ability of books to refresh the spiritual parts other methods sometimes cannot reach, she approached the Caversham Ministers Fraternal in January. The Caversham Bridge Newspaper itself a working example of ecumenical outreach in print, immediately offered a major share of the required funds from their reserves, with the balance coming equally from each of the Caversham Churches. The books were supplied by the Caversham Bookshop and were presented to the library on the Tuesday of Holy Week with the kind cooperation of the Librarian, Mrs Kathy Munns

and her staff — a truly local enterprise.

Now that the books are available it is hoped that the experience here will reflect that of the other 165 schemes throughout the country. In the areas where Church Groups have launched Faith in Print the results indicate that the lending rate for such books is equal to the average of many books in the library — clear evidence of the scheme's value. Indeed it is estimated that a single set of the books can in one year bring the Christian message of hope and comfort to up to 2000 people. How appropriate that this gift from the Churches to the community they serve should be made at Eastertide.

It is hoped that many will use the books themselves but if anybody would like a copy of either the adult or the recently issued Junior Book List, which is divided into age groups and is of great value to parents and teachers in selecting books for children, please contact Mrs Radford, Tel 483965.



Presenting the books to Caversham Library.

Picture: E.S. Archer

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All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by April 28.

The dates for July will be Wednesday 8 June and Friday 2 June.

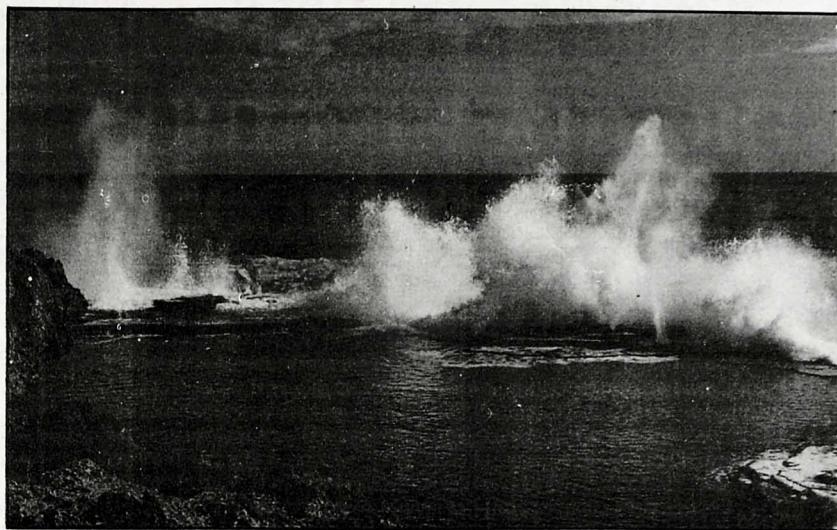
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From Page 1

Life In The Friendly Islands



Tonga: The Blow Holes

a short dramatic item provided the entertainment.

The main church in Tonga is the Free Wesleyan, which was established after the Wesleyan missionaries arrived near the beginning of the last century. Practically everyone goes to church, even if they arrive rather late for the services. After morning service they eat a large dinner cooked in the earth oven and then it is usual to sleep till the next service. Each church has a choir which may sing

unaccompanied, or with a brass band and they sing from memory, even choruses from Messiah. I was asked to sing with the local district choir, which was preparing for the annual Wesleyan Conference. It was a privilege to be asked and I enjoyed the experience. I discovered how choirs managed to sing from memory — by practising a piece time and time again. The rehearsals started at the beginning of March with three practices a week, but soon

they were every evening and on public holidays. During the course of two months the choir sang at various church events ending with the last night of the Conference. The big church in Nuku'alofa was filled with eight choirs, leaving just enough room for the delegates. The rest of the congregation sat on raised seats on the verandah in the rain. The service was an inspiration and although it lasted from 7.30pm till midnight, the

time went quickly. The choirs sang twice each and there were about five speakers.

When I heard Tongatapu was flat, I thought I would miss the hills, but it has a beauty of its own. The palm trees standing tall against the evening sky is a sight not to be missed. The beaches each have a character of their own and I was fortunate that our local beach was one of the best. It was approached on a track through the bush and suddenly the sea came into

view. The edge of the reef was about one hundred metres away from the shore and 'Eua, an interesting island, was visible across the water. The sea was never cold and bathing, especially at high tide was delightful. I never tired of watching the waves break on the reef or seeing the fountain of water that sprayed through the holes in the reef.

At present Tongans are trying to come to terms with three main influences in their lives, their own culture, Victorian Christianity, and the latest ideas from overseas. The latter include material possessions, and films and videos, many of which portray the less desirable aspects of life. They do not have an easy path ahead of them.

MAN IN PERSPECTIVE

Peter Littlewood offers these thoughts to provoke

Average height of Man = 6 feet
6 feet = 2 yards
1,760 yards = 1 mile
Diameter of the Earth = 7,900 miles
Distance between Earth and Sun = 93,005,000 miles
93,005,000 miles = 1 Astronomical Unit (1 AU)

Distance between Earth and the furthest planet — Pluto = 38.6 AU
206,265 AU = 1 Parsec (19,183,676,325,000 miles)

Distance between our Sun and the nearest Star — Proxima Centauri = 1.3 Parsecs
Distance between our Sun and the farthest bright Star — Deneb = 200 Parsecs
Distance between our Sun and the centre of our Galaxy = 10,000 Parsecs
Width of our Galaxy — Milky Way = 30,000 Parsecs

Distance between our Galaxy and our nearest Galaxy-Magellanic Clouds = 30,000 Parsecs
Distance between our Galaxy and our second nearest Galaxy-Andromeda = 210,000 Parsecs

There are approximately 4,000,000 galaxies in that part of Space accessible with modern telescopes, and the average distance between each galaxy is 250,000 Parsecs = 4,795,919,081,250,000,000 miles. And Man is 6 feet tall!!!!

And the Editors offer these thoughts

From Psalm 8 (New English Bible)

When I look up at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers the moon and the stars set in their place by thee, what is man that thou shouldst remember him, mortal man that thou shouldst care for him?

Yet thou hast made him little less than a god, crowning him with glory and honour. Thou makest him master over all thy creatures; thou hast put everything under his feet: all sheep and oxen, all the wild beasts, the birds in the air and the fish in the sea, and all that moves along the paths of ocean.

O Lord our sovereign, how glorious is thy name in all the earth!

Summerfield REST HOME



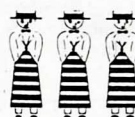
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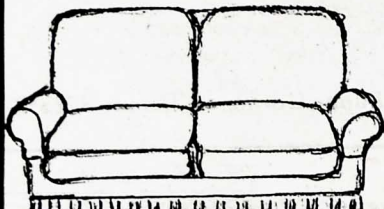
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FATEFUL SIGNATURE

A LAW THAT ALLOWS the wishes of a tiny minority to override the democratically expressed wishes of a responsible majority must have something wrong with it, but nevertheless that was the kind of law that led to the loss of Bugs Bottom. The document that was signed on behalf of Nicholas Ridley on the afternoon of 22nd March 1989 is, as far as the lay eye can see, legally correct, yet it is difficult to find a handful of people who are pleased with the decision, counting Messrs Higgs and Hill as two and including the gentleman who writes to the press supporting them, largely on the grounds that the number of barn owls in the valley was over-estimated. Against them stand thousands, and if it is assumed that their electorate is behind them, the hundreds of thousands who inhabit Reading, Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. Yet their wishes, their arguments, their local knowledge, the effect on their future lives have all been brushed aside because the law does not consider any of that to be of sufficient importance for the refusal of planning permission.

Is there anything that can be done at this late stage? It was plain from a public meeting called at short notice a week before the official decision reached Reading, that all those who have been fighting this battle for years were not prepared just to cave in. Reading Borough Council is prepared to seek a High Court Injunction after seeking legal advice to find if the decision letter leaves any grounds for doing so, but too much hope must not be placed on this, as the grounds on which such action can be taken are very limited. The Borough Council could not justify the large sums of money involved if they did not stand a reasonable chance of success, and the decision letter leaves little, if any, apparent loop hole. Sir Gerard Vaughan, after a meeting with

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT By Watchdog

representatives of the various groups of protestors, has volunteered to take the case once more to the Ombudsman, but unless something substantially new can be found, there is no certainty that he would uphold the complaint. However, both courses are worth thoroughly looking into and a lot of work is being done in pursuit of that.

Other courses are being considered by groups and individuals who have greater freedom of action than the Borough Council has. It is, however, difficult to assess at this stage (and this is having to be written shortly after Easter) what success they might have. At the public meeting a suggestion from the floor for a withdrawal of votes if the decision was adverse, met with considerable support. This is not a step that people would take lightly, but there is a growing feeling that it is the only and most effective action that most people can take. The enormous pressure to save Bugs Bottom has always had all party support, as well as the support of the politically non-committed. Individuals will have to make up their own minds as to where they stand, as this is a dilemma that will not go away.

Of course this decision did not come as a complete surprise to those who have been following the case, yet nevertheless it seems incredible that we should be told that the loss of a lovely valley, the horrendous traffic and environmental problems that will result, the agreed County Structure Plan proposals, are not of overriding importance to justify the refusal of planning permission. If these are not valid grounds for objection, whatever are? Legality may have been observed; justice and common sense are outraged.

JOYS OF SPRING

The news of Bugs Bottom inevitably cast a cloud over Easter though rarely can the message of renewal and rebirth have been so reflected in the natural world. The sun shone warmly, confounding those prophets of doom who had forecast cold weather with Easter being so early, and the daffodils were still there in plenty, even though they had started flowering in late January. The birds sang joyously, primroses abounded, the river sparkled and early though it was, a little searching revealed the cherry about the woodland ride, wearing white for Eastertide. The only concession to gloom (apart from Nicholas Ridley's Easter offering) was the magnolias, which had just burst into their annual magnificence, lured by the mild weather, when a severe frost shortly before Easter turned them all brown. There are some splendid specimens in Caversham, and it was a sad sight to see them spoilt.

The splendid displays of daffodils in public places throughout the town were a credit to the Borough's Parks and Open Spaces department. George street, Caversham Court, St. Peter's Churchyard and Peppard Road were particularly lovely in Caversham, though it was a pity the litter was not cleared away the latter spot. Generally speaking however there was little, if any, vandalism in the places that had been beautified by these displays. The present day breed of daffodils, unlike Herricks, do not 'haste away so soon' so we are able to enjoy these displays for remarkably long time. Only the Cur-

mudgeonly would growl about the cost. For most people, it was money well spent.

WAITROSE CAR PARK

The new car park arrangements at Waitrose and St. Martin's seem to be working reasonably well. There is certainly now room for shopper's cars, though there is evidence that commuter cars are instead using local streets or even the approach lanes to the car park, where Waitrose have little control over them and traffic wardens rarely visit.

Disadvantages seem to be that with only one entrance to the car park, tailbacks can occur at peak periods, right back into the streets, and delays can occur when Waitrose lorries, which can only approach under the archway, block the exit lane. Delays can also be caused by the short armed who have difficulty in reaching the tickets. Women in particular who even in these days of sex equality, do most of the everyday shopping, are victims of what was ob-

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, MAY 1989

viously a male-designed machine. It was however pleasing on one particularly busy Saturday morning, to find two attendants in the car park pointing out where there were spare places.

Those who make use of the car park on the first Saturday of each month for the purpose of depositing newspapers at the SWAG collection point will be pleased to know that another is to be opened at the Rivermead car park, probably from 6th May, at the suggestion of Caversham Residents' Association. This should relieve pressure on St. Martin's car park, which can get very crowded on the first Saturday of each month.

NEW FOOTPATH

A welcome improvement is the wood chip path leading from Caversham Court to St. Peter's churchyard. Countless footsteps had resulted in unsightly muddy paths across the grass, increasing in width as people tried to avoid slipping on them in wet weather. Brides, as well as regular users, will welcome this, as they walk to Caversham Court for a picturesque background to the wedding photos.



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IT'S TIME TO RIGHT WRONGS

LET ME introduce you to two women.

I met the first last summer in a village in Zaire, where she sat alone outside her house laboriously pounding casava.

Earlier the men of her village had proudly paraded their livestock before me, but she and the other women played no part in this — they were expected to stay away.

Her daily routine consisted of getting up at 5am to wake and feed her children and clean the house, walking for an hour to reach the fields to plant, hoe, water and gather casava by hand, going down to the river to soak casava roots and wash clothes, fetching water and sticks in the late afternoon, and beginning the long, slow task of preparing a frugal meal.

Her head and back served as the only shopping trolley she knew, and if she ate at all, she ate after the rest of her family of seven. When darkness fell, there were still more

domestic chores to complete. She rested when she sat in church for two hours on Sunday mornings, but her life appeared to be all work and no play. Isn't it time to right wrongs such as this?

Systematic

The second woman I wish to introduce knocked on my door back in England one Saturday morning. She was collecting for Christian Aid. She admitted that the welcome she received was not always warm and that collecting was not her favourite way of spending a weekend, but she was obviously careful and systematic in what she was doing and proud to do it.

There is a direct link between these two women, the money collected by one will benefit organisations which help people like the other to get a better deal. One splendid woman I met in a neighbouring village in Zaire had already benefited. Far from being acquiescent,

she had become known even by the men as an 'animateur'.

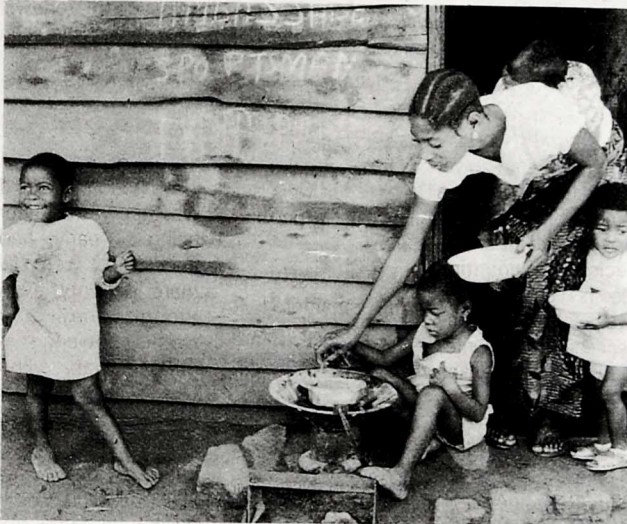
Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after what is right." There are many ways

of doing this and one of them is playing an active part in Christian Aid Week, like the woman who knocked on my door that Saturday morning.

Michael Taylor

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1989 is from 15-20 May.

The Christian Aid Walk is on Saturday 20th May over the usual route starting from Henley.



A woman prepares food for her family in an area on the edge of Bukavu, Zaire.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR HEMDEAN HOUSE

AUDIENCES at Hemdean House Drama Club's latest production might well have wondered what they were going to see. Seated on raised staging, or at the edge of the open area, they soon became engrossed in the performance of Kenneth Grahame's

"Wind in the Willows" — in the round.

This break away from traditional theatre staging helped the audience to shiver in the Wild Wood, to commiserate with Toad in his prison cell and to enjoy the gang antics of the wicked stoats and weasels. Several times

young spectators almost joined in!

There is no doubt that this was a lively, enthusiastic and skilled production into which everyone concerned had poured time and talent. The Drama Club and its helpers deserve congratulations for such an unusual — first!

POSTBAG

Dear Editor,
Before Christmas you probably received a reminder about the West Berkshire Macmillan Cancer Care Appeal in which the Royal Berkshire 150th Anniversary Appeal is combined with Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund to improve cancer care throughout our area. Over £2 million of the required £3 million has been reached and we want to achieve the full amount during this anniversary year of the hospital.

Our local fund-raising groups in Caversham and in the Chiltern Edge catchment area have already raised over £13,000 and we have sponsored a Planning Office and an Interview Room in the new Radiotherapy Department. We have now joined forces to sponsor the Patients' Waiting Area in Phase III. We thank all who have helped so far and ask for

their continued support. We hope that new residents will take this opportunity to learn about the appeal and become involved.

In particular, we ask those who know about the appeal and have yet done nothing, to think about it more closely. Cancer strikes at one in three people during their lifetime. We will all have friends, relatives and possibly ourselves who will benefit from the improved cancer services. Do help our effort by direct donation, by covenancing, by holding fund-raising events and by giving us new ideas.

For more information or to offer assistance, please contact the central appeal office on 755837 or one of our local members who are:

J. Cuthbertson 473611, P. de Tisi 472243, S. McLeary 470129, W. Harper 470895, M. Stace

473066, all living in Caversham, Emmer Green, or Caversham Park.

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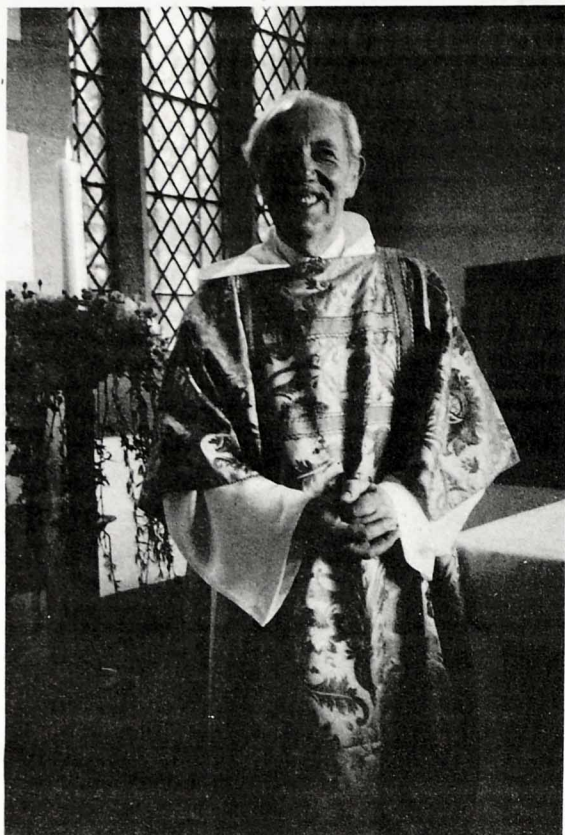
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ROUND THE CHURCHES

FESTIVE CELEBRATION



George Brown

D. Bennett

IN St. Peter's Church on Easter Day, the large congregation were delighted to congratulate George Brown, Head Server, who had completed 50 years' service. To look at him you would have thought he must have started in his pram. The Rector thanked George for his devoted work for

the church under 4 Rectors, and a presentation was made by two of the current team of servers. The parcel that he was encouraged to open immediately contained a new bread knife, suitable replacement for the one used to cut the communion loaf and which was put in to use that day. The

Rector called for any in the congregation who had served with George Brown to come forward — and from all corners of the church they came men and women of all ages all of whom were clearly overjoyed to be part of the celebration. Well done, George — here's to the next 10 years!

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GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

AS I am writing this, the snow is falling upon all the lovely flowers in the garden... but I am sure by the time you read this, the Spring or even Summer will be well and truly here. Easter is always a joyful celebration and one of the services which stood out was the United service at The Caversham Baptist Free Church, which was conducted by the Rev. Dennis Weller with the Rev. Keith Sanders as the preacher. It is always good to share in services with other Christians in Caversham.

organised by Brian and Joy Bosier, the guest speaker for the weekend was Sister Margaret Budd who had been a missionary in China and India. Thanks to Brian and Joy for all the work they do on the 'Mission' scene.

The Boys Brigade held an overnight table tennis marathon and a good time was had by all, apart from just the fun of it, a good sum of money was raised for Company funds.

The Women's Fellowship had a successful Anniversary leading the evening worship with a service on the theme of 'Hands', and on the following Tuesday, over 90 ladies enjoyed the fellowship of a service where Sister Marion Stanley was the speaker.

Five ladies from Gosbrook Road took part with eight ladies from Caversham Heights in the Musical drama 'I Am', by Helen and Jeremy Rawson, which was performed at Wesley Methodist Church with a cast of over 80 from all over the Circuit. This musical was very successful and very well received and it is hoped to perform it again in the future. The Overseas Missions Anniversary was

Congratulations must be recorded to the Rev. Brian Coleman and his wife Dorothy on the birth of a grand daughter (Roberta) to their daughter Lois (Mary), born in the U.S.A. at Easter. Also our good wishes to the Rev. Keith Sanders as he takes his sabbatical also in the U.S.A.

Dates for your diary
May 6th — Family Tea followed by entertainment and a Beetle Drive — beginning at 4.30p.m.
May 21st — Sunday Club Celebration "The Story of Noah" 11a.m.
June 17th — Home Made & Home Grown Fair 10.30a.m.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

ON 12th March the reality of Psalm 24 was delightfully brought home to members — "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it; the world and all who live in it." This was the day when John and Eleanor Thorne visited the church, along with Pastor Josef Siczek and his son, Michael, from Poland. In introducing Pastor Siczek, John said that he works near the Russian border with Poland, in the town of Lublin. John has worked together with him in many Polish villages during the past twenty-one years, and now Josef is looking after eight churches and new pastors who are being trained. They also feel called by God to plant more churches within one hundred kilometres of Lublin. The task of training leaders, as well as teaching children, is made extremely difficult through lack of materials, but tapes are a tremendous aid and are constantly used. Messages are recorded on to ninety minute tapes and passed from village to village. Brother Siczek has a great concern for his people.

After he and his son, Michael, had sung in Russian and English, Monica Tibinski, who has lived and worked in Poland but is now resident in Reading,

interpreted Pastor Siczek's sermons. In a very warm and humorous manner he told how a dream of forty years was being realised in this trip to England. He then went on to turn attention to Luke 10: 25-37 and spoke about the question "What do I do to inherit eternal life?" The answer "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself" brought another question — "Who is my neighbour?" The example of the "good Samaritan" was brought as a challenge to our lives today — to care for those who live around us — and those further afield.

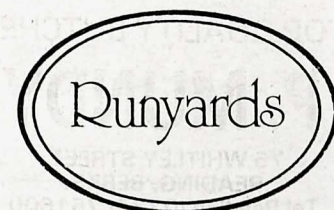
The pastor, Chris Justice, visited Poland three years ago and spent some time in Pastor Siczek's home and preached in one of his churches in Lublin. Many of the converts that form these new churches have become Christians by responding to broadcasts beamed into Poland by Christian radio stations outside the country. Members are grateful that they have now met Josef, and can feel a sense of personal involvement as they pray for Poland, and share his concern for his people.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

St Andrew's Fellowship

A well attended meeting of St Andrew's Fellowship met on March 9th for a most interesting talk by Mr David Copley on the Kennet and Avon Canal. After pointing out what a valuable asset Reading has on its doorstep, Mr Copley gave a brief history of the canal which was begun in the eighteenth century linking Reading and Newbury and complete by the link from Newbury to Bath in 1810.

The opening of the railway led to its inevitable decay due to the decline of traffic and the buying up of the canal by the Great Western Railway who tried to close it. By the 1960s, when the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust was formed the decay was almost complete, and the Trust was faced with an enormous task and no money except what they

could raise themselves.

However, through the enthusiasm of the members, and later, with the aid of Job Creation Schemes, and help from several official bodies, the mammoth task is now almost complete.

Mr Copley showed slides of various locks, including some showing the devastation which had to be coped with before that particular stretch of the canal could be made navigable. Some most interesting sets of locks in close proximity to each other, in one case, twenty-nine, in another sixteen and seven in another, enabled the canal to climb uphill.

After his talk Mr Copley answered many questions, and also opened up a small 'shop' so that members could purchase books, souvenirs and colourful tea towels.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

At one of the Lent groups, a member produced these thoughts by an unknown author on The Lord's Prayer. Our readers might like to share them.

Our attitude to God

"I cannot say 'our' if I live only for myself.

I cannot say 'Father' if I do not try to act like His child.

I cannot say 'who art in heaven' if I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say 'hallowed be thy name' if I am not striving for holiness.

I cannot say 'Thy Kingdom come' if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that event.

I cannot say 'give us this day our daily bread' if I am dishonest, or seeking something for nothing.

I cannot say 'forgive us our trespasses' if I bear a grudge against another.

I cannot say 'lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately place myself in its path.

I cannot say 'deliver us from evil' if I do not put on the armour of God.

I cannot say 'thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory' if I do not give the King the loyalty due to Him from a faithful subject.

And I cannot say 'for ever' if the horizon of my life is bounded completely by time."

The whole thrust of the Lord's Prayer is that when we give God His rightful place, He gives us our rightful place. But not before.



IT'S FETE BRINGING US TOGETHER!

Despite the separation of the Anglican churches in Caversham into new parishes from March, an exciting event on 1st July aims to be a focal point for all.

THE beautiful gardens of Caversham Court are once again to be the venue for another fun celebration. St. Margaret, St. Peter's and St. Margaret, Mapledurham are hosting a traditional Grand Fete for all-comers and, judging by the success of previous happenings there, this will top the lot!

Many will remember the enjoyment of the Mystery Plays at Caversham Court in 1982 — enjoyable for the cameraderie generated by the participants and audiences alike.

Richard Kingsbury, Rector of the new Parish of St. Peter, Caversham and St. Margaret, Mapledurham recently said, "We invite all Caversham folk and anyone else keen to our Party of the Year — come and have fun with us!"

Preparations are well in hand — details of attractions will be publicised in next month's Caversham Bridge. Any profits will be shared by the host churches to make up current shortfalls. So make a note NOW to COME TO THE FETE ON 1ST JULY!

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St. ANDREW'S CHURCH

WHO WANTS TO BE AN APRIL FOOL?

A relaxed and happy evening was enjoyed by all ages at an April Fools Party on the 1st April in St Andrew's Hall. The older members came in fear and trepidation that they would be made 'April Fools' but were assured that nothing like that would take place, and indeed nothing did. Instead they were treated to a splendid evening organised by the young people and helpers of the Wednesday Club.

A hot supper was served, and the entertainment was provided by Club Members, mainly in the form of a talent competition which was imaginative and varied. Eventually everyone had a prize, so there was no real winner, though Clare Dunn, James Aspden and Caroline Jellyman were placed in that order by the judge. Music was provided by the Group led by Philip Aspden and Norman Kent compared the show.



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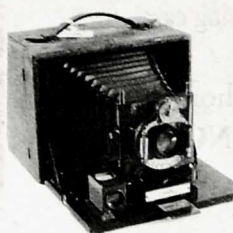
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OBITUARIES

JOHN TOMLIN

John Tomlin was in-
troduced to me shortly
after he moved into Kid-
more Road from Wind-
sor in 1963. We became
and remained firm
friends. John loved
children, he was God-
parent to my daughter.

After a while as As-
sistant Superintendent of
St. Andrew's Sunday
School he subsequently
took over as Superin-
tendent. He loved his Sun-
day mornings with the
children and was very
dedicated to this work
which he considered
and extremely important
part of church life.

His other loves were
photography (at which
he was very proficient),
walking and boating on
the river. He and a friend
would travel from Wind-
sor to the source of the
Thames in a punt; later
he did it in greater com-
fort in a motor launch.

Also, of course, there
was his beloved Wind-
sor; what he didn't know
about the history of
Windsor Castle wasn't
worth knowing. In
earlier years many en-
joyed his slides and lec-
ture on this subject. For
some time he was an
official guide at the St
George's Chapel, Wind-
sor, one of the Friends of
St George's.

When living in Wind-
sor he played an impor-
tant and active part at
Holy Trinity Church and
loved to return there for
the colourful Remem-
brance Sunday Services
in November; he took
both myself and many
others to this very spec-
tacular event over the
years.

After moving to Caver-
sham it wasn't long
before he was equally
involved in the life of St
Andrew's. Apart from his

work with the Sunday
School, he served on the
District Committee and
the PCC; also for many
years he acted as Book-
ing Manager and
Caretaker of St Andrew's
Hall.

John was a gentle soul
and very popular with
everyone. He was both
generous and helpful. To
phone John with an
electrical problem was
to have him on your
doorstep within minutes
to help you out. During
the war John was an In-
spector on the produc-
tion and installation of
Radar and was very
knowledgeable in the
world of electronics and
radio.

We spent many happy
(and often late) hours
together over the years
and his loyal friendship
will be missed not only
by me, but by all who had
the privilege and good
fortune to know him.

N.G. Kent

Nancy Vincent also
writes:

Residents at Word-
sworth Court who have
known John for the last
ten and a half years will
remember him as a kind-
ly, quiet man, always
ready to do a good deed,
and showing a friendly
interest in all. Everyone
felt both a deep concern
for him during the last
year or so as he began to
fail, and also an admira-
tion for the courageous
and stoical way in which
he accepted his growing
limitations. It cannot
have been at all easy for
such an able man.

After the stroke which
affected his speech, I
was privileged to be asked
to help him try to
recover his power to
speak and to read and
write again. His mind
was clear, but his speech
would not often obey his
will, nor would his

hand, when attempting
to write his signature.
The frustration he suf-
fered was obvious.
There were good days,
however, when a pic-
ture, or a chapter from
"Cider with Rosie",
which he very much en-
joyed, would evoke
vivid memories of his
own childhood, and he
would struggle, with
laughter and enthusiasm
to talk of them.

Happily, his strong
sense of humour and his
lively wit did not desert
him. I think of his lovely
sense of humour, of his
courage, his patient en-
durance, and his strong
Christian fortitude. After
Nellie's sad death, he
became more and more
ready to make the Cross-
ing into Life. We are
grateful that this short
journey was peaceful
and easy. He was a tru-
ly humble Christian
gentleman.

ELIZABETH HAWTHORNE

There will be many
pupils and their parents
in Mapledurham who
will remember Elizabeth
Hawthorne and who
will be deeply saddened
to hear of her recent
death. Elizabeth was
brought up in
Mapledurham where

her parents lived in Up-
per Woodcote Road.
She was the last head-
mistress at
Mapledurham C. of E.
Primary School before it
closed. Prior to that she
taught in Goring and
Caversham where she
held posts of special
responsibility. A

dedicated teacher, she
always had her pupils'
welfare uppermost in
her mind.

She will be greatly
missed and the devotion
she gave to the children
in her care will be
remembered for many
years to come.

"Ridd" Ryder, died sud-
denly on 5th April at the
age of 80, spent his
working life in the fam-
ily firm of W.H. Ryder &
Sons, Woodmasters. A
kind and caring church-
man, his community
concern was reflected in
his deep involvement
with the Rotary Club of
Caversham, of which he

was a founder member
and currently the
"Father".

His interest and in-
volvement with the arts
was acknowledged by
his recent election to
Fellowship of the Royal
Society of Arts.

To his wife Slava and to
all his family goes our
deepest sympathy.

BEETLING ABOUT

From page 9

deliver my own run of
"Bridges." Once the
machine had been
cleaned and the tyres
pumped up I was hap-
py to journey on two
wheels. Really heavy
traffic might deter-
me, but beetling
around locally on the
bike suits me fine.
And it will only be
locally; new saddles
are not nearly com-
fortable enough!

New Rest Home

I was invited to look
around Summerfield,
the new Rest Home at
4 Kidmore Road, by

the Matron, Mrs. Ann
Hall SRN. I chose a
sunny day and the
newly decorated
house is glowing.
Although not
registered as a Nursing
Home, there are three
trained nurses on the
staff, and always one
on duty, so emergen-
cies can be coped with
efficiently. Contact
with the local medical
practises is excellent
and nurses and doc-
tors call when
necessary. Mrs. Hall,
herself a lady with all
the qualifications —
she trained at the
Royal Berks and work-
ed at the Berks and

Battle Hospitals, was
at Blagrove for 2 years
and also at the Sue
Ryder Home and was
Matron at Abbeycrest.
She hopes that
residents will enjoy
the rest of their lives
in the home although
nursing for serious
debilitating illnesses
cannot be under-
taken. Even in its very
early weeks some are
there just for a holiday
and perhaps to see if
they like it; another is
there while structural
work is being done on
her home, and there
are several permanent
residents. It struck me
as a caring house, and

Beetling on . . .

WE just managed to
squeeze into the Diary on
Page 12 details of three
more exciting events, all
of which could use your
support. The St. Bar-
nabas' Annual Household
and Handyman Sale will
be held on May 6th from
10am. On 13th May you
can start your day at 23
Surley Row (off Peppard
Road) at the Share-a-Care
Annual Plant Sale from

10am when all garden
produce, especially bed-
ding plants, unwanted
tools and home made
bread will be on sale. Also
mid-morning coffee.

Have an afternoon at
Grazely (see p.2) then off
to St. Peter's where the
Phoenix Choir will be per-
forming from 7.30pm.
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(\$3 and \$2 concessions).

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BEE TLING ABOUT

Unleaded Petrol

I have just had my car converted to take unleaded petrol; now I must find petrol stations which sell it. The Mobil garage in the Peppard Road was the first to have a pump in Reading, and is easily distinguishable by its green casing. The Esso station in Buckingham Drive is planning a complete face lift which will close it down for some months — on re-opening it will sell unleaded petrol. Neither Amoco stations in the Henley and Lower Henley Roads carry this, though the latter tells me that there are plans to stock it later. In the centre of Caversham in Church Street the Esso station has just installed an unleaded pump and the Fina station in George Street has had it for some time, so filling a tank locally should not prove difficult.

Dead Swan

I went to look at my boat after the recent heavy winds and was sad to see a dead swan caught in the river detritus by it. Knowing that checks are kept on these beautiful birds, I phoned Thames Water with the details. Next day I had a call from Jane Sears in Oxford. She is researching the cause of death in swans and came to Caversham to collect the body. I met her and she was able to tell me that the bird, a 1986 cygnet from near Windsor, had been rejected by its family and taken into care. Later it was released at Wokingham and then went to Dinton Pastures and eventually found its way to Reading, where it met its end. The autopsy had not been done before we went to press. Jane did say that she would like to know of any dead swans and would guarantee to pick

them up within 24 hours. She is Jane Sears at Oxford (0865) 271133.

Animal Sanctuary

A reader writes to tell us that the 'phone number of the Animal Sanctuary in Caversham is 475514.

A Walk

Just because I write about a car and a boat doesn't mean that I don't foot it as much as possible and it is always interesting to explore lesser known parts of Caversham. Have you ever, for instance, walked along the north bank of the river going east? If you take a turning off the Gosbrook Road, like Send Road or Mill Road, you will come to the river and the new houses built so attractively on the site of the old Caversham Mill. Continue along by the water, past charming Edwardian houses with gardens down to the river. Here the riverside walk ends, but if you go a little further, Deans farmhouse, with its lovely Georgian door is visible. The farm itself is much older and some of the buildings are timbered. Again, at the end of the river section one or two delightful flint cottages can be seen before the area becomes too built up. This river extension walk can be incorporated in a longer one and my favourite water walk is a circular one. Start anywhere by the river — say Caversham Bridge north side, then down behind Riverside Court. Continue, past the War Memorial into Christchurch Playing Fields, under Reading Bridge into Hills Meadow. Then if you don't want to do the extension I've written about earlier, cross the river by the weir and over to Caversham Lock where you join the tow path and the south side of the Thames back to Caversham Bridge. This you must cross to complete your circular tour, but it's worth this little bit of noise and traffic for the interesting things you will see en route. The south bank is becoming much tidier.

taken hold in their new home, I found that I had lost one or two. Although gardening friends would have helped me replace, I thought the time opportune to visit Mrs. Watson. This lovely lady lives at Crossways, Nuney Green, off the Goring Heath Road, and outside her house she seems to have a permanent stall of plants for sale, all at very reasonable prices. All the proceeds go towards the Mapledurham Village Hall at Trench Green. Now if you know the area, the Goring Heath road itself is not the busiest, and the road off it even less so, so it is quite amazing that last year Mrs. Watson raised £200 for this worthy cause. Most of her customers are walkers, so this is an incredible amount of money to be raised mostly from casual passersby. If you do call at Crossways, and can spare some small empty pots, Mrs. Watson will be very grateful, as they are so useful for replacements.

Garden Open

On page 2 you will see an advertisement for a garden to be opened to the public on May 13th in aid of the Royal Berkshire Hospital's 150th anniversary appeal. Though outside Caversham, I'm sure many local residents would welcome an outing for such a worthy cause. Dear readers, we should love to publicise similar events, but do be sure to give plenty of notice.

New Stamp Book

I forgot about the recent new stamp issue and was disappointed to find that the Prospect Street PO had sold out of 19ps and I do like to put a pretty stamp on my letters. However, I was so pleased to be offered the new book of stamps, 10x19p with 5 different designs suitable for birthdays, anniversaries, good luck and best wishes. There are also 10 stickers which you may choose to use. A brilliant idea from the Post Office.

A New Door Opening

Congratulations to the Oxford Diocese on the publication of their first printing of DOOR (Diocese of Oxford Reporter). This free news sheet is full of interesting information, including a

'who's who' of the Anglican Hierarchy. Also was a notice of Canon Grimwade's retirement this year (more later) which did mention his founding of this newspaper and I shouldn't be surprised if its success over nearly 25 years hasn't spurred the Diocese to copy our format.

They are able to distribute to churches free of charge; we have felt that this paper is worth paying for and it's very pleasing at the end of a financial year to be able to give money away from our small profit. Our own John Madeley is writing a monthly column for the new DOOR and we're glad he's still writing for us.

Christian Books

An article is included this month about the new Christian books given to the Library in Caversham and paid for by all the Caversham churches. The booklist is impressive, especially those for the children so do go in and ask to see them. It was just disappointing that the exhibition of them was on show for such a short period. Perhaps at Whitsun they might have a re-run?

On My Bike

Just to show that this month's columnist is an all-rounder, I got out on my bike for those sunny days at the end of March to

Turn to page 8

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SPONSORED MOTORCYCLE RIDE IN AID OF CORRYMEELA LINK

THE Revd Derek Spears, Honorary Secretary of the Corrymeela Link Committee, will be riding a BMW 8 ORT motorcycle from Reading to Jerusalem to tour Israel and return during a four week period from 15th July to 13th August.

In Israel Derek hopes to visit the village of Neve Shalom which is attempting to improve

understanding between Jews, Christians and Arabs.

The anticipated mileage covered during this trip will be between 3,500 and 5,500 miles.

One aim of the project is to raise money for Corrymeela Link, which exists to support the work of Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.

It is planned to run a competition

open to the public to guess the total number of miles covered by motorcycle.

Derek can be contacted either through the Link Office or at his home: St Matthew's Vicarage, 205 Southcote Lane, Reading Tel: (0734) 573755. Please support him and Corrymeela by asking for the route map and a sponsor form.

2nd CAVERSHAM GUIDES

JANE Mason, the leader of the 2nd Caversham Guides for the past seven years, is leaving Reading in May to go round the world. Many present and past Guides, and their parents, wish her well and would like to thank

her for her commitment to the Company. Would anyone reading this like to take her place? Maybe two friends? No experience or expertise is needed, just an interest in young people. Unfortunately,

without new leaders the 2nd Caversham Guides will have to close. The Guides meet at the Scout Hut, Grove Road, on Fridays 7.00-9.00pm.

If you are interested please ring Sylvia Page on Reading 477031.

POSTBAG

DOOM AND GLOOM

Dear Sir,

Can't eat eggs, don't drink water in Cornwall, beware of milk, it may have glass in it, beware of tins of baby food, something wrong with brown bread. Having lived to eighty-nine, I eat brown bread daily, have an egg when I feel like it, drink milk, also water ad lib. What are we going to be told next?

I think it is all a ramp and take no notice. One day perhaps we will have some good news. At the moment it is all doom and

gloom, and the way doctors are being treated is absolutely disgraceful. I've written to my M.P. to try to do something and I hope others will do the same.

All good wishes

(Mrs) Nancy Banfield

NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

Dear Editor,

I should like to thank all those kind friends who gave me, on my ninetieth birthday, the lovely gift of hyacinths and accompanying card.

The flowers which were in quiet blue bud have now blossomed into brilliant beauty.

Thank you sincerely for the pleasure they are giving me.

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(signed) Ruth Hawthorne

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ARTHUR and Phyllis Burton have decided to retire after many years of devoted work for the Society.

Last year the Reading Committee raised £11,000 which went towards the Royal Berkshire Hospital Development and this year's money will go to the new Hospice being built at Dellwood. The Committee would welcome any help for this worthy cause. Those interested should contact the Secretary, Mrs Marion Kitcher, 472660, or the Chairman Douglas Kerr, 473958.

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the CLUBS

Maplewood WI

The annual Meeting of Maplewood W.I. was held at Mapledurham Pavilion in March when Mrs Heather Baker was elected President for the third year. Mrs Joan Fry remains as Secretary, with Mrs Joan Balleley as Treasurer.

The Secretary's report reflected a busy year, with some very interesting speakers and various outings and social occasions. There was an impressive display of members' handwork, and Mrs Margaret Jeffery won the competition for a decorated egg.

The winner with the most competition points for the year was Miss Winifred Simmonds, and Mrs Dorothy St Alphonse won the flower of the month competition with a spray of japonica.

Caversham Community Association

A whistdrive was held on the 6th March with Doreen Crawley in charge and ready to help with any queries from the less experienced players. The winner with the highest number of points was George Feast, Florence Abel received the consolation prize. The 'Nearly New' stall was well supplied, with Vicki Scheel helping the members to sort out bargains. A percentage of the proceedings was given to the club funds by the members supplying the goods.

A Quiz evening was organised for the meeting held the following week. The members

had a good selection of quizzes arranged for them, including one on Reading town, another on names of trees and jumbled word games. Small prizes were distributed to the winners.

On the 19th March the visiting speaker was Mrs. Barbara Simpson from Tilehurst, her subject being 'Egg Craft'. Mrs. Simpson became interested in the decorating and cutting of eggs about seven years ago when she attended a course in Gloucestershire. The eggs Mrs. Simpson uses are from the emu, rhea, ostrich, quail, pigeon, cockatiel and budgerigar which she blows using a suction-like device. The shells are cut with a very fine electric saw, some into halves with tiny hinges glued into place. A further refinement is to cut the shells into elaborate lacy designs using another delicate electric saw. Mrs. Simpson uses her artistic ability to decorate the eggs, with special braids and flowers skilfully made and placed inside and outside the beautifully lined eggshells. Mrs. Simpson brought many specimens of her work to show the members, some were placed on stands or suspended from special hangers. There were also decorated eggs she had made for special occasions, some had small clocks attached, others could be opened to enclose small gifts. At the end of her talk the display of decorated eggs was colourful and impressive to behold. Mrs. Feast, the Chairman, thanked Mrs. Simpson for a very interesting evening.

The clubroom was closed the following week because of the Easter Bank holiday.

St Peter's Wives Group

On Tuesday March 21st St Peter's Wives were delightfully transported on a tour of English cathedrals, Chelsea Flower Show and some American cities. Mr Peter Harnes, a talented photographer, made this possible by an audio-visual presentation of his slides. The accompanying music and commentary added to the enjoyment of the vivid and beautiful pictures.

St Peter's Wives meet at Church House, Caversham, on the third Tuesday of each month. At the next meeting on May 16th Mrs Rixon will be showing her dolls. As always, everyone is very welcome to come along at 8pm to any of these friendly gatherings.

Emmer Green TG

In March the ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met to listen to a fascinating talk given by Mrs Carter entitled "Hunting Junk". She started her business in one room with £100 capital and now mainly deals in furniture, the value of which has increased more than property. Mrs Carter brought along some of her own treasures, each with its own interesting story, and also talked about some of the unusual objects which some of the guild members had brought along, giving a few surprises as to their origins and uses. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. H. Pocock.

Members were told about the forthcoming Jumble Sale in April and the outing in June to Bowood House and Lacock Village. A very successful sales table of Easter cakes was run by Mrs Cooper and Mrs Harvey and the draw for the flowers was won by Miss E. Marsden.

Caversham Ladies Club

The March meeting was the Club's AGM and Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opened it with her usual warm welcome and said how pleasing it was to see so many members present. It showed how much they were interested in their Club's activities and future. Before the start of the afternoon's business Mrs Harwood told the meeting of the death of a fellow member, Mrs

Wreford, and asked them to join in a minute's silence in sympathy and memory.

Mrs Harwood then read out her report of the previous year's activities, thanking the members for all their willing help in various jobs, Mrs Leach for an excellent job over distributing cards to sick members and on birthdays, and all the committee for the help and support they had given her during her year of office. Reports were read by Mrs Nelhams, Secretary, Mrs Queenie Strong, Treasurer, Mrs Brenda Strong, Produce Table and Mrs E. Locke, Sales Table. Mrs Harwood thanked them for their reports and said the hard work they had put in had greatly helped the Club's finances.

The Committee then retired and Mrs Weal, Vice Chairman, took the Chair, firstly thanking all the Committee saying how much she had enjoyed working with them, with special thanks to Mrs Harwood for always holding meetings in her home, and providing light refreshments after committee work was completed. Mrs Weal then asked for nominations for chairman. Within a few minutes the committee were re-elected.

Mrs Harwood thanked the members for their confidence, and promised they would try their hardest to continue all interests of the club. Then witty auctioneer, Mrs Brenda Strong, started on the job of selling the Bring and Buy gifts that members had brought along. With lots of laughs most of the items were soon in members' baskets, the remainder going to Oxfam.

After the usual light refreshments the meeting closed with members knowing how much the club had appreciated their help and generosity to each other, and a feeling of closeness and friendship was strong as they left for home.

Rosehill WI

The March meeting was the AGM and Mrs Weller welcomed everyone. The various annual reports were read and vouchers were presented to the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Dates were fixed for Scrabble, Rambling, etc. The Ramblers have recently done two riverside walks, from each side of Caversham Bridge. The River Thames holds a lot

of interest and on their return they visited the new Rivermead Leisure Centre.

The VCO, Mrs Fricker, then talked about her various hobbies. She brought examples of the lovely flower arrangements she makes, with silk and home-grown dried flowers.

After this a new committee was formed and Mrs Fricker presided at the ballot for President. Mrs Barbara Weller agreed to stand again for a third year.

The competition for a bowl of bulbs was won by Mrs Stockhill.

Caversham Heights TG

Doubts were expressed about the forthcoming poll tax at the well-attended meeting of the main guild in St Andrew's Hall in March. Mr Steve White and Mr Nigel Blair, both of whom come from the community charge unit of Reading Borough Council, explained the structure and working of the tax to Caversham Heights townswomen members and the good sprinkling of husbands who were present. What emerged from the discussion afterwards was the fact that as this tax is not based on the ability to pay but is the same for everybody, for every person who will be better off as a result of its introduction, another poorer person will be worse off. Where opponents of the tax have broken down streets into gainers and losers, as in Oxford, their figures contradict Government claims that a large majority will benefit. Also as soon as child benefit ceases, 19-year olds even if still at school will be called upon to pay some tax, which could aggravate problems in the home very seriously. Perhaps leading to their leaving too soon. The first bills will be sent out on 1st April, 1990.

A questionnaire from guild headquarters about the use of unleaded petrol was answered by members

At social studies Molly Casey of the Resident's Association gave a fascinating talk about the history of Caversham, which of course is longer than that of Reading. Caversham's holy well and many other historical facts were touched on, concluding with a mention of the opening of the present Caversham bridge by the Prince of Wales in 1926.

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9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)**St Andrew's**8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong**St Barnabas'**8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH**

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6.30pm (2nd Sunday)SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am.
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House study groups Sept — June Tel: 475783**CAVERSHAM DIARY**

- May 3rd** 7pm Greyfriars Church. Cruse Meeting.
Mother Frances Dominica talks on
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- May 6th** 10am St. Barnabas Church Hall, Grove
Road, Emmer Green. Annual Household
& Handyman Sale.
- May 7th** 8pm St Andrew's Hall, Caversham:
Jabcock Theatre Company present "Up
the Wall". A play written for the
Church Urban Fund.
- May 13th** 10-12.30, 23 Surley Row. Share-a Care
Plant Sale
7.30pm St. Peter's Church Phoenix
Choir for Christian Aid
- May 20th** 10am-5pm Church House. Art
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Christian Aid Walk
- May 27th** Barberettes at St John's Church for the
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