

Successful Link Group meeting

A WELL planned meeting by members of the Link Group attracted a large gathering in St Andrew's Hall on the evening of February 5.

Members of the Group had extended an invitation to all who were interested to come and hear about their work.

Mrs Lynda Bates, the Group's Chairman welcomed the Rector and Mrs Grimwade and other Caversham clergy.

Speaking at the start about a little handicapped boy she had known before coming to Caversham, Doreen Bennett said — "Here in this area, if we are not too afraid or too complacent to look round, there are hundreds of people who, because of physical, mental, or emotional handicap would find life quite literally unbearable if it were not for the support of charitable organisations. And they still need the understanding of neighbours in the community if they are to take their rightful place there."

Visiting speakers

Lynda Bates introduced three visiting speakers, who continued the theme.

Christine Bland, of Family Aid and Katesgrove House, spoke of the deprived and sometimes desperate young families with whom she worked.

Michael Prewett, of the Cyrenians, said that many thousands of people in this country "slept rough" every night. They could be alcoholics, drug takers, mentally or physically sick, institutionalised. Sometimes they found their first home ever in a Cyrenian house, and could stay for as long or as short a time as they wished. Such a house is shortly to be opened in Reading.

Mary Yeomans, of the Partially Sighted Society, is the mother of two partially sighted little boys. She spoke of the need to treat all handicapped people as fellow human beings, not as a race apart.

How the Link Group started

Doreen Bennett then told of the Link Group's beginnings. During the 1974 Family Festival, of which she was secretary, people from Churches of different denominations had enjoyed working with one another, and with other groups in the community. They had also become very involved with the problems

faced by people being helped by the four charities for which money was being raised. Their determination to give more personal on-going help and understanding had resulted in the formation of the Group.

The pattern of activities today had evolved as more and more needs were brought to their attention. Personal involvement was important, and they had, over six years, been concerned with about thirty local charitable organisations and many individuals.

The Link Group today

Paula Andrews, last year's Chairman, outlined a typical Link Group year. This included an outing for mentally handicapped children; collection and delivery of toys to Katesgrove House and the Battered Wives' Home; participation in an ecumenical service, and a house inter-denominational Communion service; carol singing and a Good-as-New Sale to raise money for particular projects; collection and delivery of household goods; and speakers from the Blind Club, Abbeyfield, the Partially Sighted Society, and the Samaritans.

Vera Scott spoke of 20 Priest Hill, with which the Link Group had been associated from the beginning, through initial fundraising, provision of furnishings, cleaning and setting up of flatlets, and now a personal contact. Mrs Lawrence, a Social Worker, told of a particular young unmarried mother who had received a loving welcome there.

Pat Jenkins, constantly at the end of a telephone, and Joyce and Jim Plunkett, deal with the Link Group's "furniture business". As Jim was away, Ken Bennett read the report he had written. The audience at first shrieked with laughter at the hilarious account of trials and tribulations of the hazardous business of collecting and transferring household goods from generous donors to needy families.

This changed to compassion at the poignant pic-

ture of a typical recipient, an elderly crippled widower, rehoused after two years in hospital, with no furniture at all, watching wistfully at the window to see what Joyce and Jim would be bringing next.

Valerie Birtwhistle, another former Chairman, said that well over £2,000 had been raised for charitable projects. These included things needed by Mencap, Spastics, Richmond Fellowship, Partially Sighted and Blind, Family Aid and many others.

Edna Martyn-Johns said that many Link Group members had individual personal contacts with the Charities with which the Link Group was concerned.

Cath Pynn, a former Link Group secretary, spoke of the ecumenical aspect. The Group held its own inter-denominational Communion services each year, and had suggested the outdoor Eucharist in Caversham Court in 1977. But she also expressed the hope that people of different denominations, building strong ties of friendship, and working together at "grass roots" level, could strengthen and complement the more official ecumenical activities, including the present Covenant proposals.

The future

After the outline given of past and present Link Group activities, Lynda Bates looked to the future by introducing Dr Kevin Murphy. His committee is shortly opening a long stay home in Woodcote Road for severely disabled young people. He hoped that they would be welcomed into the community, and were already forging links with individuals.

The Link Group then entertained all their guests to a buffet supper, during which they were able to inspect the exhibits set up by the Charities, and talk to the various speakers. The food was provided by members and the coffee served by Vera and Vic Smith.

At the close of the evening, the Rector thanked the Group on behalf of all the visitors, and Ted Boulding asked everyone to join in the Link Group Prayer.

Barnacles make presentation



— Peter Sear

SOME members of the Barnacles Youth Group — (left to right) Jonathan Wall, Andrew Hester, David Notton, Robert Archer, Gwynneth Notton, and Sarah Hester presenting a cheque to Mr Tom Warner (and his dog Nap) of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The group from St Barnabas Church visited the guide dog training centre at Wokingham, and presented the cheque for £40 which they had raised by carol singing last Christmas.

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The Editor's Column

Dear Mr President...

VACLAF Umlauf is a twenty-year-old miner in Czechoslovakia who is preparing for theological studies. On March 19 last year police searched his home. They confiscated literature with religious themes, and some typewritten manuscripts and arrested him. Two months later he was tried on charges of "incitement" and "damaging the interests of the Republic abroad". He was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

He had complained at his place of work that the equipment in the mines was inadequate and he had openly condemned the Soviet military action in Afghanistan. He was also accused of having distributed an unspecified "anti-state" text and of having sent a letter to a priest in the United Kingdom in which he criticised the Prague trial in October 1979 of six members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted.

Amnesty International

About twenty five people in Caversham have each been writing a letter on behalf of Vaclaf Umlauf to the President of the Czech Republic. Each month Amnesty International adopts a number of prisoners and asks its members to write letters on their behalf. All the prisoners selected have been arrested because of their religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated the use of violence and in each case their continued detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In many different countries men and women like Vaclaf Umlauf are commonly arrested: sometimes they are held in prison for months or even years without any specific charge being made against them, and without being brought to trial.

The arrests have sometimes been the work of some junior official with a personal grudge against the prisoner. When, over a period of a few weeks, some hundreds of letters arrive from all over the world enquiring about the reasons for the imprisonment of a certain person his case is frequently looked into by a more senior officer and his release ordered.

The Governments of many small countries in particular are often very sensitive to public opinion and realise that unjust imprisonment when publicised gives an image of their regime which they would prefer not to be noted. In December last year Amnesty International learnt of the release of no less than one hundred and seven prisoners whose cases it had been investigating.

Politically neutral

Awarded a Nobel Peace Prize Amnesty is without political bias. Quite deliberately it selects the cases of prisoners from left wing, right wing and non-aligned countries as far as possible in equal proportions. The other two letters on whose behalf letters are being sent this month from Caversham are in Jordan and Chile. One of the prisoners has been brutally tortured by being kept hanging by the feet for hours. Amnesty is particularly concerned at the moment about conditions in San Salvador where torture is common.

One great thing about being an Amnesty letter writer is that it involves you in no committee meetings: you can write the three monthly letters as and when you like, and it is a work of mercy that can be undertaken by many people who cannot any longer undertake more strenuous activities. It costs you nothing except an annual subscription of fifty pence to cover administrative expenses, and the price of your three air letter forms to foreign countries.

We live in a free country. Vaclaf Umlauf and thousands of other prisoners do not. If you would like to help please contact Mr. K. Pick at 2 Conisboro Avenue. Telephone 474470 and he will send you details of Amnesty's Three Prisoners of the Month.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

EDITOR: The Rev Canon J. G. Grimwade, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ASST EDITOR: The Rev P. Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LJ. Tel: 473095.

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

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr R. Kitcher, 8 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7AW. Tel: 472660.

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

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mr H. Hitchman, 153 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, RG4 7JR. Tel: 472542.

Sue Ryder Support Group Caversham

THE Group is now entering its busy Spring Programme. It has recently held a social evening for its members to enjoy some relaxation and meet the "better halves".

With apologies for recent wrong information, the Group's Jumble Sale is 2pm Saturday April 25 at the Methodist Hall Ardler Road, Caversham. The Hall will be open at 10am and the Group will gladly receive goods then or beforehand at 168 Henley Road, Caversham. Many thanks to all those who have already contributed.

The Group has been able to donate £125 to the Home this month. The Christmas Fair held at Joyce Grove

raised £2,500, but before everyone rejoices, the recent running costs have been published and are: Total running expenses £190.00 or £520 per day. The Home receipts were £84,250 or £374 per day. The difference is funded from headquarters.

The aim is to make the Home self sufficient, so please help to make the summer Fair a success.

It is August 15. Gifts generally for raffles or stalls will be gratefully received i.e. toys, tombola, bottles, books, homemade produce. This Group organises a Sweet Stall and would be delighted with contributions — Make it a Lent objective and help them to exceed their 1980 £100 target. All details Mrs A. Deane 473798.

GARDENS — TOO SMALL AND TOO BIG

SOME people in Caversham with only a tiny garden would like a larger one so that they can grow vegetables. Some elderly people have a large garden that was once their delight but now it worries them because they cannot keep it as it once was. The Caversham Bridge has been approached by an elderly resident in Upper Woodcote Road who would be delighted to let someone have the use of part of his large garden.

So the Bridge will be glad to hear of anyone who wants a piece of garden for vegetable growing and from others who would be grateful if a younger person would take over all or part of a large garden. Address your enquiries to "Garden Swap" at the Parish Office.

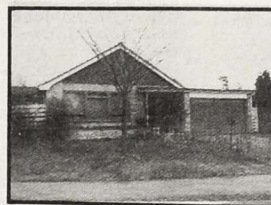


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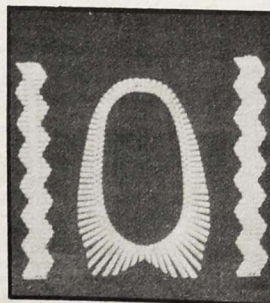
Two of the many properties in Caversham and South Oxon sold during the past month



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TO ITALY WITH SYMPATHY

JUST four days elapsed from the time that Mr Clive Church of Wokingham left Reading with a caravan in tow for the Italian earthquake disaster area, to his arrival back in Reading again, having completed a round trip of 3,200 miles.

On New Year's Day the Methodist Relief Fund appealed for Methodist Churches in the country to muster 100 caravans for sending to the disaster area. The Reading Circuit responded by asking every church member to donate £1 towards the enterprise, and within a few days the money began to roll in. A suitable van had been acquired thanks to Mr Chris Nicholls of the Caversham Heights Church and all that was needed was a car and driver.

Mr Church volunteered for the trip, but his car was not powerful enough to tow the Bailey Maestro. Then Mr David Cross, also of the Heights Church, came to the rescue and arranged for Vincents' Garage to loan a Peugeot 505 and this car whisked the van down the French and Italian motorways at a steady 65mph.

On through France

The caravan arrived on French soil in the early hours of Saturday January 24. Mr Church set off at once for his destination, snatching a few hours sleep south of Paris and a few more on the Mediterranean coast before crossing at dawn on the Sunday into Italy.

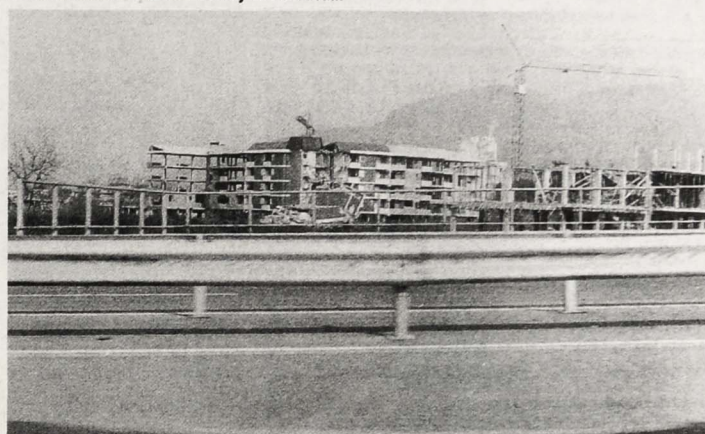
A phone call to the British Vice-Consul in Naples brought the information that a convoy of caravans

was leaving on the Monday morning for the earthquake zone. The opportunity of joining this convoy seemed too good to miss, so Mr Church pressed on and reached Naples that night without difficulty. The difficulty came in finding the rendezvous in Naples, but a friendly Italian police car, its blue lights flashing, piloted the van up one way streets — against the traffic flow! — until it was safely parked for the night.

Next morning the convoy left for Serine, a village north of Salerno and here the Reading van was handed over by Mr Church to Rodia Alfouse, whose family would occupy it until a more permanent dwelling was available. Mission accomplished, Mr Church set off for home at midday and by the following night was enjoying a well-earned rest in a bed that happily is never likely to be wrecked by earthquake tremors.



■ Rodia Alfouse and her son by the caravan.



■ A block of flats ruined by the earthquake.

Here we come gathering

AFTER the searing intensities of Alban Berg's "Lulu" at Covent Garden the night before, the comic delights of "Here we come gathering" proved a welcome antidote. This play (which was presented by the Caversham Players in St Andrews Hall on February 18, 20 and 21) recounted the misfortunes of a young couple who arrived at their new country cottage to find their furniture has not yet arrived and how finally the husband threw off the yoke of his domineering mother. Perhaps not the most satisfying of plots, and several parts dragged a little, the play nevertheless provided several excellent opportunities which were avidly seized by the cast.

As the central couple, Phillip and Anne Kella-

way, Chris Bowring and Jan Carden gave excellent performances, the former's being probably his best performance with the Caversham Players to date. As the domineering mother, Joyce Boulding created a vivid picture of the vicar's wife, a type fortunately only encountered in the pages of fiction who tried to carry all before her.

Varied characterisation

Her husband, the dithering vicar, again a character owing more to fiction, was delightfully played by Tom Chadwick with just the right touch of otherworldliness. The roles of the secondary couple were taken by George Byers and Louise Smith. Louise Smith's gifts for comedy were fully

exploited as Shirley Cameron, the pert young miss who gets her man, while as her somewhat reluctant Romeo, George Byers gave a nicely rounded performance with just the right touch of the faux-naïf.

As Gray Meredith Steve Tillman conveyed well the suave confidence of the character, making something positive out of one of the play's less interesting characters.

As the Awful Infant, Evadne Potter, looked like an escaped inmate from St Trinian's and judging from where she kept her sweets may well have been. Her exploits with the unfortunate duck (the tenth member of the cast and a little "high" by the last performance) were excellent comic entertainment and a magnificent performance. The cast was completed by Alistair Tibble as the tramp Luke Betterworth.

Magnificent set

The set once again realised the usual high standards we expect of the Caversham Players and a particular mention must be made of the convincing sound effects. The play was directed and produced by Dorothy Byers with her customary panache and gusto.

One hopes that now the Players have won a regular following and have such talented actors, especially in character parts, they will be a little more adventurous in their choice of play — what about a Feydeau farce? Certainly their next production "Said the spider" in the week after Easter moves into new territory and if it proves as good as its predecessors will be well worth seeing.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Criticism

I'VE JUST read February's edition of the Caversham Bridge newspaper and felt inclined to write a letter to you as the Editor.

The overall impression I get from this particular issue, is that it is full of news about old Caversham and advertisements. I feel strongly that the newspaper is becoming a padded advertising sheet with very little worth reading. I would implore you to change your content lest your readership lose interest altogether.

Specific suggestions for improvement would be to have at least one good bible-study in it, contemporary and bouncy! Also to increase the number of

your reporters who must be few by the content of your paper!

C. M. WHITE
27a Bulmershe Road,
Reading

Improvement

I WRITE to express how pleased I was to see this month's edition of Caversham Bridge, so much improved from last month's edition. I still await the Bible study which I feel an essential factor for a newspaper distributed, not only to Christians, but to unbelievers also.

C. M. WHITE
P.S. I worship at Caversham Heights Methodist.
27a Bulmershe Road,
Reading

DISARMAMENT

MR KYNASTON, in his letter on disarmament, stresses very properly the need for facts, not just opinions. He gives us a fact "There has been no war between major powers for thirty-five years". Quite true. His next sentence is this: "This is entirely because of the existence of the deterrent". This is an opinion, not a fact. An equally tenable opinion is that there has been no such war because no major power has seen any political reason for starting one. But:

Fact. There have been around 100 wars in the world since 1945 — on the average six at any one time.

Opinion. Any such war could escalate, since the super-powers on both sides have frequently backed one or the other contestant.

Fact. More and more countries, many of them in sensitive areas, are acquiring the capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

Opinion. This vastly increases the danger of one of the above wars escalating into nuclear war.

Fact. The arms race is escalating with a rapidity that is without precedent.

Opinion. We must call a halt before it gets completely out of con-

trol. Scientists like Lord Zuckerman and military leaders like Lord Mountbatten and President Eisenhower have told us that already there is a self-generating impulse which must be consciously controlled.

Fact. The World Disarmament Campaign has been established as an attempt to show governments that their publics are urgently concerned that they should give a much higher priority to calling an immediate halt to the arms race, and to working out detailed plans for disarmament by agreed stages by all countries by mutual agreement, as called for in the Final Act of the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978.

The main thrust of the World Disarmament Campaign in this country is to show the depth of this public concern by obtaining at least 10 million signatures for a petition to be presented before the UN special session reconvenes in 1982.

The immediate need in Reading is for volunteers who will each obtain 100 or 200 signatures for this petition by house-to-house canvassing. Now that the Churches nationally have shown their support for the Campaign in their various assemblies, we have every reason to hope that many of those volunteers will come from church congregations. Will anyone who is so moved to give some service in this cause please contact me at the address below.

Multilateralists and unilateralists can happily work together in this enterprise.

DONALD J. HUGHES
12 Woodford Close,
Caversham.

Text of the Petition

To all Governments and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament 1982, We, the Peoples of the World, demand;

(i) The abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

(ii) The abolition, by agreed stages, of conventional arms, leading to

(iii) General and complete disarmament.

(iv) Transference of military expenditure to end world poverty.

Last November the British Council of Churches at its Autumn Assembly gave overwhelming support to this petition. Since then the Diocese of Oxford has circulated all parishes with arrangements about launching the petition. Editor.

BRANDT REPORT

I REGRET having to take issue with a correspondent who is so obviously sincere in his beliefs, but I feel I must reply to some of the points raised in the letter in the March issue regarding "The Brandt Report, Disarmament etc."

Your correspondent asks for facts, so I will give just a few — though I must say I found it a little surprising that he followed this remark with something which can only be a matter of surmise, ie the reason why there has been no major conflict in recent years.

Fact. There are already in existence enough nuclear arms to destroy this world completely.

Fact. The Cruise missile, by its very nature, can only be a first strike weapon.

Fact. The government has already reversed its original promise, that the missiles in question would be without warheads except during a major alert.

Fact. The US army invaded Vietnam on a pretext which was discredited long before the end of the war.

Fact. Vietnam is not on the borders of the US by any stretch of imagination.

Fact. The US President is openly contemplating supplying arms and perhaps military personnel to prop up an utterly corrupt regime in El Salvador.

May I now be permitted to give one or two opinions, based on the above facts.

I don't pretend to know what the Almighty would think of a possible crusade against Communism, but I do consider threats of destruction of the world He made to be utterly immoral. And I believe a nuclear holocaust, no matter who unleashed it, would destroy the world.

I trust none of the leaders of the major countries of the world. Furthermore I do not believe that our government would have any say as to when and how Cruise missiles would be launched once they were here.

The signs would point to an equally aggressive role on the part of the US as on the part of the USSR.

I want no part in any of it, and far from being worried about the possible removal of the "US umbrella", I would welcome it.

(MISS W. M. DARTER — KATY)

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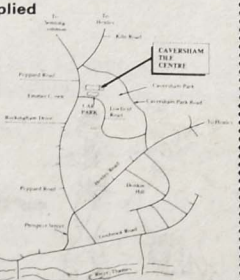
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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

Around the Anglican Parish

THE five annual District meetings of the parish were held between February 20 and March 1. Attendance at all of them was much as in previous years. In all cases treasurers were able to report a rise in income in 1980 but foresaw real financial problems in 1981 unless the standard of giving is raised substantially. Three new district wardens were appointed.

At St Peter's Mr R. Gamble and Mr J. Stratford replace Mr D. Birtwhistle and Mr K. Bennett. Mr Birtwhistle has been compelled to retire because of illness and Mr Bennett was offering himself for election as Churchwarden of the parish. Mr Gamble comes on to the Parochial Church Council for the first time together with Messrs M. Coome and F. Rule.

At St John's Mr P. Tipton returns after three years both to the Council and to the office of District Warden and the District's new treasurer Mr A. Clark was also elected.

At St Andrew's Mr J. Tomlin returns again to the Council and at Caversham Park Mrs E. van Dort was elected together with Mr M. Chevallier who had previously, as chairman of the parish stewardship committee, been a co-opted member. Only at St Barnabas was there

no change in Council membership.

The Annual Parochial meeting had not been held at the time the Caversham Bridge went to print. A report of this will appear next month.

New Reader

Caversham's six Readers, who are taking an increasing share in ministry in the parish are being joined by a seventh with the licensing in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday March 21 of Sr Sara Maureen, a member of the Community of St Mary the Virgin who is working at Springfield St Luke. Four days after her licensing she will preach to members of the Mothers Union at their Lady Day service at St Peter's. On Passion Sunday April 5 she is to preach at St Barnabas, and she will be helping to administer the chalice as well as preaching in the other churches of the parish in the coming months.

90th Birthday

The Rev Stephen Jeffrey, who when he first retired lived in the parish of

ANGLICAN NEWS

Caversham and frequently took services, recently celebrated his 90th Birthday. Two days later he was celebrant at a High Mass at All Saints Church Exmouth. For some years now he has lived at Exmouth at the home of his married daughter Mrs Kinch.

St Peter's Wives Group

FOR their January meeting members were entertained by a talk entitled "Scrapbook of a Royal Visit". The speaker was Mrs Mander who was Mayoress of Reading when the Queen and Prince Philip paid an official visit to the town in March 1978. Mrs Mander gave a fascinating

insight into the preparations that are essential before a Royal Visit, going on to describe the "Great Day" in detail.

The Wives Group reflected their interest in Mrs Mander's talk by questioning her at length during the coffee break afterwards.

St Peter's and St Barnabas' Mother's Union

THE speaker at the February meeting was Mrs Cairns of the Arthur Clark Home. She described some of the life in the Home, and said they had forty-two patients, one being 102-years-old, and many of a

good age.

They were now starting a "Friends of the Arthur Clark Home" and had several fund raising events lined up. Members enjoyed the talk very much and agreed to bring oddments of wool to the next meeting for use at the Home.

St Margaret's Mapledurham

ABOUT twenty members of the congregation attended the annual parochial meeting at St Margaret's House on February 26. Mr Eric Foster in presenting the accounts said that, thanks to the increased income that had resulted from the stewardship campaign in 1979, the present financial situation was satisfactory, but he warned those present that a further increased income of at least £2,000 annually was necessary if the parish was to meet its obligations to the diocese as well as the

other inroads caused by inflation.

He said that it was hoped to carry out repairs to the Church roof during the summer: the cost of this work would be met from the fabric fund established at the time of the making of the film "The Eagle has Landed". Together with Mr Alfred Martyn-Johns he was re-elected Churchwarden for the coming year, and both were thanked by the Rector for the tremendous contribution they jointly make to the life of the parish.

The Rev David Milling presented a report of the activities of the past year: this revealed that St Margaret's had a lively and caring congregation. A number of those present expressed the hope that the Diocese would not feel it necessary to sell St Margaret's House as part of the process of pastoral reorganisation.

Mrs Popplewell was elected to the Parochial Church Council in place of Mrs Fowles who was not seeking re-election.

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

MOTHERS' UNION FESTIVAL SERVICE

at
ST PETER'S

Wednesday March 25, 2.30pm

Preacher

SISTER SARA MAUREEN CSMV

OBITUARY

ERIC NORMAN

THE death of Mr Eric Norman, of Hemdean Road, occurred on January 25 after a long and painful illness. Eric was well-known in Caversham as a domestic gas and plumbing engineer. He joined his father's business as a lad about 50 years ago, when much of the work involved repairs to the old-style gas mantles. He eventually took over the business with his brother and soon his friendly and cheerful personality gained him much respect among his many customers.

A devoted family man, Eric leaves a wife, Madge, sons Keith and Brian and four grandchildren. Messages of sympathy were received from a number of older Caversham residents,

some now living in other parts of the country, and who had cause for gratitude in all he did to help with his skills and ability befitting of his profession.

RURAL Mapledurham sadly records the death in January of two members of its community, both of whom had been very well-known for many years.

NOEL MOODIE

During World War I Noel Moodie came with his family, as a young boy, to live in Mapledurham. He attended the local Church School and was confirmed in St Margaret's. As a lad he was soon involved in the life of the church where he pumped the organ and stoked the boiler. He also took an active part in other aspects of vil-

lage life and was on the Parish Council. Few people today can remember so far back but those who have known Noel as a friend in recent years have no difficulty in picturing him as a friendly lad of the village, intensely interested in anything mechanical.

Soon after leaving school he learnt his trade as a mechanic at Warwicks, along the Caversham Road. He later became a supervisor during the years of World War II when Warwicks' production was turned over to work for the Ministry of Defence. He remained with the firm for about twenty years.

After the war he carried on his father's road haulage business which, with the help of his wife Vera, later developed into the present family business involving his two sons. He was an active member of the Road Haulage Association.

Ill health forced him to retire early but he still kept an interest in the business.

His many friends remember his life among us in Mapledurham with thankfulness and extend to his family their deepest sympathy at this time.

GEORGE STREAMER

All his life George Streamer worked on the land until ill health forced early retirement upon him. For the last thirty years of his active life he cared for the trees on Mapledurham Estate. He was a true countryman and loved working out of doors; from it he learnt much and was wise in the

ways of the living world about him. The trees which he planted will remain a memorial to him for many years to come.

To his family, Caversham Bridge readers extend their deepest sympathy.

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TALKING POINT

By
Thomas Meagher

MANY years ago, as a young curate, I was doing my visiting on a Friday evening. Coming into the house of an elderly lady not particularly noted for the practice of her faith, I detected a most attractive smell drifting from the kitchen. Suddenly light dawned in her eye, and she said "Oh, father, it's Friday, and I'm cooking bacon". A strange kind of atavistic connection had been established, and she was ashamed. My rather lame reply was simply to say that she might as well eat it to save waste.

□□

A kind of contradictory parallel makes me think, when I reflect on this incident, of the days in Lent before the Second World War. Despite the fact that I was but of tender years, my parents expected the whole family to fast, the only concession to the younger members being the allowance of milk in tea.

My only reason for mentioning these two facts is that we are now in the Season of Lent. It is very easy to criticise the old Catholic rule of Abstinence on Fridays, or Fasting during Lent, but there were solid reasons for them. What other connection had my dear old lady with the Church? It would always serve as a reminder to her if she were at least aware of the Friday rule, even though she had long let her external practice of the

faith fall into desuetude. It might indeed have made her think of asking for the ministrations of her priest when her turn came to meet her Maker. It is sufficient, in the other case, to say that I still remember it more than forty years afterwards.

Catholics many years ago were known as those who ate fish on Friday (an inaccurate interpretation of the rule), and in France — again not universally noted for its fervour — a minor riot was caused when Pope Paul VI relaxed the Friday abstinence. The fishmongers of Paris were in danger of going out of business! The War itself played havoc with the Lenten fast, and it was never restored, even during the MacMillan era, when the boast was "You've never had it so good", and certainly life was much easier than in pre-1939.

□□

What was wrong with the old rules? There was a possibility, it is true, of scrupulosity which could, I suppose, have led to Pharisaical humbug, but I never knew of it. The point I would like to make is that people *did* make some kind of sacrifice, and very often they offered up a great deal more than the rules demanded. Why? Because they wanted to unite their lives with the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, in Lent because of its obvious connections with the great

actions of our Redemption, on Fridays because Christ died on a Friday.

The modern world has had its influence on the Church. No doubt it is of great importance to think of others (it is the second great commandment) and perhaps especially of those who are starving; and we should make our sacrifices to help them. On the other hand, we must never forget that our Spiritual life is concerned with our *personal* relationship with Christ, and he came to give each *individual* the opportunity of salvation. "If I give all my goods away to the poor, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing", said St Paul in his paean of praise of charity.

□□

In Lent we have a remarkable chance of sharing in the sufferings and death of Christ. What do they actually convey to us? Are we making our contribution to the great Sacrifice by any offering of our own? St Paul again "I chastise my body, and bring it into subjection, lest preaching to others, I myself might become a castaway". Hard words from a man who above all recognised the need of a personal love of Christ. Where is our love for Christ? Have we done anything to show that we love Him? Lent is the time to take stock through Prayer, Penance and Almsgiving. We very often forget the second at peril to ourselves.

Residents' Viewpoint

Fatal cuts

When we find a local government council, which is not dominated by a party in opposition to the national government, carrying a motion urging that government "to reverse its disastrous policies", it indicates that things must have come to a pretty pass. This however is exactly what Reading Borough Council did at one of its meetings earlier this year.

What caused this unprecedented act was the news of yet further cuts in the Rate Support Grant which, together with increased National Health Service contributions, will render it impossible to carry on local government services to an acceptable standard. There have been plenty of voices raised in the past about wasteful council expenditure, and plenty of examples of it still hang like albatrosses round our necks, but there is a certain level below which it should not drop if the daily life of the community is to continue in an orderly manner.

To make up for these severe cuts some councils are reducing services in ways that will lead to real hardship whilst others are raising rates by as much as 180 per cent, which of course will also lead to real hardship. Most are relying on a combination of these two methods.

There must be something seriously wrong with a policy that seeks to restore the patient to health by bleeding him to death. Public expenditure has for too long, and unfortunately sometimes justifiably, been equated with wasteful expenditure and therefore something to be cut to the bone. But without public expenditure responsibly administered we are in danger of seeing society fall apart.

A good and useful life

Amongst pictures of Caversham's past is one of Washington Road deep in water from the floods of 1947. Going along it in

BY WATCHDOG

a boat is the Mayor of Reading, bringing consolation and help to those whose homes had been flooded. She was Alderman Mrs Phoebe Cusden, engaged in a characteristic act of seeing trouble and doing something about it. She had a Flood Relief Fund going in less than no time. Now after a long life of service to the town she loved, Phoebe Cusden has died, entrusting others to carry on where she left off. But her achievements reached far beyond Reading. She worked at national level, her book on Nursery Education, for example, being for long the standard work on the subject, and also at international level. Her best known undertaking in this field was without doubt the Reading-Dusseldorf link, acknowledged by the presence at her funeral of the Bürgermeister of Dusseldorf. Yet this was only part of her lifelong work to bring about reconciliation and understanding between the nations

of the world. Reading can justly be proud of Phoebe Cusden who served it, her country and the world so well.

Voice for Caversham

Caversham Residents' Association will be holding its annual meeting on Monday March 30 at Church House at 8pm. After the formal business of the meeting has been concluded, a speaker from Transport 2000 will talk about a new approach to traffic problems. Caversham has plenty of these, and so far none of the proposed solutions has produced any noticeable improvement. Transport 2000 sees the hope for the future lying in a good public transport system and the rejuvenation of the railways. How far is this desirable, feasible and inevitable?

If you are interested in the place where you live, you should join Caversham Residents' Association. It works hard to find out what is the majority view in Caversham and to present it in the appropriate quarters. Phone 472300 for details.

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COUNCIL SKETCH BOOK

By Zoilus

IT SEEMED about time for a Zoilus presence in the Reading Borough Council Chamber, so the February meeting found your correspondent braving the picket line for an evening with the city fathers — whose average age appears to be about thirty-five. But maybe the impression (like the well-known sudden realisation that nowadays all the policemen look so young) is a sign of one's own advancing years.

The picket line — well, to be accurate, I suppose it was really a protest line — consisted of a dozen good people expressing their desire to "keep Prospect Park green", a most laudable request that no one in their right mind would deny. The protesters' hearts were undoubtedly in the right place, but the functioning of their heads might be a bit suspect because as far as I know the only threat to the verdant acres of the park was an abortive attempt to lease the mansion house to a catering firm, who would completely and expensively restore the crumbling building and build much needed changing rooms for use by the local sportsmen, in exchange for office permission within the mansion.

Inside

The amount of parkland lost would have been infinitesimal in the rolling acres of Prospect Park, but the opportunity of an excellent deal for the town, involving the saving of the handsome and historic house as a focal point of the area has been lost, so unless ratepayers are prepared to face a million pound bill, the future of Mansion House looks very dim.

Inside the Chamber the Councillors were preparing to start what

turned out to be one of the shortest meetings of the Council in recent years. For several years proceedings have tended to get longer and longer and to finish by midnight has seemed to some evidence of indecent haste. But now a rule has been introduced limiting most speeches to five minutes and this guillotine has resulted in concentrating the thoughts of the members quite wonderfully, to the benefit of all. And the February meeting did not have to consider Housing matters, which were dealt with at a special meeting the previous week, so by nine o'clock the stage was darkened, the curtain down and the cast consuming the traditional light refreshments in the green room.

But though comparatively brief, the performance in the Council Chamber had been interesting, something for most people. Car parking charges were increased to the satisfaction of Labour and Liberals and to the chagrin of the Conservatives. Plans for the new hotel in Oxford Road were at last endorsed after a protracted niggle about the amount of office accommodation. The Polish Roman Catholic community were congratulated on the success of their campaign to take over Reading St John's Church for religious and educational purposes, and it was decided to think again over a decision that there should be no grant for community halls in this year's budget.

The next Mayor

Mr Basil Dunning, a popular Liberal from Norcot, was proposed and seconded as our next Mayor, this year it being the Liberals' turn to nominate, and Caver-

sham Councillor Fred Pugh tried to wind up the proceedings by proposing that the town's congratulations should be sent to Prince Charles, his engagement having been announced that morning. But procedural rules meant that there should be a two-thirds majority in favour of allowing the motion and the Socialist block refused to support this, so the opportunity was lost, which was regarded as rather a pity by every one else.

Caversham Councillors were very much in evidence during the evening, although Ron Jewitt had an easy time because his department, Housing, was not on the agenda. Brian Fowles and George Robinson, members of the Planning Committee, tried to stop the erection of a prefabricated building of horrendous appearance, that was to serve as a changing room in a park at Tilehurst, on the grounds that the Council should set a better example to other developers, but financial expediency triumphed in these days of stringency and they had only the satisfaction of making their point.

Another result of the economic position is that the usual grant to the diocese of Oxford on behalf of the Civic Church has been axed. Since the move from the old Town Hall to the Civic Centre has meant that St Laurence's is no longer used for that purpose, it was thought the usual grant could be used to help the West Reading Festival instead, but George Robinson thought it wrong that the historic link between the Corporation and the established church should be broken, and that the money should be diverted to St Mary's which by virtue of its position should now rank as the Civic Church and hopefully will be used as such in the future.

By the time this is in print there will have been another meeting of the Council to fix the rate. The borough rate is likely to show an increase, only enough to cover inflation, a matter of a few pennies, but to achieve this means that many desirable schemes for improving the town must be postponed. So it's still "jam tomorrow", though it sometimes seems tomorrow will never come.

SQUASH



■ Squash Youth Group at 9 Crispin Close.

YOUNG people of Caversham Heights Methodist Church between the ages of 14 and 18 meet on Sunday evenings, usually in the homes of the Squash Group. The varied programme ranges from serious discussions of Christian topics, to record evenings and quizzes. Holidays and theatre trips are also arranged.

ADMIRAL COFFINS ALMSHOUSES

An almshouse suitable for one or two persons is available and notice is hereby given that the Trustees will meet shortly to elect a person or persons of good character, who are members of the Church of England residing in Caversham, Lower Caversham or Emmer Green into the vacant almshouse in Westfield Road, Caversham. Applicants must be prepared to produce sufficient testimonials and other evidence of their qualifications for appointment and unless physically disabled, to

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**CHURCH STREET
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MY USUAL last minute effort to glean news for this column elicited, I'm afraid, only two items. Did I, somebody asked, know there had been a lot of houses in Caversham broken into recently; had I heard, said another, that some roads in Caversham Heights were literally festooned with copies of the "Midweek Chronicle" which should have been put through letter boxes.

As to the first, I can only suspect a contributory factor is the old Reading motto, still unfortunately practised in some districts: "I believe in keeping myself to myself". Pic-

ture Mrs Jones at the window of her sitting room: "Look Ted, there's a man going into the Roberts' house with a ladder and a mask over his face. He's going round the back — and you know the Roberts are away on holiday." "Now dear, it's none of our business. And don't let him see you looking out of the window — he might not like it".

As to the second, were it not that newspapers scattered in hedgerows make an unsightly mess, the M.C. could be thrown anywhere for all I care. But I suggest that a call to the Chronicle office wouldn't come amiss. And surely some-

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

body sees the guilty person — or are we all simply too scared to say anything. I know I shouldn't talk — only last week I looked the other way when several people cycled through a "no cycling" passage.

Andrew Steptoe

We've heard so often of the magnificent craftsmanship which comes out of Elliotts, that it was no surprise to me that one of their apprentice joiners, Andrew Steptoe, had won through to the national finals of the Skill Build 1981 competition. He and those who teach him are to be heartily congratulated.

Congratulations to Caversham Park Village

Many years ago I wrote a couple of articles about Caversham Park Village. At the time I found it a frightfully lonely place, with no community buildings and little hope of there ever being any. The Village being rather cut off from the rest of the area, I've had few dealings with it since. So I was shattered when somebody passed me a copy of the 150th issue of the "Village Voice" recently. Against all odds, there is now a very flourishing community centre, in a healthy financial state and the activities that take place there put the rest

of us to shame. And "Village Voice" itself is something any community could be proud of.

I was also delighted to see one familiar name — Peter Cockman. I remember him as one of the first residents to push for a community life — he's still with them and has only recently resigned as President.

News of Phoebe, please

For those who don't read the local press, may I be forgiven for including here an appeal to anyone who knew the late Phoebe Cusden and has stories to tell about her, to let me have them.

It is hoped eventually to produce a history of her life and since it is obvious that very many Caversham people knew and loved her, I'm sure there are stories and tributes to be culled from this district. All contributions will be personally acknowledged.

Do you have time?

I wonder why the busiest people are the ones who always seem to "find time". She'd murder me if I named her, but I can't help thinking of the lass I met recently at the hospital, whither she had ferried an elderly lady. I happen to know that she has a very busy domestic and working life, besides being involved in voluntary activities, yet she never seems to miss a chance to help somebody out.

And that goes for another friend — no stranger to these columns — who can always be called on for car lifts, for instance.

Both these people could well be forgiven for saying they "haven't time". Yet they never do. Makes you think!

SOUTH CHILTERN CHORAL SOCIETY

THIS society, which draws part of its membership from the Caversham area, is joining with the Benson Choral Society to present Beethoven's Missa Solennis at Reading Town Hall on Saturday, April 11. The leading soloists will be drawn from the Welsh National Opera Company and the conductor will be Gwyn Arch. Tickets are available from Jackie Booth, 13, Copse Avenue, Caversham.

150th Village Voice

Village VOICE



then.....



AGM

now....

150TH. ISSUE

CONGRATULATIONS to Caversham Park's "Village Voice" which has just produced its 150th number.

The 200th number of

the Caversham Bridge is planned to appear in July and a special Committee is planning a bumper edition which will contain many special features.

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CHURCH NEWS

Baptist News

Any reader who is depressed by the thought that red telephone boxes are likely to disappear or by the fact that they may be replaced by yellow ones would do well to visit Caversham Free Baptist Church. The old choir vestry is being transformed by what appears to be a job lot of red paint and the new lounge is taking on a bilious appearance in yellow. The architect said these were the colours to use so a noble army of workers are busily slapping the stuff on the walls. But wait, the full psychedelic value will not be

appreciated in the choir vestry at least until the blue carpet is down.

Allegro

The tempo in the Church Building has been stepped-up as the re-opening approaches. The volunteer electricians, led by Mr Peter Ousley, have been slaving away for a long time and anyone visiting the building at any time of the day or night could be reasonably certain that Peter would appear "out of the walls" or from under the floor. Rumour has it that lights have been seen in the Church after midnight and that Peter has been living there. There is, however, no trace of his bed but that is not surprising for as a former naval person he

probably slings a hammock between the beams and stows it away ship-shape at eight bells.

Another craftsman, Mr John Brearley, and his helpmates have been constructing the rostrum and setting the new fibreglass baptistry into position. In his spare moments John is constructing the new "mobile" pulpit but this masterpiece is currently shrouded in secrecy as it is being assembled in his garage at home but all will be revealed on the day.

The decorators, led by that eternal optimist, Mr Bernard Miller, who insists that all will be well on the day, come in their dozens as well as their denims and glad rags. The female of the species present a particularly pretty sight in their rain hats which

are vitally necessary to protect their curls against the short sharp showers of white emulsion paint. On a recent Saturday re-inforcements arrived from the Baptist Church at Dedworth Green. It appears that some of the members there had expressed a wish to help in a very practical way and how welcome they were.

Last but by no means least, mention should be made of that indefatigable Jack-of-all-Trades, Mr Wally Head, who appears to be making the most of his retirement by turning his hand to a wide variety of tasks — a true mate and not only of the plumber. Perhaps he knows the secret hiding place of Peter's hammock for he always seems to be around the place.

St Anne's

A full church witnessed the induction of Fr Thomas Meagher as Parish Priest of St Anne's on the evening of Sunday, February 22.

Bishop McCartie, who was to have conducted the ceremony, was unfortunately snowed up in Birmingham so his place was taken by Canon Toplass — Dean of South Oxfordshire.

After the letter of appointment had been read the formula of induction was stated and signed and then the different ministries for which the parish priest is responsible were detailed — Baptism, Reconciliation, Visiting and Anointing, Preaching and Teaching, Prayer, the Eucharist and the Pastoral Office. Fr Meagher invoked God's help in carrying out all these duties and the congregation

pledged their support.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Meagher, Canon Toplass, Canon Conway (St James), Fr O'Malley (the retiring Parish Priest), Fr Neilon (curate of St Anne), Fr Healy (English Martyrs), Fr Keane (St Michael) and Fr Grufferty (St John Bosco).

The choir, under their conductor John Rosser and accompanied by Jackie Million, sang the English Mass of St Francis by Philip Green.

After the ceremony a social was held in St Anne's hall to round off a very happy occasion.

It was particularly encouraging to have the support of such a large number of the parish as well as so many of the clergy of other denominations at the ceremony.

The St Valentine's Dance on February 14 was a great success.

Caversham Heights Methodist News

Junior Missionary Association Presentation

On Sunday February 8 the Rev Ralph Rogerson made the annual presentation of awards to what are popularly known in the Church as the JMA collectors. These young people collect weekly or monthly subscriptions for missionary work through the Junior Missionary Association.

In 1980 78 collectors raised a record amount of £633.90 of which 4/5 goes to overseas missionary work and 1/5 to home missionary activities. 37 collectors received certificates for collecting amounts under £5 and 41 received medals or bars



■ The young collectors outside Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

to medals for amounts in excess of £5. Among the latter were 3 who have been collecting for 7 years and 3 for longer periods.

Mabel Sholl

Mabel Sholl, one of the Church's most beloved members, left them on February 10 to be with her Heavenly Father, her gain but her husband's great loss. He knows however, that she

is free from pain and suffering and is with him in spirit and thought.

Caversham Heights showed its appreciation and affection for Mabel in the very well attended service on Monday, February 10, a service that left one with thankfulness for a life of service to others and no sorrow at her departing, in fact a feeling of glory and triumph with the Hallelujah Chorus being played so perfectly by Margaret Bensley to bring the service to a close. The Rev Ralph Rogerson took the service, announcing the first hymn, which was sung at her wedding. The superintendent minister, the Rev Herbert W. Harris enriched the service by the solo he rendered.

The Rev Leslie Griffiths, a former minister at Caversham Heights, gave the address. He spoke of Mabel Sholl throughout as one who filled her life to the full. She belonged to so many associations, too many to enumerate, taking the lead in a gracious and forthright way; ever ready to help her friends and acquaintances. Mr Griffiths' memory of her, among many others, was reading the booklet "Every Day with Jesus", sitting and enjoying her lovely garden.

The Church extends its loving sympathy to John Sholl and his family.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday April 14 — 7.45pm
Stainers' Crucifixion

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Northern champion

CHRIS Garforth, the Gateshead Harrier now living in Caversham and working at the University, won the Northern Cross Country Championships in February.

Always a tough race to win, it must stand him in good stead in the coming National Championships. A good run here would almost certainly take him into this year's England team for the International Cross Country Championships at the end of March.

He can be seen training around the roads of Caversham every day and in particular, up Oakley Hill, where he has been "toughening-up" with some fast running. I recently caught him taking a breather whilst I went "plodding" by a few miles per hour slower!!

Diving south

WHILE Chris was winning his Northern title, the youngsters of the Albatross Diving Club were winning more "pots" in the Southern Counties Junior Diving Competitions. In fact, they came away with two trophies two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals.

One of the best performances came from nine-year-old Juliet



STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

Green of Fernbrook Road, Caversham, who in the under-13 age group won the silver and came within just a few points of taking the Gold.

Why so timid?

AT LONG last, Reading Borough Council has agreed to a Camping/Caravan site near the Thames at Richfield Avenue.

The final seal of approval was given at the Development Control sub-committee, with the help of the Chairman's casting vote, but the approval is for the use of the site from July to October, for this year only.

Some councillors were concerned that such a project would be "environmentally detrimental" but I think they must have overlooked the fact that they, themselves, give approval for the whole riverside area to be turned over to the Pop Festival in

August each year.

It is highly unlikely that responsible campers and caravanners will leave the site scattered with the many tons of rubbish that remain after the annual Pop Festival.

The councillors should not be so timid and should set aside a piece of land near the river, as a permanent and proper Camping/Caravan site.

This would be one worthwhile project that our elected councillors could develop without any expense falling on the ratepayers, as there are many organisations only too willing to help set up a proper, permanent camp site for Reading.

Sad loss to local sporting scene

SADLY, I have to finish this month with another loss to the sporting scene.

Three years ago, through this column, I wished every success to a young man who was switching from the professional sport of Football to the amateur sport of Athletics. At the same time, that young man had taken up Social work in Reading and was about to marry

Alan Taylor, 27-year-old ex-Reading, Leicester and Chelsea footballer and latterly a member of Reading Athletic Club has died as a result of injuries he received in a car accident.

A regular entrant, since the beginning, in the Reading Skillmaster Competitions, he was a true "super-star".

In his work at the Grafton Road Assess-

ment Centre he had taken a great interest in the youngsters put in his care and had often got them involved in sporting activities. He will be sadly missed by all his friends in sport in the Reading area.

His fellow workmate and Skillmaster rival, Duncan McIntyre, is recovering in Hospital from the injuries he received in the same accident.

This year's Skillmaster competition will be the poorer for the absence of both of these fine competitors.

LINK GROUP

AT THE February meeting, held in Lynda Bates' house, Colin Fergusson, the Probation Officer husband of one of the members, talked about his work. Members were amazed at the wide scope of involvement with offenders of all ages, in four different types of court. But they were particularly interested in the on-going care given in hostels and groups, and by the bad backgrounds to many of the "cases". Colin described some as feeling "hopeless", and "rejected", for many reasons. The picture given gave much cause for concern about society today.

Following this talk and the many questions, the Group's Open Meeting held earlier in the month was commented on, and Pat Jenkins listed the many items of household goods still required by needy families, and disabled individuals.

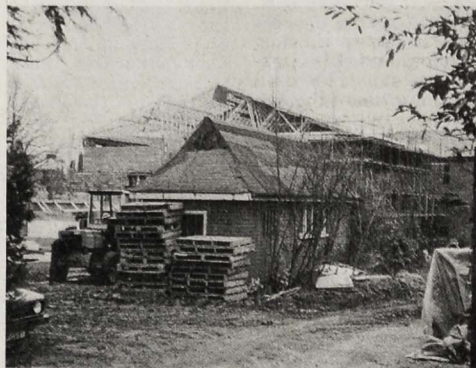
Plans were then made for the annual Good-as-New Sale, to be held on April 25, in the newly opened Baptist Centre, proceeds of which would all be given to local handicapped people.

The next Link Group meeting will be on Monday March 23 at 157 Upper Woodcote Road at 8pm.

FOR YOUNG AND OLD



TOP
Foundations of the new youth and recreation wing of the Milestone Centre in Caversham Park.



ABOVE
New James Butcher flats for the elderly being built in Derby Road. There are 43 units and they are to be named Mander Court.

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Caversham Community Association

On February 2 the members met for a Beetle Drive. Anne Wright was the winner and Elsie Prett won the consolation prize.

The visiting speaker on February 9 was Mr Jeffrey Taylor, ARPS who gave an informative talk on colour photography, illustrated with his own superb colour slides. A wide range of subjects was shown including some beautiful bird photographs taken at Lake Nakuru, Africa.

Mr Taylor lived some years in East Africa and his portrait studies and description of the different tribesfolk he met whilst there were very interesting.

Some local views were included taken at different seasons of the year and Mr Taylor gave advice to the members on the best way to obtain similar lighting effects and how to select suitable viewpoints.

A Valentine party was held the following week. The refreshments were in the American supper fashion — everyone bringing their contribution to the food table. A wide selection of cakes, sandwiches and snacks were soon displayed and the members

were then invited to help themselves to the refreshments. Games with a Valentine slant were played. The winners receiving small prizes.

The February meetings ended with a fashion display. Sue Humphries described the garments which were shown by models, including children. The members were then able to order any garments they wished to purchase.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

AT THE February meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild the Speaker was Mrs Judy Pope, a Field Officer with Age Concern, who spoke about her work with the elderly disabled in Reading. Members were very interested to learn of the many practical aids which are available for the elderly to enable them to lead independent lives in their own homes. She quoted a favourite remark made by P. J. Bailey: "It matters not how long we live but how!" Mrs Pope answered members' questions at the end

of the evening and Mrs A. Wiseman gave the vote of thanks.

A raffle was held during the meeting and over £7 was raised in aid of the Stoke Mandeville Appeal. A coach trip to see "Holiday on Ice" had been thoroughly enjoyed and Mrs Budgion thanked Miss Brann for her excellent organisation of the outing.

Darby and Joan Club

THE accent has been on entertainment this month. First the Clubs old friends Mr and Mrs George Palmer entertained members on piano and drums with songs in which everybody could join. Two weeks later members had Mrs Burdon, a WRVS member, who visited and played the piano for singing and dancing.

Altogether twenty-four shoulder wraps were knitted for the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed and were taken there by members of the Committee, where they will be very much appreciated.

Caversham Ladies Club

AT THE February meeting the speaker was Mrs Welsh on hand-care. She brought slides to illustrate and described the adverse affect on hands with the constant use of detergents, etc. The talk was informative and interested the members very much. The Club agreed to support the "Plant a Tree for Reading Campaign" and a small tree will be planted in Caversham Court, and a young Oak in Christchurch Meadow.

Blagrove Women's Institute

AT THE February Meeting the President, Mrs M. Haigh, told members of the very sad death of Mrs M. Sholl, greatly loved by all. A silence

was observed in remembrance.

The President welcomed several new members and gave details of the resolutions to be sent forward for the AGM. Nominations were required for next year's committee. The Speaker, Mrs P. Ridley, gave an interesting and amusing talk on "1066 and All Mod Cons". The competition "Peg Doll" was won by Miss Wellsted, 2nd Mrs Hunter, 3rd Mrs Housden.

Maplewood W. I.

ONCE again the Institute remembered in silence the loss of two members of many years, Mrs Chennell and Mrs Christie.

This month there should have been a display of bulbs, but so much mild weather brought things on too soon and Mrs Eileen Fennings' snowdrops and hyacinth stood alone.

The President introduced the speaker, Mr R. W. Rutherford, on "Plants for the small garden". The slides were very lovely and left the gardeners itching to be outside.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

AS A member of an all-male community Brother Mark Gibson of Alton Abbey confessed to feeling a little strange when addressing members at their February meeting.

The Benedictine Order was founded 1,500 years ago by St Benedict and his discipline is still followed today. Brother Mark gave an account of the daily routine in the monastery, consisting of various

offices (chapel services), periods of prayer, study, work and recreation. The community is self-sufficient and all take turns at household tasks while other work is apportioned according to aptitude.

On entering the community a postulant serves for six months before becoming a novice. Two years of study follow before he can ask to profess as a junior monk and final vows, for life, are taken three years later.

Brother Mark answered many questions and concluded by saying that the brothers have the same human failings as we all do and that an absolute essential for their way of life is a sense of humour.

Rosehill W.I.

MRS Russell welcomed members and three visitors to the February meeting. After the usual business, Mr Edgar, a vet who works with a practice in Reading, spoke about his work. This was most interesting, covering all aspects, and revealing funny as well as sad incidents. After this members looked at an exhibition of china animals and birds that they had brought.

THE LINK GROUP are holding a 'GOOD AS NEW SALE'

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Palm Sunday, April 12

8.00am Holy Communion (PJABM)
9.15am Family Eucharist and Distribution of palms (PJABM)
11.15am Matins (P)
11.00am Family Service (CP)
11.15am Holy Communion (A)
8.30pm Evensong (PAB)

Monday April 13

7.30am Holy Communion (P)
8.00pm Holy Communion (A)
8.00pm A meeting for worship after the manner of the Society of Friends (P)

Tuesday April 14

7.30am Holy Communion (P)
8pm Holy Communion (A)

Wednesday April 15

7.30am Holy Communion (P)
9.30am Holy Communion (A)
10.00 Holy Communion (B)
10.30am Holy Communion (5 Jordan Close CP)
8pm Holy Communion (P)

Maundy Thursday April 16

7.30am Holy Communion (A)
9.30am Holy Communion (P)
8pm Holy Communion (1 Aldenham Close CP)
8pm Sung Eucharist (JAB)
8.30pm Sung Eucharist (P)

Good Friday April 17

9.15am Morning Service (M)
9.30am Morning Service (JAB)
10.00am Morning Service (CP)
12 noon-3pm THE THREE HOURS DEVOTION (P) Conducted by Bishop
Bulley formerly Bishop of Carlisle

6.00pm Evening Prayer (P)
8.00pm Compline (A)

Holy Saturday April 18

6.00pm Evening Prayer and preparation for Easter Communion (P)
8.00pm The Easter Ceremonies (A)

Easter Day April 19

7.00am Holy Communion (P)
8.00am Holy Communion (PJABM)
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST (PJABM)
11.00am Family Service (JB)
11.15am Holy Communion (PA)
6.30pm Festal Evensong (PJAB)

The Canons of the Church of England state: "It is the duty of all who have been confirmed to receive the Holy Communion regularly and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun."

The clergy would like to know of any sick or housebound communicants who wish to receive the Sacrament in their homes during Easter Week. Times when confessions will be heard during Holy Week will be found in the weekly church notices on Passion and Palm Sundays.

P — St Peter's. A — St Andrew's. M — St Margaret's. B — St Barnabas'. J — St John's CP — Caversham Park.

METHODIST

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Easter Day April 19

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Service with Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Service

It is regretted that times of Holy Week and Easter Services in the other Caversham Churches had not been received at the time of going to print.

Clergy and Ministers of Caversham

ANGLICAN

The Rev Canon John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road
Tel: 471703
The Rev John Sumner, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue.
Tel: 471814
The Rev Martin Loveless, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road.
Tel: 472788
The Rev Peter Sear, St Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel: 473095.
The Rev David Milling, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel: 471605.
The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.
The Rev Derek Spears, 25 Ikley Road. Tel: 472070.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev Ralph Rogerson, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

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The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

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The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
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WE RECORD

BAPTISED

St Andrew's
February 22 — Polly Nassif
Caversham Park
February 22 — Kevin Wheal
St Margaret's
February 1 — Roger Franklin
St Anne's
January 18 — Theresa Carroll
February 1 — Carmel Downey
February 8 — Anthony Eccleston
February 15 — Leanne Penn, Katie Smith
February 22 — William Jennings

MARRIED

St Peter's
February 14 — Brian Eighteen and Christine Millar
St Andrew's
February 14 — Colin Bulpin and Susan Willcocks
St Margaret's
February 14 — Martin Willis and Julie Banner
Gosbrook Rd Methodist Church
February 7 — Edwin Charles and Kathleen Carty

FUNERALS

St Peter's
February 27 — Alan Horwood
St Margaret's
February 24 — Ivy Jackson
Caversham Heights Methodist Church
February 9 — Mabel Sholl
St Anne's
February 5 — Kate Cummins
February 16 — John Monaghan

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8 — 5 Gifford Close (Paula Andrews)

15 — 5 Jordan Close (Hilary Outhwaite)

22 — 4 Kirkham Close (Pam Gordon)

29 — 9 Osterley Drive (Sylvia Pickard)

MAY EDITION

All contributions for inclusion in the May edition of the Caversham Bridge must be sent to Church House by noon on

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1st

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