

WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!

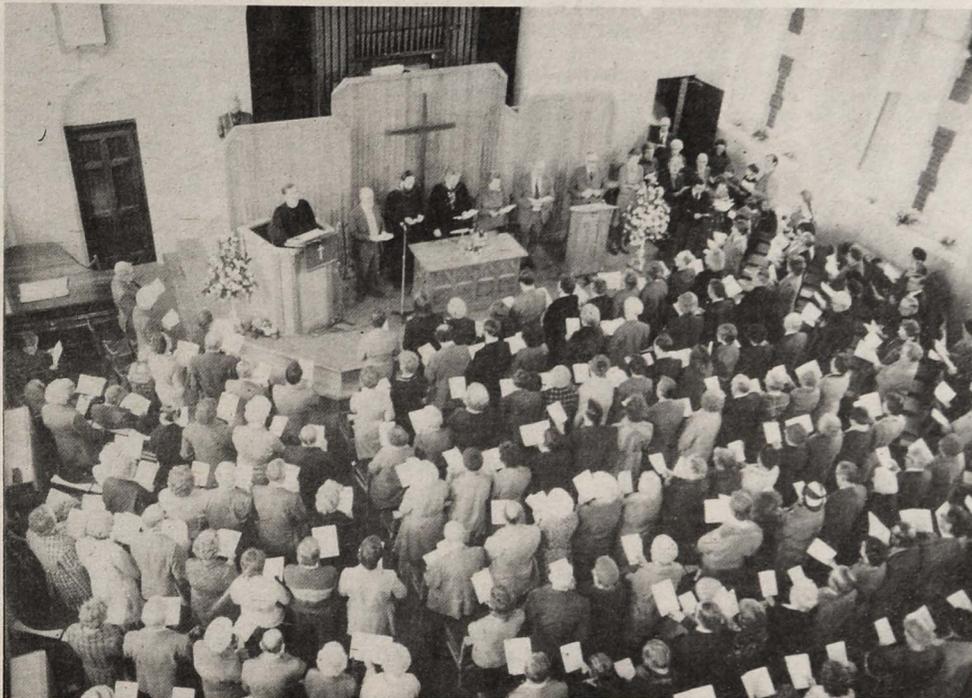
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 was a red letter day for the members of Caversham Free Baptist Church. That day saw the opening of their redeveloped Church Centre. The work took seven months to complete and cost £90,000.

The new complex, except for a small roof adjustment at one end, has been built entirely within the original church. In place of a church which had gallery and floor accommodation for 500 people, the centre provides a worship area for 250, a lounge seating 70, a youth hall for 90 and five other rooms for vestry purposes or small meetings. There are also modern kitchen and toilet facilities. The Centre has been re-wired, new central heating installed and all areas have been carpeted and re-decorated.

Raising the money

Proceeds from the sale of the old West Memorial Hall and a loan of £20,000 which has to be repaid to the Baptist Union over ten years, meant that half the money was available. Coffee mornings, luncheons and garden parties were held to raise money. The sale of antiques and Victoriana produced over £2,500. But the greater part of the money has come by direct giving. A Gift Day last autumn produced the magnificent total of £17,000. The opening weekend brought gifts totalling over £9,500 and the cost of the work was also greatly reduced by the ability of members of the congregation to do some of the work themselves. A skilled electrician in the congregation saved the church £4,000 by undertaking the re-wiring of the building. Another member made the pulpit and over one hundred people helped with the re-decorating. In this way the cost was reduced by many thousands of pounds.

The former church was little used on six days out of seven. The new church centre can be a focus of Christian activity and witness "seven whole days not one in seven."



Part of the congregation at the service of re-dedication.

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Mrs Gertrude Dauncey cuts the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony.

Photos:

John
Williamson



Below: Preparing tea for 400 people.



The Editor's Column

CONGRATULATIONS

Caversham Baptists deserve congratulations from all of us for the courage and insight they have shown in facing up to the demands of the 1980's. They have two lessons to teach other Christians, particularly members of the Church of England.

In the first place they have shown imagination in their understanding of their building needs. On one side of Gosbrook Road stood a large and under used church, on the other a rambling hall in a poor state of repair. Now, with the aid of an excellent architect and through much hard work on the part of church members, they have got an attractive modern interior which can be used seven days a week for a variety of purposes and for gatherings of different sizes.

ANGLICAN BUILDINGS

In addition to their clergy houses the Church of England in Caversham and Mapledurham have five churches and four halls. Two of the halls were built in Victorian times, Balmore Hall in the reign of Edward VII, and only St Andrew's Hall can make any claim to be modern; even that now compares unfavourably with the Baptists new centre. While the fabric of all the churches is in a sound state the parish church is an inadequate building for such a large parish.

A chapel for weekday worship and rooms for choir practice and small meetings are badly needed; a lot of money would be saved if these were provided so that the whole church did not have to be heated on winter weekdays. The total absence of storage space is also all too apparent. It is more than time that some hard thinking was done about what kind of buildings the church now needs.

A MORE IMPORTANT LESSON

The Baptists have however a second and more important lesson to teach many of us. In common with other non-Anglican Christians who have not the endowments of the Church Commissioners to cushion them, they have an understanding of Christian giving that very few people in the Church of England are prepared to accept.

When I asked about how the money for their new building had been raised I discovered that a number of Baptists had covenanted whatever rise in income they received in 1980. With salaries rises for many people last year being around £500 large sums of money were soon raised and when the income tax rebate is received on a covenant of £500 is worth a great deal more.

The Bible teaches us to tithe, to set apart one tenth of our income for God's work. In Biblical times that one tenth would then be used for many things which are now paid for out of rates and taxes. So we need to think in terms of net rather than gross income and to make some allowance also for the tax we pay through VAT. But having made the necessary adjustment tithing the rest of our income is still perfectly possible and there are some but not enough who practice it. When man gives God blesses.

So we read in the prophet Malachi: "Bring the tithes into the treasury and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour a blessing on you says the Lord of hosts." Our Lord healed ten lepers; one only returned to give thanks but as a result he received something that the other nine denied themselves — he had a personal encounter with the Lord who had healed him.

Our giving should be a personal expression of our thanks to God who gave his only Son that we through him might have life. When a Christian and a non-Christian neighbour have the same income and can afford the same pleasures then the Christian has not begun to understand the meaning of the Cross.

Only 18 months after one stewardship campaign we Anglicans are in financial difficulties and faced with another campaign. This is not really because of inflation — it is because we are not committed Christians and have not understood the giving of Christ on the Cross.

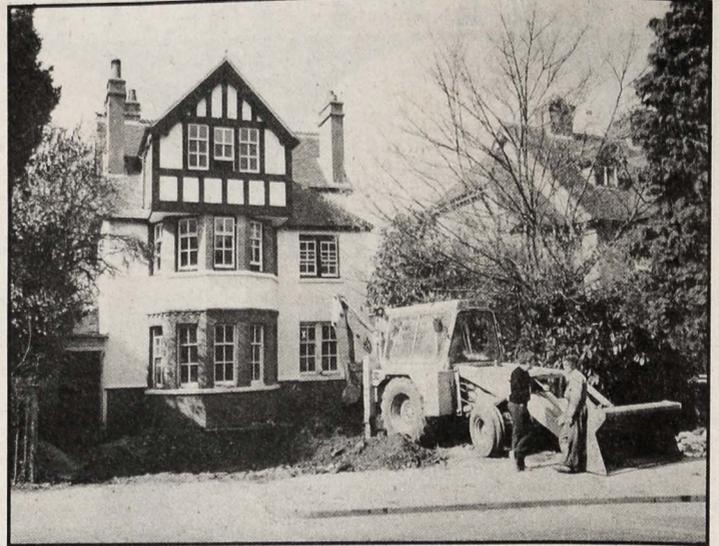
Congratulations once again to the Baptists of Caversham. May others of us have the courage to follow the lead they have given in Christian stewardship — stewardship of the use of our resources through our buildings and stewardship of money.

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.
 ADVERTISEMENT 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.

THE LINK GROUP



Work in progress renovating No. 45 Woodcote Road, recently purchased by the Peppard Trust to house multiple handicapped children.
 — Graham Aisbitt

The builders are just moving out, after months of renovating and redecorating this house in Woodcote Road. By midsummer, it will be "home" for a group of severely disabled young people.

At the Link Group's March meeting, Dr Kevin Murphy spoke about the years of planning resulting in the opening of this

house. The tragic youngsters, whose permanent home it will be, have multiple handicaps — some

blind, crippled and deaf, and they would otherwise have to spend their whole lives in hospitals. Dr Murphy hoped that they would be welcomed into the Caversham community.

After his talk, and many interested questions concerning the help the Link Group could give, the group made plans for its good-as-new sale on April 25, in aid of local handicapped people.

★ ★ ★ ★

WANTED: Drivers to go on a rota to take the children and staff in their minibus from Woodcote Road to their school at Peppard. Also paid helpers to spend an occasional night at the home. Names, please, to Mrs Valerie Birtwhistle (473489).

Obituary. BERNARD BUTLER

The death of Bernard Butler early in March terminated an association with Caversham of over 50 years. Apart from service with the Royal Flying Corps, from which he was invalided out, and a short spell with the railway in London, Bernard Butler's career was that of a wine merchant, carrying on with his brother a family business that started in 1830. The existing business still carries the original title and is on the same site.

From 1931, when Mr and Mrs Butler moved into St Andrew's district, they both became devoted servants of the Church. He was a District Warden for a number of years, serving under six priests - in - charge. There is a strong Christian commitment in the Butler family: Bernard's brother

Christopher being a Roman Catholic Bishop. Another brother has just retired as Archdeacon in Canada. The Rector of Garsington is his son and daughter Angela, at present a parish worker, is to be ordained Deaconess in St Michael's Church, Tilehurst, by the Bishop of Reading in June.

For many years Bernard Butler was secretary of the Berkshire Clergy Charity and it is the family's wish that any contribution to a memorial fund should be sent to this Charity (Mr Currington, 44 Sandringham Road, Maidenhead).

Bernard Butler's way of living, both in business and private life, exemplified his belief in the Christian Faith; he was both a doer and a hearer of the Word.

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PROPERTY IS OUR BUSINESS

Scrooge still in business ?

As an enlightened employer the Church of England might appear to rank very low, though possibly slightly higher than the Dickensian firm of Scrooge and Marley of Christmas Carol fame.

For far too long clergy pay has been low and pension provisions even lower, while retirement has meant that the clergy are suddenly faced with the problem of having to acquire a house. Happily however this state of affairs is being rectified: the Church Commissioners are improving clergy pensions and helping to provide retirement housing for those clergy who have no other accommodation. This means, however, that the Church Commissioners who have till now been paying the major share of clergy stipends, can no longer do so, and an increasing proportion must be met from parish resources. The parish of Caversham has as a result this year to pay £32,000 as its diocesan share, an increase of 68 per cent on the 1980 figure.

BAPTIST SUCCESS

The success of the Baptist Church in meeting the cost of their rebuilding must give Anglicans in Caversham the practical inspiration to review their own commitment to God. In Biblical times and until last century the title on 10 per cent of income was commonly given to the Church which was at one time responsible for providing schools and social services and other works undertaken by central or local government; the old fire engine still to be seen in Mapledurham Church is a local reminder of this.

Two per cent

A more realistic minimum commitment to God is now considered to be two per cent of net income, i.e., wages less income tax and national insurance. The table shown on this page should enable all Anglicans to calculate their apparent net income from their present level of giving. If the apparent net income is lower than real net income a searching personal re-appraisal must be made.

The Stewardship review being held between Easter and Whitsun will give all Church members the opportunity to review their level of commitment to God in 1981.

The average giving by the 650 existing members of the stewardship scheme is about £1.10 weekly. If all members were giving two per cent of net income it would suggest that take home pay in Caversham averages only £55 weekly. This can only show that Anglicans are falling very short of the modest two per cent standard.

MEASURING ROD

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75p	£37.50
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£1.25	£62.50
£1.50	£75.00
£1.75	£87.50
£2.00	£100.00
£3.00	£150.00

ST ANNE'S NEWS

During the month of March the Women's World Day of Prayer service was held in St Anne's. This year it was organised by Margaret Moss and the service was prepared by the North American Indian women on the theme The Earth is the Lord's. The speaker was Sister Mary Frideswide from the Anglican Community of Mary the Virgin in Ear-

ley. About 50 people attended and the readings were done by members of all the different churches. Tea was served afterwards in the church hall.

An auction and jumble sale were held in aid of parish funds.

For the International Year of the Disabled the Parish Council decided that the parish should adopt the Oaks Ward at

The Sail Training Association

Once again a successful concert was held in St Andrew's Church in aid of the Sail Training Association; over £100 was raised which will go a long way to pay for one trainee's cruise. The players, all ex-students of the Royal Academy of Music, provided a wide and varied programme, ranging from Purcell to Lara's Theme from Dr Zhivago. Ex-crew members dispensed refreshments and helped to clear up afterwards. John Wyatt, organist and pianist, was delighted by the quality of the piano supplied by Hickie and Hickie.



John and Mandy Wyatt (left), Sonja Vorreyer and Elspeth Atwood at their concert on March 7 to raise money for the Sail Training Association.
— Peter Sear

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On Sunday, May 17, the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary are to hold a procession and benediction at St Anne's at 3pm. Everybody will be very welcome.

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May 6th 20 Osterley Drive (Pat Gray)
May 13th 5 Dacre Avenue (Penny Pierce)
May 20th 8 Kirkham Close (Ros Elvin)
May 27th 6 Eynsford Close (Vera Wilson)

SOAK THE POOR!

FRESH WATER ON TAP — something we all take for granted. The photograph used on this year's Christian Aid Week poster shows a pump spurting out a torrent of fresh, clean water. It was taken in a village a few miles from Poona in India. It was designed and built in a local workshop with the help of a grant from Christian Aid. It will make a lot of difference to the quality of life for those villagers.

The success of the venture depended upon a close working relationship between Christian Aid and MAM — an Indian Medical Trust set up by a remarkable man, Dr S. T. Gujar.

Many will remember him from the recent BBC programme "The Politics of Compassion." Dr Gujar realised that much of the disease he was treating was due to poverty.

Medicines and injections were not enough as long as people had to endure such poor living conditions.

Unsafe water and meagre diet were the cause of many health problems. So MAM expanded its medical work to include activities like well drilling, installation of pumps, and reservoir construction. Christian Aid has already

donated £44,000 to another of his projects. This year Christian Aid in Reading hopes to be able to donate a further £10,000.

Blindness

1981 is the International Year of Disabled People. Think for a moment of the overwhelming need in the Third

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- Mrs G. Payne, 28 South View Avenue (479526)
- Mr G. Duncan, 5 Woburn Close (475117)
- Mrs P. Pierce, 5 Dacre Avenue, Caversham Park (475476)
- Rev D. Milling, 222 Upper Woodcote Road (471605)

World where physical disablement linked with acute poverty makes a double burden. Blindness is a form of disablement which affects 40 million people.

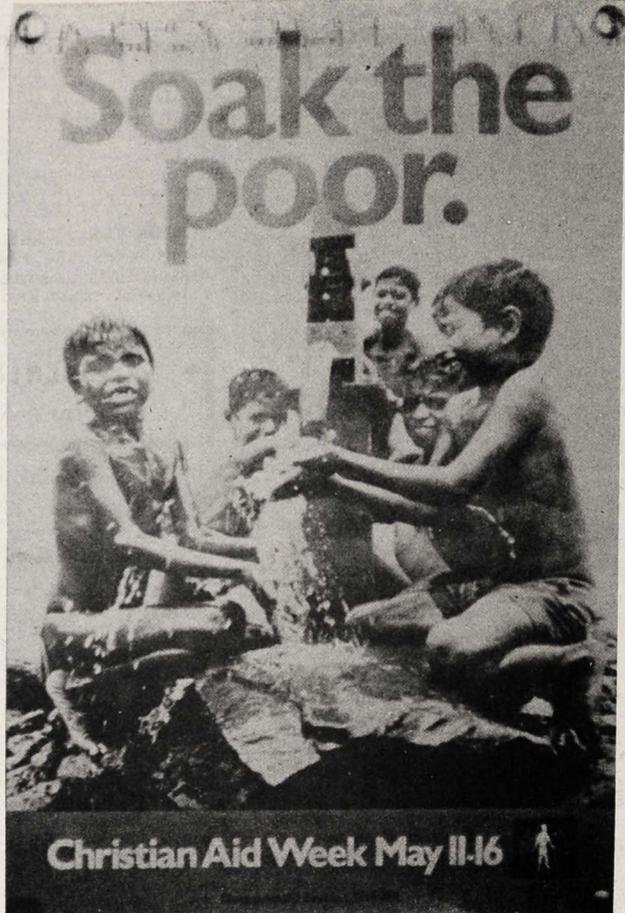
Onchocerciasis — or river blindness — is brought on by a river parasite or blackfly, yet given the money, chemical pesticides could eradicate the disease.

Another eye disease is Xerophthalmia — often called "blinding malnutrition" — which is caused by a vitamin A deficiency; yet the cure is so simple — fresh vegetables and dairy produce.

Trachoma is the most common eye disease in Africa but it can be treated by health workers for as little as 50p per patient.

Finally, cataract — very common in Asia — can be treated at "eye camps" by surgery for about £2 per patient. Think what new life has been brought to elderly people in this country who have been cured of cataract.

Again, Christian Aid in



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Caversham Heights Methodist news

In recent years the General Church Meeting has been held mid-week. However, on this occasion the meeting was arranged for Saturday, March 7, at 4pm, to be followed by tea. Judging by the number of people present this year, the choice of Saturday seems to have been a success. The evening was the occasion of a Barn Dance.

In reviewing the

Reading wants to give £10,000 to be used to bring relief from blindness.

Emergencies

Remember the dramatic sounds and pictures from earthquake - hit Algeria and Southern Italy last year.

The fear of natural disaster

is always in the back of Christian Aid's mind.

It could be tomorrow, next week, next month, it could be anywhere in the world, but whenever and wherever it strikes, the results are the same — homeless families, starving families, crying children, shock.

There is no time to launch an appeal; help is needed that very day. Christian Aid can

only make a satisfactory donation if it has reserve funds from which to draw the money. This year the target in Reading is £10,000 for the General Fund.

Three good reasons for giving generously during Christian Aid Week — May 11 - 16. £30,000 is the target which can be split three ways — £10,000 for Water Projects, £10,000 for those disabled through blindness, £10,000 for emergencies.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

events of the past year, Mr Noel Postles, the Senior Church Steward, referred to the visit of the Minister, the Rev Ralph Rogerson, and his family to the USA last summer under an exchange with the Rev and Mrs H. Glenn, which proved to be a stimulating experience in the life of our church.

Mr Postles' period of office will terminate at the end of April and Mr Rogerson expressed warm appreciation to Mr and Mrs Postles for their work.

The meeting afforded an opportunity to discuss the question of the possible refurbishment of the church organ. It was apparent that a large majority of those present favoured the project.

Mr and Mrs Ray Court will shortly be moving to Bournemouth. Mr Rogerson expressed gratitude for their devoted service at Caversham Heights, particularly in the Junior Church where they will be greatly missed.

Mr George Nagle was appointed to serve as a Church Steward, commencing in May, and the meeting also appointed representatives to the Church Council.

SAVE THE GRANARY

Sheer disbelief, followed rapidly by anger and a sense of bitter disappointment, greeted the news that Reading's Planning Committee had given permission for the demolition of the old Granary in Caversham.

Those who knew it well felt, rightly or wrongly, that a decision had been made above their heads and with complete disregard for clearly expressed public feelings, by people who had probably never even seen it before and cared little for its significance as a reminder of Caversham's rural and historic past.

It seemed odd, to say the least, that a building which only weeks previously had been considered safe enough to convert into a flat in which to place someone's granny, should suddenly become a dangerous structure.

It is (and let us hope that by the time this appears in print the present tense is still applicable) in a much better condition than the Council's own property, The Gazebo, was, and that did not fall down, neither did the old cottages at Church Street which appeared to be beyond saving.

As the building is used neither as a residence, nor by the public, there seems no reason why it should not remain to be used as a store place, for which it was more or less built, until such a time as the economy improves and a more enlightened climate prevails.

Caversham people have no intention of letting this little building go without a battle. The opinion of the vast majority of all those who know it has been clearly expressed through letters and a

petition and if it is ignored the Council will have only itself to blame if it has cause to complain later of the electorate's apathy and indifference.

Thank you, Peggy

There can be few organisations as fortunate as Caversham Resi-

gnation and the committee has had reluctantly to accept it. Peggy will be missed for her work and herself.

Cheap rate

Knowing that it was unlikely they would find anyone to continue to work as Peggy did, at its AGM the Residents'

This is in fact a small rise, so let it not be described as "an adjustment" in the manner of electricity and telephone bills, when a whacking increase is slapped on, but its main purpose is to facilitate the collection of subscriptions.

The address to which to send them is 14 Albert Road, until a new membership secretary is appointed.

too, with a Shakespearean play, A Midsummer Night's Dream. However, their boldness was justified, for it was practically word perfect, beautifully staged and dressed, and with charming sets, and clearly the girls, many of whom were very young, enjoyed doing it. Congratulations to them and the staff and parents who encouraged them.

This small school is also incidentally on the way to fulfilling another dream. They have in the course of this school year collected almost enough to buy ten armchairs for the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed, and hope to achieve their target by the end of the summer term.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

dents' Association in having a fully-paid-up membership at the end of every financial year.

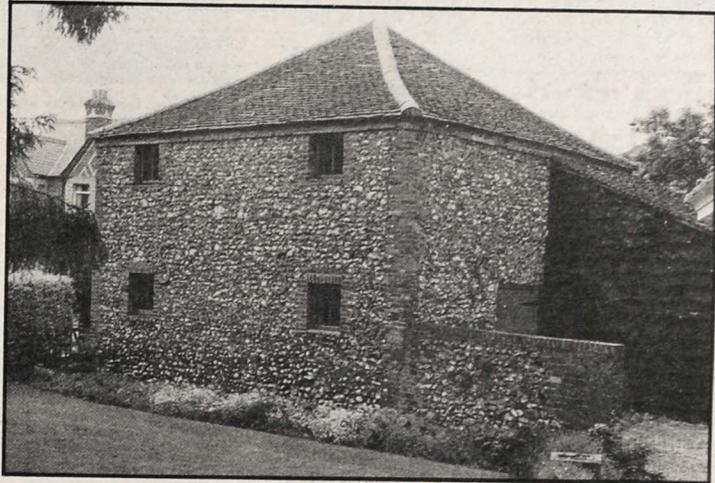
This has been due to the efforts of Mrs Peggy Dainty, its membership secretary, who has also been a member of the Association since it was founded.

Peggy called personally on all those who had not sent in their subscriptions or whom she had not nobbled in the street, and collected their dues.

Sadly, Peggy's health no longer allows this, nor does it allow her to continue her regular attendance at committee meetings, which is the minimum she would allow herself and where she would bring up the many small human matters which Councils can easily overlook, but which make all the difference to those who work with them.

Now reluctantly she has had to tender her

Association agreed to fix the subscription at £1.00 for three years or 40p per annum.



If you want to see one more piece of old Caversham pulled down, do nothing. If you want to save it — write to your local Councillors.

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OBITUARY — PHYLLIS TIFFIN

Many Caversham residents will have been very sorry to hear of the death of Phyllis Tiffin, of Grosvenor Road, late in March. With her husband Ted she had worked tirelessly for many

charities; they were members of the Friends of Lord Harris Court and Phyllis spent much of her weekends visiting the elderly there and helping to raise funds. But it is probably as an

active member and past secretary of Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild that she will best be remembered.

Phyllis came from an old Caversham family with strong links with the local Baptist Church. Her father, Mr W. J. Agnew, was at one time honorary secretary of the church; Phyllis and Ted were married there over 47 years ago. At one time they ran a fancy goods and art shop in Queen Victoria Street — Poynders, a name which will be familiar to older residents. Since retiring 15 years ago they have kept up with their old staff and have stepped up their voluntary activities.

□ □

It is not surprising that so many attended the cremation or that Ted received so many letters and messages. Their home was open house, especially to anyone with problems. Above all, Phyllis herself was a very loving and outgoing person, full of life. As a friend said, she was an asset to the community and the very best of good company.

She will not easily be forgotten and we extend our sympathy to her husband and family at this time.

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1866 . . . Founded in Faith 1980-81 . . . Rebuilt for the Future

Saturday, March 28, was the day when the Baptists of Caversham opened their Church Centre, seven months after the commencement of redevelopment. Bright sunshine and freshly-painted doors and windows provided a cheerful setting for the congregation of more than 450, gathered outside for the official re-opening. It was a truly representative body of worshippers and friends, including clergy, ministers and members from the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches.

Mr Leslie Wyeth offered prayer and Mrs Gertrude Dauncey cut the ribbon which opened the way for the congregation to enter. Once inside, there were numerous expressions of admiration for the new premises. Those who had known the previous structure were amazed at the transformation. When the new

Assembly / Worship Area had been filled to capacity (280), the remainder of the congregation took seats in the lounge (70) and the upstairs hall (100) where closed-circuit television kept them in touch with all that happened.

The Service of Dedication was led by the minister, the Rev Dennis Weller, and the Act of Dedication by the Southern Area Superintendent, the Rev Geoffrey Reynolds; the sermon was preached by the Rev Lewis Misselbrook and the Rev Laurence Stevens, the previous minister, led the prayer of Thanksgiving. Mrs Rhoda Weller presented a leather-bound copy of the Good News Bible to the church, on behalf of her husband and herself.

Mr Ken Shield, having accepted the Bible, read the Lesson from 1 Chron. 29. Miss Ruth



■ The Rev. Dennis Weller addressing the congregation before entering the Church for the service of re-dedication. —John Williamson

Winkworth sang "How lovely are Thy dwellings," accompanied by the organ by Mr Carey Moore. The Rev Arthur Gray dedicated the thankoffering which by Sunday had reached the remarkable figure of £9,600.

Four hundred for tea

After the service, the ladies' catering team served over 400 tea-boxes and cups of tea, contributed and pre-

pared by members of the church and themselves. The ample provision was much appreciated, especially by those who stayed to hear the long list of speakers — each of whom had two minutes for his or her greeting. It was 5.30pm when the chairman, the Rev Gordon Thomas, brought the long, happy afternoon to its reluctant close. Even after 7pm some seemed loth to go home, whilst others were busy getting the church ready for the next day.

On Sunday morning the church family marked its own return by holding a Cradle Roll Service, at which posies were distributed to every "mum" and the children themselves explored their new Sunday School premises. The Morning Service concluded with the Communion of the Lord's Supper, when all the available Communion glasses were used and for the first time in 40 years the common-cup was passed between the communicants so that all could be served. The minister announced that nine new members had been added to the Church Roll and gave a welcome to six who were present.

Ecumenical congregation

Sunday evening saw the return of another ecumenical congregation and well over 300 worshippers were seated in the church and lounge. The Anglican clergy and members were led by Canon John Grimwade, who preached the sermon — a strong call for expectancy and unity amongst God's people. The Methodists were led by their minister, the Rev Ralph Rogerson, who conducted the worship and brought greetings from the two churches.

Some Roman Catholics from St Anne's were also present.

The Baptist minister, in thanking the Parish of Caversham for its generous donation — part of which had been used to buy timber for a new cross — explained that the surplus had been put towards the new oak-pannelled pulpit. "The Anglicans," said Mr Weller, "now had a substantial shareholding in the Baptist pulpit!" He went on to thank other churches and individuals who had donated chairs for the new church.

During the course of an inspired service, the spirit of unity was symbolised by a spontaneous sharing of "The Peace" as worshippers freely mingled and greeted one another in the Lord's Name. After the service many toured the premises, whilst others met in the lounge for tea and fellowship, watching a coloured video of Saturday's Opening and Service. At the close of a memorable weekend in the life of the Baptist Free Church, it was clear that the whole of Caversham's Christian community had shared the joy and the thanksgiving.



POSTBAG

Dear Sir,
Could I, please, through the columns of the Caversham Bridge appeal on behalf of the Parkinson's Disease Society for volunteers to undertake house-to-house collections during late April/May?

In order to advance research the Society are endeavouring to raise half-a-million pounds to extend the present outdated Department of Neurology Laboratories at Denmark Hill, SE London, which are right at the centre of the Parkinsonian battle.

If any of your readers can help will they please contact me at the above address or telephone 481334.

Yours, etc,
Phyllis Heidon,
Hon. Secretary,
Reading and District Branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society.

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Star Road,
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Postbag

War

Sir,
I enjoy Caversham Bridge and look forward to articles about old Caversham, Residents' Viewpoint, in fact all of the paper. Advertisements we must have, they help surely with finances, and can be a help to the residents.

I moved here with my husband nearly three years ago from a village in Berkshire. We are very happy here, and we have splendid neighbours. There was always something just that bit different about Caversham; we are natives of Reading, although we lived away from it for many years.

Letters about disarmament and also nuclear war interest me. Years ago, when we lived in Melbourne, Australia, with our then three young children, two Japanese artists staged an exhibition of a huge mural in the city Art Gallery.

The mural depicted the aftermath of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. It looked like Hell, terrible scenes in vivid colours of people trying to run, their bodies seared, others dead lying in horrible postures. Everywhere was a scene of such desolation, as one would never wish to see again in God's beautiful world. Many people have testified to the long-term effects on human beings.

Recently, I read in the Daily Telegraph that an Australian now dying of throat cancer puts it down to when he was working at the testing grounds when the British were in charge. He said he and others were given no special protective clothing, but those in charge were.

Again, think of the Bikini atoll testing ground, think of the banning of explosions in the air, although unfortunately some nations did not subscribe to that.

We must also think of the many wars since 1945, the combatants have not dropped any nuclear bombs. Why? Think long and carefully. Earl Mountbatten and President Eisenhower were right. We come now to Com-

munism, Marxist/Leninist theory and practice. Here we must be very careful in our statements, because many seem to be blinded as to what it is. It is an inversion of the mind, absolutely materialist, absolutely atheist. Man is the god, and a long time ago the serpent (Satan) whispered in a garden, "You shall be like gods."

In 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three little children at Cova di Iria, Fatima, Portugal. I know people doubt, people question, but the Mother of God often appears to the simple who are incapable of twisting the messages sent by her Divine Son to warn mankind.

Briefly, Our Lady's message was: "Wars are a punishment for sin. Pray, do penance, that is, carry out your daily duties as well as you can, say the rosary each day. If you do as I say, Russia will be converted, if not the evils of Communism will spread all over the world. There will be another terrible war." That war

came, World War II.

Pope John Paul II has recently spoken out against nuclear war, so have other Popes.

Those held in bondage behind the Iron Curtain, and bamboo, need our prayers, need our amended way of life. And our way of life needs amending, the West is decadent. There are millions of real Christians behind the Iron Curtain, worshipping in secret, suffering.

Lastly, we must be very careful, too, in the free world of the infiltrators, yes, even into the churches. The question of disarmament can be used by such to their own advantage. Yet we must not have a nuclear holocaust, there is no defence against it. All the conferences in the world won't save us, unless everyone turns again to his Creator. The world He has given us we hold in trust, it is heartbreakingly beautiful, now especially in Spring.

Yours, etc,
(Mrs) Hilda Robinson
57a Kidmore Road,
Caversham.

Issues of the day

Dear Sir,

In replying to Mr Kynaston's letter in your March issue, there is only one way to approach these great issues of the day, and that is on moral grounds, plus common sense.

To take his most important points: there is nothing wicked in possessing a nuclear deterrent that can inflict intense suffering on humans and animals alike, providing you do not under any circumstances use it. But it is immoral and foolish to waste money on these weapons when so many social services in great need are denied help, not least the unemployed.

It is common sense to ease the crushing burden of armaments by all nations, including those of the Third World, and spend it on the welfare of their peoples. Our expenditure on arms this year for so-called defence will be £12,000 million.

The fact that there has not been another war in

Europe over the past 35 years owing to the deterrent is mere supposition. The truth is, there has been no major crisis to warrant "sparking off" a war.

Why is Russia so heavily armed? Partly because she was attacked by Germany in the last war after both had signed a non-aggression pact, resulting in near defeat of both countries, plus belligerent bleatings from the west, including our own country, and is therefore preparing not to be caught again.

If we were so militarily weak in 1938/39, why in heaven's name were we so foolish as to declare war on Germany. The reason we were not invaded by Germany was because of her involvement with Russia, mentioned above, her dithering as to when she should send her landing craft across the Channel, and the might of American forces.

With regard to the American "umbrella," I, and many others are perfectly willing to live without these evil weapons of destruction. The Church is now on trial, to choose between faith in armaments, or faith in Christ and His Gospel; it cannot have both.

We are being so indoctrinated and brainwashed into believing there is safety in armaments, that only an unshakeable faith and conviction in Christ's teaching can provide the right answers to troubled minds.

Yours, etc,
(signed) Duncan
Marshall
164 Kidmore End Road,
Emmer Green.

Ecumenism

Dear Sir,

It seems that enthusiasm for closer relations between churches in Caversham is confined to relatively few people at present.

Probably we were drifting in this direction when the Churches' Committee for Co-operation was voted out of existence without notice, a small number of people having turned up for a meeting.

Whatever difficulties there may be in convening joint meetings, there is in the context of ecumenism no alternative to consultation. The covenant scheme which we recently considered has consultation and joint decision-taking at its heart, and if we will not endure the frustrations that are attendant on this course we should perhaps be content with the commendable joint activities that exist — this newspaper, the Bridge Scheme, Caversham Park Church — and wait for a time when there will again be more general support for concerted action.

In the earliest days, if I remember, consultation was on the simple subject of public witness on Good Friday, but we went on to make some truly momentous decisions. In addition to the joint undertakings mentioned above, the first house groups were organised and some remarkable festivals centred on Caversham

Court. To you, Sir, we owe a tremendous debt for breaking down our divisions, and some of your able lieutenants brought the projects to fruition.

If at present we cannot muster attendance at periodical meetings for consultation, at least let those who would work for a specific venture come together. Only let them make the decisions, and not learn of decisions already taken and requiring support.

Yours, etc,
John Clark,
6 Cawsam Gardens,
Caversham.

★ (The Editor would be glad to hear the views of other readers on this subject.)

Amnesty campaign

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the Editor for his article last month about the work of Amnesty International. The Reading Group of Amnesty International is supporting a campaign during the next three months to highlight the plight of prisoners of conscience in South Korea.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Korean War in which members of our own families may have fought to establish — as they thought — freedom of speech and a democratic society.

Amnesty wants to point out that these aims have been foiled and that many people

have been put in prison for expressing their ideas in public. Christian leaders are arrested for things they say in their services, are tried for non-violent "crimes" by military tribunals, and are not allowed to appeal.

The Rev Moon is a distinguished Old Testament scholar and Presbyterian minister. At the age of 62 he has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. This is the third time he has been adopted by Amnesty as a prisoner of conscience. Imagine having to be that brave to talk about the Gospel publicly or even to attend church! I believe that Christians should support these brethren in prayer and other ways.

One of Amnesty's most successful techniques is simply to write to key people in the regime and ask them courteously to release a specified prisoner. Many governments are sensitive about their reputation in the free world — thank goodness! Amnesty has printed information sheets and postcards ready for people to post to South Korea. If you would like to spend 20p and a few minutes to help give someone his or her freedom I can gladly supply these.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Carroll,
45 Brooklyn Drive,
Emmer Green
(472598).

•Continued on page 11

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Good neighbours

A recent attack of flu had a very salutary and thought-provoking effect — let me explain. The first week I was busy dying, I thought, but by the second — ignoring the fact that nobody knew I was ill anyway — I started to feel aggrieved that nobody had called. Not that I wanted anyone to soothe my fevered brow; I was best left alone. But it would have been nice if somebody had called to see if they could ease the burden on the one

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

member of the family at home, trying to cope. Almost at once came strong feelings of guilt. I remembered that before I took to my bed I discovered that a friend, living very near, had been in bed for weeks. I'd not seen her around, I meant to call, but "you know how it is." Then there was the old lady I'd neglected for weeks and several

sick friends — in one or two cases I'd taken flowers or sent a card. I meant to do more, to find out if they needed help, but "you know how it is."

The fact is that there's so much to do these days we often have little time for being good neighbours. We are busy with this or that committee, collecting for this or that charity. Sobering thoughts — somewhere some of us are going wrong. We have the "Bridge Social Service Scheme" and other voluntary and professional bodies — none of them can really replace good neighbours!

I think of a couple who live in our road — to the best of my knowledge they don't belong to any organisation or work for any charity. Yet I know of at least three occasions when they have cared unstintingly for neighbours through illness and death. I think of others who, at the time of bereavement, turned up with meals and gave other help, and of the lady who arrived, uninvited, to act as night nurse and give the family a break.

I do know of some folk who manage to combine personal commitments to neighbours with organisational work. Most of us, I'm afraid, fall down badly on the first. It bears some thought!

Reading-Dusseldorf link

I don't know if it was the recent death of Phoebe Cusden and the twin-towns item on TV which featured her and the Reading-Dusseldorf link, but something like 30 years late, we finally have signs up at the entrance to Reading proclaiming this link. Considering other towns have displayed these notices for years, I can't help wondering why we've taken so long.

Ecology in Caversham

The other day I was a bit surprised to find a gentleman quietly sitting in the shopping precinct with pamphlets and poster proclaiming the formation of a local branch of the Ecology Party. A chat with Richard Hunt elicited the fact that meetings are already taking place at the home of Peggy Ellis in Blenheim Road, and that it is hoped to field candidates for future elections.

I won't attempt to list the aims of the party at the moment — they are new and interesting — and no doubt many of you will have heard of the great strides made by ecology parties in other countries. Mr Hunt, of 24 Balmore Drive, will be only too willing to supply any information you need. I hope to report more of their activities later.

Books and more books

Calling at our local bookshop recently, I was delighted to find a whole new range of books, including a good selection of Christian literature. One book they are running short of, however, is Mary Kift's book on life in old Caversham, so if you've not already got yours, you'd better do so before they run out.

There's also an interesting anthology of previously unpublished poems, entitled "Over the Bridge." The bridge referred to is the one at Whitchurch, where an interesting experiment has been taking place recently at the local school, with poetry readings given by well-known poets. The book's well worth the 95p if you're interested.

I think, also, I forgot to welcome Richard Stainthorpe, brother of Lindsey Mullaney, who joined the bookshop staff some months ago. What a nice family business this is — and a delightful port of call.

Local libraries

I've been taken to task recently for writing scathing remarks about the local library. Fair enough — there has to be a reason for all the reorganisation. So I've promised to call in one day and get the librarian's views on the advantages — and I'm assured by some people there are some — of the recent changes. But I'm sorry to hear they will no longer be reserving novels — it's a thing some people will miss very much — and, as a pensioner, I'm sorry to hear there will be no exemption from fines in future. Seems a bit cheese-paring somehow.

Calling 'Bridge' distributors

In July our 200th edition will be appearing and we plan to celebrate with a look-back over the years. I'd be interested to hear from any of the original distributors, particularly those still acting in this capacity. And any stories they may have to tell will be welcome. But don't leave it too late as we have to go to press by the end of May for the July edition.

WEDDING



Barrie Davies and Jacqueline Kingston who were married at St Peter's Church on March 14.

—Walton Adams

"HAPPY ENDINGS"



The BBC recently used St Andrew's Church for the filming of scenes from their serial Happy Endings.

—John Williamson

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Some 130 people, considerably more than the usual number, attended the annual parochial meeting in Balmore Hall on March 3. Perhaps the overall impression left on those present was that they are members of a large parish which by its many and varied activities aims at challenging all the people of Caversham with the claims of the Gospel as well as caring for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Reports on the Caversham Bridge newspaper, the Good Neighbour scheme and the Link group revealed how Anglicans are deeply committed to ecumenical work; the presentation of the missionary accounts also showed a commitment to Christian mission with over £8,500 given in 1980 to Christian work outside the parish, mainly overseas. The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel received £3,174, Christian Aid £952 while many other missions received smaller though considerable sums.

Mr Eric Smith, the parochial treasurer, was able to report that the Church's income in 1980 had risen considerably; he was obliged, however, to warn those present that the parish would not be able to meet its commitments in 1981 unless the stewardship campaign being held after Easter brought the assurance of a very much larger income. Anglicans had a great deal to learn about the meaning of Christian giving.

Mr W. A. Vincent was re-elected Churchwarden and Mr K. P. Bennett elected in place of Mr F. C. Moore. The Rector paid tribute to Mr Moore for the many years of devoted service he

had given to the parish of Caversham. He had become known to people in all parts of the parish and had always cheerfully undertaken a variety of assignments that had fallen to his lot.

In particular he had taken a great interest in the problem of the housing of old people and since Mr Moore had asked that no presentation should be made to him, the Rector expressed the hope that the parish showed its appreciation of what he had done by handing to him at some future date a contribution for the work of the Abbeyfield Housing Association.

In his closing remarks the Rector paid tribute to his colleagues for their support, to the six Readers in the parish who were taking an increasing share in the Church's ministry, to Mrs Vincent for another year's work as parish secretary, and to the organisers of the parish who worked together so well as a team.

Parochial Church Council: Meeting on March 18, members first worshipped together at a service of Holy Communion when Rite B from the Alternative Services Book was used.

The Council agreed that material from Rites A and B should be incorporated into celebrations of Holy Communion when Series 2 or 3 was used so that members of the congregation could experience worshipping with the revised order.

The Council also agreed to a request from the BBC to use St Andrew's Church on March 31 to film certain sequences of the series "Happy ending."

It was also decided that the Caversham Missionary Union no longer served any useful purpose and that it would be more meaningful if missionary giving was made direct to the societies by each district.

The longest and most lively debate related to the observance of the Prince of

ANGLICAN NEWS

Wales Wedding. The Council was unanimous in feeling that the Church should mark the event with a special service, and regretted that the Methodists and Roman Catholics had felt unable to join in an ecumenical act of worship on this occasion. It was decided to hold an open-air non-Eucharistic service on a Sunday afternoon in July which would be an act of thanksgiving for Christian family life as well as seeking God's blessing on the Prince of Wales and his bride.

Young Families' Group: Among the topics discussed this year by the Young Families' Group was the role of godparents. Some qualifications suggested for a godparent were that he should first be a practising Christian and regular communicant, that he should have the confidence to challenge the natural parent's conscience, be prepared to have a special and continuing affection and interest for the child, and not be a relation. This last was suggested in case there should be a marriage breakdown when it might be easier for a non-relative to remain impartial and better able to help the child.

It was suggested that godparents should be ecumenical in their outlook and, if necessary, encourage their godchild to become a full member of another part of the church.

The godparent should make sure that the child had a suitable Bible and should pray for the whole family. One member of the group felt that godparents were a useful "nudge" if parents seemed to be failing to honour their promises on behalf of the child.

It might sometimes be right to refuse to be a godparent. Both choosing godparents and accepting the responsibility are important decisions for Christians to make and may well give a refreshing opportunity to take stock of one's own faith.

The group had a challenging talk from Mr and Mrs Pearson called "You and your family," in which they talked frankly about their roles as wife, husband, mother, father, leader and home-maker in the family. The group was asked to recall memories of life as a child.

Mr Pearson pointed out that it is sometimes difficult for fathers to show affection for their sons but that it should not be avoided. Mrs Pearson said that mothers should listen and be sensitive to the age and stage that their children were at.

Parents should be united about discipline. They set great store by family activities and celebrations. The group was reminded what a joy it should be for other youngsters to come into a Christian home, and that it was important for it to be open and welcoming. Finally, beware the bondage of TV! The Pearsons have got rid of theirs!

The YFG meets on the first Thursday of each month. Young children are welcome and, after a simple service at the beginning of the meeting, will be cared for in a crèche.

St Andrew's Church

In charge of the Fete this year is Vic Smith, who is busy gathering the team together and recruiting new helpers and ideas. Saturday, June 20, 2pm, at St Andrew's Hall, is the

date and place to remember.

There will be an Auction again together with the Punch and Judy Show and also a Children's Fancy Dress Competition, plus all the usual sideshows and stalls.

The proceeds are being shared between three charities this year: Missions to Seamen — Dennis Slade has all the details of their aims, the Sue Ryder Foundation Home at Nettlebed which gives support, relief and comfort to cancer patients and their families, and third the USPG, which has suggested a project they are supporting in Arasaradi, Madurai, Southern India. This is a new leper colony and hopefully our contribution will go some way to providing water for the colony by way of wells.

The Lenten project of supporting a VSO is well under way. Details have been given on the notices and members look forward to hearing how the project works out.

St John's News

Mothering Sunday: There were smiles and tears at the Mothering Sunday Communion Service. Everyone enjoyed the illustrated sermon which reminded them that having thoughtfulness from all generations of a family is what makes a loving home. The children were happy as they collected their daffodils at the end of the service, and presented the flowers to their mothers, while some older people remembered good parents with a few tears, and grateful prayers.

★ ★ ★

St John's has started a new club for young people — the Ten to Thirteen Club. As the name says it is for ten to thirteen year olds. They meet twice monthly in the upper vestry, between 6.30pm and 8pm on a Sunday evening. Their activities so far have included talks, discussions, a musical party, puppet making, and film shows. Some of the Nomads, from the older youth group, often go to help, and provide music. If you would like to know more about the group contact Linda Shoesmith 479392 or Olwen Clarke 477742.

★ ★ ★

News of former St John's members: The congregation were sorry to hear that Jack Houghton has had a slight stroke, but are glad to know he is recovering well. He and Maud can be sure they have the best wishes and prayers of their friends in St John's.

Best wishes and congratulations to Rod Wood on his engagement to Marion Westley, who comes from Bedford. The date of the wedding depends on when a house is available.

St Peter's Wives

For their February meeting the Wives' Group enjoyed a return visit from biographer Barbara Stoney. Last year Mrs Stoney spoke on her biography of the Dame of Sark. This time her talk entitled "Jigsaw" dealt with the composition of a biography — how such a project comes about, gradually takes shape and eventually becomes published. Mrs Stoney has established herself as a favourite speaker with the Wives' Group and the talk was well attended.

St Peter's Wives' Group

During March the Wives' Group held their now annual event — the "Getting to know you evening." This year the theme was gourmet cooking. Each member was invited to bring along her favourite party dish together with the recipe. The dishes chosen proved to be a mouth-watering selection of both sweet and savoury food, the sampling of which was much enjoyed by the group. The committee also organised various activities which ensured that each member was able to meet with almost everyone else present. The evening was most successful and the wives departed armed with recipes.

St Peter's and St Barnabas' Mothers' Union

At the March meeting, Miss Powell, a disabled person herself, spoke of the needs of disabled people. There were 450 thousand registered disabled in the country, and 44,000 in Berkshire.

The main object of "The Year of the Disabled" was to draw attention to their needs. Disablement meant loss of power, and there was a need to arouse public interest. There was also a need for compassion, not sympathy, and to integrate them into society. To see that there were parking facilities, access to buildings, and not to be denied employment, if at all possible.

Disabled people should be able to participate fully in work, leisure and family life, and not set apart because of their disability.

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Caversham Community Association

On the first Monday in March, Yvonne Milne and the Summerdown Singers visited the club. Mrs Milne, who conducted the choir with verve and enthusiasm, arranged a varied programme of songs and recitations. After an enjoyable time listening to the singers, the members were asked by Mrs Milne to sing in groups and then to join in singing the choruses with the choir.

At the meeting on March 9 photographs on slide film of the players and audience at the Old Tyme Concert, held previously at the club, were shown to the members.

A competition evening was held on March 16 which included guessing games, etc. Mr Stephen Waite was a welcome visitor who compiled a "Guess the place" quiz and projected his own slide film for the clues.

The following week Mrs O'Sullivan from the Southern Gas Board visited the club and brought a film on English cooking to show

the members. Mrs O'Sullivan then gave a talk on safety measures to take when dealing with gas appliances and afterwards answered members' questions.

She said that when officials of the Gas Board ask householders to allow them to test the safety of existing gas appliances, it is in order for anyone to ask to see their identity cards issued by the Gas Board.

On Friday, March 20, the club made its contribution to the Reading Borough Council's "Plant a tree" campaign. Mrs G. Weal, the president of the club, planted a cypress oak in Christchurch Meadows, Gosbrook Road, watched by fellow members.

The month's programme was completed, on March 30, with games based on Blankety Blank — the TV game.

Blagrave W.I.

At the Annual General Meeting the retiring president, Mrs M. Haigh, gave a report of the past year, which has been a most happy and successful one,

ROUND THE CLUBS

with many new members joining. Mrs Haigh was presented with a lovely plant on behalf of the institute to thank her for four years' hard work. The new president being Mrs J. Price, a new committee was formed. An interesting talk was given by Mrs Biggar, VCO, on the past formation of the W.I.

The competition for a jar of home-made marmalade was won by Mrs Dean, with Miss Wellsted second, Mrs Housden third.

Maplewood W.I.

March is the month for the institute's AGM, which was a happy meeting, although after three very successful years, everyone was sad that the president, Mrs Barbara Belfield - Smith, was retiring. However, the institute looks forward with great pleasure to more good times under the new president, Mrs Joan Fry, and secret-

ary, Mrs Phyl Heaward, who takes over Mrs Fry's place as secretary, with several new committee members.

There was no competition, but a wonderful display of members' handwork of great variety, from a double bedspread to a pin-cushion; this gave a good opportunity for chatter over the teacups.

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs Russell welcomed members to the March meeting which was the AGM. Mrs E. N. Clarke attended to officiate at the formation of the new committee and Mrs Ellingham was elected as president. Mrs Clarke talked about her experiences, "Trials and Tribulations of a VCO," which was much enjoyed.

The competition, "Fresh flower arrangement in a wine glass," was won by Mrs Gillings.

Caversham W.I.

The February meeting was well attended.

Mrs Hilda Adair, the vice-president, welcomed Mrs N. Roach, the home economics chairman, who gave a talk outlining courses that members could attend at Burchetts Green College with a view to obtaining a certificate in the subject of their choice.

During the evening members exhibited a grand display of their own craft work.

At the Annual General Meeting Mrs Hilda Adair was newly elected to the office of president. Also newly elected were Mrs Betty Atherton and Mrs Pauline Young as vice-presidents, Mrs May Smith as secretary and Miss Jarrett as treasurer.

The retiring treasurer gave an account of a satisfactory financial statement.

The assistant secretary presented a detailed report on the varied activities during the year 1980/1981.

Thanks were extended to Miss Ellen Ansell and Mrs M. Stansfield from Glebe W.I. for acting as tellers.

The competition cup was presented to Mrs Phyllis Colley for obtaining most points during the past year.

Mrs J. Biggar, VCO, gave a talk on the structure of the Women's Institute and the Associated Country Women of the World.

The evening closed with a word of appreciation to the retiring committee and all members now look forward to what is hoped will prove to be a happy and active year.

At the May 21 meeting resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall will be discussed.

The competition will be a saleable item from any form of scrap.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the last meeting of the Guild the speaker was Col Wilcox, who gave details of "English Customs."

He explained how many of our traditions and ceremonies are quite definitely based on pagan ceremonies. The dance of the Morris men with their stamping feet and stick banging originated in the need to wake up Spring and ensure that the seeds knew it was time for them to recommence their cycle.

With slides, Col Wilcox illustrated the story of the

Mummers which with slight local adjustments is more or less the same as it originally appeared.

In many parts of Derbyshire, wells are still elaborately dressed as a shrine to life and water. Some of them are 9ft x 6ft with collages all made out of natural substances — petals, leaves, seeds, cones, etc. They last only, in full glory, for about four days, but evidently the local villages now cater for the tourist trade and endeavour to produce their dressed wells in a vague rotation, round about Ascension Day.

The fund towards the new Stoke Mandeville ward in response to a Jimmy Savile appeal is growing steadily. Half the jumble sale takings went towards it and on Wednesday last Mrs Margaret Mercer opened her house for a ploughman's luncheon which was very well supported by members with a large contingent from Maplewood W.I.

On April 1 the Federation of Berkshire and Hampshire TG held their bi-annual lunch and several members attended. This year it was held at the Kennet Rooms in the Civic Centre.

At the March meeting the chairman announced that he was with regret that the Guild must say farewell to Mrs Lilian Clapham who was going to live near her children. Mrs Clapham has been a supportive member for many years and will be greatly missed.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

How does your brain work? Dr S. Doonan spoke on memory and learning at the March meeting. At the beginning of her talk she turned the tables on members by asking questions instead of inviting them at the end.

Most of us underestimate our brains, she said; we learn a great deal without conscious effort, as children do, and the amount of knowledge stored up is enormous; it is the power of recall that is not always as sure as we would wish.

Listening, talking, understanding are all feats of memory and education does not always result in an individual developing his full potential. By the end of the talk, brains were reeling somewhat from the immensity of the subject! A bring-and-buy sale and

Caversham Ladies' Club

Members were welcomed to the Annual General Meeting by Mrs Weal, in the absence of the chairman, Mrs Harwood. The minutes of the 1980 AGM were read and approved and reports given by the secretary, treasurer, Mrs B. Strong for the produce table, and Mrs E. Lock for the sales table.

The existing committee had agreed to serve again, and in the absence of any other nominations it was proposed that the committee be re-elected en bloc. Mrs M. Harwood, chairman, Mrs G. Weal, vice-

chairman, Mrs D. Stockwell, secretary, and Mrs Q. Strong, treasurer. The rest of the committee were Mrs B. Strong, Mrs E. Lock, Mrs I. Mander, Mrs J. Sanders - Taylor and Mrs M. Howe.

On a very wet Saturday morning several members attended the planting of a strawberry tree in Caversham Court, to replace the one which had died, and a on a much better afternoon later in the month a Cyprus oak was planted in Christchurch Meadows, one of several which were to replace trees that had to be felled.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At the March meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild members enjoyed a most interesting talk given by Miss Titchener on the work of the Johnson Matthey Research Centre at Sonning Common. Miss Titchener showed slides of the beautiful old house and grounds, and observed how the modern office buildings, built by Brooke Bond Ltd, have blended into the landscape so well.

Johnson Matthey is a British firm and the world's leading fabricator of precious metals. Members were surprised at the interesting and varied work carried out at the research centre, covering such a wide field from industry to medicine. Some examples of their work were passed round, including some lovely decorated plates, Johnson Matthey being involved in the development of the transfers and the work in gold around the edge of the plates.

Johnson Matthey do not have an end product to their work but are involved in almost every field of people's daily lives somewhere along the line, one of their latest interests being the platinum catalyst developed for car exhausts to reduce noxious fumes, and these are being widely used in America. The time given to Miss Titchener for her talk passed all too quickly, and Miss N. Pollard gave the vote of thanks on behalf of all members.

Mrs E. Weaver went to the Federation Social Studies Day entitled "do you know your rights?" and gave an excellent resume of a most interesting and informative day's lectures and discussion.

During the evening two raffles were held and a competition to guess the weight of a cake. Miss Pollard also asked members to support her "scrabble drive," all events being held in aid of the Stoke Mandeville Appeal.



Mrs Dora Stockwell planting a tree on behalf of Caversham Ladies' Club. —Peter Sear



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LETTERS CONTINUED

Local interest

Dear Sir,

The message that local Christians should take an active interest in local affairs is one that we have often heard preached in Caversham. It is, therefore, encouraging to see not only this need, but signs of it in action, clearly shining through the April "Caversham Bridge."

Examples of this awareness are:

* The warning by "Watchdog" to ensure that public services are not cut to the extent of depriving the community, and that, on the other hand, expenditure is not allowed to soar extravagantly.

* The liveliness of the Caversham Residents' Association in arranging the Transport 2000 meeting to bring another view to

the serious traffic problems of the area.

* The interest shown by "Zoilus" in the workings of the Borough Council, especially the part played by Caversham councillors.

* The admiration rightly shown by "Katy" for the flourishing community spirit of Caversham Park Village, reflected in their "Village Voice" newspaper.

Caversham Christians will have another opportunity to act positively on local issues when they have their chance to vote in the Berkshire County Council elections on May 7.

Yours faithfully,
Patrick Baily
15 Peppard Road,
Caversham.

TREE PLANTING

Several local groups recently planted cyprus oaks in Christchurch playing field as part of the council's "plant-a-tree" scheme. The oaks replace poplars which were felled during the winter.



—Peter Sear

Jonathan Pears from Micklands Primary School planting a tree in memory of Simon Handford.

Caversham Darby and Joan Club

The month began with about 50 members taking a very enjoyable coach trip around Henley, Christmas Common, Russells Water, etc, culminating in an excellent fish and chip supper at a local hotel.

The meetings at Balmore Hall have been weekly as usual, and our numbers continue to rise; meanwhile, preparations are in hand for a day at Bourne-mouth in June.

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—Peter Sear

Mrs Edna Manning, chairman of Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, planting a tree.

St Margaret's News

Saturday, March 14, saw the members of St Margaret's Church working hard for the jumble sale to raise £75 needed for Gillian Rose's clinic at Khulna, Bangladesh. In the morning while all the sorting of jumble and arranging of stalls was taking place at Trench Green Hall about 17 young members of Saturday Workshop were busy making cakes for the refreshments at the sale.

It was a brave Irene Lindsay who had so many youngsters cook-

ing all at once in her house, but they did a marvellous job and made some lovely cakes. Members of the Children's Group ran the White Elephant stall and also cooked for the sale. Never has one of St Margaret's Jumble Sales been so crowded with many people rallying round to support Gillian.

It was truly a great success and £69 was made after expenses were cleared. Very many thanks to all who gave their help in so many different ways.

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Local runners played their part in the well-publicised and successful event — the first London marathon.

The father and son team of Ray and Peter Baker from Caversham Park Village took part and completed the unique double — having run the New York marathon 18 months ago.

This time, Peter, now 23, improved his time and finished in 2 hours 33 minutes, a full six minutes improvement. Father Ray, now 54, was a little slower in 3 hours 40 minutes, which is still a very good time and kept him in front of many of the younger men! The main difference this time was in the weather — in London it was cool and wet as opposed to New York where conditions were a humid 80 degrees!

Both Ray and Peter are members of Thames Valley Harriers.

Rugby to marathon

Also taking part in the London marathon was a former P.E. master of Highdown School, 37-year-old Clive Boulter, from Sonning Common. Better known locally as a rugby player with London Welsh and now Abbey Rugby Club,

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN



Clive was taking his 14½ stone frame over the full marathon distance for the third time in less than a year. He did not know he would be running until the Tuesday before the race, as he only got a place when someone dropped out through injury with just a few days to go. Luckily he had kept up his training and finished the course in just over four hours and was one of the finishers shown crossing the line on television. In fact, Clive looked very happy to be chasing home another rugby player, the famous J. P. R. Williams.

The end product of the London marathon will be the huge upturn in the number of people seen running around our streets and parks in both town and country. Already a lot of people from Caversham have made up their mind to "do the London" next year and if this is the trend throughout the country, there could be 100,000 runners fighting for places in next year's run!

Start here . . .

Two events coming up in this area in the next

couple of months will help anyone who is thinking of following the 6,000 or so who ran on Sunday, March 29, in London. First there are the usual May Day fun runs in Prospect Park on Monday, May 4, with runs of three-quarters of a mile, three miles and five miles around the Park. The first event, the three miles, will start at 11.00am.

Beginners' marathon

For those runners who are already to go for the "big one," Waingels Copse School, at Woodley, where Clive Boulter is now a deputy head, are organising a full marathon on Sunday, July 5, to start at 8.00am.

Entries will have to be limited to a few hundred, but all the usual feeding / drinking stations, etc, will be provided along the course, which starts at the school going out through Woodley, Wokingham and Twyford, and back through Woodley to finish at the school. The course is fairly flat and in fact,

ideal for a first marathon.

By the way, I did not run the London marathon, like many others I watched from the armchair, but I will be out on Sunday the 5th July!

Trip of a lifetime!

On May 14, 15 lucky young lads from Caversham Boys' Football Club are off to the USA for the football trip of their lives. The boys, all under 12's, will be going to Olney in Maryland, just 25 miles from Washington, and they will be staying with families there. During the 16-day trip the team will play six matches, which will mean quite a lot of travelling, and one special trip has been arranged for them to visit Reading, Pennsylvania.

The idea of making the trip came from a discussion their team manager,

Keith Smith, of Scott Close, Caversham, had with a colleague at work. He mentioned that he was considering taking the boys on a short trip to Germany, but his colleague suggested that the USA would be much better.

Since that time the whole team have been working to raise money for the tour, by organising discos, jumble sales and raffles. With generous assistance from Courages, Faulkner Heating, Scotchbrooks, Jennings and others, the boys will be making their fantastic tour at a cost of only £120 each.

The boys will be accompanied by seven adults, which, until very recently did not include their manager and organiser, Keith, but he is now able to go and see the fruits of 18 months very hard work.

For one boy it will be his last game with the team. David Knott, who has been top goalscorer for three seasons, has just moved to Sheffield, but he is joining the team for their grand finale to the season. The lads are going to miss him, but at least they hope he'll score some more goals for them and that they all have a great time together in the United States.

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