

SUNDAY TRADING CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

SHORTLY before the debate in Parliament on Sunday Trading, Churches Together in Reading provided opportunities in separate meetings for the people of Reading to express their views to the two Reading MPs. At the meeting with Sir Gerard Vaughan a representative gathering apparently drawn from local churches was unanimous in their support for the third option, backed by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, of limited Sunday Trading to the four Sundays before Christmas. Concern was expressed about the damaging effects Sunday Trading could have on family life. Particular emphasis was given to the pressure put on shop workers, many of whom would not wish to work on Sunday but would feel compelled to do so because of future job security and promotion prospects. Possible damaging effects on the educational achievements of young people caught up in weekend employment were also raised.

While everyone seemed to support the need for a change in the law, Sir Gerard had made a study of businesses already open on Sundays and seemed to have been persuaded by them that the option for unrestricted opening of small shops and the opening of large shops for 6 hours was the preferable option. Although he appeared to have been genuinely helped by the expression of views from a predominantly Christian audience, the option he favoured was subsequently passed by Parliament.



Our picture shows Sir Gerard Vaughan M.P. with the Revd Philip Abrey who chaired the meeting in Wesley Methodist Church. — Owen Jewiss

During the meeting a speaker from the floor pointed out that if the legislation moved in favour of Sunday Trading, an opportunity would exist for Christians to witness to their faith through their Sunday worship, which would be more observed in busy rather than empty town centres. If this is to be the case in Reading we may need to address the situation of two large town centre churches with little or no resident population and therefore small congregations.

The changes in Sunday Trading legislation do indeed present a challenge to every member of the Church. Much is being said about getting back to basics; perhaps we should remind ourselves of the imperatives of the Ten Commandments and not least the sixth — "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. . . ."

THE NEW ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

ON Saturday 11th December the new Environment Centre was opened in the Old Stable Block of Caversham Court. A Christmas Fair was held where Christmas Cards, Wrapping Paper, Gifts, Christmas Puddings and Cakes and, of course, Christmas Trees (all environmentally friendly!) were for sale and free coffee and mince pies dispensed. The Centre was open from 11.00am until 3pm and many people found their way there!



From December onwards this Centre is open to give advice and information on all kinds of environmental matters. There will be changing displays and exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops, and it should prove a useful and everchanging resource for local schools as well as local people! Further information as to opening times etc. can be obtained by telephoning 477917.



Choosing Christmas Trees at the New environmental Centre at Caversham Court.

— E. S. Archer

D/EX 1758/31/2

TALKING POINT

by

Rev. Stephen Rowe
Vicar of St John's



PREPARATION

THE Christian calendar gives us two specific periods of preparation – Advent and Lent, for Christmas and Easter respectively. The opportunities that these periods give us are something not to be missed. For if something is worth doing, it is more useful and worthwhile if it has been prepared for.

If we consider anything that we do in life – be it having people round for a meal through to getting married, we need to prepare ourselves for such an occasion to enable us, and any others involved, to get the most from such an opportunity.

And so it is with preparing for the most important occasion in the Churches' life, the celebration of Easter. On Good Friday we remember the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross for the sake of all humanity, and on Easter Day we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord from the dead. And through Christ's death and resurrection all God's people have the promise of new life – life in all its fullness.

So often people think about giving up something for Lent – be it chocolate or alcohol, and there is some benefit in such a discipline. However the opportunities for Lent afford us much more than just the giving up of something for a period of six weeks or so.

This year especially we are all encouraged to join the ecumenical house groups that will be operating in Caversham. The theme for this year is 'Have Another Look' and is the national Lent course offered for 1994. This course, first mentioned in last month's edition of the Bridge, sets out to help us think more clearly about our lives and what happens to us in life. By sharing our experiences we affirm each other and hopefully grow in faith.

But the House Groups are just one thing to focus on during Lent. Perhaps we should all take the opportunity to pray and read the Bible in a more structured way during this time of preparation. There are all sorts of ways of doing this, including the use of the lectionary or Bible Reading Fellowship notes. It goes almost without saying that this is best done not alone, but with others, for support and encouragement. Meeting with others to pray and to reflect on the Christian Gospel is usually inspiring as well as challenging. There is nothing more reassuring than to realise that many people find it difficult to pray and that our 'failures' in the Christian life may give strength to others who also find the going tough.

We may decide to take a Quiet Day – either alone or in a group. A chance to have proper, quality time with God – to allow God to speak to our often troubled and burdened minds and hearts. A Quiet Day can be a very therapeutic experience – both physically and spiritually.

And if we have family commitments, or are at home and unable to get out much – we should not think that none of the above applies to us. One of the most spiritual people I ever met lived alone, was housebound and blind. And yet she prayed more deeply than most of us ever can – and many felt greatly blessed for her prayers as they went about their daily lives. We should always know – however busy or alone we are – that God is always there and ready to listen and to speak to us, if only we will listen to Him.

The list above presents a few examples of how we could make use of the period of Lent that is upon us. If we are already busy we may start to think – 'Oh no, not another commitment'. But in the end it should be about priorities – perhaps instead of giving up chocolate for Lent, we should give up being busy – and see how our lives could be transformed.

Hopefully, instead of an extra burden, the discipline of some spiritual commitment – in whatever form it may take, will often be a liberating experience rather than something else to weigh us down and cause us to feel guilty. For Christ calls all Christians to bring to him their burdens. In the words from Matthew's account of the Gospel.

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". (Matthew 28 v.11, RSV)

Jesus offers to shoulder our worries and responsibilities with us – we don't have to feel alone. Let us all try to use the space of Lent to give our burdens to Christ, to stop, to think, to pray and to support each other in doing the same.

May we all open our hearts and minds to Christ during these coming weeks of preparation. May this Lent be for us all, happy, holy and Christ-centred, and may we all prepare ourselves for the passion of our Lord on Good Friday and his glorious resurrection on Easter Day.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

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

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's

8.00am The Eucharist
9.15am Family Eucharist (Sung) (10am first Sunday)
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns) (not on first Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong (followed by Eucharist on first Sunday)

St Barnabas'

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

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

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

(Caversham Park Primary School)
11.00am Family Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST

FREE CHURCH
10.30am and 6.30pm

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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POSTBAG

CORALIE MINCHIN

Dear Editors,

We and several neighbours are very disappointed that you have never given a little mention and acknowledgment to Coralie Minchin who died in July and was cremated on July 28th. She consistently delivered Caversham Bridge for over ten years and had a one hundred percent subscription in Highdown Avenue, because as each new neighbour moved in they were always called on by Coralie who had lived in our Avenue for over thirty years.

Coralie was a great character and well known in Caversham and Emmer Green, was known for her pleasant manner and friendly smile, and we all still miss her and her little yellow Mini car in our Avenue.

Coralie was such a character she even left all the written instructions for her funeral and left tape for the music including a song sung by herself "If I should look behind me". Not many people sing at their own funerals.

I felt it was time someone pointed out this omission in the paper and perhaps you could belatedly acknowledge what great service she gave to the community.

Yours etc.,

M. J. Bowles (Mrs),
Peggy Evans,
S. C. Evans

Highdown Avenue
Emmer Green

The editors are very grateful to the writers of the above letter and indeed recently heard that Coralie, at the end of her life in the Sue Ryder home, managed to travel to Wimbledon and watch a day's play there – an indefatigable lady. Indeed, most of the Caversham Bridge deliverers are real saints. This gives the Editors an opportunity to thank all those who month after month plod around the streets with the papers, some ever since the first edition, nearly 30 years ago. Please do write in about these stalwarts – it is difficult for the editors to keep track of every single road in the whole Caversham area.

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

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All contributions for March issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 2 March.

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

The dates for May will be Monday 4 April and Wednesday 6 April.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd., Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Tel: Reading 471703.

Typeset by Right Image Graphics Co. Ltd., Unit 1, 151-155 Cardiff Road, Reading. Printed by Reading Newspaper Printing Company Limited, Portman Road, Reading.

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THE SEEKERS OF



WHY DO 19,000 PEOPLE A WEEK FLOCK TO THIS CHURCH? asks Jeremy Anderson.

Last Autumn my wife and I joined a large group of Baptist Ministers, including Harry Weatherley, to attend a conference at Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, USA.

The Philosophy of Willow Creek is to attack the Gospel to any means of communication that will allow them to present the message of Jesus Christ honestly and powerfully. There is nothing new about the doctrines espoused at Willow Creek. Bill Hybels, Founder and Pastor, preaches the same message as evangelicals everywhere: "Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He died for the sins of mankind. And the only way to get to Heaven is to accept this gift of Salvation".

The 'Church' area is enormous. A dramatic entrance driveway sweeps beside the lake towards the buildings and vast carpark. Inside the complex are offices, a self-service restaurant, fitness centre, three indoor basket ball pitches, a large Atrium concourse, many small meeting rooms, bookstall, 'Children's World' fully equipped for all ages etc. And yes, the Chapel, as large as many a Church, now used for small services, Weddings and Funerals. At the heart of it all is the five thousand seater Auditorium.

Our first experience of a service at Willow Creek was a Youth night. After some very active sports and a half hour in a Huddle Group (Bible study and prayer) hundreds of twelve to sixteen year olds poured noisily into the Auditorium below, as we sat with parents in the balcony. Down went the lights, up went the curtain and the service began. Unbelievable noise. A ten piece rock band, Laser lights and all. The only difference to "Top of the Pops" was the Christian message of the words. A multi projector wall of slides showing aspects of creation was next, then absolute hush fell on the six hundred boisterous teenagers as they listened to a twenty-minute, well researched and argued talk on the evidence for a Creator God. By giving the young an evening of fun and games, worship and prayer, music and teaching, the whole person is encouraged and a real alternative is provided by the church for an evening out.

For adults, membership of Willow Creek is a fulfilling experience also. We can only touch on a part of it here, but, as with the teen-age work, what we saw was so enthusiastic and genuine. Ministries cover an endless list of needs, for example, the usual cleaning, kitchen help, gardening, flower decorations and bookstall. Also ministries outside, to single pregnant women, to the unemployed and those seeking career advice, activities to the elderly, and in the Free Food Pantry for those in need. The list goes on and on. Every member of the church is in a Bible Study Fellowship and Prayer Group. The ministries not only provide service, they give the volunteers an opportunity to put their Christian beliefs into practice.

The members' Service for Worship and Teaching is Mid-week, with a monthly Communion Service. This leaves the Weekend Services free to be SEEKER SERVICES. "Our seekers want to be left alone. If we allow that they'll hang around and sooner or later, they're going to be moved". Saturday at 5 and 7pm, Sunday 9 and 11am. The same presentation is repeated to accommodate all who flock to these

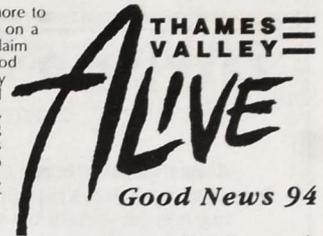
Services. The preacher is nearly always Bill Hybels, the support groups for Music and Drama perform on one weekend a month. Everything about it from the traffic control to the Sermon is designed to make a favourable impression on the 'seeker'.

"Before the service, recorded music is always playing, silence is threatening" Hybels explained. A one time seeker, now a member of the Church, Lee Strobels told us, "I would have been chased away by organ music, or by a pastor putting his arm around me and asking me to dinner". What allowed him to return to Willow Creek after his first visit was the anonymity there. "I didn't want anyone to see me in church, I needed to investigate at my own pace. I sat in the back of that Church for a year listening and thinking". Hybels agrees "Our seekers want to be left alone. They don't want to say anything, sing anything, sign anything or give anything".



As Part of THAMES VALLEY ALIVE there is to be a DAY SEMINAR looking at the principles of WILLOW CREEK, on Tuesday 15th March 1994 10am-4pm at St John with St Stephen Church, Orts Road, Reading. The day led by Ven Michael Hill and Revd Harry Weatherley. Booking form from: Administrator TVA, 30 St Patricks Ave, Charvil, Reading RG10 9RA. Jeremy Anderson is the Evangelism Enabler for Reading Deanery. He lives in Caversham.

HAVE you ever wondered if there is more to Christianity than just going to Church on a Sunday? All Christians are called to proclaim the Gospel - that is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ - but many Christians find it hard to tell friends and neighbours about their Faith. In 1994, through the vehicle of a major Reading wide and Ecumenical Festival, Christians in this area will have the opportunity to play their part in spreading the Word, and all will have the chance to hear their questions about Christianity answered.



Unveiled in the January Edition of Caversham Bridge "Thames Valley Alive - Good News '94" is intended to bring Churches of different denominations closer together, to encourage Christians to share their Faith and to call new people into the Kingdom of God. Led by the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Springboard Team" including Michael Marshall and Michael Green, TVA will culminate with a series of major Central events to be held at Rivermead in early October. Events will be happening throughout the year however, and in all areas of Reading, including Caversham.

The TVA Programme for Caversham is being planned by a group of Christians representing most of the local Churches and jointly chaired by the Rev. Philip Abrey (Caversham Park) and Andrew Radford (St. Peter's). Other members of the Caversham Area Action Committee are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Martyn Allies | Heights Methodist Church |
| Anne Ballard | Gosbrook Road Methodist Church |
| Linda Blackburn/Richard Purkis | St. John's Church |
| Margaret Dimmick | Caversham Park Church |
| Rev. Nigel Hardcastle | St. Barnabas Church |
| Rev. Mike Holmes | Caversham Hill Chapel |
| Gill Powell/Bernard Miller | Caversham Baptist Free Church |
| Lowess Mitchell | New Testament Church of God |
| Keith Knee-Robinson | St. Margaret's Church |
| Ros Rutherford | St. Peter's Church |
| Molly Sidwell | St. Andrew's Church |
| Mary Dyer | St. Anne's Church |
| Fi Radford (Secretary) | St. Peter's Church |

A number of events for Caversham have already been scheduled, including late night youth services, a children's holiday project in the park and a prayer concert, but the Committee would welcome more ideas and assistance - if you think you can help then please do contact your Church representative soon. Information on TVA events will appear in future editions of Caversham Bridge - SO WATCH THIS SPACE!

'JOSEPH' AT ST ANDREW'S

WITH THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR festivities now behind us it is back to rehearsals again for the members of St Andrew's Church, for their presentation of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's production of JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR® DREAM-COAT.

Now in addition to the singing, all the stage movements have to be rehearsed and got right. With so many people on the stage at the same time this, of course, becomes vital and no doubt there will be a few mishaps in the early stages and quite a bit of laughter, but, as they say, 'It will be alright on the night'.

Meanwhile, another small group is beavering away, trying to get props, costumes and stage scenery sorted out and made, a daunting task. We are looking for an aspiring artist who can paint scenery/props and also some people handy with a jigsaw to cut out some of the props needed for the play; yet another group are busying finding, or making costumes.

The children's colouring competition of "YOUNG JOSEPH" which appeared in last month's Caversham Bridge, has already resulted in some entries being received. It is not too late as long as entries are received not later than 1st Feb 94.

The production takes place on 24th and 26th March with a matinee on Saturday afternoon.



N. Kent

WHO MEETS WHERE AND WHEN IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham W.I.	Church House	3rd Tuesday	7pm
Chazey W.I.	Mapledurham Pavilion	1st Tuesday	8pm
Rosehill W.I.	St Barnabas Hall	2nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Caversham Ait. T.G.	Church House	3rd Thurs	2pm
Caversham Hts. T.G.	St Andrew's Hall	3rd Thurs	7.30pm
Emmer Green T.G.	St Barnabas Hall	2nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Cav. Allotment Hldrs	Church House	2nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Cav. Community Assc	Arthur Legge Centre	Every Monday	7.30pm
Cav. Ladies Club	Baptist Centre	2nd Thurs	2-4pm
Darby & Joan	Church House	Every Wed	2-4pm
Mapledurham Jubilee Club	Trench Green Hall	2nd Monday	2pm
Reading Film & Video Makers	St Andrew's Hall	Every Tuesday	8pm
St Andrew's Fellowship	St Andrew's Hall	2nd Thurs	8pm
St John Ambulance (Junior Division)	Church House	Every Wed	6.15pm
St Peter's Wives	Church House	3rd Tues	8pm

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

THE 5 R's

IN December a new Environment Centre was opened in the Stable Block of Caversham Court, its aim being to give advice and information on all kinds of environmental matters. It will offer demonstrations, workshops, talks, resources for local schools and exhibitions. It will also encourage awareness of the green open spaces in the town which are so often taken for granted.

Opening day was on the second Saturday of December when large numbers of people went along to the stable yard to buy environmentally friendly Christmas trees. These were cut Scots pine which had been removed from heathland sites under the management of BBONT, a necessary operation if they are not to take over the heathland and change its nature. Scots pine has the additional advantage of not shedding its needles over the carpet. There were also various craft displays, wood turning, and tool renovation, and cakes, puddings and charitable cards for sale, as well as free mince pies and coffee.

It was a bright cold and sunny day, and the warmly clad crowds choosing Christmas trees in the cobbled courtyard against the background of the mellow brickwork of the stable block looked like something Breughel might have painted, except that the river had not frozen over so there were no long suffering mums hauling their offspring across the ice on make-shift sledges. Altogether it was a happy occasion and the Park Rangers and the Borough Council are to be congratulated for organising it.

And those 5 R's? They are reject, reduce, re-use, repair and recycle. Advice on all of these is available at the Environment Centre. Those Christmas trees, for instance, and any others except those that can be replanted in the garden, should have been taken to one of the re-cycling centres after Twelfth Night, where they would be chipped to make surfacing material for muddy woodland paths.

ALMIGHTY CRASH

On the subject of trees, that magnificent copper beech on the boundary of the Oakley Road allotments, referred to in November's issue as appearing to be dying, fell victim to the high winds of early December and crashed across the gardens of houses in Hemdean Road, fortunately missing the houses themselves. It leaves a great gap which is unlikely ever to be filled again. Big trees cause problems in urban areas but it would be a sad day if they were all replaced by smaller ornamental trees which, though attractive they may be, can never make the same impact and contribution to the townscape as those giants which generate feelings of affection and loyalty in those who live or work near them.

45 METRES HIGH

If tall trees are regarded with affection, forty-five metres high masts are not. There was a storm of protest when the BBC announced it would be placing such a mast in Hemdean Valley. This has been on the cards for some time, and Caversham and District Residents' Association protested when the proposal was first announced. However, the BBC does not require planning permission for such a structure if it can show necessity and, of course, clearer TV reception takes precedence over scenery any day of the week. One reason for the mast is that without it the new houses going up in Bugs Bottom would have had poor reception, which would not have been a very good selling point.

BUGS BOTTOM

Contractors, or more likely sub- and even sub-sub-contractors, will get away with as much as they think they can in Bugs Bottom. Without constant vigilance, they will break the stringent regulations set down for the whole construction period and, after their attention has been drawn to it, they will comply for a while, then slowly revert to their old habits. Early deliveries and journeys along unauthorised routes have become common occurrences, and during an exceptionally wet period at the end of November, mud was carried out on to adjacent roads without being cleaned away as specified. It made a mess of cars which in turn carried it to more distant roads, making a nonsense of undertakings given in order to get planning permission.

BUS LANE TO STAY

The mini bus lane in Church Street is to remain in spite of its acknowledged problems. The only argument in its favour that stands up in any way, is that it is part of a long bus lane that will eventually go from Hemdean Road right along Caversham Road. The problem for the buses is not Church Street (the bus lane cuts no more than thirty seconds off a journey) but the exit lights operated by buses there. However, the lane's effectiveness could be improved by rephasing the traffic lights at the Bridge Street junction so that vehicles waiting to turn right into Church Road did not have to clog up the traffic lane. The County Council has however firmly set its face against such a proposal, arguing that it would interfere with traffic flow. That seems more important than drivers' and pedestrians' safety, and also to ignore the fact that traffic flow is already impeded by cars waiting to turn right and blocking the road. Caversham and District and Warren Residents' Associations will continue doggedly to press for this move and perhaps one day common sense will prevail.

TREE TOPS

It was a sad occasion when Tree Tops Hostel in St. Peter's Hill for emotionally disturbed children was closed as it was doing valuable work and was well run. There are plans now to use the house for accommodation for the homeless which seems an appropriate use. However, these appear to have attracted a stream of letters, some of them abusive, opposing the idea. As there are not many houses close by, it is difficult to know where these objections have come from. The newspaper reports said they came from Caversham residents. Caversham and District Residents' Asscn. wish to make it completely clear that they have not made any objection to these proposals and have in fact supported them. If problems should arise, and this cannot be ruled out any more than with any new neighbours, then the Council must be notified and required to deal with them. Meanwhile it becomes people well housed in one of the town's most desirable areas to cry 'No room in the inn'.

SUPER STORE THREAT

At the end of the long inquiry into the Replacement Borough Structure Plan, the Inspector said that if he should recommend (and he gave no hint one way or the other) and the Secretary of State accept the upholding of Safeway's objection to the Queen Anne's playing fields being used for housing instead of retail purposes, then it would be included as a proposal with opportunities for objections to be heard or considered before it could become part of the plan. This is of some consolation, but as the main battlefield was the Inquiry, the chances of a reversal at a late date must be slender.

The Inspector congratulated members of Caversham Residents' Association for sitting through many boring hours of technical arguments without being paid for it, as other participants were. They will consider themselves well repaid if their points are heeded.

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BIRDS FOR ALL SEASONS

ALTHOUGH Spring and Autumn are unquestionably the 'Good' seasons for birds, Summer and Winter may also produce a few surprises, especially during unusual weather conditions.

I will never forget one winter in the '60s when an adult Whooper Swan with two juveniles arrived at Caversham Bridge and accompanied the Mutes. Two days later they had gone again, perhaps to join their wild counterparts at Slimbridge.

On another occasion, I was amazed to witness a fledgling Common Sandpiper safely swim the width of the Thames to join its vociferously agitated and encouraging mother on 'swan island' behind the Griffin pub.

Back in the late '70s a contributor to a local Bird Report, claimed a 'Pygmy Cormorant' on a boat moored alongside Piper's Island. As this would have been a 'First' for the U.K., I suspect that the record was met with a suggestion of circumspection. Little was I to realise that whilst on business some nine years later, as I was driving around the bottom of Caversham Bridge car-park during a suprisingly deserted period, I would be shocked to discover a truly 'Mini' Cormorant with its back towards me, standing on the brink of the riverbank alongside a few Black-headed Gulls. As I stepped from the car, at some twenty paces distance, the bird turned its head and neck towards me to display a very delicate bill and a few breast markings. It was unringed, and if an 'escape' then a very unusual species to be found in captivity. Truly, I could apply no other name but 'Pygmy Cormorant' to it.

Some five years later it would still seem that our very cautious B.O.U. Records Committee remain, understandably, reluctant to accept it onto the British List.

Egyptian Geese, Little Grebes and even the rare Slavonian Grebe may occur on the Thames at Caversham, whilst the Kingfisher provides an all-the-year-round, flashing blue gem, heard more often than seen due to its very fast and low flight.

A glorious male Mandarin duck was briefly observed last summer, on the river near Reading Bridge. Coincidentally, later the same day, although the Mandarin had gone, a Hobby flew over the very same spot just as we arrived.

The area from Kings Meadows to the Promenade beyond Caversham Bridge may well repay regular coverage.

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POST BAG

Dear Scops Owl,

I have just been catching up on a backlog of the Caversham Bridge. Your front page article in the November issue, Aldermaston Memories, certainly stirred a few for us. For the last few years of the war my husband and I ran the Village Stores and Post Office by Aldermaston Station. It was also a Telegraph and Mail Office. We were responsible for the acceptance and delivery of telegrams and had three postmen under our care. They were a grand trio.

At six o'clock every morning they used to report to us for duty and inspection. The latter was merely a formality as they took great pride in their appearance. Their boots and uniform were always in immaculate condition. After signing in they would cross to the station to await the train bringing the mail. It was then sorted and after being given a warming cuppa they were off on their push bikes - no vans then - to make deliveries to the surrounding farms and cottages. Their rounds also included collecting any mail from the scattered post boxes, also the letters from the non-mail offices at Beenham, Aldermaston and Padworth Common. On returning to the office this was all bagged and sealed with sealing wax - this was before the time of metal tags. This procedure was then repeated in the afternoon. The mail was then taken to the station to await the arrival of the train to take it to Reading.

We remember Mrs Doyle from the Butt Inn and Major Strange from the brewery. We also got to know many of the staff and the Manager from Sterling Cable. He would sometimes let us have the use of his premises to hold a Village Dance. That was when we could procure a live band - no discos then.

Over the years the staff from the GWR who commuted daily from London used to pour into our tiny shop eager to buy anything we could offer them off ration. Cigarettes and fruit, when in season, were the most sought after. In return we often heard vivid accounts of the raid on London the night before.

When the war eventually came to an end we celebrated with a bonfire in our field opposite the shop. There were many sad farewells as the GWR staff gradually returned to their London offices. Just before the last group left we were asked if we would give a home to the canteen cat. How could we refuse? He arrived a few days later. A lean, leggy little creature half way between cat and kitten, he was to grow into the most handsome ginger Tom you ever saw.

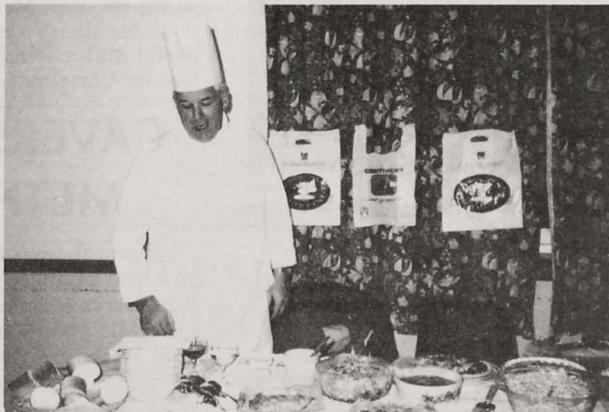
After a while we decided it was time to move on. Soon it was goodbye time all over again, this time to many of the villagers and our staff, but the hardest farewell was to our postmen. We came to Caversham at the end of March 1947 bringing our handsome moggy with us. We left behind a frozen canal and snow several feet high along the Bath Road. It was the year of the floods in Caversham. We arrived to find Christchurch meadows under several feet of water with only the top knobs of the seats visible. We soon settled into our new abode and quickly found "The Village" as Caversham was affectionately called, was much to our liking. We still had the country atmosphere but with the benefit of a good bus service. Over the years we have naturally seen many changes, the main thing being the increase in the volume of traffic. Many of the individually owned shops have given way to Estate Agents and 'Take-Aways' but we still look on it as "The Village". When we retired we were asked if we would be moving away. We were able to give an emphatic "No". Having spent so many years here we had no intention of seeking pastures new. We hope to be around "The Village" for a few more years yet.

Yours etc.

Marie L. Humphries

58 Prospect Street,
Caversham.

MEN OF ST ANDREW'S - CHEF'S TABLE



'Chef' Tony Cleare proudly displaying his table, including the Continental carrier bags!

- N. Kent

This year St Andrew's Chef's Table was organised by the 'Men of St Andrew's'. Six men were appointed 'CHEFS' and (with considerable help from wives and families behind the scenes you can be sure), created and presided over six CHEFS' CHRISTMAS TABLES.

This took place on the evening of December 11th in the hall with six tables laden with Christmas food of every kind. There was:

DICKENSIAN TABLE - Chef: Norman Kent
CAROL SINGERS' TABLE - Chef: Anthony Guy
VEGETARIAN CHRISTMAS TABLE - Chef: Andy Vincent and John Fisher
INDIAN CHRISTMAS TABLE - Chef: Bill Carpenter
FRENCH CHRISTMAS TABLE - Chef: Tony Cleare
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TABLE - Chef: David Cooper

Each Chef was given a small sum of money to prepare his table, but to present such a feast, they proved to be very good stewards of their funds. Despite the flu that seemed to be hitting so many people in Caversham at that time, there was a good attendance of guests, who were able to pass between any or all of the tables, as they desired, and indulge in the wide choice and variety of food.

The men, proudly congratulating themselves, suggested that the Mothers' Union might like to do the next one, forgetting for the moment that their success was due in no small measure to the LADIES, BLESS THEM.

N.G.K.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BISHOP OF READING DEDICATES THE WAREHOUSE

IN mid-December the Bishop of Reading visited the Christian Community Action Warehouse at 16 Bennet Road both to see the work that is going on there and to dedicate the venture. He did so before the gathering of sponsors (including several well known businesses), local councillors and church representatives. Those who had been present at the earlier "Worship in the Warehouse" were interested to see the progress that had been made in acquiring a great deal of furniture and other household effects for refurbishment and redistribution to the needy. Now included in the project is the refurbishment and subsequent distribution of old bicycles to Liberia.

This venture sprang from a vision in 1988 for Christian Service of its Project Director, Nick Crowder of Caversham Hill Chapel. It now provides a structured workplace for some who have passed through the Drop-in Centre. It is linked with the

Royal Berkshire Training Enterprise Scheme and is supported by a Christian Trust. It works with Berkshire County Council, Reading Borough Council, Yeldall Christian Centres and the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre, among others. The venture recycles household items while at the same time provides training in general furniture restoration work, carpentry, metalwork and upholstery for the unemployed. Above all it provides a catalyst for the Church to show the community that it is vibrant and active. It is a channel for the outflowing of God's love into the community and is there to be used by every congregation.

All churches now have copies of Christian Community Action's latest blue leaflet which gives further details. Offers of help, goods for recycling and finance may be made to the Warehouse at 16 Bennet Road, Reading RG2 0QX or by phone to 0734 758565.



O. Jewiss

Our picture shows the Bishop of Reading in conversation with Nick Crowder, the Project Director, against a background of furniture for recycling.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 4th March 1994

*And we, who are alive in Him, can GO
Into our world with eyes made clear, and SEE
The plight of those held by an evil foe,
And we can ACT with Christ, to set them free.*

"Go, See and Act" is the theme of this year's service, which has been compiled by Palestinian Christian women. It has been written from that tiny spot in the Middle East, where Judaism, Christianity and Islam all have their roots, and asks that Christians in every part of the world will unite with them in prayer for a just and peaceful solution, which would bring an end to human suffering and achieve security and peace for all peoples. The Palestinian women understand this well as they live all the time against a background of conflict, which results from the complex problems of the Middle East.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a marvellous opportunity for women of every Christian church to unite and learn to pray together. This has been going on in Caversham for many years.

It is the turn of the Free Churches to host this year's services in Reading and Caversham. They will be held as follows:

- 2.00pm Salvation Army Citadel, Reading. Preacher: Revd Judy Davies (Methodist Minister at Trinity Church, Lower Earley.)
- 8.00pm Caversham Baptist Free Church, Prospect Street. Preacher: Revd Patricia Herriott-Ing, (Minister in Methodist Sector Appointment)

You are very warmly invited to attend these opportunities to worship and pray interdenominationally - there will be reminders in all the churches and on various noticeboards around Caversham.

M.B.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

The Fellowship members celebrated Christmas twice in December! The first occasion was at their regular meeting when the Network Singers paid them another welcome visit and sang carols and gave Christmas readings. The audience joined in several carols which they much enjoyed. The evening was rounded off with coffee and mince pies.

Later in the month a small party went to Aldermaston to see the York Mystery Play. For some it was a first time visit, for others a nostalgic return, but all found it a wonderful and moving experience and a wonderful preparation for Christmas.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST NEWS

Congratulations to Graham Neale of 35 Picton Way who on 11th December raised £500 by a football juggle for the West Berks Hospital Trust's children's charity 'Under the Umbrella'. Graham achieved 2,280 kicks without stopping. Well done, Graham.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

SPECIAL SERVICES

6th February	11.00am	Education Sunday Service children of Caversham Primary School.
20th February	9.30am	All Age Praise Service - Revd David Moody
27th February	11.00am	Home Mission Sunday - Revd Barrie Cooke - a Methodist minister who is Church Training Consultant for the British and Foreign Bible Society, Swindon, and is currently involved in church growth courses and initiatives.

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MORE NEWS OF FORMER CLERGY

THE Loveless's moved back from Germany in June and Martin is now Chaplain at RAF Waddington. Judith is a student at Leeds, Lucy is a sixth former at King's Taunton where she joined Thomas after GCSE, Henry is a little schoolboy (41/2) and Philippa is a local representative for a company which sells educational books to schools.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

WORSHIP WORKSHOP

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WORSHIP WORKSHOP is for ANYONE and EVERYONE who wants to participate in worship, from 0 to 99+ The programme includes tea and a service at 6.30 p.m. Each workshop will be led by someone with expertise in that area of worship, so bring along your musical instruments, overalls, paint-rags or whatever and have fun exploring ways of worshipping our great Creator. Posters with return slips will be in all the churches, or contact Jeanne Smith on Reading 484153.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Executive of Churches Together in Caversham were delighted at the quality of the response to their competition for a picture for the front of their Christmas Card announcing the Christmas Services of the Churches in Caversham. As Caversham residents will have seen from the card distributed to all houses in the locality, the winning entry was from Ruth Cantwell (age 10) of Caversham Baptist Free Church. So impressed were the judges at the entry that Churches Together in Caversham also awarded a prize to the runner up, Hannah Mary Rowe (age 6) of St. John's. The Executive of Churches Together in Caversham would like to thank all the others who submitted entries, namely: Gemma French (9), James Graemer (7), Toby Graemer (5), Sarah Ham (9), Isabelle Hancock (8), John McIlwee (9), Carolyn Myatt (10) and Lucy Rowe (4). The entrants came from a wide selection of churches which in addition to those of the prizewinners included St. Peter's and Caversham Park.

Our picture shows Ruth Cantwell, the winner,



holding a copy of the printed card. The winner received a prize of £10 which was presented shortly before Christmas by the Revd Philip Abrey, Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham.

ST. BARNABAS CHRISTMAS FAIR

The scene in St. Barnabas Hall during the Christmas Fair in early December which raised almost £850 for our overseas work. St Barnabas supports the Guy Daynes Educational Trust through which a South African student, Patricia Zungu, is being helped during her course at the South African University of the North. Patricia Zungu hopes to qualify as a solicitor and it is expected that the money now raised will help her in her further studies for the Bachelor of Law Degree.



- O. Jewiss

CRIB SERVICE AT ST. BARNABAS

The Christmas Crib Service is rapidly becoming the most popular of the Christmas Services. Members of St. Barnabas Junior Church re-presented the Christmas story to a packed church. Some of the young people are seen in the picture during the singing of the final carol.



- O. Jewiss

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(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
(The Rev. Andrew Tyler, Hon. Asst Priest)
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
The Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,
The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.
The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

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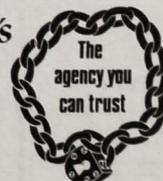
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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

QUITE a few items about recent events and changes in Caversham, but first will you forgive me if I share a few 'Christmas thoughts' with you all. Christmas Eve, for instance, found me attending Midnight Mass at a local church and wondering what the dickens I was doing there. Certainly events at home and abroad recently were hardly conducive to Christian feeling, until it suddenly occurred to me that perhaps I was looking for the wrong thing. Years ago a lady of my acquaintance, member of an enclosed order, trying to keep my feet on the ground said something to the effect that as one grows older the 'Whys' become more not less. I think she was the same lady who once told me that love was never wasted. And certainly there is plenty of that around at Christmas time. Years ago I was actually in the crypt at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve; it was very interesting but love can be found much nearer home. What a pity it doesn't spread further afield, then perhaps we wouldn't be reading of people protesting about the use of 'Tree Tops' as a shelter for the homeless. And lest anyone thinks I'm being soft, of course I know all homeless people aren't saints, anymore than I think all those who sit around in shop doorways are perfect. But it ill behoves any of us, particularly Christians, to turn our backs on those in need, just in case we may occasionally be conned.

I swear I'll be really rude to people, many of whom are generally-speaking kind and caring, who say that some people like to live in cardboard boxes. Enough said, but thank heavens we don't yet live in the days of Dickens.

As frequently happens at Christmas I re-read 'Christmas Carol' and recalled the words of Scrooge: "Are there no workhouses?", though I fear that the same question today would get a different response, too many people in our civilisation being just the responsibility of nobody.

Later I watched, for the umpteenth time, 'Fiddler on the Roof' and thought of the many Anatevkas which exist in the world today. And it's no use blaming anyone when the sins of man repeat themselves over and over again; we must just do what we can when we can.

The Red Cross

Which brings me to more mundane things. Faced, as many people have been, in having to attend a distant hospital at a very awkward time and wondering how I was going to get there, some kind soul mentioned 'Try the Red Cross'. So I promptly rang and got a very encouraging response. For the sum of 30p a mile, we were transported door to door by a very helpful gentleman. I think it depends on the drivers available more than anything else, but it is well worth a try if you are stuck and takes a load off one's shoulders. So God bless the Red Cross I say, and for that matter St. John's Ambulance and all others who offer this kind of service.

Jacksons Depart

This shop has been so much a feature of Prospect Street for many years that it was sad to discover that because the lease was running out it would be forced to close. We shall miss the very courteous, even old-fashioned, service that we found there. Fortunately, most of the staff are moving to Jacksons in Reading so we shall not be losing complete touch. It's a pity though.

Tingling Taste Buds

I was alerted to this new shop in Hemdean Road recently and went along to see what kind of shop it was. I was pleased to find it crowded and I can most certainly recommend it, especially to cooks and people interested in organic and health foods. Sarah Stallybrass, who owns the shop, has an enormous stock and is a mine of information on the subject of whole foods and delicatessen. She should do well - it's one thing we've missed in Caversham.

Vets

The other big change in Prospect Street has been the change-over at the local Vets. I couldn't resist investigating so called in and had a long chat with Suzanne, the head nurse, who had my head spinning with a list of services the new owners, Nick Butcher and Tim Davies have to offer with so many facilities and tests on the premises and others available at the Nine Mile Veterinary Hospital in Finchampstead, transport provided if necessary. Nick Butcher will be the partner primarily responsible for the Caversham practice and will deal with questions, if necessary, on the phone (0734) 479298.

Suzanne tells me that while some charges may be slightly higher than hitherto, others may be less, but she says one can always discuss it with the staff. For good measure she suggested that where private insurance isn't a suitable option, both the RSPCA and the Cats Protection League are sometimes willing to try and help with bills. (Though I must admit that the last I heard of the CPL, it was all they could do to collect, feed and care for strays, so don't press them too hard. They do a marvellous job). But costs are very important to people on fixed incomes, for instance, who nevertheless want the joy and benefit of owning a small pet.

The surgery has taken on a completely new look, which is no criticism of Chris Berry who, I do feel, we must thank for the 20 years he has served us and who now feels it is time to retire. But I think we will still be well served in Caversham.

Mrs. Chambers

I feel I will not be doing the new owners and their staff a disservice in mentioning that Mrs. Chambers, who ran the surgery for so long and became a very familiar figure in Caversham, is now working at a surgery in Henley and another in Sonning Common together with Kate, who also came from Caversham, is very happy there and only too willing to see any of her old friends from Caversham. If anyone particularly wants to keep in touch with her I will be able to supply addresses, times and so on. In the meanwhile, we must thank her for all she has done for us in recent years.

The Pet Shop

This is always in the news, being one of the friendliest and most helpful places in Caversham. But it is interesting to hear that Guy, son of Jill and

Jerry, is now enjoying life as entertainment's officer with a Cruise line. Some readers will remember him when, years ago, he took part in a series of young people's entertainments on TV and we all wondered if he was going to make a career of this kind of work. Some of us have even been to see him perform in shows when he has been near enough for us to visit. He has stuck to what he knows and likes and we wish him every success; he's probably the youngest ship's entertainment officer with this line.

Dear Bindy

On a sadder note local people have been very sorry to hear of the death of Bindy, as he was known, just before Christmas.

Returning home from a long career in legal work in Africa, he and his wife settled at the family home in Caversham, where Bindy took theological training and served us in Caversham for many years, before retiring to Alton to be near his two sons. He and Betty, a trained nurse, were a great boon to us all; while Bindy took his training, Betty was getting to know the younger clergy wives and taking a full share in care in the community, a phrase which may strike horror in our minds just now when so often it means the sick and mentally ill being literally turned out on to the streets and which once meant - and still should - the kind of care which only local people can give.

It is not surprising that people came from near and far to attend Bindy's thanksgiving service after Christmas, an event which was greatly assisted by the fact that the Shaylor's and their children and grandchildren took pride in organising so well that those attending were made to feel really welcome. Bindy, who cared deeply, would have approved. All the same, we shall miss him. My own family were among those who were cared for by Bindy and Betty so wonderfully at a time when it was most needed. None of what they did will be wasted and I hope you will forgive me for repeating a quotation I used about another dear friend who died recently. Looking at all the family, one can only say: "Their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance."

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CAVERSHAM THEATRE

"BRUSH WITH A BODY"



Caversham Theatre's latest offering, "Brush with a Body" by Maurice McLoughlin, gave us what we have come to expect from this small but enthusiastic group. The play itself perhaps lacked sparkle and reflected its age, but Lis Martin's direction lifted the piece. The slightly solid pace of the early first act was transformed by the arrival of Flaherty, the incomprehensible Irish sweep, lovingly portrayed by Tony Hales. But I fear that we may have missed some of the gems in the speed of delivery.

But Flaherty did not have it all his own way. Almost without uttering a word, Richard Stainthorpe as the pompous brother Henry was able to scene steal with impunity, and certainly not to the detriment of the piece as a whole. Clearly a man with a latex face.

The two daughters around whom much of the plot revolved, were played by Lorraine Dickinson and Brenda Lord in a fine, solid and dependable way. Julia Marshall was well received in the character role of the irrepressible woman what does.

Whilst there is not the space to mention everyone, it is particularly satisfying to see an amateur production with few weak links. Indeed, although a number of prompts were given, the skill of Jackie Case in not allowing the flow of the action to be disturbed when prompting is worthy of note. Caversham Theatre's next production will be Noel Coward's evergreen 'Blithe Spirit' at St Anne's Parish Hall, Washington Road on 17th, 18th & 19th March.

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CHRISTMAS AT THAMESIDE SCHOOL

At Thameside Primary School the annual Christmas production is one of the highlights of the school year. This year the children entertained sell-out audiences at three evening performances of their musical "Peter Pan". The script and lyrics were written by the Headteacher, Vivien Cussell and the musical score was composed by one of the teachers, Helen Maden. The whole staff, however, took part in directing rehearsals and every child in the school had a part in the production. At the opening night on Tuesday, December 14th, the audience cheered their appreciation. "It beats the Hexagon", said one. "I'd pay £20 to see that again!" said another. The costumes and scenery were quite spectacular thanks to the hard work of Sheila Genna (finance officer at the school), Eileen Freeman (general assistant) and Ann Watts (teacher's assistant). The stunning lighting and effects were thanks to Robert Wellman (Deputy Headteacher) and Tony Thake (Chairman of Governors).

Thameside School has always been extremely successful at raising money for charity and this Christmas was no exception.

Donations received at the "Peter Pan" performances and also for carol singing totalled £650 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. During 1993

the school has raised a total of £3,725 - £1,919 for Comic Relief in March, £1,156 for the National Children's Homes (NCH) in October and now £650 for Great Ormond Street.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



From Theophilus to the saints in Caversham, Greetings.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Theophilus and I'm a bear with royal connections, having come from the royal town of Windsor. For the past eighteen months I have been a part of the team of ministers in Caversham Park and I write articles regularly in the church newsletter - recent topics covered include icebergs and hubcaps!

Efforts have been made to encourage me to write for the Caversham Bridge newspaper, but I have politely and respectfully turned the request down. However, during the festive season a rather scruffy brown and white dog appeared on the doorstep of Church House, Caversham Park and s/he has kindly agreed to write "Paws for Thought" each month. Very little is known about this very friendly animal (see picture above). S/he had no collar and no name-tag. I am therefore offering two prizes of a £5 book token to the people who come up with the best name and history for this wonderful friend. The age-groups are Under 13 and 13+ (including adults). Once my friend has a name s/he will begin writing for the Caversham Bridge. All names and histories should be sent to me, Theophilus, c/o Church House, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park, Reading RG4 0PR by the end of February.

THE WATERWAYS OF READING

Just over a year ago Gordon Spring published his booklet "Casual Ramblings Concerning the Waterways of Early Reading and For Those in Peril on the Canal". It was compiled from his experiences gathered over 40 years working as a Civil Engineer, when he was responsible for the care of the waterways which pass through the town.

Copies of the first edition have sold so well that a second and enlarged edition has now been produced. It contains many additional photographs, and tells the story of the Kenet and Holybrook as they pass through the town, and under streets and buildings in the centre.

Copies of the second edition can be obtained from Caversham Bookshop, Blackwells, and from the Reading Libraries and Museum price £3.50.

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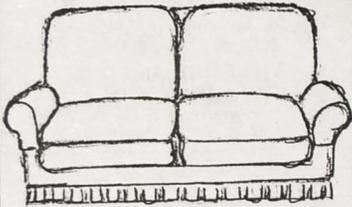
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BINDY SHAYLOR

On Good Friday 1967 an unfamiliar husband and wife with their two sons appeared in St Peter's for the Three Hour service; they reappeared on Easter morning and that afternoon I went to visit them. Bindy and Betty Shaylor, with Charles and David, were home for the summer from Kenya and staying at 17 The Mount, Bindy's boyhood home. Bindy (his real name was Dennis, though I cannot recall anyone ever calling him this) told me that they would be returning to Nairobi for one more year to enable him to wind up his life time work as a barrister which had been partly in Uganda and partly in Kenya, but he intended to offer himself for ordination and would like, if he were accepted, to serve voluntarily in his retirement as an extra priest in the parish. So in the course of the summer he attended a selection conference, was recommended for training, and in the autumn of 1968 he went for a year to the theological college at Salisbury. Then on Trinity Sunday 1969, together with Fred Dawson, he was ordained deacon and began a most valued ministry in which he was at all times most lovingly supported by Betty. A bad heart attack while he was still a deacon meant that his ordination to the priesthood had to be delayed some three months but this took place at Thame at Michaelmas 1970.

Having grown up as a boy in Caversham, Bindy, as he went visiting, very soon discovered many people with whom he had been a schoolboy, first at Hemdean House and later at Reading School, and he developed a valuable pastoral ministry among many of his own generation, not least in taking the Sacrament to the old and infirm in their homes. He had made an excellent recovery from his illness and was a familiar figure as he cycled round Caversham in all weather with no overcoat but with a long scarf wrapped round his neck and tucked into a tweed jacket, while in the summer he could often be seen swimming in the Thames from the Rectory bank. He served on the Council of Hemdean House School and would delight to tell of his days there with the two Miss Oliveys. For the most part however, he kept free of administration and committees, though he always attended the staff meeting at the Rectory on Tuesday mornings and enlivened our eating of porridge with tales of Caversham life as it had been in the 1920's.

BINDY SHAYLOR by Leonard Burn

"Band B" - not Bed and Breakfast but Bindy and Betty - was the reason for people coming together from many parts of the country to fill Lasham parish church to capacity on Thursday December 30th. We joined with Betty and the rest of the Shaylor family to give thanks for the life of Bindy Shaylor, his ministry and all that he means, and will continue to mean to us.

David read the lesson from Revelation 21 and Charles read George Herbert's Poem "Love". Rebecca (Bindy's granddaughter) played "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" from The Messiah on the flute. In his address Canon Vernon Nicholls, a friend of very long standing, chronicled Bindy's life in Africa and subsequent "retirements" with clarity and humour. He expressed all our thoughts when he said that "retirement" was a most inappropriate word to apply to Bindy and wondered what he was doing now!

It was a good "B and B" occasion with many people meeting again after fifteen years or so, often not since they were in Kenya. It was typical of the Shaylor family hospitality that we should all be welcomed into their house afterwards for tea. I remember once being told by Bindy that in Africa rain was a sign of blessing when I complained about the weather so the fact that we arrived, gathered and departed in torrential rain won his approval.

(Leonard Burn is Vicar of Bengeworth, Evesham and Worcester Diocesan Communications Officer and was one time priest in charge of St Barnabas, Emmer green.)



As the years went by a problem arose for it became obvious that if he and Betty continued to live in Caversham it would be impossible for him to retire, or even ease off so, in 1979, they went to live at Alton to be near their sons in Hampshire. Very soon however he found himself helping in many village churches in that part of Hampshire and he continued to do this as long as his health allowed. Eventually he and Betty moved to Lasham living in part of the house of his elder son Charles where they enjoyed some happy years. His health began to fail and after some two months, first in hospital and then in

a nursing home Bindy died on December 18th. Few people can have had a more fulfilling retirement and his work in Caversham will long be remembered with

gratitude. Betty, Charles and Maggie, David and Millie and the five grandchildren will have the prayers and support of many of us. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.
 J.G.G.

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Caversham W.I.

Members were in festive mood for the December combined Christmas and birthday party. Brains were put to use in an identification quiz which was won by Miss Pat Jar-ratt. Delightful musical entertainment was provided by Freda Clark and Frank Terry and members joined in with some seasonal songs. A bring and share supper provided some delicious food and everyone went home happy with a gift from the bran tub.

The Jubilee Club Mapledurham

Looking back at the past year it has been another very happy one for the Jubilee Club.

Numbers have remained around the forty mark and although the years catch up on members and they get a few more aches and pains and some get a little stiffer and a little more forgetful (the writer included!), they are still able to enjoy life, especially when the club meets on the second Monday every month.

Last year indoor meetings included an afternoon of Country and Western singing, a demonstration on plan-ting hanging baskets

and a talk on tea-time antiques. During the warmer months members were out and about more than usual with two day trips, one to Bournemouth and one to Hampton Court, an afternoon at Waterperry gardens and a mystery tour with afternoon tea and a garden party.

Fundraising events for the club have included two jumble sales and two bring and buy after-noon, all of which produced excellent results.

December ended the year with a Christmas lunch instead of the usual tea party, which the committee felt would be a change. They are now busy ar-ranging the programme of 1994 and hope all the members will enjoy all that is planned for them in the future.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Arts and Crafts members enjoyed their evening of foods and talk from different countries at their last meeting. At their next meeting in January it was suggested that members took along some porcelain, marked china pieces, Wedgewood or anything of a similar nature to be discussed.

Words and Music meetings were changed in January from evenings to afternoons because of the winter months. At their following meeting members discussed Thomas Hardy or anything to do with his life. Members were asked to take anything to do with him, books or information on where he lived etc.

Ramblers have enjoyed two walks since the last meeting. One walk was around Hambleden and Remenham, ramblers

were able to see how the widening of the weir was progressing on this walk. The second walk was a local walk around little known alleys and back streets. One member was able to see the school she went to as a child. Ramblers also enjoyed a festive lunch at a nearby inn and all agreed it was the best yet. They have also booked a walking holiday to Torquay in April.

Mrs M. Wallace was the speaker for the evening and she gave "an Evening of Poetry Reading on Christmas". Mrs Wallace placed a Christmas wrapped parcel and an undecorated Christmas tree on the table in front of her before she started to read and she explained that as she told each poem she would put a suitable reminder on to the Christmas tree and it would be decorated unlike any other tree we had seen. She read many poems and the tree became decorated with a pudding cloth, dried fruit, cracker, serviette, scarf, lantern, tinsel, canary, mince pie, straw, lamb, angel and of course, the star for the top of the tree.

The poems put members in a lovely festive mood for Christmas and it was a most enjoyable evening.

Reading Film and Video Makers (RF & VM)

The Triangle film/video competition between Reading Film and Video Makers, Staines and Bourne End was won by Reading.

The theme this year was THE HELPING HAND. RF & VM film was about a hitch hiker who went to the aid of a damsel in distress. The comedy that followed was hilarious and the hitch hiker got his just reward, but was that enough? To find our you will have to see the repeat later in the year.

The Club is making another film this year. Why not come and join them and see if they are the club you are looking for. There are teach-ins of video and film making including animation and slide and tape. There are also guest speakers from the BBC and similar organisations and visits by other clubs who show films and videos they have made.

The Club is currently making another comedy. They meet at St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham where there is a large car park adjoining the hall, and buses (12, 61 and

62) pass the door.

The Club Secretary is Brian Gale, Wokingham 789477.

Maplewood W.I.

The November meeting was a very enjoyable one with a charming speaker, Mrs Catherine Gray, who spoke about the W.I. "Jewel in the Crown" Denman College, its history and the wonderful courses on every subject. The slides of Denman added to the interest of the talk.

Sadly the meeting was overshadowed by the final decision to close the Institute after thirty-eight years of lively meetings, great achievements and above all, abiding friendships.

In November the members had a Christmas Tea Party, and enjoyed a programme of delightful songs by Sybil Stephenson, which included Carols which the members sang along with gusto.

This will probably be the very last report from Maplewood, as in January the closing meeting will be held - like a divorce really - but certainly with no bitterness, just very happy memories.

Caversham Afternoon T.G.

The Guild celebrated its thirty-second birthday with a well attended lunch at Reading Technical College. The menu was a Christmas one with tables decorated in festive style so making it a double celebration.

The Christmas party on 9th December had been much looked forward to by members who enjoyed hearing Mrs Kirby give two readings, one an evocative poem dealing with old age; this was followed by the Playreading Group presenting a hilarious version of a Guild Committee Meeting, which judging by laughter from members, was soon seen as being "over the top"! Following the delicious tea which had been prepared by the Committee, a lovely Christmas cake made and decorated by Mrs H. Adair, was cut by the President, Mrs A. Smith.

A party of members were going to visit the Pantomime at the Hexagon.

Members now look forward to a New Year of varied activities. Guild meetings recommence on January 20th. New members and visitors always welcome.

Caversham Heights T.G.

Those who attended the guilds' carol concert at St Mary's Church in Reading before Christmas enjoyed both the service of carols and lessons and the fellowship with other members then and at the ploughman's lunch beforehand.

The carol concert at St Andrew's in Caversham in aid of Save the Children was also a happy and well attended occasion. The guild's Christmas party attracted a large group. The refreshments provided by the committee were excellent also the entertainment. In this whacky piece a long-suffering photographer tried to organise a family group with a very tiresome grandmother, to mention only one difficult aspect of the task. You get the picture? After supper the committee sang a special guild version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

Members were looking forward to Mrs Sutherland's forthcoming talk about the Bayeux Tapestry and to the visit, including lunch, to the Mill at Sonning for a matinee performance. A Happy New Year to all readers!

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, the Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members to their Christmas Party afternoon. The tables were looking very festive with flowers and decorations spread around amongst the goodies.

Members said they would like to sing carols as at previous Christmas parties, so accompanied by Mrs Nelms at the piano, this they preceeded to do with great gusto! Mrs Harwood then said grace and the committee commenced their job of waiting on members, which is the usual procedure at parties.

The teapots were a welcome sight after the singing and soon the Christmas atmosphere was in force with all the chatter and laughs. The Christmas cake with marzipan and decorations was organised by Mrs Queenie Strong and later cut and distributed amongst members. Then a Christmas card and a present were given to each member.

Time had now caught up and before leaving members were reminded of the time for the Christmas Lunch. All agreed it had been a very happy and enjoyable afternoon.

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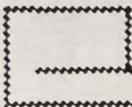
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