

FAREWELL to CHRISTINE



The children too, show they will miss Christine.

- E. S. Archer



- E. S. Archer

Presentation in St. Peter's on Sunday 9th January at Christine Allsopp's last service before taking up her new post at Harmanswater, Bracknell.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

John Mullaney, the Roman Catholic representative on the Editorial Board and a Director of this newspaper has tendered his resignation from both posts, which has been accepted with regret. He intimated that this was a possibility about two years ago and since that time Kevin Corrigan and John together have represented the R.C. Church. Kevin Corrigan has attended nearly all the editorial meetings in 1993 and has fitted into the team most felicitously. Hereafter he will be the R.C. representative on the editorial team as well as (which has been reported earlier) on the Board of Directors.

The Editors are most grateful to John for his ever courteous help and support not only on the board but as a provider of much information through the bookshop. This we know will continue for as long as possible. Thank you John.



PHILIP ASPDEN
ARCO

Still in his teens, Philip Aspden has been admitted as an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. Philip, since the age of eight, has shown his dedication to music, choir-boy at eight and Choirmaster and Organist at St Andrew's Church, Caversham at sixteen years old. He has studied under the Assistant Organist and the Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle for the last six years and this has provided the guidance and impetus for his success.

In other spheres of music he has sung as a tenor, and accompanies the University Choral Society, Crosfields School for Evensong at Winchester Cathedral and is to play in Bristol Cathedral in February.

Organ recitals in St Andrew's Caversham, Maidenhead and Swanage have been well received, and he is on the rota of organists providing music at St George's Chapel, Windsor during their Flower Festival. As a member of the Berkshire Organists' Society he gives periodic recitals at lunchtime in St Mary's Butts, Reading.

Philip is an embodiment of the words from the hymn: "Angel voices ever singing . . . craftsman's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine."

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting was held in Church House on Monday 17th January, hosted by the Rector, and with Mr Ben Archer in the Chair.

The Secretary reported on the work of the previous year. Requests for transport were slightly down, and also donations, no doubt due to the recession.

After fifteen years as Secretary, Esther Youens has retired and the Chairman introduced her replacement, Christine Baker.

After the "informal" formalities, Margaret Hill gave a most interesting talk on the work of The Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre, and a retiring collection raised £25 to go towards essential groceries for this very worthy project.

TALKING POINT

by

the Rev. David Clark
Minister, St. Paul's U.R.C.



IN SUPPORT OF OTHERS

Politicians seem to be having a particularly difficult time at present. Hardly a day goes by without a new revelation concerning their personal conduct, a questionable business deal, an error of judgment, a flawed initiative. Whether at national or local level it is those 'in power' who are most often on the receiving end of criticism, partly because they are most likely to be in the public spotlight, and partly because those 'in opposition' can shout loudly without having to prove that their people or policies are any better.

Without wishing to equate any politician with Jesus, we can easily see that he was subject to similar opposition. As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded again of the increased venom of his opponents, using trick questions, misrepresentation, informers, slander, and mob rule to further their own power and (hopefully) end Jesus' influence.

How many times have we read the accounts of the Gospel writers, and decided that the Pharisees and Sadducees, scribes and lawyers, were all bad people? How many times have we imagined ourselves there with Jesus, determined to ensure that no harm should come to him? How many times have we felt a lump in our throats as we have heard again the passion narrative – the lash of the whip, the weight of the cross, the pain of the nails, the humiliation of the sarcastic jibes, the agony of lonely death? If only we had been there, perhaps we could have helped.

I doubt it. It's comparatively easy to romanticise events in which we are not directly involved, but the truth is that we have quite enough to do trying to sort out our own lives, never mind the problems of others. And I suspect that we find it hard to see that we have a responsibility towards those in our own society who are the focus of attention. It may be that we pray for 'the Royal Family, the government, and all who are in positions of power', but what do we actually do for them? When did we last send a letter of support to a politician, or attend his/her 'surgery' to give our support or sympathy, or find other opportunity to speak of God's love and forgiveness? Have we ever tried to speak to the media or politicians in an attempt to encourage them to concentrate on issues rather than personalities? Have we ever listened to politicians to discover the pressures they face, or to offer practical support?

If we are unable to use our influence in positive ways in our own society, then I think it most unlikely that we would have done so in Jesus' time. I guess that most of us would have been in the crowd who were 'amazed at his teaching' and no more involved than that. What Jesus needed then, and what so many need today, is someone who has been alongside them over a period of time, who can help them in their time of need.

When the pressure is on us, it is good to know that we have a Saviour who has been there before us, who has remained true to our needs throughout our lives, and who will never let us down. Each one of us is called to be that person to someone else. Jesus' self-giving reminds us that the way to emulate him is costly but essential if God's will is to be done. It is the one and only way to new life, new hope, and reconciliation.

So let's thank God for Jesus, for those today who are willing to accept positions of responsibility on our behalf, and may our thankfulness show itself in real understanding of need and in practical support.

POSTBAG

Dear Editors,

BACK TO BASICS

Professed Christians are distressed at the lowering of standards by the media and television. Anglicanism is in decline with attitudes more worldly than spiritual in deed and ministry.

Face facts; this is so as the selling up of consecrated church buildings for commercial use, when they by Almighty God were intended to minister for the salvation of the people, bears witness. High ecclesiastical dignitaries are denying the Apostles' Creed; others are leaving the Church because of Women's Ministry. The vows made to minister the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are being broken. All this proves what the prophecy declares, the falling away of Faith; the voice of the Church is loud, but the words are not the words of Christ. The message of Revelation 21.7 is clear.

The Church of Ephesus did run well in evangelising and baptism by the Apostles. They were commended for their works, but they had lost their burning first love. The loss of this pure love is a serious matter, it forms the basic foundations of Scriptural Christianity, God's Plan for the Salvation of the world.

Thames Valley Alive '94 must include this basic build-up. Flower festivals and Music Shows are fine but the world can do better. Souls need to be saved, believers need to walk in righteousness. Suppose we try Pentecost; after all the Spirit has the Truth, the resources, the Witness for sinner and saint.

11 Bristol Court,
Harley Road,
Caversham

Yours etc.,
Ted Burnell,
Artist Tutor. Retired Pastor.

GOLF COURSE

Dear Editor,

At the same time as expressing my delight on receiving the planning permission for the Golf Course at Mapledurham, I should be grateful for the courtesy of your column to thank the numerous people who have lent their support by letter and otherwise to my application.

Equally I realise that there are other people who do not share my concept for facing the future and perhaps have not been able to appreciate the very real need to change and diversify. I should like to think that they may keep an open mind.

There is undoubtedly a great opportunity in establishing a golf club which will be a great asset in the district and will provide not only recreational opportunities but also some more, much needed employment.

I hope that when it is considered that this new enterprise will also be helping to fund the restoration of some of the delightful buildings in the parish, it will receive even wider approval than at present.

Yours sincerely,
J. J. Eyston,
Mapledurham House

MEGA SHOPPING THREAT

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your article in the January issue regarding "Mega Shopping Threat".

I am writing because I attended the Public Inquiry and was very disappointed at the poor response by way of public attendance, in fact, apart from representatives from Caversham Residents' Association, my husband and myself were the only "public" people there or at least I didn't see anyone else. I feel strongly that the meeting was poorly advertised and it was only through a chance seeing of a tiny advert in the Evening Post that we were made aware and decided to go and have our say.

I am strongly against killing off Caversham by Mega Shopping. I would rather keep Caversham as it is, or rather increase the small shops, not kill them off.

I did have my say at the meeting, even though I had to butt in to do so. I spoke out on behalf of the Caversham folk: "Leave Caversham Alone".

I would have liked to have seen a bigger advert in your paper stating the venue of the meeting. I love your newspaper and look forward every month to having a good interesting read.

54 Chiltern Road,
Caversham

Regards to all concerned,
Dorothy Osborne

THE BERKSHIRE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS THERAPY CENTRE

Dear Editors,

COMPANY SECRETARY URGENTLY NEEDED TO JOIN OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Berkshire Therapy Centre is a long established registered charity, based in Caversham, providing a range of treatments and support services to people suffering from multiple sclerosis. The work of the Centre is directed by its volunteer Management Committee which meets monthly and ad hoc as necessary. A volunteer lady or gentleman with knowledge/experience of the duties of a Company Secretary is required to join the Committee team.

If you can spare the time to help us, please contact Charles Rampton, our Administrator on 0734 482072.

Yours etc., Charles Rampton

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26 Patrick Road,
Caversham, Reading

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

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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 April 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.

THAMES VALLEY ALIVE — EVENTS FOR EVERYONE



Preparation for Thames Valley Alive moves into gear, with much work being done for events later in the year — and there is still much work to be done. Volunteers will be needed for a wide range of tasks, including helping with refreshments and stewarding at TVA events and distributing leaflets and publicity material. With many events having a musical content, there will also be a need for musicians of all shapes and sizes to offer their services. Names of those wishing to volunteer are being collected by Church TVA representatives.

One of the most important areas of preparation is, of course, prayer. To ensure a sound foundation for TVA, Christians are asked to pray for God's guidance and wisdom and for many to hear the Good news during 1994. **In Caversham, March 11th has been designated as a day of Prayer for TVA, culminating in a Prayer Concert at The Caversham Hill Chapel at 8pm.**

TVA is designed to demonstrate that Christianity is not only still relevant today but that it can also be exciting — yes exciting! For some this may take a lot of proving and if you're not convinced then look out for what's going on in TVA and you may be surprised. The programme is wide ranging with events being prepared for all ages and tastes. A special TVA Events Guide will soon be published for you to keep to ensure you know exactly what's going on where and when. **One of the highlights in March is a production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at St. Andrew's Church on March 24th and 26th** — do come to this and bring your friends.

There are many people who have been brought up in Church-going families, but who have drifted away from the faith as they've grown up, largely because they found Church services boring and irrelevant. Well, one of the aims of TVA is to change that impression, by laying on all sorts of different types of service. If you would prefer something a little more lively, then why not come along to the **Praise Party at Wesley Methodist Church on Saturday March 12th at 7.15pm.** Although Praise Parties are held regularly at Methodist Churches in Reading, this is a TVA evening with special guest **Rob Frost**, a nationally known figure and dynamic speaker.

More news on TVA in next month's edition of Caversham Bridge, including a profile of **Archdeacon Michael Hill** — the TVA Associate Missioner for Caversham.

A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF!

The following story was used in a recent meeting of the *Get Up and Go!* group at Caversham Park. It was suggested that Caversham Bridge readers might like to share in the feast of goodies here presented. It is a sweet story, with a few savoury tidbits to add a little piquancy. How many of these delightful comestibles can you discover?

Cinderella was usually quite a merry maiden, despite the spartan life she led, but just now, when her two toffee-nosed step-sisters were getting ready to go out, she felt worn to a frazzle. As they paraded their all-gold dresses and curly-wurly hairstyles before her, they snickered at the fact that they were going to the imperial ball, and she wasn't. She felt there would soon be some flying saucers

if they didn't leave quickly. She stroked the little terrier dog to try to keep herself calm.

At last they had gone. It was now after eight o'clock, and she wanted a change of topic, but young Buttons skittled that idea. He wanted to give her spirits a boost, so he suggested they took time out for a picnic in the moonlight. They could go on a double-decker or green line bus to the park, or failing that, they could go to the Red Lion bar for a drink. But Cinderella only cried. Suddenly, a strange woman appeared. "What have you done to make her cry?" she asked. "Nothing," answered Buttons. "I was only trying to soothe 'er, but I fudged it." "Humbug," said the stranger. "Now I want to talk to Cinderella in private, so you take the Yorkie for a walk."

When he had gone, Cinderella asked the woman quaveringly, "Who are you, and what do you want?" The woman replied "I am your fairy godmother, I heard a whisper that you wanted to join in the revels at the palace tonight, so I thought I would come and be your transformer." She waved her hands and Cinderella found herself dressed ready for the ball. The contrast was amazing. The god-mother put a golden locket around her neck. "There, my poppet, that will give a touch of class," she said. "Now, give us a twirl." She seemed satisfied with her work. "Right, now close your eyes, and in a moment you will find yourself at the ball."

Cinderella did as she was told. Suddenly she was aware of the scent of roses, and the sound of dance tunes. She opened her eyes and found that she was in the palace gardens, just outside the ballroom.

She looked up to the sky, to the stars in the milky way. The galaxy twinkled back at her. Thinking the stranger for her bounty, she gave a few skips in excitement as she made her way into the ballroom. Her entrance caused quite a few ripples among the clusters of guests. The matchmakers among them immediately paired her off with the prince. "You are my inspiration," he murmured. "I know that with you there, I shall play well at polo tomorrow. We must be married soon, and I'll take you to Biarritz for our honeymoon." Cinderella was so surprised, she nearly flaked out, so the prince sent Black Jack, the fisherman's friend, to fetch some of his ma's

vitamins to refresh her.

We don't know what happened after that because we didn't bother to track her!

Be warned — they are not all spelt as they appear in the shops. There are 56 items — unless, of course, you know better!

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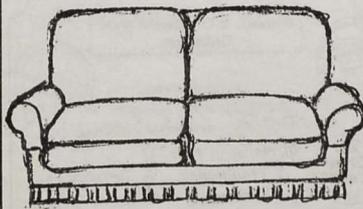
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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Two things caught my eye in the February issue of the 'Bridge'. First an appeal for more attention to be paid to those who have given yeoman service both to the community and to the 'Bridge' itself. It was a great pity that Coralie Minchin's death should not have been given the attention it deserved. But to be fair I feel somebody simply must point out that it is just nobody's job to notice and record these events in our columns. In the main we are a very small band of voluntary workers, many of whom have been with the 'Bridge' since its inception; we are all getting older, often more feeble, and things are tending to slip, not only with reporting but with production, distribution and so on and it has to be said that unless more people, preferably younger, come along to take over, we just won't be able to carry on indefinitely.

I'm particularly concerned about obituaries since it is often the last opportunity we have to pay tribute to those who have served the community so well. You don't have to be a regular reporter, but just a note sent to the editors c/o Church House will often serve the purpose.

DR. JENNER

I wonder, for example, if anyone is going to supply us with a proper obituary for somebody who gave wonderful service to Caversham and who died a little while ago. (see p.11). We do tend to forget people once they retire, particularly if they leave the area and it really isn't good enough. Many of our older readers rely heavily for news of old friends on the columns of this paper. So please do make an effort, will you.

MANY THANKS MRS. HUMPHRIES

On the plus side of all this, I was enormously pleased to read the letter by Mrs. Humphries about their life in Aldermaston many years ago and their removal to Caversham where they took charge of Prospect Street Post Office for many years. Even after retirement, which they deliberately decided to spend in Caversham, she and her husband have continued to take a keen interest and play a part in local activities including the local Residents Association. This letter was especially welcome as we do miss Mary Kiff's articles on old Caversham although, bless her, she does come along with news from time to time.

LOST AND FOUND

Cat-lovers will be pleased to know that two of the lost cats - and there have been several recently - have now been returned to their owners. One of them, known to us as Fluffy - we were never formally introduced tho' she did spend some time in our garden - turned up in a garden shed, but how or when she got there is a mystery and she's not telling. It was a great joy to discover her and an even greater one to see the expression on the face of her owner when they were reunited. She was, by the way, the long-haired tabby with the white bib. And now I'm told one of the two cats which disappeared many weeks ago has been restored to its owner. In each case the owners pulled out all the stops, distributing notices and so on; the corner shop in Westfield Road has been very good at collecting information about possible sightings. I don't expect everyone to be as daft as I am about cats, but it is good to know that people in the Cromwell Road district for instance, are concerned when one of our feline friends goes missing.

Incidentally, the Cats Protection League has now been re-organised and anyone interested in helping in any way should ring 482902. Nobody expects you to do a lot, perhaps just collecting bric-a-brac for stalls and so on, but there are many small ways in which cat-lovers can help.

CAVERSHAM BOOKSHOP

After nearly 16 years Lindsay and John Mullaney are looking forward to taking things more easily and have decided to sell their business. This can be a long-drawn-out affair, likely to take well over a year. They are anxious to ensure that the nature of the business continues, both as a community bookshop and as a school supplier.

Even when the business is sold they will still own the shop so they will be around to ensure it maintains its character. They have asked me to stress that there is no truth whatsoever in the rumour that they are closing the business.

JILL'S CORNER

This is a shop I don't often visit, mainly because it means crossing the road, but I was there the other day and realised what a lot I was missing. Both Jill and Pat Howard complement each other in what they sell and it is amazing what one finds there. In Jill's shop, for instance, one finds an enormous collection of postcards of all sorts. Meanwhile, like everyone else on that side of Prospect Street, they are having to cope with having the road up for many weeks. I know I do carry on a bit about local shops, but I like them so much and I also realise that it can't be easy to run a small business these days, so I hope people will give them the support they need.

THE CORNER SHOP

I got a bit of a surprise the other day when I saw wool on sale in the shop on the corner of Prospect

Street. Normally I'm not a great lover of shops moving into other ranges of goods, but we are losing Jacksons, so this might be a bit of a help. And they do sell an amazing variety of garden and household goods.

WAITROSE

I also understand that Waitrose is shortly to be given a face-lift, but the manager assures me that as far as possible he will keep goods in roughly the same order as they are now.

Sensible man - there's nothing worse than wandering round looking for something one could have sworn was where it isn't now, tho', as I've said before, staff are very obliging about helping customers find their way around. No lover of the 'Have a Nice Day' approach one finds in the US, it's still nice, I think, to be greeted with 'Good Morning' or 'Good Afternoon' as the case may be, usually accompanied by a friendly smile.

FRIDAY LUNCH

I finally got back to taking Friday lunch at the Baptist Church and hope to keep it up. Quite apart from getting a very inexpensive lunch, it is good to see so many people one knows and makes a welcome break in the usual round of shopping.

WELCOME BACK DAPHNE

I would like, if I may, to welcome back Daphne Abercrombie into our community. We are so accustomed to seeing her running off to play the piano at various churches, schools etc., apart from her other activities, that it was a shock to hear that she had a stroke some weeks ago and spent much time in hospital.

Of course she will have to take it easy for a time, but now that she has been allowed home, it does give many of us the chance of thanking her for her good work in our community.

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



St Peter

PALM SUNDAY 27th March (African palm crosses at all services)

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
 9.15am — HOLY COMMUNION (able-bodied meet in Caversham Court, weather permitting, for procession to church 9.10am)
 11.15am — Morning Prayer
 3.30pm — (drinks and preparation) for 3.45pm "HOSANNA" — special service for children on Palm Sunday

EVENSONG

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week: 7pm Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

- 9.30am — Holy Communion
 8.00pm — SUNG EUCHARIST and vigil to midnight

GOOD FRIDAY:

- 8.00am — Holy Communion (from Reserved Sacrament)
 12-3.00pm — THREE HOURS' DEVOTIONAL SERVICE
 Conductor: The Venerable Michael Middleton (Archdeacon of Swindon)

EASTER DAY 3rd April

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
 9.15am — HOLY COMMUNION
 11.15am — Morning Prayer
 6.30pm — EVENSONG

(pre-Easter Confession/Absolution by private agreement with the Rector, 479130)

St Margaret

PALM SUNDAY 27th March (African palm crosses at 11am)

- 11.00am — Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.30am — Devotional Service

EASTER DAY 3rd April

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
 11.00am — FAMILY COMMUNION

(pre-Easter Confession/Absolution by private arrangement with the Rector, 479130)

St Andrews

PALM SUNDAY 27th March

- 8.00am — The Eucharist
 9.15am — Sung Eucharist. Procession of Palms
 11.15am — The Eucharist
 6.30pm — Evensong

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week

- 7.30pm — The Eucharist with address
 (There will be no morning services during this time).

MAUNDY THURSDAY 31st March

- 7.30pm — Sung Eucharist, Feet Washing, and start of All Night Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY 1st April

- 9.30am — Good Friday Liturgy (Reproaches, Proclamation of the Cross, Communion)
 11.00am — Children's Good Friday Service (3 hours at St Peter's)

EASTER EVE Saturday 2nd April

- 8.30pm — Easter Eve Ceremonies (Vigil, Renewal of Baptism Vows, New Fire)

EASTER DAY 3rd April

- 8.00am — The Eucharist
 10.00am — Family Sung Eucharist
 11.30am — The Eucharist
 6.30pm — Choral Evensong

St Barnabas

PALM SUNDAY 27th March

- 8.00am — Eucharist (1662) blessing of palms
 9.30am — Procession with Palms and Parish Communion (Starting from Church Hall)
 4.30pm — Evensong

MAUNDY THURSDAY 31st March

- 7.30pm — The Last Supper Eucharist in the Context of a Meal in the Church Hall. Tell your fellowship (or the Vicar) you are coming if possible.

GOOD FRIDAY 1st April

- 2.00pm — The Proclamation of the Cross (no Communion)

EASTER DAY 3rd April

- 8.00am — Eucharist (1662)
 9.30am — EASTER SERVICE The Services of Light, Baptism and Communion

4.30pm — EASTER EGG SERVICE (New!)

A service for children and adults, in a style similar to the Crib service. With the help of an Easter Garden and popular seasonal hymns and songs we look at the story of Holy Week and Easter. EASTER EGGS!

St John the Baptist

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
 10.00am — PROCESSION OF PALMS & PARISH EUCHARIST

Monday in Holy Week

- 8.00pm — Eucharist

Tuesday in Holy Week

- 8.00pm — Eucharist

Wednesday in Holy Week

- 10.30am-12noon 'Journey to the Cross', a session for young people 5yrs +.
 8.00pm — Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 10.00am — Holy Communion
 8.00pm — SUNG EUCHARIST & STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR (followed by a watch)

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am-12noon 'At the cross' including an All-age service at 11.15 (a session for young people)
 12 noon — Stations of the Cross
 2.00pm — THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

HOLY SATURDAY

- 10.30-12 — 'Journey to Easter Day' (a session for young people)
 8.00pm — THE EASTER LITURGY: The Service of Light, Lighting of the Paschal Candle & first Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am — Holy Communion
 10.00am — EASTER EUCHARIST FOR ALL AGES

Caversham Park Church

SUNDAY 27th March

- 11.00am — "Triple F" - The arrest of Jesus
 7.15pm — Communion - The Cross in the Christian life

MONDAY

- 8.00pm — Agape Meal & Communion - Love and Market Forces

TUESDAY

- 8.00pm — Communion - Peter's Denial

WEDNESDAY

- 8.00pm — Communion - Judas' Betrayal

THURSDAY

- 8.00pm — Communion & Washing of Hands

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — Joint Service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church
 8.00pm — Meditation on the Stations of the Cross - at Caversham Park Primary School

SATURDAY

- 8.00pm — Meditation - Jesus in the Tomb

EASTER SUNDAY

- 11.00am — Easter Communion "Christ is Risen!"
 6.30pm — Songs of Praise for Easter

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

GOOD FRIDAY, April 1st

- 10.30am — United Service - Rev. Gordon Thomas

EASTER DAY, April 3rd

- 8.30am — Communion
 9.30am — Easter Breakfast
 11.00am — Service 'Christ is Risen'
 6.30pm — Service 'Christ is Alive'

Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Rd.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 31st March

- 8.00pm — Service including Holy Communion

EASTER DAY, 3rd April

- 10.30am — Morning Service including Holy Communion. Revd. John Boakes
 6.30pm — Evening Service. Mr Robin Gower

Caversham Baptist Free Church

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — Joint Service with Methodist Friends

EASTER SUNDAY

- 10.30am — Family Service
 6.30pm — Evening Service

St Paul's, York Road

PALM SUNDAY, 27th March

- 11.00am — Family Worship led by Colin Ferguson followed by coffee in the Hall.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 31st March

- 7.30pm — United Free Church Service at Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road

GOOD FRIDAY, 1st April

- 10.15am — Procession of Witness starting from St James, The Forbury

EASTER SUNDAY, 3rd April

- 8.00am — United Service in Forbury Gardens
 11.00am — Easter Celebration of Holy Communion led by the Minister.

Caversham Hill Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — Family Service

EASTER SUNDAY

- 10.30am — Family Service
 6.30pm — "Minus to Plus" Easter Service

Parish of Our Lady and St Anne, St Anne, South View Avenue

PALM SUNDAY

- 5.30pm — on Saturday 26th. Simple Blessing of Palms and Mass
 9.45am — Solemn Blessing of Palms and Sung Mass
 6.30pm — Evening Mass.

Tuesday, 29th

- 4.00pm — First Confessions
 (Day and time to be decided for i) The Chrism Mass at Oxford; ii) Parish Penitential Service)

Wednesday, 30th

- 3.15pm — Confession

THE SACRED TRIDUUM -

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7.30pm — Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Watching until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am — Day of Fasting and Abstinence. Stations of the Cross and Sermon
 3.00pm — Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord. (Confessions afterwards).
 6.30pm — Stations of the Cross (for Joint Churches)

HOLY SATURDAY

- 10.30 & 4pm Confessions (only)
 8.00pm — Easter Vigil Ceremonies with First Mass of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY

- 9.45 & 6.30pm Masses

Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road

PALM SUNDAY

- Mass at 8.30 and 11.15am (Blessing of Palms before 11.15 Mass)

Tuesday 29th

- Mass at 10.00am

EASTER SUNDAY

- Masses at 8.30 and 11.15am

St. Michael the Archangel, Mapledurham House

PALM SUNDAY

- Mass at 6.00pm (Last Sunday of the Month)

New Testament Church of God

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am-3.30pm — Service

EASTER SATURDAY

- 10.30am-2.00pm — Service

EASTER SUNDAY

- 11.00am-1.00pm — Service
 6.30pm-9.00pm — Service

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

PALM SUNDAY, 27th March

- 10.30am — Meeting for Worship at Friends Meeting House, 2 Church Street, Reading and
 7.30pm — at Church House, Church Street, Caversham

EASTER SUNDAY, 3rd April

- 10.30am — Meeting for Worship at Friends Meeting House, 2 Church Street, Reading

What are 'Garden Birds'?

For many years some may have claimed almost proprietorial rights to 'their' garden birds.

Such species may be tempted to remain for the ready-to-hand food offerings.

Knowledgeable providers will be giving a positive service to the birds, but must never forget that they are wild creatures which have evolved into separate species with individual, natural requirements.

It is when man weans them away from their natural habitat for his own gratification and voyeurism that birds will lose their independence, character and identity.

A couple of decades ago, Red-backed Shrike bred for several consecutive years in Kidmore Road, but regrettably, this species is now a rarity in Great Britain. More recently one winter, I had the thrill of tape-recording a flock of Siskin in a friend's back-garden in

Conisboro Avenue.

During the two years in which I have been privileged to write bird articles for the Caversham Bridge, I have drawn from personal experiences of many years bird-watching, from high mountain-tops to lowland fen, and have not adhered unwaveringly to 'local' species because the cause of birds in general demands a much wider understanding and requirement. I cannot remain obliviously complacent to the annual slaughter of many millions of migrants, both large and small, by pole-trap and shot-gun, in Europe — just for 'Sport' — so that each summer visitor which arrives here, having escaped such outrageous carnage, is a bonus for mankind and ALL bird species. That is why the song of such an arrival will set the blood of a true birder a-tingle with joy.

In an ever-changing ecology, breeding 'visitors' are increasingly

regarded as BRITISH BIRDS which winter in Africa. Some now remain here all year round and may be seen more regularly in our gardens. They will often appreciate sunflower seeds rather than less appropriate food items such as bread!

ALL birds are important in the order of things, which is why Progressive Knowledge and Conservation must WIN the war against ignorance, deliberate despoliation and ultimate annihilation of our environment, threatened by such disasters as the 'Braer' — 'Amoco Cadiz' — 'Torrey Canyon' tanker sinkings, to name but a few.

Able-bodied, 'Readers/Garden-only' folk would be welcome to widen their knowledge, if only by regular visits to Chazey Wood perimeter or the Warren End, with binoculars, note-books and pencils. Their weight of interest and support could be invaluable to the conservation of our ecology.

SCOPS OWLS

AROUND THE CHURCHES

SOON IT WILL BE ST. BARNABAS ALIVE

Plans are now well advanced for a special week in May culminating at Pentecost when the Church at St. Barnabas will be even more alive than usual. The life of the parish and its individual members have been developing steadily since a parish Conference a few years ago. The initial outcome was the formation of the St. Barnabas Fellowship Meetings, which are now about to enter their third year and which embrace the whole congregation in one way or another. During this special week, called "St. Barnabas Alive", there will be an opportunity for all those associated with the church both to increase their faith and their ability to share it with others.

A team from St. Aldates Church in Oxford is already getting to know the parish. They will be helping us in our task through their participation in special services and social events at the weekends, in the Fellowships and in other weekday meetings. Together with the Lent Course "Have Another Look", this important week will also be a valuable preparation at St. Barnabas for 'Thames Valley Alive'.



- O. Jewiss

Some of the St. Aldates Team and their families are seen in our picture being welcomed outside St. Barnabas Church towards the end of January by the Vicar, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle.

NEW "EASTER EGG" SERVICE AT ST BARNABAS

This new Easter service will be based on one of our great successes at Christmas time. At Christmas hordes of children and adults come to our church for our Crib service. We tell the story of Christmas with the help of the crib, children from the church and with well known favourite carols. This year we plan to try to do the same sort of thing for the Holy Week and Easter story. An Easter Garden will replace the Crib. We hope for the same sense of informal joy we experience at the Crib Service. This will be a good way for children to learn the story, and a good way for adults to share the Easter Joy. The service will start at 4.30pm on Easter Day. It will be short and suitable for all ages. You don't have to have a child to come. Easter Eggs are of course symbols of new life. We will explain this. We may even give a symbolic gift to children present. It may even be made of chocolate!

St. Andrew's Fellowship

The Annual General Meeting was held on 13th January, and was kept as brief as possible. The President, the Revd. W.B. Carpenter was unable to chair the meeting owing to the prior demands of the coming production of 'Joseph'. However all the necessary business was finished quickly and the committee was re-elected.

The business concluded, Mrs Margaret Hill spoke about the work of the Reading Drop-in Centre. Her talk was most interesting, and everyone was sorry when time dictated it should end. Her graphic account of the work of the Centre prompted lively questioning.

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BAPTIST LEADER AT UNITY WEEK SERVICE



- O. Jewiss

Our picture shows the Revd Geoffrey Reynolds (second from right) in St. Peter's Church flanked by the Revd Philip Abrey (Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham, who led the Service) and (to the left) the Revd Canon Richard Kingsbury (Rector of Caversham and Mapledurham) and Mr Andrew Bosley (Organist at St. Peter's).

Caversham was privileged to have the Revd. Geoffrey Reynolds, General Superintendent of the Southern Area of the Baptist Union, at the United Service in St. Peter's Church in mid-January at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The large congregation, the atmosphere of the worship and the message from the sermon bore witness to the fact that, from whatever denomination we come, we are no longer strangers but fellow citizens with God's people and members of the family of God.

On the theme "The Household of God: Called to be 'One in Mind and Heart'", the Service had a predominantly Irish flavour which included the presentation of Christian symbols

typical of Irish Celtic spirituality and prayers drawn from the Church of Ireland. The extent of the Christian presence in Caversham and Mapledurham was vividly brought home to those attending by the 17 candles lit during the service from a central candle, each one representing a different Church or Christian Group in the area. That evening we returned to our separate churches reminded that "in union with Christ we are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his Spirit" (Ephesians 2.22).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

The next All Age Praise service will be at 9.30am on 20th March and will be led by the Rev David Moody.

WHAT'S IN THE ROOF?

Recently the Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road needed a new roof. The people who use the building have been glad to have had a new roof to protect them throughout the rains and storms of this past winter. But, how to finish paying for it?

We have had everything from a Barn Dance to a Bumper Book Sale; a Table Tennis Marathon to a Talent Auction; from visiting choirs to D.I.Y. Concerts; from saving 5 pence pieces to serving hot meals. All these have been good fun and our thanks and gratitude go to all those of you in Caversham who have supported us so willingly.

Now we are nearly half way there and the latest idea in our string of fund raising events is a Bric-a-brac Auction - a veritable Bonanza on March 26th at 11am. (Viewing goods Friday evening from 7.30 - 9.30pm and from 9.30am Saturday morning).

So, What's in the roof? Your roof? Dusty furniture? Aladdin's old lamp? The hamster's cage or the old bivouac? If there are items you would be glad to get rid of or would be willing to donate please ring us on 482530 and we will willingly collect them.

As part of the proceeds of this auction are to be donated to the Feed the Children Fund we are also inviting people to contribute items which the Children's Fund are specifically requesting at the moment. Food - tins of veg., meat, fish (in oil), fruit, tea, coffee, sugar, bags of flour, pasta, etc (in poly bags, please). Bedding and sleeping bags. Toiletries - soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, flannels, towels etc. Also shoes, candles and educational items for the children - pens, pencils, writing paper, colouring books, etc.

So, What's in the roof? the garage, the shed? The cupboard under the stairs or even under the bed? Have a look-see, then give us a ring and come join in the fun on March 26th. Find out what was in someone else's roof, attic, cellar, etc. etc.

"Bringing up children in a hostile world"

SUNDAY MARCH 13TH

7.30pm - 8.30pm

at Caversham Hill Chapel
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An evening of drama, video, music and speech especially for parents of primary school aged children, looking at the importance of Christian teaching in our world today.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST. PETER'S RAMBLERS

Despite the increasing traffic and the encroachment of building on open land in Caversham, residents can still enjoy many fine walks in the surrounding countryside. Two members of St. Peter's who have adopted the custom of taking a country walk on Sundays after church are John Madeley and Ken Soden. It soon became apparent that others would like to join them and so they have started St. Peter's Ramblers, the idea being that organised walks should take place on the first and third Sundays of the month.

The first walk of the New Year was on Sunday the 16th of January.

Billed on the blue sheet as a 5-6 mile mountain hike to Mapledurham and back it attracted ten intrepid walkers plus a dog called Jed. The party left Mapledurham Pavilion just after midday.

After a cold, wet Saturday there was general relief that the forecasters had been right and the

weather had turned colder and brighter. It was the perfect day for a winter walk, crisp and sunny, and John Madeley, who led the group, had planned an itinerary full of variety encompassing fields, woods, slippery slopes, sheets of muddy water and fine views across the valley.

Lunch was taken in the porch of St. Margaret's, cosy enough except for the cold, stone seats which numbed the nether regions but it was not long before we were once more on the move.

The outward journey was made via Rose Farm and the return past Lilley farm. The walkers' tongues worked as hard as their legs but as the houses of Woodcote Road came once more into view the group became quieter, the pace slower and, strangely, the stiles higher. Pleasantly tired but warm as toast and well satisfied with a really enjoyable outing we made our way home.

M.T.



St Peter's Ramblers set off to walk to Mapledurham on Sunday, 16th January.

- E. S. Archer

NEW ASSISTANT FOR ST. ANDREW'S



- Norman G. Kent

Rev. Bill Carpenter, vicar, St Andrew's, congratulates Andrew Tyler.

ORGAN CENTENARY AT CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

The organ at Caversham Baptist Free Church was 100 years old on Sunday January 23rd: the event was celebrated in style. The Church was open for 3 days over the weekend and a number of people went in to look at the exhibits and hear the organ. The archives had been searched and a display depicting past events in the life of the church was mounted. Photos taken in 1907 showed the children looking very spruce on their annual outing to Crowsley Park. Another display showed the variety of events taking place today and these covered the whole age spectrum. Much space was given to information about organs. Photos showing the Reading School organ being assembled, Christ Hospital's 5 manual console and the Old Town Hall's "Father" Willis organ were among those on display. The original receipted account showing a cost of £189-2s-0d had been framed and was also to be seen. The greatest attraction for the children, however, were the wooden pipes which could be handled and blown. Three classes from Thameside Primary School had very enjoyable visits. They were eager to find answers to questions on the worksheets and managed to walk on the rostrum without falling into the opened baptistry.

The focal point of the weekend was the Concert on the Saturday evening. Graham Ireland, Reading School's Director of Music, gave a recital, starting with "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (Handel) and continuing with a variety of works. The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading and Councillor Mrs. Pauline Palmer accepted invitations and were present along with a good audience.

At the Birthday Service on the Sunday morning Mr. Robin Sheldon from the Royal School of Church Music spoke to the children and adults. Young volunteers were each given an organ pipe, and on instruction played "Twinkle, twinkle little star" which was recognisable. During the sermon Mr. Sheldon spoke of how the organ could be used as an instrument to help in the worship of God. He stressed, however, that it was not the only musical instrument which could be used today, but that others can be introduced to complement it.

The celebrations were planned by the Church organist, Philip Bowcock, and we thank him for his enthusiasm and foresight.

A BOOK FOR LENT?

The Victory of Hope

by Michael Kitchener

One of Britain's most thoughtful preachers takes us on a journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday reflecting on the victory brought about by God through the apparent failure of the cross. Published 13 January 1994, price £5.99, by S.P.C.K.

The Rev. Andrew Tyler was licensed by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Michael Hill, as the non-stipendiary curate to be attached to St. Andrew's at the St. Andrew's Patronal Festival last November. Andrew, who trained at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, is married to Xenia, a consultant pathologist at the Royal Berks Hospital, and they have a lovely little daughter called Naomi. The congregation warmly welcomed them into the family of St Andrew's, wishing them every happiness as they settle down to their new life in Caversham.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

JOINING WESSEX AND MERCIA

The future of local government cannot compete with tabloid press revelations of the private lives of prominent people as a guarantee of animated conversation. All the same, it is going to affect the way we all live for years to come far more than the indiscretions of the rich and famous.

The issue is between unitary authorities and a two tier form of local government, and for those not already yawning and turning over the page, that means deciding whether it is better to have one authority dealing with all sides of local government or a larger authority dealing with interlinked matters and smaller ones dealing with more immediate local issues. Bringing it down to Reading and Berkshire, the County looks after, for example, education, social services, libraries, refuse disposal, major roads and strategic planning, whilst the Borough concerns itself with, amongst others, individual plans, housing, leisure, refuse collection, street cleaning, local traffic and transport and minor roads as an agent for the county.

It can be a bit confusing and many of the more heavily populated districts feel they are perfectly capable of managing their own affairs, in the way that Reading, as a county borough, did before 1974. They also feel they are more in touch with the needs of their own populations than a larger authority can possibly be. On the other hand, with increased mobility and the spread of settlements beyond their former boundaries, there is a need for overall planning and co-ordinated services that a smaller authority cannot supply.

The general trend at the moment seems to be towards unitary authorities centred on the main areas of population so that Reading, albeit extended beyond its present boundaries, would become responsible for all matters of local government. It makes a lot of sense, but still leaves the need for some kind of co-ordination with neighbouring, similarly constituted local authorities.

Is such a co-ordinating function enough to justify the existence of an overall administration such as the County Council? The answer must be, probably not. What then would happen to Berkshire? Counties are already superfluous as far as addresses go. The post code, which disregards local boundaries, is enough, and even without the post code you are adjured to write, for instance, Tokers Green, Reading, Berkshire. Road signs, purporting to tell you where you are, proclaim such strange place names as the Borough of Elmbridge (now where's that?) or Whitby and Scarborough, when you obviously cannot be in both at the same time, and anyhow you are surrounded by sheep and heather and are plainly not in a town at all.

Berkshire is one of the oldest counties, dating back to Saxon times, even though in 1974 it ignominiously lost its northern areas, including its Downs, White Horse and ancient county town, to neighbouring Oxfordshire. Will it, together with other counties, drift out of existence? Will the next lot of local government reorganisation consign it to history, along with Mercia and Wessex?

TRAFFIC FORUM

Reading Borough called together a Traffic Forum for interested parties to receive a report by a consultancy firm, Steer, Davies Gleave, on dealing with the town's traffic problems. What was new about this report was that it looked at the problem in the context of the quality of life of the town as a whole, rather than as a matter of traffic pure and simple.

A highly regarded study by Strathclyde university on the quality of life in major towns shows that most people's concerns centre on levels of crime and pollution, shopping and leisure facilities, access to scenic space and the quality of housing, in a list totalling nineteen factors in which traffic congestion does not even feature. Reading (and you probably won't believe this) comes out seventh in the whole country for its quality of life and is the first and only one in the south east to be amongst the first ten towns. It is however those features that make Reading attractive to businesses and bring more and more people to live here. Consequently, when Reading people are asked what they see as the town's main problems, traffic congestion heads the list.

The report presented to the Forum was saying that steps taken to improve traffic flow must be judged by the effect they have on the existing quality of life in the town. If they improve it, they are acceptable. If they damage it they must be discarded. It is no good killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Of course, concerns about pollution levels and access to pleasant places are all tied up with traffic, which could mean such measures as restricting it in certain areas, improving public transport and park and ride. Even the Department of Transport is coming round to the idea that carving up city centres to make new roads is no solution to the problem. Cars have their place, but if they become our lord and master they will bring problems and not benefits.

BUS LANES

Bus lanes have their part to play as part of an integrated transport policy. The trouble with the one in Church Street is that there is

insufficient space for it to operate properly. The same is likely to apply to one on its own across Caversham Bridge. A right hand lane is essential there for traffic turning into Richfield Avenue, where there is no choice of public transport for those needing to get there or along Portman Road. An outcry can be expected, and not only from selfish motorists who think the possession of a car gives them priority over all other modes of transport. On the other hand, a bus lane the whole length of Caversham Road would give bus travellers some advantage.

A sentence dropped out of the section on bus lanes in last month's issue. It should have read 'The problem for buses is not Church Street... but the exit from Hemdean Road and it would be expensive to install traffic lights operated by buses there'.

RETAIL GIANTS FACE EACH OTHER

With the decision about the Safeway superstore complex on Queen Anne's playing fields still awaited, Sainsbury's are preparing an application for a similar store on the Redland gravel site off Henley Road. It is difficult to see how two stores so close to each other could be

turn to page 9

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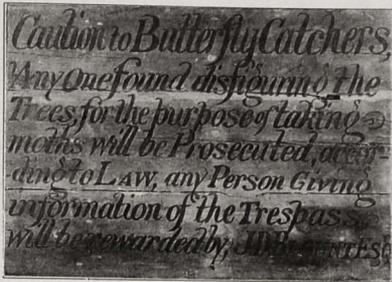
CAUTION TO BUTTERFLY CATCHERS

By Brian Baker

In the 80's of last century there was a small group of enthusiastic people studying the natural history of the countryside around Reading. One such was William Holland (1845-1930) whose nightly activities in the pursuit of moths was finally responsible for this remarkable notice appearing on a tree in Caversham Warren.

Holland, who had left school at the tender age of seven, endured a hard childhood. He then worked as a jobbing shoemaker, but, by diligent self-education, became the most famous naturalist Reading has produced.

My late friend Conrad Runge, formerly of St Andrew's Road Caversham, knew Holland well and learnt from him the history of the notice. How night after night a keen but friendly rivalry existed between Holland and his friends to be first on the ground to paint streaks of a treacly mixture on to the Warren's tree trunks



for the purpose of attracting moths.

One afternoon in the 1930's Runge (who taught me my natural history) showed me the notice, still up on its tree, and told me its fascinating history. He always hoped that he might at some time retrieve the notice for Reading

Museum and, in 1944, his wish was granted. During a violent storm the tree came down and the notice was smashed, but Runge carefully collected all the pieces and took them to the museum where it was skilfully restored.

When a photograph was required for use in a forthcoming book on The Butterflies and Moths of Berkshire (dedicated to William Holland and due for publication later this year) the museum authorities kindly gave permission for the board to be taken off display and photographed by Hymor Photographers. The notice is now safely back again at Blakes Lock Museum where readers might like to see at close quarters this memory of another age displayed in its riverside setting.

"FORTY YEARS ON" LADIES HAIRDRESSER BARBARA

In September 1953 I heard that Mr John Rankin, the chemist in Church Street, had a room to let at the back of his shop. When I arrived to view the room I was told it had been badly damaged by fire. "You come back and see me in two weeks" John said on seeing me a bit crestfallen. To my amazement, when I returned in two weeks the room was like new and decorated in my favourite colour.

I employed my first apprentice three months after opening and two years later I was able to employ two more assistants. After five years we moved upstairs

to larger premises above the chemist and steadily progressed.

We have seen many changes in Caversham; with a growing community this is inevitable. When we first started business cows were being driven past, on their way from Hemdean Bottom to the abattoir. We also watched with sadness as the Priory at the rear of the Baker, and two Cinemas were closed, one being demolished.

However, in spite of all the changes we are very happy to be trading in such a friendly, progressive and thriving community, and happily still serving many clients who first came in 1953.

"SEVENTY YEARS BACK"



Photograph sent in by Mrs M. F. Warren, whose grandmother, Emily Gibbs, is the little lady standing in black second from the left. The photograph shows St. Barnabas' Mothers' Meeting taken in the grounds of Caversham Hill, residence of Mrs Cooper and the Misses Florence, Constance and May Cooper, in 1920.

On the back of the original is "In remembrance of a happy afternoon spent at Caversham Hill, September 6th 1920 Mrs. Townsend".

Miss May Cooper is the lady sitting in the centre holding Mrs. Wicks' baby. Mrs Townsend is the lady sitting on the extreme right and her son gave the photograph to Mrs Warren.

WATCHDOG

from page 8

commercially successful. Whilst neither can expect a warm welcome, the one at Redland would be less damaging than the one at Queen Anne's field. Now that there is no fortune to be made from building office blocks, attention is turning to superstores which tend to be on town edges or green field sites. They cannot all survive.

BUGS BOTTOM

With four sets of developers working, or about to work, in the Valley, noise, disruption and the number of construction vehicles entering and leaving the site is bound to increase. The only consolation is that the whole development will be completed in less time than the eight years recommended by the Inspector at the original public inquiry on the grounds that disruption would be more spread out and residents would not notice it so much - some hope! Meanwhile an application for access to and from Gravel Hill for some of the houses must be resisted..

GO AHEAD FOR GOLF COURSES

Mapledurham Estate's appeal for permission to construct a thirty-six hole golf course has been allowed, which is good news for the estate as it should go a considerable way towards solving the problems that have been besetting it. The general public may be less than delighted, seeing this as manufactured countryside replacing real countryside. Nevertheless they have always been in two minds about this solution, wanting as much as the owners to see the estate brought into good order but divided about how much a golf course will change its essential character. At the time of writing it is not known whether there are any conditions attached.

HALF MARATHON ROAD CLOSURES

If you are planning to go out of Caversham and cross Reading on the morning of Sunday 10th April, remember it is the half Marathon and study the list of road closures. Some journeys will be impossible whilst others will require very careful planning. Richfield Avenue will be closed all the morning, the two river bridges for the first part of the race, and roads to the south of the town and in the Oxford Road area for a large part of the morning. As one who is going to be obliged to cancel a social engagement for that day, I shall instead go and watch all those thousands pounding by, most of them for a good cause.

DIARY DATE: Monday, 21st March 8.00 p.m. Church House.

Caversham & District Residents' Association Annual General Meeting. A speaker on what the proposals for changes in local government will mean for the people of Reading and Berkshire.



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the CLUBS

Caversham Women's Institute

After the business section of the meeting members enjoyed a fast and friendly Beetle Drive, the winner's prize going to Sylvia Myszor, and the booby prize to Kath Fulbrook.

Details of an outing to the Palace of Westminster were given, plus the suggestion of a meal at the Reading College training restaurant. Thought was also given to new nominations for the Committee.

University of the Third Age, Reading

January Activities

Groups went on as usual in November and December, though no record has been made because of illness. A highlight in November was a visit to the theatre at Richmond to see Patricia Routledge and Clive Swift in 'Mr and Mrs Pooter'. Christmas was celebrated with a very enjoyable dinner held at Reading College.

'A Winter's Entertainment' took place in the Kennet Room. It was opened by Jean Thompson, now Chairman of all Third Age groups in Great Britain. She explained that the name 'Star' had been dropped by the nearly unanimous vote of membership. Other items consisted of a reading of a short story, articles written by the Writers' group and finally the playreaders read from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the scenes where the workmen are preparing their play for the Duke.

The Music group enjoyed listening to John Barnes on clarinet and Kay Eburn on piano. The Books group discussed their future and decided to continue as at present but at a more leisurely

pace. Members are to study Paul Scott and later Thomas Hardy. The Playreaders read 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller and hope to proceed to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

The Travel group heard a talk on New Zealand. The Discussion group had members taking sides on changes in Local Government.

No walks have taken place recently as Mary Crozier who convened this group for many years has had to resign and a new convenor is needed to continue this popular group.

New members are always welcome. Please contact the Membership Secretary Mrs Grace McGregor, Tel. 866037.

St Peter's Wives

It is thirty years since St. Peter's Wives first met and this event will be celebrated at their meeting in Church House on the 17th May with a Party. Invitations will be sent to all present members and as many past members that can be contacted. Please ring Chairman, June Brown, on Reading 477652 with any current details of previous members.

Last November, the Group held their A.G.M. The Rev. Christine Allsopp chaired the meeting, a new Committee was elected and June Brown was confirmed as Chairman. After the business of the evening, members welcomed Mrs Mary Tucker, who demonstrated how to prepare and assemble a fabric covered picture frame. The Autumn Fair, in St. Martins Precinct, was held a little later this year. Business was brisk and £133 was raised in aid of the Sue Ryder Home.

In December the Wives' Christmas dinner at Mapledurham Golf Club was most successful. The residents of Sheridan Avenue/Hemdean

Road once again responded generously to the Wives' carol singers and £60 was added to the annual gift to Sue Ryder Home. On the 21st of the month, Committee members arrived early to decorate Church House, members arrived with plates of food and another Wives' Christmas Party was under way. It was a most enjoyable evening, ending with carols. For their first meeting in 1994, members were at Church House to welcome Mr Islwyn James, who showed slides and photographs and gave members an excellent background to St. Fagan's Museum.

As well as their Thirtieth Birthday, St. Peter's Wives also look forward to welcoming Mr A. Radford to talk about the Drop-In Centre on the 15th March. On the 19th April Sarah Stallybrass will be at the Wives' meeting to introduce members to the stock she carries, and her new business venture at 16 Hemdean Road called 'Tingling Taste Buds'.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guide

The Bayeux Tapestry

Further new members were welcomed at the main guild meeting in January. Subscriptions for the coming year are due.

A seasoned traveller in widely differing parts of the world, Mrs M. Sutherland stimulated her audience in St Andrew's hall with her talk about the Bayeux Tapestry in Normandy, which she has been to see. Starting with a rendering of Stanley Holloway's poem about the battle between William's and Harold's armies at Hastings, she told how the tough feudal warrior, Duke William's half-brother Bishop Odo who became Bishop of Kent, initiated the making of the embroidery, probably in Canterbury.

This tells the story of how the Norman Conquest came about and how King Harold had to pay the price of breaking his oath. The tapestry has had an interesting history. This includes being sent to Paris in 1803 for Napoleon to see. If a

visit to Bayeux is out of the question, Reading museum fortunately now contains a copy of the tapestry, taken from a series of water-colour paintings and embroidered by sewing ladies in Leek in 1885 and 1886.

Mrs Meryl Beek described a walk along the Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury in her talk at social studies. The visit to the Mill at Sonning to see the play 'Bedside Manners' by Derek Benfield was a great tonic to everyone. Lots of laughter! The restaurant there provides excellent service and the setting of the mill is charming.

Caversham Ladies Club

The first meeting of the New Year is always given over to the members for ideas, outings or anything they are not happy about regarding the running of their Club, so it was very encouraging to see such a good attendance of members. Unfortunately the Chairman, Mrs May Harwood, is still indisposed and the

doctor's order is to stay indoors for a further three to four weeks. Fortunately Mrs Brenda Strong, who had just returned from a three month holiday in Australia, very willingly offered to stand in as deputy for the afternoon meeting. A warm welcome was given to her on her return, and many questions were asked about Australia which Mrs Strong answered later in the meeting.

The Christmas lunch had been a success and enjoyed. It was accompanied by Mr Barry Strong and his friends who provided a musical background during the meal, after which they continued with a good helping of Christmas carols in which members joined heartily.

A vote was taken as to which was the favourite place for the outing and Eastbourne got the most votes. The September outing will be discussed at a later date.

Members were reminded that a speaker from the Sue Ryder home will be at the next meeting.

turn to page 11



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OBITUARIES

DOROTHY MAY ST. ALPHONSE

St Andrew's Church Caversham, the Parish Church in which Dorothy May St Alphonse had worshipped for the last forty plus years, was packed for her funeral on 21st January.

Dorothy May, had she lived a few extra weeks would have been ninety-three years old. Her mother, a Roman Catholic from Ireland was married to a Scottish Presbyterian father, and Dorothy married Father Leonard St Alphonse, born in Kimberley, South Africa and ordained in St Paul's Cathedral in 1915. They were married in 1928.

All through her married life she strongly supported her husband in all his work as Parish Priest. She was especially drawn to furthering the cause of the Mothers' Union. In every parish they were called to serve, Dorothy became the Enrolling member, and in more than one Diocese, Deanery President.

After her husband's death, when she and her daughter, Mary, moved to Caversham, again she still strove to support the Mothers' Union as Enrolling Member, running



regular Prayer Groups, and on the lighter side, giving parties and providing and organizing play reading. The Girls' Friendly Society Hostel and Moral Welfare were also warmly supported.

Her favourite passage from the New Testament, and which she used as a blueprint for her rule of living was:

"Go forth into the world in Peace. Be of Good Courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no man evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honour all men. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

W.A.V.

DR. MARTIN JENNER

Dr. Martin Jenner who died recently at the age of 80 was a highly respected and popular GP in Caversham for 32 years prior to his retirement.

He was a direct descendant of Dr. Edward Jenner, the first man to perform vaccination against small pox 200 years ago and whose name is now enshrined in medical history.

Dr. Jenner received his medical training at St. Mary's Hospital and qualified MB.BS in 1938. War time service in the RNVR took him to the Indian Ocean, South Africa and Australia before being posted officer-in-charge of the RN hospital at Murmansk - the destination of allied convoys to Russia. For this service, he was awarded the

Russian medal.

After the war, he obtained the diploma in obstetrics working under Dr. Grantly Dick-Reid, the pioneer of painless childbirth, before joining the GP partnership in Priory Avenue, Caversham, where he practiced from 1947 to 1979.

A colleague writes of him as a keen dedicated and highly conscientious doctor whose efforts were largely responsible for increasing the size of the practice by 50 per cent during his partnership. He was called the power house of the practice which he kept in the forefront of the advances in general practice including the introduction of an appointment system in 1960.

His love for the countryside and country pursuits

involved him with golf, becoming captain of Sonning Golf Club in 1961, salmon fishing in Scotland and rough shooting with farming friends.

Dr. Jenner loved gardening and was an expert in growing vegetables as well as bee-keeping. Unfortunately, he developed an allergy to bee stings which nearly proved fatal in the 70s. Only the prompt action of a colleague giving an immediate injection saved his life.

During the past two years he suffered illness which progressively curtailed his active life. He was married twice, his first wife Margaret by whom he had a son and daughter and for the past 26 years to Barbara, his widow.

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the CLUBS

from page 10

Emmer Green TG

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in St Barnabas Hall on the second Tuesday in January.

Arts & Crafts were to have a meeting in January and discuss porcelain as arranged.

Words & Music will be going to see a ballet at the Hexagon. Ramblers are still walking locally because of the wet weather and will probably be adding a lunch to their next walk.

It has been decided to hold the guild birthday party lunch at the Technical College in October instead of a few members doing all the preparations and work. There will also be a Guild outing in June to Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield.

The speaker for the evening was Miss J. Sawyer who gave a talk and slide show on

Tonga, the Friendly Isles.

Miss Jean Sawyer who is a retired school teacher told members she was glad to put her qualifications to some use by spending her time teaching in a school in the old capital of Tonga. She had brought along many slides to show members and also a few stories of Capt Cook and his men when he had visited the Friendly Isles. She explained that English is the second language of Tonga and that all pupils needed to pass a course in English. She also said that the pupils of Tonga were not that different in attitudes from pupils in other parts of the world; some were anxious to learn and others were not.

Miss Sawyer showed some wonderful slides of one side of the island where one could swim and the lovely beaches there. She had cycled around the island and there were slides on corals and sea urchins.

There were open markets and the local people had built the stalls to protect themselves from the sun and show their local crafts, and food. There were also slides on local houses old and modern, also of Royal Palaces.

Miss Sawyer had

brought many crafts from Tonga to show members, traditional weaving, carving, necklaces, trays and clothing decoration worn by the men and women of Tonga.

It was a very interesting talk and the Chairman thanked Miss Sawyer on behalf of members for a very pleasant evening.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the Guild meeting in January two new members were welcomed. Arts and Crafts afternoons were to begin again, also Scrabble for a sizeable number of enthusiasts. Many members were looking forward to a Whist Drive proposed for the near future and to renewing their skills at this game.

A trip to the Third World was the programme for the afternoon and Mrs Freeland, wife of a Vet working for British Aid Projects in the Third World, informed and entertained members with her many slides and first-hand accounts of life travelling and working alongside her husband. Some years had been spent in Borneo, incidentally

the third largest island in the world, where training was given to develop livestock. All houses, it seems, are built on stilts with the resulting spaces beneath proving both cool and also useful for entertaining.

In Sarawak long houses are the norm; up to thirty-five extended families might dwell under the one roof. A new port built with British aid brings in ships through vast rivers, sometimes one hundred miles from the sea.

Bangladesh, where one hundred and twenty million live in an area the size of England and Wales, is said to be one-third under water. Its position beneath the snowy Nepal mountains and adjacent to the Ganges brings constant fear of flooding. Enormous clay pots are permanently in use to store all manner of goods in readiness for speedy removal.

Mrs Freeland's talk enabled members to be made more aware of many different cultures and her readiness to answer queries was warmly applauded.

The Guild meets on the third Thursday each month in Church House with visitors and new members made especially welcome.

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