

QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL CENTENARY



Old Girls out in force.

Courtesy, Evening Post

In the week beginning 8th May Queen Anne's School celebrated its Hundredth Birthday on 12th May (Ascension Day). On the eve of the great day, the whole school went to see Pirates of Penzance at the Hexagon. The following morning a whole stream of coaches conveyed staff and pupils to Westminster Abbey for the Centenary Service at noon. The School Choir under the leadership of the Director of Music, Miss Frances Brewitt Taylor, accompanying instrumentalists and servers left on early Breakfast Coach at 7am for a final rehearsal in the Abbey.

The Service was a sung Eucharist with a congregation of seventeen hundred, comprising Governors, Old Girls, Staff, Parents and Pupils. Since its opening in 1894 Queen Anne's School has been part of the Westminster Greycoat Foundation which itself goes back to 1698 when it was established by eight citizens of Westminster after whom the Boarding and Day Houses of the School have been named, Richard Ffyller, John Holmes, Robert Maddock, Samuel Michell, Charles Webbe, John Wilkins, and Thomas Wisdome. Thanksgiving was offered for their work in a special prayer during the service. In 1706 the Foundation was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Anne and in her honour the Governors used part of the endowment to establish the school at Caversham bearing her name.

At the Centenary Service at the Abbey we went 'back to our roots'. It was a most uplifting act of worship. The celebrant at the Eucharist was the Revd Colin Semper, Canon of Westminster and a Governor of the School. The

Dean, the Very Reverend Michael Mayne, preached a very inspiring sermon on the theme of 'having the right vision in life', and the musical setting for the service was 'The Mass of St Leopold' by Haydn. Prayers and Intercessions were led by Mrs Patricia Morgan, Chairman of Governors, Miss Audrey Scott, Headmistress 1977-1993, Miss Margaret Challis, 1958-1977, Mrs Deborah Forbes, the present Headmistress, Miss Doris Asher, Deputy Headmistress, Mrs Lin Hutchinson, Chairman of the Old Girls Association and Tanya Southall, Head Girl. The former Chaplain, the Revd Neville Smith and two fathers of girls, also



Courtesy, Henley Standard

Later in the week the new Arts Centre was opened by Emma Johnson, clarinettist and former Young Musician of the Year. She is pictured with Mrs Deborah Forbes, Headmistress.

ordained priests, assisted others with the administration of the Holy Communion. At the end of the Service the School Organist, Mr Michael Howell, played the Centenary Toccata which he had composed specially for the occasion.

Acts of Worship in large churches on formal occasions do not often prompt young people to admissions of being inspired. However, one pupil was heard to say afterwards 'I thought it was going to be a really boring affair, but it was so moving I now want to be confirmed!'

In the afternoon pupils went shopping and visiting places of interest of

their choice under the direction of staff. A Centenary Lunch for invited guests was held at a Hotel. A Staff Supper was served in the evening at the School.

On Saturday 14th May, hundreds of Old Girls took part in the Centenary Celebrations at the School. Seven hundred people were present on the day, two hundred more than expected! This was the day for the launch of the Centenary History of the School which is currently on sale at Caversham Bookshop, priced £14.99.

Old Girls' day included a chapel service during which a collection of new kneelers made by old girls was dedicated for use. Everyone occupied all available seating space and in the end there was standing room only! The service was followed by lunch in several locations in the school, an AGM, a Concert, an Art Exhibition by the old girls, and a Dinner in the evening. Altogether a

very 'full day' in all respects. It was much enjoyed by all generations present. Everyone had many stories to tell and younger girls were fascinated to hear how during the second world war former pupils had slept in Air Raid shelters and built wigwams on the playing fields to prevent enemy planes landing!

Various other events have happened this year such as the Concert on Queen Anne's Birthday in February and the Centenary Play. On June 3rd the new Performing Arts was opened by Emma Johnson, a former BBC Young Musician of the Year.

The School looks forward to the Centenary Ball at the school on Wednesday 6th July. Other events will follow in the Autumn Term.

T.N.

BRIDGE'S 30th YEAR

In October, the Bridge will celebrate its 30th birthday and a special edition is planned. The editors would be pleased to receive any comments that readers may care to make about the paper - favourable or otherwise. It is also hoped to run a column of 'Memories to Share', both of people and events over the last 30 years.

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TALKING POINT

by

Father Thomas Meagher
St. Anne's R.C. Church



'Basics' and all that

One of the less endearing qualities of the age is that of cynicism. Things that have some good in them are examined ruthlessly, and they are discarded because of faults. As for people in position, immediately something goes wrong, their whole work is ruined. This leads one to two ideas. One is that, at a time when liberty has degenerated into licence, other people's sins are regarded as unforgivable. The other, following from that, is that, while not excusing sin, we are all subject to the severe temptation, or the urgent occasion of sin, and we are surrounded by the enemies of our soul - the Devil, the World and the Flesh. Life is a constant battle, with God's grace, to overcome these real or potential evils.

Recently (or perhaps not so recently) we were given a phrase 'back to basics' which has since become so devalued as to be meaningless. Before we all yawn or laugh, and then forget, was the phrase such a bad one? What might have been foreseen is that, because it has been limited simply to the human, it has been examined 'ruthlessly' and seen to be of very little meaning. May I raise the words again, or something very like them, and risk your boredom or ridicule?

What was really wrong about the phrase? It depends what we mean, as the late Professor Joad would have it, by the word 'basics'. Instead of seeing the word within the modern context, it should be seen *against* the background of the modern curses of complete lack of stability, of having fancies, of refusal to look behind appearances.

Above all, there can be no real 'basics' if one follows the fashion of doing what one likes because one likes it, of changing 'basics' to suit oneself, or by not doing the right thing because one likes it, of changing 'basics' to suit oneself, or by not doing the right thing because it might be hard.

For the philosophically minded it is utilitarianism gone mad, or total moral relativism. In practice when it comes to religion and behaviour it means believing what one likes and doing just that.

Perhaps I have 'thumped the tub' too often as did the boy who cried 'wolf', over the complete refusal of so many to think beyond the present world to the things that really matter, to consider the supernatural (the real life) as transcending the natural, to insist on the eternal rather than the ephemeral. Our best thoughts should be on heaven, and this world (a good world when seen aright), is our vehicle for getting there.

Against this unpromising background of modern materialism and indifference two recent documents, issued by the Church, are becoming widely available. In order of publication they are: i) the Catechism of the Catholic Church, issued two years ago, but only now available in English; this the result of a Synod of Bishops, and ii) an Encyclical Letter (a letter addressed to the whole Church - this time to the Bishops of the Church) written by the Pope, entitled, from its first words 'Veritatis Splendor' - which is a Commentary on part of the Catechism.

To do anything like justice to either work would be quite impossible in a short article, nor is it my purpose to do this. The Catechism itself is a comprehensive work of Church teaching through Theology Scripture, Morals, Spirituality and Doctrine and is a masterpiece of hundreds of pages, a source book for priests, teachers and interested people of all kinds.

While the Pope's letter is specifically written to bring people's minds back to fundamental truths of behaviour, it is the first phase, and the incentive to do this, of the work

of restoring a real framework of moral theology, a science which has become confused and obscured lately. Indeed, the Pope makes a general cry to the world, and particularly to the Church, to bring human life back to Christianity. Is he crying in the wilderness?

In the letter, using Scriptural texts in relation to the teaching authority of the Church, he examines the meaning of truth, the relationship between truth and behaviour, what is a true conscience and how this should be ordered; the realities of sin (and the fact that some actions are intrinsically evil), and, even more important, what grace is. The letter, a long one, ends with a most inspiring section on how we can follow Christ.

The last paragraph which I have written gives hardly even the bones of the letter, but I hope that it provides some idea.

In no way am I trying to 'sell' to you all that the Pope is teaching - no doubt many of you would not accept it all, or even much of it. Because I find both the Catechism and the letter wonderful may well not make others feel the same. What both documents should do is to make people think, and, while it might be necessary to have real commitment to read the Catechism, it might be well worth considering the implications of 'Veritatis Splendor'.

Even in the darkness of evil around us the 'splendour of truth' (veritatis splendor) shines out. When Pilate asked Jesus if He were a King, Our Lord's reply is illuminating: 'for this was I born, and for this I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate replied 'Truth? What is that?' If only people asked the same question today! Only in Jesus Himself is the truth established, and we believe that the Church continues to maintain and diffuse that truth; in ourselves the truth must be established against all the shifting sands of opinions and feeling.

In our behaviour we are ordered to keep Our Lord's commandments, if we love Him. Our Lord does not say 'Love God or keep the Commandments', but 'if you love me, you will keep my Commandments, just as I love My Father, and keep his Commandments'. One could just as easily say that it is by keeping the Commandments (with the grace of God) that we are able to love God. Grace is necessary to do this.

The reality of sin is ever present 'If we say we are without sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is no longer in us.' If the truth is no longer in us, we have no God in us. But God is merciful, and will forgive our sins if we are sorry. We ourselves have a Sacrament for this purpose.

There is, then, some meaning in the 'back to basics' cry - if we begin the basics with God and see ourselves in relation to Him.

Why are we here? Our Catechism (the words are repeated in the new Catechism) tells us that God has made us to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world to be happy with Him for ever in the next. There is an eternal life, and therefore there are eternal values, there is a supernatural life, and therefore there are supernatural virtues. There is a loving God who has made us to love Him.

Our life should be based on these principles and not on the lure of the world. Then people will be able to judge their own actions properly, they will see things in this light, and love and happiness will grow. We need the Church to help and guide us, and to bring us God's truth and love. 'Thou has made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee.' If only 'back to basics' were made to mean this in our lives, then the 'splendour of truth' would shine out through our witness to the truth.

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

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All contributions for August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 6th July. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 4th July. The dates for Sept. will be Monday 1st August and Wednesday 3rd August.

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 Tel. 0734 393032.

Printed by Chiltern Offset, Amersham, Bucks.

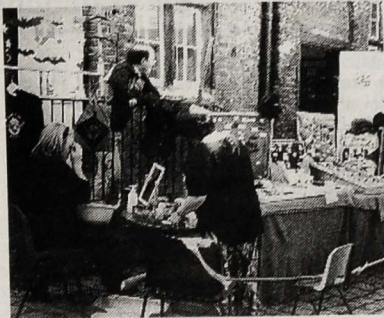
OPEN DAY AT CAVERSHAM COURT ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE



— E. S. Archer

Park Rangers and volunteers digging out a Bog Garden in Caversham Court.

On Sunday, 15th May, a 'Wet and Windy' Open Day was held at Caversham Court. The theme of the day was Wildlife Gardens and there were stalls giving information on everything from Bats to Butterfly Borders and growing trees to the location of Local Nature Reserves. Near the river the Park Rangers



— E. S. Archer

Bat Helpline Stall at Caversham Court Environmental Centre on 15th May.

(and volunteers) were digging out a Bog Garden. This will be planted out with appropriate bog-plants when digging is completed.

Further information about forthcoming events can be obtained from Caversham Court Park Rangers, Telephone number 461636.

POST BAG

GRAVEL HILL

Dear Sirs,

Watchdog is mistaken in thinking that Reading Borough Council has in any way weakened its position on the development of the Bugs Bottom area. We have consistently opposed this development and, ever since it was allowed by the Secretary of State, have made great efforts to ameliorate its worst effects for the local community.

With regard to these latest plans, we have spent a good deal of time discussing them with representatives of the local residents. We share their concern at any change taking place in this attractive lane, but I believe the residents' representatives now understand and accept: (a) that there are no practical grounds on which we could refuse this scheme and (b) that there is no practical alternative form of access to the site. We are working with them to see what other safeguards can be built in to the consent to minimise the damage.

Yours etc.,

Stuart Hylton

Head of Planning and Environmental Health
Civic Centre, Reading

THANK YOU

Thank you to several writers who suggested that 'Stitchin' Time could supply haberdashery; Waitrose also has a limited stock.

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ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Parents' Association held a fashion show on May 10th in St. Anne's Hall. Twelve mums/staff members modelled a range of clothes from casual through to Ascot Royal Enclosure, all in aid of raising funds for the school. The event entertained an audience in excess of 100 potential buyers - all women as the men were excluded for the night. The ranges of clothes were provided by Paula Dee, and all the models had their hair and make-up done by Peaches hair salon. Ashley Blooms provided the floral decorations for the evening, which were later sold off at reduced prices. The usual raffle was also held just to make the evening complete. A great evening's entertainment was had by one and all. If men are allowed in next time the profits might be even more as they dig into their pockets to buy their loved ones the items on display.

CAVERSHAM WEST FRIENDS OF GUIDING SEEK GOOD COOKS!

Since the wonderful event last October when many Caversham people had the chance to taste many treats produced by ten local cooks, we have been encouraged to repeat the event. The Friends of Guiding are therefore looking for kind local cooks - experienced or not - who would be willing to bring samples of their three favourite dishes to St Andrew's Hall on Friday October 14th so that the public can sample the wares, and buy the recipes all in aid of local Brownie and Guide groups.

Please ring me as soon as possible - or I shall be ringing you! Lis Rout. Phone 472738.

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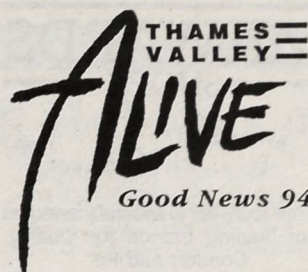
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GOOD NEWS - FROM BRISTOL!

Christ Church Clifton, in Bristol, is a large Church - and I mean Large! Every Sunday well over 1,000 people come to Christ Church to worship and the Christian Faith is very much Alive. The Reverend Rupert Higgins is Associate Vicar at Christ Church and he has been invited to bring a team to Caversham for the first week of the TVA fortnight in September to help with the outreach in this area. Having heard Rupert preach at Caversham Hill Chapel on Sunday 9th May, I can report that his assistance during TVA will indeed be Good News!

Rupert was brought up in a non-Christian family and educated at Rugby School, where, at the age of fourteen, he became a Christian. Now, any of you familiar with Thomas Hughes' portrayal of life at Rugby in Tom Brown's Schooldays, will appreciate that this was probably not the easiest environment in which to be a Christian, with the wimpish and cissy connotations this adherence attracted. But Rupert saw it through and went on, after obtaining a Degree and working for Rolls Royce as an Economist, to train for the Ministry and receive Ordination some nine years ago.

During his recent visit to Caversham I asked Rupert why he was so committed to evangelism and to spreading the Good News. He believes that the Truth of God revealed to man through Jesus Christ is vital to every man and woman and that there is an urgency to communicating this to those who don't believe. It was C.S. Lewis who said that the Truth in Christ is either of utter importance or of no importance at all - to Rupert it is of



utter importance and he feels called by God to communicate this to others as the only way to make sense of life and death.

We also discussed how best we ordinary Christians can approach the job of bringing the Good News to our friends and families. Rupert believes firmly in 'life and words' as being the formula for friendship evangelism. People must be able to see first of all that we live to a different perspective from them and that Christianity makes sense in our lives. This then perhaps raises questions in their minds giving us the opportunity to talk about our Faith. On the other hand, should it not lead them to ask questions, Rupert believes that we sometimes have to be bold, particularly with people whom we know well, and who seem to be sailing along nicely

without God in their lives, and just find an opportunity to tell them what our Faith in Christ means to us. Living a Christian life is not enough on its own, in his view - we must "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have." (1 Peter 3.v15.)

Looking ahead to September, Rupert talked about the team who will accompany him to Caversham. He is assembling a mixed team of ordinary Christians, including two nurses, a doctor, a businessman, two housewives, and a solicitor. These are not experts but normal men and women whose Christian Faith is central to their lives, who are prepared to share that and encourage others to do the same. We look forward to having them with us in September.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Public Opinion Prevails

The news that the Church Street bus lane was to be removed and the proposed bus lane along Caversham Road not proceeded with was greeted with delight on all sides. The first did nothing for buses and the second was not needed as buses, along with other traffic, move satisfactorily along the recently widened road. The news was good not just for itself, but because it showed that the Borough Council was prepared to listen to the views of the public and act if it was felt they had a good case.

Most people felt somewhat cynical about the consultation exercise and the routine notice about a six month trial period once the bus lane had been installed. 'We've been here before' was the general attitude, and 'now they've spent money on this thing they're not going to scrap it just because we don't like it.'

But 'they' did listen, influenced maybe by its not only being a load of selfish motorists who feared having a couple of minutes added to their journey who were protesting, but that also bus users and others who genuinely wanted buses given an advantage, opposed these two particular bus lanes.

The County Council still has to endorse these recommendations which came from Reading Borough Council, but it would be political suicide for them to ignore it. Whether a removal of the ban on right-hand turns out of Priory Avenue is included is not yet clear. Meanwhile the Council is looking at other ways of giving buses more advantageous operating conditions, such as priority at junctions and traffic lights changing in their favour.

The Quick or the Dead

On the subject of traffic lights, a recent petition organised by the Lib-Dems seeking pedestrian facilities at the Bridge Street-Church Street junction attracted a large number of signatures. With the lights changing in rapid succession it is a case of being either quick or dead. The dangerous traffic situation in that area can only be exacerbated if permission is given for revised plans to build sixty-two dwellings on the site of Abbotsmead and the former allotments. Perhaps with cars also vying for a pause in the traffic flow this will be sufficient incentive to upgrade safety in that stretch of road.

Sweet Themes

Caversham and District Residents' Association have planted another black poplar beside the Thames at the end of Wolsey Road. The one they planted two years ago is flourishing and has almost reached the stage when it will no longer be attractive to vandals. The second one is to the west of Wolsey Road where several trees were lost in the severe gale of 1990.

The Civic Society have also added another two black poplars to the one they planted two years ago in Kings Meadows and which also is flourishing with a plentiful water supply so close by. Black poplars have been getting rather scarce lately so these five will make a significant addition to the local stock.

As the Thames recovers from past misuse, salmon are returning to it. I do not know if any have yet reached Reading, but to help any who have this in mind a salmon ladder has been installed at the Clappers to ease their passage up the weir. Who is going to be the first to see a salmon leaping up it? That will be a great day.

Near Caversham Bridge the Borough Council is to restore one of the islets that had been overgrazed by swans as a home for them and other water fowl, some of them quite rare, which tend to get overlooked. They will then all be able to live together in peace.

On the other side of the river at Rivermead, a planning application has been put in for a golf driving range. This seems an inappropriate use of a riverside site and without unsightly protective measures would endanger people walking along the river bank for the kind of informal leisure use more suited to water meadows.

At Caversham Court the dislodged masonry above the main entrance has at last been replaced. Most of the new grass has grown but some turves that have not taken will need to be replaced. It is understood that the next job to be done will be on the old wooden gates under the old arch bearing the date 1551, which will make this a very impressive feature of the gardens.

The lamps on Reading Bridge have also been replaced as practically every one was broken. They look splendid, particularly at night. Sadly, one has already been damaged by some mindless act of vandalism, bitterly discouraging, but something that must not be allowed to stop improvements being carried out.

Unwanted Goods

Waitrose's expansion into selling goods not normally within the traditional range of 'grocery' has continued. Kitchen ware, stationery and haberdashery have now been added and rumour has it that more are planned. Customer reaction is hostile rather than welcoming. The letter in last month's Postbag is typical of what is being said. Whilst no one is suggesting boycotting Waitrose, there is no need to buy these items when a short walk and a few more minutes will bring shoppers to one of the shops whose living depends on selling them.

Similarly, if Waitrose opens on a Sunday, there is no need to shop there. Most of us have sometimes gone to a corner shop on a Sunday for something we have forgotten, but there is a world of difference between small shops opening and large stores opening with all the extra activities it involves. Just where the line has to be drawn is a matter of debate, but the general principle which goes back thousands of years of one day in seven being different from the others in providing a break from everyday business is a good one, whether you use it to go to church, to clean the car, to go and see Grandma, or to lie late in bed. Large scale shopping can be done on the other six days.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEXT STEP CHALLENGE TO ST. BARNABAS

The Whitsunday Service provided a fitting climax to the St. Barnabas Alive activities, a week during which a strong team from St. Aldate's Church in Oxford had permeated our life at St. Barnabas to help us grow in our relationship with Christ. The week started on the Ascensiontide Sunday with a Non-Eucharistic Family Service on the theme 'Choosing'. Led by the St. Aldate's group, the Service included a sketch, choruses and even a puppet show; it was followed immediately by a very well attended Barbecue Lunch in the grounds of Emmer Green Primary School on a rare warm and sunny day, sandwiched between the chill gloom and dampness of much of the rest of May. There was an opportunity to get to know our new friends from St. Aldate's, see an exhibition depicting some of the life at St. Barnabas Church, and to be able to let off steam on a bouncy castle and in games on the sports field. Rarely if ever have so many in the parish come together to get to know each other. All this was preparation for what was to follow.

Much of the work during the week was done through our two young people's and five adult Fellowships. Appropriate teams from Oxford came to share, encourage, guide and lead us in each of these. In addition there were visits to local schools, to the Mums and Tots' Whitsun Service and the Oasis Group. Many of these meetings looked forward to Whitsun, reflected on who had been a "Barnabas" (an encourager and supporter) in our own lives and ended up by inviting each of us to consider what we can do to allow the Holy Spirit more opportunity to work in and through us.

A feature of the week was the real Christian love and joy which arrived with the team and which was reciprocated on the Saturday evening when St. Barnabas had a Family Night out in Emmer Green Community

Centre. This took the form of a Social Evening with a Barn Dance for all ages and a Supper. We were joined by more than a score from Oxford some of whom contributed to our evening by providing an excellent cabaret, which was entertaining, thought provoking and challenging and ended with a memorable mime that took us from the creation and the fall of man to the coming of Jesus and man's salvation through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Whitsunday saw the new altar frontal "St. Barnabas in the midst of the Holy Spirit" in use for the first time. It was also a time for accepting and receiving: accepting Christ and His will for us, and receiving the Holy Spirit. St. Barnabas Church has a periodic practice of prayer with the laying on of hands after Holy Communion; on this occasion we were assisted by the team from St. Aldate's. It was a Service enhanced by the music groups from both churches and containing testimony and a sketch from St. Aldate's. It was moving and memorable. Finally we were challenged to take the Next Step in our Christian life by one of several possibilities; by finding out more about Christianity, becoming a committed Christian, adopting or changing a rule of life, by testing, training or taking up a new ministry, by giving up something God does not want or, in some cases, spending more time with the family.

The week had a considerable impact for which the people at St. Barnabas are indebted to the St. Aldate's Team and particularly to the Revd John Chorlton their leader and Mr Malcolm Taylor who co-ordinated their activities. We were left with an appreciation of partnership in mission, which it is hoped will not have ended with this event. We are also left with an air of anticipation and expectancy wondering where the Holy Spirit will lead us next.



Youngsters working up an appetite on the bouncy castle.



At the Social Evening a wide range enjoyed the Barn Dance.

CAVERSHAM LINK GROUP

At the meeting held on Monday 23rd May the feeling was expressed that efforts should be renewed to raise awareness of the group and its aims, and to encourage new membership.

The Link Group is made up of members of all ages and drawn from many churches; its main aim is to extend friendship in a way which might include personal, practical or financial help as necessary.

Some members not only represent one of the Caversham churches but also have a link with a particular local organisation, such as Reading Family Aid, the Sue Ryder Home, Reading Drop-in Centre and Christian Community Action.

Essentially an action group, Link meet regularly in order to plan future activities, fund raising etc, and to identify where help is needed by organisations and individuals.

The Treasurer was pleased to report that Link held a healthy bank balance, and whilst practical aid in the form of furniture, clothing etc may also be called upon from time to time, they hope to encourage local charities to suggest where help may be needed, and perhaps have a representative join the Link Group, either as a regular member or an occasion helper.

Anyone interested may telephone for further information, or why not come to the social evening being held on Monday 25th July? Ring Pat Jenkins on 478502 for further details or Barbara Graham on 482043.

CONTRIBUTION FROM CROSSWAYS

Mrs Watson, who lives at Crossways, Nuney Green, excelled herself last year by making a splendid profit of \$510, split between Mapledurham Village Hall and the Church. Do pop in (off the Goring Heath Road) and stock up with some of her plants for sale. Well done and thank you!

WELCOME BACK

The Rev. Fred Dawson, who came to Caversham as a deacon in 1969-1972, is returning to the area to become Rector of St. Michael's, Tilehurst, together with his wife Billie and their 4 children. Fred's institution will be on October 1st.

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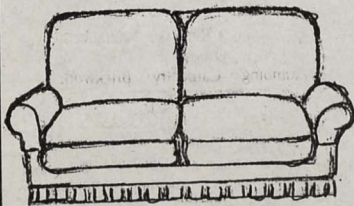
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHRISTIANS URGED TO PRAY TOGETHER



O. Jewiss

Our picture shows the Churches Together in Reading Officers with the County Ecumenical Officer. They are from left to right: Mrs Margaret Dimmick (Caversham Park Church – the retiring Chairperson), Sister Janet Wilcox (Churches Together in Berkshire County Ecumenical Officer), The Revd Elizabeth Brazell (St Agnes and St Paul – the new Chairperson), Miss Jean Sawyer (Caversham Baptist Free Church – Hon. Treasurer) and Miss Mary Brockington (Abbey Baptist Church – Hon. Secretary).

At the recent Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Reading the Revd Elizabeth Brazell, Non-Stipendiary Minister at St. Agnes' and St. Paul's Churches, was installed as the new Chairperson in succession to Mrs Margaret Dimmick and in so doing became only the third woman to hold the office. The first part of the evening was concerned with the receipt of reports, many of which were on the wealth of social action that goes on in Reading under the aegis of Churches Together. Among these were reports from CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre), the Women's Centre, the Housing Working Party, the Industry, Trade and Employment Mission, Christian Aid, Concern for Southern Africa, Reading-Dusseldorf Churches Interchange, and Reading-San Francisco Libre Churches Committee. There were also reports on the events in the six local Churches Together within the Reading area. All of this gave an impressive picture of ecumenical activity. However, by the time the special speaker, Sister Janet Wilcox, the County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Berkshire, had finished her contribution later in the evening we became less certain of the completeness of our ecumenical involvement. She emphasised that joint activity could not and should not be confined to social action, it should lead to prayer. Although it is true that within

the social action groups the action is often undergirded by prayers, could the same be said about the ecumenical activity of those not so involved?

Sister Janet pointed out that commitment cannot be imposed; it came from faith which burns from within. There were no true ecumenists without interior conversion. Those who were so changed demonstrated enthusiasm; indifference is the enemy of enthusiasm. Prayer is a simple but hard way to rekindle enthusiasm. Unfortunately in Churches Together we had drifted away from praying together. Sister Janet pointed out that the Gospel tells of Jesus praying that we might be one; he also told his disciples to pray. Prayer is the most powerful tool we have and it is difficult to pray alone. During his period as Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire the Bishop of Reading had urged us to be people of prayer. We needed to discover God's vision for us and not rely on ours. Churches Together in Berkshire now intends to form a spirituality group which would provide an impetus for and aid us in our praying together. Also it is anticipated that the 1995 Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Berkshire would focus on prayer and thereby give us new spiritual insights and encourage learning and growth in our personal and corporate spiritual lives together.

DYSON'S WOOD AUTISTIC TRUST

A Summer Fair will be held in the grounds of Dyson's Wood House, Tokers Green, on 24th July from 12.00 noon to 5 pm.

Ploughman's lunches and teas will be served and there will be stalls, sideshows and a Grand raffle draw. All are most welcome. Dyson's Wood lies north of Caversham Heights, up Priest's Hill, Kidmore Road and Tokers Green Lane. It is sign-posted on the right at Rokeby Drive in Tokers Green.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

Seventeen Fellowship members enjoyed an idyllic day out on May 11th when they went to National Trust Stourhead on a small, but comfortable coach. The weather was beautiful and everyone was able to enjoy the magnificent grounds with lake and follies. The house was most interesting and well worth seeing, as was the church nearby.

The small hotel by the entrance gate to the house is National Trust property too, and provided excellent refreshment, as did the tea room. There was also a well stocked shop. It was a very enjoyable day.

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST DIARY

3rd July 11am & 6.30 pm

Rev. John Stephens from London, a former Superintendent Minister in the Reading Circuit.

10th July 11am

Rev. David Moody with Lord Lionel Murray (Len Murray of TUC fame) who will speak on behalf of NCH Action for Children.

14th July 2.30pm

Induction of Mrs Joan Moody as President of the Reading Free Church Women's Council. Her project for her year in office will be Feed the Children. There will be tea after this service.

17th July 9.30am

All Age Praise conducted by Rev. David Moody

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CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(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.
The Rev Sheila Nunn, 27 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070

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 John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

OBITUARY

Mrs Helen Rolfe

The late Mrs Helen Rolfe of Greve Hill, Caversham, who died on May 3rd 1994, after a long illness, will be remembered by many people in the Emmer Green area.

Helen and her husband Bert organized Old Time Dancing on behalf of Emmer Green Social Club for many years, every Wednesday at St Barnabas Hall and The Hill School.

Helen made lovely cakes and refreshments when a big dance was arranged on a Saturday night, which everyone enjoyed.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

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
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns)
6.30pm Evening Prayer
An up to date list or weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

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 10.30am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANNE'S

St. Anne's Hall saw the 4th annual parish concert held on Saturday May 21st. The evening provided a diverse range of musical entertainment from solo classical pieces to the traditional church choir finale. The evening was given an excellent start by Karen Ip, a student at Queen Anne's, playing Chopin's "Polonaise In A" for the piano. Other highlights of the first half included Victoria Naxton (oboe), Laura Zverko (flute), Liam Brooker (guitar), Patty Naxton (vocal), whose version of Cole Porter's "Just One Of Those Things" had the entire audience participating, and Maria Featch and Anna Smith with a magnificent duet of the Evita classic "Another Suitcase In Another Hall" followed by the more traditional "The Weaver And The Factory Maid". The half was brought to a close by the full gathering of the St. Anne's School recorder group. Around forty children, ranging from several years experience to just a few months, provided a fabulous rendition of Beethoven's "Ode To Joy".

After the interval (tea, cakes and raffle!), the more experienced members of the recorder group treated the audience to a breathtaking rendition of "A Taste Of Honey" which was warmly received by the audience. A trio of school clarinet players provided a lively version of "Rockin' Rhythm" and the programme continued with Cliff Nash (piano) and Terry Bryanton, the compere for the evening, with a remarkable version of Errol Garner's "Misty" on classical guitar, followed by Sainz De La Maza's "Homenaje A La Guitarra". The highlight of the half was the solo spot taken by the parish's very own Father Meagher, who agreed to solo after another member of the cast was taken ill. His three songs were highly appreciated by his parish flock, especially when he sang "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen". The church choir provided the finale to the evening, with J.S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring", Gilbert and Sullivan's "Madrigal" and Jarman and Wesley's "O For A Thousand Tongues". The evening had proved once again that the parish contained an enormous wealth of talent, and the audience retired for the night knowing that they had been well and truly entertained.

St. Anne's Parish Concert



St. Anne's School Recorder Group playing "A Taste of Honey".



St. Anne's Church Choir

INDUSTRIAL MISSION: THE END OR THE BEGINNING

Such was the dramatic title of the interesting talk given by the Revd Roger Holloway, Director of Industry Churches Forum at the recent Annual General Meeting of Reading's Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM). After a career in commerce in the Far East, where he had been a Non-stipendiary Minister, the Revd Roger Holloway now found himself spokesman for industrial mission at a time when there was an increasing lack of interest in and a suspicion of this sector ministry, when sections of the church were under financial stress, and after the Bishop of London had made all his industrial chaplains redundant.

He was sharply critical of the church which had not penetrated the working lives of the people in its care. It needed to look back at the working life of Jesus. Certainly the church valued those engaged in the caring professions but there was a reluctance to pray for others who were actually employed. He exemplified the relatively new Church of England Alternative Services Book in which the prayers made no mention of people's working lives. Generally he was critical of the church for the lack of interest in people during their working hours. The Industrial Mission movement he accused of being backward looking. There was a need for outreach to people untouched by the church and for it to speak out and be relevant. He maintained that in evangelism we ought first to persuade people that Christianity is good and then that it is true. Industrial mission should gather up the happenings of daily life into faith.

He praised organisations such as ITEM because they had a specific role at local level. We have a responsibility for the people who work all around us. He believed that the church had a difficulty in its mission to

industrial society but he thought that out of defeat would come new life. He considered that we were still at the beginning of industrial mission which should be done ecumenically. As Christians, we must be available and witness to our fellow men.



— O. Jewiss

Our picture shows some members of the ITEM Executive with the speaker at the AGM. They are from left to right: Mr Bernard Miller (Treasurer), the Revd Roger Holloway (Director of the Industry Churches Forum), the Revd David Clark (ITEM Industrial Officer), Mr. Phil Theaker (Executive Member) and Mr Colin James (Chairman of ITEM).

of ministry, he has not sought reappointment. However, in his final report he points out that paid employment occupies up to 100,000 hours of our lives and he is saddened by the lack of interest among church people locally in the work of ITEM. That the work is valued in the Anglican Diocese is indicated by the fact that, even in times of severe financial stress, funding has been forthcoming for another part-time three year appointment and, while the other denominations are unable locally to offer the same level of financial help, most have registered their support for this area of mission.

ITEM itself finds itself in a period of change. The Revd David Clark, the present Industrial Officer, was thanked for his work over the past seven years. His contract ends in June and, feeling called to other areas

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ITEM — NEW APPOINTMENT

Sue Penon has been appointed as Industrial Officer for ITEM to succeed the Rev. David Clark.

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PAWS... FOR THOUGHT



From Theophilus to the readers of the Caversham Bridge,
Greetings

It seems a long time since I wrote to you concerning my new friend "Paws". Come to think of it, it IS a long time since I penned what I thought would be my only letter to you all. Anyway, this is definitely my last one. 'Paws' takes over next month.

I want to say thank you to all of you who took the trouble to write in to me about 'Paws' - yes, that's his name. It was a very moving experience to read the histories and at times I cried 'bear' tears (if crocodiles have their tears, so can bears) and my fur was quite wet. Anyway, having made my decision - which was very difficult - I asked the 'boss' if he'd have a look (the boss drives around CPV in a dirty white Astra) and he too came up with the same history and name.

Let me tell you that Paws really has come to life. The boss and I accompanied Paws to visit a lady who had shown such an interest in him and she thought he was real and had doggie biscuits and a bowl of water for him. The

look of surprise when she realised that reality was in the mind. She spent the hour hugging him instead.

Anyway, my thanks to everyone who wrote in. I wish I could give everyone a prize. Anna Clark was the only one to write in the under-13 section, so £5 is being presented to her, and £5 too goes to Phyl Duckworth for her name and history.

So much for me. If you want to read my regular column in the Caversham Park Church newsletter do get in touch via the boss's answerphone (475152) and I will arrange for you to receive it. In the meantime I hand over to my great friend Paws and leave you in his capable paws - only hope he doesn't go on as I do.

With lots of bear hugs to you all,
Theophilus.

These are the winning letters:

Dear Reader,

I'm so excited to have this chance to tell you all about myself.

I am one of a family of six, two boys and four girls. I don't remember Mum and Dad, as we were given away early in life. I was given to a boy called Bill, for his eleventh birthday. He was very good to start with, and then I became a bit of a chore. His parents went out to work, and Bill was at school, so I spent the week days in a shed on a long rope. I got into some awful tangles with that dreaded rope. Evenings were best, when I had my meal and could sit with Bill while he did his homework and watched TV, but he went out a lot with friends and played football. I never did get to see a football match.

It was the holiday that did it. They couldn't afford to put me in a kennels, and nobody wanted me, so one day Bill's Dad took me in the car and

dumped me on the Henley Road. That was really frightening. I crossed the road twice, but each time I nearly got run over. It rained a lot and I got very hungry. I tried to make friends with people and smiled and wagged my tail madly, but they took no notice. I then found a place with heaps and heaps of houses and cars, but they weren't like the Henley Road cars, because they went along very slowly, and at night they were handy for sitting under, out of the rain.

The next day I was desperate and barked, scratched and thumped on several doors, but was chased away, until I came to No. 51. The door opened and there was this chap with a beard, and WHAM! It was instant bonding, know what I mean? Life's been great ever since, and "Wag-Wag" (that's what I call him) said he wanted me to write - to all of you - well, my bone overfloeth! I can assure you, you couldn't get a better dog for the job. I'm highly intelligent (I get that from my Dad) and am full of bright thoughts.

With Bags of Wags
and endless Woofs.

Paws 

(Phyllis Duckworth)

Dear Theophilus,

I think the dog should be called Bridget (because she writes for Caversham Bridge - get it?)

This is my story about the dog.

The dog lived in a big house with her mother and her mistress. One year the mistress took them on a cruise to the Caribbean and there was a great storm and the ship sank. The dog was washed up on an uninhabited island. After a couple of weeks a Navy ship passed the island. The captain saw the dog and took her home with him, but when he got home his wife said: "If you don't get rid of her I will drown her". So the captain (though it nearly broke his heart) turned her out on the street, so that's how she arrived on your doorstep.

(Anna Clark, aged 10)

The other entries were:

To Theophilus, from Jeremiah

I have not long had my first name, having recently received it from my latest friend and dear companion, after various other names given me by previous owners during my quite long and, I may say, somewhat arduous history.

My earliest memory was coming into the hands - and sometimes ungente feet - of a pretty little girl called Mary. At that time I was a handsome fellow, trusting and affectionate, with fluffy fur 'clean as a new pin' as they say. I was really fond of Mary, but, my goodness, she had one tremendous problem, a terrible temper. She tried so hard to be good, but at times she suffered such rages, her only way to control herself was to retreat to her bedroom and throw me furiously against the wall time and time again. After she had 'let off steam' she would be overcome by remorse and hug me, apologising profusely and weeping the while. A sensitive child, and I loved her dearly. When she grew older she presented me to a small boy cousin.

This cousin, Timothy by name, was cheerful and absent-minded. Yes, this was the snag. He had wanted a real puppy, but it was fortunate I needed neither food nor exercise. At times he would forget me and leave me out in the garden all night. This could be distinctly unpleasant, particularly in the rain. Poor child, he had to go into hospital for a time, and forgot to take me home. However, I made many friends, young and old during my stay.

My names have varied according to the character of each new friend. A few of them were: Rover, Bonzo, Tiger. Eventually, after some wear and tear, the names became descriptive of my state, such as Patch and Scruffy.

I had been feeling abandoned and rather weary when I was found at Church House by my present friend and partner. My delight was great when I found he could actually read my mind! We have had many interesting discussions on all kinds of topics and lately he has suggested I should borrow his voice and so general communication was achieved. He explained that there was another Jeremiah who was given the gift of speaking in public and hence my present name. I am now well cared for, and look forward to speaking to you and also writing for Caversham Bridge.

(Mrs J. Westwood)

The History of Scruff

I cannot remember a lot of my life as a young puppy, only that the only memories I have are unpleasant, for I was born a mongrel puppy to a family who had a pedigree terrier. They abandoned me at the side of the motorway and if it wasn't for a policeman grabbing

Turn to Page 9

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

By the time you read this – always supposing you do – we shall be well into July and summer events half over. But I must remind readers that there really is so much going on even now and if possible most of these events will be well worth a visit. I was glad to see St. John's and Gosbrook Road Methodists combining to make visits to both very easy. There was so much to see but hopefully they will be repeating some of these things next year.

Support our Local Shops

This month, mindful of comments in May's issue, I made a special effort to read most of the contents in June. Like our correspondent I did take up the subject of extra things being sold in Waitrose with their local manager, who assured me that flowers, for instance, shouldn't make much difference as probably not many would actually buy them there. But the £10 they might make will be £10 one of our local shopkeepers would lose. Like our correspondent I have always been impressed by the quality of the service in Waitrose and hate to criticise, but the recent 'face-lift' does call for some comment. After several weeks we regular shoppers are still finding it less than easy to find our way around and I'm sure none of us appreciate being able to buy things like books, household ware, flowers etc., which we can easily buy in our local shops. Of course I realise that local managers probably don't have much say in these matters and I do sympathise but perhaps they could pass on our comments to head office.

June Issue

As for the rest, there was so much worth reading that I hesitate to pick out any particular contribution, but mention should be made of the fact that Molly Casey produced her usual Residents' Viewpoint in spite of

being handicapped by an operation on her arm. Glad to know she is progressing well.

Queen Anne's

Many of you will know of the celebrations at Queen Anne's on their centenary anniversary. I intended soliciting a full report from a member of Queen Anne's staff, but alas they seemed to be far too occupied with what seems to have been a wonderful celebration. Never mind, at least the local paper covered various events, and I was pleased to hear that Miss Scott and Miss Challis, both previous headmistresses were at some of the celebrations.

Our Youngsters

In these mobile society days it is good that some of our young people stay in the area long enough for us to get to know them and follow their progress. I know, for instance, that Guy Brown from the Pet Shop is still pursuing his career as entertainments organiser on the high seas. I'm not quite sure where he is at present but I know he is enjoying life and seeing a lot of the world. Fortunately he appears in Caversham often enough for me to keep up with some of his activities.

Things are humming down at the Book Shop and some of you will have seen the advertisement for 'house portraits' painted by John Robert, who is studying Visual Arts and Literature at Staffordshire University. Details and samples can be had from the bookshop or phone 482800. Personally I find the examples, in traditional ink and watercolours quite charming and if I can ever find room I shall be only too pleased to commission something from him.

Meanwhile young James, aged 9, who is at the Oratory Prep is on his way with the school's special choir to take part in D-Day commemorations when they will be singing at Mont St. Michel Abbey, Bayeux Cathedral and at special masses in some of the villages liberated by the Allied invasion in 1944. Next month we hope to let you have more details about how it all went.

Congratulations to both these youngsters and we look forward to hearing more news of their progress in the future.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

from page 8

me by the scruff of the neck I would not be here today. It is from that incident I got my name of Scruff.

The police took me to a dogs' home and it was there I was befriended by a vicar and his family, I suppose it was a natural pet really for someone with a dog-collar. This is partly the reason why I am able to write (with a little assistance) this column. I had in the family a privileged position for only I was allowed to accompany my master into his study when he was writing his sermons.

This was a nice situation though at times I did have to dodge rough drafts as they were hurled towards the rubbish bin. It seemed on a number of occasions that my master was using me as a sounding board and he would frequently address questions to me, then answer them himself. I do sometimes wonder what his face would have looked like if I had chipped in with my thoughts.

However, now I do have my chance to give my thoughts to you all on a range of subjects including how we should love one another (even, I suppose, the cats of this world). It is my hope as well that you will all consider yours and other people's pets as well as people with your actions. It is unfortunately not only children who get left "Home Alone". (Peter J. Anderson)

Dear Theophilus,

My name is Misky, which just about sums me up – a miscellaneous bundle of mischief! I haven't a long story, being just a youngster, just a puppy, really, but you can tell from the twinkle in my eye and the way my tongue hangs out that I find life fun, and I can't wait to go off on the next adventure.

I stood on the shelf in the shop for a long time, watching people coming and going – I did so want to be out there, going somewhere, doing something, too. I decided to take the first opportunity that came my way. Then, this tall, bespectacled, bearded man came in, and I could see from the look in his eye that he, too, found life fun, so I thought "He'll do!" and jumped off the shelf into his arms. That's how I came to be at Church House, and do you know, he's one of us, because he wears a dog collar too!

I think I chose well, because now I go to all sorts of places, and meet all sorts of people. Even the church service was fun – but you've been there too, so you know what a great time that can be!

Yours affectionately,
Misky. (Jeanne Smith)

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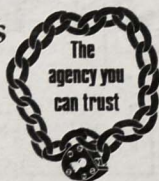
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TERNS (Part 1)

Rather like the adult Swallow, terns have noticeably forked tails. In summer they light up our coastlines with their white, delicate proportions and happy, buoyant flight, often hovering before plunging for whitebait.

The four main species which breed in Britain are the Common, Arctic, Sandwich and Little Terns. A fifth, the Roseate Tern, although of worldwide distribution, is a scarce breeder around our coasts. It is a beautiful creature with long-tail streamers, a faint rose-pink flush on the breast, visible only at close quarters, and a pure white, 'see-through' under-wing.

Each year Common Terns have bred at several gravel-pits in the Reading and Caversham areas, although there does seem to be a slight decline this spring. Most years Arctic Terns have been seen in small numbers passing through, and less seldom the Sandwich and Little Tern.

From a tern's point of view, life is easier inland than out at sea, where they have to avoid the parasitic attention of skuas which chase and force them to drop the fish being carried back to their young, then catch and consume it on the wing themselves.

The Arctic Tern travels an incredible 50,000 miles or more annually on migration, from the high arctic to the southern pack-ice. It then circumnavigates the world from west to east before returning home to the arctic.

Recently, one Sunday afternoon, news was received about the arrival that morning of a Whiskered Tern at a gravel-pit near Tewkesbury. This prompted a group of us to hastily pile into the car and head north-westwards! A couple of hours later, we had fine views of this spectacular marsh tern from Eastern Europe, with its breathtaking 'aerobics' and contrasting plumage. It departed overnight, and was not seen again.

'Revenge was Sweet' as back in the '70's. I arrived some nine minutes too late to witness this same species making its final 'quartering' of the pond at Didcot Power Station. In twit-chers' jargon, that was a 'Big Dip-out', as give or take a few miles, it was virtually 'on my own patch'!

Tewkesbury is a superbly clean market town, standing quietly on the Avon, with its fine abbey church, once part of a Benedictine monastery. I made a mental resolve to pay it a more leisurely visit one day and savour its charms, which a hasty drive through en route to a Whiskered Tern, failed to provide!

SCOPS OWL

CAVERSHAM'S POP IN CENTRE

What is the Pop In Centre? Well, those of you who read your 'Bridge' will know that it is a place where one can rest after shopping, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea for a nominal charge as well as have a chat with the other customers and helpers.

It is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings between the hours of 10 and 12, in the large room upstairs at Church House.

Originally, back in 1984, it was the brainchild of two ladies, Doreen Bennett and Linda Bates, who got together a group of over twenty helpers, and opened the Pop In for the first time in April of that year. Linda moved away from Caversham shortly after but Doreen still helps out each month, and our thanks are due to her as well as to several others of the original helpers who still continue to take their monthly turn of duty.

Over the years the Pop In has had several organisers and these include Doreen Bennett, Peggy Baldwin, Marie-Paul Norgrove, Judy Dooley, Viv Kennedy, and its present organiser, Susie Mee. All these ladies deserve a vote of thanks for their efforts. Harry Hobbs was for many years, until his untimely death, the Pop In's Treasurer, the present Treasurer being Ben Archer.

If you have not yet visited the Pop In please make the effort to do so. Admittedly there are about eighteen stairs to climb before you reach it but you will find it well worth the effort.

The Pop In also needs new helpers as old ones move away so if you can spare three hours a month, on a Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9.30 to 12.30 please give Susie Mee a call on 471742 – she will be very pleased to hear from you.

Former Server, Elizabeth Pugh, married Gary Stokes at St Peter's Church on May 14th. The couple will live in Manchester, where Elizabeth is a Registered Children's Nurse.



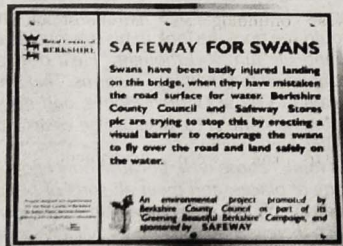
Picture by
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"SAFEGWAY FOR SWANS"!!

Some time ago pennants were erected on Caversham Bridge in an effort to prevent swans landing on the bridge instead of in the river. These were quite successful, but had become rather 'weather-worn' over the passage of time. Safeway Stores and Berkshire County Council have come to the rescue and this time erected a festoon of orange balls, similar to those used on power lines, which should prove equally successfully and more durable.



"Swan Balls" on Caversham Bridge. E.S. Archer



Plaque erected on Caversham Bridge acknowledging Safeway Stores' (with Berkshire County Council) help in erecting the "Swan Balls."

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Emmer Green T.G.

The Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held in St Barnabas Hall on a Tuesday evening in May.

ARTS & CRAFTS - several members have offered to organise on a month at a time basis.

WORDS & MUSIC - the last month's meeting on a "Good Read" was very successful and Pam Ridley the organiser of this group said she had already started to read a very good book which she had heard of through this meeting. The next month's meeting will be in the evening again and will be "Biographies" and "Autobiographies".

RAMBLERS - have had a good walk through the woods at Cane End although the ground is still extremely wet and muddy. The Ramblers have also enjoyed a very successful walking holiday in Torquay lead by a local guide who lives in Plymouth called Paul Rendell. This Guide knew the area including the moors so well and proved to be very popular with the ladies of the Rambling Club. The walks were approximately 7-8 miles a day walking across moors and along the coast. There was also a walk to Cockington Green where they had the added pleasure of watching French Dancers in their native costumes. The walks including the hotel was voted by all as a "great success."

The Chairman was pleased to announce that those members who had so kindly knitted the squares for the "Winged Fellowship" had made the sum of £160.

Next month the

competition will be based on two flowers or one flower and a piece of foliage in a container.

The Chairman also asked if any member had a large enough garden to hold this year's "Garden Party" in August. If a Garden Party cannot be held it was suggested that a few smaller Coffee mornings be held instead.

The rest of the evening the members sat in several groups and discussed future "Programme Planning" for the monthly meetings. There were lots of new and also old favourites suggested to help the future programme planners on the committee.

Caversham W.I.

After the business part of the meeting, including two successful visits to Tesco's and the Orchid Room at Reading Technical College, members welcomed Mrs Collinge VCO for the resolution discussion. The first two resolutions proved rather contentious and the delegate was instructed to abstain on voting. The third resolution received unanimous approval.

Members were reminded of the Summer Fair on July 9th.

University of the Third Age Reading

The Open Meeting at the Kennet Room had for its speaker Mr Jerry Petherick the Governor of Reading prison. Members were most impressed by the care he shows towards his prisoners. He pointed out that as his charges



Courtesy Reading Chronicle

Banners, balloons and birthday cake greeted past and present members of St Peter's Wives Group on 17 May as they assembled for their 30th anniversary party. They came bearing plates of food and a happy evening was enjoyed by all. The first two Chairmen, neither now living in Caversham, had come to greet old friends and join in the celebrations. Other former members had travelled from as far away as Yorkshire, Bedford and the Lake District. There was a full set of all the programmes since 1964 on display, as well as family photos from that year. Of particular interest was a cutting from the Daily Mirror dated 17 January 1963. The headline proclaimed "REBEL WIVES GET OK FROM BISHOP". The article described how, when the group was set up, it had been decided to welcome divorced and separated wives as well as widows and, of course, those still married. This had meant that the Group could not be affiliated to the Mothers' Union (nb the MU has changed its rules over the intervening years and they are now similar to St Peter's Wives). The group continues to include all these categories as well as single women. In fact, all ladies are very welcome to join, make friends and enjoy the varied programme.

are on remand they cannot work so the filling up of their time is very difficult. The outbreak before Christmas was a tremendous blow but extensive enquiries have quite exonerated the staff - two of whom are still on sick leave.

The Books group discussed 'Under the Greenwood Tree' and 'The Woodlanders' by Thomas Hardy. The Play Reading group tackled Tom Stoppard's new play 'Arcadia' but several were baffled by its science.

The newly found Art Workshop is proving to be very popular. It is well attended by a very mixed group of artists and the fully equipped art room is much appreciated. The walks have now restarted and the bluebell walk in May was very enjoyable.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Mrs Grace McGregor phone 866037.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the members and mentioned Mrs Harwood was continuing to make good progress with her health and hoped to be rejoining members in the near future. Arrangements for the Club's outing to Eastbourne were finalised and the hope was for a dry sunny day to enjoy it.

The speakers for the afternoon meeting were Mr Rickard and Mr Cotten from the

Red Cross, and they had brought along a video of the suffering in so many countries showing how the Red Cross were there doing so much to ease and help the wounded and give aid wherever needed. A young man named Henry Dunant was so deeply moved by suffering and lack of care that he proposed every country should create a voluntary agency of trained members, and in the year 1863 the Red Cross was founded. Today the International Red Cross movement is the world's largest voluntary movement with a worldwide membership close to a quarter of a million. There are ninety-six branches operating throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was a very enlightening look into the wonderful work the Red Cross are so closely involved in and members showed their appreciation for an interesting afternoon in their usual way.

Caversham Afternoon T.G.

The Guild's May meeting opened with an almost full attendance of members. Mrs Spall, chairman, informed members that the TG's petition on a national level was recently presented to Parliament bearing forty thousand signatures. This petition aims to rid the law of a piece of seventeenth century thinking and to allow a woman who kills her

husband after prolonged violent abuse to enter a defence of provocation. This issue which is supported by other organisations, including W.I., will not go away, it is said, and a review of the law of homicide is called for. A similar measure is due to be introduced in the Upper House by Lord (Jack) Ashley.

Reports from committee members followed, the recent trip to Winchester and to the Silk Mill having been most successful. A visit to Syon House is planned next; as most garden enthusiasts will know this is the estate of the Duke of Northumberland.

Members had been asked to bring along a personal childhood photograph and attempts were soon under way to marry up the likeness to present day faces - much hilarity ensuing over the (mostly wrong) answers!

Mr Bird entertained and informed the Guild with his programme "Holiday Snaps". His slides and fascinating accounts of Hawaii and the other South Sea Islands soon had members enthralled. Glorious views of Bali Ha'i invoked memories of the play and film 'South Pacific' and members were let into a secret or two of the achieving of one of his picturesque sunsets. Certainly a holiday never to be forgotten.

The Guild meets on the third Thursday in the month at 2pm at Church House. New members and visitors always welcome.



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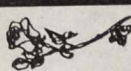
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