

KIDS for KIDS

Rotary and Inner Wheel combine
in charity initiative

The Rotary Club of Caversham and members of Caversham Inner Wheel recently held a joint lunch in support of Kids for Kids, an overseas charity active in the Sudan. The event, which was held in the Caversham Heath Golf Club, was also supported by the wives and partners of Rotary Club members. The meeting was addressed by Mrs Sylvia Ezen, who took the place of the Founder of Kids for Kids, Patricia Parker MBE, who was making one of her periodic visits to the Sudan.

Sylvia explained that Kids for Kids was a long-term sustainable project designed to assist the population of the North Darfu region in north Sudan. The objective was to provide impoverished families with a young goat, which in due course would provide milk for the young children. At a later stage the goat would produce its own kids, some of which would be donated to other families as a basis of what would become their own herds. Sylvia revealed that 124 families were already benefiting from the scheme. Apart from providing goats for the villagers, the charity was equipping communities with pipe wells, complete with hand-pumps, and offering donkeys and harnesses to carry water and fodder. Other initiatives included the establishment of a veterinary programme, training of midwives and the provision of solar lamps designed to help children continue to study after sunset.

At the conclusion of the lunch, the president of Caversham Inner Wheel, Gwen Bowman, and the president of Caversham Rotary Club, handed cheques on behalf of their members. The proceeds of a raffle, amounting to one hundred pounds, was also subsequently donated to the charity.



- Photo courtesy C. McCombe

Gwen Bowman, president of the Caversham Inner Wheel, and Mac McCombe, president of the Rotary Club of Caversham, simultaneously hand cheques to Sylvia Ezen, a committee member of the charity 'Kids for Kids'.

Winter Tasks at Clayfield Copse



Clayfield Blackhouse are beautiful places to visit and a haven for wild life. On the edge of the Oxfordshire countryside, the woodland of

and used for hurdles, dead hedging and bean sticks etc.

The Green Gym will be continuing their dead hedging skills along the bridle way, and CROW volunteers will be coppicing and clearing.

Other volunteers will be clearing

bluebells and the open fields make it a popular place for walkers and lovers of nature. It is also a vulnerable site from over-use, from dumping, and from proliferation of non-native species.

The Friends group was set up to protect the site. They are local people who visit regularly and feel passionately about it.

The Friends have a management plan, which, simply put, ensures that as far as they are able, in their voluntary capacity, the site will be maintained for the benefit of wild life and users.

By having footpaths cleared, walkers will stay on them instead of making numerous side paths into the deep woodland so that there is minimum disturbance of wildlife. Unfortunately horses have been seen in the woods and fields. When the bridleway is improved, hopefully this year, we hope they will stay 'on track'. Reading Parks Department need to decide whether we want horse riders and cyclists on site, in which case give them proper surfaces to travel on, or ban them from the site. The damage done by excessive hooves and tyres is detrimental to footpaths for users, and, when in the woods, detrimental to the plants growing there.

Winter and early spring are busy times; we work in the woodland until the end of March when the birds begin to nest. We are clearing the undergrowth to allow bluebells to thrive and we are coppicing small blocks of hazel. This is a traditional way of managing woods, the hazel is harvested every 7 years, the wands are



Photo - J. Oliver

Green Gym building a dead hedge in Blackhouse Wood.

sycamore felled last year in 'The Dell' to allow for planting in March with oak, hazel, guelder rose etc. Bluebells do not grow well under sycamore, so hopefully they will spread into the cleared areas. We do hope some of the people who appreciate the woodland will come along.

Friends of Clayfield Copse meet on the first Sunday of the month at 10am in the car park. If you are one of the hundreds who visit and value this site, can you please help us with this work? No special skills are needed nor expertise. You work entirely at your own level - every little helps!

The tools are provided and a talk is given beforehand on how to use them safely. We brew up coffee and tea on the job. You need to wear sturdy shoes and waterproof clothes but we can provide protective clothing, gloves, helmets, etc when necessary.

For further details please contact Anne Latta (948 4454) or Judith Oliver (947 8920).

Look forward to meeting you!



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The Caversham Bridge is delivered each
month to homes in Caversham. It could be
delivered to you for £2.40 per year. If you
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TALKING POINT

By

Derek Chandler

PUT FASTING FIRST

My mum has always been a viewer of television cooking programmes. Food means something very particular to my mum. This is because she spent most of her childhood in an orphanage. Although she did not starve, life certainly was not easy. She cannot understand people of my generation who, for convenience, need to take something out of the freezer, put it in the microwave and eat it within the space of twenty minutes. To her, something has been undervalued. I suppose, in a funny kind of way, she believes that food is sacred. To that extent my mum has a very biblical outlook.

In the Bible, food acts as a focal point for important occasions. But Jewish meals were never purely physical or social. Meals embodied central aspects of the spiritual life. Therefore, abstaining from eating possessed a religious significance. Whether for national mourning or some significant hope, fasting always held the purpose of seeking to come closer to God.

When Jesus was baptized He naturally went out into the wilderness to ponder on His role and focus His vision more clearly on His task. The wilderness was a place to refine oneself, a place where you came closer to God. Probably taking little provision, it is no surprise that Jesus' first temptation involved food. More than any other spiritual discipline, fasting can reveal the things that control us: non-essentials, also called junk, like junk food. They can become habit-forming and are not always healthy. We have focused on food so far, but actually, fasting can concern other areas of our life: what we spend our time doing as well as eating.

A friend of mine once gave up watching Coronation Street for a month. Instead, she spent her time working in a soup-run for the homeless. It was a kind of fasting, and it helped her see her life more clearly. If we look at fasting in this way then we don't fall into the trap of believing that fasting is simply about giving up chocolate for Lent. Fasting is more about fine tuning all our senses, all our appetites: giving something up perhaps, but doing it in order to gain something far greater, helping us to fine tune our lives more as God desires them to be rather than being under the controlling desires of other things or people.

When Jesus came out of the wilderness He was ready to offer Good News to others about the way life could be. His message about the Kingdom of God still stands amid all the junk that can fill our lives. Dare you put fasting first this Lent?

Revd Derek Chandler is vicar of St Barnabas' Church, Emmer Green.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the April 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 3rd March. The date for submission of items for the May 2004 issue will be Wednesday 7th April.

All advertising copy for the April 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 2nd March. For the May 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday 6th April 2004.

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

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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Branch, 11 Gurney Drive, Caversham, RG4 7LG. Tel: 947 7534.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board. The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX Tel: 0118 947 1703.

Typeset by Seven Ash Printing & Graphics Co. Ltd, 25 Milford Road, Reading RG1 8LG Tel: 0118 958 0569 Fax: 0118 958 1330 ISSN: 0118 958 1340 E-mail: service@sevenash.demon.co.uk
Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

8.00am The Holy Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

St Barnabas', Grove Road, Emmer Green

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

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
All Age Worship (4th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am Prospect Street
6.30pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road)

10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,

Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm

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

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers),

Church Street, Reading

10.30am

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service

SCHOOLS

St Martin's News



Photograph by Jane Shaw

A group of pupils work with Yuko making snakes out of plasticine.

Through the "International Internship Programme", St Martin's Catholic Primary School has a Japanese intern working in the school for six months.

Anne Hogg, the Deputy Head, reports as follows: the Japanese lady's name is Yuko Yanagisawa and she is working alongside teachers and children of all age groups. The staff and children will benefit from learning about Japanese culture through a range of activities such as origami, art, dress design, calligraphy and cooking.

In return, Yuko will be developing her skills in speaking English fluently and will be learning about our way of life.

Yuko will be staying with two different families from the school. Already she has experienced a range of entertainment and sight-seeing.

THE ORATORY SCHOOL

Blessing of The Site, Wednesday 17th December 2003

A good solid foundation is a necessary requirement for a sound building.

In the Christian tradition, the natural skills of the architect and the builder are complemented by the invocation of a blessing to remind us that Christ must be the true Foundation of all endeavours. This is especially true of The Oratory School which takes great pride in having been founded by Cardinal John Henry Newman as a Catholic school to educate boys to fulfil their greatest potential and develop an attitude that is both confident and at the same time courteous and considerate.

The school continues to expand and has embarked upon a programme of building to include two splendid new boarding houses. The photograph shows the Chaplain, Fr Antony Conlon, blessing the new building site in the

presence of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Jack Eyston, the Head Master, Mr Clive Dytor, and other Governors of the school.



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All Saints church (C of E) is just round the corner in Downshire Square and Churches of other Denominations are within easy reach.

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BYSTANDER

Nomad has now become a Shropshire lad and who can blame him? Shrewsbury is an attractive town, steeped in history, the home of Caedfal, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (yes, we're also on the edge of one), all making it an opportunity waiting to be taken.

It is said that no one is indispensable and in the long run that has got to be true; but some are more indispensable than others and Nomad was one of those. It is going to take a bit of time to fill the gap left by his departure.

However, to show that he was forgiven, the committee of CADRA entertained him and Susan to a Sunday afternoon teaparty. For many years Derek had been the Association's planning officer - a hard act to follow in the wake of Doris Thomas - regularly inspecting the planning register to see if there was anything that would have a marked effect on Caversham. Latterly he had also been chairman. Moreover he was closely involved with the Safer Caversham Group. He was given two books, one of which was 'Three Men in a Boat', still funny all these years after first publication. Susan was given flowers as a mark of appreciation.

As the former Watchdog I have been temporarily disinterested but for a maximum of three issues, by which time a more long-term incumbent will have taken over.

Changes in the centre

As I look at Caversham since last laying down my pen (and it is a pen, not a computer) I see that the few changes, have, on the whole, been cosmetic. The central area is now block paved and the curtilage of the library much improved with a good brick wall, pillars and railings. Some more trees have been planted, particularly on the south side and there is a welcome bus shelter for those awaiting the bus into town. The name 'Hemdean Road' is plain to see on a good iron signpost, visible to pedestrians and drivers alike. On the opposite side of the road Warings has introduced a pavement café, though for the most part England is not the natural home of pavement cafes.

Post Office closures

The most serious change to take place in Caversham for a long time will be in April when there will be a mass closing down of post offices. Wouldn't you think that a shop in which you are hardly ever the only customer and which at peak times can have queues stretching out into the street and which supplies an essential service would be regarded as successful and would remain open? Not so. Three post offices will be closing across the Caversham area, one being in Caversham Road. In compensation there will be post office counters in existing shops. Such closures have happened elsewhere and petitions with hundreds of signatures have failed to persuade the Post Office to change its collective mind.

There has been a post office in Prospect Street for as long as anyone can remember. It was presumably there when sub post offices first came into being, though possibly it was one in its own right when Caversham was an Oxfordshire village. The public has supported it loyally but that loyalty has been treated with contempt. The effect on Prospect Street will not be good either, as there is already a tendency for retail shops to move out and be replaced by house agencies.

Once Caversham had several post offices but the central one had been seen as sacrosanct. This is no longer the case.

Graffiti

There has been an increase in the amount of graffiti across the whole area in the last year or so; indeed not only in the United Kingdom but much further afield, even in pristine Switzerland. It is not going to be easily eradicated. Any plain surface, and particularly if it has been recently painted, attracts the attention of those prepared to besmirch it. It is usually done after dark so it is difficult to catch them in the act. If it is on public property, the Borough, if notified, will clear it within twenty-four hours if it is obscene or racist and as soon as possible otherwise. If it is of the "X was 'ere" variety it may be a little longer but it all costs money and quite a lot too - all out of our, and the perpetrators' parents', council tax, which could be used for more constructive purposes.

One way of reducing it would be to make the penalties higher so that if those guilty were caught they would know they would face a really high fine or community activity.

If the graffiti is on public property ring 0800 626 540. If it's on yours, alas, it is up to you.

Inaugural Concert

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QUOTATION

Caversham Theatre

The next production by Caversham Theatre will take place on 11th, 12th and 13th March, at St Anne's Hall, Washington Road. This will be a Victorian thriller, entitled "Gaslight", written by Patrick Hamilton. Performances will commence at 7.30pm and tickets (£5, £4 concessions) are available from Caversham Bookshop. Your continued support is much appreciated - come along for a spine-tingling evening!

NEWS from QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL

Help for Daisy's Dream

Sixth form girls from Queen Anne's School chose Daisy's Dream as their charity for the term. This is a local charity, based in Twyford, which supports bereaved children and their families in Berkshire and surrounding areas. With the help of fellow pupils, members of staff and parents they raised £2100. Some innovative ways were devised to raise money and other fund raising activities included a sponsored swim, collections at the senior drama production of *Twelfth Night* and at music concerts. There was also a Mufti Day when girls paid 50p to wear home clothes rather than school uniform for the day.

Speaking Out

A debating team from the school have won the regional finals of the English Speaking Union Schools Mace Debating Competition held at Kennet School. Sally-Anne Limb and Olivia Van Zwanenberg opposed the motion "This House would lower the minimum voting age to 16". They progress to the third round, the South of England finals, to be held at Caterham School, Surrey, at the beginning of March when they compete against five other regional final winners. The winning team will compete in the national finals in April.

EASTER CONCERT

**SATURDAY
27 MARCH 2004**

REQUIEMS OF FAURÉ AND RUTTER

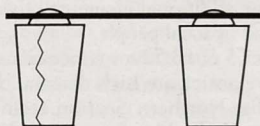
For their Easter concert this year the South Chiltern Choral Society will be performing two well-known and much loved works - the requiems of Gabriel Fauré and John Rutter. Fauré composed his Requiem at the end of the nineteenth century and the choir will be singing from the 1893 version edited by a young John Rutter as part of his doctoral studies. Rutter's own Requiem, written in 1985 and dedicated to his father who had died the previous year, is often described as his greatest contribution to serious choral music. Rutter himself says that, in writing it, he was influenced and inspired by the example of Fauré: 'I doubt whether any specific resemblances can be traced, but I am sure that Fauré's Requiem crystallized my thoughts about the kind of Requiem I wanted to write: intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness - the "lux aeterna" of the closing text'.

The choir, under the baton of Gwyn Arch, will be accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra with Ian Westley playing the organ. The soprano soloist is Belinda Evans and the baritone Tom Lowe.

The concert takes place in the University of Reading's Great Hall, London Road, Reading on Saturday 27th March at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £12.00 (£8.00 for under 18s) are obtainable from Michèle Whitehead on 01491 578641.

THE CRACKPOTS



A water bearer in China had two pots; each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across the back of his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to the house. Of course the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house".

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known of your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without your being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that makes our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

To all my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers.

Author unknown.

SABITA CLARK C.I.B.T. R.N



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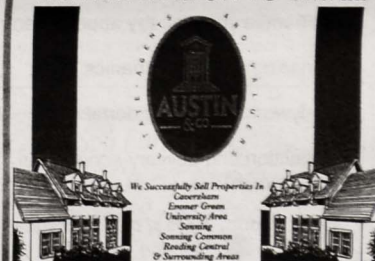


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AROUND THE CHURCHES

Award for Methodist Newsletter

In a recent national ecumenical competition, organised by the Association For Church Editors, the "Newsletter", published bi-monthly by the Methodist Church in Caversham, received a bronze award.

The theme of the competition was "What is the magazine for?" - giving editors the opportunity to review the purpose of their publications. Some of the entries were devoted to church matters, some to outreach and others directed to the community. Most magazines submitted came from Anglican churches although Baptist and Methodist churches were also represented. Entries came from all parts of the country - even from the Isle of Lewis. It was clear that the awards were given mainly on content, while layout, illustrations and general appearance were secondary matters.

The purpose of the Association For Church Editors is to raise the standards of church magazines and to provide support for editors. Church magazines not only keep members of the local church family in touch, but are also a means of reaching people outside the church.

The Caversham Methodist Newsletter was started in 1975 when Rev Leslie Griffiths was minister at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Later, its coverage was extended to include Gosbrook Road Church and the Methodist congregation at Woodcote. A copy of the Newsletter is available to read in the Caversham public library.

Visit of Riding Lights to Caversham Heights

If you have come across Riding Lights, a professional Christian theatre company, you will know that they are an excellent group, producing challenging and innovative drama with a Christian message. They regularly tour the country with their own productions, have youth and student groups and work in the community and education sectors. This year, for Lent and Holy Week, they are touring a production called *The Passion*, which was also successfully presented last year in a limited number of locations. Riding Lights will be visiting Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Friday April 2nd, at 8 pm, to present *The Passion* in the church. It combines a performance of the events leading up to the death and burial of Christ with an act of worship, creating a powerful opportunity to reflect on Christ's passion. The additional elements of worship, prayer, readings and music will be led by local people.

Tickets (priced at £5 & £3.50 for concessions) are now available for the evening, and we anticipate high demand. Please phone 0118 946 1763 (the Methodist Northern Section team office - answerphone when unmanned) or Kathy Munns on 954 6680. Further information about Riding Lights and this presentation can be found at www.ridinglights.org.uk.



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN READING



Churches Together in Reading has a new web-site www.ChurchesInReading.org.uk which gives information on what is happening; where churches are located; a diary of events of interest to Christians in Reading and details of how to contact churches, Christian charities and organisations in Reading.

CTR has advanced considerably during the past two years but, in order to continue to fulfil its purpose of bringing churches together so that they can play a full part in the life of Reading, it needs volunteers to work on new tasks within the existing framework.

The present chairman and vice-chairman are prepared, if elected, to serve for one more year but CTR needs to think about whom it will appoint to succeed them. However an additional vice-chairman is needed to share specific tasks (to be agreed with existing officers). Also the present secretary and treasurer, having served for a considerable number of years, are seeking people to replace them. There would be an opportunity to serve alongside the present incumbents before assuming full responsibility.

For further information please phone the secretary on 926 5672.

A PRAYER for THE DAY

Dear Lord -
I'm proud to say, so far today
I've got along all right
I have not gossiped, bitched or bragged
Or had a single fight.

I haven't lost my temper once,
Or criticised my mate.
I have not lied, I have not cried,
Or loudly cursed my fate.

So far today I've not one time
Been grumpy or morose,
I've not been spiteful, cold or vain,
Self-centred or verbose.

But, Lord, I'm going to need your help
Throughout the hours ahead,
So, wish me luck, dear Lord, for now
I'm getting out of bed.

Calling all babies and toddlers

(noisy babies welcome)
With their parents and/or carers



Please come and join us at a Monthly
'Pram Service' at
Caversham Methodist Church

Gosbrook Road
from 10.30 to 11 on
Wednesday 3rd March
Wednesday 7th April
Wednesday 5th May
Wednesday 2nd June
Wednesday 7th July

Light Refreshments available afterwards

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

7th March	10.30am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
		<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.30pm	<i>Circuit Service at Woodley</i>
		<i>Airfield Church</i>
14th March	10.30am	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher
	6.30pm	Mr Chris Evans
21st March - Mothering Sunday		
	10.30am	Mr Chris Evans -
		<i>Parade Team Service</i>
	6.30pm	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher
		<i>Holy Communion</i>
28th March	10.30am	Mrs Marion Cruddas
	6.30pm	Rev'd Dr John Ogden

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

7th March	9.00am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
		<i>Holy Communion</i>
	10.30am	Mr Henry Stroud - <i>Christian</i>
		<i>Community Action Service</i>
	6.30pm	<i>Circuit Service at Woodley</i>
		<i>Airfield Church</i>
14th March	10.30am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
	6.30pm	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher
		<i>Holy Communion</i>
21st March - Mothering Sunday		
	10.30am	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher -
		<i>All Age Worship & Parade Service</i>
	6.30pm	Mr Chris Evans
28th March	10.30am	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher
		<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.30pm	Rev'd Joan Hicks - <i>Taizé Service</i>

ST. LEONARD'S, WOODCOTE

14th March 9.45am Mr Chris Evans

TO BOOK A ROOM FOR YOUR EVENT (subject to availability)

Caversham (Gosbrook Road) Methodist Church:

Contact David Herbert 947 8209.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church:

Contact Mrs Janet Offord 947 0903 or
(Wesley Lounge) Judith Higgs 947 4494.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

VIBRANT CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE



-O. Jewiss

Pastor Eric Bird (on the left) with Caversham Hill Chapel Elder Geoff Brice.

There was a capacity congregation at Caversham Hill Chapel for the joint service at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The idea of a week of prayer first arose 96 years ago when a priest named Paul Watson suggested that the period from 18th to 25th January should be recognised in this way. In 1935 Abbé Paul Couturier gave fresh impetus to the week by encouraging its universal recognition. Its observance in Caversham has long been a fixture in the calendar of the churches around which it moves year by year.

The One Faith

The service of praise, prayer and proclamation was led by Geoff Brice, an elder at the Chapel. Through it those present were reminded not only of our unity in Caversham but also the unity with Christians around the

world. It was clear through a series of presentations that God is alive and working in the world today. Crispin Fairbairn asked "Why are we here?" and talked about the care we have for one another with particular reference to his involvement with a mission to China, a country with 35 million Christians. Five or six times a year he leads teams into China carrying with them bags of Bibles which bring blessings to thousands. Carol Christie, on furlough from a mission team to the tribes in North West Brazil, spoke about how God is in control and how the Church is growing among the indigenous Indian people who are merely thought of as children by many of the westernised population. Kathy Bingham spoke about her husband Frank working with World Relief in the earthquake city of Bam and how in that Muslim country of Iran there are 100,000 new Christians in Teheran; they are a people getting to know Jesus.

The example from unity

The Revd Rosemary Fletcher, a former Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham, also spoke about how she and her husband had felt called to work overseas, but first she reminded us how far we had come locally on the road to unity. She said that ecumenism involves learning and worshipping together and not denigrating one another, so that, in Jesus' words, "we may be one so that the world might believe". Through this unity we witness to common humanity. By articulating our differences we come to understand one another; to understand is to forgive. The world sees two messages: share the same faith and kill those who are different from us or show the world an alternative message: that we can be different and live with these differences. "What hope is there for the Middle East if we can't show this to a divided world?" She drew on the example of issues such as Trade Justice and the Debt Campaign to illustrate how these had helped to unite the denominations. From her visits to Africa she saw that in spite of HIV/AIDS the church was growing through a gospel of hope.

Unity of the Spirit and Unity of Faith.

Using the theme of unity in *John 17 v 21*, Colin Gault, the Chapel's Youth Worker, led the prayers. The main message came from Pastor Eric Bird, who used verses from chapter 4 of *Ephesians* to draw a distinction between the unity of the Spirit, which is God given and exists, and the unity of the faith, which is the goal to be attained. We need to accept, forgive and be patient with one another. It grieves the Holy Spirit that we are at loggerheads with one another, but unity is not uniformity. "Faith", he said "is an objective truth, a personal trust in God". The Bible and many who have lived since the time of Jesus give us examples of trust in God. As Paul said "Who can separate us from the love of God?" With the example of these people we can move to unity of faith. The imperative is to confess that Jesus is Lord and be saved. The unity in the Spirit comes with every blessing and leads us to the one faith to which we all aspire.

The advantage of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the way in which Christians from different traditions can demonstratively share what they have in common, learn from one another and witness their unity to a divided world into which the love of God can bring hope to all those who believe in Him.

NEWS BRIEFS

CHURCHES
TOGETHER IN
CAVERSHAM

The Executive Committee includes all the clergy in Caversham together with lay representatives of the churches and allied community interests. The next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, will take place at St Andrew's Church on Tuesday, 20th April, 2004 at 7.30pm.

You are invited to pray for the work of local churches each Sunday. The Prayer Diary for March:

- 7th - Our Lady and St. Anne's
- 14th - Caversham Baptist
- 21st - Caversham Heights Methodist
- 28th - Caversham Evangelical

New Pastor for
Caversham
Baptist Church

Caversham Baptist Church has invited Paul Rhodes to fill the vacant pastorate of the church. Paul, who is currently finishing his studies at Bristol Baptist College, has accepted the offer. He is looking forward to taking up his role as pastor later this year when his studies have finished.

THE REVD
PAT STACY WADDY

Older residents of Caversham will be sorry to learn of the death, at the age of 99 on 12 November 2003, of the Revd Pat Stacy Waddy, who was Chaplain at Queen Anne's School between 1967 and 1972. During school holidays he helped with services in the old Anglican parish before it was sub-divided into separate parishes. Mrs Stacy Waddy, who predeceased her husband, used to deliver the *Caversham Bridge* in South Street.

The Revd Stacy Waddy, who was born in Australia, had a varied ministry, 17 years of which were spent successively as a missionary and a Cathedral Chaplain in India. On his return to the UK he was a Rector and Rural Dean in Bedfordshire, Warden to the SPG College of the Ascension in Birmingham, a Rector in Derbyshire, and an Honorary Canon of Birmingham and Derby Cathedrals. He left Queen Anne's School to become Warden of a religious community in Norfolk.

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TRIBUTE

Nora Kemp 18th July 1907-2nd February 2004

On Thursday 12th February friends and family gathered in St Peter's Church to give thanks for the life of Nora Kemp who had lived in Caversham for almost half a century. The service was led by the Rector, Canon Richard Kingsbury.

Nora was born in Warrington in 1907 and remained proud of her Lancashire roots all her life.

In the mid 1940's she moved to Berkshire to take up a new post as Nursery Adviser, charged with setting up Nursery Schools in the county, based on a network of nurseries which had been opened to allow mothers to undertake war work. Touring these establishments, not an easy task in a county stripped of signposts, she quickly realised that she had to support the training of the women running them. She travelled throughout the country studying good practice and soon people were coming to study the Berkshire scheme, which had quickly become nationally respected.

Nora assisted in the establishment of Nursery Nurse training in Reading and was a valued occasional lecturer at Bulmershe College. She supported the Playgroup movement when it started, encouraging the organisers to start with simple basic equipment. She was involved at national level with instigating the ground rules for playgroups and her standing and quality were recognised when she was invited to make one of the few personal contributions to the Plowden Report in 1967. Typically she pulled no punches.

She was a keen golfer, the Harpsden course being her favourite. Walking was a life-long interest and she met her husband, David Kemp, a consultant at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, through Sunday walks. They married at Remenham Church in 1952 but sadly he died in 1962.

Nora was a Charter member of the Soroptimist International Club of Reading and District where she contributed readily and incisively to discussions, especially when the subject was children or disadvantaged people. She was made an Honorary Member in 2002 and attended her last activity in January 2004. Among other organisations in which she had a keen interest were Save the Children, the Caversham Heights Society, the University of the Third Age,

the Link Group and the St Peter's Wives' Group.

Nora knew what she wanted and was not afraid to say so. She was a wellknown and special customer at Waitrose in Caversham and at John Lewis in Reading, especially when she went to the latter for afternoon tea. Those present at the service smiled affectionately when the Rector spoke of 'fellow shoppers hearing Nora's dulcet tones telling the manager exactly what she wanted and how he might improve his services'!

The Rector went on to add that Nora knew most of all what she wanted in her faith. She thought about, agonised about and prayed about being a faithful follower of the Lord. As her physical health deteriorated Nora was ready, longing even, to move on to the 'resting-place' promised by Jesus.

Nora was passionately interested in people, showing particular interest in the families of her friends, remembering details of names and past progress with astonishing clarity. To watch her empathy with a small child was a joy to behold.

Her next-door neighbours of nearly 30 years recollect that when they moved in Nora introduced herself with a large pot of tea and a plate of her super-sized rock buns, her speciality.

Nora became part of their extended family and lived through, with them, exam results and youthful romances, eventually attending the children's weddings and enjoying the babies as they arrived and grew. Other highlights were being with her at a weekend Retreat at St Katherine's in London's East End and her regular attendance at their Lent Groups where she provided her own inimitable contributions. Nora was one of their bridge four and they celebrated birthdays together at pubs, with picnics or with tea at Shiplake Lock.

Nora moved to the Abbeyfield Home for the last year of her life and she died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Her mortal remains will be laid to rest in Remenham churchyard with those of her beloved David.

A friend and colleague of many years' standing describes her as 'an inspiration to all who knew her'. The Rector concluded the service with a delightful vignette of St Peter smiling with relief as Nora breezed through the pearly gates looking for 'the Manager' and greeting her with the words 'Welcome Home - we've been expecting you'. (Photo by David Johnson)



READING AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

"Over 50? 55? - That's when Age Concern could affect you!"

An illustrated talk was given to the Reading and District Probus Club at their lunch time meeting. Entitled 'Computers and Age Concern' it was given by Mr Alan Cocks, who informed the members that you don't have to have a 'Bus Pass' to get help or answers to the questions that come to mind on attaining 'middle age'!

Using his laptop as a projector he showed the infinite possibilities of using a computer and the fact that you don't have to be a typist - two fingers are all you need. He enlightened those who said they were too old by saying his records showed that 26% of the over 60s now enjoyed the use of a computer. The Government's aim is that all wanting to use a PC will be able to do so by 2005. Hampshire has a 'Computer Bus' to promote interest (ukonline.gov.uk). In Reading, St Andrew's House, run by volunteers, gives advice on Computers and Internet (ring 0118 959 4242 to get the gen.)

Looking to the future it is impossible to predict the advancement in Computer Technology - who would have thought that the invention of fire (1000BC) would lead to the

Industrial Revolution centuries later? Computer Science is world-wide. In the UK there is now 'NHS Direct' giving support and advice when a doctor is not needed.

Future speakers and topics have been arranged for the year ahead. 'Reading Transport - more than a Bus Service'; 'My year as the Mayor of Reading'; 'Curiosities of the Chilterns', and 'All about the Hexagon Theatre' are just some of the subjects.

So, if you are a retired male and would like to get out once a month, joining PROBUS could enable you to do just that. Twice a year the ladies are invited (so peace will reign!). Give the Secretary a ring on 0118 941 1445 and have something to put in your diary - second Monday - every month.

MAPLEDURHAM - A REVIEW of 2003

Mapledurham Estate would like to thank all who visited during the past year. Without your support and continuing appreciation, Mapledurham, as it is known and loved, would be unable to exist.

A Busy Year

The repairs on the chimneys continued in earnest during the glorious summer months and there is only one section to complete in 2004. Because of the need to use a special lime mortar in these works, building cannot continue during the winter so there is a brief respite from the scaffolding, dust, noise and debris. At one point during the year, access into the estate office was via a 'builders' tunnel' which gave the feeling of working on a building site. However, time passed relatively quickly and it was a delight to see a brand-new impressive chimney after the scaffolding had been removed. At the end of the summer visitors had to use an alternative entry when the chimneys above the main front door were removed and rebuilt. Visitors embarked on the trip around the house, via the side entrance, as an adventure!

The river Thames overflowed its banks at the start of the year, flooding the lawns and gardens. The water poured onto the land at an impressive speed. The estate was more fortunate than properties on the other side of the river which suffered more serious damage.

New Technology

The new milking parlour became fully functional in September and is a triumph in the modern farming world. Cows are milked three times daily on a 50 cow rotary parlour - rather like a roundabout for cows. It is impressive and its efficiency is second to none. It is the first of its kind in Europe and includes several unique features. There are few parlours around which are built to such a high calibre and it has rapidly become a focal point for many local farming groups and organisations to visit (and admire). Marks and Spencer, to whom the milk is sold, have invited the farm manager on several occasions to talk to the public at their flagship stores in the region and to share the problems and rewards of such a huge investment. The new parlour has cut milking times significantly and the aim is to increase the herd numbers so that it is used to full capacity at all times. Since there is a spacious viewing gallery, guided

tours of the parlour can be provided. To arrange a visit, please contact Lola Andrews at the estate office.

Keeping the Estate Running

Although the maintenance team has been extremely busy on the chimneys this year, they have still managed to renovate four cottages. Two, which are holiday cottages, will soon be ready for refurbishing. The other cottages will be let for longer periods. The team is always busy with daily running repairs - burst pipes, blocked loos, clearing gutters, replacing window glass, etc. It was with mixed feelings that the estate said goodbye to Maurice Prosser just before Christmas. He had been with the estate for just over six years and his contribution as the estate carpenter will be long remembered. Perhaps the most fitting reminder will be the oak gates into the house courtyard, his last big job before his retirement.

Events

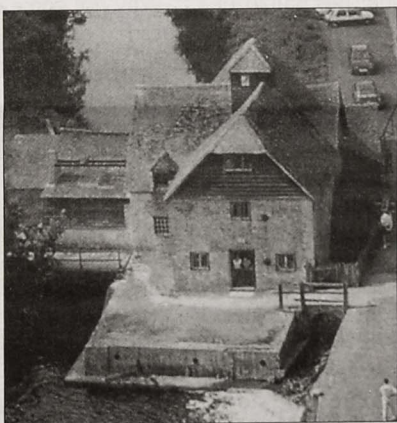
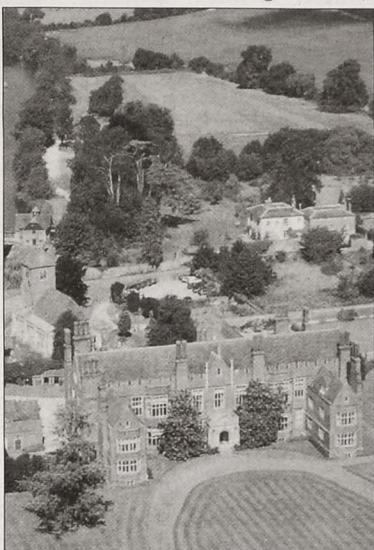
Mapledurham was fortunate in 2003 to host an open-air performance of 'Romeo and Juliet'. The weather was balmy and still and the setting second to none. Some five hundred visitors came armed with picnics and refreshments to be entertained and there were many compliments afterwards to make all the hard work beforehand so worthwhile.

The 2003 Christmas parties were based on the 'Haunted House' theme and were held in marquees in front of the house. The array of fancy dress was amazing and imaginative and the many guests departed having enjoyed a memorable evening.

Looking Ahead

Over the second May bank holiday weekend there will be the usual Craft Fair. In August a Noddy Weekend is planned - although the details are not yet finalised. The Country Homes and Gardens Show returns at the August Bank Holiday and a special open-air performance of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is planned for 29th July. This should be a real family occasion.

Mapledurham is continually looking for new guides, tea-room assistants, cottage cleaners, etc. Last year Bernard Tripp joined the team as a water-mill guide and has since become a house guide as well. If anyone would like to join the team please call Lola Andrews on 0118 972 3350 for further details.



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AN ORIOLE, NOSTALGIA AND STORMS

Seldom do we get to see a rarity twice. One early morning in mid-January however, my bird mentor left his sickbed in Herefordshire to drive us to Oxford. The Baltimore Oriole had been present since December. Although a weekday, many twitchers were still being catered for by proud residents, as their vehicles lined the streets.

We had waited with increasing anxiety when a stifled call was heard, "It's coming your way". The Oriole arrived in the same garden as ourselves. Only a few feet away it fed on an inverted half-orange before sampling nuts from an adjacent nut-hanger. We had long, uninterrupted views of this yellow and orange, American beauty. It is a first winter male, correcting an observation in January's "Bridge", my apologies.

At Christmas my friend and his wife presented me with a bound copy of our Scottish Highland expedition in 1963. It included coloured photographs and bird sketches by my colleague, which highlighted many memorable incidents.

Now after almost a lifetime, we stood viewing yet another extremely rare species. The excitement of seeing these long-distance vagrants never wanes.

On our return a slight navigational error providentially took us onto the M40, where

soon the familiar "B4009" pointed to Watlington. A Red Kite soared overhead. Six more before Nettlebed, and a singleton at Sonning Common, were very welcome.

The wet and gloomy morning had given way to colder, drier conditions.

When we arrived home, "Joey" our faithful Robin with two Blue Tits, urgently sang from the lilac, reminding us of our early morning oversight - all for an "Alien"!

Their appetites appeased, recent memories of suspended, fresh oranges accompanying a newly hung nut-feeder - in a far away garden - clouded out thoughts.

We owe appreciation for our garden songsters, some are still teetering on the brink of extinction. Depletion is obvious to garden bird-watchers, yet their songs reflect faith, trust, gratitude and rapport.

The wind again backed westwards overnight as gales slammed in from the Atlantic. Horizontal rain lashed defiance to impeding windows and doors. Our poor birds and small creatures shivered and trembled, rapidly losing body-heat within leafy shelters. Food was urgent to restore circulation. Here we can help with strategically positioned, daily supplies including water!

Scops Owl

the CLUBS

St Peter's and St Margaret's Mothers' Union

In January, the St Peter's and St Margaret's Mothers' Union enjoyed their 2004 New Year's party at Mary Pinchen's home. Quizzes, games and good food helped to make this occasion, yet again, one of fellowship and frivolity enjoyed by everyone. We started our new programme this year with the AGM at St Peter's on 24th February followed by a Eucharist. This year's programme includes an evening of Musical Madness in June; the Ballad of Reading Gaol and other prisons given by our curate, Heather Serjeant, in September; a visit to Mary Sumner House and the London Eye in August; Bible studies in Lent and Advent, and in October an 'Angel Evening' (wings optional) and many interesting speakers throughout the year.

The Mothers' Union has a corporate communion on the second Thursday of the month at St Peter's at 9.30am. We also have a praying group in a member's home on the second Tuesday of each month 10.30 - 11.30am. (We would be very glad to hear from anybody who would like us to pray for them or for someone they know who is in need of prayer - Do let us know).

Why not come along to Church House on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm as our guest and meet us over a cup of coffee - you might end up joining.

Please ring either Janet Soden (947 2975) or Marion Pyke (947 5834) for more information on anything above.

ST PETER'S WIVES' GROUP

At the January meeting, Maurice Johnson gave a talk and slide show entitled 'The Other Side of the War', which featured the role of women in the war effort whilst their menfolk were overseas fighting in the Great War. It also featured the story of a group of four British soldiers who became separated from their regiment near the Hindenburg Line and were given shelter by the villagers of Villeret in France, but who were ultimately betrayed and shot as spies by the

Germans.

Members were saddened to hear of the death of Alma Palmer, who died on New Year's Day aged 89. A most likeable and lively member of the group, she will be sadly missed.

The next meeting will be at Church House on Tuesday, 16th March at 8.00pm, when the speaker will be Alan Copeland, with a talk entitled 'Curiosities in the Cotswolds'. New members are always welcome.

the CLUBS

Caversham WI

A wet January evening found members learning about the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. Mr Tony Houghton gave a slide and video presentation to show the impressive work done by the lifeboat men and women. This now includes saving life on inland waterways using hovercraft and jet boats on the tidal Thames.

The speaker judged the competition, and Margaret Cameron's humorous ditty was declared the winner. Business was dealt with after refreshments and the drawing of the raffle.

Caversham Community Association

January began as usual with an informal games evening, followed by a Cheese and Wine evening. Party games provided lots of prizes to be won; there followed a selection of cheese and biscuits and a delicious glass of wine or fruit juice.

More prizes were on offer with a popular bingo session, winners having various foodstuffs to keep them warm. The month ended on a wet and windy evening with a Knit and Natter evening. The blanket squares made will eventually be made into a charity blanket.

Rosehill Women Institute

Welcome glimpses of sunshine and of spectacular, monumental architecture were afforded to the members of Rosehill WI during an illustrated talk on The Egypt of the Pharaohs given by Edwina and Gil Child. Starting with the wonderful gold funeral mask of Tutankhamen in the Cairo Museum, and followed by a visit to Giza to see the pyramids and the sphinx, they were taken to an earlier construction, the famous Step Pyramid of King Djoser at Saqqara.

A flight southwards to Aswan in Nubia allowed them to experience the vastness of Lake Nasser, the result of the construction of the High Aswan Dam, and further south to the great temples of Rameses II and his Queen Nefertari which were rescued, by international effort, from the rising flood water in the 1960s.

A leisurely cruise downstream, visiting the Temple of Horus at Esna, brought them to Luxor and the sights of the Valley of the Kings, the temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el Bahri, the workmen's village at Deir el Medina and the fantastic temples of Luxor and Karnak - evoking memories of famous scenes in Agatha Christie's "Death on the Nile".

Other news - the walkers continue to investigate rural paths and country inns, and the "Swingles" group enjoyed an excellent Sunday lunch, Chinese style.

Rosehill WI meets at St Barnabas Church Hall at 2 pm on the first

Wednesday of each month.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Caversham Ladies Club

The 2004 programme commenced on Thursday 8th January with a New Year party. Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, welcomed members, thanking them for braving the elements. It was a question of dodging heavy showers and battling with strong wind. The Chairman also thanked the ladies for all the food. The buffet table looked most appetising and attractive.

Once the small amount of business had been dealt with, it was party time. Crackers were pulled and paper hats were donned. Whilst the committee were making and serving tea, members were invited to enjoy the food and to solve the Quiz on local place names which had been placed on the tables. They could solve it singly, in pairs, or by table. A bag of sweets was waiting for the winner/winners. Three sisters won and shared the prize.

It was a very happy afternoon, a nice way to start the New Year.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The January meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild began with the traditional New Year greetings from the Chairman, Mrs M. Pocock. A large number of members attended and she welcomed especially two visitors for the evening and a new member, Mrs Pat Stevens.

Formal items were dealt with quickly and special Guild cards were handed to members with a birthday in January.

Reports came from the three special interest groups for activities to come later in the month. These included a joint luncheon at a local hostelry, a luncheon at the home of one group organiser and, for the Gardeners, a visit to a special orchid collection. Speaking for the Arts and Crafts Group, Mrs M Sutherland encouraged all members to join in card-making skills, using their individual ideas and materials to make cards for any time of the year.

Patagonian Adventure was the title of the talk given by Mrs H. Holloway, a guild member. Along with a small group of fellow adventurers she had travelled by plane, jeep and on foot to see the thousands of miles of truly wild country from Buenos Aires in Argentina right down to the Beagle Channel and the town of Ushuaia, near the tip of the continent in Tierra del Fuego. Her breathtaking photographs truly conveyed the isolation of mountains, glaciers, lakes, rivers and miles of space with the ever-present sky and wind. Personal comments and experiences added to the interest and left listeners longing for more. Perhaps later in the year?

Visitors are warmly welcomed on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in St Barnabas Church Hall.

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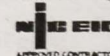
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