

## Caversham Heights Buses: route 22 services slashed!

Last month's issue featured a review of the Reading Buses consultation process on Caversham 'Pink' routes which has been in progress since October 2017. The process was brought to a close on Thursday 11th January at the Reading Council Traffic Management Sub Committee meeting which was attended by members of 'Concerned of Caversham' who have engaged constructively with the Borough and company to defend the 22 route and in particular the off peak service level.

Interested parties should refer to the conclusions and arguments put by the Borough and company on the website (<http://www.reading-buses.co.uk/articles/caversham-timetable-changes/>) as well as to the new 22 timetable which will start on 19th February. 'Concerned of Caversham' have engaged energetically with the public and bus users by carrying out their own observation surveys, disseminating leaflets to engage in the consultation, and working with elected representatives and the MP to promote a dialogue.



*A hour is too long to wait for the ride back to Caversham Heights! Other routes are getting a better buses service. Equality of treatment and non-discrimination are vital for all Reading residents.*

Whilst the majority of Caversham routes remain intact the route 22 is now to be linked with the 'Red network' on the south side of the river. The off-peak service on the 'Red' 22 is now reduced to one every hour (formerly two an hour) between 0900 and 1500 and the promised sustainable morning and evening peak has not been fully maintained either, with gaps of up to 65 minutes between buses for example after the 17:10 bus the next bus will arrive at 17:58 and the one after at 19:03. As Caversham Heights is without access to any amenities, it will make it harder for all residents who are required to travel in order to access doctors, shops, schools and work.

'Concerned of Caversham' put forward detailed arguments and evidence to maintain the route and frequency of the existing service. Both borough and bus company have proved intransigent to community needs and arguments for equality of treatment and non-discrimination across the borough. The campaign group has learned a

good deal in the process about the lack of clarity and transparency of evidence and data about operations and the group will continue to press the case for improved bus regulation and transparent processes. The local councillors Isobel Ballsdon in particular and Ed Hopper have assisted local residents in representing their views, however many are disappointed in the local MPs role in the matter.

Now the bus operator is telling its public to 'use it or lose it' but is not giving this mantra much of a chance when the thinner level of service is bound to be less attractive.

So, after 19th February 2018, the Caversham



*Other Caversham routes are getting a better Reading buses services in the off peak.*

Heights community will have less choice of public transport, at the same time as Caversham Centre loses yet another local bank later this summer and the nearest branch is in central Reading.

We encourage all readers and Caversham Heights readers especially to let *Caversham Bridge* know their views on these matters and to support any future local campaign to improve and reinstate bus services.



*Passengers appreciate two buses an hour in the off peak to get top town, so once an hour is a cut too far! Reading buses are consulting but not listening.*

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## Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

St Barnabas  
Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.  
Tel: 947 8239.  
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrews  
Revd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,  
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788  
www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John  
Revd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,  
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505  
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Revd Marion Pyke Tel: 947 5834  
Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265  
Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810  
Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (LEP)  
(Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and URC)  
Contact: Dr Alison Johnston  
Tel: 0118 947 5152. www.cpv.org.uk

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY  
Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.  
Tel: 947 2223  
Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH  
Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards  
Church office tel 954 5353  
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist  
church.org.uk

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)  
www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

GRACE CHURCH  
(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)  
www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk Tel 9474529

ROMAN CATHOLIC  
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2 South View Avenue.  
Tel: 947 1787.  
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Com-  
mon  
Tel: 972 3418

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD  
Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

# TALKING POINT

by Jonathon Edwards

## WORKING TOGETHER

Churches are busy communities. When you pass by the church buildings in Caversham they may not give that impression, but all of our churches are engaged energetically in serving the community. We believe that that's what God wants us to do, and it takes a large number of people to make it happen.

My reason for saying that is that we often draw attention to the name of the priest, pastor or minister of a church, and that might give the impression that that person does it all! However, that is not how our churches work. Every church needs teachers, worship leaders, musicians, singers, youth leaders, administrators, treasurers, caterers, welcomers, carers, cleaners, preachers and people to look after the buildings – and that's only the start of it! Churches are made up of lots of busy, dedicated people and we should thank God for each one of them.

In the Bible St Paul compared the church with a body. This wasn't Paul's bright idea. The philosopher Plato had previously written about the life of the city being like a body, and Paul probably took the idea from him. It's a powerful image when applied to the church because it makes it clear that every Christian is a member of the church community and has a crucial part to play. Paul says how stupid it would be if a foot complained that it didn't really belong to the body because it wasn't a hand! God doesn't want any of us to have inferiority complexes. But neither does he want us to have superiority complexes and he mocks the idea of an eye looking down at the hand and proudly asserting, "I don't need you." The fact is that we all desperately need one another.

We thank God for the gift of our priests, pastors and ministers. I believe that we have a superb group of leaders and they not only bring a great deal of experience to the churches in Caversham but also the benefit of many years of training. But without the prayers, the gifts and the enthusiastic support of all the members of the church they might as well go somewhere else. Church leaders are enablers, encouragers, teachers, and trainers – but we should never expect them to do everything.

It's good for all of us to look carefully at ourselves and reflect on the gift that we can contribute. Paul is absolutely clear that everyone has such a gift. They might be in full public view or hidden away. They might be noisy or quiet. They might be practical gifts or reflective ones. Whatever your gift may be, it has been given to you by God, and it is vital for the building up of the church.

I am excited to see the churches of Caversham engaging in the life of the community in so many different ways. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to this world because of God's love for everyone. Perhaps, at times, we give the impression that God only loves the church – but it's not true and never has been. God loves our whole community and welcomes everyone to himself and that amazing truth will only become clear to everyone as we all work together with ever increasing determination and effectiveness.

*Jonathon Edwards, Transitional Minister at Caversham Baptist Church.*



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## SUNDAY SERVICES

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**St Peter's, St Peter's Hill**

8.00am Holy Communion – BCP (first, second and fourth Sundays)  
Matins – BCP (Third Sunday)  
9.30am Holy Communion (second, third and fourth Sundays)  
Service of the Word (First Sunday)  
6.30pm Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)  
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

**St John's, Gosbrook Road**

9.30am Holy Communion (first, third and fourth Sundays)  
9.30am All Age Worship (second Sunday)  
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**

11.15am Holy Communion (first, second and fourth Sundays) Morning Worship (third Sunday)  
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

**St Andrew's, Harrogate Road**

8.00am The Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)  
First Sunday, Family Eucharist  
11.30am The Eucharist first Sunday BCP

**St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green**

8.00am Said Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Parish Communion  
9.30am COGS for all ages (1st Sunday of Month)

**RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)**

Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham  
10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

**CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Meeting at Caversham Park School**  
11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)  
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH South Street**

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday  
8.00pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) –  
2nd Sunday each month  
3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family  
Fourth Sunday of the month

**GRACE CHURCH Old Peppard Road**

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church

**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM**

**Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road**

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am  
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)

**Gosbrook Road**

10.30am

**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)

**St Michaels, Sonning Common**

5.30pm Saturday  
9.00 and 10.30am Monday

**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)**

**Church Street, Reading**  
10.30am (House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

**NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD**

**Church Street, Caversham**

9.30am Sunday School  
11.00am Divine Worship  
6.00pm Evening Service

## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the March 2018 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 5th February. The date for the April 2018 issue is Monday 5th March. Email address is editors@cavershambridge.org  
Advertising copy for the March 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 5th February. The date for the April 2018 issue is Friday 5th March. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

## PARISH OFFICES

**PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM**

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Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX  
Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm  
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

**ST BARNABAS**

St Barnabas Centre  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am  
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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

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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.

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# The Caversham Heights Society

On the 29th November 2017 a coach load of Society members went to London to see '42nd Street' at the Drury Lane Theatre. Because of traffic the chance of a leisurely lunch proved out of the question but most of us managed something to eat before the afternoon performance. '42nd Street' is the story of a dance group performing in Broadway, and elsewhere, in the early 1930s Great Depression. The story line was thin but the stage setting was cleverly done and the dancing and routines were breath-taking in their sheer energy. Whether or not folk were enthusiastic about musicals this was a show well worth seeing.

Then on 6th December we had our usual Christmas festivities - this year an organ recital, interspersed with Christmas carols and readings - followed by a most enjoyable feast of Christmas nibbles and a wassail cup. Those who attended seemed to appreciate the time and effort that was put into making this such an enjoyable occasion.

The first meeting of 2018 was held on 3rd January when Carl Feltham of the Reading branch of the RSPB gave us a most interesting and informative talk on red kites. Their history in Britain dates back to the Middle Ages, when they were noted as useful scavengers cleaning up the detritus left by humans rather like the vultures of Africa and India today. Their population gradually declined until by the end of the nineteenth century they had become virtually extinct in England and Scotland, except for 6 pairs, although some breeding pairs still survived in the mountains of mid-Wales. The reason for their decline was that they were perceived as vermin, along with herons, which killed too many fish, foxes and buzzards which killed too many pheasants. The result was that during Georgian and Victorian times farmers and gamekeepers were encouraged to shoot them. A penny was given for every head of a red kite that

was presented to church wardens who logged their demise.

In the early 1990s a decision was taken by various conservation bodies, including the RSPB, to try to reintroduce red kites into this country, starting with the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The reasons why the Chilterns were chosen was because of the suitability of the undulating countryside with the mixture of different woodlands, arable farming as well as crop farming, all of which provide the ideal foods for both red kites and buzzards, which have also made a remarkable comeback. The first attempts at reintroducing kites was by using chicks that had been hatched in Spain and reared here. Unfortunately these attempts failed because once the birds were large enough they flew back to Spain! Further attempts were made using red kites from Sweden and some from mid-Wales. In 1992 there were just 4 pairs but by 2005 their numbers had increased to 250 pairs. By 2016 these had increased to about 600 pairs. The result is that the Chilterns have the highest concentration of red kites than anywhere else in the world. Reading, unbelievably, also has more red kites than any other town or city, especially on a Sunday when they descend on the town from surrounding counties! The reason is that too many homesteads are feeding them with the leftovers from Sunday lunches. Unfortunately there are downsides to this habit because the female red kite is larger than the male and it needs roughage and bones to help build up calcium and other minerals to feed the chick embryos.

If the shells are insufficiently strong then the chicks will die. The message is by all means feed these magnificent birds but leave carcasses and bones as well as meat. Carl's talk was illustrated with many beautiful photographs which added to a memorable evening.

The CHS meets on alternate Wednesday evenings in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Highmoor Road. Coffee is served from 7pm and the talks begin at 8pm. New members are always welcome. Further information can be found by email to [contact@cavershamheights.org](mailto:contact@cavershamheights.org) or via the website at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org)

**Bible Friends**

## Praise God!

This poem is in the Bible. It is all about praising God. Can you join in by pretending to play the different instruments?

God has made our wonderful world.  
Shout praises to our amazing God. (Hooray!)  
He has done so many things to help us.  
Shout praises to our amazing God. (Hooray!)  
Play the trumpet. (Toot, toot.)  
Play a harp. (Twang, twang.)  
Shake a tambourine (jingle, jangle.)  
and dance.  
God has made our wonderful world.  
Shout praises to our amazing God.  
(Hooray!)  
Play a guitar. (Strum, strum.)  
Play a flute. (La-la-la.)  
Play the cymbals everybody.  
(Crash, crash.)  
God has made our wonderful world.  
Shout praises to our amazing God.  
(Hooray!)

Psalm 150



From The Big Bible Storybook © 2006 Scripture Union Illustration © 2006 Mark & Anna Carpenter

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# Organ Recital at St Peter's



St Peter's Church, Caversham presents the fifth in a series of organ recitals at 3pm on Saturday 24th February featuring Jeremy Meager. Jeremy first became interested in learning to play the organ at the age of six and started lessons as a teenager in 1979 with Dr Stephen Darlington, the Master of Music at St Alban's Abbey where he was one of the Head Choristers. After leaving school Jeremy continued his studies with Dr Ronald Frost at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Jeremy is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists and also a Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music for which he was awarded a distinction. Until recently he was organist of All Saints' Parish Church, Leamington Spa, which houses a large four-manual pipe organ, an excellent robed choir, and has a cathedral-style music programme. Whilst there, Jeremy organised the bank holiday organ recitals and also accompanied the choir during their annual cathedral visits but has recently given up the position to concentrate more on being a solo recitalist and working with local choirs and orchestras. Jeremy has worked full time in the organ industry for

over 25 years now, and for the past 11 years has been managing director of Viscount Classical Organs Limited and has an intimate knowledge of the Regent Classic organ at St Peter's having been involved in its specification and installation in 2015.

The recital programme will include works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Durufle, Archer, Tambling and Hurford. Tickets £8 in advance or £10 on the door (including refreshments) call 07557 049092 or Parish Office 0118 947 1703. See [www.stpetercaversham.org.uk](http://www.stpetercaversham.org.uk) for more details.

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## NEWS FROM

### ST. BARNABAS CHURCH

From Advent through Christmastide was a very busy period for the congregation of St. Barnabas Church. The customary Christmas Fair took place in early December and an encouraging amount was raised for the three charities abroad supported by the Church. The annual toy service received many and varied gifts for Reading Family Aid. Around the middle of December a Christingle Service was held with visitors from the 89th Reading Scout Group. The carol service attracted many visitors and the Nativity Play on Christmas Eve was packed to capacity.

A Family Communion took place on Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve the Rev Margaret Dimmick was the guest preacher.

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# HISTORY OF READING SOCIETY

The subject of the December talk was 'Georgian and Regency Reading'.

The speaker was Dr Margaret Simons who sits on the committee of the Berkshire Local History Association and is a tutor of local history for the Workers' Educational Association.

The Georgian and Regency era covered the consecutive reigns of the monarchs of the House of Hanover from the succession of King George I in 1714 to the death of King William IV in 1837.

Dr Simons quoted a passage from Daniel Defoe's 'Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain' where he described Reading in the 1720s as "A very large and



Georgian Reading at London Street

wealthy town, handsomely built, the inhabitants rich, and driving a very great trade".

The predominant sector of Reading's economy for much of the period was agriculture; at its close the new manufacturing

industries would be in the ascendancy. Reading was an important market for the sale of agricultural produce; the annual Michaelmas Cheese Fair in September was a major draw. Local author Mary Russell Mitford gave an account in her novel *Belford Regis* (her fictional name for Reading) of the regular throng of people and wagons descending on the town to sell their goods.

During the 18th century Acts of Parliament to

improve the nation's road network were passed that would greatly benefit Reading. The town's principal thoroughfare, the Bath Road, became a turnpike road in 1714, where a toll was charged to users for its upkeep. It was now possible for stagecoach passengers to travel to London and back in a day.

In 1785 the Simonds family established a brewery at Bridge Street, and in 1806, John Sutton opened a plant seed shop at Market Place. In 1822 Joseph Huntley opened a shop in London Street to sell biscuits to the many travellers arriving and departing by stagecoach in the street. These businesses would come to dominate Reading's economy in the 19th century and beyond.

The opening of the Kennet and Avon canal between Newbury and Reading in 1723 would cement the town's position as an important inland port; annually around 100,000 tons of waterborne goods were exported/imported through its many wharfs compared with 100 tons by road.

On the eve of the long reign of Queen Victoria in 1837 the population would increase from 8,000 to nearly 100,000 by 1900. The town's landscape was still dominated by the towers of the parish churches and many of its buildings were timber framed, this would change during the industrial revolution as factories and railways would dominate Reading's landscape.

The subject of the next talk will be the 'History of Abbey Baptist Church'. It will take place at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm. All are welcome, £2 to non-members.



Regency Reading, Albion Terrace at London Road



Joseph Huntley's Biscuit Shop at London Street

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# Palm Sunday with two donkeys and a Bishop!

Christians from Caversham and beyond are invited to join the three churches of St Peter's, Caversham, St John's, Caversham and St Margaret's, Mapledurham and go on a journey from Mapledurham to St John's Church, re-telling the Palm Sunday story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Mike Smith, Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, said, "We wanted to do something special for this Palm Sunday. It will be great having Bishop Andrew with us, as together we have the opportunity to follow Jesus walking into the city at the start of this Holy Week."

Following behind donkeys Buffs and Solomon, with the Bishop of Reading, the walk will begin at St Margaret's, Mapledurham at

10.00am on Sunday, March 25. After hospitality and worship reflecting on Jesus' humility and how easy it is to just give up, the donkeys and Bishop Andrew will lead the way to St Peter's, Caversham. Worship and a lunch break around midday will centre on the proclamation of Jesus' kingship and the crowd shouting Hosanna. The afternoon leg will take in Christchurch Meadow ending with a cafe church style service recalling Luke's Gospel message that, whatever happened, the stones along the way would forever tell the story.

Full details of the route, a map and timings will be published nearer the date at [www.ctmparish.org.uk](http://www.ctmparish.org.uk). Everyone is invited to join the procession.



## Women's World Day of Prayer (International and Inter-denominational)

All God's Creation is very good!

The international movement of the Women's Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend our Caversham service at St Andrews church, Harrogate Road, Caversham Heights at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd March with the title 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and around 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for all who live in it.

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## ENVIRONMENT

# Sweet Chestnuts

I have to admit that the nearest I came to eating chestnuts last Christmas was the stuffing in an oven-ready pheasant bought in the supermarket. Did the hot chestnut man with his brazier come to Broad Street last year? I must have missed him if he did.

Occasionally you come across sweet chestnut trees among old woodlands in this area, but usually they have been planted. This month's picture shows the veteran trees known as the Twelve Apostles, in Crowsley Park, which were pretty certainly planted for effect. The park is only a mile or two north of Emmer Green, and a good place for a walk.

The trees, also known as Spanish Chestnuts, are very distinctive, with leaves up to a foot long, very long yellow catkins in July, and then the nuts in prickly cases in November. And the bark is distinctive: old trees often have grooves in the bark, running spirally round their trunks.

In Kent especially, chestnuts were coppiced to produce hop-poles, and the poles could be split to make chestnut paling. Only once did I find myself in a Kentish chestnut coppice, and didn't at first realise what it was. I haven't seen the paling for some years, but the



Sweet Chestnuts

pales were spaced out along wires, one band near the top and another near the bottom. A long length could be rolled up for ease of transport, and would be fastened to fence-posts, but the paling itself didn't touch the ground, enabling it to last longer. The modern equivalent must be that plastic sheeting with holes in it to reduce wind resistance, usually bright orange and non-biodegradable. I'll say no more, but have to admit that these old woodland industries must have been comparatively labour intensive, and it would have taken a long time to see a reward for your labours.

For a long time I imagined that sweet chestnuts must have been here since the end of the last Ice Age, but this is not the case. Like the non-related horse chestnuts, they were brought here by human intervention from the south. It used to be said that the Romans had brought the trees here, but it now seems that they probably imported the chestnuts as food, but didn't try to cultivate them here. The new 'Alien Plants' volume in the New Naturalist Series says that no pre-medieval pollen grains have been discovered in Great Britain.

When you gather chestnuts here, they're often very small and under-ripe – after all, they are believed to have come from the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor. In fact, their name seems to be Greek, coming from a place called Kastania in Thessaly in northern Greece. In Old English, the name was chasten-nut, which became shortened to chestnut. Nevertheless, I have read that in Kent, people used to believe that Kentish chestnuts had a better flavour than imported ones.

Our imported nuts come usually from Italy. In southern Europe they have been an important source of carbohydrate in people's diets from antiquity, and must have been particularly important before potatoes arrived. They could be ground into flour and made into pasta, presumably because the chestnut flour was cheaper than wheat flour. They were once poor people's food, though not any more.

Happy Wanderer

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# Tribute to Derek Richings

Derek was born and brought up in Gloucester - the second child of four children. His elder brother John and his wife were not able to attend his funeral due to ill health.

Derek attended the local school, then at the age of 11 he went to Sir Thomas Richie's Grammar School where he was chosen for the school's swimming team. During that time he also became a member of the Sea Scouts. He remained at that school until he left full-time education but continued his love of swimming until the last few years of his life.

At the age of 17 years Derek was apprenticed to a firm of heating engineers and having successfully completed his

training he continued to work for heating and plumbing companies for some years before he decided he would like to teach. He started by teaching part-time evening classes at Gloucester Technical College until he obtained a full-time post at Reading Technical College in 1966 where he remained until he retired. He was well liked by the students and he made full use of their willingness to please him by asking them to fetch him chips at lunchtime to go with the food Mary had supplied.

Derek's love of singing began as a child when he sang in the choir of his local church. He was persuaded by one of the secretaries of Reading College to give Reading Male Voice Choir a try. Since then he became a loyal member for over 27 years. He had expressed a wish to attend a rehearsal before Christmas but sadly that was not to be.

Derek started a snooker club to which choir members and their friends were invited to join. All showed a very competitive spirit and some wives were able to tell when their men got home whether they had won or lost!

Although Derek and Mary had married in a Methodist Church in Gloucester they had not joined one in Caversham until a boy they were fostering started going to Boys Brigade at Gosbrook Road Church. He came home one evening and mentioned that the officers had asked whether the boys knew of any parent who would go to help out so along Derek went with William to the next meeting and was hooked. After moving to live in Caversham Heights and becoming a member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church Derek was asked if he would start a brigade in this church. He remained Captain for a number of years before handing over the reins to a younger officer but continued to play a role in the running of the brigade which eventually joined forces with the Gosbrook Road Brigade. In July 2003 Derek was presented with a long service award by the Southern District President of the Boys Brigade for 25 years' service to the 2nd Caversham Boys Brigade.

Boys Brigade was the start of his involvement in pantomimes in both churches. His first one was an adaptation of one which his daughter, Marguerite, had been involved and from then on he would either write or adapt others, take part or direct as well as painting scenery. He would persuade choir members and friends from far and near to come and see them and invariably there was a good audience. He even got members from Mary's choir in Maidenhead to come along and this they did willingly as he would also help out when their choir had a charity concert. His one grouse was that he had to wear his dinner jacket which he hated and referred to as his 'penguin suit'. He was willing to do any task from front of house to selling raffle tickets and auctioning the flowers to add to the money raised for the selected charity.

He was a Sunday school teacher at Caversham Heights church for many years, also a member of the Church Council plus helping with the maintenance.

When an art group was set up at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church Derek joined and was able to give full flow to his talent as an artist. He has presented many of his paintings to family and friends as well as hanging them in any spare space he could find. It was a hobby that he was able to continue during his illness which was a great help in occupying his time.

Despite his involvement in many activities Mary and family remained his first consideration and love. Two of his proudest moments were walking daughter, Marguerite, down the aisle to her wedding nearly 35 years ago and then having the honour of doing the same for granddaughter, Hannah, nearly three years ago. He was very proud of both his granddaughters and their achievements and the arrival a Great-granddaughter last December was another great joy.

His love was extended to wider family members and friends. His happiness was making other people happy and giving help in any way he could. He had a great rapport with children and would tease them unmercifully.

The tributes in the many cards and letters Mary and family have received are a lasting memorial of the way he lived his life.



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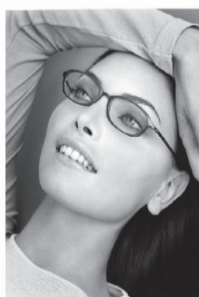
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## Advent Mass at St Anne's School

Father Patrick celebrated Mass for the whole school at the beginning of Advent. Afterwards parents and parishioners were invited to enjoy refreshments in the school hall.

Members of staff organised the supply of cakes and biscuits and were ably assisted by a group of pupils who plied the visitors with copious cups of tea and coffee.



Mrs Buller, Executive Head, with some of the parishioners.



Four of the boys who waited on them

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Many thanks to everyone for their support and help in making the 89th Reading Scouts Christmas Post a success once again – whether you were collecting cards, sorting, delivering, or using the service every bit of help makes this possible.

This year we sorted and delivered almost 2,700 Christmas cards and raised £800 for the 89th Scouts, which is very much valued by the group. Many local people tell us how much they value the deliveries across Caversham and Emmer Green as a great community service.

As our picture shows, this is all about a team effort - even when delivering the cards!

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## READING GARDENERS

There are three meetings to note.

**On January 31th**  
Ian Tolhurst who farms near Mapledurham and is internationally recognised for his visionary approach to sustainable methods and biodiversity, will talk on **Cultivating Positive Crop Health.**

**On February 14th**  
Alan Power who is Head Gardener at Stourhead, will talk on **Stourhead** and will also tell us about his time at Hidcote and Mount Stewart gardens.

**On February 28th**  
Ray Broughton of Sparsholt College, a popular speaker at Reading Gardeners, will discuss **Topical Tips and New Ideas.**

Our meetings are in Caversham Primary School.  
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## CHURCHES

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church Thursday Fellowship February 8th 2018 Meeting

Things aren't what they used to be – looking back to the time when we were younger. Guest speaker, Tony King.

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church Lent Groups

#### Happiness

Back by popular demand. What is happiness? Can we increase our levels of happiness? A course by Livability. Four sessions on Wednesday evenings at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, starting on Feb 28th.

Leaders: Lesley Boardley and Revd Nigel Jones. Further info from Nigel at 0118-947-2788.

#### On the Third Day: How can we recapture the explosive power of the Resurrection?

The 2018 York course - Five sessions, on the following Tuesday evenings at Caversham Heights Methodist Church: February 20 & 27; March 6, 13, 27.

Leaders: Revd Jenny Dowding and Steve Barden

### Our Lady and St Anne RC Church Lent Group Six Profiles of Jesus of Nazareth

A lent course led by Father Patrick Daly. Six Monday evenings (starting February 19th at 1930) at Our Lady and St Anne Roman Catholic Church.

### St. John's Mothers Union Lent Group "Everybody Welcome"

A course for all church members to look afresh at what it means to be a welcoming, embracing community. Five sessions using a Members Manual and some DVD clips.

St. John's Mothers Union extends an open invitation to join them on Tuesdays at 2 pm in Caversham Hall, St. John's Road, Caversham, starting on 20th February 2018.

Further information from Ann Deane (0118 954 3814) or Rev. John Dudley (0118 954 6664)

### St Barnabas, Emmer Green, Lent Group Religion in Film

A course led by Revd Derek Chandler and Revd Judith Ryder at St Barnabas, Emmer Green. Dates to be announced.

## New Altar servers at Our Lady and St Anne's Church

At the beginning of January seven altar servers were enrolled into the St Stephen's Guild of Altar Servers at the church of Our Lady and St Anne in Caversham. They had been trained by Damian Colehan and Mike Ryan over several months and had proved that they could regularly serve Mass in a competent and reverent manner. All are, or have been, pupils at St Annes's School.

On the feast of the Epiphany, all seven of them served Mass, wearing their St Stephen medals with pride.



The seven Altar Servers

Photo by Jane Shaw

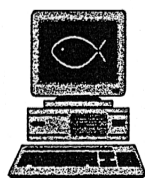
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## CLUBS

## Chazey WI

The Christmas meeting was very enjoyable. Members watched as Violet McMonnies decorated four tables for a festive lunch. Each table very different, but using the same method of decoration. A hot spicy fruit drink was ready to have with the savouries and cakes that each member had brought to the meeting. A Christmas cake was made by Margaret Keen for members to enjoy. Our ladies dipped into the present bags and took home a gift, crackers were on the tables and jokes were read and laughed at!

The competition that month was a paper hat and our President, Hilary, won.

Christmas lunch was on December 15th at the Highwayman, and a good time was had by all.

Chazey WI entered a team for the Berkshire WI quiz in January. The knitting group continues to be popular and we thank Jean Pugh for her hospitality.

## Rosehill WI

### Happy New Year

Well, here we are into 2018 and let's hope that it will be a good year for everybody. Arlene Riley, our Vice President welcomed everyone present on a rather windy Wednesday afternoon. She also reminded us that subscriptions for 2018 were now due and should be given to Judith Sharp (Treasurer). Next, the birthday buttonholes were given out by Margaret Seal. Barbara Wood is hoping to find a suitable film for the Cinema Club to visit. A programme planning meeting for 2018/2019 is being planned and anyone who has any suggestions for a speaker should let the committee know.

The meeting continued with various items being brought to our attention that are featured in the January 2018 issue of Berkshire News: namely The Spring Annual Council Meeting 2018 to be held on Monday, 9th April 2018 from 10.30am – 1.00pm at the Palmer Building of the University of Reading (Whiteknights Campus) when the speaker will be Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE. Tickets are £11 each and must be purchased in advance. During February, Lorraine McClellan, will be holding a series of workshops at WI House, Mortimer which will be at a basic level – they include An Introduction to Social Media; Being Creative using IT; Using Email; and Maintaining your computer. These courses are for WI members only. Other workshops/

talks include a photographic workshop and a discussion about Glaucoma. More information can be found in the Berkshire WI News.

Arlene then introduced our speaker, Jayne Windmill, who gave a very interesting and often amusing account of her (and her husband's) walk from Land's End to John O'Groats. This remarkable feat took about three months to complete and was done mainly on footpaths. During the talk we were shown photographs of some of the places visited.

We then had tea and biscuits before the raffle was drawn. The Bring and Buy stall proved successful.

Now a brief report of our December 2017 meeting. This was held on the 6th December. Unfortunately we were unable to get into our normal venue (the lock was faulty), but the Vicar kindly gave his permission for us to use the new Church Hall. During the meeting we were shown how to decorate a Christmas Wreath by Kathleen Morgan. Bob Whelpton was there selling his lovely continental chocolates, so quite a lot of Christmas shopping took place. This was followed by a cup of tea and mince pie, and a good afternoon was had by all.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

## Caversham WI

For Caversham WI's December meeting, we welcomed Monica Phillips and two of her long-time students to get us to try line dancing. She brought us lovely music, took us (very patiently!) through some simple – and some more complicated – steps, and we had a wonderful time dancing together. We were even treated to a more professional show – which was excellent. Afterwards, we shared a festive buffet and a Christmas cake with our guests and visitors, who included members from no less than 4 other WI's. In January we held our annual members meeting – where members were invited to share their own experiences and skills. This year we heard stories from two ex-Reading mayoresses.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 in the evenings – which helps avoid child-care issues. There is usually easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Prospect Street. More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for "Caversham WI".

For enquiries please contact our Secretary, on 947 5176.

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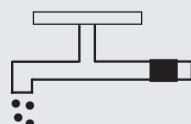
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