

Father Paul's visit and presentation

On the weekend of 20th and 21st January 2018, Fr Paul Martin visited the parish of Our Lady and St Anne, Caversham, for a formal farewell. He had left Caversham in September 2017 to go to Wolvercote to take up a position as Director of the St Barnabas Society. He celebrated all four masses on Saturday and Sunday in the absence of Fr Patrick but the ten o'clock mass on Sunday was very special. At the end of mass, Damian Colehan made an address on behalf of the parish about Fr Paul's four year ministry in Caversham from 2013 to 2017, which demonstrated to him the love and affection that all felt for him.

He spoke firstly about Fr Paul's willingness to listen to and to be attentive to others, and also



Fr Paul contemplating Damian's words

his willingness to be open about his own personal difficulties, challenges and health issues.

He then talked about his personal devotion to Our Lady. This led to his vision for the restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. He shared his enthusiasm with the parish and after working with a small team, produced a plan for the restoration of the Shrine and work on the fabric of the church and its subsequent redecoration which was granted approval by the Archdiocese of Birmingham in July 2016. Fr Paul led by example in the fund-raising for this project. He raised over £15,000 by a pilgrimage on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, by a sponsored slim and by his brave 160 mile pilgrimage from Walsingham back to Caversham, mostly on main roads.

Damian mentioned Fr Paul's gift to bring

enormous comfort to the sick, dying and bereaved and his ability to communicate with children and his encouragement of the Children's Liturgy.

His homilies were always thought-provoking and instructive in the faith.

At the end of his address, Damian presented a cheque, the result of the parish collection which showed how much Fr Paul was loved by all those he had served. Father Paul thanked everyone for the gift and wryly remarked that Damian's words sounded like a cause for canonisation. He said how pleased he was to be back at Our Lady and St Anne's but that he was also very happy in his work for the St Barnabas Society.

After posing for photographs, Fr Paul joined the congregation for refreshments and much chat in the Cenacle.

Father Patrick had associated himself with the parish's appreciation of Fr Paul's ministry and said Mass for his intentions on the Sunday morning.



Damian presenting the cheque



Fr Paul surrounded by the altar servers

For Information on Easter Services please see Page 7

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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
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,
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 Nigel Jones

Confession time

Confession time: appropriately, since by the time you read this it will be well and truly Lent. My shameful confession is that I like Harry Potter and Star Wars. Both of which are considered by the cognoscenti (or should that be the chattering classes? i.e. people talking to each other in a Radio 4 studio at 3 o'clock on a weekday afternoon) to be low-brow. Even the Lord of the Rings (of course, my favourite book) is looked down upon by 'those who know' about literature, despite being the nation's favourite book and despite having been written by an Oxford professor of linguistics and literature! For some reason being completely ignorant of 20th century science seems to carry no shame for these people! LOL

Star Wars can be appreciated for (if nothing else) the special effects. Not just impressive but also truly beautiful images of what distant planets, stars and space-ships might look like. There is a sense conveyed that other parts of the Universe are just as stunning as what you might see on Blue Planet II.

I suppose I also like Star Wars because it has accompanied me through my life, the first film (intriguingly called Episode IV) having come out in 1977 when I was 8 and just the right age to latch on to what has become, for much of our world's population, the new mythology. Many people today are far more familiar with the Jedi, Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader than with the Holy Spirit, St Paul or the Last Supper.

So we can be thankful (to George Lucas, I suppose) that this new mythology, despite its faults, is at least wholesome, with a clear sense of right and wrong, and the need to fight for what is good and true even when all seems hopeless. Childish? Maybe, but kids' stuff is what dreams are made of.

When I was ill a couple of months ago and wanting some easy entertainment I picked up again the first Harry Potter book. My recollection had been that the first 3 or 4 of the series of 7 were very funny (which they are) but that the later part of the series becomes rather stodgy, and I wasn't intending to read them all. But for some reason on re-reading I was gripped by the whole lot.

Some Christians initially objected to Harry Potter because it portrays witches and wizards as benign but that seems to me a superficial critique. As in Star Wars the values it imparts (to- let's not forget- millions of people!) include: bravery; the importance of being a faithful friend; the difference between right and wrong ("Dark times lie ahead of us and there will be a time when we must choose between what is easy and what is right"); the importance of admitting you are wrong and saying sorry; mercy (Harry rescues his enemy Draco from certain death); respect for others ('If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals'); the need to stand on one's own two feet as one grows up (Harry's hero and mentor has to leave him); a belief in life after death and that greatness in this world and in the world to come look very different indeed; in the saving power of love; in the reality of the need to live with grief and come to terms with loss; the need to be positive (can you conjure a Patronus?); and, yes, the healing power of laughing out loud.

And finally here's one to reflect on: 'It is the unknown we fear when we look upon death and darkness, nothing more.'

Reverend Nigel Jones is Vicar at St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights.

READING GARDENERS

We have one meeting in March on Wednesday 14th. As usual the meeting will be held in Caversham Primary School. Refreshments will be served at 7.15 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.45 p.m.

Alan Edmondson who lives in Hampshire will give a talk on The Shady Garden. He will use photographs of his own garden in Lymington to illustrate the talk.

Please consult our website for more information: www.readinggardenersclub.org.uk



CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Are you a people person?

Caversham Good Neighbours is a group formed to offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled in our neighbourhood. If you would like to give to the community by joining us as a volunteer driver or helping in our office, then please do get in touch with us.

www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk
0118 948 3466

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 11.30am
Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX



SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

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 April 2018 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 5th March. The date for the May 2018 issue is Monday 2nd April. Email address is editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the April 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 2nd March. The date for the May 2018 issue is Friday 2nd April. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
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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Changes to the Caversham Heights bus (Route 22) from 19th February 2018

Reading Buses carried out a consultation in October 2017. *Concerned of Caversham* was formed at the same time, by concerned local residents, to create awareness of the proposals, and has campaigned relentlessly since then for better proposals for all residents living within the 22 route. In February 2018 *Concerned of Caversham* has continued to engage with Reading Buses and, at the time of going to print, has secured the reinstatement of 5 further buses to the timetable, adding the 06:41 and 09:30 from St Andrews, along with the 17:30, 18:30 and 19:30 from Friar Street. The cuts now stand at 18%. *Concerned of Caversham* plans to continue to hold Reading Buses to their 30 minute peak promise. The re-instatement of some peak services is welcome. However, it has not been possible to secure a greater frequency of buses between 10am – 3pm week days, or on Saturdays when the frequency is one bus an hour, not every half hour. The group continues to seek the return of these much loved and needed buses.

The Pink 22 now becomes the Red 22 with a route extended from Reading centre to RBH and Lower Earley. The new timetable is here on the Reading buses website, under the timetable section:

<http://www.readingbuses.co.uk/files/timetables/new/red%2022%20times.pdf>

Reading Buses claim all Caversham routes lose money, but they have never been precise about any detail. The Pink 22 has been singled out for reduction, but all readers and residents of the North side of the river should be aware and vigilant of any future attempts at service modification. All our bus routes should be treasured. High quality public transport is vital to all the communities irrespective of location and geography. Please consider taking the bus whenever you are able - to travel to work, to the station or for weekend leisure activities. If previously you have relied on family to drop you down to the station, paid the expensive car parking charges, or struggled to park at the RBH, please hop on the bus. Reading Buses have innovated many forms of ticketing and pricing so give the buses a go!

Treasure your 22 bus

Please help your community who rely on the bus. Don't really use the bus? Please give it a go! • If the 22 service doesn't get more use, it may cease to exist. It is under severe threat. • It is a vital resource for us all. If not for you or your family at the moment, what about the future? A 22-busless future is not a great prospect. • Please consider taking the bus whenever you are able - to travel to work, the station or weekend leisure activities. If previously you have relied on family to drop you down to the station, paid the expensive car parking charges, or struggled to park at the RBH, please hop on the 22. • Considerable changes are being made to the service. Most of the 22 buses will travel onwards from Reading town centre to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and then to Lower Earley (Asda), and back. Not every bus will, so please check the timetable carefully. • If we all took to the bus, we could reduce the congestion and very high pollution levels that have recently been recorded in Caversham.

Get to know your new bus service – The new timetable is here: <http://www.reading-buses.co.uk/files/timetables/new/red%2022%20times.pdf> (on the Reading buses website, under the timetable section). At individual bus stops the times are shown on the timetable and can easily be photographed for future reference.

Track your bus – stay in the warmth of your home or office until your bus is due Have you ever wondered if your bus might be stuck in traffic? Or can't remember the time the next bus is due? There are three excellent, easy-to-use smartphone apps, Reading Buses, Bus Checker and MyBusReading. They tell you when the next bus is due at your chosen stop(s).

Please consider using the bus. Please help your community. Please take the bus.

Tickets - keep costs down and forget having to have the right change for the ticket

A standard ticket purchased on the bus costs £2 for an adult single ticket, day ticket £4, or unlimited evening travel from 6pm for £3. For children a boost single costs £1.50 and a day £2.50. There however are a variety of moneysaving ways to purchase a discounted ticket, depending on the frequency of your travel. Reading Buses smartcards come in three different formats: period, multi-trip and e-purse.

Period tickets – Available in 7, 30, 90 and 365 day variants (academic year for Boost products for children and students up to the age of 21 with a valid ID card from their college/uni). These are valid for the number of consecutive days specified from first use on the bus.

Multi-trip - Available as easysaver or boostsaver variants. Load 10 single journeys onto the card, which is discounted against the single fare on bus. Great for occasional users as there's no expiry date!

e-purse - Load cash onto the card and use it to pay the driver. No need to carry change!

If you or your family are an occasional bus traveller, you will save money by purchasing an easysaver card, or, for a child, boostsaver. This enables you to purchase 10 journeys at a discounted rate from Reading Buses on a credit card sized plastic ticket, which can be renewed online or in the bus shop in the Broad Street Mall and we highly recommend purchasing to save you looking around for the right change.

Contactless payments are also accepted on the buses. You can also purchase your ticket via the Reading Buses App.

Did you know?

Travel all day. You can travel all day on a £4 day ticket it offers unlimited journeys on all Reading buses within the simplyReading area on the same day, or unlimited evening travel from 6pm for £3.

Group tickets. £6 for four people on Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings and Public & School Holidays. For four people - any combination of adults and children, for travel all day in the simplyReading area. Buy your ticket from the driver. If you travel outside of school holidays before 6pm the cost of a group ticket for 4 people is £9

Important: Hear the Beep

Each beep registers a journey; without your ticket or bus pass being beeped, you aren't on any official records. Records of usage are vital to keep the service going. Caversham needs you to be counted.

Please do not accept being waived onto the bus without hearing the beep! If you travel using a prepaid ticket, either card or paper, and if it doesn't register, please ask the bus driver to do so manually. For PlusBus holders, this has to be done manually by the driver each time.

Are you employed by a company of over 20 employees in Reading?

Do you work for an employer with more than 20 employees? If so, there is a possibility of discounted fares available if employees travel to work by bus via a company scheme. Please get in touch with us, or ask your employer for more information. Email : Concernedofcaversham@gmail.com

The work so far to keep the 22 service

Reading Buses carried out a consultation in October 2017. *Concerned of Caversham* was formed at the same time, by concerned local residents, to create awareness of the proposals, and has campaigned relentlessly since then for better proposals for all residents living within the 22 route. A brief timeline: • October 2017 The original proposals saw half of the 22 route cut off from a bus

service completely, with the other half having 20 min frequency, travelling along a very unsafe route which was previously rejected in 2011. Then, a second set of proposals were produced for an off peak 'Hoppa bus' to travel in a circular motion around Caversham along the bus stops cut off in the first proposals. No solution was provided for commuters, school children, or anyone looking to travel beyond Caversham.

• November 2017 The consultation came to an end in November 2017 and Reading Buses then announced severe cuts to the route which hadn't featured in the consultation. A reduction was announced to the service which equated to approx. a 42% loss. This staggering cut included reducing to an off-peak hourly service, creating difficulties for all residents, especially returning school children and commuters. They also cancelled all buses on a Sunday and reduced Saturday to hourly. • December 2017 *Concerned of Caversham* urged Reading Buses for peak service to resume from 3:15pm to cover returning school children, and for a Sunday service to be returned. • January 2018 When the timetables were produced in early January, it was discovered the peak service too was

going to receive a cut, when previously a promise had been made to retain a 30 minute frequency. Additionally, the first bus a concessionary bus pass holder could travel on was also delayed. After-school and Sunday service were returned to the timetable. • February 2018 *Concerned of Caversham* has continued to apply pressure on Reading Buses and, at the time of going to print, has secured the reinstatement of 5 further buses to the timetable, adding the 06:41 and 09:30 from St Andrews, along with the 17:30, 18:30 and 19:30 from Friar Street. The cuts now stand at 18%. *Concerned of Caversham* plans to continue to hold Reading Buses to their 30 minute peak promise. We welcome the return of the buses so far secured, and are pleased Reading Buses have listened to some of our concerns. It is with a heavy heart that we have not been able to secure a greater frequency of buses between 10am – 3pm week days, or on Saturdays when frequency will run at once an hour. We continue to seek the return of these much loved and needed buses. Thank you for your support. *Concerned of Caversham* 10/02/18 Concernedofcaversham@gmail.com

Bible Friends

A meal with Jesus

"It's Passover," Jesus told his friends.

"Time for our special meal."

When the meal was ready, Jesus said, "This is the last Passover meal we will all eat together. Soon, some sad things are going to happen."

Jesus held a cup of wine in his hands. "Thank you, God," he said. Then Jesus gave the cup to his friends. "Pass this round and all have a drink from it," he said.

Next, Jesus held a loaf of bread and broke it into pieces. "Thank you, God," he said, and gave it to his friends. "When you eat this," he told them, "I want you to think about me."

After their meal, Jesus held another cup of wine in his hands.

"Share this," he said. "Soon someone in this room will choose not to be my friend any more."

His friends looked at each other, amazed. "Who is it?" they wondered.

Luke 22:7-23



From the Lookout Post

CADRA AGM

The CADRA AGM will take place on Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 7.30pm in Thameside School Hall. Following the brief formal business, we will welcome Sue Holden, Chief Officer of the Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Chilterns lie on Caversham's doorstep: their woodland, hills, views, chalk streams and history provide a huge recreational asset for all of us, as well as a rich and diverse habitat. But such a lovely area so close to London is under huge development pressure, not only from housing but from big infrastructure projects like HS2.

The AONB stretches from here to beyond Luton and is one of only two such areas to have its own statutory Conservation Board. Chief Officer Sue Holden will describe the Board's work, alongside the Local Authorities, to help cope with this pressure



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and to manage the area's assets, as well as some of its exciting projects. These include the revival of its unique chalk streams, the enhancement of its historic woodland and landscapes, an annual walking festival, and the plotting of all the Chilterns' ancient hill forts using the latest methods of aerial detection.

In the meantime, the Chilterns Conservation Board is seeking views on the key issues in managing the area, and you can give these on www.chilternsaonb.org where you have the chance to win a £50 voucher for Chilterns produce.

CADRA website

www.cadra.org.uk will take you to the new CADRA website. Over the past months, the CADRA team has been working on a new website which is easier to access, includes a search function and is more 'mobile friendly.' This is now live. It has been an opportunity to review and update the pages. This will always be 'work in progress' and suggestions are welcome.

The Home page shows links to the latest updates as well as the CADRA Facebook page with up to the minute items of local interest. On every page, you will find the 'Search' symbol on the top right-hand corner. The 'Issues' tab covers many of the major topics like Planning and Transport and shows a wide range of information and useful links. As before, the monthly Planning List provides a summary of the significant local planning applications and appeals and is updated every month. Each application listed provides a direct link to the page on the Reading Borough Council website where plans can be seen, and comments sent on line.

St Peter's Conservation Area

During 2017, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which includes several members from Caversham, completed a community-led appraisal of St Peter's Conservation Area. This appraisal has now been submitted to Reading Borough Council which has established a process for review and formal adoption. After further work with the CAAC, a formal consultation will be undertaken by the Council. Further details and all the documentation is available at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Conservation-Areas>.

Caversham Artisan and Farmers Market

The new Sunday market started up before Christmas and looks forward to expanding as the weather improves and more people know about it. The development of St Martin's will eventually provide a second square for the market and other activities but for the moment the market is at the side of Iceland building in the car park. It is held every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 10.00 am to 3.00pm.



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Gardiner's Homecare in the centre of Caversham is proudly celebrating 50 years providing care and support to people in the local area

Gardiner's was established in 1968 by Dorothy Gardiner and is based in the centre of Caversham at the corner of Priory Avenue. Dorothy trained as a nurse at the Withington Hospital in Manchester, before working as a midwife, as a district nurse and also at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Dorothy and her husband Ivan, otherwise known as Gus, ran the business together while raising their family. At the time, working full-time and being a mum was a very modern idea but Dorothy was a trail-blazer! In 1984 Dorothy was awarded an MBE in recognition of her services to nursing and, in particular, her outstanding contribution to fostering good standards of care in the independent sector.

Dorothy stepped down from the day-to-day



'Old Church Street'

management of Gardiner's in 1998. In the later years of her life Dorothy sadly suffered from dementia. She passed away in 2012.

Gus remained involved with the business until 2009. He moved into the same nursing home as his wife for a time and passed away in 2014. Dorothy and Gus were supported in the business over many years by their daughter Jan, son John and daughter-in-law Rose.

Today Gardiner's proudly continues to serve the people in our community. The business is now run by Dorothy's grandson, John-Joe Cottam, along with registered manager Annabel Wickens and a highly experienced team.

Gardiner's Homecare can provide support with personal care, medication, respite, light housework, shopping and much more. Help is also available when returning home from hospital, with urgent round the clock care or simply some companionship. Whatever your needs may be, we can help to make it possible for you to live comfortably in your own home.

If you would like to discuss your needs or that of a loved one and find out more information about our home care services please do call us on 0118 9476666. We will be happy to help and answer any questions you might have.

Caversham Heights Society

The society held two meetings during January. On the 17th Catherine Sampson enthralled members with a talk on Purley from the 1800s to the 1960s, illustrated with sepia photographs and postcards, selected from over 60,000 photo plates taken through the years. She also used pictures taken by local photographers such as Dann and Lewis Studio [1856-1940], Rev Henry Wilder [1834-1908] and Phillip Osborne Collier [1881-1979]. Each had a different aspect which interested them, such as views along the river, people, agriculture and farming scenes, or family groupings. These were the early years of photography which also happened to coincide with a growing interest in fishing, lazing about in boats along the river, and with tourism which saw more and more folk coming out from London into the countryside.

Old Purley was essentially a closed village of about 200 people in the 1860s because most of the houses and cottages were occupied by employees of either Purley Hall or Purley Park. By the 1960s the population had risen to about 4,500. Major floods in 1947 had a profound impact on the village but it was the development of what became known as the shanty town in the 1960s that changed the whole ambience of the place. London buses, railway coaches and caravans were allowed on small plots of land which in due course had bungalows built around them, many of which still exist. As shops and small businesses also sprang up a real sense of community developed. It was the telling of individual stories, both humorous and sad, that brought the story of old Purley to life for members, some of whom remembered different people and incidents.

The meeting on the 31st was very different. Not only was the hall packed but we had visual aids in the shape of ex-Gurkha soldiers and their wives in different Nepali tribal costumes. Pam Reynolds spoke to us about the Gurkha way of life and the Gurkha Ladies project here in Reading. She

also talked about SSAFA, the Soldiers Sailors and Air Force Association, the oldest military charity, founded in 1885, with the purpose of caring for the wives and families of ex-service personnel. She gave some background information about Nepal, its people, and the dialects of the Nepali language which are largely associated with the four main tribes - the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu and the Magar.

The Gurkha connection with the British Army dates back 200 years and it was the bravery of the Gurkha soldiers that has struck fear into their enemies, whether in the two World Wars, especially in Burma and Malaya, and in Afghanistan. In the Falklands War the Argentinians refused to fight against them! Their motto is 'Better to die than be a coward'. Unfortunately the British did not treat the Gurkhas very well by way of pensions and welfare benefits until Joanna Lumley got involved and shamed the British Government of Gordon Brown to take action. The result was that in 2007 they began to receive pensions and from 2009 they were granted citizenship rights. As mothers and wives began to settle in and around Reading it was recognised that they needed to be taught how to read and write, both in English as well as Nepali, how to understand British customs and culture, and how to access medical services and other local services. Supported by SSAFA and various charities, classes are provided by a group of volunteers, led by Pam Reynolds. The results are that these ladies have grown in confidence and many can be seen shopping and enjoying themselves in Reading. This project is now being replicated in other parts of the country.

The CHS meets every alternate Wednesday evening in the Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall. The meetings begin with coffee at 7.15pm. The talks start at 8.00pm. and newcomers are always welcome. Further details can be found on the website cavershamheights.org or by email to contact@cavershamheights.org

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Tribute to Jim Pilgrim

23rd June 1924 - 29th December 2017

From its inception, for 40 years, Jim was the Secretary and Treasurer of the *Caversham Bridge* Christian newspaper.

Jim was registered as Herbert James Pilgrim. He was born in Reading and educated at Katesgrove Infants School, E. P. Collier and Reading Grammar School.

As a lad, he joined the Scout Troop at Caversham Baptist Church where he earned his King's Scout Badge. However he was denied the opportunity to receive the award from King George VI at Windsor due to the outbreak of the Second World War. As a Scout he helped with the evacuees as they arrived at Reading Station. He was also a Boy Scout Messenger for the ARP Wardens based in Whitley Street.

When he left school his ambition was to train as a surgeon but money was not available for further education. Instead he took a temporary job as a clerk working for the forerunner of the National Health Service whilst waiting for an opening with the GPO (now BT) to be taken on as a 'Youth in Training'. He was trained on teleprinter maintenance and helped to install and maintain the teleprinters at Greenham Common for the Americans.

Shortly after completing his training, he was handed an envelope with a travel warrant for a single ticket to Paddington with instructions of where to report. Having signed the Official Secrets Act, two weeks later, he was given another sealed envelope and travel warrant. This time it was from Euston Station to Bletchley. At Bletchley Park he worked on the maintenance of various teleprinters and coding machines. On one occasion he was presented with a machine in a box that had been recovered from a sunken submarine. It was full of sand and the sea water had started to corrode the contents. He was told to try and clean it up and get it working. After a week he was successful. In later years Jim concluded that he had probably been working on an Enigma Machine.

Leaving Bletchley, Jim returned to London continuing to work on maintaining equipment. Work which often took him to the Foreign Office and to other sensitive areas, which he was unable to talk about for 50 years!

He met his future wife Margaret, the sister of a fellow Scout, and they were married at the Baptist Church on a wet Boxing Day in 1945. Their married life began in Battersea where their first daughter Sue was born. After returning to Reading, their second daughter Gill arrived.

Jim had a reputation for wanting tasks completed efficiently and accurately and he gained the nickname of 'Instant Jim'.

In 1958, Jim and the family moved into the house on the corner of Highmoor Road and Ilkley Road. The house was in need of serious renovation. Jim rewired it, installed central heating and redecorated it. Then, he tackled the challenge of the overgrown garden! His colourful front garden gave pleasure to all who passed by.

His other achievements included being Scoutmaster at the Baptist Church, a Church Deacon and with Margaret's help, he edited and printed the Church Magazine.

He was also on the committee of Abbeyfield Housing Association when they had a house in St. Peter's Avenue.

When Margaret's mobility deteriorated they joined and became valued members of the congregation at Caversham Heights Methodist Church where Jim remained until his death.

There is so much more we could learn about Jim, a practical Christian, a Good Samaritan, a man of principles. He disliked the limelight but had a hidden sense of humour.

Following Margaret's death in 2009, Jim remained fiercely independent, continuing to care for himself, cooking his own meals and tending his garden. An incredible man.

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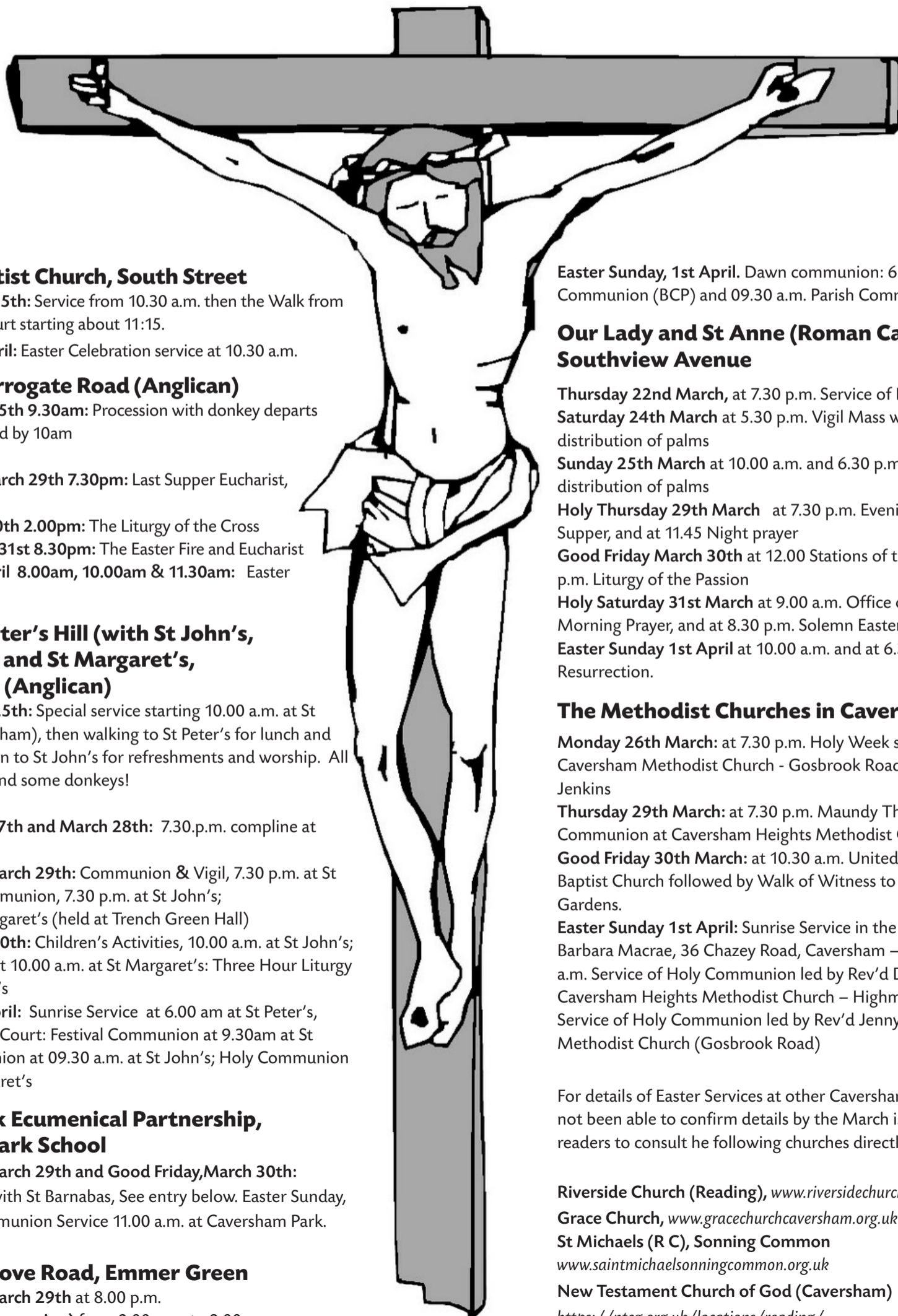
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Easter Services

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me". Mark 8:34



Caversham Baptist Church, South Street

Palm Sunday, March 25th: Service from 10.30 a.m. then the Walk from CBC to Caversham Court starting about 11:15.

Easter Sunday, 1st April: Easter Celebration service at 10.30 a.m.

St Andrews, Harrogate Road (Anglican)

Palm Sunday March 25th 9.30am: Procession with donkey departs Kelvedon Way, followed by 10am

Parish Eucharist

Maundy Thursday March 29th 7.30pm: Last Supper Eucharist, then Vigil

Good Friday March 30th 2.00pm: The Liturgy of the Cross

Holy Saturday March 31st 8.30pm: The Easter Fire and Eucharist

Easter Sunday 1st April 8.00am, 10.00am & 11.30am: Easter Eucharist Services

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill (with St John's, Gosbrook Road and St Margaret's, Mapledurham), (Anglican)

Palm Sunday March 25th: Special service starting 10.00 a.m. at St Margaret's (Mapledurham), then walking to St Peter's for lunch and Holy Communion, then to St John's for refreshments and worship. All with Bishop Andrew and some donkeys!

March 26th, March 27th and March 28th: 7.30.p.m. compline at St Peter's

Maundy Thursday, March 29th: Communion & Vigil, 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's; Meal and communion, 7.30 p.m. at St John's; HC and supper St Margaret's (held at Trench Green Hall)

Good Friday, March 30th: Children's Activities, 10.00 a.m. at St John's; Stations of the Cross at 10.00 a.m. at St Margaret's; Three Hour Liturgy from 12.00 at St Peter's

Easter Sunday, 1st April: Sunrise Service at 6.00 am at St Peter's, starting in Caversham Court: Festival Communion at 9.30am at St Peter's; Holy Communion at 09.30 a.m. at St John's; Holy Communion at 11.15am at St Margaret's

Caversham Park Ecumenical Partnership, at Caversham Park School

Maundy Thursday, March 29th and Good Friday, March 30th:

Caversham Park join with St Barnabas, See entry below. **Easter Sunday, 1st April:** Easter Communion Service 11.00 a.m. at Caversham Park.

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 8.00 p.m.

Good Friday (non-communion) from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 1st April. Dawn communion: 6.00 a.m.; 8.00 a.m. Said Communion (BCP) and 09.30 a.m. Parish Communion.

Our Lady and St Anne (Roman Catholic), Southview Avenue

Thursday 22nd March, at 7.30 p.m. Service of Reconciliation

Saturday 24th March at 5.30 p.m. Vigil Mass with blessing and distribution of palms

Sunday 25th March at 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Mass with blessing and distribution of palms

Holy Thursday 29th March at 7.30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, and at 11.45 Night prayer

Good Friday March 30th at 12.00 Stations of the Cross and at 3.00 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday 31st March at 9.00 a.m. Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and at 8.30 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 1st April at 10.00 a.m. and at 6.30 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection.

The Methodist Churches in Caversham

Monday 26th March: at 7.30 p.m. Holy Week service of reflection at Caversham Methodist Church - Gosbrook Road led by Rev'd David Jenkins

Thursday 29th March: at 7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road

Good Friday 30th March: at 10.30 a.m. United service at Caversham Baptist Church followed by Walk of Witness to Caversham Court Gardens.

Easter Sunday 1st April: Sunrise Service in the garden of Ken and Barbara Macrae, 36 Chazey Road, Caversham – all welcome; 10.30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion led by Rev'd Dr James Mather at Caversham Heights Methodist Church – Highmoor Road; 10.30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion led by Rev'd Jenny Dowding at Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road)

For details of Easter Services at other Caversham churches which have not been able to confirm details by the March issue deadline we ask readers to consult the following churches directly:

Riverside Church (Reading), www.riversidechurchcaversham.co.uk

Grace Church, www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

St Michaels (R C), Sonning Common

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

New Testament Church of God (Caversham)

<https://ntcg.org.uk/locations/reading/>

History of Reading Society

The subject of the January talk was *The History of Katesgrove*. The speaker was Evelyn Williams who has lived in the area for almost twenty years. Evelyn has done much research into the area's history, particularly its industry, and was a founder member and is a regular contributor to the Whitley Pump, the local news website for Katesgrove.

The modern spelling of Katesgrove has several antecedents: Cadeles Grove, Catsgrove, Cattlegrove and Cattell's Grove. The area developed around the old Reading to Winchester Road (modern Southampton Street) and is today a rich urban pudding of narrow streets lined mostly with Victorian terrace houses, many with ornate polychrome brickwork, and its skyline still dominated by the spire of St Giles's Church.

Evelyn showed slides of some of the earliest maps of the area: on the John Speed map of 1611 the most prominent landmark was Katesgrove House. One of its residents, French exile Count Charles Jean d'Hector, participated in the unsuccessful military campaign to restore the monarchy in France after the revolution. The house was sold for £1,000 in 1873 then demolished to make way for Katesgrove School. We were shown an



Victorian terrace houses

early view of the area, the panorama sketched by Samuel Buck in 1734: looking north from Bob's Mount it depicts men digging the clay used in brick making, also, the river Kennet is clearly visible winding its way through the landscape.



Essex Street

The area attracted a diverse range of industries: in the 1830s the Philbrick family established a tannery in Katesgrove Lane; it processed animal skins for the leather trade; an unpleasant concomitant was the foul smell it produced. Nearby was the Reading Iron Works active from 1818; today some of the cast-iron lamp standards it made survive around Reading. Many brickworks were established in the area; Rose Kiln Lane is a reminder of the trade. Katesgrove's last brickworks, at Elgar Road, closed in the 1950s.



Southampton Street

Until quite recently Katesgrove abounded with public houses: the Tanners' Arms in Orchard Street, the Red Cow in Crown Street, the Kennet Arms in Pell Street and the Greyhound in Silver Street to name but a few. During 1877, in opposition to the proliferation of ale houses in the area, St. Giles Parish Church opened the Rising Sun Temperance House at Silver Street. For an annual fee members had the use of a library and reading-room, could play billiards and, most important, could partake of non-intoxicating refreshments. Recently, after a long period of neglect, a group of volunteers

rescued the building from the blight of vandalism and today it is a thriving arts centre.

The subject of the next talk will be *The History of Abbey Baptist Church, Reading*. 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.

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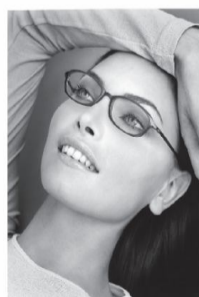
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St John's - Greyfriars Partnership – The Launch!

What a cracking day we had on Sunday 4th February, as the team from Greyfriars who have sensed a clear call from God to come and join us at St John's were commissioned, sent out, and led by Bishop Andrew on foot through Reading, across Christchurch footbridge, and into St John's.

Richard, Jo and myself were present at Greyfriars for the sending out, and heard Bishop Andrew preach from Mark 16, encouraging us to be an 'outdoors' church

rather than an 'indoors' church. David Walker (Vicar of Greyfriars), and Harvey and Katie (their wardens), accompanied the team on the walk, along with a number of friends from Greyfriars who wanted to support and encourage them in their new venture. A group from St John's met us on Christchurch Bridge, the boundary between Greyfriars and CTM parishes, and under Bishop Andrew's leadership we all publicly declared our faith together as an act of unity and a symbol of ongoing partnership. We also had our photos taken, and rather than asking us to say 'cheese' Mark Carpenter encouraged a shout of 'God is good, **All the time, All the time, God is good!**' Shouting a declaration like this seemed to me to be a fitting response to the Bishop's exhortation to us to be an 'outdoor church', visible, and unashamed of who we are in Christ.

Meanwhile Mike was holding the fort at St John's, and on arrival there the newcomers were greeted with music, cheers, and helium balloons! The newcomers publicly declared their desire to follow the call of Christ and, with their brothers and sisters at St John's, to learn and live the way of Christ. Friends from Greyfriars pledged their continued support, and the new, united St John's congregation promised, with

Over the next few months we will give time and opportunity for building strong relationships. We have already set up mixed small groups, which in January looked at Bishop Steven's course on The Beatitudes. Through Lent we will follow a course called 'Everybody Welcome', which as well as helping us get to know one another, will help us think deeply and creatively about our hospitality, and how we might respond to the needs and culture of our community.

In terms of our Sunday worship, those joining St John's have felt strongly that initially we should all worship together as one family at 9.30, and our enlarged Sunday Club will now meet in Caversham Hall. Second Sundays will continue as All Age Worship. In addition, from April we intend to trial a monthly 7pm Contemporary Worship Service, and a monthly 4pm Café Church, which we hope will be more accessible to those in our community



Bishop Andrew leads them out!



Bishop Andrew prays for the team at Greyfriars

the help of God, to accompany one another on the journey of faith, supporting each other in friendship, love and prayer. Bishop Andrew then commissioned the united St John's congregation and presided at communion.

We sang with gusto:

"Lord of the church we pray for our renewing; Christ over all, our undivided aim.

Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing, Wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!

We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing, The will that lacks the courage to be free,

The weary labours, all but unavailing, To bring us nearer what a church should be."

How we long to become the united, Christlike church that God longs for us to be!

The church service was followed by a party in Caversham Hall, a lavish 'bring and share' lunch, with plenty of time to chat with old friends and make some new ones. We also celebrated Sam Smith's 8th birthday, with song and cake!

unfamiliar with traditional church. We aren't yet sure exactly what shape this will take, but we are seeking God's guidance, and happy to take a few risks, trusting that he will make things clear as we go along. Our longing is that growth will soon begin to come not just through 'transfer growth' (Christians joining us from other churches), but through people in our wider community hearing the good news of Jesus and responding to his love. For this to happen we will all need to ponder how we can become a confident 'outdoors church'.

Reverend Penny Cuthbert



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Let us have your thoughts

Dear Reader,

You may have noticed that *Caversham Bridge* has made a few changes recently. Some have been forced upon us, but others we have sought to give the paper a more modern outlook such as developing a digital option for its publication and purchase. In November we were faced with the closure of the printing company which had served us for many years but I am glad to say that we now have a new group to provide your copy and that should not make any change to our production, but it was a worrying time!

No doubt you will have noticed changes to our banner heading. Change always brings comment and we have listened to those comments and have tried to incorporate them. We are going to review alternative designs and we invite you to comment on what we will do for the future. Another improvement we are hoping to make is to extend the copy deadline to later in the month. This we hope will allow more use of the paper.

Caversham Bridge has been serving the community for over fifty years now. It is a way for the churches in Caversham to keep you in touch with what they are doing, and also to provide voices from the community to the churches.

This all depends on you telling us what is going on in the clubs and neighbourhoods, the schools and community centres. Often, we struggle to have enough good content and our editorial group has to become more creative in filling the spaces. It is now time to ask what you want to see, and what would interest you in the paper. We have certainly had controversial issues in the area with the problems in health provision and the issues around the new school at Mapledurham playing fields.

As a community paper we do not take sides in the arguments, but we do try to put them fairly. All our staff are volunteers apart from our printers, and as such we are always interested in hearing from people who are interested in being part of the production process. Essentially, we remain a Christian production which will be of value to the whole community. At present 3,000 copies are produced each month, which reflects in the number of businesses that advertise on our pages.

Advertising and sales just about cover the cost but there is no magic pot of gold, and we depend on our sales and that means we need to satisfy our readership. Only you can tell us if it does, only you can provide the material we print.

Not many papers of our type have been in print for so long. We have dedicated people working on production and distribution, again this is done by volunteers and we are in need of new distributors.

Thank you for your time reading this. We look forward to continuing *Caversham Bridge* but your help will be most welcome.

Colin Ferguson Chairman

Which do you prefer?

Please select a type you like and let us know by writing to the Editors, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX, Or email to editors@cavershambridge.org, closing date is 12 noon on Thursday 8th March 2018. The new header on the front page of the paper will be published on the next edition of the Caversham Bridge.



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info@richfieldflooring.co.uk/www.richfieldflooring.co.uk**Tribute to Tom Chadwick
1929 - 2018**

Born in Wheelton, near Chorley in Lancashire, Tom was a scientist by degree and training. He worked as a research scientist in various organisations before marrying Dorothy in August 1958. They lived in Blackburn, Lancashire where he worked as a lecturer at Blackburn College of Technology and whilst there, he wrote and published three Chemistry text books for A level students.

They moved to Australia with their three children John, Anne and Philip. They lived in the State of Victoria and then moved to Melbourne until the early 70's. On their return to U.K. Tom got a job at a private girls school (St Felix School) in Southwold, Suffolk. In 1976 Tom took a job at Reading College of Technology in the Building Science Department and they moved to Caversham where they joined, and became very active members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Tom enjoyed drawing maps when they went on holiday to illustrate where they had been and he also kept a daily diary for many years. It had been his intention to write his life story but he 'put it on the back burner' after Dorothy died. His daughter Anne intends to do so on his behalf.

He had been learning German and had enjoyed walking and could often be seen with Dorothy walking into Caversham from Emmer Green where they bought their last house. Tom was also an expert jam maker with fruit from his beloved garden and for many years had his own 'produce stall' at Caversham Heights Church Autumn fairs. It always sold out!

He was a very independent man and found it difficult as time went by to accept the need for a cleaner, help with cooking and his personal care.

Tom was 'a quiet man' with a very strong Christian belief. When his daughter Anne visited him in hospital she asked him if he was afraid of dying - his response a very firm "NO"

I have a personal memory of Tom and Dorothy on their knees in one of the small rooms at Caversham Heights struggling to assemble old camp beds as the church was hosting a young brass band which was spending the weekend at the church.

Janet Offord

In conclusion - Helen Lambert writes:

For many years, Tom was an active committee member of the Caversham and District Residents' Association (CADRA). He led the campaign to recruit an increased membership and was Secretary until the year 2000. When Derek Bartlett moved away from Caversham at the start of 2004, Tom ably stepped in as Chair and wrote columns for the Caversham Bridge under the name 'Bystander.' Kind, courteous, always considerate of others and too often self-effacing, he was a true gentleman.

He will be greatly missed.

Verdi Requiem

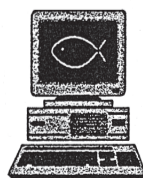
South Chiltern Choral Society will join forces with the Parenthesis Choir, professional soloists and the Reading Symphony Orchestra to perform Verdi's Requiem at the Concert Hall, Reading Town Hall, on Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm.

It is an opportunity to hear well established local choirs and orchestra do justice to one of the best and most popular choral works. The powerful emotions of the requiem's text are expressed through beautiful melodies and dramatic contrasts, including the terrifying yet instantly recognisable *Dies Irae*.

The concert begins with Wagner's *Tannhauser Overture* which is one of the finest operatic preludes ever written. An epitome of the drama, it foreshadows the struggle between good and evil, and the final victory of good.

The concert's conductor is Stefan Hofkes.

Tickets prices are £16 (balcony), £14 (stalls) and £5 (under 18s and full-time students all tickets). Tickets are inclusive of booking fee. Tickets are available from choir and orchestra members or from the Concert Hall box office on 0118 9606060. For more information, please contact 0118 9472419.

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When it paid to shop at Baylis

This month, it's a story of businesses opening and closing. Caversham Eyecare, the opticians in St. Martin's Precinct, closed in January. A very large version of this photograph was on the wall, and a friend kindly re-photographed it for me, and suggested I might write something about it for Caversham Bridge.

We are looking out over the crossroads where Broad Street meets the Butts in the town centre. I can date the picture fairly accurately because it shows the pub called The Peacock, with a Courage golden cockerel sign outside. This puts the date as somewhere between 1960 and 1966.

It was the second pub with this name in the street: the Victorian Peacock was across the road, and closed in 1922, when Woolworth's opened their first Reading shop in the building. The 'new' Peacock was an up-market establishment on two floors, which advertised a gentlemen's bar ('an exclusively masculine retreat') and a Georgian Lounge. It existed between 1956 and 1966, but then re-opened as a cellar bar to attract a younger clientele. Courage were importing

Amstel lager from the Netherlands, and draught lager was the up-and-coming drink, so the Peacock in the cellar had a Dutch theme and a ceramic lager fountain to dispense the stuff. This lasted until 1978, when the Peacock closed, but then it re-opened as a wine-bar called Beadle's. This was a lunch-time haunt of mine, and I remember the lager fountain, though it seemed to be no longer in use. Beadle's lasted for around three years, after which the cellar closed to the public.

To the right of the pub, we have Willson's, the ladies' outfitters, then Alexandre, the gentlemen's outfitters, and then Baylis's Supermarket.

Many will remember Baylis's, here and at their Caversham branch, and their motto: 'It Pays to Shop at Baylis.' They opened on the corner of Broad Street and the Butts in 1875, and over time had acquired ten branches. By 1956, when Derek Baylis took over, the business was in dire straits. It had been one of those old-fashioned grocers where you were served at a counter, and they would allow you credit and deliver your order to your door. Mr. B. made drastic changes, closing loss-making branches, introducing self-service, bright neon lights, and Green Shield Stamps. The gamble paid off, and turnover soon doubled. He had always said that when someone offered him £1 million for his shops, he would sell up, which happened in 1969.

Also prominent in the picture is a Reading trolley-bus, about to negotiate the complex wiring over the crossroads, on its way westwards on route 18. In the 1930s there had been plans to bring the trolley-buses to Caversham, via Prospect Street, Peppard Road and Kidmore End Road, and terminating by the golf club, but these never materialised.

Incidentally, my first thought on seeing the picture was of the rich variety of commercial architecture along Broad Street. Burton's Art Deco building clad in black vitriolite to the left is particularly striking. There's lots of terra-cotta and faience cladding, and it would be colourful, if the picture were in colour. My second thought was just how much has changed, even in the forty-odd years since I first saw this scene.

Happy Wanderer



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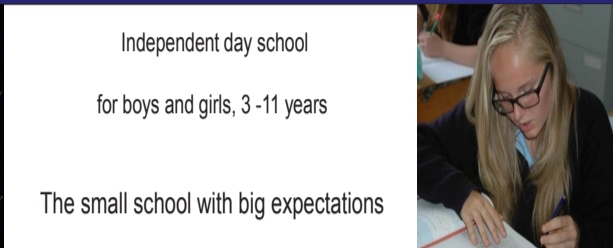
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Reading Düsseldorf Association

In 1946 the remarkable Phoebe Cusden - then Mayor of Reading - led a successful appeal to help the people in the German city of Düsseldorf, and the town's children in particular. Prompted by reports of deprivation and extremely poor living conditions in the town, she went to Düsseldorf herself, and in 1947 invited six Düsseldorf children to Reading for a three-month stay. This was to be the first of numerous visits and exchanges between the two towns and the start of a lasting friendship, formalised by town twinning in 1975.

She founded the Reading Düsseldorf Association (RDA) in 1947, and it is her enduring legacy. The Association continues to maintain and build cultural, educational, sporting, religious and other links with Düsseldorf and promote acceptance, peace and reconciliation, an ethos that remains as relevant today as it was in 1947. The anniversary of this relationship in 2017 gave rise to a range

of exciting events, mutual visits and activities - from joint concerts to (half-)marathon running, visiting artists and musicians to a cocktail competition - that brought the RDA to the renewed attention of a wide audience.

It is the RDA's mission to build on the success of 2017 and encourage many more individuals and organisations to become members and participate in events. The Association has a fascinating history and - in the age of Brexit - continuing relevance. To find out more about our plans and the opportunities to link up with people and groups in Düsseldorf, and about the travelling exhibition and talks on Phoebe Cusden and the RDA, contact the Association at info@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk. The next event is the Annual Dinner on Thursday, 19 April, at the *Caversham Rose* and non-members are welcome. For ticket enquiries please contact anke@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk.

St Peter's Christmas Market -

"the best event of the year!"

£ 3,120 was raised for the Myanmar refugees at the Christmas Market in St Peter's in December! Wonderful handmade crafts, homemade produce, games and seasonal refreshments for all. Not to be missed next year!

Vivace Voices - Spring Concert

Vivace Voices (Director of Music, Ian Westley) present their Spring Concert at St Luke's Church, Theale, RG7 5AS on Wednesday March 28th at 2.30pm.

Admission is £3.00 and including a programme and afternoon tea. All proceeds go to ABC to read (Assisting Berkshire Children to read). Further information at www.vivacevoices.org.uk

David Jenkins in concert 'Dreaming Dreams'

Saturday 14th April 2018 at Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road.

With Rachel Scarlett (Soprano and Flautist), Renato Fonseca (Flautist) and Mystery guest artistes. Refreshments available. Pay at the door.

Lorry barges it's way through Caversham

One Tuesday in January 2018 pedestrians and motorists in Caversham looked on in awe and disbelief as they watched an escorted articulated lorry transporting a barge taking 20 minutes to negotiate its way up Prospect Street.

Home-Craft, the independent hardware shop, rushed to pull in their awning and at this point someone from the escort vehicle got out to guide the driver at the roundabout. "I really thought the iron railings outside Waltons', were going to be very badly damaged", said a Caversham resident. She continued. "At one point the lorry was positioned diagonally across the street! I'll never forget this spectacle, not to mention the skill of that lorry driver. In fact I took a video, which I sent to family and friends: they thought it was great!"

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Caversham WI

Caversham WI held their January meeting at Church House. This was a Member's Meeting where the floor was open to any member to speak on their chosen subject. We were fortunate to have two previous Lady Mayors as members, who each told us of their differing and varying experiences and events during their year of Office. It was really a unique evening and enjoyed by all. They both had travelled world-wide to represent Reading and experienced living in our twinned towns abroad. During their years they have raised money for a variety of different charities connected to Reading.

Later in the evening, each member had the opportunity to vote from a short list of Resolutions that the National WI will be following during the rest of the year.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 p.m. which helps to avoid child-care issues. There is usually easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Church Street. RG4 8AX.

For enquiries please contact our secretary on 9475176

Chazey WI

Our Vice President welcomed everyone including Alan Copeland our guest speaker. Alan gave an interesting talk on *Curiosities in the Chilterns* using a screen and sound effects, which was both Interesting and very entertaining. A vote of thanks was given and then refreshments were taken. Our members were told that our President had been in hospital over Christmas and the New Year, and we wish her well.

Five committee members gave a brief outline on this year's resolutions, a vote was taken and the meeting voted for resolution 4 on mental health matters.

Permission has been given from BFWI to change the day and time of the Annual Meeting.

Our competition was won by Julie Bradshaw-a very good sketch of the Caversham sign located in the Precinct.

We welcome ladies thinking of joining us, and we meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Caversham Methodist church hall on the corner of Highmoor Rd and the Woodcote Rd. For further information contact chazeywi@gmail.com

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The Guild entered a new era on the 21st of February: we now meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. We will still meet at the same venue: Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Woodcote Room, 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham, and we hope the new time will be more attractive to old and new members. Our speaker was Mrs S Duggan, who spoke on 'The Witness Service'.

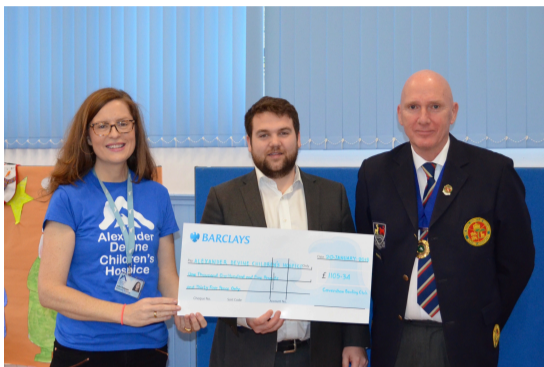
Our next meeting is the AGM on the 21st of March.

In the months following the AGM we have speakers on *The length*

and breadth of Britain and Jane Austin and her connection with Reading, not to mention theatre trips and days out. So, Ladies - why not join us on the third Wednesday of the month?

Caversham Bowls Club

On Saturday 20th January at their AGM, Caversham Bowls Club presented a cheque for £1105-34 to the chosen charity, The Alexander Devine Hospice.



'A generous cheque to help the work of the hospice'

CHURCHES

News from

St. Barnabas Church

Some months ago, the Bishop of Oxford invited everyone in the diocese to explore the Beatitudes. Using his three-session booklet as a guide, a group in St. Barnabas Church have covered the topics – Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous. The material which was accompanied by video and video resources provided much food for thought and many worthwhile discussions. The challenge from the Bishop posed the questions 'what do the words of the Beatitudes tell us about Jesus, what do they tell us about being human in the 21st century and what kind of a church are we called to be?'

This month at St. Barnabas a Mothering Sunday service will be held on the 11th March at 9.30 a.m. and as customary simnel cake will be served for the refreshments. The annual parochial church meeting (APCM) will take place on the 18th March as part of the morning service. On Palm Sunday the following week the Passion Narrative will be read. Subsequently in Holy Week there will be services on Maundy Thursday at 8.00 p.m. and Good Friday (non-communion) from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. An Easter Day celebration will take place on the 1st April. In addition to the customary Sunday services Dawn Communion is being organised at 6.00 a.m.

St Michael's Catholic Church, Peppard Road, Sonning Common

As well as serving Sonning Common and the surrounding South Oxfordshire villages, St Michael's parish includes Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. Our parish school, St Martin's, is located in Caversham Park Village.

During Lent, as well as our regular weekday

and weekend Masses, there will be an opportunity for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Monday evenings (7-8pm). We are also planning talks by representatives of other faiths. You are welcome to join us at any time but particularly for our Holy Week and Easter services (25th March to 1st April). Please visit our parish website www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk for up to date information or call the parish office 0118 9723418.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Michael's.

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Celebrating the Induction of Mgr Patrick Daly at Our Lady and St Anne

One of the purposes of *Caversham Bridge* is to recognize and record significant events in the Christian life of our local communities and to do so within the ecumenical spirit of *Churches in Caversham Together*. The church of Our Lady and St Anne is the focus of Roman Catholic worship in Caversham and the parish has recently said farewell to Fr Paul Martin who was the parish priest for four years. The new parish priest, Mgr Patrick Daly, arrived in the parish in mid-September 2017 and his formal induction took place on Friday 2nd February, the day of Candlemas, the Feast of the Purification of the Lord. There was an atmosphere of great anticipation and joy at this very well attended ceremony at which the Liturgy of Induction was celebrated. The overall ceremony was conducted by the Dean of South Oxford, The Reverend Paul Fitzpatrick and fellow priests were in attendance and concelebrated the Liturgy of the Eucharist with Mgr Patrick Daly as the Principal Celebrant.



Making the Profession of Faith and taking Oaths of Induction.

The Liturgy of the Induction began with the Blessing of Candles and the Procession, the singing of a Processional Hymn (*'Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord to thee we raise'*) and the Welcome and Introduction from the Dean. A group of Mgr Patrick's former parishioners from SS Peter & Paul, Wolverhampton attended the mass and one of their number read the First Reading from Malachi 3, 1 – 4 with Patricia Naxton from St Anne's leading the Responsorial Psalm. Julia Feeney of the parish read the Second Reading from Hebrews 2, 14 -18. The Gospel (Luke 2, 22 – 40) was read by Mgr Michael Sharkey of Oxford South Deanery.



The Rite of Peace.

Then followed the Rite of Induction, starting with the Letter of Appointment read by Sarah Bernito, Vice-Principal of St Anne's parish school. Then the Dean invited Mgr Patrick to make the Profession of Faith, including the receiving the Custody of the Church and undertakings to Pray the Word of God, prepare candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, to carry out the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing and to celebrate the Mass (The *Eucharist* and the *Tabernacle*). The induction was completed by the signing of documents and witnessing of signatures.



The Recession: Father Patrick is now inducted!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist was then celebrated with Mgr Patrick and concelebrants and then the Communion rite was undertaken. These series of familiar rituals at the heart of the faith gained special significance for all those taking part in the induction and for those participating in the congregation at large. Truly the induction of a parish priest is a unique and significant event and as such, a combination of sensations and experiences are latent and are felt both collectively and individually. After the service those attending were invited to join a reception in the Cenacle for refreshments and much animated conversation, whilst offering hospitality to his former Wolverhampton parishioners whom St Anne's was delighted to receive and share in this event.

A service booklet was prepared for this event and this will be for many a treasured remembrance of an event which is both spiritual and historical. Mgr Patrick offered an autobiographical reflection by way of conclusion to his induction which will repay study and offers insight. In it Father Patrick writes: *'Parishioners can check up from time to time what it is they have a right to expect from their pastor. And the new parish priest can read now and again his letter of appointment from the Archbishop and go through the questions asked of him by the Dean as a weather check on his own performance. A new chapter opens in the parish's life and a new page is turned in the priestly ministry of the pastor'*. Father Patrick was the parish priest at SS Peter & Paul in Wolverhampton from 1999 to 2013. He then served as General Secretary to the EU Bishops Conference (COMECE) in Brussels until 2016. Prior to ordination Fr. Patrick had worked in the EU institutions as a linguist and he is a graduate of the Catholic University of Louvain, having studied there between 1975 and 1980.

So, a new priest has joined the list of all those who have served Our Lady and St Anne parish since 1896. The church is also the site of the newly refurbished Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, which itself will be re-dedicated in May 2018. The Christian community welcomes Fr. Patrick to his new parish as do his local parishioners and we wish him every success and fulfilment in his new parish.

Stephen A. Roberts



Fr Patrick at the Reception catching up on news!

Hatterpillar Day at St Anne's

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Caversham, took part in 'Wear a Woolly Hat Day' for St Mungo's.

St Mungo's is a charity which helps



'The children wearing their woolly hats'.

homeless people get off the streets and all children and staff were asked to wear a woolly hat and make a donation to the charity.

When we have the sort of chilly weather that we have had recently, it really brings home the difficulties experienced by the homeless. With our support, St Mungo's will be able to help even more homeless people off the street and will be able to work to end homelessness.

For more information go to the website: <https://www.mungos.org/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/woolly-hat-day>

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March

7:30pm at St. Andrew's Church,
Harrogate Road, Caversham
Heights.

"All God's Creation Is Very Good".
A service prepared by the women of
Suriname.

All welcome – both men and
women.



Two donkeys and one Bishop? Palm Sunday!

This Palm Sunday, 25 March,
why not join Buffy and Solomon
as they walk with the Bishop of
Reading, Andrew Proud.

Everyone is invited to join the
walk. All of it from St Margaret's
Mapledurham to St John the
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joining or leaving at any point.

On the way, take in the
Mapledurham woods, St Peter's
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Refreshments and worship at
each of the three parish
churches and plenty of time to
meet, chat and recall Jesus'
journey on a donkey into
Jerusalem.



We would love you to join
our journey as we retrace
Jesus' steps leading up to
Easter Day, when Christians
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