

# Bishop of Reading retiring



**The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud, has announced he will retire next year. His last official engagement takes place on Easter Sunday. "Bishop Andrew has brought a passion for the global Church which has been threaded through every aspect of his leadership," says the Bishop of Oxford.**

In a letter to clergy and parishioners across the Berkshire episcopal area, Bishop Andrew writes that he feels a deep sense of gratitude: "It has been such a joy to ordain deacons and priests and see them grow and move on, and to have had the privilege of baptising and confirming so many."

Prior to becoming Bishop of Reading in 2011, Bishop Andrew served as Chaplain of St Matthew's, Addis Ababa and was consecrated Bishop of Ethiopia and

the Horn of Africa in 2007. Since returning to the UK Bishop Andrew has been instrumental in introducing a major mission initiative, Partnership for Missional Church to the diocese.

"Bishop Andrew has been an enormous gift to the Diocese of Oxford as Bishop of Reading," says the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Steven Croft. "He has set humility, prayer, listening to scripture and the mission of God at the heart of his episcopal ministry."

"He has brought to the diocese a passion for the global Church, which has been threaded through every aspect of his leadership, and he has been a pastor and an encourager to many across the Berkshire Area. The insights of Partnership in Missional Church have become increasingly important in the life of the diocese as we discern our call together to be more like Jesus Christ."

"Bishop Andrew and his wife, Janice, are known and held in great affection across Berkshire. Like many others, I will miss Andrew as a friend and colleague when he begins his retirement in May of next year."

Details of the timetable for consultations and the appointment of Bishop Andrew's successor as Bishop of Reading will be announced by the Diocese of Oxford later this year.

With a population of 800,000 living in 126 parishes, the Reading Episcopal Area (or Berkshire Archdeaconry) is larger than many dioceses in the Church of England. It extends from West Berkshire along the M4 corridor to Windsor. The Diocese of Oxford is divided into four smaller 'episcopal Areas'. The Bishop of Reading is one of three Area Bishops who serve under the Bishop of Oxford

A farewell service for Bishop Andrew will take place on Wednesday 1st May in Reading Minster (St Mary's) located in Reading town centre. Caversham Bridge wishes Bishop Andrew all the best for the future when he retires to the Midlands and give him our grateful thanks for his wonderful support over the years.



The motely crew at work, Janet, Heather, Stephen (Picture by Alison)

## Question?

Do you have some spare time, looking at giving some time working in media, perhaps you may have children at senior school looking at working in multi-media and news, PC Literate and happy to work with the internet and website. Or perhaps even retired. Then we at Caversham Bridge are looking for a few people to join the editing team, to help sort through stories and make them ready for publication, even to gather news from around the Caversham area. We also want to expand the Bridge and add a couple more interesting sections, these particularly are covering local sports and youth, yes we would like to introduce a youth section, written by the youth of the area, this maybe input from a school done as an after schools club activity, a youth club etc, or maybe just a couple of budding enthusiastic young people who can write from the youth of Caversham's point of view. As regards the sports section there are lots of sporting activities undertaken by the people of Caversham, 5-a-side football, tennis, badminton, walking, horse riding and boating to name just a few, all of which is under reported and not recognised by the community. Can you help the Bridge in these areas. If so, we would be delighted to hear from you by inviting you to write to the editors at [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org) for more information or visit [www.cavershambridge.org/volunteering-editors](http://www.cavershambridge.org/volunteering-editors). Please provide us with a phone number to call for a chat.

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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

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

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

St Peter's, St Margaret's, St John's  
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  
Revd Colin Baker  
Church office tel 0118 954 5353  
Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

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

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC  
Our Lady and St Anne's  
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,  
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

St Michael's  
Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels,  
Sonning Common Tel: 972 3418

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

## TALKING POINT

by Derek Chandler

### 'Free Pasta'

'Is this the tent with the free pasta?', came the question from a group of teenagers with forks at the ready in eager anticipation. It was about midnight and I was serving coffee as a volunteer at the Reading Festival in one of the Reading Street Pastors tents. I had been prepared to expect many situations as a volunteer for the weekend but this one caught me by surprise, I wondered what they meant. We were providing reasonably priced drinks, snacks, and even hot water - but free pasta? And then the penny dropped. 'Free pasta? Oh no, but I am a Street Pastor if that is what you mean!?!' As I said this we laughed, and they sat down to enjoy, not free pasta, but some of our delicious hot chocolate instead.



The *Reading Street Pastors* do fantastic work all year round in Reading and consist of Christian volunteers from many, many churches. They are held in high regard by a number of professional agencies and by young people alike. It is a trust and a respect that has been earned over several years of selfless work and Christian compassion and I experienced this trust and respect for myself when I volunteered in the Reading Street Pastors tents at the Reading Festival this summer.

Hospitality and care as a volunteer provided a number of opportunities to talk to young people, police, medical personnel and festival staff, on the two nights I was there. There was fun and there was drama but at no time did I feel at risk. If anything, most encounters were welcomed with warmth and gratitude. If they asked us to pray, we prayed, but that was usually at the end of whatever we had shared before. Despite the rumours on the campsite free pasta never came into it I'm afraid, but something far more satisfying did.

Thank you *Reading Street Pastors* for all that you do and thank you for inviting me to briefly be a part of it.

*Reverend Derek Chandler*  
*Vicar of St. Barnabas Church*  
*Emmer Green with Caversham Park Church LEP*



## 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](http://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 Holy Communion with Healing Prayers usually 1st Sunday, Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)

**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  
6.30pm 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 Michael's, 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 November 2018 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 1st October. The date for the December issue is Monday 5th November.

Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org  
Advertising copy for the November 2018 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 5th October. The date for the December issue Friday 22nd November. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

## PARISH OFFICES

**PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM**  
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**ST BARNABAS**  
St Barnabas Centre  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am  
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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EDITORS: Dr Alison Johnston, Mrs Janet Offord, Mr Alan Bradbury, Mr Stephen A Roberts, Mrs Heather Gale.  
c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX  
Tel: 947 1703. Email: editors@cavershambridge.org

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mr A Wright,  
Tel: 947 6958.  
Email: advertising@cavershambridge.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mrs Carol Moloney.  
Tel: 947 1370. Email: circulation@cavershambridge.org

COMPANY CHAIRMAN: Mr Colin Ferguson.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr Tony Holland.

COMPANY TREASURER: Mrs J Belcher. Tel: 947 4772  
Email: treasurer@cavershambridge.org

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Moore.  
Tel: 947 3713

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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**An interesting and varied series of four talks has been organised by the Dunsden Owen Association ([owenindunsden.org](http://owenindunsden.org)) to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. They are held in Dunsden village hall RG4 9QG and entry is £4 on the door.**

**The Association exists to commemorate the time the war poet Wilfred Owen spent in the village between 1911 and 1913. Before a catastrophic crisis of faith, he was assistant to the rector and taught in the then village school, which is now the venue for these talks.**

**Inderpal Dhanjal – Tuesday, 11 September 2018  
Indian Soldiers in the Great War**

Inderpal leads the Legacy of Valour Society ([legacyofvalour.org](http://legacyofvalour.org)),

a national community-based initiative that undertakes research on Sikh and Indian soldiers' history. The Society launched an exhibition, 'Indian Soldiers in the Great War' at Reading Museum in August 2015. This award-winning display was subsequently presented with great success at the Houses of Parliament and throughout the UK. It was seen for the last time in Slough from 29 July to 12 August, this year. Subsequently, it will be permanently displayed at the Sikh National Museum in Derby.

India provided Britain with a massive volunteer army in its hour of need. Over 1.5 million Indian service personnel (one in six) served during 1914–18, fighting in all major theatres of war. India provided not only manpower but also significant quantities of finance, materiel and other supplies.

Inderpal's talk will provide an intriguing introduction to this heroic and little-known aspect of the First World War. His talk goes beyond the headlines to provide detailed analysis in addition to some unfamiliar historical insights. It also looks at the economical, political, social and military impact of the India's involvement in the

Great War.

The talk also provides an opportunity to better understand the relationship between Sikhs and the British and explains the 'Spirit of Khalsa' and its ethos of 'Sacrifice and Martyrdom' that won them so many battlefield laurels. Indian soldiers won the Victoria Cross 11 times (the highest military honour in the British army). Overall, 13,000 gallantry medals were awarded to Indian soldiers. Indian War dead from WW1 are buried or commemorated in 38 countries.

The Legacy of Valour Society has developed another exhibition called 'Sikh Martial History' which was shown in Slough from 29 July to 12 August, 2018. A book is also being produced to accompany the exhibition. Admission will be free.

*Continued on page 6*

## Gladman Appeal Hearing

Gladman Land claim to be the UK's most successful land promoter. They applied to South Oxfordshire District Council for outline planning permission to build 245 homes on fields East of Peppard Road from Kiln Road to Peppard Building Supplies. The land is within the Parish of Eye and Dunsden which currently includes fewer than 150 homes.

A campaign group was formed – Campaign Against Gladman in Eye and Dunsden (CAGE). This included several parishes in South Oxfordshire and residents' associations in Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. The application was refused and Gladman lodged an appeal. Thanks to contributions from the organisations and concerned individuals, CAGE was able to appoint a barrister and register as a Rule 6 Party with the right to cross-examine and present a closing statement at the inquiry.

The appeal opened in May and heard evidence on landscape and traffic issues as well as statements from concerned individuals and associations. The Inspector was taken to view

the site. Planning issues were complicated by a new statement on housing supply and the appeal was adjourned to August. In the intervening period, the government announced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The reconvened inquiry considered at length the application of emerging national and local planning policy, and the issue of housing need and supply which is complicated by the Oxfordshire Growth Deal.

CAGE gave an impressive performance calling witnesses who had prepared in great detail. The CAGE barrister gave an impressive closing statement which dovetailed with the statement on behalf of South Oxfordshire. These are available at <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning>. Both parts of the inquiry were well attended by people from both sides of the county boundary. By the time you read this paper, a decision may just have been announced. It will be an important decision for the green edge of Caversham and Emmer Green.

Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA)

### The Caversham Picture Framer Upcoming Exhibition

Michael Norcross' paintings and prints draw on a wide range of local subject matter and exhibit a high level of skill. At a glance the eye can be tricked into thinking they are photographs but on closer examination they reveal a precision which emerges from confident loose painterly qualities. Much of his work shows an interest in realism and colour through exploring such themes as luminosity, mood, atmosphere and shadows. Paintings include local landscapes and imagery from the immediate vicinity of his Caversham Studio; others are more complex with narrative elements. Some of his work concentrates on luminosity created by both natural and artificial light, while others are studies of objects found either on their own or arranged in compositions. A selection of his current work will be on show at The Caversham Picture Framer from Saturday 29th September to Friday 26th October 2018.

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# Demand Soars for Bereavement Support Group

Demand has soared during the past year for a bereavement support group set up by Independent Funeral Directors A.B. Walker.

Hundreds of people have been helped thanks to the Link Bereavement Care Group which was set up five years ago by A.B. Walker, one of Berkshire's oldest family businesses.

Anyone who has been bereaved and feels they can benefit can apply to go on a group course. There are six sessions over consecutive weeks hosted by trained facilitators. The program is free of charge.

The Link is spearheaded by Melissa Walker, A.B. Walker's Head of Bereavement Care and a trained bereavement counsellor.

It was set up in partnership with the charity Cruse Bereavement Care.

Melissa said: We know that for many people the funeral is just the beginning of the emotional journey.

'Losing a loved one can be one of life's most difficult experiences.

'People like to share their stories. They can feel they are not alone, and that their feelings are normal.

'It is so heartwarming to hear the comments we get and it is really nice to know that we helped people to move forward.

'Over the last five years we have helped hundreds

of people come to terms with the feelings of loss and developed the programme to be effective, appropriate and engaging.'

A.B. Walker staff, including pall bearers and funeral arrangers, have volunteered and trained as facilitators. Each course is also run with the support of a representative from Cruse Bereavement Care. The courses have been emotional, tears have been shed, and special friendships have formed. Many of those who have attended the courses have stayed in touch and get together at the Link Up social group.

Anyone who would like more details about The Link Bereavement Care Group can contact Melissa Walker at support@abwalker.co.uk



Melissa Walker

# Reading Hard of Hearing Club

Charity No: 206728 Established 1946

Lipreading Classes

Come along and join us!

Reading Hard of Hearing Club members understand what it's like to have a hearing loss which can make you feel lonely and isolated.

Do you have difficulty in following what people say? Do you sometimes feel frustrated and convinced that most people don't understand your problem? Being able to lipread can help boost your confidence, so why not come and join us in learning to lipread? You can practise these skills to help you communicate more effectively.

We are a friendly group of people who meet twice monthly, and you are very welcome to come along and see what a lipreading class is all about. We meet on the first and third Friday afternoon of each month, starting at 2.00 and finishing at 3.30, with a tea break half way through.

As well as lipreading, there are opportunities to find

out about home assessment for your personal needs, learn about the services that are available to you, attend a demonstration of the latest equipment available for personal and home use, and learn tips and strategies that are helpful to anyone with a hearing loss.

Venue: Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BE which is behind Reading Central Library and a ten-minute walk from Reading station.

Contacts:

Maureen Dickens - Tel: 0118 926 8055 - Email: maureen\_dickens@sky.com

Kay Murray - Tel: 01428 751 234 - Email: david.34murray@btinternet.com

John Chilvers - Email: m.chilvers@sky.com

You can find us at: www.hearinglink.org

## Could Caversham and North Reading become a friendlier place?

Do you think our community could be a friendlier place and help people feel less isolated if more people did some small acts of kindness or consideration on a regular basis?

You might see in some of our local shops and halls "pledge cards" and some blue shopper bags. The idea of the cards is to act as a prompt for those small acts and the bag has two uses:

It suggests that all it may take is a smile

1. it gives details of the email and Facebook page for the "Caversham Champions to End Loneliness" (set up by Reading Voluntary Action) making it easier for people to get in touch. It is hoped we can be a source of information for those who have questions and a forum for ideas from the wider public.

The cost of the bags has been subsidised by fundraising and by some of the local churches, so they are only £1 each- do buy and use one. Maybe they will spark conversations in themselves or raise a smile. If they don't, at least you will always have a shopping bag handy. They fold up into a tiny pouch so easy to store in a handbag or at the bottom of the buggy.

To contact us or find out where to get a bag or pledge card 'Caversham Champions to End Loneliness' on Facebook, email: cav2endlone@gmail.com



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## ENVIRONMENT

# The Stinkhorn

For October, I usually write something about fungi. Since I'm about to go away on holiday, I'm writing this in August, during the heatwave. It's far too dry for many fungi, but by the time you read this, the situation may be completely different!



Having said that, the world of fungi is vast and complex. They may have some of the qualities of plants, but they also have some of the qualities of animals. Humans have long recognised their usefulness in causing bread to rise,

or in turning sugar into alcohol. More recently, the properties of penicillin were discovered, leading to the virtual eradication of tuberculosis in this country – a disease which had damaged the health of one of my uncles. Scientists are still making new discoveries about the role of fungi in enabling "higher plants" to thrive, and in enabling humans to digest their food.

You would, of course, need a microscope to see many of these fungi. For most of us, what pops up from the ground, or sprouts from tree-trunks, or we see for sale in the supermarket, are fungi.

I first became interested aged eight, when I was bought a little book called "I-Spy Wild Fruits and Fungi" from the local newsagent. It cost one shilling, and was partly in colour but mostly in black and white. This seems incredible now, but in the days of post-war austerity it was usual. I longed to see everything in it for myself – my horizons were expanding!

In that book I first came across the Stinkhorn fungus, and it wasn't long after that when I first smelt it and then saw it.

Many familiar fungi have a cap at the end of a stalk, with gills below. Some have tubes below the cap. These types shed minute spores, which are carried away in the breeze. The Stinkhorn employs a different strategy to ensure that its spores are distributed. They are contained in a sticky brownish-green slime, held in a kind of honeycomb on the cap of the fungus. The slime smells disgusting in order to attract flies, and the flies eat the slime, revealing the honeycomb cap, as in the photograph. The whole fruiting body of the fungus then decomposes, and that's that. Except that the spores can pass through the digestive tract of a fly unharmed, so that they can be distributed far and wide.

The fungus feeds on decaying wood in the ground. Quite how a spore finds its way to the decaying wood I haven't yet discovered. When the fungus is ready to fruit, it forms a kind of egg, a bit smaller than a hen's egg, covered in whitish skin, just below the surface of the ground. If you cut vertically through an egg, you can see the cap and the stalk, waiting to expand and burst through the soil, surrounded by a clear jelly. Believe it or not, at this stage, the eggs are without the bad smell, and pleasant to eat, with a slight crunch and a taste reminiscent of hazel nuts. I have occasionally eaten them, to the horror of my companions.

I haven't yet come upon a cookery book which uses Stinkhorn eggs as an ingredient, but I expect there is one – probably in French!

*Happy Wanderer*

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## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH AUTUMN FAIR

10th November from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road

Money raised from the event will be split between two charities – Motor Neurone Disease Association and The Ways and Means Trust (Their website mentions that this is their 50th year) On sale will be Craftwork, Gifts and Toys, Cakes and Bread, Plants and Produce, Christmas Stall, Books, Tombola and Raffle Prizes. Complimented by Refreshments and Light Lunches.

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Continued from page 3

**Robin Sanderson and Richard Crompton – Tuesday 9 October  
Tunnelling for victory in WW1**

*'Everybody damns the Tunneller; GHQ because he invariably has his job finished months before the rest of the Army are ready for the 'Great Push'... Brass hats because they dislike his underground habits; Regimental officers because he refuses to allow them to use his deep and snug dugouts; Subalterns because of his superior knowledge; Tommy because... of his extra pay; and last and loudest, the Boche damn him because of his earnest and unceasing attempts at uplifting and converting them into surprised angels. It is also owing to his success in this noble work of the missionary that the Tunneller is highly respected by all branches of the forces'. [E Synton, 1918]*

'Hellfire Jack' or John Norton-Griffiths, MP for Wednesbury, was an engineer who in 1913 formed the first Royal Engineers tunnelling companies by recruiting miners and Manchester sewer workers who he knew could tunnel faster and quieter than the Germans. By mid-1916 the British had around 25,000 trained tunnellers. Almost twice that number worked alongside them fetching and carrying essential elements of mining paraphernalia, pumping air and water and removing spoil. Parts of the Western Front became labyrinths of underground workings. Troops not directly involved in tunnelling knew little of the plans because leaks of information might lead not only to the wastage of colossal effort and the ruination of a plan, but the loss of many lives in the most hideous of circumstances: entombment, drowning, gassing or obliteration in cramped and claustrophobic galleries beneath no man's land.

How did the tunnelling companies go about their epic work? This fascinating illustrated talk will also include the demonstration of a number of historic tunnelling artefacts.

**Ruth Tod – Tuesday 27 November**

**The Society of Friends and pacifism in the 'war to end all wars'**

*'War, in our view, involves the surrender of the Christian ideal and the denial of human brotherhood... We regard the central conception of the [Military Service] Act as imperilling the liberty of the individual conscience – which is the main hope of human progress...'*

Since declaring its commitment to peace in 1660, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has opposed all wars. World War I was no different and many Quakers resisted the call to arms. Instead many members of the Society became actively involved in providing humanitarian relief for those affected by the conflict.

From 1916 onwards, Quakers were among 16,000 conscientious objectors who refused to fight as conscription laws enlisted 2.5 million extra British troops. Many were subjected to harsh treatment, both by military tribunals to whom they had to prove their right to opt out of conflict, but also at the hands of those in the community that objected to their stance.

What does it mean to commit to peace today and how do Quakers pursue this commitment?

More details from David Woodward on 0118 969 3633

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# From Shellshock to PTSD

Dunsden Village Hall, Inaugural lecture by Professor Suzanna Rose, Tuesday, 10th July 2018

An invitation to give the inaugural lecture of a series is an honour and a challenge; Professor Rose gave us a masterclass in the art; determining the brief, interesting and informing the target audience and setting the tone.

Against the backdrop of the newly extended and renovated village hall, with its close associations with Owen, the talk addressed past, present and future issues. By choice, she created an interactive forum, with the audience invited to become involved in 'banter' – probing, questioning and reflecting.

She revealed that PTSD is no modern day phenomenon: Achilles' post conflict anguish is recorded in The Iliad; Shakespeare's plays have numerous characters affected by PTSD (Othello, Hamlet, Lear); medieval combat accounts provide many examples; the Victorians referred to 'Railway Shaking' after train disasters; WW1 gave rise to Shellshock; post WW2, PTSD was described as 'lack of moral fibre', the Vietnam veterans' suffering went by many names – the list goes on. PTSD is not confined to those involved directly in disasters, natural or man-made, (tsunamis, Grenfell): it can also leave 'markers' generations later, for example in third generation holocaust survivors where changes in the stress hormones produced during pregnancy have been noted. Impact lasts.

Encouragingly, treatment, guided by research, can and does work, from 'talking cures' to SOME medication and, recently, innovations such as Eye Movement Desensitisation and Restructuring techniques (EMDR) reveal that although their mechanism is not fully explicable, their use can often be effective. The audience were share-holders – exchanging personal and family experiences – POWs' suffering, GPs treating partners and families of Service personnel. Visually, the material was intriguing – nurses, hospital wards, interviews, videos, historic shellshock footage, images of Craiglockhart hospital, poets and soldiers.

Refreshments at the end of the evening provided a chance to mingle and discuss. Some days are unforgettable; the view from the hall windows was that of an idyllic, quintessentially English summer's day. The talk amongst the attendees, however, was of 'miracles' – the rescue of the Wild Boars and their coach from the cave -reflecting on their trauma, escape and their future, knowing that medical treatment, PTSD awareness and compassionate understanding of the families' trauma could enhance final outcomes. Professor Rose stressed how important it is not to put people through a treatment process automatically, but to apply it only when there is an individual clinical need.

Owen's bust, newly erected in the foyer, introduced us to a world he, with others, exposed as flawed. His poems such as 'Mental Cases' and 'Disabled' are as pertinent today as when he wrote them. The number of WW1 and WW2 soldiers simply put into asylums and left there, make horrific reading. Now, PTSD dares speak its name.

David Woodward played 'Ariel' expertly on the visual pyrotechnics, and the event was seamlessly stage managed by the Dunsden Owen Committee. Suzanna Rose was the undoubted 'Prospero' imparting wisdom and restoring calm and hope post Tempest.

Our warmest thanks for an excellent start to The Commemorative Lectures series. Details at <http://owenindunsden.org>.

## OBITUARY

**Kathleen Branch passed away on 21 July 2018**

**District Nursing Sister & Midwife with a lifelong passion for classical music**



Kathleen Mary Branch passed away peacefully on Saturday 21 July at the Abbeyfield Dementia Care Home in Winnersh from cancer at the age of 83.

Wife to the late author and lecturer Alan Edward Branch, a wonderful caring mother to two children, David and Anna, and grandmother to two grandchildren, Benjamin and Paola; she is outlived by her ever loving elder brother John and his wife Barbara.

Kathleen was born in Brentwood, Essex to Swiss born Anna Alice Buhler and Frederick Debenham on 26th May 1935, and had two elder brothers, John and David. Kathleen's mother was keen that she should play an instrument at an early age so she began playing the cello at the age of 4 and, at the age of 12, performed

to the Armed Forces immediately after World War II.

The cello and a love of music accompanied Kathleen throughout her life and she was a dedicated member of the Henley Symphony Orchestra for many years since the early days of the Orchestra in the 1970s taking part in concerts at the Henley Regal Cinema in Bell Street and in the first concert by the Henley Symphony Orchestra in Henley's twin-town Falaise. Kathleen also had great enjoyment playing under Music Director Paul Cox with the Langtree Sinfonia for 20+ years until recently. Her love of playing the cello extended to forming a quartet with several of her closest friends which lasted for 25 years.

Kathleen will be remembered for her enduring kindness and generosity. She led a lifelong career as a midwife and district nurse. Having begun her nursing training at Kings College in London, she then trained in midwifery at Simpsons in Edinburgh and worked as a midwife at St John's Hospital in Chelmsford. On 5th March 1960, she married Alan Branch at Christ Church in Brentwood. After the birth of her children, the family moved to Emmer Green. Kathleen was a District Nursing Sister at Priory Avenue Surgery and led the nursing team to the new Hemdean Road Surgery, serving the Caversham Heights area.

She will be sorely missed by all those who knew her as she was a caring thoughtful character and was generous to so many people in the community both in her work and in her private life.

A Thanksgiving Service was held in Kathleen's memory on Wednesday 22nd August at All Saints Church, in Dunsden.

# Challenging times for Traidcraft

Each year, Traidcraft, the fair-trade company based in Newcastle celebrates the launch of their autumn/Christmas catalogue with a series of "Road Show" events around the country. This year, for the first time they came to Reading. On 31 August around fifty "Fair Traders", who mostly sell Traidcraft items in their churches, met at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. They came from as far as Nottingham and the Forest of Dean for the event, which provided an opportunity to see the latest foods and crafts and to hear an update on Traidcraft's work.

Traidcraft was established over 30 years ago as a Christian response to poverty. It aims to fight poverty through trade, helping farmers and artisans in developing countries transform their lives by trading their way out of poverty. In practice this means paying producers a fair price, ensuring payments are made promptly and providing business support to assist with new products or improved production processes.

The Fair Traders were shocked to learn that the future of Traidcraft now hangs in the balance. This is the result of what was described as a "perfect storm" in which a series of events have combined to threaten the company's future. These included the fall in the value of the pound against the dollar just before Traidcraft was due to pay many producers following the Brexit vote, problems with a new web site, decisions by a number of supermarkets to cease stocking

the popular Geobar snack bars and the general slowing down of retail businesses.

Traidcraft is planning to restructure and reduce its overheads, which will mean staff redundancies. But without good pre-Christmas sales they may cease to exist, a tragedy for the producers around the world whose welfare depends on a receiving a fair price for their products, from tea farmers in east Africa to craft workers in India, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Many churches in Caversham already sell Traidcraft goods, usually once a month after a morning service. A simple commitment to regularly buy Traidcraft goods, for example tea, coffee, sugar, as well as considering crafts from Traidcraft for Christmas gifts could turn this situation around.

To see the full range of Traidcraft products, visit their web site, [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk). If you would like to learn more about the work of Traidcraft and its partner development charity, Traidcraft Exchange, or would consider running a regular Traidcraft stall, contact Phil and Pam Chatfield, who have been Fair Traders for over 25 years. For details email [pchatfield@waitrose.com](mailto:pchatfield@waitrose.com) call 0118 947 2444 or visit face book page [www.facebook.com/cavershamtraidcraft/](http://www.facebook.com/cavershamtraidcraft/)

Each year they hold a sale of Traidcraft products from their home in Caversham at 97 South View. Refreshments will be available throughout the sale in support of Wateraid.

## Paddington Bear visits Caversham Park Church as part of his pilgrimage

Paddington came to visit us at our service on Sunday as part of his tour around the region, he came with an important message for us and to ask how we are welcoming to people especially the youth who generally feel very isolated when they come to church. This formed part of our worship, following which he met both the youngest member of the church 'Sarah' and the oldest 'Audrey' who in this month of September reached that wonderful age of 90 youthful years. Paddington wished her a wonderful happy birthday. After the service Paddington had a short chat with the Ministry team and other church members while enjoying a tea/coffee and of course his marmalade. Paddington now moves onto Grange church in Southcote.

Visit: <http://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/paddingtons-pilgrimage/> for more information



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Wednesday 10 October at 7.30pm.  
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## CLUBS

## Probus

Following the celebration in May of 50 years of the Reading and District Probus Club, the club has continued to meet each month, and members have enjoyed talks on varying topics, including:

'Ladies of the Tower', a talk on women who have been imprisoned in the Tower of London, given by Tony Stafford, a Yeoman Warder, in full Beefeater dress.

'The History of Policing', a talk by Ken Wells, a retired policeman, who now runs the Thames Valley Police Museum in Sulhampstead, but temporarily housed in Theale Police Station while refurbishments are carried out. The talk covered how the police organised their beats back in the 60s and 70s up to the present day.

'40 Years as a Daily Mail Sports Writer', by Brian Scovell, who talked about his experiences in that job, and told us anecdotes about many of the sports stars of the last 50 years or so.

Probus is a club for retired men, who continue to enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of other retired men. Lunch is followed by a talk, which may be on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club. Future talks will include "A Line in the Sand – the Fall of the Alamo and Rise of Texas", "Tea Tales" and "A Woman of Wax".

New members are always welcome. For further information visit the club's website [www.probusclub-reading.org.uk](http://www.probusclub-reading.org.uk) If you are interested in joining, please contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

## Chazey WI

The August meeting was our last one at the Methodist Church Hall and we were entertained by Jean Turton talking about Chinese Brush Painting. Jean was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about her subject, painting scenes for us and describing the method of holding the brushes. Valerie, our President, thanked Jean for a very entertaining talk. Tea and coffee were served plus some cakes made by Margaret Keen. We had one birthday this month, Ann Jones, and a card will be on its way to her. The upcoming Caversham Kiosk rota was full as was the Bank Holiday one, thanks to all the volunteers.

Our Secretary announced details for the NFWI Annual Meeting in 2019; it is to be held at the Bournemouth International Centre on 5th June 2019.

Jill Dibben invited members to attend a beginners' session at the Caversham Croquet Club in Albert Road Park on Friday mornings at 11.30 am or on Thursday evenings between 5-7 pm. The cost is £2 per session. A visit was planned to Lady Sew and Sew in Henley for 22nd August. Coffee was arranged for 9th August, lunch on 20th August at the New Inn was rearranged to the Packsaddle in Mapledurham. Book Club on 30th August at the Caversham Rose. Art Group at Rowena's on 15th August and the Knitting Group at Jean's on 14th August.

NFWI had sent out papers seeking suggestions for resolution proposals. Our President, Valerie Holden, would like members to consider submitting a proposal to ban all TV betting adverts before the watershed. The members expressed their approval.

One of the Berkshire Dolls will be visiting Chazey WI at the end of the month, Julie B has offered to be in charge of the doll's welfare and visit and would

welcome any (kind) suggestions on how to entertain her.

Members had brought paper fans along to have on the exhibition table - all very attractive. The raffle was drawn and the winners included one of our four visitors plus Julie, Valerie W and Carol.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm. For further information on Chazey WI, email [chazeywi@gmail.com](mailto:chazeywi@gmail.com). Our next meeting is at our new venue, St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham, on Friday 7th September at 2.30 pm.

## Caversham Heights TG

At the time of writing this, the starting time of the next meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild is still uncertain. It will be on the afternoon of 17th of October at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall. Our speaker will be Gillian Hegarty, who will tell us about Volunteering at Greys Court.

We enjoyed a Garden Party at the home of Mrs Barbara Tyler, luckily the weather had turned a little cooler.

In September, Mary Wheway told us about "Queen Victoria and her children".

The Social Studies Group enjoyed a talk by Mrs Gwen Barton, entitled "To Russia with love".

The Caversham Rose was the venue for the Luncheon Club's monthly gastronomic adventure.

Ambling was suspended for the summer as it was too hot to set foot outside.

Hopefully, when the times of our meetings are fixed, we will again be able to welcome visitors and new members.

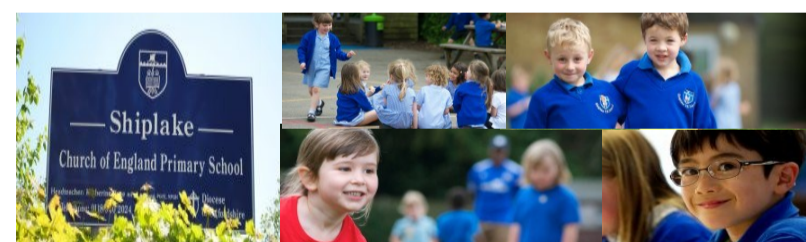
## Caversham Horticultural Society

The Society has two events this month. Firstly the Autumn Plant Sale will be held at the Oakley Road Allotments on Saturday 6th October between 10.0 - 11.30am. The following Wednesday, 10th October, has the public talk by Chris Chadwell who will discuss Gardens of New York and New England. This will be held at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road, starting at 7.45pm. Admission for non-members is £3. Light refreshments will be served after the talk.

## Sheila Eggleton

**On the 15th September 2018, Sheila Eggleton's ashes were scattered by the Great Yew Tree in Caversham Court Garden, and a willow tree was planted as a tribute to her devotion to choral singing with the Bach Choir near the River Thames at such locations as The Festival Hall, The Royal Albert Hall and Windsor Castle.**

**She also worshipped and sang at St. Peter's Church in Caversham.**



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The candlelit St Anne's Altar (St Annes Altar)

# Our Lady and St Anne's Patronal Feast

26th July was the feast day of Sts Joachim and Anne, the mother and father of Our Lady and the grandparents of Jesus. The day was celebrated as the patronal feast of the parish of Our Lady and St Anne.

A well-attended Mass in the evening was celebrated by Father Patrick. The choir sang the Latin Proper of the Mass, well supported by the congregation, many of whom still remember and love the familiar plainchant.



The altar with the freshly lit votive candles

St Anne's altar, with its statue of St Anne with Our Lady at her side, was lit up with candles in the six tall candlesticks and decorated with flowers for the occasion. After Mass, many parishioners lit votive candles and said a prayer to St Anne, possibly with thoughts of their own mothers and grandmothers.

## St. Stephen's Church, Upper Basildon "The Proverbs of Solomon and the 21st Century"

St. Stephen's Church, in Upper Basildon (RG8 8LS), would like to invite you to an afternoon looking at "The Proverbs of Solomon and the 21st Century". As well as giving an overview of Proverbs, the afternoon will be dealing with such issues as ... truth and falsehood ... justice and good rule ... discipline and wisdom ... the diligent and lazy: issues in Solomon's day and also in ours. There are a variety of speakers and the event will be chaired by Michael Penny, Chair of Churches Together in Reading.

It is to be held from 2.30 to 6.30 on Saturday 20th October 2018. Refreshments will be served between sessions and there is plenty of parking at the church. Also, there is no charge for the afternoon as it is sponsored by The Open Bible Trust. For more information please email [admin@obt.org.uk](mailto:admin@obt.org.uk) or phone Michael Penny on 01491-671357.

## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

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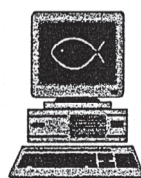
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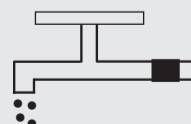
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