

Caversham Bridge

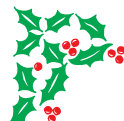
No 646

www.cavershambridge.org

Price 40p

December 2018

Christmas Services at Caversham Churches



St. Barnabas, Emmer Green

Sun 2 Dec	9.30am	Toy Service for Reading Family Aid
Wednesday 19 Dec	7pm	Christingle Service with 89th Scout Group
Sunday 23 Dec	4.30pm	Christmas Carols and Readings for Christmas
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Nativity Play
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Day Traditional Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Day Family Communion

St John the Baptist, Caversham

Wednesday 19 Dec	7.30pm	Carol service
Sunday 16 Dec	4.00pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	NATIVITY LIVE!
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30am	All Age Christmas Communion

St Peter, Caversham

Sunday 2 Dec	6.30pm	Advent Carols
Monday 17 Dec	7.30pm	Carol Service in Caversham Court
Sunday 23 Dec	6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	9.30am	Festival Communion

St Margaret, Mapledurham

Sunday 16 Dec	6.30pm	Carol service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	11.15am	Christmas Day Communion

St Andrew's, Caversham

Sun 16 Dec	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols (with mulled wine and mince pies)
Christmas Eve	3pm	Nativity Service (with a real baby)
Christmas Eve	8pm	Christmas Night Service (like

midnight mass but not so late)

Christmas Day	8.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist

Our Lady & St Anne's RC, Southview Avenue, Caversham

Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Vigil Christmas Mass – especially for Children
Christmas Eve	9.40pm	Carols before Christmas Night Mass
Christmas Eve	10.00pm	Christmas Night mass
Christmas Day	9.00am	Christmas Day Mass
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Day Mass
Wednesday 26 Dec	11.00am	St Stephen's Day Mass

New Testament Church of God, Church Street, Caversham

Sunday 23 Dec	11.00am	Morning Service
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning service

Caversham Park LEP in Caversham Park Primary School

Sunday 23 Dec	11.00am	Carol Service
Sunday 23 Dec	2.00pm	Carol Service at the Milestone Centre
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning Worship

Caversham Baptist Church, South Street

Sunday 2 Dec	10.30am	All Age Toy Service (Donations to Reading Family Aid)
Sunday 23 Dec	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	NATIVITY LIVE! (with other Caversham Churches)
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship

Riverside Church, Hemdean House, School Hall

Sunday 16 Dec	10.30am	'A Party for Baby Jesus' - All age celebration
Sunday 23 Dec	10.30am	Family Carol Service followed by refreshments

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Sunday 16 Dec	10.30am	All Age Carol Service
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Sunday 16 Dec	5.00pm	Carols by Candlelight – joint service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Joint NATIVITY LIVE! procession with real animals, music and drama leaving Caversham Baptist Church at 4.00pm
Christmas Day	10.30am	Joint Family Service at

Grace Church, Old Peppard Road

Sunday 23 Dec	6.30pm	Carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day service

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Sunday 16 Dec	10.30am	All Age Worship Everyone Welcome
Sunday 16 Dec	5.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Joint NATIVITY LIVE! procession with real animals, music and drama leaving Caversham Baptist Church at 4.00pm
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	'Midnight' Communion service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Joint Family Service with Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road) at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

St Michael's RC, Sonning Common

Sunday 9 Dec	5.00pm	Pangbourne Silver Band Christmas Concert.
A popular concert where the band plays a wide range of Christmas favourites. Adults £5 children free. Includes mulled wine in the interval. Tickets from the church or office.		
Saturday 15 Dec	TBC	Christmas Flower arranging workshop. Contact Parish Office
Sunday 16 Dec	10.30am	Carol Service organised by Bishopswood School.
Monday 17 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Reconciliation Service. A spiritual preparation for Christmas.
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	For families with young children
Christmas Eve	8.00pm	'Midnight' Mass
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN
St Barnabas
Rev'd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.
Tel: 947 8239.
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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

Caversham Thameside Ministry -
St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Rev'd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Marion Pyke Tel: 947 5834
Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265
Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810
Rev'd 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
Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223
Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev'd 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
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

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

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

TALKING POINT

by Derek Chandler

Magic Moments

'Magic Moments' sung by Perry Como in 1957 is a song we may associate with Christmas as it was used to sell 'Quality Street' chocolates in Christmas advertisements in the 1980's. Christmas is a 'magic moment' that many people still celebrate each year. The trouble is it is often mixed with a lot of other stuff – overloaded - and not with presents. Tired? Troubled? Preoccupied with real life worries, so that the magic moment of Christmas still feels perhaps - just out of reach?

Part of the problem might well be our upbringing. From an early age we are presented with the idea that Christmas is a time for children. Now don't get me wrong, I think the wonder and excitement that children bring to Christmas is brilliant, but it is not the whole story, and it reinforces the idea that Christmas is something you grow out of. I can understand why and that children's nativity plays cannot contain the complex threads of the original Christmas story. What do I mean? Well, you only have to read the Bible for yourself to get the salient points: Mary is an unmarried teenage mother, engaged to be married, who for shame her betrothed husband Joseph initially considers renouncing her. If Joseph had done so, Mary would probably have been stoned to death. When Jesus is born there is literally no human place on Earth for him to stay, he sleeps in a manger, an animal feeding trough. At the news of the Magi, King Herod murders young children, not that different from brutal dictatorships to this day. Joseph and Mary are forced to become refugees. The real Christmas is hardly a children's story!

For all the right reasons we protect children from the harsher elements of Christmas but for all the wrong reasons we forget what Christmas has to say to our adult world as we sentimentalise it. Sadly, that is only too clear to us when the bad things in life happen at Christmas: bereavement, illness, redundancy, homelessness, division. This is made worse by the reinforcing that we all have to be 'jolly' for a whole month of the year. Do you know how hard it is to be jolly all the time? All these anxieties of real life that have no room in our jolly commercial Christmas but are exactly the reason why God came to us, even when we make no room for Him, and not just at the Inn. Christmas is God's love making itself vulnerable to us in our troubled world. Christmas in the Bible is an enormous risk and that is no surprise because at the heart of the story is childbirth – with all the anxiety and hope that comes with that. So one thing I do believe is that Christmas is more than a capturing of childhood wonder – it is about a future yet to be born. And for those in the nativity story who can see that, they discover a magic moment – even though it looks to the rest of the world like just another poor baby whose parents can't even provide him with a bed for the night.

A while ago I went on a mindfulness course for clergy in Dorset. Mindfulness is a form of ancient meditation increasingly gaining credibility in medical circles. Basically it teaches the art of being in the present moment and seeing everything and everyone potentially as a gift. In other words, a 'magic moment'. This might be easy to scoff at, but the more I hear of increasing depression and suicide rates, or domestic violence, homelessness, or mental health issues, especially at Christmas – the more I firmly believe that we need to cultivate the art of discovering 'magic moments'. We certainly need to do something. Because what we are doing is literally making us ill. For me as a Christian it all begins at Christmas in a manger with a homeless baby and shepherds and magi and angels saying, "There is a magic moment – see it for all it's worth – it could just change your life, and help change the world."

However much we dress up the Christmas Nativity with tinsel and fairy lights, we cannot hide the real light that shines from the manger. Magic moments are not just to be discovered in church at Christmas, but in our life in the world – each day. For God loved the world so much that He dwelt among us in human form. His Spirit dwells among us now, and I am sure God provides magic moments for us to discover in the gift of each ordinary day. Just as God did over 2000 years ago in the birth of a child and all that followed from the cradle to the cross, and beyond. Magic moments that are like gifts, inviting us to receive and share them, helping to make the world a richer place for everyone.

Reverend Derek Chandler is vicar at St Barnabas church Emmer Green.



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, 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, 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, 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, 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, Southview Avenue
Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

St Michael, 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 2019: Copy price and subscription price

Caversham Bridge is sold at £0.40 per copy. The subscription price which includes delivery to your home address is increased to £5.00 / year (for 12 issues) from January 2019.

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the January 2019 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 26th November. The date for the February issue is Monday 8th January.
Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the January 2019 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 23rd November. The date for the February issue Friday 5th February. 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

A community newspaper produced by Caversham Christian News Ltd on behalf of the Churches of Caversham

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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.

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

Typeset and layout by RP Character Graphics,
Tel: 07949 980 982

Printed by: Mortons Print, Media Centre, Morton Way,
Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6JR

Caversham Traders Association (CTA): Late-night opening in Caversham

A cracking Christmas celebration is being lined up in Caversham next month.

It's a late night shopping extravaganza on Friday 7th December and will feature music and entertainment, festive fun and food, the popular Caversham Artisan and Farmer's Market and seasonal savings at a host of local shops and restaurants.

Star of the show will be Santa who will be welcoming visitors to his pop-up grotto in the Precinct. But it'll be a Santa with a difference – instead of handing out goodies he will be accepting gifts to put in a sack to distribute to less fortunate local children.

And whilst the youngsters are chatting with Father Christmas, there will be luxurious mini massages on offer for older visitors from the professional therapists at Caversham's Le Masseur Personnel.

Throughout the evening there will be buskers, carol singers and entertainers. Visitors will be able to make their way round Caversham popping into the wide range of local shops to pick up special Christmas gifts

(many at specially discounted prices), and enjoy some complimentary seasonal snacks.

The late night shopping event is being organised by the Caversham Traders Association (CTA) to showcase the great range of independent and family-run businesses in the area.

Jude Chapman, Vice Chair of the CTA, and owner of Dancia specialist dance shop in Prospect Street, said: "It's great to see so many local traders pulling together to make this a memorable night for our loyal customers and visitors to Caversham. We have so much on offer here – award winning cafes, restaurants, clothes, jewellery, shoes and accessories, homeware and specialist shops. It's the perfect place to pick up some great Christmas gifts. In addition, there's plenty of free parking and I can guarantee visitors a very warm and friendly welcome from all our traders".

There's up to date information on the late night event on www.choosecaversham.co.uk or on the Caversham Traders Association Facebook Page.



Fun for all the family!

Saturday December 8th: Green Christmas tree sale at Caversham Court and a Christmas Market in St Peter's Church

Econet's annual sale of Scots Pine Christmas trees, harvested as part of local heathland management, is on Saturday 8th December from 9.30am to 1.30pm at Caversham Court Gardens, in Church Road. Our trees are fragrant and do not drop their needles, and you may get one pre-decorated with pine cones! Money raised goes to Econet, a network of practical voluntary environmental groups that manage different pieces of open space around Reading, including Clayfield Copse and Mapledurham Playing Fields. The money pays for our insurance, tools, plants and community events.

And it's not just trees for sale: you can buy wreaths and stars made from local willow, either decorated or plain; beautiful Christmas ornaments from natural materials; as well as RSPB gifts, cards, bird boxes and wooden reindeer for the garden. There will also be Fair Trade products on sale and local honey and candles from the beekeepers.

Before or after buying your tree, go up the steps from Caversham Court to St Peter's Church where from 10.00am to 12.30pm their Christmas Market is open supporting the DEC Indonesia Tsunami Appeal. They are serving Mulled Apple juice and coffee,

hot chocolate and seasonal refreshments and there will be a wide range of gifts and decorations for sale, as well as Christmas stalls and games for children.

Come and do your Christmas shopping with us and support both charities.

St Barnabas 'Puppet Ministry'

'Poppy' alias Miss Boss. E. Boots, wowed Emmer Green Primary School pupils as she



Poppy in the pulpit

took the school register in St Barnabas Church. However, she got very confused when she saw all the gifts of food being brought into the church. The Revd Derek Chandler explained to her and the children that St Barnabas Church

was not being turned into a supermarket, but that all the generous food gifts would be going to people in need, across Reading. Poppy and her friends hope to appear again at Christmas. If you would like to join David Howell in developing a puppet ministry in Caversham then please contact him at puppets@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Caversham Horticultural Society meeting

The Caversham Horticultural Society December's talk will be held on Wednesday 5th December starting at 7.45pm at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road on the subject 'Italy on a Plate' given by Paolo of Frenchi Seeds. The talk is followed by a 'Christmas Get-Together'. Come and be inspired by a wide range of vegetables and salad leaves you can grow from seeds.

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Caversham Older Adults Fitclub

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TUESDAY MORNINGS

Milestone Centre, Northbrook Road,
Caversham Park Village, RG4 6PF

9.45am - 10.30am (currently full) and 10.45 - 11.30am

FRIDAY MORNINGS

The Weller Centre, Amersham Road,
Lower Caversham, RG4 5NA

9.45am - 10.30am

Please call Lucinda on 07900 906056 for more details or visit www.coaf.co.uk

Email: lucinda@coaf.co.uk

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Amersham Road Cookery Club (ARCC)

Anna Clarke (Children and Family Outreach Worker from St John's Church in Caversham) has recently joined the team: she is very energetic and the children immediately related to her enthusiasm.

The cookery club was originally set up in May 2011 by Reverend Jeremy Tear and Deacon Becky Lovatt with a team of helpers. It was for children of primary school age and they met on a Wednesday afternoon after the school day had finished. Sometime later the venue and time and day were changed, and we now meet in The Weller Centre on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of each month from 4.00pm to 6.00 p.m.

Children are encouraged to help prepare the food for cooking but are not allowed to use any cookers or hot plates – this is all done by the adult helpers. Emphasis is on cleanliness and children have to wash their hands before and after preparing the food. Preparation could involve peeling and chopping vegetables or fruit, making pastry, small cakes or bread rolls. Care has to be taken to cater for children with special allergies – and there are several. A record of these are noted as children arrive. (Often if a child with no allergies doesn't fancy what has been cooked then "I'm allergic" is used as an excuse not to eat it.) The children are encouraged to 'taste and see'.

Numbers attending are usually 12, although sometimes more than 20 arrive and one cold January no-one turned up!

Once the food has been cooked tables are laid and everyone – children and adults together – sit down to share the meal.

A theme is chosen for each month and includes a short devotional time.

The October theme was a *Light Party* with LED lights flashing round the walls. The children made candle lights from glass containers which they coloured and were then given tea lights to put in – the tea lights added to the excitement as they changed colour.

Lighthouses were also made using up-turned polystyrene beakers with tea lights on top. A further activity was colouring paper coasters which were then laminated.

Fruit stars were cut out from melon, watermelon and apples. Also edible cheese candles made from strips of cheese – later these were served with hot dogs including some vegetarian sausages. At the end of this session the children all went home with a party bag.

The December session meeting on 16th December will be an earlier start from 2.30pm to 4.00 pm.



Preparing fruit stars



Children and helpers enjoying a sing song with Anna Clarke (second from left) playing her guitar

Scout Christmas Post 2018:

Support your local community and save money at Christmas!

The 89th Reading Scouts are once again providing the highly valued Christmas Post service for the delivery of Christmas cards to Caversham, Caversham Heights, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Village. Last year they delivered nearly 3,000 cards.

The Scout Christmas Post is a community event that provides a cheaper service than the Royal Mail at £0.30 per card, and most importantly provides a great service to the local community. The 89th Reading Scouts have been running this service for over 35 years, raising funds for the Scout Group. In the weeks that lead up to Christmas, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers take on the responsible job of delivering Christmas cards that have been posted in our bright red Scout Posting boxes. **These boxes can be found at a number of locations in Caversham and Emmer Green including: Caversham Library,**

McColls Newsagents in Emmer Green, Balmore Park and Emmer Green GP surgeries, Woodcote Way News, Co-op stores and Tesco Express. Posting boxes are also located in a number of local churches: St Andrew, St John, St Peter, St Barnabas and Gosbrook Road Methodist church.

You can post your Christmas Cards in these locations from Saturday 24th November and the last posting day will be Thursday 13th December, guaranteeing delivery in time for Christmas.

Please bear in mind that we are unable to deliver south of the Caversham and Reading Bridges. In addition we do not deliver to Kidmore End, Tokers Green or Sonning Common.

Please use the service yourself for all the Christmas cards you are sending to people in Caversham and Emmer Green, and please let your friends know about the service too.

SCCS Christmas Concerts 2018

One of the joys of Christmas is to listen to (and sing along with) Christmas songs and carols. So, with that in mind, the South Chiltern Choral Society (SCCS) are delighted to invite you to a musical celebration of the Christmas story, when they will be performing Shawn Kirchner's 'Behold New Joy' and Bob Chilcott's 'On Christmas Night'. The former weaves together a modern medley of well-known carols from medieval times; the latter follows the sequence of the Christmas story using several familiar carol melodies within Chilcott's own settings.

Conducted by Paul Burke and accompanied by Ian Westley, the SCCS will be joined by the choir of The Hill Primary School and professional instrumentalists including the amazing Alexander Pullen, who appeared in the BBC Young Musicians 2018 percussion final. There will also be opportunities for the audience to sing carols along with the choir.

The concerts will be held on Saturday 8th December at

7.30pm and Sunday 9th December at 2.00pm at Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9LN where there is free parking and wheelchair access.

Tickets are available via the choir's website (www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk) and cost £12 for adults and £6 for children 6-18 years old. Tickets for children under £6 are free. Tickets can be purchased on the door at the higher cost of £14 (adults); £7 children (6-18 yrs).

We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any queries, please call 07931 902495

'South Chiltern Choral Society' is a large, friendly choir that loves to sing all sorts of music – classical, traditional, easy listening, jazz and contemporary. Based in Sonning Common, new members are very welcome, especially tenors and basses. If you are considering joining the choir, please have a look at its website (www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk) which gives more detail.

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Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) National Gathering at Kenilworth

The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) accomplished its ninth year in 2018 and held a National Gathering at Kenilworth on Saturday 22nd September. A record number of delegates (110) attended, including two from Our Lady and St Anne RC Church in Caversham. It was a classic 'Wet Saturday' outside, but the gathering itself was animated not only with reports from officers but also with excellent speakers and a good deal of informal communication over lunch and refreshments.

The meeting began with an ecumenical service before proceeding to the sessional programme. Jim Quinn (Chair of Trustees) opened the meeting, and introduced Maria McCaffery (Chief Executive) to speak on the theme of 'More Christians helping more Christians'. To date FHL has raised £3.7m and has operated with a very low overhead rate, and through its local knowledge and targeting approach, has ensured the maximum of funds raised go to local beneficiaries whether families or a number of community institutions. Sourcing charitable donations and funding is challenging in the present climate, as home parishes know well. But FHL development and planning has continued, and a new strategic plan will be in place as FHL enters its tenth year in 2019. The organization remains optimistic and is preparing for a sustainable future to ensure that we can provide for beleaguered Palestinian Christian communities in the Holy Land.

Marion Homer (Communication Manager) continued the session, the theme of 'More Christians helping more Christians' being well embedded in all components of the FHL media strategy. Marion

reviewed nine 'case studies' created to help communicate the values, work and purpose of FHL and drew attention to a wide range of media resources that FHL has created and which can be used by local groups, for example, to inform and support fund-raising campaigns.

To conclude the morning we listened to the keynote speaker Sami El-Yousef. Sami, who is descended from one of Jerusalem's oldest Christian families, is the CEO of Jerusalem's Latin Patriarchate. He gave a detailed account of the difficulties faced by the Christian community living in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan. Calmly and dispassionately, he explained the complexity of pressures facing Christians in the region, reflecting lives lived under occupation, discrimination and as refugees. Sami revealed the dramatic decline in the Christian population of Bethlehem over the past 70 years. In 1947 Christians in Bethlehem represented 85% of the community but, by 1998, that figure had shrunk to 40%. Now, in 2018, they account for just 18% of the total population. Sami went on to explain the importance of the Christian institutions in the Holy Land, and their impact on the wider community regardless of faith or religion. He explained that, of the six hospitals in Jerusalem, four are operated by Christian churches.

The morning session closed with a combined Q&A from the speakers. Many conversations continued into the lunch period, where afterwards Olive Wood products and Christmas cards could be purchased. A local artist was also displaying her work for sale and donating all the proceeds to FHL.

After lunch, Peter Rand (Vice Chair and Trustee) opened the session. Peter is the field officer 'par excellence' of the FHL and has visited the Holy Land 25 times since 2010 to forward FHL goals, liaise with FHL local staff and to meet and develop relations with many religious and some secular organisations in Palestine (West Bank territory), Israel and Gaza, as well as in Jordan. He reviewed activities in each territory, and tried to balance pessimism with optimism and hope. Whilst the families and individuals suffer from the pessimism, Peter reminded us (as did Sami El-Yousef) that the Christian institutional presence in the Holy Land is still very strong and we could be optimistic about this. Mobilizing institutional support and interest must, in the long run, improve the chances that family and personal Christian experience of Palestinian Christians can be sustained.

The remainder of the afternoon was given over to a series of individual presentations on pilgrimage experience (Fr Patrick Mileham); optimizing a sponsored walk (John O'Brien); the work of an eleven year old boy from Worcester (Robert Foskett) who has raised (£900) making candles; Pilgrimage organization (Elizabeth Pugh); and reaching new audiences (Rev. Beverley Jameson). A Q&A session preceded the final presentation by Maria McCaffery who laid out the programme for the coming tenth year of FHL and a strategy to shape the next decade of activities. Fr. John Deeham drew the day to a close with a Reflection and Closing Prayer.

This was a very successful and informative gathering. One of its main purposes is how to inspire local groups to continue their efforts and to seek other churches and parishes to do the same. To find out more about FHL visit: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

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Pro Patria Weekend

20th to 21st October 2018 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

It all started with a black button!



Months ago there appeared in our weekly church notice sheet the following request: **'Do you have any black buttons? - any size will do'**. Please put them in the jar in the vestibule - all will be revealed later. Shortly the jars were full of assorted black buttons - large and small

A few weeks later - another notice appeared **'Pop in for a Poppy'** on Saturday 8th September to help decorate our church for the weekend of 20th/21st October. So - a crowd of willing volunteers did 'Pop in for a Poppy' and 500 poppies were assembled.

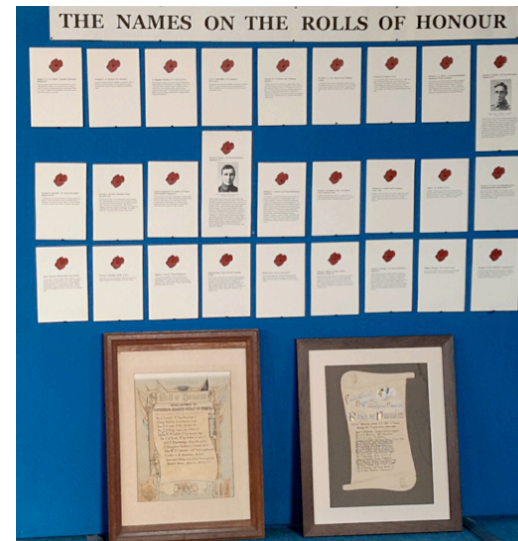
A small committee led by Janet Plant worked on producing a programme for the weekend. All churches in Caversham were invited to decorate one of our church windows with flowers - the result was amazing. Such imagination - all representing various aspect of the First World War with the following headings:

1. From Darkness to Light
2. In Flanders field the poppies blow
3. I shall light a candle of understanding
4. The Royal Navy
5. The Final Sacrifice
6. Memorial to the Fallen
7. Conscientious Objectors
8. Keep the Home Fires Burning
9. Women in the War - Work and Play
10. Roses of Picardy
11. Christmas 1914
12. From Trenches to Tranquility
13. We shall remember them
14. The Last Post

Two boards displayed the names and details of the men from Caversham Heights who had gone to fight - and their names were situated on the back of the chairs. Sadly, not all returned



In Flanders field the poppies blow. These strings of poppies were constructed by members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church - 500 made in one morning!



We will remember them



Margaret Ellison (Caversham Heights Methodist Church- these poppies were all made of icing sugar)



The Final Sacrifice (Katy Armitage and Libby Lowry - St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham)

Photographs of some of the floral tributes are included with this article - we regret that space does not permit us to include them all.

The church was open at times on Saturday, Sunday and on Monday Morning and at each session we welcomed many visitors who were offered light refreshments.

One visitor was delighted to see the name of her grandfather who used to be the postmaster at Mapledurham Post Office. On Saturday evening - the concert: Pro Patria (For one's country) composed and conducted by Daniel Nicholls was performed by the 'Enharmonic' choir accompanied on the screen by live film of the war in the trenches which gave a moving tribute to those who died.



On Sunday morning the service was led by the Reverend David Jenkins reflecting the theme of the previous evening.

Tribute must be paid to Janet Plant and husband Mark for organising such a great event (with help from a small committee)

Sadly the flower arrangements had to be dismantled but the cascade of poppies falling from the ceiling remained until after Remembrance Sunday on 11th November 2018.



From Darkness to Light (Pat Williams and Pat Jones, St Peter's Church)



The Royal Navy (Sheila Goldsmith and Judith Lewis - Caversham Baptist Church)



Roses of Picardy (Eunice Cooper, Caversham Methodist Church - Gosbrook Road)



The Last Post (Moir Lawrie - Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club)



I shall light a candle of understanding (Margaret Withers and Wendy Stormont- Caversham Heights Methodist Church)

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ENVIRONMENT

Christmas cards and Robins

Will you be sending Christmas cards this year? Maybe you're one of those people who just don't. Once your friends get used to the idea, it makes things much simpler. And there's no need to feel bad about it – after all, you can always say that you've decided to give the money you would have spent on cards and postage to charity. Apart from the bother and expense, what do you do with all those cards when you get them? When the mantelpiece and sideboard are full, perhaps you have to resort to hanging them on string. Then there's the awkwardness if you've lost someone's address, or if they've moved house since last year. You might receive a card but don't know who sent it because you can't read the handwriting, or you might not receive one that you were expecting, and become anxious.

The sending of printed cards started in this country in the 1840s, and was made possible by the introduction of the Royal Mail's penny post. The custom was well established by the 1870s, and had spread to the United States. Perhaps that other more recent revolution in communication, involving e-mail and social media, will eventually spell the end of Christmas card sending. Last year I received a number of "e-Christmas cards" from the charities I support.

From the outset, a favourite design element was the robin. It's a bird that is instantly recognisable on account of its red breast which both male and female have and it seems always to be around, even in the depths of winter. In my Caversham garden, it seems that as soon as I start to dig the soil, I hear the whirring of wings, and I know that a robin is close by, watching my every move. It will come much nearer than other birds and its distinctive song is cheerful and melodious – though of course it is singing to warn other birds to keep out of its territory. We probably mistake boldness and aggression for friendliness.

Books on superstition and folklore say that it was thought to be particularly unlucky to harm robins – to kill them, to take their eggs, or to put them in cages and bring them indoors. Apparently, even in the mid-twentieth century, some people wouldn't even have a Christmas card with a picture of a robin in the house – they would throw it out immediately on receipt.

I have read that robins appear on Christmas cards because their red breasts make us think of fire, and light – I'm reminded of the people who sat in darkness (or walked in darkness) who have seen a great light. I rather think it's because the human eye is drawn to the colour red because we associate it with fire, blood and danger. A photographer friend of mine, a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, once told me that the letters F.R.P.S. really stood for "Find a Red Piece Somewhere"!

The picture this month is from Thomas Bewick's 'History of British Birds,' first published in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1797. The caption reads: "The red-breast, robin red-breast, or ruddock."



Caversham War Memorial

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AND PARADE 11/11/2018



As dawn broke on the morning of this very poignant day it was pouring with rain but by the time of the Service the sun was shining. On a day with such significance it seemed fitting that we celebrated the Armistice in 1911 in the sunshine – it seemed

to add to the joy that people must have felt as the guns fell silent. Great thanks was given for the end of the War, everyone present, gave extra thought to the sacrifices so many had made to give us our freedom – lives ruined in so many ways.

Thought was also given to the suffering that still lie ahead for those that did return – either they came back never to completely to recover from their physical or mental injuries and some to poverty that none of us can really comprehend this day and age. More sadness was to befall many of them and their families as they fell ill very easily with the Spanish flu and because they were so weak many of them were still to die young.

The Salute on the Library steps this year was taken by

10 children from local Organisations, holding posies of 10 poppies to mark 100 years and to remind all that their ancestors helped give them the freedom to enjoy all the things that they have today.

It seemed fitting to celebrate what was to be an interlude of peace between the First and Second World Wars.

Brakspear Brewery very kindly donated two barrels of beer and a party was held for anyone who liked to attend, at the Prince of Wales, where the Landlord & Lady – Andrew & Jacky did Caversham proud. One hundred pints of Brakspear beer was sold at 100pence (not far different to what it would have cost in 1918) for 100 minutes to mark 100 years.

Caversham suffered a very heavy loss of people during World War 1 (in some streets the names of those who died are attached to posts outside the house in which they lived) and today's Residents, as always, turned out in great numbers, to Commemorate and respect their sacrifice and this year to Celebrate the peace.

Caversham GLOBE update

In the April edition of the Caversham Bridge, Caversham GLOBE activists highlighted the air pollution killer on our busy roads with front page news. Having since installed more test tubes at four locations over a six months period, the alarming amount of harmful and dangerous nitrogen dioxide in micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) has been confirmed by Winchester based Gradko Laboratories:

Caversham Location	Dec 2017	March 2018	July 2018	Sept 2018
Church Street/Prospect Street jnc	Not tested	41 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	41 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	34 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Near Church St/Priory Ave jnc	Not tested	47 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	49 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	40.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Church Road/St Anne's Road jnc	56 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	57 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	41.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Peppard Rd near Prospect St jnc	Not tested	54 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	71 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	48.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

This means we're breathing in dangerous particles! The legal MEAN ANNUAL limit for nitrogen dioxide is $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Of more concern is that air quality information collected by RBC shows that three Caversham locations have exceeded the mean annual legal limit for the past nine years!

'What is to be done?'; 'Who will do it?' and 'When?' These crucial questions and many more need some answers. The GLOBE group hopes to work with RBC Councillors, the North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (NRSNF) and CADRA to develop a joint approach for remedial action. This could include: air corridors, more trees, street planters, green walls, anti-idling of vehicles when stationary and traffic reduction policies. Only by reducing the levels of polluting traffic exhaust fumes will residents, pedestrians and cyclists be able to breathe cleaner air in the long term. A call to action is overdue. Meantime, best advice might be "hold your breath"!

On a greener note, GLOBE volunteers have recently been busy in Christchurch Meadows and Balmore Walk and in Caversham centre on the planters that certainly improve Church Street. More information on the group's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe>

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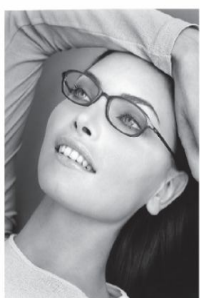
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The Caversham Heights Society: 2018 – 2019 season

The first few weeks of the 42nd season of the Caversham Heights Society have been full and encouraging. The first meeting, on 5th September, began with the Annual General Meeting and re-election of the Committee, with the exception of the Treasurer and the former Hospitality Secretary. John Brunnen was elected to replace Carol Cozens, who was standing down as Treasurer, and Lis Nealon who was retiring after many years of loyal service. Both were presented with bouquets of flowers and thanked for their services.

Following on from these proceedings, members old and new were enthralled by two complementary talks on the 'Challenges facing the NHS at 70'. The first was given by an administrator at a large London hospital, the second by a paramedic who works for the South Central Air Ambulance Service. We all had to grasp the enormity of the pressures facing the NHS since its inception in 1948: the number of patients dealt with on a daily basis; the numbers healed of different illnesses, many of which were not identified 70 years ago; the numbers of doctors and nurses and other health care professionals; the increasing sums of money spent on the NHS and concerns over value for money achieved; the substantial reliance on non-UK staff; the changing patterns of work so that nurses are now expected to take on work previously done by doctors, whilst consultants are increasingly becoming highly specialised in their fields. There are problems to face arising from an ageing population, from the growing number of cases of obesity and diabetes, and a result of shortfalls in GP services and surgeries, too many patients opt to go to the nearest A&E Department rather than to a local pharmacist or GP surgery. The huge cost to the NHS of missed appointments was also mentioned. But, apart from what was said there is much to praise and to be thankful for in spite of many remaining challenges. The superb work done by the Air Ambulance Service was also highlighted with some very moving and actual cases being described. What came as a surprise for many was that as from the beginning of October 2018 the NHS would no longer be responsible for the Air Ambulance Services which will become charities reliant on public contributions to keep them flying.

On the 19th September we had a fascinating and well-illustrated talk on 'Victorian and early 20th Century Architecture in Reading' given by a local expert and member of the Lutyens Society, Richard Havelock. Not only was he very knowledgeable and enthusiastic but his discussion of different approaches to architecture and how these have changed, or not, over time was insightful. The rivalry between different architects had a profound impact on the buildings in towns like Reading where a mixture of stone Georgian houses along London Road and the Assize Court in Forbury should be seen alongside the Victorian red brick properties such as Reading and Kendrick Schools. Although Reading was much maligned as a red brick town by writers such as Jerome K. Jerome and Sir John Betjeman, our speaker pointed out that the town could be proud of its heritage, and some of the great architects such as Waterhouse and George Gilbert Scott have had a positive impact with buildings like Reading Prison, the Old Town Hall, the alms houses on Castle Street, Huntley and Palmers and Caversham Rectory. Perhaps the Borough Council should do more to advertise the positive aspects of Reading now that the Abbey ruins are once again and safely open to the public?

The third event on 27th September was a day visit to Stourhead, the jewel in the crown of National Trust properties in Wiltshire. Although Stourhead is noted for the glorious Autumn colours that show its gardens and classical temples and other buildings to great effect, the day of our visit was a little too early for this splendid show, but that seemed to matter little because we were there on one of the last hot summer days.

From the splendours of Stourhead the talk on 3rd October brought members down to earth when they were presented with a more sobering, but inspiring and encouraging, introduction to the 'Work of Launchpad in helping homeless people in Reading'. Sophie Stokes opened our eyes to the plight of homeless people by defining different types of homelessness, by looking at some of the causes, and noting that Reading had one of the highest rates of homeless people in the country – 407, or 1 in every 162 households. She also noted that some 30,000 residents occupied social housing. In 1979 some Reading University students decided to get involved with the homeless issue. This group then became Launchpad in 2011 and set up as an independent charity. The charity now provides housing support, floating support, assistance with benefit applications, helping people develop budgeting, healthcare and life care skills, and it gives housing advice through a drop-in centre. It works with other local organisations such as Readifood, Salvation Army and FAITH and it helps its clients regain their independence, find employment and permanent housing. Many in the audience found this talk truly inspiring.

Future events include a Christmas Party. Meetings are held on alternate Wednesday evenings at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall at 8.00pm, preceded by coffee and chat.

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Rosehill WI

We have had a good summer at WI with good attendance at each meeting, and a good selection of speakers. In June, Emma Stiles talked about 'Nutrition' explaining how our system works and telling us how we can help ourselves with sensible diets and very gentle exercise. In July our speaker was Stuart who came along with his guide dog called 'Olivia'. Stuart told us that he had not always been blind and how he had learned to cope with life with the help of his trusty 'Olivia'. Some of his stories were very amusing. In August (on a very hot afternoon) we had our summer tea party which was a great success, plus the quiz that followed which taxed our brains. We had two different quizzes: one from Arlene Riley and the other from Judith Sharp. In September

our speaker was Julia Miles who spoke about her very interesting life as a diplomat's wife, about the various places she had lived, and also the events that she had attended.

In October the meeting was opened by President Arlene Riley who welcomed all present including visitors. The record of the August meeting was available for all to see. Birthday buttonholes were also handed out. Then we had our lovely harvest lunch, and a big 'thank you' must be said to all those who contributed to such a successful afternoon: well done everyone! This lovely meal was followed by our speaker, Jean Hill, who read some of her poetry; some of it was very funny, some thought provoking, and one quite sad.

The raffle and sales table have continued right through the summer proving very successful, with the proceeds either being used to provide courtesy packs for RBH or donations to ACWW. Also, during the year the various clubs have continued, with scrabble continuing to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month (except August), the book club meeting once a month, and the cinema group have had a couple of outings.

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

Chazey WI

The October meeting held on 5th October was very successful when two of the committee organised a quiz! Teams of four battled it out and the winning team had a good score of 40 points. A variety of questions were put to the ladies and they found they knew many of the answers, probably because there were no pop music or TV questions. A lovely tea was provided by Alma's daughter to celebrate Alma's 90th birthday. Chrysanthemum plants were given to Alma and delivered later to Rowena.

We welcomed some visitors and we hope they enjoyed their visit and will join us again.

Chazey WI meets on the first Friday of the month at St. Andrew's Church Hall in Albert Road Caversham Heights starting at 2.30pm.

On 31st October a coffee morning was held in the Crowne Plaza by the river followed by our lunch at the Pack Horse. The Book Club continues to meet at the Caversham Rose ably organised by Valerie Wing, and the knitting club 'clicks' away at Jean's house, with the Art class hosted by Rowena. October is the last month in the year when we run the Kiosk in Caversham Court Gardens, before it closes for the winter. Many thanks are due to all the ladies who baked and served on the rota. A wonderful day was spent at the Silk Factory in Whitchurch then on to the Bombay Sapphire Gin Factory; the weather was perfect for an October outing.

Caversham WI

For our October meeting we welcomed Tony Weston, to talk to us about the 'Thames Crossings'. He gave a very well informed talk. The bridges have meant so much to the prosperity of their local areas over the years. Crossings are known to go back to Roman times – although rather later on, there are also some records showing that Caversham had a bridge in 1231.

At next month's meeting we will have chosen to cover a very different topic: Jane Sampson will be talking about her 'Training with Russian Cosmonauts'. We are also just starting to plan the programme for the 2019-20 year.

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

For enquiries please contact our Secretary on 947 5176.

Two appointments bring wide community experience to Grace Church

Two new members of staff have been called to serve at Grace Church, Caversham, which has been without a full-time pastor since April 2017. The new man in charge is Keith Saynor. He has previously led two Churches, the most recent in Wokingham, and has also been involved in a wide range of community and evangelism projects. Before answering the call to full-time Christian ministry, Mr Saynor, age 50, was an officer in the Thames Valley Police Force. Since then he has undertaken overseas mission work in Nepal, Vietnam, Colombia and Sri Lanka. His wife Vinolia works for the Luis Palau Evangelistic Mission, and the couple met while they were both studying for Masters Degrees in Missional Leadership.

After his induction at Grace Church on October 14, Mr Saynor said his aim was "to see God's Kingdom come in increased measure" in Caversham.

Grace Church also has a newly appointed Youth Worker. Mark Brown, age 49, who moved from Bristol to Reading in September, with his wife Michelle and their daughter Abigail, to start leading youth activities for young people in Caversham. He brings 20 years' experience of working for churches, youth projects and youth organisations in various places including Barnsley, Bristol, Durham, Hartlepool, Hitchin, Stoke on Trent, South Wales and Sunderland.

He has already taken over the leadership of Grace Church's well attended fortnightly youth club SYNC. The only club of its kind in the area, SYNC caters for young people in school years 7 - 10 with inflatable games, computer games consoles, table tennis, pool, air hockey, a milkshake bar and a quiet room for card games, board games and pastoral care.

The thing he has found best about Caversham so far? "It's the people here," says Mr Brown. "They're really friendly!"

Grace Church, Caversham, is part of 'Newfrontiers International', a worldwide family of churches.



Keith Saynor, new pastor at Grace Church, Caversham, with his wife Vinolia



Mark Brown, new youth worker at Grace Church, Caversham, with his wife Michelle

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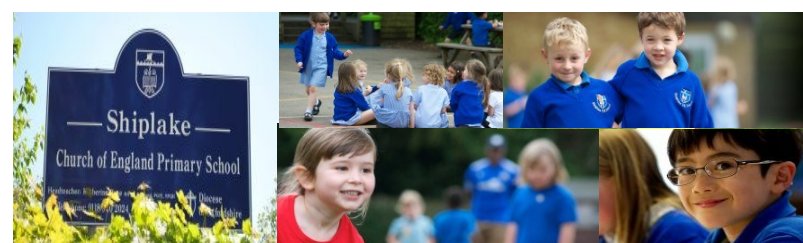
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All Souls Mass at Our Lady and St Anne

The 7.30pm Mass on All Souls day, 2nd November, was a special Mass to pray for the recently departed members of the parish of Our Lady and St Anne who had died in the previous twelve months.

The Mass was arranged by the Bereavement Support Group who invited the families of the recently deceased parishioners to attend the mass.

At the beginning of Mass, we sang a hymn whilst a member of each family present carried a lighted candle, with their loved one's name on it, down the aisle – with their loved one's name on it – and placed it on a display in front of the altar. Where no family member was present a lighted candle was carried by a parishioner. Candles were also carried to remember friends who were not members of the parish. The candles burned all the way through the Mass. In front of them was a list of the names of those being specially remembered.

The choir sang the Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei from the 'Missa Pro Defunctis' as well as leading the singing of the hymns during the service. The loving words of the psalm 'The Lord is My Shepherd' was intoned by a choir member, the response joined in by all. It never fails to bring a lump to the throat of many who remember the words from the funerals of loved ones from previous years.

After the Prayers of Intercession or Bidding Prayers, the names of all those whose candles were lit were read out.

Everyone was warmly invited into the Cenacle for light refreshments after Mass, to meet and converse with friends and family.

(Report and photo by Jane Shaw)



The arrangement with the candles and list of the deceased.

Christmas Concert by Candlelight, Saturday 8th December, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church

The Caversham Ensemble Chamber Orchestra directed by Tamas Andras from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will play at St Andrew's Church Albert Road RG4 7PL on Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm. The ensemble features: Tamas Andras – violin; Timothy Watts – oboe; Naomi Watts – cello; Gabriel Dias – trumpet; Soprano – Marcella Di Garbo; Alto – Phoebe Haines; Tenor – Laurence Kilsby; and Bass- Humphrey Thompson

Come along and enjoy an evening of beautiful and seasonal music played in the warm glow of candlelight by the superb soloists and singers of the Caversham Ensemble Orchestra. The programme will include works by Bach, Handel, Grieg and John Rutter. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served during the interval – included with the ticket. This is a very popular concert, so book early!

Tickets: In advance from Waltons the Jewellers in Caversham (cash only and closed Mondays) or 0118 9484112 prices £18 and £20. Tickets for sale on the door at £20, £22. www.concertsincaversham.co.uk for more details.



St Peter's Church, Christmas Market, Saturday 8th December 10.00am to 12.30pm

The St Peter's Church Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 8th December 10.00am to 12.30pm in the church at The Warren. There will be handmade crafts and homemade produce for sale as well as a range of Christmas stalls including a lucky dip and a raffle. There are activities for children and refreshments on sale. Proceeds will go to the Indonesia Tsunami Appeal. In Caversham Court Christmas Trees will be on sale at the same time.



St Barnabas Church Christmas Fair

St Barnabas Church Christmas Fair is to be held on Saturday 1st December from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. In the Church Hall. There will be a raffle, a delicious cake stall, new gifts at very good prices, quality second-hand toys and games, adult jigsaws, a jar tombola and surprise gift bags - you choose and see what you've won! And there is much more besides, including Father Christmas, beautiful handicrafts and refreshments available in the Parish Centre. Entry is by donation with proceeds from the day going to our African Charities. More information from Wendy on 0118 946 1365.



Glass Ensemble Choir, Sunday 9th December, 4.00pm to 6.00pm at St Andrew's Church

The Glass Ensemble present 'A Christmas Collection' at their concert in St. Andrew's Church, Caversham (84 Albert Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7PL). The repertoire will include a wide range of music for winter and Christmas. Expect modern music by Christopher Fox and John Barber, traditional folk music from Nigeria, sacred music by Victoria and Holst and autumnal songs by Eva Cassidy. There will also be traditional carols with a twist. Look forward to a beautiful afternoon of songs by the twenty two female voices of the Glass Ensemble. Your ticket includes seasonal refreshments, and there will be a retiring collection in aid of 'ReadiFood' (Faith) Reading's food bank.

Tickets £12 on the door or £10 in advance/under 18s' free. Please contact Susie on 0118 9479997 or 07930 690 873 or at asusied@btinternet.com

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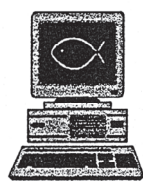
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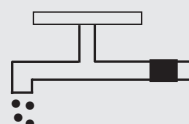
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