



Love your neighbour as yourself: a Christian response to Brexit

The Diocese of Oxford has written to every church, school and chaplaincy in the Diocese at this critical moment in our national life. As *Caversham Bridge* reflects all the Christian churches in Caversham (and by implication **all** citizens of good will and of other faiths) we play our part in disseminating their statement for its shared sentiments. We have adapted their text in what follows to highlight the core messages.

By the end of October 2019 the Nation may have exited the European Union and begun a new relationship with our European neighbours and the world. November may have brought clarification (or not). Six centuries before Christ, the prophet Jeremiah wrote to those exiled in Babylon. His words resonate powerfully today. We are to seek the welfare of our cities, towns and villages. The word welfare implies '*shalom*': peace, well-being and prosperity. This must be our goal.

There are over a thousand churches, schools and chaplaincies in the Diocese of Oxford and over 50,000 regular worshippers: similarly in Caversham we have the spread of Christian denominations, organizations and volumes of faithful. Everyone should remember the commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves. Together we can make a significant difference.

The Christian Churches and Brexit: Our nation is divided about our future relationship in Europe. Our calling as the Church in these times is not to take sides in this debate but to continue to be the Church for everyone. There are '*leavers*' and '*remainers*' in every congregation, but this can never be our primary identity as Christians.

We should speak out for the poorest in our communities and act to help them (as the church has always done). We have a responsibility to work for the peace and the common good. We are called to offer in public and in private a voice of truth and a voice for hope in the future.

As Christians we bring a long perspective on the present debates. We know from our own history that the United Kingdom has re-imagined its relationship with Europe many times in the past. The Church of England came into existence as part of one of these eras of change with historic consequences for the Roman Catholic Church and later for the free churches. In November, we will remember again those who gave their lives in the great wars of the twentieth century focussed around conflict across Europe.

As Christians, our friendships with Europe and with the Churches across Europe will continue and deepen whatever the political and economic settlement.

What can we do? National and local government have done a great deal to plan for a '*smooth and orderly*' Brexit (with or without a deal, and even the possibility of a reverse). However, there is an important role at this time for practical expressions of love and hope by communities and individuals. The exact needs will vary from one parish or benefice to another. These are some of the things you may need to consider and think about as Church Councils, school governing bodies, small groups and families.

We offer twelve ways to love your neighbour as yourself in a Brexit checklist:

1. Give extra support to food banks to combat food shortages and rising prices.

Signpost foodbanks and ensure preparedness.

2. Watch out for the lonely, the anxious, the fearful and the vulnerable. Keep in touch with your neighbours and engage in friendly communication.
3. Reach out to EU nationals. This is a moment for friendship and hospitality and love for the stranger. As we leave the European Union, or as the uncertainty continues, people are likely to feel less welcome.
4. Make sure people have access to good advice on migration and travel, and qualified advice on debt and financial support.
5. Remember the needs of children and young people. Our schools and churches can be a place of balance and sanctuary for our children, who may be feeling upset and anxious.
6. Support the statutory services. Familiarise yourself with your local authority plans and point people to them. Meet with your local councillors and neighbourhood police officers.
7. Think about the needs of particular groups in your area. What are the local challenges where you live?
8. Work together with all other churches, faith communities and charities.
9. Encouraging discussion about the rights and wrongs of Brexit is unlikely to be helpful. Gather people to listen to each other about what concerns them looking forward and how communities can be brought together despite acknowledged differences.
10. Watch over other faith and minority ethnic communities. Hate crimes and crimes against other faiths increased after the 2016 referendum. Reconnect with the mosques, synagogues and gurdwaras in your area.
11. Encourage truthful and honest debate. The renewal of our politics will need to be local as well as national. Don't be afraid of the political space but step into it with a message of faith, hope and love.
12. Pray in public worship and private prayer for the healing of our political life, for wisdom for those who lead us, for reconciliation between communities and for stability in our government.

Do not underestimate what we can achieve if every church, chaplaincy and school does something and if every Christian disciple takes some action, however small.

Do not take on too much either: loving our neighbour at this time needs to be woven into everything we do anyway, not simply added into busy lives. Don't be limited by this checklist so be inspired to go further as the Spirit directs.

Together we are called to be a contemplative, compassionate and courageous church, to love our neighbours as ourselves in the months ahead and to pray and work for the wellbeing of our communities.

There are more details and resources in a special section on the Diocesan website: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/>

(Issued under the names of: The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford; The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester; The Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham; The Ven. Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading elect)

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Marjorie Tillman

Marjorie Tillman, was the Chairman of Caversham Bridge from 2003 to 2013. She died on 3rd October 2019 after a long battle with Parkinsons Disease. The members of the current Board extend their sympathies to her family and friends, and would like to recognise all she achieved by contributing to the continued success of the newspaper during her period of office.

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 Martin Beukes, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 0118 947 2223
Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor 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)
Pastor Keith Saynor
www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk Tel 9474529

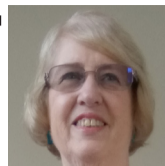
ROMAN CATHOLIC
Our Lady and St Anne
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

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 Revd Margaret Dimmick



A commitment for Life

A few weeks ago, the Gospel reading from the Lectionary was, I thought, about making a commitment and how to keep it. Luke, in chapter 14, tells us that Jesus was walking along with quite a following when he turned to them and told them that whoever wanted to follow him would have to make a difficult commitment: that they would have to be prepared to make a personal sacrifice to do so.

It would mean leaving father, mother, spouse and children to take up the cross and follow Jesus. He would be our first priority if we do. Can we accept that? Would our families wear that? In our house, we accept it, but we have had many years to get used to it. The family do come a close second.

There is a cost to consider in joining the church family. Jesus says that it will be like a ruler wanting to build a castle, who has to pay a designer, then buy land and materials, or a king or nation going to war, who has to find the money to pay the army of the size he needs and equip it. Then, when he sees the enemy coming, he sends out ambassadors to sue for peace because his army is smaller than theirs. Hmm...that makes one think!

It is now the time of the year, St Francis tide, when as a member of the Third Order (which includes women and laity), I will be renewing my profession promise. It is a time to review the commitment I have made, along with about 4,000 other members of the Order in the world. We call our commitment a Rule and it is agreed with an experienced member locally. It is something which is a challenge, but bears in mind what we can realistically keep.

It begins with service to God, in worship, prayer and study. It then follows with service to our neighbour and the world, human and natural, to vulnerable people, to creation and natural resources, and to pursue a joy in doing so. It is based on Jesus' summary of the Old Testament Law in two Commandments. Lastly, we consider ourselves in constructive rest and the satisfying hobbies we enjoy.

It is very helpful to meet and discuss aspects of our Christian lives where we work all this out and so we meet with an experienced Christian, who may be another Tertiary or a member of the clergy or another person coping with the same kind of commitments we take on in our lives. We look at the Rule together and commiserate over our struggle to achieve what we have promised.

After the exercise, I felt quite relieved. How had I done? Well, in some cases, I had done my best and had completed some tasks well though not perfectly, while others left me thinking that some improvements must be made. I should humbly accept, that by God's grace, I have been given the chance to start again and try to improve, and with his help I will have the opportunity to do better next time!

Revd Margaret Dimmick

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
9.00am and 10.30am Sunday

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 December 2019 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 4th November. The date for the January 2020 issue is Monday 25th November.
Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org
Advertising copy for the December 2019 issue should be sent Friday 1st November. The date for the January 2020 issue Friday 22nd November.
Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

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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

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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 reserve the right to edit contributions submitted for matters of style, grammar, vocabulary and factual correctness, and to conform to the standards of our established editorial practice. In cases of difference the editors will endeavour to refer back to the submitter of content for resolution.

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Keep Emmer Green (KEG): October update

The Keep Emmer Green group (KEG) held a publicity day on Saturday 5th October when they distributed leaflets and information to local shoppers about the threat to the area from housing development. A KEG spokesperson said that the event was a great success with local residents, when many expressed their concern about the negative effect on the area from unsustainable

development. Not only the lack of space in schools and surgeries was mentioned but there was also much comment on the pollution effect from the loss of green spaces exacerbated by even more vehicles on the already overcrowded roads. One surprising discovery was the feeling expressed by a number of members of Reading Golf Club about the way that the move to Caversham Heath

was being handled and, in particular, the decision to vacate the Reading course before any planning permission had been obtained. The finalisation of the Reading Local Plan was also explained in detail as there has not been a great deal of information given to residents. KEG issue a regular newsletter and their website (www.keepemmergreen.com) is continually updated with news and information.

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND CAVERSHAM: OCTOBER 2019

DATE	EVENT
1st	'Caversham Afternoon Tea'. Geo Cafe, Prospect Street, 3.00pm – 6.00pm £15.00
2nd	Reading Community Gospel Choir – song, joy and dancing, 7.30pm Reading Concert Hall
3rd	Farmers Market and Artisan Fair. Caversham Precinct Car Park, 10.00am – 3.00pm
3rd	Fireworks Display. Scours Lane Lions Club. From 5.00pm. £7.00 single/£15.00 family
3rd	All Souls Services - St Johns, 3.00pm; St Andrews, 3.30pm; St Peters, 6.30pm. All welcome.
4th	Vinyl Record Collector's Fair. Rivermead, 9.00am – 3.00pm £4.00
6th	Men's Breakfast The Bite, Emmer Green, 8.15am
8th/9th	Fair Trade Christmas Sale, 97, South View Avenue. 0118 947 2444. (8th) 9.00am-9.00pm / (9th) 9.30am -2.30pm. Cards Gifts Jewellery and more.
10th	Armistice Day Concert. St Laurence Church, Reading £10.00
11th	Divali Celebration. 5.00pm, Reading Hindu Temple
16th	Christmas Fair. Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 11.00am – 2.00pm
16th	Christmas Fair. St John's Church. 2.00pm – 4.00pm
16th	Autumn Fair. St Andrews Church. with St Andrews Pre-School. 2.00 – 4.00pm
17th	Farmers Market and Artisan Fair. Caversham Precinct Car Park. 10.00am – 3.00pm
18th	Lunchtime Organ Recital by Ben Chewter. Reading Concert Hall, 1.00pm
18th	Autumn Concert Henley Symphony Orchestra, 4.00pm Reading Concert Hall, £10.00
23rd	Christmas Fair. Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, 2.00-4.00pm
27th	Robert Benson Sounds of Sultry Saxophone, Topsy Bean Wine Bar, Prospect Street 7.00pm – 10.00pm
28th	Thanksgiving Feast (Pop up Dinner Party). Geo Cafe, Prospect St. 7.30pm £35.00

Threat hangs over Emmer Green from developers

The Planning Inspector has now published her report into the Local Reading Plan, which covers the period up to 2036. Reading Borough Council is likely to approve it with the Inspector's modifications in November 2019. Despite the Planning Inspector's insistence that golf must stay at Emmer Green if any housing development is to take place, residents remain concerned about the future of the golf club site. The Inspector insists that there can only be development on the CA1b part of Reading Golf Club if golf remains on the rest of the site.

Clearly showing that the views of local people have been heard, the report makes a number of changes to the Reading plan. It says:

"A legal agreement will be necessary to ensure that the golf function is retained, and development for residential will not take place until a replacement clubhouse is provided and vehicular access from suitable roads is in place."

The report which accepts the scope for 90-130 houses on the site, also requires healthcare provision, the protection of trees, and a "a green link across the site from

Kidmore End Road to the remainder of the golf course, rich in plant species and habitat opportunities".

While the timescale envisaged is 2026 onwards, local people remain concerned as to what will happen once the Golf Club vacates the site in late 2020/2021. The Club's plans, submitted to the Inspector, for a 'family golf offer' seem to have fallen by the wayside.

The Local Plan also identifies a shortfall of just 230 homes for Reading until 2036, a number which is so small as to not need any large-scale developments in Emmer Green. It notes the lack of healthcare in the Caversham and Emmer Green area and confirms that suitable roads should be used to access the area to be retained for golf. This is the link to the Report (see p25): [http://www.reading.gov.uk/.../Final Inspectors Report 2409201...](http://www.reading.gov.uk/.../Final%20Inspectors%20Report%202409201...) And to the appendix with the modifications (see MM59): [http://www.reading.gov.uk/.../Main Modifications Appendix 240...](http://www.reading.gov.uk/.../Main%20Modifications%20Appendix%20240...)

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Caversham Through the Year

2020 Calendar

available mid November at
Caversham Emporium
(beside Warings Bakers)

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE YEMEN APPEAL



Remembrance 2019

This year at the Caversham Remembrance Ceremony we will remember, as always, all those who lost their lives or suffered as a consequence of any 'War' or 'Conflict'. The ceremony is especially poignant this year as it marks 100 years of national Remembrance: 1919-2019. We remember all those who died or suffered in the First World War (1914 – 1918) and in all the Wars and Conflicts since. This year has also marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings.

Caversham's Service of Remembrance will take place at our War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows at 10.50am on Sunday 10th November. The President of Caversham Royal British Legion, Mr. Ron Jewitt, will welcome those present and the Service will be conducted by the Chaplain of the branch, the Reverend Mike Smith.

Those associations (all welcome) who wish to attend should assemble, with their Leaders, in Christchurch Meadows at the Wolsey Road entrance and parade along to the War Memorial. At the end of the service they will then assemble under the supervision of the Leader of the Army Cadet Force in Caversham, proceed along Bridge Street and Church Street then, after the Salute, at Caversham Library, will turn into Wolsey Road and march to Christchurch Meadows where they will dismiss.

Orders of Service will be distributed at the service but if any Group wishes to have them in advance they will be available from the end of October.

The 69th Reading Scouts will be collecting in Caversham on Sunday 27th October and Caversham Army Cadet Force will be collecting on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November.

For any group wishing to lay a wreath these will also be available from that date. For further information please contact Pauline - email: porkypeppard@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0118 947 5345.

CB ran a small feature on street parties. Well, we have done it and pass on our successful experience to others.

Eye & Dunsden news October 2019

Name that road? The road from Playhatch to Dunsden is currently nameless, which can cause confusion for delivery drivers and emergency services. The parish council is suggesting 'Playhatch Road' or 'Lower Dunsden Way' since the road between Dunsden and Binfield Heath is Dunsden Way. What do you think? Please contact Mandy Sermon, our Parish Clerk – Email: chairman@eyedunsden.org

Third Thames Bridge: At the instigation of our County Councillor, David Bartholomew, Oxfordshire County Council has recently made a commitment to supporting a new Thames crossing for Reading only if the cost of mitigation measures on Oxfordshire are fully included in the costings. In other words, unless money is spent on making Oxfordshire's roads capable of dealing with all the vehicles that will be drawn to the new bridge, it should not go ahead. Another alternative OCC would consider is a bridge that was for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians only.

Road matters: The Parish Council is concerned by noisy motorcycle racing on the Henley Road and continuing high numbers of overweight vehicles crossing Sonning bridge and is seeking a response from the authorities. The Playhatch Road in Sonning Eye was closed recently to make the surface less slippery in order to reduce the number of vehicles ending up in the ditch.

Planning: A planning application has recently been made for a fifth new house in Playhatch and another is being considered in Dunsden. If you are concerned about any roads or planning issue, please see www.eyedunsden.org for the date of the next parish council meeting. Attend and share your views. Your District and County councillors will often be at the meeting and can respond immediately.

Dunsden Village Hall first ever Christmas Fair: Saturday 30th November: This new event will commemorate the laying of the main hall foundation stone, 150 years ago. All welcome to attend.

'Around, above and along' an exhibition of the work of Liz Chaderton at the Caversham Picture Framer



Following the stunning bear-focused exhibition of Caroline Hulse, the Caversham Picture Framer is continuing the nature theme with a display of artworks by Liz Chaderton. Based in Hurst, Liz works with watercolours and ink, both on paper and canvas. Her passion is painting animals. She aims for her work to raise a smile and help people to see familiar creatures in new ways, hoping that if we do not take them for granted we will treat both animals and their environment with greater respect.

The starting point for each picture is something that catches her attention – a cow's nose, a pig's ear, or maybe the cat's whiskers... She wants to capture the essence of the subject, rather than the detail: her aim is to leave space for the viewer's imagination to wander, believing that what is left out is just as important as what is put in. Liz says, "I aim to capture the wealth of animal life that thrives in the Thames Valley. By making the viewer stop and look again, I hope to let everyone see the extraordinary in the everyday."

Liz has also published 'Painting watercolour on canvas', with Crowood Press in June 2019. 'Around, above and along' continues until 9th November 2019 at the Caversham Picture Framer, 7 Church Road, RG4 7AA.

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Reading Centre for the National Trust

The Reading Centre of the National Trust is what the main body of the National Trust call a Support Group. It is one of several across the country and one of the most active. The only requirement to join is that you must be a member of the National Trust and are willing to pay a small membership fee of £12.00 a year towards the administrative costs of running the group.

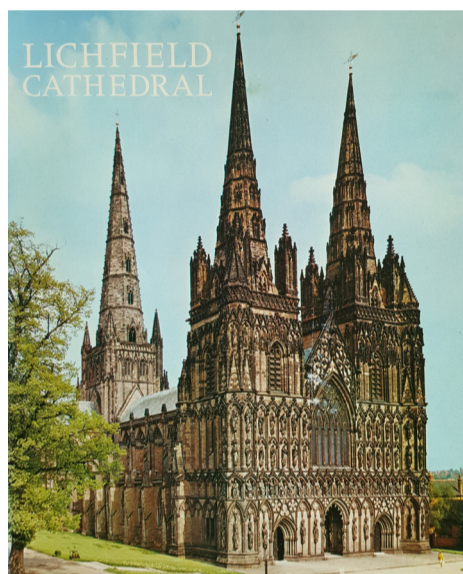
The RCNT was set up nearly fifty years ago when a small group of enthusiastic NT members got together to share how they could provide opportunities for local NT members to meet together regularly and share experiences of visits to NT properties as well as other activities.

The RCNT now has a membership of over five hundred and provides a wide range of activities including talks, outings, holidays and even has a theatre group all organised by a dedicated group of longstanding members of the RCNT who research, plan, notify members and do all the paperwork for a wide range of activities.

Travel for the outings, theatre trips and holidays are from a central point

in Reading, near the station so that access is made as easy as possible. Outings this year have included Stourhead in Wiltshire, Forde Abbey and Gardens at Chard, Somerset and Hever Castle in Kent. The talks are held twice a month, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening and have included subjects such as 'The Mystery of Agatha Christie', 'The Mary Rose' and 'Blessed are the Cheesemakers'.

The theatre group is an integral part of the Reading Centre and any member



is welcome to join. We always attend matinees, visit provincial theatres within the region and occasionally in London if the ticket price is acceptable. There is usually time to shop, sightsee and lunch before curtain up. The aim is to provide a mix of drama, dance and musicals to appeal to all tastes.

This year three holidays were on offer: in June to Newquay in Cornwall; in July to the north east of England, staying near Durham and in September to Derbyshire. Forty-eight members travelled to Derbyshire and stayed at an excellent 4-star hotel in Mickleover which was a good starting point to get to the various venues on the programme. Visits included Canons Ashby in Northamptonshire and Calke Abbey on the outward journey. The next day we were taken to Southwell Minster where we had a guided tour followed by lunch and a talk in the Bishop's Palace before being taken to the Workhouse, a very interesting insight in how some people were forced to live. On several visits, lunch was included and excellent guides were there to take us around the various properties after we had been divided into smaller groups. On the final full day, we visited Chatsworth House and despite the rain we enjoyed a wonderful day. On the way home we visited Lichfield and had a guided tour of the wonderful cathedral. A very enjoyable and well organised holiday was had by all.

For further information you can contact RCNT Membership Secretary – Margaret Edwards
Email: readingmemsec@yahoo.co.uk

Bat walk at Clayfield Copse

A bat walk was led by Rose-Ann Movsovic from the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group <http://www.berksbats.org.uk> around Clayfield Copse on the evening of 2nd September. There were about 20 of us and we heard 4 different species on our bat detectors and saw probably 3 of them. It was thrilling to be able to hear their different sounds. The best time to see them is at sunset, as the sky is getting darker.

(Contributed by Rachel Paton for Friends of Clayfield Copse; photo by Rachel Paton)



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The Caversham Heights Society: Flooding on the Thames; a visit to Tyntesfield and Reading Trolleybuses

There have been three events since the last report on the Caversham Heights Society, two talks and a day's outing. On the 18th September Melanie Ward and Chris Beales, from the Environment Agency, talked to us about the control of flooding on the River Thames since 1947, looking at past flooding patterns and concerns for future potential flooding along the Thames in the Reading area, especially in the light of global warming. Chris opened the batting, so to speak, with some detailed charts and diagrams, pointing out that the Thames consists of 4,600 square kilometres of water along its course from its source in the Cotswolds to London and beyond where it flows into the North Sea. It is navigable as far as Cricklade.

Records of flows and floods go back each year to 1883 at Kingston upon Thames. The worst floods recorded were in 1894, 1947, when it was a one in 75 years flood, and 2013-2014, when over half a year's rain fell in a ten-week period. The belief is that we should expect a major flood every 20 years. Dredging began in the 1930s and lasted until 1998 when it was halted because of costs and its limited effectiveness. Caversham Weir was built in 1953 as a means of controlling the flow of water along that part of the river.

Melanie then took over to talk about the work of the Reading Climate Action Network, supported by Reading Borough Council, as it plans and prepares models for different scenarios of wetter winters and drier summers, and more extreme weather patterns. She discussed the value of flood plains and the controversial plans for protective walls along the river's banks. These are ongoing issues that will no doubt generate many heated discussions in the years ahead, but it was useful to know what some of the future plans are.

On 25th September, nearly 40 members and friends of the Society risked the weather, which was wet as we set off but remained dry for most of the day, to visit Tyntesfield, a National Trust House and Gardens near Clevedon in North Somerset. This is a Victorian Gothic country house set in a vast park which is over 5 miles wide in places. It was owned by the Gibbs family which made its fortune through trade between the Americas and Europe and especially through guano, the excrement from South American gulls that proved so valuable in fertilizer for crops. When the National Trust acquired the house in 2000 it was the largest private country house in their portfolio, but the cataloguing of over 44,000 artefacts was to take almost 20 years to complete. For us it was an extremely interesting visit. The only down side was the slopes which made access difficult for those with walking difficulties.

The third event was a talk on Reading trolleybuses, given by Dave Hall who became fascinated by them when, as a youngster recuperating from a serious illness, his father took him to the Mill Lane Depot where some of the town's trolleybuses were kept. Dave Hall is not only a lover of trolleybuses but he is almost fanatical in his interest. He spoke about the development of public transport from horse-drawn trams, through trams to electric trolley buses, the first of which arrived in Reading in 1936. Trolleybuses in Reading ceased running in 1968 largely because of increasing traffic and the cost of introducing one way traffic in sections of the town but also because the main manufacturer of trolleybus overhead wires ceased production. More information can be found in Dave Hall's 'Poles down: 50th anniversary of Reading trolleybus system closure' which is available in Reading Museum.

The Society meets on alternate Wednesday evenings in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist church in Highmoor Road. Coffee and biscuits precede a talk which begins at 8pm. New members are always welcome and information can be found at www.cavershamheights.org

Changeover of Governors at Highdown School

John Taylor is standing down as Governor and Chair of Governors of Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre after eight and six years' service respectively. Rachel Cave, Headteacher, writes 'John Taylor was part of the panel that appointed me to Headteacher six and a half years ago. As I joined the school, it had been judged by Ofsted as requiring improvement. John stepped up to the Chair of the Board and has led the development of governance necessary for Highdown to be judged good with outstanding features. He has excellent understanding of all educational matters and has supported the leadership team to drive forward the improvements that are bringing great outcomes for our students'.

'In addition, John has overseen the formation of Highdown Sport and Leisure. This wholly owned subsidiary of Highdown offers sport, leisure and learning facilities to the community and the Highdown estate is buzzing after school hours with members and visitors. John has chaired the directors of this company for 5 years. It is a vital facility for the school and for the community with revenue supporting the academy'.

'It has been a great pleasure to work with John, his commitment to our school has been fantastic. We have worked brilliantly together, he has challenged me to be the best leader of Highdown I can be and given me the encouragement needed in what can be a lonely job. His integrity, sincerity and warm humanity are amongst the qualities, which have made him a great Chair of the Governing Board'.

John Taylor will be succeeded by Ginny Monro, who has been a Governor already for 2 years.

More Highdown School news on page 11



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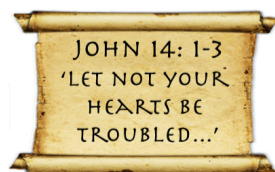
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Bonfire Ink Caps

"Will you be having a bonfire this year?" I asked in all innocence. I knew the lady standing at the bus stop, and I knew she had young children. She had served me on several occasions from behind the counter of a Caversham shop. I was told in no uncertain terms that the family was Catholic, and they would certainly not be celebrating Bonfire Night. I had assumed that the origin of the custom was long forgotten, but I was obviously wrong!

Before 1606, the usual time for bonfires was the night of 30th April, or May Eve, which had been the time of the pagan feast of Beltane. Now, a new Act of Parliament required everyone to celebrate the deliverance of King James I and his

Parliament from being blown up by Catholic conspirators the previous year. On the morning of 5th November, for ever more, bells were to be rung and people were to attend their churches. The clergy were required to read the prescribed prayers, as set down in the Book of Common Prayer.

The time for the lighting of bonfires then seems gradually to have shifted from 30th April to 5th November.

The Act of 1606 was not repealed until 1859 – though that does not mean that it was still being observed – and the prescribed prayers were removed from the Prayer Book by another Act of 1861.

All of which means that in November you will probably have a better chance of finding the fungus called the Bonfire Agaric than at any other time of year. As its name implies, it springs up where bonfires have been.

The Ink Caps are a group of fungi with caps on stalks. These caps can vary greatly in size and shape. One of the best-known is the Shaggy Ink Caps, where the cap when young is white and elongated with 'curls' on the outside which have reminded people of a lawyer's wig. The Magpie Ink Caps is more conical. It is brown with white patches, and both of these are fairly common and are around at this time of year.

The distinctive feature of the Ink Caps is that as the spores are shed, from the gills under the cap, both cap and gills dissolve into a kind of black 'ink.' I have read that

in some countries this liquid has been collected to be used for writing.

When young, the Bonfire Ink Cap is conical with radiating stripes, like a delicate half-open parasol. As it matures, it becomes more like an open umbrella, and begins to split round the edges. Then it becomes blown inside-out, as it were, and when seen from above, looks a bit like a star, as in the picture. Sadly, after that the whole fungus soon dissolves to ink.

I hope to get out on a fungus foray this month, armed with a camera, to see what I can see. Unfortunately I do not have any young children to take along, but well remember that one of my most successful forays was greatly helped by having a couple of children aged 6 or 7. I got them interested in looking for fungi, and their short stature and keen eyesight meant that they could spot things hiding in grass and under hedges which otherwise I would never have found!

Happy Wanderer



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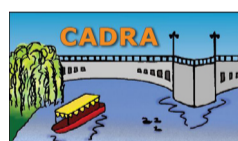


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A Trip to Kenya with Mission Direct

In August I went with a UK Christian charity, www.missiondirect.org to Narok in Kenya, East Africa, to help build a house beside a maternity unit in Nturumeti, a remote village, so that Ann the midwife, can live on site and babies can be delivered safely at night as well as during the day. I flew to Nairobi in a KLM Boeing 747 aptly known as the 'Grand Old Lady', for when taking off it felt as if we were never going to get airborne - nevertheless the flight was comfortable, if rather noisy. The following day I met the rest of the team who were from all over the UK - there were nine of



Narok - cows roam freely!

us, from Lucy aged 13 years, her brother Dylan 15 and their parents, to Mike a super 81 year old and the rest of us spread out in between. We spent the morning in Nairobi visiting a sanctuary for orphaned baby elephants before setting out on the long journey westward to Narok. We travelled all together in a rather ancient Hiace 9-seater van and our luggage followed behind strapped down in an open truck.



Day 2 at Nturumeti

Thankfully the road was tarmacked and we enjoyed seeing baboons and their babies waiting rather precariously on the roadside for any titbits to be thrown from speeding traffic and sweetcorn cobs being roasted over open fires - sustenance for travellers. We stopped at the viewing point of the wide flat expanse of The Great Rift Valley - 9,600km long it runs from Mozambique to the Red Sea - where the earth's crust fractured around 25 million years ago! We finally arrived at the small town of Narok and found our accommodation at the ACK (Anglican Church of Kenya) Living Wells Guest House beside St Luke's Church - a little disconcertingly on Prison Road! We were warmly greeted by Winnie the manager and shown to our rooms, complete with mosquito nets and regular toilets although



Walls done!

minus seats - a little uncomfortable but better than the 'long drop' we later discovered.

The next day we set out in the van for Nturumeti, soon onto some very uneven tracks and often having to wait for mixed herds of sheep, goats and cows to pass on their way to market. Despite being almost on the equator it was not too hot as the weather was often cloudy. On reaching the village we met Ann the nurse and were shown the nearby concrete 'footprint' of the house we were to build. Beside it was a great pile of stones, further piles of sand and cement and some Kenyan men with Lamech in charge, waiting to show us what to do - so donning gloves and sunhats we set to work. Some of us tried to shape the stones, it was a difficult skilful job and after a while we had to let the Kenyans who were so quick take over. Others pushed endless wheelbarrow loads of sand and cement to be mixed with water (brought by donkeys from a small water pan nearby) using spades - no cement mixers for us! The building started to take shape, plumb lines and lengths of string kept the building level and upright and the good humour of the Kenyans who gently and patiently corrected us when we put the stones back to front or didn't keep the cement wet enough or dislodged the important levelling string for the fourth time! We were certainly ready for our picnic lunch when it came, hard boiled eggs and bananas, sometimes with a chapatti or a samosa, plus a welcome rest!

We watched mothers with their babies arrive at the clinic, sometimes on a motorbike, also Maasai men, always with their long sticks and brightly coloured shukas or 'African blankets' and long swords hanging from their waists. Children came and looked curiously at our white faces, although they were soon smiling when we 'high-fived' them and handed round lollies.

At the end of the fourth day a building was starting to emerge, each wall having 9 courses of stones in place. The final job for us was to make the metal structure of the 'ring beam' which would strengthen the walls so that they could support the weight of the roof. This involved sawing pieces of thick wire which we used to tie at 30cm intervals around four long lengths of metal rods. The Kenyans then took over and nailed wooden planks to the tops of the walls to make a 'trough' - our metal structure was placed inside, concrete was poured in on top and it was left to set (in November a team from Cheltenham will put the roof on). In gratitude for building the walls, Ann gave us a much appreciated cup of spicy Kenyan Masala tea and a piece of bread.

Mission Direct has other partners in Kenya, and we spent the next day with Pastor Robert who runs a home, 'The Fountain of Life'

for 'street boys'. There are a great many in Narok, aged from about nine years upwards, who have run away from home, usually due to hunger and often abuse as well, and they live in caves by the river. They become petty criminals to survive and also to fund their glue sniffing addictions which dampen hunger pains. Pastor Robert visits them and talks to them and feeds them when he can and tries to encourage them to stay at his home - he has a simple 'dormitory', built a few years ago by Mission Direct with some iron bunk beds - and he encourages them to go to school if he can find sponsors, as schools in Kenya are not free. We helped to prepare a meal for about 80 children and some adults, I was cutting up meat for a stew and had strict instructions when serving to give only two small cubes of meat per person. After the meal we enjoyed singing together and then some of us joined the boys in a football match. It was a happy



Street boys enjoying some food.

day. Pastor Robert and his wife Esther also organise a women's craft morning, teaching skills such as bead making using old glossy calendars, and sewing bags and small items which the ladies, many are single mothers, can sell to help feed their families.

We visited Bishop Patrick and his wife Josephine who run a home, 'The House of Hope' for about 50 girls from 10 to 18 years, who have been rescued from female genital mutilation (FGM), illegal in Kenya, and forced early marriage. Prospective husbands will usually have paid families five cows for their daughters and so contact between girls and very angry parents after rescue can be impossible for a while. We were able to give all the girls a sewing kit made by St Peters craft group and also some scented soap - they were delighted.

Bishop Patrick also has a small holding, and we spent a very hot day there sorting and bagging sweetcorn cobs, those unblemished went through the stripping machine (which arrived on the back of a motor bike!) and the kernels were spread out to dry - the husks going to the cows. Maize is a staple crop in Kenya (ground as meal and mixed with milk to make a solid type of porage called 'ugali') and there are usually two harvests per year - providing the rains come...

Finally we met Sister Clemencia, a Franciscan nun who, as a social worker, saw disabled children being hidden away - in Kenya, they are considered to be a curse on the family. After much battling, she managed to get some land and have some corrugated iron classrooms built, and she started a small mainstream school 'Nkapilili School' with a special needs unit and dormitories for the disabled children. We



A classroom at Nkapilili.

met Alfred the head teacher who showed us around. The classrooms all had a blackboard, only some had benches and desks, and he explained their biggest problem was a lack of water. We spent a day there clearing the boy's and girl's washrooms of stones and weeds and then laying some concrete. We met Danny, a nine year old boy who was born with both his feet turned in (talipes) - a particular problem in Africa, these children can only crawl and their life chances are poor. We were able to put his family in touch with Dr Charlotte Hawkins in the UK, who in 2018 set up a clinic in Zanzibar where these children, with manipulation and toe to hip plastering, can have their deformities corrected. Hopefully enough money can be raised for Danny to get a passport and go there for treatment.

It was a wonderful trip to Kenya and through the generosity of many people in the UK we were able to fund so much, including Ann's house with some furniture, medical supplies and some reading glasses for her to distribute. For the street boys, we bought mattresses and clothes and enough football kits for a team, and set up a regular donation towards their food. For the ladies in the craft group we bought a treadle sewing machine and brought home some of their bead necklaces to sell. For the rescued girls we gave money for food, some clothes, and some of us set up sponsorships to enable more



The whole team.

of the girls to go to school. Finally with donated money, we bought some desks for Nkapilili school, paid for a canopy over their eating area outside, supplied books and pens, teaching aids, Duplo, rubber balls plus pump, calculators, a laptop and some chicken feed!

Thank you to everyone who was kind enough to support this trip. The Kenyan people we met were delightful and so grateful and full of thanks. They said we were an answer to prayer.

(Contributed by Carol Moloney, who is a member of the editorial team of Caversham Bridge)

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A Turbulent Priest

Warning this review may contain spoilers and explicit pop culture references!

I grew up with a saintly grandmother who had a near unquenchable thirst for historical knowledge, and a wicked, although carefully hidden, sense of humour. The result has been that I have inherited both of the former and none of the reservation, although some ability to chortle to myself about almost anything. As a result, the possibility of watching an historical event of deep significance to the nation get put through the ringer by a noteworthy comic writer is simply too much for me to resist. It also means I come with high expectations and a healthy dose of scepticism. I was raised on 'Black Adder' and 'Monty Python', so this had better be at least half as good or those who asked me to review the play will be less than pleased.

James Cary (of 'The God Particle', 'A Monks Tale', and various TV and radio contributions) presents the history of the tragic demise of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury c.1162 and one time 'bro' of King Henry II of England and Duke of most of France. The history of any Plantagenet King should offer sufficient content to tack together a play containing horror and intrigue enough to hold anyone's attention for an hour and forty-five minutes. For evidence think Shakespeare's Richard III. Yet to make it funny without being laughable takes some real skill: skilful writing, brilliant music, and acting not held back by poor or forced comedic timing.

Historical knowledge of the time is not strictly necessary, but it is helpful in making the play easy to follow and makes some of the jokes a lot funnier. As would be an understanding of importance of Thomas, the saint whom Chaucer's pilgrims travel to venerate and who Henry VIII puts on trial and besmirches to the point that a BBC poll later ranks him right behind Jack the Ripper as the second worst Briton of the last millennium. Becket's story asks us how we prioritise a friend over God or justice over peace. The Anarchy of the time echoes in our time and the turbulent Priest makes us think deeply about the nature of what is right. But, while the history contained in the play is serious and raises many questions, the play it is a comedy that tells the story while looking for a chuckle.

The two-person play is presented by Fraya Storch and Johnny Fairclough. Fairclough presents the regal and manly King Henry II and Archbishop Theobald with an air of grace, and St Thomas and John of Salisbury with a dry wit and magnificent comedic timing, while Storch presents the protagonist Thomas Becket with a nuanced humble self-deprecation and later rising arrogance quite masterfully. Her other characters, the snarky St George and, a masterful impression of Gargamel, the weasely Roger of York, offer further feminine balance to the arrogant manly man of King Henry II.

The play takes place around the events of Thomas' rise from lowly commoner to Archdeacon of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor, Godfather to the Prince, Archbishop of Canterbury, and finally, at least as portrayed in the play, an untimely and very PG death. St Thomas the doubter and St George of many patronages narrate the play in style, offering plenty of historical exposition without the desire for their expiration. The play contains a number of running gags that will both thrill and delight, without becoming too strained and may even catch you completely off guard once or twice. The crescendo comes in an Epic Rap Battle of History that Nice Peter and epic LLOYD would have done well to choreograph. If you lose yourself in the music, it offers an amazing insight into just how the turbulent and meddlesome church man Thomas fell out with the King quite so easily.

Finally, I believe a rating is necessary, but stars are so last century. So, we ask, was the play an adventure or nap? This short trip into the life of a British saint is quite the adventure and I'll give it 5 out of 6 chortling bishops. If you missed it here in Caversham, the play will be back in the vicinity before the end of the tour and you can see ATurbulentPriest.com for details.

(Review contributed by Rev Martin Beukes)



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Caversham People:

Phil Rout: spreading the Word in Brazil

A 'Caversham Through the Year' calendar hangs proudly in an apartment in the heart of São Paulo. Here lives Philip Rout, a 'son of Caversham', with his wife, Carolina,



Phil Rout and family

who is Brazilian, and three children, Benjamin (8), Samuel (5) and Joanna (1).

Phil and Carolina are members of the Christian mission agency 'Latin Link' (whose UK offices are on our doorstep, in London Street, Reading). They have been serving in Brazil for the last 12 years. Phil has written:

"1980s and 1990s Caversham was a wonderful place to grow up. Looking back I can see what a privileged upbringing I had: great school, great friends, and a safe neighbourhood for kids to roam around on their bikes. Nevertheless, despite still embracing and enjoying many biblical values, and despite still giving a nod to some Christian traditions, the world I grew up in was in the process of removing the last vestiges of Biblical Christianity from public life.

"I am glad to have been exposed to people who still cherished the 'good book' – especially through Argyle Community Church in West Reading, some of my teachers at Reading School, and the Christian Union group at Manchester University. The Bible has transformed my life. Or, to put it more accurately, Jesus is transforming my life as I have come to know him through the Bible.

"Today my passion is to get the message of the Bible 'out there' in Brazil, where the churches are in many ways suffering the same

malaise as 1990s Caversham. As I write (October 2019) I am in the middle of a mini-series on the book of Chronicles, which I am preaching in our church here. Next month I'll be teaching a course at a local Bible college, about how to interpret and teach the different literary genres of the Old Testament. I firmly believe that when God's people pay close attention to what He has to say through His word, the ramifications are joyful, wide-reaching and gloriously life-giving. So that's what I'm working and praying towards here in Brazil.

"Someone once said that 'Raking is easy, but you only get



Phil Rout preaching

leaves; digging is difficult, but you might find diamonds.' Studying the Bible is hard; only yesterday I was tearing my hair out over next Sunday's sermon. Meanwhile I often miss 'leafy Caversham', particularly whilst stuck in São Paulo's notorious traffic; and I wish that Caversham Primary School and Albert Road Park could be part of my children's lives as they grow up. But the path that God has led me on has been rich and deep, with much 'gold' on the way; treasures that I would not have encountered without God's lifechanging revelation of Jesus through the Bible."

[Editorial note: Phil's father, Dr Jonathan Rout, served for many years as a GP and senior partner at the former practice in Priory Avenue, Caversham. He will be known to many readers of Caversham Bridge, as will his mother, Lis Rout]

Mandarin Excellence Programme China Trip July 2019

The 26 students from the first Highdown Mandarin Excellence Programme cohort arrived at the school not only with their Chinese books and their backpacks but also with their luggage ready for the upcoming two-week study trip in Beijing!

After having their first meal in China and tasting the delicious Beijing roasted duck, the students started the next part of their adventure: an intensive Learning programme at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

The students spent four hours a day learning Chinese and in the afternoons took part in activities such as learning how to barter in Chinese and visited the National Museum, an acrobatic show, a shopping centre, a market, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall of China.



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'Rivarate' Spreads its Wings

Having celebrated ten years in Caversham last year as a mixed choir, 'Rivarate' is now beginning to spread its wings, with a visit to the Royal Albert Hall in December to sing in the chorus of Messiah. The English Festival Orchestra will be under the baton of Brian Kay and sixty members of 'Rivarate' will join the chorus. Then, in June of 2020 the choir has been invited to join with The Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra, under its director, Stephen Scotchmer, and 'Collegium Chorus' at The Anvil in Basingstoke for 'Italia con Amore', an evening of operatic music.

In the meantime, the choir continues to rehearse in the Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham Heights for its autumn and Christmas concerts. The autumn concert will take place on Saturday, 23rd November and the Christmas Concert will follow on Tuesday 10th December. The autumn concert will include the choir's traditional mix of popular, traditional and familiar, sacred pieces. The Christmas concert will be a celebration of carols, seasonal songs and a selection of poetry and prose readings with festive themes. On the morning of Saturday, 14th December, 'Rivarate' will entertain the shoppers in Caversham with an hour of carols in the Precinct and a bucket collection for 'Launchpad'.

Before each concert, members of 'Rivarate' are invited to nominate a local charity which would benefit from donations and, as importantly, from promoting its name and cause at the concert. The autumn concert will be in aid of the Reading Myeloma Support Group and the Christmas concert, which is free, will, as always, support 'Launchpad', Reading's homelessness prevention charity. Other charities which have been supported in the recent past have included the Caversham Drop-in Centre, 'Daisy's Dream', the Ways and Means Trust, Reading MS Support Centre and the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

Rivarate started as a ladies' choir in Sonning over twenty years ago. In 2008 its director of music retired and a small group of members, who were mainly Caversham based, met to plan a new version of the choir in Caversham. They decided to invite men to join. Just one man turned up to the first rehearsal. He was soon joined by others as word got around and there are currently twenty-five men. Libby Lowry was elected its first chairman and Alison Golby was appointed as its first director of music. Alison was soon joined by Pam Asbury as her accompanist. When Alison moved to the West Country with her family, the choir was fortunate to attract the attention of Sarah Scotchmer. Sarah is a very experienced musician and teacher of music and she is now the Director of Music of 'Rivarate'. She has continued to expand the choir's repertoire and stretch its ambition. Pam remains as her accompanist and occasional soloist and Libby is still chairman of the committee.

The choir is a dynamic organisation with a large and ever increasing music library to choose from. Just as the repertoire changes, occasionally, members move elsewhere or take on additional family commitments and some eventually retire, leaving available places for new members. At present there are eighty-five voices but there is space and sheet music for a few more next term.

Recruitment for next term will begin in January 2020. If you would like to consider joining, have a look at the 'Rivarate' website where you will find a joiners' application form. If you would like to try one or two taster evenings before making up your mind, you would be most welcome to come and sing or just listen. Or why not come along to one of our two remaining concerts this term? As there is no formal audition, there is a probationary period to give new members a chance to settle in before making a regular commitment.

South Chiltern Choral Society concert: Handel's Messiah

The South Chiltern Choral Society will be performing Handel's Messiah on Saturday 30th November, featuring soloists: Louise Wayman (Soprano); Freya Jacklin-Edward (Mezzo soprano); Adrian Green (Tenor), Michael Hickman (Bass) and orchestra conducted by Paul Burke. The concert will start at 7.30 pm and refreshments will be available. The concert will be held at The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ, where there is free parking and wheel chair access. Tickets will be available via the choir's website (www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk). Adult tickets are £15.00 from the web-site and £17.00 on the door; concessions are available. Please see www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk for more details.

Glass Ensemble: Myth and Magic

On the 24th November forget all about Christmas and escape with Glass Ensemble to a world of magic, legend and mystery. From Verdi's witches to hobbits in Lord of the Rings, Norse maidens to the Northern Lights let us transport you with beautiful and interesting music. Our concert will feature composers including Mendelssohn, Hildegard of Bingen, Wagner, Kerry Andrew and David Lang. Join the twenty voices of our acclaimed chamber choir in what promises to be an afternoon of exciting and lovely music. The concert is on Sunday 24th November 2019 at 4.30pm at Queen Anne's School, 6 Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DX. Tickets: £10.00 in advance; £12.00 on the door; £5.00 students and under 18s. Visit our website: www.glassensemble.com

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'On the Edge'



Pictured from left to right are Liz Real and Diana Russell who run the Art Table at CIRDIC, Mabel Boyd, Centre Manager and Carole Stephens who organised and opened the exhibition

The Holy Brook Gallery at Reading Central Library in Kings Road mounted an exhibition in September showing what may be a unique exhibition of the work of homeless and near homeless people who attend the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre (CIRDIC) in Berkeley Avenue.

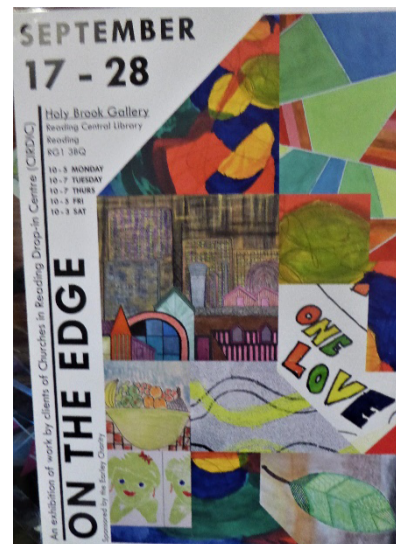
Entitled 'On the Edge', the exhibition included sculptures and poetry as well as pictures produced in various artistic media and all of this is the work of people who go to CIRDIC for help. Opening the exhibition, Carole Stephens of Reading Guild of Artists

congratulated Diana Russell and Liz Real who organise the 'Art Table' at CIRDIC, for their work, which led to such a tremendous exhibition. In reply Diana thanked Carole and congratulated the CIRDIC artists for their ability to produce a wonderfully diverse range of art, often in difficult personal circumstances.

Mabel Boyd, Manager of CIRDIC thanked Carole, Diana and Liz for their work. The 'Art Table' not only enables CIRDIC's guests to express themselves but produces a calm atmosphere where homeless and other needy people can relax and enjoy a quiet time. Other facilities that CIRDIC provides include main meals, baths, showers and clothing, as well as regular visits from professionals such as NHS nurses and St Mungo's who find accommodation for the homeless.

Caversham Horticultural Society

The dreary winter months can be enlivened by selective planting in pots and containers. To find out about suitable plants join the society for a talk entitled 'Planting pots for Winter Interest and Spring Joy' by Harriet Rycroft, on Wednesday 6th November at 7.45pm. This will be held at our new venue for 2019 talks: St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham. £3.00 admission fee for non-members. Join on the night at no cost and enjoy free admission for this and the December talk, which includes our Christmas Get-Together party.



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Reducing plastic use – hand soap

After all the publicity about plastic packaging last year, it is safe to say that a lot of us are trying to make better choices this year. Many households are committing to using less plastic.

One simple choice that has a number of positive effects, is to switch from using liquid soap to bar soap. Here are some of the benefits:

- Bar soap packaging is more environmentally friendly – liquid soap can use 20 times more packaging.
- Bar soaps don't contain as much water as liquid soaps, reducing transport costs and emissions; they tend to last a lot longer and are more cost effective.
- In terms of ingredients that minimize harm to fragile aquatic ecosystems, there are more options for environmentally friendly bar soaps than liquid soaps.

Soap made from fairly traded palm oil from small producers in West Africa is available from Traidcraft (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk), a fair trade company, which markets three types of bar soap – pure, orange and lavender.

(Contributed by Phil Chatfield (based on advice from A Rocha, a charity which works with Christians and churches to protect and restore God's natural world))

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The Order of Jacob's Well

'Churches are not museums that display perfect people. They are hospitals where wounded, hurt, injured and broken people find healing'. Nicky Gumbel has put this on his twitter messages several times... @nickygumbel. <https://twitter.com/nickygumbel/status>


The 'Church Times' devoted a 6 page feature on Prayer and Healing in the 4th October 2019 issue. Retreat houses throughout the UK seek to provide oases of restoration in the various wildernesses of our lives.

It may or may not be your experience that the church community is as an therapeutic environment as Nicky suggests. God's Kingdom ideals are not always met when broken people

gather. When we seek to remember that faith, hope and expectation rely on Jesus and His Gospel of good news, we can see beyond any difficult experiences. Jesus of the New Testament healed and restored all who came to him for help... and some for whom others interceded. In many situations that was seen as cure, for all it was a wholeness of new life, a different perspective and direction. He transformed lives and He has not changed. In seeking to proclaim the healing core of God's love an ecumenical network was founded by Rowan Williams, The Rt Rev. and the Rt Hon. the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, when he was Bishop of Monmouth. It is called The Order of Jacob's Well (www.jacobswell.org.uk). This is not an

alternative denomination, nor a church: it is a learning forum to explore God's healing Kingdom within a Biblical context and mutual ministry.


OJW hosts an open day to find out more about the Jesus who says 'Come to me' and what that can mean on Saturday 23rd November, 10.00 am to 4.00pm, at Grange United Reformed Church, RG30 3AJ. It closes with a Christ the Healer service at 3.00pm. Anyone could join at this time too. There is no charge for the day and no booking requirement. Drinks and light refreshments will be available but please bring your own lunch. As the Christian Healing Mission's promotion says - 'Healing mattered to Jesus, does it matter to you?'



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Caversham WI

The summer went exceptionally well for Caversham WI, with three fabulous garden parties and running the Caversham Court Garden Kiosk. We also enjoyed our turn at celebrating the history of the Berkshire Federation of WIs, with a week-long series of special events and activities. At our September Meeting we celebrated harvest, with homemade breads, apple pie and a wide variety of produce was also brought along for auction. For our October meeting, we are looking forward to a practical craft workshop – in willow working.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group: your first three visits are free. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. There is nearby parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Church Street, RG4 8AX. More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for "Caversham WI".

For enquiries please contact our Secretary, on 0118 947 5176.

Caversham Heights Townswomens Guild

The Autumn programme of Caversham Heights Townswomens Guild began with something completely different: Pauline Beck's astonishing collection of beautiful 'Buttons and Beads', which she re-fashions into many different jewellery items. The Social Studies Group were treated to 'Life on the Reef' by Neil Stewart and taken back to the Roaring 20s by Tony King.

A visit was made to London to see Dolly Parton's 'Nine to Five' at the Savoy Theatre. This is an anthem to Women's Liberation enthusiastically greeted by the predominately female audience. Local history was the subject

of Anne Smith's talk entitled '100 Years of Reading Shops'. A fun quiz was held at the Abbey Baptist Church with members of all the local Guilds taking part. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 20th November at 2.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. Ladies wishing to visit or join us will be very welcome.

Rosehill WI

At the September meeting Annabelle Brash spoke about Bollywood. This film industry has become very lucrative with its founders making vast amounts of money. Annabelle explained the actions of the dancers, some of the hand movements being described as 'flag', 'fan', 'bee' and 'wings'. Annabelle soon had us all doing these actions, which everyone enjoyed, so look out Bollywood, here we come!!!

Adelaide, one of the WI Centenary Dolls was handed over by Chazey WI and photos were taken at the meeting. President Arlene Riley will look after Adelaide until she is handed over to Caversham WI. Regular monthly programme activities continued across the month. Rosehill WI meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Village Hall, Emmer Green at 2.30pm.



Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

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A small flame, a big message

It is now 22 years since my late husband and I brought the 'Peacelight' to Caversham, and it only took a couple of years more before we were asked to share it with Oxfordshire, Somerset and Devon. Then came requests from Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex. In 2001 we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in Vienna at the main distribution service. More of this later!

The light is collected each year by a child in the Linz area of Austria, who is chosen for particular acts of service to their community. They are flown to Tel Aviv by Austrian Airlines and then taken to Bethlehem and the Grotto of the Nativity. This light is collected from a multi-faith, multi-national service of distribution, before they return to Austria with their flame in a Davy Lamp.

A fund-raising venture for the disabled and disadvantaged in Austria, called 'Licht am Dunkel,' or Light into Darkness, with the overriding message of Peace, was quickly recognised as a powerful symbol of an important message. Austrian Broadcasting wanted to push the message throughout Europe and wanted to find links across borders. They found the combined organisation of Scouts and Guides with their HQ in Vienna and their problem was solved.

Our trip to Vienna was quite hairy! Calais was on strike and according to P&O staff, it was so officials could go Christmas shopping. Our ferry was half an hour late sailing but arrived in Calais safely, only to be held in the middle of the Harbour whilst the 'France,' berthed, disgorged its passengers, reloaded and sailed. We missed our TGV to Paris and with no public transport, it was a taxi to the Eurostar, with an additional cost. There was a signal failure in Kent, so that too was late. Short of Francs because they were soon to be replaced

by the Euro, we had to queue at an ATM then it was a taxi to the Gare de l'Est, grab sandwiches and run the length of the train to our compartment, before the whistle blew. The service in Vienna in the courtyard of the Eastern Orthodox Church was filled with 300 Scouts and Guides in a temperature of minus 8C with a wind chill factor of minus 12C and the Polish Scouts were in cotton shirts and shorts! Our return to Paris was straight forward and we were met by French Scouts and taken to their national HQ for sandwiches and coffee. By the time we had lit massive candles set in blocks of Plaster of Paris for each French Department, the coffee was all we managed before leaving for the Gare du Nord. This time our ferry was on time and we were taken up to the Club Class Lounge which P&O consider as the safest place to take a naked flame even in a Davy Lamp.

Greeted by Kent and Bedfordshire Scouts in Dover, we shared our flame and then home to Berkshire with the light, whilst the Bedfordshire Scouts headed home to begin their distribution which goes North East and West, Scotland and Ireland North and South, as well as all points in between. It goes into carol services in churches, Scout and Guide groups, civic buildings, hospices, homes for the disabled or elderly and individuals in their own homes. It belongs to whoever receives it and can be shared with anyone who values its message of Peace. How it got to Ground Zero in the December after 9/11 is another story.

To accept a flame, please contact me at Caversham Heights Methodist Church: Email: ellisonm@waitrose.com (Contributed by Margaret Ellison)

Harvest celebrations at Caversham Methodist and Caversham Heights Methodist Churches

On Sunday 29th September Harvest services were held at both churches with Rev. Martin Beukes leading the service at Caversham Methodist, Gosbrook Road and Rev. David Jenkins leading the service at Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road.

Suitable items of food were donated by both churches to be sent to Readifood – Reading's Food Bank. Both churches had made beautiful flower arrangements to add to the displays.

Following the services everyone gathered at Caversham Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road for a shared buffet lunch on a 'bring and share' basis and – as usual – there was ample food.

(Contributed by Janet Offord)



'We plough the fields and scatter ...'



The Harvest loaf made by Margaret Ellison



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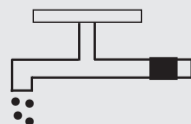
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