

# Caversham Bridge

No 658

www.cavershambridge.org

Price 40p

December 2019



A  
Merry Christmas  
to all our readers



## Caversham Remembers: William Marshal 'The Greatest Knight who Ever Lived'



The plaque installed, with (left to right) Martin Andrews, Helen Lambert, Vickie Abel, Auke Ueberberg, and children from The Heights School

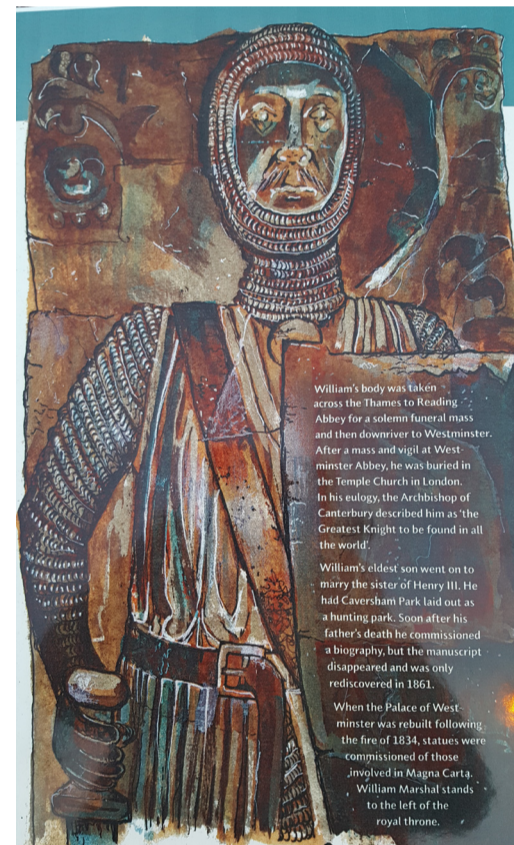
On Caversham bridge, on November 7th a superb plaque in memory of William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke, was unveiled, marking 800 years since William died in 1219. William Marshal, said to be *'the greatest knight who ever lived'*, spent much of his life in Caversham. He was renowned for his fighting skills, knighted in 1166 and his military accomplishments were said to be legendary. He was undefeated in tournaments, served five kings, was one of the curators and signatories of the Magna Carta and became Regent of England.

Caversham and District Resident's Association (CADRA) decided that this great knight of Caversham should be commemorated and so following much hard work and fundraising, they commissioned Auke Ueberberg to design the plaque and Martin Andrews to do the artwork. Helen Lambert, chairman of CADRA and Vickie Abel, advised by Dr Thomas Asbridge, provided the text. Children from Marshal House in The Heights Primary School and a small crowd of local people attended the ceremony.

The plaque which tells the story of William Marshal, looks downstream towards Dean's Farm where William's home was thought to be, and also towards Reading Abbey where he was taken when he died. On his deathbed, William, *'a truly fearless knight'*, was made a Templar Knight, whose role was to protect Christian pilgrims, and they were said to be doubly armed their souls protected by the armour of faith and bodies protected by the armour of steel.

In 1219, at the age of 72, William died and his body was taken from Reading Abbey to London for Mass and vigil at Westminster Abbey before burial in the Temple Church in London. A statue to William stands in the Palace of Westminster beside the Royal Throne.

Further celebrations for this great man of Caversham will take place later on in November at the Crowne Plaza Hotel beside Caversham bridge.



### Scout Christmas post: support your local community and save money at Christmas

The 'Scout Christmas Post' provides a cheaper service than the Royal Mail. The 89th Reading Scouts have been running this service for over 35 years, raising funds for the Scout Groups. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers take on the responsible job of delivering Christmas Cards posted in our Scout Posting boxes across the local area.

'Scout Post 2019' starts on Saturday 30th November. Our bright red wooden post boxes can be found at a number of locations in Caversham and Emmer Green including: Caversham Library, McColls Newsagents in Emmer Green, Woodcote Way stores, Balmore Park and Emmer Green Surgeries, St Andrew's, St Barnabas',

St John's, St Peter's Churches and Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, as well as the 89th Scout HQ.

Full list of posting sites and details is on our web site: [www.89th.org.uk](http://www.89th.org.uk) The last posting day is Thursday 19th December, guaranteeing delivery in time for Christmas. We deliver cards across Caversham, Caversham Heights, Caversham Park Village, and Emmer Green communities. Please note we are unable to deliver south of Caversham or Reading Bridges, and we do not go out to Kidmore End, Tokers Green or Sonning Common. Please use the service for all the Christmas Cards you are sending to people in Caversham and Emmer Green. Let your friends know about the service too. This is a great opportunity to save money – at 30p per card it is half the price of a stamp!!

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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 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 The Rev'd Mike Smith



American comedian Bob Hope once commented that he learned to dance waiting in the queue for the family bathroom, behind his six brothers!

I wonder how good at waiting you are? Anyone with children will know that the run-up to Christmas is one that children can find very hard. In our house, the almost daily questions of "how long is it to Christmas?", reveals an understandable impatience with waiting. It gets even worse on Christmas Eve as children know that there are presents to open, but they have to wait until the following day!

Perhaps some of us have never outgrown that childhood impatience. All around us is a world that tells us we need not wait, but can have what we want or need right now. Our credit-driven society invites us to abandon any thought of waiting and buy it now - why wait? We live in a 'now' world where we can communicate in an instant to friends and family in other parts of the country or world.

So it seems ludicrous for the Church to have a season called Advent that is all about waiting. Surely the church needs to go with the times and concentrate on Christmas and abandon this outdated period where we are invited to wait? But Advent presents us with a brief time to revisit, and perhaps to re-learn, the skill of waiting. To become active-waiters: people who live in the moment, savouring the present, and find meaning in the noticing of our lives. Waiting can mean we appreciate the future when it comes.

But for the Christian, Advent is also about learning to wait for the past that we might discover to wait for the future - to wait for something that has already happened so that we can learn to wait for something that has not yet happened. Each year in Advent we wait for the good news that God comes to this world in human form - a familiar story, but one that I need to remind myself of each year. God chooses to be like me, and understands all my humanity, so that God can save me from myself. But we Christians also need to wait for God to come again - to complete what he started in Jesus Christ. We won't know when this time will be, but the Christian needs to be an active watcher for the signs of God.

So waiting is an important skill. From Advent Sunday on 1st December for four weeks we are invited to actively wait - to active commitment to our lives as they are now, and to look for the work of God in sending Jesus, and in returning to save the world.

Happy waiting!

*Mike Smith, Rector of Caversham Thameside*

## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

**Are you a people person?**

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

[www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk)  
**0118 948 3466**

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

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ANGLICAN

**St Peter, 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 January 2020 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 25th November. The date for the February 2020 issue is Monday 6th January.  
Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org  
Advertising copy for the January 2020 issue should be sent Friday 1st November. The date for the February 2020 issue Friday 4th January.  
Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

## PARISH OFFICES

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

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

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 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.

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

# Christmas Events

## Christmas starts again at Caversham Court and St Peter's Church on Saturday 7th December

The annual sale of green Christmas trees, decorations and gifts at Caversham Court takes place on 7th December from 9.30am to 1.30pm, with St Peter's Church Christmas Market open from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Spend the morning with us and get much of your Christmas shopping done in comfort.

In Caversham Court gardens we have Christmas trees, holly, mistletoe, ornamental willow, decorated wreaths and stars, candles from local beeswax, Christmas cards, bird tables, beautifully turned wooden bowls, FairTrade goodies and a wooden reindeer for your garden! Up the steps in St Peter's Church are mince pies, coffee, hot spiced apple juice, home-made foods, hand-made crafts, decorations, stalls, sideshows and fun for children.

The Christmas trees are cut as part of the management of lowland heath around Camberley to stop regrowth of Scots Pine shading out the heather. Lowland heath is a rare habitat in Europe and we are lucky to have a goodly amount in our area.

Scots pine trees are less bushy than the standard Norway spruce, but they have two huge advantages: they NEVER drop their needles and they smell great. If you are extra lucky, they are pre-decorated with pine cones!

All money raised goes to charity, with the tree sales paying for conservation volunteers in Reading to buy tools, get insurance and work on wildlife heritage sites, nature reserves and school areas, and all money from the Church Christmas market goes to Save the Children's 'Yemen Crisis Appeal'.

Please remember that there is no real parking at Caversham Court apart from a few disabled spaces, just enough space for one or two cars at a time to hover. Park elsewhere and come in to choose your tree and gifts at leisure, leave them with us for safe keeping, and then come down with the car and we will help load. There is another safe holding area for purchases up at the church.

## St Barnabas Christmas Fair

St Barnabas Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, 30th November from 2.00 to 4.00pm. The location is at Grove Rd, Emmer Green. Stalls in the hall will include quality gifts, preserves and cakes, Christmas decorations, good quality second-hand toys/books/jigsaws, a super raffle with many prizes including a chocolate hamper and much more. Not forgetting Father Christmas! Refreshments and gorgeous handicrafts will be found in the Parish Centre.

For further information call Wendy on 07929 874191

## The Friends of Caversham Court Gardens Annual Carol Evening

The choir of St Peter's Church will be leading the singing of traditional Christmas carols in Caversham Court Gardens on Monday 16th December, at 7.30pm. Members of the Salvation Army Band will add to the festive music.

The floodlit gardens will be open from 6.15pm, and mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies will be on sale in the Tea Kiosk in aid of local charities. Wrap up warm and bring a torch to read the carol sheets!

If the weather is wet the event will take place in St Peter's Church adjacent (by kind permission of the Rector. All are welcome. Entry is free, but there will be a collection. Caversham Court Gardens are located at Church Road, Caversham, RG4 7AD. Contact email: friends@fccg.org.uk Website: www.fccg.org.uk

## Christmas Concert by Candlelight

Concerts in Caversham present their annual Christmas event at St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham Heights on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm. Once more they welcome back Tamas Andras to direct the Caversham Chamber Orchestra, and he will be the violin soloist in Vivaldi's 'Winter' from the Four Seasons. Tamas is the co-leader of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Artistic Director, Adrienne Black (harpsichord), will be joined by Tamas Andras (violin) and Fiona Cross (flute), for a performance of Bach's tremendous Fifth Brandenburg Concerto - the first keyboard concerto ever written with a virtuoso harpsichord cadenza in the first movement.

The programme will also include Bach's 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring', Pachelbel's Canon and Gabriel's Oboe. Naomi Watts will be the cello soloist in a cello concerto by Vivaldi. There will be an audience carol with the orchestra, and mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

Book your tickets early for this concert to welcome in the Season of Advent and held in the beautifully atmospheric and candle-lit church.

For more information and tickets on-line go to: [www.concertsincaversham.co.uk](http://www.concertsincaversham.co.uk) or buy in person from Waltons the Jewellers in Caversham

## Christmas Market supports Save the Children Yemen Crisis Appeal

Children suffering in Yemen will benefit from the Christmas Market at St Peter's Church, Caversham, on Saturday, 7th December, in aid of the Save the Children Yemen Crisis Appeal.

Save the Children is the largest independent aid agency in Yemen, working on the ground - as well as campaigning for lasting change - to help children survive a brutal war.

Across Yemen, the charity is running more than 150 clinics, 21 hospitals and five mobile health and nutrition teams. These are treating sick and injured children, providing life-saving treatment for malnourished children, responding to deadly disease outbreaks (such as cholera and diphtheria), and providing children with access to safe drinking water and essential hygiene items to prevent the spread of illness and disease.

St Peter's Christmas Market is always well attended, with supporters enjoying plenty of stalls, sideshows, refreshments, raffles and tombolas. Teams are busy with homemade cakes, puddings, biscuits, fudge, preserves and excellent table decorations for the Christmas season.

The Market runs from 10.00am to 12.30pm on Saturday, 7th December, at St Peter's, between Caversham Court Gardens and The Warren.

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St Peter's Church

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sat 7 December

10.00 – 12.30

FUNDRAISING IN AID OF



Save the Children

**YEMEN CRISIS APPEAL**

### Caversham Through the Year

## 2020 Calendar

available mid November at  
Caversham Emporium  
(beside Warings Bakers)

**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE YEMEN APPEAL**

## Mapledurham Playing Fields – an update



At the end of October, a wonderful new children's play area opened in Mapledurham playing fields following the closure of the old playground in June to allow 'landscape works' to take place. The equipment is bright and colourful and the base is springy for safety. It is good to see the restoration of this popular amenity, much missed over the summer. Thank you Reading Borough Council.

## The RISC World Shop: a home for Fair Trade in the heart of Reading

(Contributed by Katherine Meehan)

Five years ago, I moved to Reading from the American South. My first winter in this country was hard. Reading's urban landscape, damp weather, and dark winter afternoons challenged me. While I acclimatised, I spent many afternoons volunteering at the World Shop. I was cheered by the orange walls and colourful scarves, by the scent of incense, by conversations with the staff at RISC ('Reading International Solidarity Centre') and other volunteers, and by countless cups of fair trade coffee and hot chocolate from the 'Global Café'.

Though I had begun to volunteer out of loneliness, as I folded scarves, unpacked pottery and dusted shelves, I could not but help reflect on what I was doing. In giving my time and performing these small actions, I was playing my part in enacting a fairer and just distribution of resources across the globe. Fair Trade is not perfect, but it is pragmatic. Our society has for many years accepted the easy gratification of our desires. The need for cheap labour to supply these has disconnected us from individual producers, growers and makers. Fair Trade attempts to redress this by asserting that trade relationships must be founded on the ideal of universal human dignity. This means a living wage, no child labour and adherence to all of the 10 principles for fair trade outlined by the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) see <https://wfto.com/fair-trade/10-principles-fair-trade>.



At the World Shop I have long felt our strongest asset is our close relationship with our suppliers. As I now enter my sixth year at the shop, I am still cheered by the orange walls and good company, but my sense of the meaningfulness of this place has expanded. Here even very simple things—a greeting card, a bauble or a pack of coffee—are emblematic of respect.

The World Shop is at 35-39, London Street. It is a charity, founded in 1987, and runs one of the largest Fair Trade shops in the UK. The shop is open from 9.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

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### Reader letter

Dear Sirs

Whilst very appreciative of the November front page information from the Diocese of Oxford, I cannot agree with the headline 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. My understanding of the gospel message and of Christ's life and sacrifice is that we should put our neighbour first and before oneself. Challenging, but the essence of Christianity?

Yours sincerely, Tony Moss.

### Reading East Constituency

**An invitation to meet and hear your candidates**



Churches Together in Reading invites you to meet the main candidates for the Reading East Constituency and hear them answer questions.

**Sunday 1st December 2019  
Wesley Methodist Church,  
Queens Road, Reading RG1 4BW**

**6.00-6.30 Refreshments  
6.30-8.00 Questions and Answers  
8.00-8.30 Meet & Mingle with the candidates**

For further information please phone  
Michael Penny 01491-671357  
or email [michael@pennyfamily.co.uk](mailto:michael@pennyfamily.co.uk)

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# Caversham Remembers

On 10th November over 400 people assembled at Caversham War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows to remember all those whose lives were lost in the First World War (1914 – 1918) and in all the wars and conflicts since. This year marked 100 years of national Remembrance: 1919 – 2019 and also the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy landings. A march past followed the service with the Salute being taken at Caversham Library.



Caversham Workingmen's Social Club



## A CHRISTMAS WREATH for the BIRDS

- Monkey Nuts
- Dried Cranberries
- Wire
- Pincers

- Cut the wire to about 75cm/30ins.
- Thread on a monkey nut
- Thread on a cranberry
- Repeat until the wire is almost full
- Twist the ends of the wire into a loop



# Caversham People

## Bravery award for 'hero shopkeeper'



Readers may have already seen the *Reading Chronicle* of 17th October 2019 with a page 2 story dramatically headlined 'Bravery award for hero shopkeeper: grabbed gun and chased off robber'. Our hero shopkeeper is familiar to many in Caversham Heights: he is Satheech Elanganathan, the proprietor of Woodcote Way Stores and Newsagent since May 2011. This is a thriving local business much valued by the local community. On Monday 14th October Satheech was presented with an award by the High Sheriff of Berkshire at Reading Crown Court.

In February 2017, Satheech was working in his store on the corner of Woodcote Way and Fernbrook Road when a masked man came to the counter. Asked to take off his hood the robber produced a gun, aimed it at Satheech and demanded all the money in the till. With great calmness and courage Satheech reacted by grabbing the gun, twisting it out of the man's hand and chasing him down the road. He left the robber to make his escape before calling the police who then responded to the emergency. In 2016, Satheech had experienced a robbery at his own home and believes this previous experience produced what was fortunately a very successful defensive response.

During the ceremony, Judge Morris recognised the 'courageous' actions that Satheech took when faced with an armed robber in his shop. She said it was "a moment of bravery to swiftly grab the gun and disarm the gunman" and that "Thanks to the prompt and courageous actions of Mr Elanganathan, the culprit was apprehended, prosecuted and after pleading guilty, sentenced for this appalling offence".

Satheech was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Yothini and family friends and afterwards there were celebrations with tea and cake.



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# 'Quakers in Reading': a talk to the History of Reading Society

The subject of the October talk was 'Quakers in Reading'. The speaker was Naomi Iloff. Naomi was educated at a Quaker school and is a member of the Reading Meeting.

Quakerism is the common name for the Religious Society of Friends that was established in England by George Fox in the 1640s. He was born in 1621, the son of a family of Leicestershire weavers. Fox had become dissatisfied with the doctrine of the established Church because he believed its structures of priests, buildings and formal services were an encumbrance between Christians and their faith.

The services at Quaker meetings are held in communal silence, but this does not mean that nothing is happening: it is an opportunity for mutual spiritual contemplation and an expectation that at any time someone may stand up and speak on any subject they choose.

In 1655, Quakerism became firmly established in Reading when George Fox preached to a large crowd in George Lamboll's

orchard. Among their number was Captain George Curtis, a soldier in Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary army. Around this time, Curtis had been hosting meetings at his home in Sun Lane behind Broad Street.

In 1671, Curtis established the first proper Meeting House at nearby Back Lane and the town's Quakers would hold their meetings there until 1680.

In that year a schism occurred within the Reading Meeting: it

is believed that the cause was a divergence of opinion on whether the men's meetings should be separate from the women's. Consequently, some of the members left Sun Lane and continued to meet in a room at Simms Court off London Street.

It was at Simms Court that William Penn, who founded the English colony of Pennsylvania in North America, attended meetings while living at Ruscombe near Twyford after he was forced to return to England when he had been declared bankrupt. Penn was a close friend of George Fox and a campaigner for religious tolerance.

Like many non-conformist Christians at this time, the Quakers suffered much persecution by the State. In 1664, a zealous local magistrate, Sir William Armorer, incarcerated all the adult members of the Reading Meeting in the town's bridewell (gaol) then at the former Grey Friars' monastery in Friar Street. Their children were left to fend for themselves.

In 1712, George Curtis died. The rival meetings had by now reconciled their differences and in 1715 they had acquired land off Church Street in Reading upon which to erect a Meeting House with additional space for burials. The present meeting house at Church Street was erected in 1835 to an austere, neo-Classical design. Behind it is the burial ground where many eminent Reading citizens are interred; their graves are marked by headstones of an identical, simple design. Among their number is Joseph Huntley: his shop in London Street, which sold biscuits to passing travellers, would burgeon into the famous Huntley & Palmers biscuit empire.

The Reading Quakers were enthusiastic advocates of universal education and in 1890 established Leighton Park School, opposite Whiteknights Park. In addition, Quakers supported the provision of adult education schools in Reading and Caversham.

In recent times the local peace-campaigner and Quaker Phoebe Cusden established in 1947 the first town-twinning in the UK with a city in Germany: its purpose, initially, to help people in Düsseldorf who were homeless and hungry after the war.

For more information about membership and future talks visit: [www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk](http://www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk)



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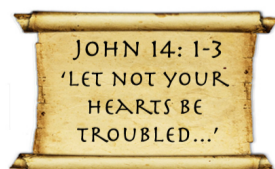
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Friends Meeting House in Church Street, Reading in 1981

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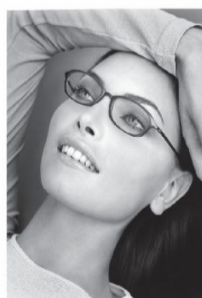
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# 'The history of Reading Gaol': a talk to the Caversham Heights Society

Surprisingly, there was only one event for the Caversham Heights Society during October. This was on the 16th when members were enthralled by a talk given by Terry Dixon, an enthusiastic local historian and guided tour leader around different parts of Reading, on 'The History of Reading Gaol.'

There has been much discussion about the fate of Reading Gaol during the past few years. Local MP, Matt Rodda, has promoted a petition (currently 7,000 signatures) and he is pressing the Government to preserve it as an important piece of the town's history. The Ministry of Justice is obliged to obtain 'best value' for the site, but rather than allowing it to be auctioned off to the highest bidder for potential housing or other commercial use, Matt is campaigning with the Borough to reserve it for community use. As of now no final decision has been made.

Before talking specifically about Reading Gaol, Terry Dixon talked about other gaols in the town, such as St Mary's Castle Street that was used briefly to imprison John Bunyan, author of 'Pilgrim's Progress,' in the late 17th century. Greyfriars Church was used as a gaol from the late 1640s until 1862 when it was purchased and restored as a church that was re-consecrated in 1863. This prison was for both men and women who were shackled to the pillars and who had to endure no roof cover in parts of the building. At the time it was regarded as one of the most inhumane prisons in the country.

Reading's growth in the 19th century, came about largely as a result of the expansion of the railways and the growth of businesses such as Huntley and Palmers and Suttons Seeds. Existing prison facilities were not adequate for contemporary needs. The town's population in 1801 was 10,000. By 1901 it had reached 50,000. It is currently 250,000 and by the middle of this century it is expected to reach 500,000. It is already the largest town, as opposed to a city, in the UK.

In the USA the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia opened in 1829, designed like a wheel with a hub and spokes/corridors off. This became the model for over 300 prisons around the world, including the Berkshire County Gaol that was designed by George Gilbert Scott and was opened in 1844. It had a forecourt used for hangings, the first being in 1845. The hangman, William Calcroft, is supposed to have executed 450 prisoners in this way. The youngest prisoner was only 7 years old. His crime was arson. There were 250 cells and prisoners were in cells along corridors with others who had committed similar crimes. Reading was also unique in so far as there was a plumbing system installed until one Governor decided that this was too luxurious so slopping out was introduced. This lasted until the 1980s.

The status of Reading Gaol was changed in 1973 to being a holding place for young offenders and illegal immigrants, though many of the latter ended up in Huntercombe in Oxfordshire. It was during the 1970s that the prison was largely rebuilt, so that the present site is not as it would

have looked in earlier periods. The chapel is one of the few parts that has hardly changed and where numerous inmates have made professions of faith and had their lives turned around.

Perhaps the most famous prisoner was Oscar Wilde, who knew Reading well from his frequent visits to Huntley and Palmers. He was imprisoned from 1892 to 1897. On his release he moved to France, got married and had two children. He wrote his famous 'Ballad of Reading Gaol' in 1898 while in France.

During 2016, Reading's Year of Culture, over 50,000 visitors saw the inside of the gaol. The future of the building is still to be determined as competing ideas are being weighed up. The hope is that it will be preserved in some form as a lasting part of Reading's history.

Meetings of the Society are held on alternate Wednesday evenings in Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall on Highmoor Road at 8.00pm, preceded by coffee and biscuits from 7.15pm. Newcomers are always welcome and further information can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org).

## WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND CAVERSHAM: DECEMBER 2019

See page 3 of this issue for Christmas events in Caversham

DATE	EVENT
14th	Christmas Fayre - Caversham Heights Pre-School. Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Stalls, Santa's Grotto, Refreshments. £1.00 for adults.

### Pantomimes

14TH Nov – 4 Jan	THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER	The Watermill, Newbury.	<a href="http://watermill.org.uk">watermill.org.uk</a>
29th Nov – 4th Jan	ALADDIN	Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell.	<a href="http://southhillpark.org.uk">southhillpark.org.uk</a>
29th Nov – 4th Jan	SLEEPING BEAUTY	Corn Exchange, Newbury.	<a href="http://cornexchangeneu.com/panto">cornexchangeneu.com/panto</a>
5th – 7th Dec	THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS	The Milestone Centre CPV	<a href="http://www.cavparktheatre.org.uk">www.cavparktheatre.org.uk</a>
7TH Dec – 5th Jan	CINDERELLA	The Hexagon, Reading.	<a href="http://readingarts.com/hexagon">readingarts.com/hexagon</a>
13th Dec – 28th Dec	SLEEPING BEAUTY	The Kenton Theatre Henley	<a href="mailto:boxoffice@kentontheatre.co.uk">boxoffice@kentontheatre.co.uk</a>
18th – 22nd Dec	INTO THE WOODS	Oakwood Centre, Woodley.	Box office: 07580 891904



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Caversham Baptist Church (South Street)		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10.30 am	All Age Toy Service (Donations to Reading Family Aid)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	3.45 pm	Lantern Parade
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Evening	Late night shopping craft fair and refreshments at CBC, together with a redevelopment display.
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	All age nativity service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Nativity live
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Morning celebration

Caversham Heights Methodist Church		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Carol Service at Gosbrook Road
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	5.00 pm	Carol Service - Rev Martin Beukes / Rev David Jenkins
Christmas Eve	11.15 pm	'Midnight' Communion service
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service at Caversham Heights
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	United Service at Gosbrook Road

Caversham Park Church		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	11.00 am	Toy Service supporting Reading Family Aid
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.00 pm	Carol service at the Milestone centre.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	11.00 am	9 Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Family Christmas service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00 am	Morning worship based on the Carol / Folk song 'The 12 days of Christmas'
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00 am	Christingle Service in support of the Children's Society. All welcome.

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Carol Service (Gosbrook Road)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	5.00 pm	Carol Service at Caversham Heights
Christmas Eve	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion at Caversham Heights
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service at Caversham Heights
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	United Service at Gosbrook Road

Grace Church		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Christmas Day service

Our Lady & St Anne RC		
Christmas Eve	6.00 pm	Vigil Christmas Mass especially for Children
Christmas Eve	10.00 pm	Christmas Night mass
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Christmas Day Mass
Christmas Day	11.00 am	Christmas Day Mass

St Margaret Mapledurham		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Carol service (no morning service today)
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	11.15 am	Christmas Eucharist

New Testament Church of God		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	11.00 am	Morning Service
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Morning service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00 am	Morning Service

Riverside Church, Hemdean House, School Hall		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 pm	A Party for Baby Jesus,
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Family Carol Service

St Andrew Caversham		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.30 pm	Carol-singing in local streets- meet in the hall
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols with the all-age choir (followed by mulled wine and mince pies)
Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Nativity Service (with a real baby)
Christmas Eve	8.00 pm	Christmas Night Service (like midnight mass but not so late)
Christmas Day	8.00 am	Christmas Day Said Communion Service
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Day All-Age Communion Service

St John the Baptist Caversham		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 pm	Christingle
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Nativity Live!
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	9.30 am	All Age Christmas Communion

St Michael RC, Sonning Common		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	7.00 pm	Advent Holy Hour for quiet prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am	Christmas flower arranging workshop. Contact parish office to book a place.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service. A spiritual preparation for Christmas.
Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Christmas Mass for families with young children
Christmas Eve	7.30 pm	Carols followed at 8pm by Mass of Christmas Night
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Boxing Day	10.00 am	Mass of St Stephen followed by coffee and cake.

St Peter Caversham		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Advent Carols
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00 pm	Carol Service in Caversham Court
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Nativity
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.30 pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	4.30 pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Festival Communion

St. Barnabas, Emmer Green		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	9.30 am	Toy Service supporting Reading Family Aid
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00 pm	Christingle Service with 89 <sup>th</sup> Scout Group supporting the Children's Society
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	4.30 pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.30 pm	Nativity Play
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00 am	Traditional Said Communion
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Family Communion with Carols

*Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*



## ENVIRONMENT

# The frozen Thames

I am writing this in October, and already there are news reports saying that the winter of 2019-2020 will be the coldest for years, with predictions about the return of I do not believe that anyone can know this so far in advance . . . any more than I can believe people who say that a good crop of holly berries now means that we shall have a hard winter. Whatever happens, it seems highly unlikely that the coming winter will be anything like as cold as some of the winters recorded in the past.

The last winter when it was possible to walk from Reading to Caversham over the ice on the Thames seems to have been in 1963 – or so I am informed by the denizens of a certain Caversham public house which I frequent. None of them actually seems to have done it, but I have been assured that it was done.

The photograph I have chosen to illustrate this theme comes from the album of William Wing, an architect who had his office in Bridge Street, Caversham. The album is in the collection of Reading Central Library, and thanks are due to them for allowing me to use it. The view is from Caversham Bridge around 1900, looking downstream towards Fry's Island, otherwise known as De Montfort Island. Lots of people have taken to the ice. The house on the island has not yet been built. The tip of Piper's Island is to the left.

The library's collection has other photographs showing that around this time, people must have owned ice-skates and sledges, anticipating the snow, and frozen rivers and lakes. It also contains copies of the local papers, with reports of people who ventured onto the ice and lost their lives as a result.

In 1889 there must have been a hard winter, because there were nearly 1,000 burst water mains at Reading, leading to water shortages. Twelve water carts and a hundred men were employed to alleviate the situation.

But the best story I have come across concerning the frozen Thames is an account of a great feast, prepared by the Abbot of Reading for the elderly and poor of the town in the severe winter of 1363-1364. He ordered 'sea coal' to be brought from Newcastle. It was called 'sea coal' because in this part of the country, 'coal' would have been thought of as charcoal, and sea coal had to be brought here by sea – and then up the Thames. The barges got as far as Maidenhead, but could go no farther because of the ice. So labourers were employed to carry it to the river bank in Reading, where it was heaped up in a number of pyramid-shaped piles. On the appointed day, tables were laid out on the ice, with hogsheads of ale standing on trestles. (A hogshead was a large barrel containing 100 to 140 gallons.) Fires were kept burning all day to keep the feasters warm, and the monks of Reading Abbey and the Grey Friars acted as waiters for the occasion. At the end of the day, the tables were stripped bare, and the hogsheads were empty.

Whether or not the feast was held around Christmas time is not stated, but I would like to think that it was!

*Happy Wanderer*



View downstream from Caversham Bridge around 1900

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# Jo Lillywhite exhibition at The Caversham Picture Framer

Jo Lillywhite will have an exhibition from 16th November at The Caversham Picture Framer. Jo works predominantly with acrylic and pastel, and she mainly paints colourful landscapes and animals. She is based in South Oxfordshire: the local landscape inspires her work, with themes which she returns to regularly like the furrowed fields at the end of summer, the beech woods and local ponds and rivers.

Jo is a self-taught, professional artist, taking commissions, exhibiting and selling work locally, and several of these pieces have been created especially for this exhibition. When asked about this show she said: "I like to inject colour into my art, layering up pigment as well as adding interesting marks and brush strokes, so that each piece is unique and interesting to the viewer."

The exhibition will run from 16th November to 24th December: discover the incredible world of Jo Lillywhite at The Caversham Picture Framer, 7 Church Road, Caversham, RG47AA.



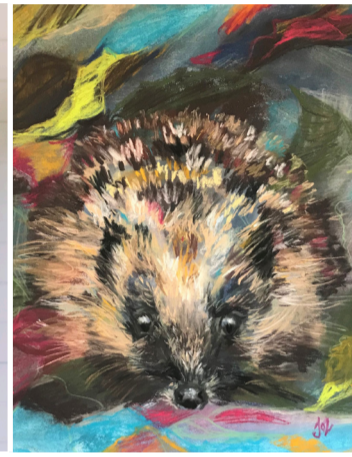
Reflections



Fieldscape



Jo Lillywhite with one of her paintings



Hedgehog in leaves

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- Milk
- 25gm/1oz Flaked Almonds

Sprinkle the sugar on the worktop. Unroll the pastry and place on top of sugar. Roll out until 25% bigger but still a rectangle. Spread mincemeat over pastry leaving 2cm border on long edge. ROLL tightly into a long sausage shape. Brush border with milk and press down to seal. Press both ends in gently to plump up roll. Chill for 30 mins to firm. SLICE into 12 rounds about 3cm thick. Lay down on large baking sheet and FLATTEN with your hands. Scatter almonds on top and bake for 20 – 30 mins. until golden brown. Enjoy!



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## Supporting Women in Gaza: from Caversham

*'When women support each other, incredible things can happen'*

A small group of women met in Caversham in October to support the women of Gaza with breast cancer. This was in support of the Amos Trust's 'Women 4 Women' appeal, launched to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness month.



The Gaza strip is just 25 miles long and up to 7 miles wide, making it slightly smaller than the Isle of Wight. It is home to 1.8 million people. A 10 year-long Israeli blockade has restricted goods and materials entering Gaza and severely limits movement of people across the border. In this time the cancer rates have risen dramatically and here breast cancer kills more women than any other cancer. Only 40% of women treated survive more than 5 years, compared with 81% in the UK and 86% in Israel.

Lack of education, low rates of screening (there are limited mammography machines) and poor awareness of the signs of breast cancer reinforces fear of the disease. Consequently, the majority of women only seek help when their disease is advanced. Once diagnosed, they face huge obstacles in accessing treatment. Chemotherapy drugs are restricted and expensive, so patients are offered only 4 weeks treatment (much less than recommended). Radioactive isotopes are embargoed so, for radiotherapy, women have to apply for a permit to travel to East Jerusalem. Over 28% of these applications for permits are refused or never acknowledged. Travel permits are not normally given to family or friends, so they must face treatment unsupported.

The few specialised surgeons and cancer specialists in Gaza have limited access to education about new techniques. As a result, the majority of these women have radical surgery (breast removal), which is an outdated approach for managing breast disease.

The Al Ahli hospital in Gaza aims to improve the outlook for these women. They are educating 5,000 women a year through local support groups led by women, and providing screening annually for 1,000 women over 40. A partnership between Scotland and Gaza health care professionals is providing support and training on the best treatment choices.

Those attending the meeting not only learnt much about the problems facing these women in Gaza, but were able to make a generous contribution to the work of the Amos Trust with the Al Ahli hospital.

For more information, or to donate, contact The Amos Trust, <https://www.amostrust.org/give/amos-women-4-women-appeal/>, Amos Trust, 1 St Clement's Court, London, EC4N 7HB. Phone: 0207 588 2638; email [office@amostrust.org](mailto:office@amostrust.org). You can also contact Pam Chatfield 0118 947 2444, [pamch32@gmail.com](mailto:pamch32@gmail.com)



Women out raising awareness of breast cancer in Gaza



Pam Chatfield:  
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## Friends of the Holy Land: 10th Anniversary Service and National Conference

The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) marked its 10th anniversary in Coventry on Saturday 16th November. An ecumenical service was held in Coventry Cathedral and this was followed by lunch and the National Conference at the nearby Welcome Centre. With its administrative headquarters in nearby Kenilworth, the decision to mark this significant milestone in Coventry was both convenient and fortuitous. With the modern cathedral adjacent to the ruins of the medieval foundation destroyed in the war, the two sites of worship symbolize conflict and destruction yet manifest a true spirit of reconciliation and humanity. The FHL's theatre of operations, amongst the Christian communities of Palestine and the West Bank with their outliers in the Gaza strip, attempts to sustain support and healing in a historically conflicted area. The motivation driving FHL's work truly reflects humanity and reconciliation in the form of Christian charity in an ecumenical form (Anglican, Roman Catholic and reformed churches) The heartland for FHL is in Bethlehem but its activities reach out further into the West Bank and form a bridge to vestigial Christian communities in Gaza. FHL goals extend to the maintenance of awareness of these ancient Christian communities in the land of their origin, practical charitable support amongst the surviving Christian communities, prayer for these communities and encouragement of pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

In ten years the FHL has raised monies from charitable activities, planned giving and legacies to support some hundreds of families and many individuals. Their projects are closely planned, executed and regulated through HQ and local staff and have helped create enterprise and employment, schools, social support for the elderly, clinics and hospitals. The work is endless as is the need for support. The hope is that the first ten years of considerable success will provide continued momentum. FHL is pleased to assist parishes in developing support. The FHL website provides all the information and links necessary to engage with their cause: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>

Email : [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

(Contributed by Stephen A. Roberts)

# Caversham Late Night Shopping Event



On Friday 6th December from 5.00pm-8.30pm Caversham will be welcoming visitors to their annual late night shopping event. Many of the shops will be open late and there will be stalls from Caversham Artisans and Farmers Market. Santa will be welcoming guests to his special Grotto in the Caversham Emporium. He is a 'Reverse Santa', which means he will be accepting gifts from visitors which will be distributed to local children via Reading Family Aid and on 'The Lions Children's Ward' in the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Santa will also be holding story telling sessions.

Come and enjoy a wonderful evening with plenty of entertainment too, including the Market Buskers, Theatretrain, Vocalese, Hemdean House School Singers, New Testament Church of God Choir and Caversham singer Josie Tyacke.

## The electric car revolution is coming!

Earlier this year, two electric vehicle (EV), 50kW, rapid recharging points made by Tritium, were installed at Emmer Green in the precinct car park. They are powered by Instavolt and the energy used is 100% renewable coming from sources such as solar or wind farms. You choose the charging connector that is compatible with your EV and payment, at 35p per kW, is contactless.

There are many benefits to going electric, EV cars are cheaper to buy and there are government grants available and tax incentives. Running costs are cheaper, 1/3 less than traditional vehicles. There is less to go wrong and it is much better for the environment and healthier with zero toxic emissions! More charging points are appearing every day. The age of the internal combustion engine it seems is almost certainly coming to an end.



More charging points are appearing every day. The age of the internal combustion engine it seems is almost certainly coming to an end.



## Shopping for presents?

At this time of the year, many of us are looking for that special gift for friends and family. The obvious option is to visit local shops, town centre malls or increasingly to look on-line.

But there is an alternative which will save you money and may provide a unique gift, at the same time reducing waste and protecting our environment. Pre-owned goods are available in local charity shops at a fraction of the cost of new items and are often as good as new. Clothes, sports gear and toys can all be found alongside household items and tools.

Some shops specialise in specific items, such as books, music and DVDs. In Reading, Oxfam have a bookshop in the High Street and on Duke Street a music shop, which sells records, CDs, DVDs and printed music, as well as musical instruments.

A wide range of goods is available on-line from sites like eBay and Amazon, but consider buying online directly from a charity. For example, you might find a bargain or a unique treasure in Oxfam's Online Shop and help to fight poverty and injustice around the world at the same time. Their site has 100,000+ donated and new products, including books, clothes and musical stock - <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop>

(Contributed by Phil Chatfield, based on information from Oxfam)

## Christmas gift tree

The Royal Berkshire Hospital is collecting gifts for patients who will be in hospital over Christmas – particularly older people who may not have many visitors. If you would like to give a gift, (unwrapped please), there is a collection point in Caversham Library until Friday 13th December.

## Traidcraft pre-Christmas Open Day and Sale

Congratulations to Phillip and Pam Chatfield for their successful sale at their home in Southview Avenue - on Friday 8th November and Saturday 9th November. In addition to sales of Traidcraft items totalling £2,000 a sum of £175.00 was collected for WaterAid.



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## CLUBS

## Caversham WI

The October meeting was a willow craft evening, conducted by an experienced crafter who brought along materials for each to make a festive willow star. The instruction was given clearly, and everyone succeeded in making a beautiful piece. A tight competition of the best handiwork was held at the end of the evening. During November there was a talk given by a local 'up-cycling' entrepreneur who shared some of what she does to create beautiful and useful things from old and discarded materials.

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 in the evenings. There is nearby parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House,

Church Road 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 947 517

## Caversham Heights Townswomens Guild

For our November meeting Tony King led us back to the 'Roaring Twenties', by means of old film, taking us from poverty to pleasure, to an age of emerging technological achievement and all accompanied by the music of the era. Music was also on the menu in the form of the hand bells of Carol Wheeler. We all had a go, but not with such handy results! We had a foretaste of Christmas at the end of the month, with readings, poems, carols and seasonal refreshments. The Luncheon Club enjoyed a lovely meal at the Highwayman, Exlade Street.

## Rosehill WI

The Harvest Lunch in October was a great success and thanks to members who worked hard to prepare it. After the meal we were entertained by Simon Williams whose topic was 'Is it fun to be fooled?'. Simon is a magician and kept us all amused with his tales and magic, even involving several WI members. The Berkshire Federation Open Morning was held on 2nd November at WI House in Mortimer where the Berkshire Scarecrow was on display and which is being entered in the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail. There was an 'open mike' event on 22nd November at Christ Church Hall in Woodley. This was an afternoon of entertainment with WI members being both the performers and audience. Clubs continued to meet throughout October.

The Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday, 18th December at Ask. The subscription for 2020 will be £43.00, and this will be collected at the February meeting – there being no meeting in January. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Village Hall, Emmer Green, at 2.00 pm

## Chazey WI

Chazey WI will have the annual Christmas Lunch on 13th December at the Highwayman in Checkendon. Plans are already afoot for the New Year. On 3rd January there will be a quiz and an opportunity to raffle off unwanted seasonal gifts. Our quizmaster will be Martin Butler, development manager of the League of Friends at the Royal Berks Hospital, who hosts regular fund-raising quizzes for his own charity. The event starts at 2.30pm and is at St Andrew's Hall. Refreshments available after the quiz.

You can email us at [chazeywi@gmail.com](mailto:chazeywi@gmail.com) or find out what we are up to by visiting us on Facebook.

## Caversham Heights Methodist Church Autumn Fair

Thank you to all those who supported this event, which has raised in excess of £1,600.00 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.



Thanks also to the Caversham Heights Methodist Church team for helping put on this event.

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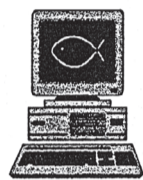
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## Caversham Horticultural Society

The final talk for 2019 is on the subject of 'Growing heritage vegetables' by Lou Nicholls, head gardener of a large private garden at Ulting Wick near Maldon in Essex. The talk will be held on Wednesday 4th December at St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road Caversham starting at 7.45pm. Admission is £3.00 for non-members. Festive Christmas refreshments after this talk.

# Annual Mass of Remembrance at Our Lady and St Anne

During November, it is part of Catholic tradition to pray for Holy Souls, all those who have died. During the Annual Mass of Remembrance we remember particularly those members of the parish who have died in the last twelve months and also relations and friends of parishioners who have died during the last year.

The families of bereaved parishioners were invited to the mass on Friday 8th November. Each family was provided with a candle bearing the name of their loved one and named candles were also provided for non-parishioner relations and friends.

The choir led the singing of the hymns and the singing of the Latin parts of the mass from the 'Missa pro defunctis'. After the first hymn and Sign of the Cross and Greeting, the lit candles were carried down in procession and placed in the sanctuary before the altar. During the Mass, Father Patrick preached the homily and said that this Mass was a chance for all the bereaved to be reminded that their loved ones were not forgotten but were remembered by the whole parish community.

At the end of Mass, Fr Patrick invited people to take their named candles home if they wished and said that tea and coffee were available in the Cenacle for those who wished to stay a while and chat.

Thanks are due to Julia Feeney and the Bereavement Group who made arrangements for the Mass and the candles. *(Report and photo by Jane Shaw)*



*The lighted candles before the altar during Mass*

## John Martyn Reason, 1939 - 2019

John Martyn Reason passed away peacefully after a long illness on 16th October, 2019 aged 80 years. He was a dearly loved Husband, Father and Grandfather. Donations in memory of John to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Henley Stroke Club may be made at [www.abwalker.co.uk](http://www.abwalker.co.uk). Enquires to A.B. Walker, Tilehurst, on 0118 304 0068

## St Anne's School celebrates a Harvest Mass

In October, Father Patrick celebrated the Harvest Mass which was originally to give thanks for all the good things God gives us in the harvest but now has a much wider connotation. The theme of the mass was giving thanks but in a caring way.

In the preceding weeks, each class had been collecting suitable food, tins and packets and boxes of dry foods. On Tuesday 15th October, the children carried their donations in carrier bags into church and they were arranged in front of the altar.

Fr Patrick mentioned so many things to thank God for that the children had studied in school – for example the beauty of nature – and the many things taken for granted such as the love of their parents, their school friends, their school with their teachers and so on. The food collected was a demonstration of the caring and sharing of some of God's gifts and it was later taken to Readifood, the charity which distributes food parcels to people in need. The charity has been going for 25 years, but the need to supply food parcels has grown considerably in recent years.

After Mass, the food on display was put back into bags and boxes. Everything was then packed into Headmistress Mrs Bernto's blue mini, including several bags which had arrived too late to go on display, and was transported to the Readifood depot in Boulton Road. *(Report and photos by Jane Shaw)*



*The arrangement before the altar during Mass*



*Two of the school children arrange food from the bags just brought in*

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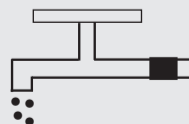
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