

## Caversham Bridge Spring Photo Competition

### Share your "take" on Caversham

Our brand new photography competition, with the winning images featuring in the Caversham Bridge, is launched this month. A prize of £25 in John Lewis vouchers will be awarded for each winning image chosen by the Caversham Bridge editorial team.

From the River Thames to the woods of South Oxfordshire, our area offers great opportunities for photographers of all kinds. We would like to share the best photos you have taken in Caversham, Emmer Green and the immediate area. We will feature Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter photos over the next year, starting with our May edition. The best images entered will be featured in an online gallery.

We want to see the amazing and creative ways in which you have captured the beauty of our area.

#### Image Criteria:

- Must be the photographer's own original image
- High quality images (minimum 3Mb in size)
- Landscape and portrait photos accepted
- Please state where and when your photo was taken (date and time of day), and give details of any specific landmarks

- If you are able to, include the story behind your image as this would also be of interest
- Images must not include car number plates or any branding, data or copyrighted items which might prohibit commercial use
- Images must be free from watermarks and copyright symbols
- Images featuring people are encouraged, especially if they are engaged in some form of activity. However, you must have their consent to the use of the photo and provide evidence of this

To apply:

- Closing date: All entries must be received by Wednesday 1 May
- Please send images in hi-res JPEG format to: [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org)
- Winners will be announced on Monday 26 May and in June's edition of the Caversham Bridge

We can't wait to see your entries, so start sending now for your chance to feature in the Caversham Bridge.

For more details and updates on the competition, see [www.cavershambridge.org:5154](http://www.cavershambridge.org:5154)

## Sunday Club at St John's: Sparks, Flames and Blaze!

by Anna Clarke, Children and Families' Worker



Sparks group

picture by A Clarke

Whilst growing up, my main impression of church was that it was for "old people". Don't get me wrong, I loved those "old people" who would surreptitiously slip me a mint imperial or let me have an extra biscuit when my mum was looking the other way, but my view was simply that church and Christianity was irrelevant for young people like myself.

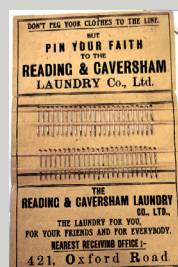
When I went away to university, I was overwhelmed by the number of young people involved in the Christian Union and churches in the area. I began to explore Christianity for myself and it was after my first year of university that I decided to get baptised. That was my way of sharing with friends and family that I had come to the conclusion that Christianity was true, and that the Christian way of life was therefore relevant not only for old people but for myself, and well, everyone!

Now, as the Children and Families' Worker employed at St John's Church in Caversham, I am particularly passionate about making church accessible for children and their parents/guardians.

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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 John Dudley Tel: 9470265  
Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810  
Rev'd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783  
Rev'd Andy Storch Tel: 07365 555 905

**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 Pastor Colin Baker



It seems that hardly a day goes by where we as human beings don't come across death in some shape or form. We are either confronted by it over the television or radio news, or it could be in someone else's sharing of the death of somebody that they know (or the friend of a friend).

As sad as this all is, I am in many ways heartened that we don't simply accept it and carry on as if nothing has happened, but equally I am concerned at our ability to try to separate talk of death from taking up too much time in our lives and to treat it as something that happens to others and not ourselves. Or maybe it is because our fear about death prevents us having a 'real' conversation about it. One day, every one of us will die – of that we can be sure.

When we face the death of someone we love, we face an unspeakable loss. A future is mapped out for us where there will always be a huge, cavernous absence. Sometimes the finality of the loss is so great that there is a denial of death itself. People tell you how they "hear" the footsteps of their loved ones on the doorstep, their key being turned in the lock. They "see" them on the street and follow them for a while, only to be confronted with the puzzled look of a stranger.

When Mary Magdalene goes to visit the tomb of Jesus she expects to meet with death. It is still dark but there is enough light to see that the stone has been moved from the entrance to the tomb. Mary's reaction is not relief that somehow Jesus has cheated death. She concludes that the body has been stolen. She finds it easier to believe in the night-time antics of grave robbers than in the night-time antics of a God who refuses to let death have the last word.

When Peter and John hear Mary's story, they run to the tomb. John 21 is clearly written in favour of the Beloved Disciple (John). When Peter enters the tomb he sees the burial clothes: when John enters the tomb he sees and he believes. The disciple closest to Jesus in love is the one who is first to believe in him as the risen Lord. Is John simply telling us that beloved disciples are always the first to get to the heart of the matter? For the heart of the resurrection is the matter of love.

What we celebrate in the resurrection is God's liberating love for his beloved Son. Resurrection is the Father's response to the Cross, his defiant answer to a world that hoped violent death could trap Jesus in its vice-like grip. In raising Jesus from the dead God raised every value that Jesus stood for, every story that Jesus told, every preference that Jesus made, every purpose that Jesus followed. All this was given new life and fresh significance.

If death had spoken the final word about Jesus, it would only have been a matter of time before everything about Jesus had been reduced to a curiosity, a forgettable footnote in the crowded history of lost causes. But God had the last word. As indeed He had the first.

The resurrection of Jesus was not the hysterical invention of people who refused to accept the death of their Master. On the contrary, the Father's act of raising Jesus from the dead is the Father's way of accepting his Son's death. Jesus is awakened to new life by the applause of his Father, by the sheer energy of his Father's love, by the loud shout of his Father's gratitude. The dead Jesus has no alternative but to rise to the occasion. The tomb can never be his permanent address.

This coming Easter, let us bless the God who insists on having the last laugh at the expense of the ultimate enemies of humanity, namely evil, sin and death.

*Colin Baker is Pastor of Caversham Baptist Church*

# 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

## PARISH OFFICES

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

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

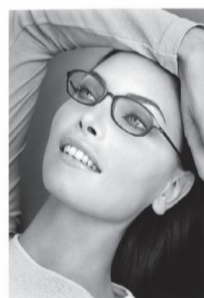
## Caversham Bridge

The Caversham Bridge is sold for 40p per copy and is available in Caversham at the Caversham Emporium in Church Street and in Emmer Green at the True Food Community Co-Op in Grove Road, opposite St Barnabas church.

If you would like to have the paper delivered to your home monthly, the annual subscription price is £5.00 (12 copies). E-mail circulation@cavershambridge.org with your name and address. Contributions for the May 2020 issue should be sent to the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Monday 30th March. The date for the June 2020 issue is Monday 27th April. Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org Advertising copy for the May 2020 issue should be sent Friday 27th March. The date for the June 2020 issue Friday 24th April. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

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0118 948 3466

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

## Sunday Club at St John's: Sparks, Flames and Blaze! continued from page 1



Flames group get stuck in

picture by A Clarke



Andy Storch and Blaze Group

picture by A Clarke

Alongside our regular 9.30am Sunday service at St John's we run what we call "Sunday Club" – three groups for children of all ages. Sparks, our group for 0-3s aims to accommodate the needs of the youngest in our church community whilst also providing a space for parents to connect with one another. Jenny, mum of an 18-month-old, says: *"it's fantastic to have a friendly place to come on a Sunday morning. My daughter loves playing with the toys and the other children, and it's lovely to be part of such a warm and welcoming community"*.

Our second group, Flames, offers a space for those in Reception through to Year 5 to learn stories from the Bible whilst also enjoying crafts, games and the company of their peers.

In September 2019 we launched our third group, Blaze, aimed at children in Year 6 and above. Our Blaze group enjoys asking and exploring questions about Christianity in a relaxed setting where all views are welcomed. Ten-year-old Samuel says: *"the best thing about Blaze is that we can all have a good time together and are able to share our thoughts"*.

Recently we had a social pizza and games night for the young people in Blaze which was thoroughly enjoyed by all – leaders and children alike! We started the evening playing some giant games, followed by remote-controlled car races in teams. We might need to practice our steering skills a bit or we can at least be thankful that our young people won't be hitting the roads anytime soon! Finally, we shared pizza together in our new youth space in the church.

At St John's we love having new families come along, so if you've read this and thought *"I wonder if my child might enjoy this"*, then why not pop along and visit us on a Sunday at 9.30am? If you live at the other end of Caversham, then you might be interested to know that St Peter's Church also runs a Sunday Club alongside their morning service – again at 9.30am.

If you'd like to know more, feel free to get in touch with me at [anna@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:anna@ctmparish.org.uk)

### Give us your views on the Caversham Bridge

by the Chair of Caversham Bridge on behalf of the Team

We are considering improvements to the Caversham Bridge Newspaper and our on-line services to you. So we would like to understand you, our readers, better and find out what you like about your local paper, along with any new features or ideas you would like us to look into for future editions.

We have a number of questions for you, such as:

Are there features you particularly like or things we could do better?

Do you have ideas for features or articles you would like to see included?

What do you think of the format and design?

Should we make greater use of our web site and social media?

Is the advertising useful?

This is your chance to help shape the future of the Caversham Bridge and its place in our community. We will be including a reply-paid questionnaire with the May edition of the paper. Alternatively, the form will be available through our web site at: [www.cavershambridge.org:5154/Readers-survey-2020](http://www.cavershambridge.org:5154/Readers-survey-2020)

On completion, the forms should be delivered to Church House, 57-59 Church Street, Caversham.

Whichever way you choose to reply, we want to hear your views. So please spare us a few minutes of your time to complete this form to help us ensure the paper serves the needs and expectations of the people of Caversham, Emmer Green and the surrounding area into the future.

The May edition will include further information as well as the questionnaire.

## Improving the Caversham Bridge web site

by Phil Chatfield

We are continually aiming to improve the service the Caversham Bridge provides to our community. We would like to enhance our web site and establish a social media offering, but to do so we need to recruit the right skills to our team. We are looking for a volunteer who could spend a couple of hours a week updating and maintaining our web site and potentially managing social media. Could that be you or someone you know? This is a chance to be involved with developing the Caversham Bridge for the future and an opportunity to practice and improve your skills in journalism and media.

Please contact us at [chair@cavershambridge.org](mailto:chair@cavershambridge.org) to find out more.

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Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased from: Caversham Emporium in Church Street, and The True Food Co-op in Grove Road, Emmer Green.

# What's On in Caversham – April 2020

Here we publish information on voluntary and community activities in and around Caversham. The on-line events diaries are updated regularly, so it is worth checking to see what has been added at [www.cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on](http://www.cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on). If you have an event planned, please send us details and we will consider its inclusion on these pages and in the printed edition. A minimum of four weeks' notice is required for the printed paper. As we go to press, the new advice on the Coronavirus epidemic is resulting in many events being cancelled. Please check with organisers for updates.

## DATE EVENT

Wednesday 1 April – Get Online Reading – 12:00–13:00 – Weller Centre, Amersham Road RG4 5NA. Free computer support  
[www.go-reading.org](http://www.go-reading.org)



Wednesday 1 April – “Pollinating Insects” – 20:00 – A talk by Louise Hutchinson for the Caversham Heights Society, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG [www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers](http://www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers)

**CANCELLED**

Thursday 2 April – Storytime for under 5's. 14:00 – 14:30  
Caversham Library. Free, but booking needed.  
[www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk](http://www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk)



Saturday 4 April – Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle – 19:30 – A performance by the South Chiltern Choral Society at The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road, RG1 5AQ  
Tickets £15 in advance. [www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)

Sunday 5 April – Walk the Labyrinth – 15:00 – 17:00 – Follow the labyrinth path in a prayer pilgrimage within the church at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road RG4 8EB  
[www.ctmparish.org.uk/forthcoming-events](http://www.ctmparish.org.uk/forthcoming-events)

Sunday 5 April 2020 – Clayfield Copse, Regular monthly tasks – 10:00-13:00 – Econet/Friends of Clayfield Copse [www.econetreading.org.uk/programme](http://www.econetreading.org.uk/programme)

Sunday 5 April – Palm Sunday Procession – St Andrew's and Caversham Heights Methodist Church join forces to process with a donkey, starting at 10:00 from St Andrew's on Albert Road and going to Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Highmoor Road. Followed by a 10:30 service at the Methodist Church. [www.standrewscaversham.org/calendar](http://www.standrewscaversham.org/calendar)



Monday 6 April – Reading and West Berks Carers' Hub – 11:00 – 12:30 – Free access to support and services for carers, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG [www.berkshirecarershub.org](http://www.berkshirecarershub.org)

Friday 10 April – Good Friday

Saturday 11 April – Easter Egg Trail – 14:00 – 16:00 Caversham Court Gardens. Friends of Caversham Court. Free entry but donations welcome [www.home.fccg.org.uk/about-us](http://www.home.fccg.org.uk/about-us)

Sunday 12 April – Easter Sunday

Wednesday 15 April - “The Chilterns – an Area of Outstanding Beauty” – 20:00 – A talk by John Nicholls for the Caversham Heights Society, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG  
[www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers](http://www.cavershamheights.org/programme-of-speakers)

**CANCELLED**

Saturday 18 April – Mapledurham Playing Fields, Regular monthly tasks – 9:30 – 13:00 – Econet/Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields [www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/](http://www.econetreading.org.uk/programme/)

Sunday 19 April – Repair Cafe – 12:30–16:30 – Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC), 35-39 London Street, Reading [www.transitionreading.org.uk/projects/reading-repair-cafe](http://www.transitionreading.org.uk/projects/reading-repair-cafe)

Wednesday 22 April – “Purchasing Paradise: the money that paid for the great gardens” – 19:00 – A talk by Sir Roderick Floud for Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham, RG4 7TH [www.home.fccg.org.uk/about-us](http://www.home.fccg.org.uk/about-us)

Thursday 23 April – Storytime for under 5's. 14:00 – 14:30 Caversham Library. Free, but booking needed.  
[www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk](http://www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk)

Sunday 26 April – Caversham Bowling Club – 13:00 – 17:00 Open Day. A chance to try bowling outdoors. Tuition is free and equipment is supplied; all you need is a pair of flat shoes.



[www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk)

Sunday 26 April – Amersham Road Cooking Club – 16:00–18:00 – Weller Centre, Amersham Road, RG4 5NA. Primary aged children. First session free, then 50p per child per session  
[www.facebook.com/wellercentre](http://www.facebook.com/wellercentre)

Thursday 30 April – Storytime for under 5's. 14:00 – 14:30 Caversham Library. Free, but booking needed.  
[www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk](http://www.servicesguide.reading.gov.uk)

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# Churches in Caversham this Easter

by Phil Chatfield

As we are making final preparations for the publication of the April Caversham Bridge, it is clear the Covid19 pandemic will affect every aspect of our lives. In normal times, we would list Easter Services on this page. However, most churches have decided to put on hold their usual pattern of mid-week gatherings and Sunday services. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a letter to all Church of England clergy in which they state public worship will have to stop for a season. The Methodist church has taken a similar decision, and it is likely others will follow.

The Archbishops highlighted the need to look at new ways of serving everyone. They encourage clergy to continue their pattern of daily prayer, observing the protocols of hygiene, self-isolation and social distancing, as appropriate. Where the resources are available, they suggest using live streaming so people can participate in the life of worship at home. Most churches are preparing resources for prayer and worship at home.

They also emphasise the need for all Christian churches to be in "the forefront of providing practical care and support for the poor and the most vulnerable".

For example, we are asked to carry on supporting local foodbanks and ensuring night shelters are kept open.

In Caversham, local social media groups are being set up to support people who need to self-isolate, often at a street level. But, most importantly, we must heed the advice we are being given. Whilst there is some necessity to get out, and it is both important and possible to take a walk down the road or work in the garden for our own fitness and sanity's sake, we do need to take seriously the risks to ourselves and those we love. So do not go out unnecessarily, and even limit going to shops to that which is essential.

It is going to be incredibly hard on most, if not all, of us. But we need to be sensible and change the way we live to save lives. All of us need to muck in and do everything we can do to stem the spread of the virus, whilst doing everything we can to care for one another.

Based on the text of the letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York [www.churchofengland.org/news](http://www.churchofengland.org/news) and advice from the Methodist Church, 18 March 2020

## Wordsearch Easter

S R E P P U S T S A L S A G S  
W N E M H C O C K E R E L N N  
J Y R V E T N E L E O S K I U  
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## Bible Friends

### Jesus is alive!

Some people did not like Jesus and wanted to get rid of him.

On Friday, Jesus died.

Jesus' friends were very sad. They lovingly put his body in a cave and rolled a big stone in front.

On Sunday morning, Mary and her friends went to the cave. They saw that the big stone had moved! They went into the cave. It was empty! What a surprise! Where was Jesus' body?

Suddenly two angels appeared. The women were afraid, but the angels told them, "Jesus is not here. Jesus isn't dead. He's alive again!"

Mary and her friends were amazed. They ran back to tell Jesus' friends the good news: "Jesus is alive again!"

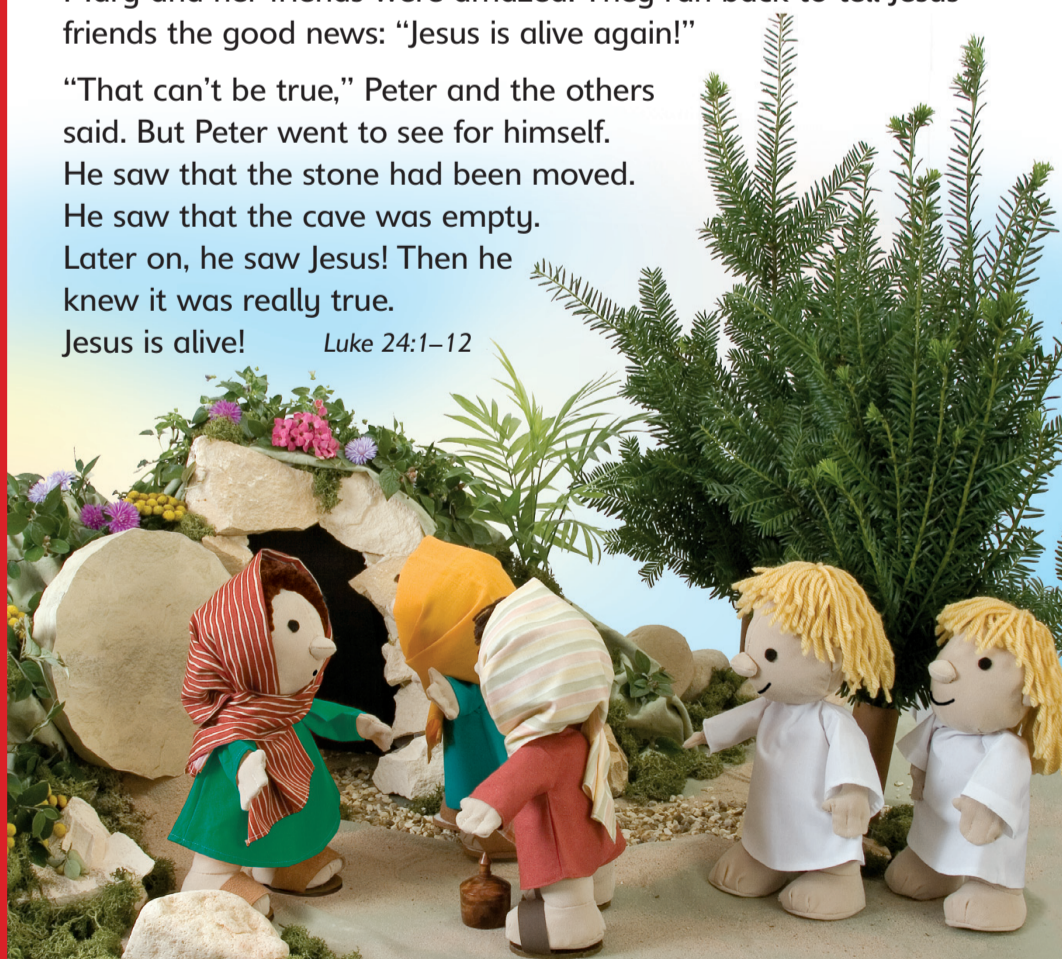
"That can't be true," Peter and the others said. But Peter went to see for himself.

He saw that the stone had been moved.

He saw that the cave was empty.

Later on, he saw Jesus! Then he knew it was really true.

Jesus is alive! *Luke 24:1-12*



# Supporting Samaritans - a Friday Fundraiser

by Penny Cuthbert and Phil Chatfield

St John's Church on Gosbrook Road hosted a coffee morning which raised £220 for the Samaritans on 21 February. The idea came from Marie Barnett, manager of the 3Cs café, which runs on Tuesdays in St John's. The Samaritans answer a phone call every 6 seconds from people who have reached out for help. A survey on

## Getting it back together – new life for a pre-school playhouse

By Kathy Munns

The children and staff of Caversham Heights Pre-School are all ready to use their playhouse again! Time and use had taken their toll on it but, rather than buying a new one, it's been given a complete refurbishment by members of the church. As part of Caversham Heights Methodist Church's Eco Church initiative, it has been re-used rather than replaced.

It was taken apart into its component panels and some of the timber replaced, windows and walls repainted, and new felt fitted to the roof. Pre-school leader Katherine looks as though she's making herself at home....



Kathy and the playhouse

Photo – P Chatfield

The staff say the children have loved having it back at Pre-School! There are vacancies at the pre-school at the moment, so contact them if you would like to learn more at:  
[www.cavershamheightspreschool.org](http://www.cavershamheightspreschool.org)

loneliness published in January,\* in support of the Samaritans, reported 25-34 year-olds experience the highest levels of loneliness (82%), but the issue is prevalent across all age groups. The survey found two thirds of Brits (64%) have felt lonely in the past year, with major life changes, such as becoming a new parent, bereavement or moving to a new area identified as key factors.



The catering team

Photo: Penny Cuthbert

The Samaritans are there for anyone who needs support. If you need someone to talk to, they will listen. They won't judge or tell you what to do. So whatever you are going through, you can call the Samaritans any time, from any phone for FREE on 116 123. Sometimes writing down your thoughts and feelings can help you understand them better. You can e-mail [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) and they will reply within 24 hours.

A good range of cakes were donated by church members and others and served with tea and coffee by Marie Barnett, Jean Evans and Wendy Buss.

\*Survey by PG Tips in support of Samaritans Brew Monday <https://www.samaritans.org/news/brew-monday-2020/>

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HAPPY WANDERER

# The Reading and Caversham Laundry

by Happy Wanderer

When I think back to the 1950s, and the weekly ordeal my mother went through, I'm grateful for the invention of the automatic washing machine. It took her the best part of a Monday to get the weekly wash done.

In the 1960s, I came to Reading for my first job, with no savings and as yet no knowledge of the area. I stayed at the Y.M.C.A. Hostel in Parkside Road, thinking that I should at least be safe there, and it would give me time to look around and find somewhere more permanent to live. Like many other young people, all I could afford was a bed sitting-room with a shared bathroom, in a house in multiple occupation.

There was a laundrette around the corner, and it had a coin-operated dispenser of soap powder. You held a little cup under it, put in your shilling, and it gave you a measure of powder. I well remember the occasion when I put my shilling in, and the machine dispensed its whole supply of "Blue Deepio" powder over my shoes!

I found bed-sheets awkward at the laundrette, and decided to send them to the Reading and Caversham Laundry. They supplied a fibre box, fastened with a strap, in which to put your dirty washing. On a set day, they collected it from the doorstep, and delivered back the clean washing. It worked well.

These thoughts came into my head when I was shown this card, crimped to hold 50 pins, which presumably was offered to earlier customers of the R & C Laundry, many of whom would have been what were called "housewives". The card had advertising for the "receiving office" at 421 Oxford Road, Reading, and there were probably other such offices in different parts of town. That in Oxford Road was there until about 1970 – it is now the Hot Stuff Tandoori take-away.

Before there were laundries, laundrettes and automatic washing-machines at home, there were washerwomen, or laundresses, advertising their services in the old Reading directories. Then in the 1884 directory, the R. & C. Laundry appears, in George Street, Caversham, then as now. By 1914 it was claiming to be "the oldest and most reliable

laundry in the district," it had vans collecting and delivering over a wide area, and it undertook dyeing, dry cleaning, and carpet beating. This was in the days before fitted carpets and electric vacuum cleaners.

Many still remember the disastrous fire of 1988, when the laundry buildings were destroyed by fire, said to have been caused by the spontaneous combustion of a pile of particularly greasy laundry. At the time, the laundry was being run by a firm called Whiteknights, who quickly had it rebuilt. Subsequently it has been owned by Berendsen, and the newest signs now say "Elis".

But I can't help thinking about that advertising gimmick with 50 pins. Would men and women of today have much use for them, and when was the last time I used a pin?



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ENVIRONMENT

# Climate Crisis – the role of the churches

by Phil Chatfield

The need for the Churches and faith communities to play their part in responding to the climate crisis was the subject of a speech in the House of Lords by Bishop Steven of Oxford in February.

He emphasised the unprecedented threat to our ecosystem and to human flourishing we are facing and the limitations of relying on technology.

He quoted from Pope Francis' letter to the whole world in 2016, in which he writes "the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor". Our response, Bishop Steven writes "must be nothing less than an ecological conversion of every person and every part of society".

Christians believe the earth is God's gift as well as God's creation. Human beings are far more than consumers: we are called to be just stewards of creation, to care for the poorest and the weakest. In response, Churches and faith communities must play their part. In March the Church of England ran

an extensive digital campaign – Live Lent – asking every Christian to review their lifestyle choices.

Bishop Steven's said "Many dioceses, including Oxford, are placing care for the earth at the top of our agenda for the coming years, recognising the distance we still have to travel. This means measuring and restricting our own carbon emissions, commending lifestyle changes, undertaking energy audits and campaigning for wider change. It means identifying challenging but achievable targets and the practical path to reach them".

The impacts of the Climate Crisis are apparent around the world, from the bush fires in Australia to flooding in the UK and the less well known effects such as drought in Central America and parts of Africa. This may seem overwhelming but, if we each take time to think about our lifestyle and consider how we should respond, we can make a difference.

For the full text of Bishop Steven's speech, see: [www.blogs.oxford.anglican.org/stewards-of-creation](http://www.blogs.oxford.anglican.org/stewards-of-creation)



## Beanpole Day

by Tricia Marcouse

This was planned for Caversham Court Gardens on 18th April but it is now cancelled. Anyone who would like to buy local beanpoles will find them on sale at Englefield Garden Centre.

## News from St Anne's School

by Liz Banks

Year 5 pupils at St Anne's Primary School have been learning about Fast Cars and Rockets for their winter topic, and two teams will be going on to represent the school at the 2020 Jaguar Primary School Challenge (JPSC) Berkshire Finals at the end of March.

The JPSC encourages children to develop science and engineering skills, and the St Anne's teams have been incredibly busy designing mini racing cars, creating colourful team logos and learning key skills such as teamwork and problem solving. The children meet once a week after school and are supported by parent volunteers, Liz Banks and Anne Orife. Liz says she is confident the teams will do well at the Regional Finals. "Our two teams - Speedy Wheels and Team Monty - have worked really hard on their car designs and learning so much about innovation and engineering. Last year St Anne's won the Regionals and went on to compete in the National Finals, so we are hoping to match that success again! We are very proud of all our JPSC team members!"



## ENVIRONMENT



# Knit one, purl one and save the planet

by Pam Chatfield

If you like to knit or crochet, you probably have a selection of yarns made from a variety of fibres. It is worth pausing before purchasing yarn for that next project to consider its impact on our environment.

A major report by the International Wool Textiles Organisation confirms that microfibres, tiny pieces of plastic shed from synthetic fibres, are ending up in our oceans and food chain. Between 20% and 35% of all microplastics in the marine environment come from synthetic clothing and this is growing. Much of today's commercial yarn is synthetic acrylic and its availability and low cost make it an attractive choice for knitters. But as a plastic, produced using fossil fuels, and releasing microfibres each time we wash our garments, it is not a good choice for the planet.

So, when facing the huge selection of yarns available, what sustainable and ethical alternatives are there? The options include wool from animals that are well cared for - small scale producers can often tell you about the way the animals are reared - and plant yarns, such as organic cotton, linen, bamboo and even banana yarn. Upcycled synthetic yarns are also available. These reduce, but do not eliminate, the microfibre problem.

By choosing to avoid synthetic yarns, we can enjoy our knitting or crocheting in the knowledge that we are not harming the environment.

Sources and further information

International Wool Textiles Organisation report [www.iwto.org/news/microplastics-review](http://www.iwto.org/news/microplastics-review)

Ethical yarn suppliers on-line: [www.realgoodyarns.co.uk/](http://www.realgoodyarns.co.uk/)

[www.darngoodyarn.com/](http://www.darngoodyarn.com/)



Volunteers gather for the spring clean  
*photo by Anne-Marie Evans*

## A pile of rubbish

by Anne-Marie Evans

Local environmental group Plastic Free Caversham joined forces with Globe (Go Local On a Better Environment) to organise a community spring clean event around the River Thames in Caversham on Sunday 8 March. Between 40 to 50 residents of all ages, including children and teenagers, turned up to support the event. Over 40 bags of rubbish were collected from the areas around Hills Meadow, Christchurch Meadow and View Island.

Plastic Free Caversham is a group of local residents and business who have joined forces to achieve single-use plastic free status for Caversham. They are aiming to comply with guidelines published by Surfers Against Sewage.

For more information on the guidelines, see: [www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities-2](http://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities-2) To find out more about GLOBE see: [www.cavershamglobe.org.uk](http://www.cavershamglobe.org.uk)



Some of the rubbish collected -  
*photo by Anne-Marie Evans*

# Consultation on Reading Climate Action Plan

by Tricia Marcousie

The Reading Climate Action Plan 2020-2025 is out to public consultation until 24 April. It has six "themes": low carbon development, water and flooding, resources, transport, health and nature and green spaces. You can comment on everything or restrict yourself to one or two areas.

Download the document from [www.reading.gov.uk/climateconsultation](http://www.reading.gov.uk/climateconsultation)

Although this is being done through the council's website, this is not a council document but through the climate change partnership, which includes business, the Environment Agency, Reading University, community groups and the council.

In addition, please look out for the consultations on the Reading Tree Strategy and the Reading Biological Action Plan on the [www.reading.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.reading.gov.uk/consultation) site. It makes sense if possible to read all three documents together. All three consultations finish on 24 April.



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# LES COOPER IN THE GARDEN



## Regrets

Are you like me and have you bought things for the garden because they look so pretty in the advertisement? Do you always thoroughly study what the plant will be doing in a few years' time? If you do then you are better than I am. I would hate to disillusion anyone about my abilities but, if I am honest, I have some regrets. Yes, I have made quite a number of mistakes in my attempts to have a reasonable garden. Here I am thinking how, over the years, some of the flowers or shrubs I have planted have later caused me to tear my hair out with frustration. I pride myself that at least I never planted any Japanese Knotweed but way back I may have been silly enough to think that it did look rather nice. No, I am thinking about more ordinary things that I have happily planted with the notion that they are the answer to my requirements, then to find I have taken on a monster.

And now I am in dodgy territory because I know someone will disagree with me but one of my favourite moans has been with ivy. I cannot believe that I am the only gardener who has

planted Ivy only to discover a problem in that Ivy grows...and grows...and grows. This is fine if your garden is the size of Hills Meadow but disastrous if, as most of us are, you are short of space. Ivy has merits, good cover, bird food etc, but you soon forget these when it takes over and you struggle to get rid of it.

An even worse mishap occurred when a "friend" gave me a slip of Arum Italicum (cuckoo pint) that has since decided to take over my garden. What is worse I never liked the damned thing anyway.

Even plants I do like such as Phytolacca that do their best to cheer up the garden with many red and yellow hanging flowers cause problems. It is supposed to be only half-hardy but not in my garden where it spreads like mad.

Another of my errors is failing to realise how quickly time goes so I have planted a small conifer or tree only to discover in a few years later it has got far too big...

No, I guess we all have garden regrets, but that is part of life's rich tapestry.

## Walking a Labyrinth – A Prayer Journey

by Penny Cuthbert

Walking a labyrinth is like going on a pilgrimage – it's a prayerful walk during which you are seeking God and listening for his voice. Labyrinths are an ancient design, dating back 3000 years. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has one path, with no dead ends – you can't get lost. It twists and turns around a central point and you



eventually arrive in the centre. You follow the same path to return.

Walking the labyrinth can be used as a three-stage reflection. The inward journey can be a time of opening your heart and mind to God. Consider the issues in your life, and allow God to speak into them. You may ask for cleansing, or healing, or freedom from anything that hinders your walk with him. Or you may allow him to show you something you haven't noticed. Time at the centre is to just 'be' in the presence of God. To rest in him, listen to him, allow him to give you what you

need. Savour this time – there is no hurry. The outward journey is often very different, as you bring with you insights you have gained, and step back out into the world, taking those insights – and the presence of God – with you.

There may be others walking the labyrinth with you. We don't travel the Christian journey alone, and you may reflect on your travelling companions: those you love, and those who are more difficult to love. God may show you something about them. We travel in silence, focussed on our own conversations with God, but the outer boundary of the labyrinth reminds us that we are all safely held within his love.

There is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to walk a labyrinth, nothing that 'has to be done', except to remove your shoes before you step on (so please bring socks!) On average people take around 45 minutes to walk it. Many people have found that walking a labyrinth can be a powerful spiritual experience, which draws them deeper into the heart of God.

The labyrinth shown will be on offer at St John's on:

Palm Sunday 5th April 3-5pm

Tuesday 7th April 7.30-9.00pm

Wednesday 8th April 7.30-9.30pm

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# New technology in healthcare – The Caversham Heights Society

by Keith Watson

The Society meets every alternate Wednesday evening at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall to hear talks on a range of topics. The meetings start with coffee at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome and further details can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org)

In February Professor Rachel McCrindle of the University of Reading spoke on the topic 'Can new technologies transform healthcare?'

Our ageing population is adding to the cost of running the National Health Service and it will need to consider how artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics can help. Many of us will need additional help and support at home in the years ahead, especially given the crisis in care homes and hospital beds. Of those born in 2013, at least one-third will reach 100 years old. Out of every 100, 10 will have a stroke; 15 will suffer from dementia; 8 will get asthma; 30 will become diabetic; 12 will lose their sight; and 80 will need additional support in some form or another.

Recent developments in biomedical engineering range from affordable to very expensive, and from simple to sophisticated. AI is now able to detect at

least 50 eye diseases, breast cancer, atrial fibrillation of the heart and diabetes, as well as other diseases. Robotic keyhole surgery with a surgeon operating via a screen enables greater precision than previously thought possible. Robots are also getting smaller and more manoeuvrable each year. A key benefit is speedier recovery for patients allowing their discharge from hospital more quickly. 3D printing of parts of the body using plastic or metal can reduce costs.

Apparently several departments at Reading University are working closely with the RBH Stroke Unit and stroke patients within the Unit to identify and develop devices which can enhance the well-being and quality of life for stroke victims. This is a far cry from the basic rehabilitation treatment through physio- and occupational therapy that was available twenty years ago when I suffered a major stroke. Professor McCrindle also demonstrated how gadgets such as mobile phones and watches could be modified to help the recovery of stroke patients.

All in all, this was an inspiring and well-presented talk to an audience which had only a limited knowledge of medical matters.

Our meetings in April are on "Pollinating Insects" on 1 April and "The Chilterns – an area of outstanding natural beauty" on 15 April.

## Time for a change (of clothes)

by Hazel Bingham



Awaiting a change of home

photos H Bingham

The Weller Centre organised its first "Swishing" event on 29 February to encourage people to swap clothes and toys they no longer want. The aim of the event was to reduce some of the waste created by people throwing things away and then buying new items.

The idea of "Swishing" began about 20 years ago in America, where it is increasingly popular.

Some local crafters were also invited in order to support local business, and cakes and home made jam were also on sale. Future events are being considered – follow the Weller Centre Facebook Page for details - [www.facebook.com/wellercentre/](http://www.facebook.com/wellercentre/) or their web site – [www.wellercentre.co.uk](http://www.wellercentre.co.uk)

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# The story of Redlands - from Roman burial ground to Reading suburb

by Sean Duggan, History of Reading Society

The History of Reading Society usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Abbey Baptist Church (behind Reading Central library). Doors open at 7.15pm and talks start at 7.30pm.

Their February subject was about 'Old Redlands Estate or Shackel's Fields'. The speaker, Keith Jerrome, is a local historian currently researching the people buried in paupers' plots at Old Reading Cemetery.

The Reading suburb known as 'Redlands' acquired its name from the 'Red Lane', the rough dirt track that ran from the London Road towards Shinfield.

The Redlands Estate is located south-east of Reading town centre. It occupies a roughly square site that spreads south from London Road, west from Eastern Avenue, north from Upper Redlands Road and east from Redlands Road. The land runs gently downhill from the ridge at Shinfield Road, northwards towards the River Kennet. It is predominantly urban in character, and the

main green space is the playing field at Reading School.

One of the earliest indications of human settlement was the discovery in the nineteenth-century of a Roman burial ground at Cemetery Junction. Close-by, fragments of Romano-British pottery were found.

In the twelfth-century, at the time of the foundation of Reading Abbey, leprosy was a widespread pestilence in England. A hospital to treat the sick was established within the precincts of the abbey. Later, Abbot William removed it to a 200-acre field in Redlands that became known as the Spittal Fields.

For 400 years Reading Abbey was the largest local land-owner but, after the dissolution of the abbey in 1536, its lands passed to the Crown. Most of this land in Reading, including the leper hospital site at Redlands, was sold to William Gray. He was the local MP and an adviser to Thomas Cromwell, the chief minister to King Henry VIII.

Through marriage, on Gray's death the lands were inherited by the Blgrave family of Reading; and they later sold it to Sir Francis Knollys of Rotherfield Greys.



St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading in 1911

For the next 300 years, Redlands remained rural in character. However, the spread of the estate system of tenanted farms and enclosed fields significantly diminished the amount of 'common land' available to local people on which they could grow their food and graze animals.

The area's principal tenanted farm was Red Lane Farm, now the site of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Its last tenant farmer was George Shackel, whose family had farmed it since the eighteenth-century. In his day, the substantial farm house had ornamental lawns and a large pond, and was known as 'Shackel's Fields', extending to 100-acres. In 1865, his landlord, Lord Sidmouth, ordered him to quit the farm.

The Redlands we know today began to evolve during the nineteenth century. The largest local land-owner was Henry Addington, Lord Sidmouth. In 1840, it was he who grudgingly donated the land opposite London Road on which the Royal Berkshire Hospital was built. By the 1860s he was selling plots of land in the vicinity for house building and, over the next 40 years, a socially mixed community of small terrace houses and detached villas defined the area's character.

Reading School moved from its ancient home opposite St Laurence's Church to the current site at Erleigh Road in 1870. The new school buildings were designed by the eminent Victorian architect, Alfred Waterhouse, and the foundation stone was laid by HRH the Prince of Wales.

In the 1880s, with the rapid increase in population, Redlands became a separate parish from St Giles Reading. A new church, designed by London architect Piers St. Aubyn and dedicated to St. Luke was built.

Today, Redlands is a popular place to live, with higher than average property prices for Reading. The post-war expansion of Reading University has led to the establishment of a large student population. The Redlands Local History Group published the first comprehensive history of the area in 1990.

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

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# The Heights are alive with the sound of music

by **Conor Brio, Music Correspondent**

NINE years ago Adrienne Black and Timothy Watts launched the first of their Concerts in Caversham at St Andrews Church.

It was to be the start of a series that would bring the finest of music and musicians to entertain parishioners and other music-lovers from all parts of the district. One of the high points of the 2019 series was a performance of Mozart's sublime Gran Partita for 13 wind instruments and double-bass. Many people will remember the Gran Partita for its key part in the film 'Amadeus' which told the story of Mozart's rivalry with Salieri.

Both Adrienne and Timothy are professional musicians. She is a pianist and harpsichordist. Her husband is an oboist. One of the reasons they chose St Andrews for their venue is the lovely August Forster grand piano and the rich and resonant acoustic of the church.

The success of the concerts is down to the volunteers, the support of the Reverend Nigel Jones and the generosity of St Andrew's, Herald Graphics, Waltons the Jewellers and Regula.

## The Watts family trio

Adrienne Black and Timothy Watts met whilst studying at the Royal College of Music – in room 117 playing Baroque trio sonatas. They moved to Reading 35 years ago when they married and bought their first house in the centre of Caversham. Naomi and their son Peter were both born in Reading. Peter completed his secondary education in Reading. Naomi, after a short spell at St Joseph's, won a scholarship to continue

and complete her secondary education at the Purcell School of Music in Watford.

Adrienne has taught and worked as an accompanist in many establishments, Reading University, Oxford University, Royal Holloway, Royal College of Music and Leighton Park School, and continues to freelance on both harpsichord and piano for the Royal College, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Oxford Orchestra as well as teaching and accompanying at Bradfield College. Tim and Naomi are both full members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra which takes them all over the world, from China to Europe.

In November 2010 Adrienne, Timothy and cellist daughter Naomi, gave the first concert at St Andrew's Church using the newly acquired August Forster grand piano. Adrienne was instrumental in arranging for the church to buy the then recently re-conditioned piano.

To celebrate the 10th year of Concerts in Caversham, the three musicians will come together as a trio for the first time since 2010. On 18 July they will perform a varied programme of music for oboe, cello and piano.

Dates for the rest of the season are: 2 May, 18 July, 17 October and 5 December – see the web-site [www.concertsincaversham.co.uk](http://www.concertsincaversham.co.uk) for further details.



## South Chiltern Choral Society

By Sue Craddock



### An Easter offering: Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

At the age of 38, having written over 30 operas, notably The Barber of Seville and William Tell, Rossini retired and many years later wrote something completely different – 'Petite Messe Solennelle' (Little Solemn Mass) - a substantial setting of words from the Roman Catholic Mass. He described this as the last of his 'sins of old age'.

To perform this amazing piece, the South Chiltern Choral Society (SCCS) will be joining forces with the Parenthesis Choir plus acclaimed soloists (Isolde Roxby, Katie Coventry, Matthew Morgan, Theodore Platt) accompanied by Ian Westley on piano and Martin Jones on harmonium – all conducted by Paul Burke, SCCS's musical director.

The concert will take place on 4th April at The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ, starting at 7.30 pm. The venue has free parking and wheelchair access.

Tickets are available via the choir's website ([www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)). Adult tickets are £15 from the website; £17 on the door; concessions are available for under 21's and Reading University students, please see [www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk) for more details.

## Heights School move to Mapledurham

Based on a report by Martin Brommell

Local residents were invited to attend a meeting of The Mapledurham Playing Field Management Committee as observers on 3 February 2020. The Committee, made up of councillors Isobel Ballsdon and Paul Carnell, along with the principal stakeholders in the School and landscape projects, met in the pavilion.

At the meeting, local residents learned the Heights School is now scheduled to move to Mapledurham during the Easter 2021 holiday, with completion of all works at the site due by May 2021. Council officials also announced drainage and seeding of the field will commence no earlier than April 2020 due to muddy ground. This means football pitches will not be available until at least September 2020.

Although The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) and local residents had opposed a proposal for a central, tree lined, lit avenue, council officials maintained this was part of a consultation which received over 2,300 responses. Any changes now were deemed too costly.

In addition, residents were advised of an allocation of more than £700k to future enhancements for the pavilion.

Residents were reportedly critical of the way the meeting was run, as they had no opportunity to contribute. It seems they feel there is much to do in building trust between the Heights School and local residents.

See Reading Borough Council's web site for their January update: [www.reading.gov.uk/article/7075/Mapledurham-Playing-Fields-and-Pavilion](http://www.reading.gov.uk/article/7075/Mapledurham-Playing-Fields-and-Pavilion)  
WADRA's web site is: [www.wadra.org.uk](http://www.wadra.org.uk)

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# The Retirement Habit

by Rev Marion Pyke

I was asked to write a few words about retiring from ministry at St. Peter's, Caversham in February. It's not my first retirement. I retired in 1997 after 20 years as a Psychiatric Social Worker. This followed retirement as a singer with Covent Garden and also from 12 years as a Relate Counselor. I've been lucky to have had a varied work life, which included opera, television and stage work. I also trained as a psychotherapist and spent 5 years as a Chaplain in Westminster Abbey, regularly taking the mid-day Eucharist and attending the royal family at services. My sustenance through all this has been the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage, where I still frequently celebrate the Eucharist.

My faith came from my maternal grandmother, Miriam Gale. She dressed beautifully and wore a hat and gloves every Sunday to church and I accompanied her wearing the same. After I married, my "going to church" lapsed. But I experienced a personal encounter with our Lord when Christ said to me "What are you doing Marion?" After that day nothing was the same. It happened on my son's 16th birthday at the Festival of Mind Body and Spirit. I was searching and didn't know it. I believe if we ask, we are given what's right for us. We may abandon Christ but he never abandons us.

Having lived in Caversham for nearly 60 years, my pastoral work has been an important part of my ministry. We came in 1962, when my husband John started teaching at The Grove School, soon to become Highdown. I was born in Spencer's Wood and lived in Swallowfield, so found "town life" very hard and yearned to be back in the country. We had two children, Richard and Helen. While they went to school, I drove daily to Oxford Polytechnic for 2 years to obtain Social Work qualifications. As a Relate Counselor it was clear I needed a professional qualification to support people with mental health problems. During my 20 years as a Social Worker I ran alcohol and drug abuse clinics and worked in Broadmoor, Fairmile and the Warnford Hospital in Oxford, specializing in Anorexia and self harm.

I retired as manager of a Social Services mental health rehabilitation day center in Reading in 1997. I looked forward to a calmer life, painting and playing the piano. But it was suggested I become a Reader in the Church of England. After two years of training I became a Licensed Reader.

After a lull of 6 months the voice in the night kept me awake again-prompting me on. After much discernment I became an Ordinand at Cuddesden Theological College, completing my degree and becoming ordained in 2010.

My great sadness was that my lovely husband John died suddenly 4 months

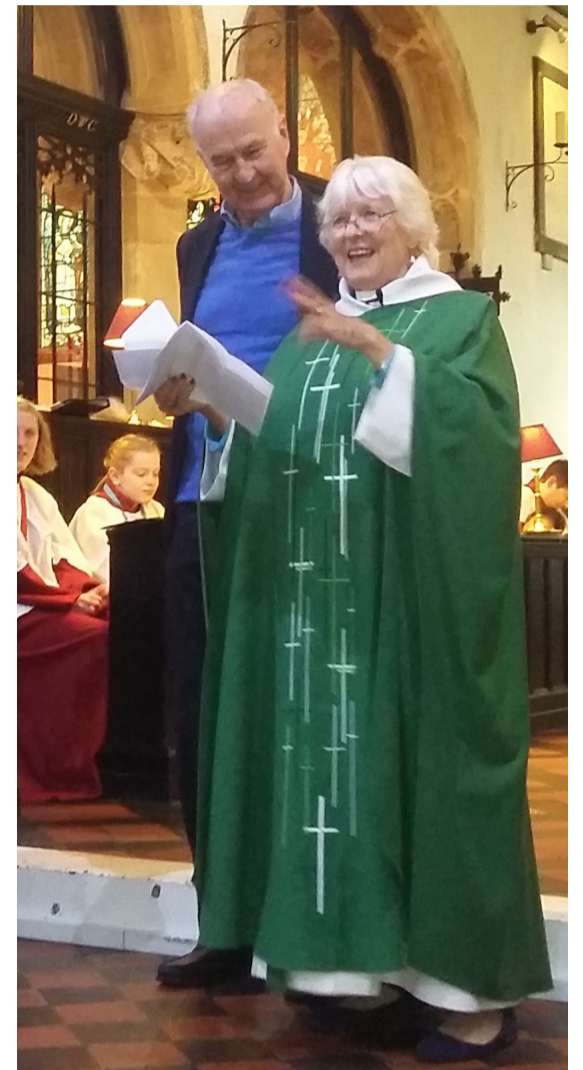


photo Caroline Smith

Marion and Roger at her final service

before Bishop Stephen Cottrell ordained me in Christchurch Cathedral. As we swept into the Cathedral in our new vestments and stoles, I felt his presence with me. I've loved every moment of my ministry. I have been privileged to share the ups and downs of people's lives, including several screaming baptismal babies, a bride with hiccups, a cat who tried to jump into a grave. We're lucky in Caversham to have a close knit clergy team and I will miss them.

But a new chapter has begun and at the end of March my life will be forever entwined with Mr Roger Vaughan. Roger and I met in a Rock Choir. We both like singing and dancing, especially when we're cruising. I'm now painting every day which is bliss. So this time I really am retiring!

The Reverend Marion Pyke presided at her farewell Communion in Caversham on Sunday 23 February.

## Clubs

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

By Linda Rumble

After a break, Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's meetings re-started with a talk on "The Emergence of England" by Jaye Windmill, shedding light on the power struggles of the various tribes up to the Norman Conquest.

The Cinema Club was transported to the mud, blood and futility of '1917'. The film was similar to 'War Horse', but without the horse.

Our Amblers didn't fancy any mud, so walks were postponed until drier conditions prevail.

Eating wasn't any problem though. We started in early January with a mince pie morning at the home of Mrs Hazel New. The Lunch Club enjoyed a meal at the Caversham Rose and, in March, we celebrated International Women's Day with a lunch at the French Horn.

Mr Alan Copeland entertained the Social Studies Group with his 'Big Picture Show No 5'.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15 April at 2.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Rd Caversham RG4 7BG. Marcia Watson will be telling us about Nepal. Any ladies wishing to visit or join us will be very welcome.

### Chazey WI

## The Face Behind the Mask – Madame Tussaud

By Julie Bradshaw

She is one of the most famous women in the world with a global empire spanning every continent which still bears her name 170 years after her death.

But who was Madame Tussaud and what do we really know about her?

Chazey members found out at our February meeting when Tony Weston took us back to the horrors of the French Revolution with his illustrated talk 'A Woman of Wax', the story of how a little French girl born in 1761 gave rise to the museums we know today.

Apprenticed at six years old to an experienced wax modeller, young Marie Grosholtz's natural talent led her to create her first wax sculpture – of the French philosopher Voltaire – when she was just 16, and a year later to teach art to the sister of King Louis XVI at his palace in Versailles.

But it was the notorious brutality of the French Revolution, which at its height saw 1200 executed in Paris in a single day, which really began her path to international fame.

Marie was soon using her skills to make death masks of some of the revolution's most famous victims. These included members of the Royal family and the governor of the Bastille. She also produced models of the celebrities of the day such as Napoleon, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Benjamin Franklin.

In the days before photography was invented, these beeswax figures were the only way to see what famous people looked like. Marie was soon touring Europe with her collection under her married name, arriving in London in 1802 at the age of 41 with her touring exhibition. Audiences flocked to see it.

The macabre nature of many of her exhibits was a big part of their appeal and, by 1835, Madame Tussaud had opened her first museum in London's Baker Street, where one of the main attractions was its Chamber of Horrors, which included her original death masks from Paris as well as models of other murderers and criminals.

Some sculptures made by Marie herself still exist and the self-portrait she made in 1842 is now on display at the entrance of her museum.

What emerges is a picture of one of the first female entrepreneurs, a gutsy perfectionist whose tableaux were the television of her day and who was still taking money at her museum's ticket office well into her 80s. She died in her sleep in 1850.

Today, the visitors who queue daily outside Madame Tussauds also encounter figures such as Donald Trump and dancers from Strictly Come Dancing, but the fascination remains the same.

After delicious lemon and ginger cakes, members were invited to sign up for the Chazey summer trip to Blenheim in June and to get baking and making jams and marmalade for our stall at Caversham Court's Beanpole Day on Saturday 18 April. Our knitting group will also be producing cuddly teddy bears for sale.

We meet every first Friday afternoon at St Andrews Hall in Albert Road, Caversham at 2.30 and visitors are always welcome. You can email us at [chazeywi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:chazeywi@berkshirewi.co.uk) or look for our page on Facebook.

### Update from Rosehill WI

By Jean Hewett

The Rosehill Women's Institute (WI) meet at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

At our February meeting, President Arlene Riley welcomed members and visitors. The record of the December meeting was available for comment, either to the President or Secretary.

Members were reminded of the opportunity to vote on resolutions for the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in June, voting papers to be returned to the Secretary as soon as possible. One future event is the Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes Spring Annual Council Meeting, to be held on 8 April at the Great Hall, University of Reading, where one of the speakers will be the Revd Kate Bottley, journalist, media presenter and Church of England Priest.

Rosehill WI has received correspondence, including booklets and programmes, from New Zealand WI.



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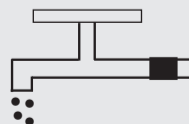
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