



Ash Wednesday 1st March marks the beginning of Lent

You are invited to join one of a variety of courses being held in Caversham

Just 10

Video presentation by Canon J John for discussion

10 Monday mornings (omitting bank holidays), starting March 6th
Time: 10 to 12noon

Venue: CTM Parish Room (near the entrance to Caversham Court Garden)

Led by: Revd David Vail and Revd John Dudley

Contact: 0118-954-6664 or johnd@ctmparish.org.uk

Receiving Christ - in five different ways

The 2017 York Lent Course: a CD presentation and discussion hosted by St. John's Mothers' Union

5 Tuesday afternoons, starting March 7th
Time: 2.30 - 3.30 pm followed by tea

Venue: Caversham Hall, in St. John's Road, Caversham

Led by: Revd John Dudley

Contact: 0118-954-6664 or johnd@ctmparish.org.uk

Returning Home:

Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths

The 2017 Lent course from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

5 Tuesday evenings, starting March 7th
Time: 8pm

Venue: Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Led by: Revd Jenny Dowding

Contact: 0118-947-2223 or jennydowding@waitrose.com



Inspired: Sharing the Bible Together

A Mother's Union Bible Study series

5 Wednesday mornings, starting March 8th

Time: 10-11.30am

Venue: St Andrew's Church, Harrogate Road, RG4 7PL

Led by: Members of St Andrew's Mothers' Union

Contact: 0118-954-3515

The Happiness Course

Everyone wants to be happy- yet what exactly is happiness? What affects our wellbeing? Can we bring any change at all?

4 Wednesday evenings, starting March 22nd

Time: 7.30-9pm

Venue: St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, RG4 7AW

Led by: Revd Nigel Jones

Contact: 0118-947-2788 or

vicar@standrewscaversham.org



On Easter Saturday, April 15th at 6.30pm, Caversham Heights Methodist Church will be hosting a performance of Crosslight, Riding Lights Theatre Company's Passion Play for Lent 2017.

Full details will follow in the April edition of Caversham Bridge but if you would like to learn more about Crosslight please go to: www.ridinglights.org/crosslightZ

Contemplating Lent

An hour of gentle reflection using music, silence and prayer.

4 Wednesday evenings, starting March 15th

Time: 7.30-8.30pm

Venue: Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road

Led by: Revd Marion Pyke

Contact: 0118-947-5834 or

marionpyke@holycow.freereserve.co.uk

The Lent Film Club

Contemporary Film followed by discussion.

From *Whistle Down the Wind* to *Star Trek!*

6 Thursday evenings, starting March 2nd

Time: 7pm-10pm

Venue: St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green

Led by: Revd Derek Chandler and Revd Judith Ryder

Contact: 0118-947-8239 or

judith@ctmparish.org.uk

At the Cross

6 Monday evenings, starting March 6th

Time: 7.30pm-9pm

Venue: 120 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park RG4 6QJ

Contact 0118-947-4585

6 Tuesday mornings, starting March 7th

Time: 10.45am-11.45am

Venue: Caversham Park Church Office,

Upper Building Milestone Centre,

Milestone Way, Off Northbrook Road, Caversham Park.

Contact: 0118-947-5152

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

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

St Andrews

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

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Revd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road,
Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Revd Marion Pyke

Tel: 947 5834

Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810

Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

Riverside Church (Reading)

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston

Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.

Tel: 947 2223

Revd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards

Church office tel 954 5353

Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptist

church.org.uk

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Crispin Fairbairn Tel 9474529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,

2 South View Avenue.

Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon: Hugh Anscombe

Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Revd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

TALKING POINT

by Jonathan Edwards

THE SEARCH FOR REAL SECURITY

What will the Church of the future look like?

These are extraordinary times. If, one year ago, I had predicted that Donald Trump would become President of the United States of America and that the UK would be leaving the European Union, most people would have thought that I had either taken leave of my senses or had absolutely no understanding of politics. But both have happened. We live in times when it is impossible to predict what will happen next and that is both exciting and deeply challenging.

At a personal level, we are all aware of how quickly life can change. The loss of a loved one; the onset of disease; the news of an accusation; the shock of a car accident; the agony of a business failure – all these, and a thousand others, can redefine our lives in an instant. Our churches are amazing communities within which we can support and care for one another amidst the inevitable ups and downs of life. But the one thing that our churches cannot do is to prevent our lives being shaken. Uncertainty is woven into the fabric of our lives.

Wherever we look we are reminded that human life is characterized by change. Sometimes the change is slow and sometimes fast, but change is inevitable and we should neither be surprised by it nor seek to protect ourselves from it. The Bible does not present us with a God who protects us from change but rather one who offers to walk with us through the challenges of life. In Isaiah chapter 43 we don't read that God offers to help us to avoid walking through the waters of fire, but he is the one who promises that he will be with us as we pass through them.

In times of profound change I suggest that everyone needs to ask the question – where is my security? Our health, our money, our jobs and our status are clearly all very transient. They offer us only very temporary security. But God offers us something different. He offers us a kingdom which is not of this world and which is utterly secure. In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer tells his readers that we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews chapter 12 verse 28). Surely it is this kind of security that we all want. A security which lasts for time and for eternity.

Our society tends to shy away from talking about death and what lies beyond this life. The New Testament is the opposite! In fact St Paul goes so far as to say that anyone whose hope is restricted to this life, is most to be pitied (1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 19). During these weeks of Lent it is good that we should deliberately focus on our long term future because that is where our real security lies. The truth is that it is only when we have grasped our eternal security that we will have the peace and strength to live this life to the full.

I have no doubt that there will be many more events that will shake us, at home and abroad, in the course of this year. That's life! So let us make sure that our eyes are fixed on the Kingdom that cannot be shaken. That's our real security.

Revd Jonathan Edwards is the Transitional Minister for the Caversham Baptist Church

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st and 3rd Sundays
Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays
Service of the Word other Sundays
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

9.30am Holy Communion 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays
9.30am All Age Worship 2nd Sunday
Fifth Sunday Services as advertised

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.15am Morning Worship 1st Sunday
Holy Communion 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist first and third Sundays
only, first Sunday BCP
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

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
8.00pm 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
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

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

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue

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

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Church Street, Reading

10.30am
(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the April 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 6th March**. The date for the May 2017 issue is **Monday 3rd April**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the April 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 3rd March**. The date for the May 2017 issue is **Friday 31st March**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
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Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

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NHS Surgeries

Balmore Park

The Balmore Park's Patient Participation Group are hosting an event to assist with end of life planning. The aim is to explore how timely planning can help both the person involved and their family and friends

This event is free, open to all and takes place on Wednesday 22nd March from 10.00am to 12.30pm in Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. There will be breaks for tea and coffee.

To guide us, there will be several speakers including a Solicitor, a GP, a Funeral Director, a representative from the Duchess of Kent House and one from Age UK. There will be a short film telling the story of 'Molly's End of Life Plan'. There will be time for questions between each item and we will finish with a general discussion with our panel of speakers

For more information or to register please email: balmoreppg@yahoo.com

Priory Avenue

Readers will be aware of the difficulties that the surgery at Priory Avenue is facing, partly due to the great difficulty of employing new doctors. Plans are being considered for a walk-in surgery which might enable a swifter service for some but it will not address the main funding issues which are due to the available money and staffing. The surgery is working as efficiently as it can in the circumstances and the Patient Participation Group is fully involved in trying to keep the quality of service at a level that meets the needs of those who require medical help. New registrations are currently postponed and it is understood that Balmore Park are not accepting transfers from Priory. Clearly the situation is not as either patients or staff would like but work to improve it is in progress.

Bible Friends

Jesus in the desert

Jesus went to a desert.

He wanted to be alone.

Alone, so that he could think about the work God wanted him to do.

It seemed as though a voice was telling him, "God has given you power. Turn the stones into bread so you won't be hungry."

Jesus said, "No. I will do things God's way. That is more important than having food."

The voice said, "Jump off a high tower. God's angels will save you. Everyone will listen to you then!"

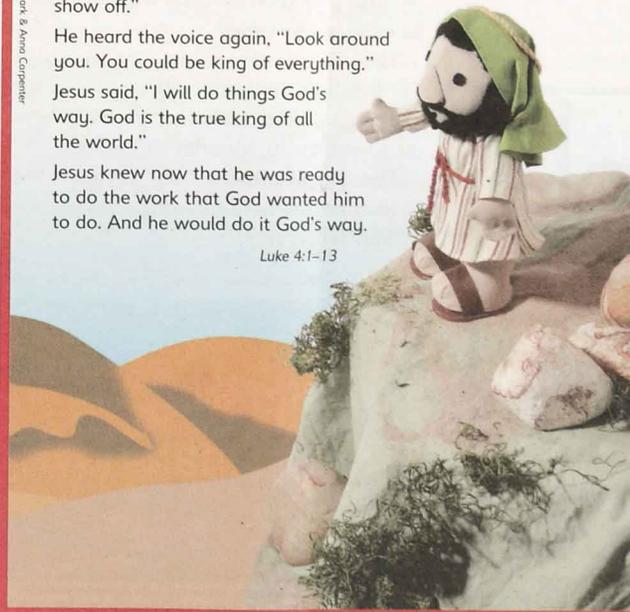
Jesus said, "I will do things God's way. God does not want me to show off."

He heard the voice again, "Look around you. You could be king of everything."

Jesus said, "I will do things God's way. God is the true king of all the world."

Jesus knew now that he was ready to do the work that God wanted him to do. And he would do it God's way.

Luke 4:1-13



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Changes to Concessionary Bus Pass Use from April 2017

PENSIONERS are being reminded that they will no longer be able to use their concessionary bus passes before 9.30am on weekdays from April 1st.

Unlike many other local authority areas, Reading borough council still offers its residents a concessionary bus pass scheme over and above the national scheme. That will come to an end from April 1st, after the council last year announced it was having to remove its subsidy as a result of budget pressures and increased demands on services.

The change means pensioners who are used to using their concessionary bus pass from 9am, will from April 1st need to wait until 9.30am to make their journeys. Revised hours of use in Reading will be 9.30am to 11pm, Monday to Friday, which are the hours permitted by the national concessionary fares scheme.

Weekend and Bank Holiday use of the concessionary bus pass remains unchanged, meaning pensioners can still use them at any time. Concessionary bus passes will however no longer be accepted for use on football or rugby buses operated by Reading Buses or Stagecoach.

A public information campaign began in January to ensure people are aware of the changes well in advance of their introduction in April. Reading Buses have begun putting messages on bus screens and notices on the buses to explain the changes.

Tony Page, Reading borough council's lead member for strategic environment, planning and transport, said:



"For many years this Council has offered Reading residents a bus concessionary scheme over and above the national scheme, meaning pensioners could take advantage by boarding buses from 9am, instead of 9.30am. The removal of the Council subsidy, reluctantly announced last year, means the Reading scheme will soon replicate those offered in other local authority areas where no council subsidy was provided.

"I would stress that there are no proposed changes in Reading to the issue and acceptance of Access Passes for disabled persons' bus travel, which will continue to be valid at any time."

The changes also mean that from April 1st Reading borough will stop accepting Wokingham concessionary passes between 09.00 and 09.30, Monday to Friday.

The arrangement to accept West Berkshire pass holders from 9.00am ended in May last year.

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Thursday* is Fisherman day!

*every Thursday 2pm - 6pm

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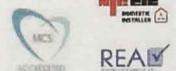
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Chiltern Choral Society Spring Concert

Professional soloists and orchestra performing Mozart Requiem and Schubert Mass No 3 in B Flat Saturday 8th April at 7.00pm.

The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ

Tickets £12 (under 21s £6) via the choir's website www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk or the box office on 07500 032840

nearer the concert date.

Free university car park – disabled parking can be reserved if advance notice given and wheelchair access is available.

For more information email publicity@southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk or see our web site www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

Spring is in the air and so are the voices of the 100-plus singers of the South Chiltern Choral Society, performing Mozart's iconic Requiem on Saturday 8th April. Together with professional soloists and orchestra, and conducted by Paul Burke, the choir will also spring into Schubert's more exuberant Mass No 3 in B Flat.

Paul Burke explains that "Franz Schubert's *Mass in Bb*, written when the composer was just eighteen, was premiered in Vienna in 1815 and sets the Latin text of the Catholic Mass for choir, four soloists, and orchestra. Full of exuberance, the piece energetically encompasses a wide range of musical moods during its thirty-minute span. Of particular note are the Credo, which quotes that text's traditional plainsong melody above a scurrying orchestral accompaniment, and the Agnus Dei which provides a lilting, dance-like conclusion and inevitably provokes comparisons with the famous Viennese waltzes of the later nineteenth century."

Paul points out that "a piece as iconic as Mozart's *Requiem* needs little introduction; its sublime music and its association with the composer's death have ensured it a special place in history. Setting the Latin text of the Catholic Mass of the Dead for choir, soloists, and orchestra, the Requiem was left unfinished at Mozart's death and was completed by one of his pupils. It is in this version that the piece is most often performed today, and despite its dual authorship the music speaks clearly and powerfully. Especially impressive are the solemn *Kyrie* fugue and the *Lacrimosa* which magically combines fear and consolation in equal measure. It is no wonder then that speculation continues about Mozart's state of mind when writing his *Requiem* and about the circumstances of his death, the most recent example being the very successful play and film *Amadeus*."

Reading Youth Orchestra Spring Concert

Saturday 18th March at 7pm in the University of Reading's Great Hall, London Road RG1 5AQ, raising money for the League of Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The orchestra have invited back alumnus Edward Reeve to play Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, and *Finlandia* by Sibelius. We are also privileged to give the first performance of a new symphony by Alex Illingworth who was a previous Reading Youth Orchestra member. The symphony is in the style of Beethoven and has left orchestra members humming its catchy melodies as they prepare for this concert!

RYO will donate a proportion of the concert revenue to the League of Friends. This local charity aims to improve the care and comfort of patients, visitors and staff, above and beyond what is funded and provided by the NHS.

Tickets are available by calling 07827 289768. £12 adult, £8 concession, £5 child and £25 family ticket.

The orchestra meets on Friday evenings 7.30 to 9.30pm at the university London Road campus. It works closely with the Henley Youth Chamber Orchestra who are joining RYO for this concert, and who meet on Saturday mornings in Henley-on-Thames. Musicians from the age of 12 upwards are welcome to both. If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please visit www.readingyouthorchestra.co.uk

Concerts in Caversham**'The Virtuoso Violin'**

11th March 2017 - 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church Albert Road

Caversham RG4 7PL

Tamas Andras – violin (co-leader Royal

Philharmonic orchestra)

Adrienne Black - piano

Tamas continues our series highlighting each member of the string-instrument family. Many will remember his wonderfully rich tone, truly expressive, spirited playing and flawless technique. The programme will include works by Bach, Elgar, Schubert, Kreisler and Bartok. Come and enjoy what promises to be a truly inspirational evening, with our musicians introducing the programme in the warm acoustic and relaxed atmosphere of St Andrew's Church. Afterwards, you will be treated to a finger food feast, and have a chance to chat to the musicians. Under 16s are free, other prices £15-£19 which includes refreshments after the concert. Tickets from Waltons the Jewellers in Caversham (cash only and closed Mondays). www.concertsincaversham.co.uk for more information, info@concertsincaversham.co.uk or 0118 948 4112

Tapestry Choir

Sunday 19th March 4pm at the Blue Coat School, Sonning, RG4 6SU

The Tapestry Choir will present Pergolesi's masterpiece *Stabat Mater*, featuring the London-based Baroque string ensemble *Istante*. A specially devised performance, reworking the famous soprano and mezzo duet as an ensemble piece for 20 voices, in the stunning setting of Blue Coat School. The programme will also feature pieces by the Benedictine nun Magarita Cozzolani, and the Neapolitan composer Nicola Porpora. Concert 4-6pm, tickets £12. Call 0118 947 9997 to reserve.

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Christ's Work...

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in the New Creation



When?
 2.30—6.30 Saturday 18 March, 2017

Where?
 St. Stephen's Church Centre,
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Speakers?
 W M Henry, Andrew Marple,
 Sylvia and Michael Penny

There is no charge for this study afternoon but there will be an opportunity to make a donation, and refreshments will be served between the sessions.

Relevant books and booklets, CDs and DVDs will also be available.

For further information or directions please
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The Tuesday Coffee Morning



Caversham Park Church host a coffee morning for the village and surrounding area, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 10am to 12noon. Located at the Milestone Centre, Milestone Way, off Northbrook Road, Caversham Park. If you have an hour or two to spare please come along and meet us, we hope to see you there for a chat and catch up with friends and make new ones. Contact: 0118 947 5152

Mothering Sunday, Refreshment or Laetare Sunday, and Rose Sunday

What ever you like to call the 4th Sunday of Lent why not enjoy a traditional Simnal Cake on 26th March. For example recipe see http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/mary_berrys_simnel_cake_49483



Keith's (one of the editors) Simnel Cake.

Reading's Beekeeping Day

On Saturday 11th March at Caversham Heights Methodist Church 74 Highmoor Rd.Caversham RG4 7BG at 10-30am to 4-30 pm Reading & District Beekeepers are inviting all interested people to their annual BEEKEEPING DAY. Displays & demonstrations by prominent beekeepers, meet the beekeepers, honey to taste, items of children's interest. Families welcome. Find out about becoming a beekeeper to protect & house the essential honey bee for our environment and have pure delicious honey for your family.

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LOOKING AHEAD

March 26th Mothering Sunday and British Summertime begins.

July 31st to August 4th CTC's annual Children's Holiday Club at Thameside School

This year the format will be similar to last year and again the 'Guardians of Ancora' will be busy. The theme is 'Treasure Seekers' and based on the life of Jesus. Please can we have volunteers to help with the children, the craft work, refreshments and first aid. Please speak to Barbara Macrae on 947 0040

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Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish

Ash Wednesday 1st March
10am at St Johns

We begin the penitential season of Lent.
7.30pm at St Peter's

Our choir mark the beginning of Lent.

Parish Spring Social

Saturday 18th March at 2.30pm at St John's

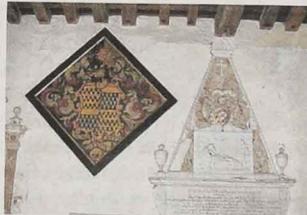
A great opportunity to meet and have some fun with a beetle drive, quiz and raffle.

Afternoon tea and cake will be served. Tickets (in advance only, numbers are limited) cost £5 adults, £3 children, £12 for a family (2+2) and are on sale in each church.

The Blounts of Mapledurham

A new book about Mapledurham called "THE BLOUNTS OF MAPLEDURHAM" written by Richard Williams will be published shortly.

It will only be a limited edition and if anyone is interested in further details, please contact Lola Andrews at Mapledurham House on 0118 9723350 or enquiries@mapledurham.co.uk



Hatchment and Monument in the Chantry Chapel at St Margaret's Church Mapledurham



Mapledurham House



Mapledurham Church

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH Gosbrook Road QUIZ NIGHT



GET YOUR THINKING CAPS ON and come along on Saturday 11th March at 7 p.m. for a fun evening. Tickets cost £5 and include a finger buffet. All proceeds to Thames Valley Air Ambulance

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH Highmoor Road

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 3rd March 7.30 at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

We are hosting this service which has been written by the women of the Philippines on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' It is a gentle reflective service using artwork produced by the women. There is no sermon. Refreshments will be available at the end of the service so that people can relax and mix together.

Reading Male Voice Choir and Taplow Boys Choir Concert on Saturday 18th March 7.00pm in Caversham Heights Church.

Several members of our congregation are taking part in this concert which is raising funds for the Racecourse Community school in Zambia.

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ENVIRONMENT

The Pagoda, Caversham Bridge

Recently, I've been going through a collection of over 1000 postcards and photographs of the Reading area which belonged to a keen local historian. I knew him slightly, and was sorry to hear that he had passed away. Nevertheless I was pleased and honoured to be asked by his executors to find a good home for the pictures.

This postcard caught my eye because I knew of no pagoda near Caversham Bridge, and the building in the photograph looks nothing like a pagoda. Where could it have been?

I've had some idea of what a pagoda looked like since the age of four. About 1950 it was a family Sunday custom to visit my grandmother, who had been widowed in the First World War. In the front room of her small house was a very large oak sideboard, and along the back of it was a groove, to take plates. Lodged in the groove, and resting against the wall behind, was a set of blue-and-white willow pattern plates, with the bridge, the trees with catkins, and a pagoda. Soon after I started school in 1951, I can remember trying to draw a pagoda. My teacher asked me if I knew what a pagoda was for, and told me that in China, it was a kind of temple.

So quite why you would call what is obviously an English tea-room a pagoda, if the building looked nothing like a pagoda, I can't guess.

A search through the old street directories in the Central Library soon revealed that the Pagoda refreshment rooms were at No. 227 Caversham Road, by 1909.

In those days, Richfield Avenue did not exist, and there was a path between the Pagoda and the Caversham Bridge hotel,



leading to the recently-constructed Thames side promenade. Perhaps I should explain that the present-day Crowne Plaza hotel was built on the site of the Caversham Bridge hotel and its gardens.

The tea-room was called the Pagoda until the time the 1966 directory was compiled, but in the 1967 edition, the name has changed to the Viking café. 1967 is also the directory in which Richfield Avenue appears for the first time.

The new name was probably meant to conjure up images of the Vikings coming up the Thames in their long-boats, to be met by King Alfred and his army in the year 871. The name was changed again to the Gorge in 1989. Since the River Thames isn't exactly in a gorge when it reaches Caversham Bridge, perhaps the new name was supposed to make you think you were being swallowed up into something warm and comforting as you went in. Maybe it's just the redness of the interior décor which makes me think that. Of course, the idea could just be that this was somewhere where you could gorge yourself – and you still can!

The intrusion of Richfield Avenue and the petrol station means that there is no longer a garden with rose-hung pergolas and tables and chairs behind the café. But at least it should be easier to get by car from Caversham to West Reading and Tilehurst – and maybe it will be, once the notorious narrow railway arch is removed!

Happy Wanderer

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CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NETWORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME – SPRING 2017

5th January to 13th April 2017 (inclusive)

2.30 in the church hall unless otherwise stated

2nd March

Speaker: Valerie Keating

Subject: Network Fellowship Olympics

16th March

Speaker: Graham Horn

Subject: The Isle of Wight

30th March

Speaker: June Hardcastle

Subject: Scenes from Village Life

13th April

Speaker: Rev'd Jenny Dowding

Subject: Maundy Thursday Communion – led by Jenny

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The Caversham Heights Society

Society members listened to two diverse, but enthralling, talks in January.

On 4th John Mullaney, who for many years was the proud owner with his wife, Lindsay, of Caversham Bookshop in Prospect Street, was due to talk about the significance of King Henry 1st [1100-1135] to Reading but in the end it was Lindsay who gave the talk. John will speak at the end of the season on the importance of Reading Abbey.

Lindsay went into considerable detail about the Normans and the family feuds of William the Conqueror's [1027-87] family and where Henry fitted in. Henry was the youngest, and only English born, son of William 1st and was involved in various family feuds and intrigues that Lindsay revealed in great detail, interspersed with wry and humorous comments. She pointed out that redheads and beards were frowned upon by the church at the time because long hair was seen as synonymous with either homosexuality or criminality but because the Normans were descended from the hairy Norsemen of Scandinavia and because William 1st Rufus [1056-1100] was bisexual the church proved powerless to exert their views. These attitudes also meant that it was very hard to identify what Henry might have looked like from the various 'portraits' of him. It is only recently that some degree of clarity has begun to be revealed. But why Reading? Apparently it was of strategic importance to the Normans situated as it is on the Kennet and near the Thames and not too far from the New Forest. Henry was familiar with the place because he stayed in Sonning on numerous occasions and Reading Abbey, with its associations with Cluny, the then largest abbey in Europe, was planned by Henry to become the burial site for future kings and from what is known now it was the largest abbey in England. Henry was, by every account, a great king. He ended private wars between barons by imposing draconian taxes and punishments; he introduced travelling law courts; he developed an efficient bureaucracy, including an exchequer that was the forerunner of today's Treasury; he reformed the coinage; he clarified the roles that belonged to the state and those that belonged to the church. Above all the economy thrived because his reign coincided with 30 years of peace. Henry's remains were brought from Normandy back to Reading for burial in the abbey following his untimely death from eating an excess of lampreys. Yet few visitors to Reading would be aware of the existence of Reading Abbey let alone Henry's importance. With the current exploration of the abbey ruins, using the latest laser technology, who knows what the situation might become in a few years' time?

Hugh Granger's talk on the 18th on the life of Sir Barnes Wallis [1887-1979] was even more detailed and enthralling. He explored Wallis's humble origins, his scholarship to Christ's Hospital, his mathematical tripos at Cambridge and his subsequent career with Vickers Ltd where he designed the R100 airship which made its maiden flight in 1929 and subsequently successfully crossed the Atlantic. He came up with different practical solutions to aeronautical problems, which were always successful but were often rejected because he did not fit into the 'right' mould. He is best known for his design of the Wellington bomber, the bombs that destroyed the German battleship Tirpitz, and the 'bouncing bombs' that were used to destroy the Mohne and Eder dams in the Ruhr in 1943. Even after World War 2 he continued to use his genius for design by developing the first swing wing aircraft used in the Tornado fighter and by developing plans for supersonic aircraft. Given Wallis's contribution to winning World War 2 and his patenting of over 140 designs the scandal is how little recognition was given to him by the

political establishment for all his efforts. For example Churchill never mentioned him in his History of the Second World War, perhaps because of his own conscience about the role of Bomber Command.

The Society meets on alternate Wednesday evenings in Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall at 8pm, beginning with coffee at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome. Further details can be found on the website www.cavershamheights.org.uk or from Carol Cozens 0118 946 1509 or Jill Hodges 0118 959 5307



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CLUBS

Probus

The speaker at the January meeting of the Reading and District Probus club was Tony King whose subject was *The Old Bath Road*. The talk was both informative and fascinating with some interesting anecdotes that were given throughout the talk. The speaker admitted to becoming interested in the topic after reading *And So to Bath* by a Cecil Roberts who was born in 1892, and later lived at Pilgrim Cottage near the Golden Ball off the Henley to Wallingford road. The Golden Ball was used as a coaching inn, and serviced stage coaches to Birmingham, Oxford and Reading, which had diverted from the London to Bath road (now the A4).

The 18th and early 19th centuries were the golden era for the stage coach, which became the wonder of the Georgian age as people wanted to travel faster and faster. Before this the only way for ordinary people to travel was on horse, but the rich had their own private coaches. Stage coaches also carried the Royal Mail, which was expected to be delivered to all corners of the realm. The first postal service used in this way began on 16 September 1784. By 1785, 11 routes had been established. At first it took three days to travel from London to Bath, at a cost of 25 shillings. Eventually the Royal Mail managed Bristol to London in 16 hours.

There were tolls levied at certain points on the route. There was frequently congestion at Hyde Park Corner. Starting at The Swan with Two Necks in Cheapside, the route ran through Piccadilly, past Green Park and Hyde Park Corner and Knightsbridge, to the major stop at Hounslow, the first stop for changing horses, and which at its heyday coped with 3000 horses a day. Then on to Isleworth, from where there were two routes west.

The fastest coach carried passengers from London to Bath in three days 'if God permits'. This was a big 'if' because of the terrible roads, often horrendous weather conditions and the dangers of highwaymen. Indeed, in 1812, all the passengers and coachmen froze to death in, and on, one coach. Even now there are still famous public houses along the Old Bath Road, as well in other parts of the country, that used to stable thousands of horses and provide hospitality to the travellers.

The most famous highwayman was Dick Turpin (1715-1739), whose real name was John Palmer, and who was executed at Tyburn. (There were 13 gibbets between Hounslow and Heston.) The highwaymen would learn which coaches would stop at certain hostleries and what wealth was being conveyed so that they could plan their ambushes. From 1763 the Bow Street Runners patrolled Hounslow Heath. Many of the highwaymen acquired considerable wealth but their days were numbered, as were those of the stage coaches, with the arrival of the first steam coach in 1829, which could travel from London to Bath at a speed of 15mph, followed by the railways in the 1830s.

This was a fascinating talk on an interesting stage in the development of transport in this country.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men. Lunch is followed by a talk on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath Golf Club. For further information visit the club's website www.probusclub-reading.org.uk If you are interested in joining, please contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 947 0709.

Chazey WI

Our December meeting got off to a 'fishy start' with an entertaining talk from Kevin Little, the fishmonger from Smelly Alley! All the members found places to sit at the decorated tables, crackers and gifts for all! After the talk tea was taken and food consumed. The winner of the Christmas Decoration was Margaret Keen, there were two raffle prizes and they were won by Daphne Cooper and Pamela Moye. A good time was had by all!

The New Year meeting was well attended considering the outside temperature!

Dr. Barbara Hatley was our speaker and she gave a very interesting talk about the Red Cross Quilts made during the Second World War. A fascinating true story of quilt making undertaken by the women who were imprisoned at Changi Jail on Singapore Island. Our president thanked Dr Hatley. Tea and coffee were served before the business of the evening. Dates for the diary were coffee morning at Mapledurham Golf Club on 10th January and lunch at the Horse and Groom, on the A4 on 25th January.

The competition of an example of quilting was won by Pat Skidmore and the raffle by Judy Lavel.

If you would like to see what the WI is all about come and join us at our monthly meeting, always on the first Tuesday of the month at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on the corner of Highmoor and Woodcote Roads at 7.30/7.45pm.

Reading's Beekeeping Day 2017

Saturday 11th March at Caversham Heights
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Caversham Bowling Club supports Berkshire Vision

Every year the members of Caversham Bowling Club select a charity, and throughout the summer bowling season they raise money for the charity by organising and running bowling competitions and other events. The charity selected for the 2016 season was Berkshire Vision, an organisation which supports people throughout Berkshire who are visually impaired.

The sum raised during the season was £620, and a cheque for this amount was presented to the CEO of Berkshire Vision, Tom Comlin, by Pat Fowkes, the 2016 President of Caversham Bowling Club, at the club's AGM in January. Tom Comlin thanked the club for the generous donation.

He also expressed his gratitude to the club for the support they have given for many years to a group of partially sighted men and women who play bowls at Caversham Bowling Club on Tuesday mornings throughout the outdoor bowling season, April to September. They also play matches against other partially sighted groups.

For information on the work of Berkshire Vision visit the website www.berkshirevision.org.uk. Information about Caversham Bowls Club can be found at www.cavershambowlsclub.org.uk



Rosehill

At our January 2017 meeting, we were welcomed by President Margaret Pyle who wished everyone present a Happy New Year. She went on to say that the record of the November and December meetings were available for all to see. She also reminded us that our subscription for 2017 is now due. Unfortunately she had some sad news in that one of our members, Betty Rodier passed away just after Christmas.

Margaret thanked June Fisher for the table flowers, which would be included in the raffle and Margaret Seal gave out the birthday buttonholes (including one for our President). Walking will depend on the weather and as those wishing to take part at present there is not a suitable film being shown for the Cinema Club to attend. Barbara Wood will investigate future programmes. Margaret said that the Programme Planning Committee will be meeting soon to arrange speakers for the 2017/2018 season, and asked that any members present who would like a presentation on a particular subject, or to hear a particular speaker let Pat Denney know.

Margaret then drew our attention to the January edition of Berkshire WI News, and the various talks, outings and workshops that are available to members. Firstly she mentioned the Annual Spring Council Meeting which is to take place on Monday, 3rd April and will be held at the Palmer Building on the Whiteknights campus of the University of Reading, where the speaker will be Lt Col Lucy Giles who is the first ever female Commander of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, when she will be talking about her first year in the post. Also included in the WI News are: the WI 2017 Fair on Saturday 1st April to be held at Alexandra Palace and will include workshops, demonstrations and seminars: two Workshops - one for Fabric Covered Boxes on 21st April and another for Willow (making a basket and a sunflower). All other information can be found in the Berkshire WI News.

We were then introduced to our speaker for the afternoon, Tony Keep, who gave a very interesting talk (with slides) about the History of Policing. Tony retired from TVP in 1995 and is involved with the Police Museum at Sulhamstead. He explained how modern communication had altered over the years from teleprinters and telex to mobile telephones, so that every officer now had their own means of communication and not having to find a police box and then cycle miles to the incident! After Tony we had a short talk from Jason Lee who is a Supervisor of Caversham Community Police Support Officers.

We then had a cup of tea and biscuit before the raffle was drawn and Margaret closed the meeting.

Going back to December for a moment, we did have an informal meeting with Yvonne Wright (one of our committee members) giving an excellent demonstration of cake icing, showing us how different flowers can be made. She decorated a Christmas cake which was kindly donated to the raffle. The meeting continued with a cup of tea, mince pies, shortbread and fancy cakes etc that had been made by our members. Thank you to all who provided the lovely grub!!

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green at 2.00 pm, and all visitors are welcome.

Caversham WI

In December, Caversham W.I. celebrated both its 55th birthday and a fresh beginning with a new committee, with songs and popular carols followed by a festive buffet.

At the first meeting of the New Year, the resolutions for national and local campaigning were opened for discussion and a vote. The final National W.I. campaign for 2017 will be decided later in the year. Next month, we look forward to welcoming a speaker, telling us of life and times in London.

New members are very welcome to join our friendly group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 in the evenings, which avoids child-care issues. There is easy parking and a lift at Church House, Prospect Street.

For further details please contact our Secretary, Romayne Flight on 9475176

Reading Gardeners

On March 8th we have a special evening. Entry is by ticket, £5 for members and £7 pounds for a non-member, obtainable from Gill Betts, 38, Priest Hill, Caversham, RG4 7RY, email gillmbetts@yahoo.co.uk.

The evening begins with a free drink and canapes at 7.15pm on presentation of a ticket. This is followed at 7.45pm by a talk from Tom Hart Dyke entitled *From Captivity to a Castle*.

When Tom was kidnapped in the Colombian jungle during a plant collecting expedition he did not know whether he would live or die. He spent his time in captivity planning his dream garden. Since his release Tom has been busy at Lullingstone Castle building that garden.

On March 22nd Kim Hurst from The Cottage Herbery in Herefordshire will give a talk called *Aromatica*.

For more details see our website readinggardenersclub.org.uk
Meetings are held in the Caversham Primary School hall.

Caversham Horticultural Society

By the time you read this the trading shed in Oakley Road will be in full swing selling seed potatoes, composts and other gardening sundries for members. The shed is open on Saturdays between 10-11.30am and is situated in the Oakley Road allotments.

The first public talk of 2017 will be held on Wednesday 15th March when Barry Norman chairman of the National Vegetable Society will give a talk 'Vegetable Growing: techniques, ideas and advice'. This is not only to inspire gardeners to start growing vegetables but also will provide useful exhibiting tips for local gardeners who wish to exhibit at the Society's Autumn Show in September.

This talk starts at 7.45pm and is held at Caversham Primary School in Hemdean Road. Admission charge of £3 for non-members. Refreshments served.

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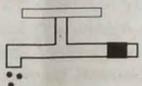
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