



EASTER SERVICES

St. Barnabas, Emmer Green

Sunday 9 April	9.30am	Procession with Passion Reading
Thursday 13 April	8.00am	Said Communion
Thursday 13 April	7.00pm	Fellowship meal with Agape in St Barnabas Parish Centre. Please contact the vicar in relation to the meal.
Friday 14 April	2.00pm	Reflections around the Cross
Sunday 16 April	5.30am	Easter Dawn Communion followed by light breakfast
Sunday 16 April	8.00am	Said Communion
Sunday 16 April	9.30am	Family Communion

St John the Baptist Caversham

Palm Sunday 9 April	9.30am	All Age Worship including procession with donkeys
Palm Sunday 9 April	4.00pm	Prayer Journey (using labyrinth)
Tuesday 11 April	2.30pm	Mothers Union Communion Service (all welcome)
Tuesday 11 April	7.30pm	Prayer Journey (using labyrinth)
Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Agapé Meal with Holy Communion and vigil
Good Friday 14 April	10am-noon	Easter Fun and Children's activities
Saturday 15 April	2pm	Prayer Journey (using labyrinth)
Sunday 16 April	9.30am	All Age Easter Celebration with Communion

St Peter Caversham

Palm Sunday 9 April	8.00am	Matins (BCP)
Palm Sunday 9 April	9.30am	Holy Communion with blessing of palms & procession from Caversham Court
Palm Sunday 9 April	6.30pm	Entry into Holy Week
Monday 10 April	7.30pm	Compline
Tuesday 11 April	7.30pm	Compline
Wednesday 12 April	9.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Compline
Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Holy Communion with foot washing, stripping of altar and vigil
Good Friday 14 April	12 noon	Three hour devotional service
Sunday 16 April	6am	Sunrise service (starting in Caversham Court)
Sunday 16 April	9.30am	Festival Communion

St Margaret Mapledurham

Palm Sunday 9 April	11.15am	Communion
Good Friday 14 April	10.30am	Good Friday service
Sunday 16 April	11.15am	Festival Communion

St Andrew's Caversham

Sunday 9 April	9.30am	Procession with donkey departs Kelvedon Way
Sunday 9 April	10.00am	Parish Eucharist

Sunday 9 April	4.30pm	'Carol Service' - a new venture!
Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Last Supper meal (need to book) and Eucharist
Friday 14 April	2.00pm	Liturgy of the Cross
Saturday 15 April	8.30pm	The Fire, the Vigil and the First Eucharist of Easter
Sunday 16 April	8.00am	Easter Service
Sunday 16 April	10.00am	Easter Service



Our Lady & St Anne's

Sunday 9 April	5.30pm	Vigil Mass with blessing and distribution of palms
Sunday 9 April	10.00am	Mass with blessing and distribution of palms
Sunday 9 April	3.00pm	Service of Reconciliation
Sunday 9 April	6.30pm	Mass with blessing and distribution of palms
Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Thursday 13 April	11.45pm	Night Prayer
Friday 14 April	12noon	Stations of the Cross
Friday 14 April	3.00pm	Liturgy of the Passion
Saturday 15 April	9.00am	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
Saturday 15 April	8.00pm	Solemn Easter Vigil
Sunday 16 April	10.00am	Mass of the Resurrection
Sunday 16 April	6.30pm	Mass of the Resurrection

New Testament Church of God

Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Lord's Supper & washing of the Saints' Feet
Friday 14 April	11.00am	Good Friday Service
Sunday 16 April	11.00am	Easter Sunday Morning Service

Caversham Park LEP

Sunday 16 April	11.00am	Easter Day Service
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Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Thursday 13 April	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Friday 14 April	10.30am	United service at Caversham Baptist Church, followed by Walk of Witness see www.cavhmc.org.uk
Sunday 16 April	6.00am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast (see notice alongside)
Sunday 16 April	10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Caversham Baptist Church

Friday 14 April	10.30am	Good Friday Service
Friday 14 April	11.15am	Good Friday Walk of Witness to Caversham Court
Sunday 16 April	10.30am	Easter Sunday Family worship

Grace Church

Friday 14 April	10.30am	Good Friday Communion Service
Sunday 16 April	10.30am	Easter Sunday Celebration

St Michael's, Sonning Common

Saturday 8 April	5.30pm	Blessing of Palms at Mass
Sunday 9 April	9.00am	Blessing of Palms at Mass
Sunday 9 April	10.30am	Blessing of Palms at Mass
Monday 10 April	7.30pm	Service of Reconciliation
Thursday 13 April	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 14 April	10.00am	Walk of Witness (through Sonning Common, gather at Christ the King Sedgewell Road)
Friday 14 April	12.00noon	Stations of the Cross for children
Friday 14 April	3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Friday 14 April	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 15 April	8.00pm	Solemn Easter Vigil
Sunday 16 April	9.00am	Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday 16 April	10.30am	Easter Sunday Mass
Saturday 29 April	10.30am	If you have been away from Church for a while or new to the area call into St Michael's for a look round and informal chat

Churches Together in Caversham Walk of Witness

This will begin with a service at Caversham Baptist Church on Good Friday at 10.30am. The Walk of Witness will depart at 11.15 and will end with an act of worship in Caversham Court which will conclude by noon.

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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 Andrews

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

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

Rev'd Marion Pyke
Tel: 947 5834

Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810

Rev'd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL
PARTNERSHIP
Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY
Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223

Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Transitional Minister Rev'd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)
www.riversidechurchreading.co.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
Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

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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TALKING POINT

by Judith Ryder

Lent or Given?

I'm writing this right at the beginning of Lent. You will be reading it much closer to Easter, but I want to think a bit about the two stories many churches start Lent with.

On the first Sunday of Lent, many churches listen to the story of the Garden of Eden, and the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

In the first story, God puts Adam and Eve into the beautiful garden he has created. He tells them they can enjoy the fruit of all the trees there – except for one tree. Of course, tempted by the serpent – the devil – they then do exactly what they were warned not to do.

In the second story, Jesus, about to start his ministry, goes into the desert, where he fasts for forty days. The devil then approaches him, and tempts him. Jesus resists, and sticks with what God wants.

Christians have long seen these stories as belonging together – the same story, but with different outcomes. Adam and Eve sin, they give in to temptation. Jesus, who has come from God to reconcile God and humanity and set us free from our sin, does not.

In Lent, we try to follow in Jesus' footsteps, and one way we do this is by copying a bit what he did in the desert: by giving something up, resisting the temptation to eat that chocolate, or drink that glass of wine, or whatever it is.

But I want to go back to the first story, the story of Adam and Eve, because there's a side to it I think is often missed.

What is the first thing God tells Adam and Eve?

'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden'.

We tend to think about what Adam and Eve did wrong. But the story starts with God giving them permission to enjoy everything else.

There's a Jewish saying that when we die God will hold us to account for every moment of legitimate pleasure we could have enjoyed, but didn't.

God doesn't want us to go without – he is generous, he gives us the whole of the world to enjoy, he wants us to grow and flourish here. Any rules are also a gift, there to help us to grow and flourish.

That's true about Lent too. Lent is a time given to us, to help us learn how to grow and flourish, to live as God wants us to.

So as we go through Lent, if we give things up, let's make sure it's so we can concentrate on the important things, learn to see God's world through new eyes – God's eyes.

And let's take things up too: being kinder, better people; getting to know God better; giving more and thinking about other people more.

Let Lent be a time to learn to flourish as God wants us to, and let us take that with us beyond Lent into the rest of our lives.

God is generous, he gives us this time. Let's use it.

Rev'd Judith Ryder is curate in training at Caversham, Thameside and Mapledurham



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SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Matins 1st
Holy Communion 2nd 3rd 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 May 2017 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 3rd April**. The date for the June 2017 issue is **Monday 2nd May**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the May 2017 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 7th April**. The date for the June 2017 issue is **Friday 28th April**.

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 HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NETWORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2017

27th April to 20th July 2017 (inclusive)



Meetings are held on alternate Thursdays
(Except August) at 2.30 p.m.
in the church hall.

27th April

Speaker: Nicholas Brazil

Subject: 'The Land that God made in Anger'
(Namibia)

11th May

Speaker: Mike Cooper

Subject: 'Early Closing Day'

25th May

Speaker: Gay Rees and friends

Subject: 'Serenade' a musical afternoon

8th June

Speaker: Colin Fergusson

Subject: 'Islands of Antiquity'

22nd June

Speaker: John and Barbara Frogget

Subject: 'Canal Ministries'

6th July

Speaker: Peter and Lesley Boardley

Subject: 'Guatemala'

20th July

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Women's World Day of Prayer service

This year the service, prepared by the women of the Philippines, was held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Peter Bernard was the organist, accompanied by Linda Blackburn on the guitar.

The theme was 'Am I Being Unfair to You' with the focus on the art work produced by 'Apol' a 32-year-old self-taught Philippine artist (shown right) together with the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard from Matthew 20:1-16

The picture reflects fairness, balance and justice with two contrasting sides. The right is bright and colourful while the left is dark and dull to show the imbalance of life. Lush vegetation contrasts with the changing face of industry. Three women hold up a banana leaf with good food on the right and on the left only fish bones. The woman in the centre, with her right eye covered so she cannot see the destruction and poverty beside her, holds a pair of scales weighted towards the plentiful harvest. We reflect on both sides of the picture whilst holding to the truth that God is a fair and just God.

Throughout the service a verse was sung inviting people to join hands to form circles to share God's word together. Half the circle was built up on the platform, firstly by four women telling of the struggles they had endured to provide for their families. Then three women confessing their shortcomings and receiving assurance of pardon. The parable was read and then the Leader with two women who joined the circle led a silent reflection on the theme question linking the parable to the Philippine lifestyle. After this people exchanged ideas with their neighbours.

In the Philippines, among the rice farmers, neighbours are called to help with the planting and harvesting. No one is paid, but the harvest is shared among all. This sharing practice is called 'dagyaw'. Small bags of uncooked rice, representing the fruits of the harvest were distributed to everyone - an actualisation of compassion and care for each other

Music was an important part of the service and the songs reflected God's gift of beauty, joy and love in our world - his loving care, the life of Jesus and the Holy spirit at work in our world. We sang 'Let justice roll down like a river' a beautiful song written for the service by the Philipinos to illustrate their feelings and needs.

The service concluded with everyone holding hands to complete the circle with those on the platform and saying the Grace to each other. Altogether a very moving experience.

St Michael's Catholic Church, Peppard Road, Sonning Common

Fr Michael Sharkey, our new parish priest, is settling into life in Sonning Common having spent eighteen years as a parish priest in Lichfield, Staffordshire. In January, we were delighted to host the Christian Unity service and welcome many people from the other churches in the Sonning Common area. The service was developed by the churches in Germany and somewhat unusually involved the building and dismantling of a brick wall.

Our thoughts are now turned to Lent and Easter. As a community, we have decided that during Lent we will once again support ReadFood, Reading's food bank. As we try to make sacrifices during Lent, donations of food and cash will be collected for ReadFood. To help us on our Lenten journey there will be a series of talks on the lives of five saints (Wednesdays 7.45pm) and Stations of the Cross (Fridays 7.00pm).

Check the parish website www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk to access our weekly newsletter for up-to-date information.

We are conscious that there are people who have been away from the Church for some time or are new to the area and are either hesitant or uncertain of how to get involved again. If you are in this situation please visit St Michael's at 10.30am, Saturday 29th April for a look round and an informal chat or give us ring or email at any time.

Contact details: phone 0118 9723418, email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk, website www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk



Bible Friends

Jesus washes feet

Jesus was having a special meal with his friends.

He knew it would be their last meal together.

Jesus wrapped a towel around himself and poured water into a bowl. His friends did not know what he was going to do.

Jesus did something very special. He went to each of his friends and washed their feet. Then he carefully dried them with the towel.

Jesus said to his friends, "Remember that I love you very much. I want you to love each other, just like I love you. Then people will know you are my friends."

Jesus' friends knew they must follow what Jesus did and love other people.

John 13:1-9,34-35



Get your garden ready for Summer

Come and visit Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday April 22nd from 10am to 3pm for ECONET's annual Beanpole Day. We have beanpoles, pea sticks and plant supports for sale, promoting the use of materials from locally managed coppiced woodland and willow beds and generating some money for the volunteer groups that do all the conservation work.

Other voluntary groups are selling a wide range of plants for vegetable plots and borders; reconditioned second-hand tools; bird boxes, bird tables and seed boxes made from waste wood; walking sticks from local wood; local honey and wax candles; fair trade goods, and goods supporting the work of the Wildlife Trust and RSPB.

Other stalls will provide advice about bee-friendly and wildlife gardening, local environmental issues and show the work of voluntary groups.

There will be a range of activities all day including activities for children with Nature Nurture, demonstrations of products using this source of traditionally managed timber, guided walks and the garden kiosk open for light refreshments.

Please come and join us.

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Reading Canoe Club, The Warren, Caversham, RG4 7TH
7 pm for 7.30pm

Briefest possible AGM to be followed by an illustrated talk, "A Walk in the Park, the life and times of a people's institution" by author and broadcaster Travis Elborough. All welcome. Further details on www.fccg.org.uk or email friends@fccg.org.uk

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Easter Egg Trail

Celebrate Easter with us at Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 15th April from 2pm-4pm when we offer a nature-themed trail around the gardens. It is designed mainly for younger children, but all entrants will receive a chocolate egg or non-dairy treat at the end, so older siblings will want to join in!

All children should be accompanied by an adult. It is a free event, but donations are welcomed.

Caversham Baptist Church Open Day

Following last years' popular event Caversham Baptist Church will once again be throwing open its doors on Bank Holiday Monday, 1st May, for a family fun day from noon until 4pm. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, games, and activities for all the family as well as hot dogs, burgers, cakes and other refreshments. All are welcome to join the fun.

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ENVIRONMENT

Fritillaries

In this part of the country, they were known as frits, wild tulips, snakes' heads, turkeys' eggs, and bloody warriors. Frits and wild tulips are self explanatory – although tulip flowers usually point upwards, and those of fritillaries hang down. Snakes' heads and turkeys' eggs stem from the chequered or mottled appearance of the flowers when looked at closely, and bloody warriors from the fact that the flowers en masse amongst the grass have been thought to look like blood shed on a battlefield. The name fritillary comes from the Latin name for the box in which you kept dice, which was traditionally decorated with a chequered pattern. The same name is given to kinds of butterfly with chequered wings.

You can still find fritillary fields round here, like the one in the photograph, at Stanford End. Many



years ago, I bought a second-hand copy of the book, *The Flora of Berkshire*, by George Claridge Druce. He mentions many parts of the county where wild fritillaries could be found – in 1897. It's a plant that can be found in parts of the Midlands and East Anglia, but is particularly at home in the valleys of the Thames and its tributaries. By the time Michael Crawley published his account of the Berkshire flora in 2005, it was found in many fewer localities. The damp meadows in which it grew had been drained, ploughed and re-seeded. However, it can still be found in large numbers in particular meadows, flowering usually in April.

Mr Druce did not mention the meadows where I took my picture in April last year, probably because it's right on the Berkshire-Hampshire border, and the changing meandering course of the River Loddon might have altered the boundary. However, in my copy of his book, someone has pencilled in that the plant was now very scarce at Burghfield Bridge, but at Stanford Bridge Meadows, near Stratfield Saye, it was very abundant. It still is.

I know that fritillary bulbs are fairly inexpensive to buy, and in my garden, which is not particularly damp, the plants flower reliably, year after year, but

there's nothing like seeing them in the wild, in their thousands. Last year, I was very happy to be at Stanford End at flowering time. But you can also go to Magdalen Meadows at Oxford to see them, and to Ifley Meadows, just downstream of Oxford.

The fritillary fields at Stanford End have been known for many years. Before the Second World War, a lady stood at the gate collecting the pennies, in exchange for which you could pick a bunch of flowers. Today, there's no picking. There's no right of way to the meadows, but the gate is left open at flowering time, and there are thousands upon thousands of flowers.

Whether fritillaries are actually native is a matter of debate. They enter the written record in the sixteenth century as garden flowers, but outside gardens, it's 1736. Had they been here from the end of the last Ice Age, you would expect them to have been mentioned before.

Whether native or not, it was a great pleasure for me to see and photograph them, a profusion of dusky purplish-pink blooms with the odd white one among them. Almost heaven on earth, in fact!

Happy Wanderer

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Reducing loneliness in our community

You may have seen news reports recently highlighting concerns surrounding loneliness and isolation. Recent national and international research demonstrates that they carry an equivalent risk to health as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. They have a destructive impact on quality of life and whilst loneliness can be felt by people of any age, it can often affect older people as risk factors can be more common. These include poor health, loss of mobility and bereavement. In addition, many families are now geographically distant from one another and social networks change more frequently.

At Engage Befriending we connect isolated, older people with their local community through visits from a volunteer befriender. We are passionate about combatting loneliness. Last year over 130 people used our service and 68 older people were regularly visited across Reading. We work with health and social care professionals, voluntary organisations and community groups to identify people who might benefit from a regular visitor. We can also help individuals who refer themselves. We only work in the Reading Borough and we use our local knowledge, partner with others and signpost to organisations, activities and services. We currently have over 60 volunteers who meet with others within their local community for a coffee and a chat once a week or fortnight. We might also take people out to a garden centre or the local shops. One lady said "I always get excited when my befriender arrives as it means I'm going to go somewhere nice".

"It lifts my whole day and carries on into the week"

The visits make a big difference to people like Mary, a retired nurse

who likes to reminisce. She is house bound and commented that "It's no life being stuck in this chair day after day". She said of the visits, "It lifts my whole day and carries on into the week".

Getting involved

Feeling lonely?

There are lots of clubs and activities, but we understand that it can feel difficult going along for the first time. We can help introduce you to take the uncertainty out of the process. We can also provide information on getting there.

Or maybe you can't get out and about so easily. If you would like a visitor then we would love to hear from you.

Want to help?

Have a think about your neighbours, is there someone who might appreciate you calling in for a chat or helping with some shopping? Or if you have a spare hour once a week or fortnight, then maybe you could visit someone who otherwise would be lonely?

If you would like more information or to find out about how you could get involved then please get in touch.

Katherine Shepherd, Engage Befriending Manager

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SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING FOR THAMES VALLEY AIR AMBULANCE

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church held a very successful Quiz in March.

An enjoyable evening was had with over 60 people taking part.

Refreshments were served in the interval and there was a raffle with some excellent prizes.

The winners of the quiz were the extended Alderman family which was very appropriate as the quiz was first organised some years ago by the late Gerry Alderman.

£358 was raised for Thames Valley Air Ambulance, – which is the church's chosen charity for 2016/17.

Many thanks to question master Viv Emerson and to Les Cooper for setting the questions.

Also thanks to all who came and who helped make the evening such a success.

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Two well-loved landmarks in Caversham are undergoing considerable change.

The Arthur Clark day centre in Albert Road is being demolished to allow the proposed redevelopment into a block of apartments for elderly residents to proceed. The picture shows the demolition part way through the demolition process.

Several large horse chestnut trees in St Martin's precinct in the centre of Caversham are being felled, to be replaced by tulip trees, which should be smaller than the existing trees and easier to manage in the longer term. The picture shows the precinct with the trees partly felled.

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TREE PLANTING/NEW SEATING AT EMMER GREEN RECREATION GROUND



• Annette Fairweather presenting plaque to Margaret Ormonde

• A member of Reading Borough Council's Tree Gang carving one of the new seats



• EGRA Committee Members (from left) Liz Lyke, Annette Fairweather, Bill Harper, Margaret Ormonde, Michael Denoon-Slater, Dave Kenny (Reading Tree Warden)

Members of Emmer Green Residents' Association and the Reading Tree Warden Network were joined by local residents to plant trees at Emmer Green recreation ground in February. Despite the snowy weather, the event was well supported and EGRA provided hot drinks and snacks. The trees, which were funded by Trees for Cities, are an American Sycamore (*Platanus Occidentalis*), an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) and two Silver Maple (*Acer Saccharinum*).

David Elliott, chief executive of Trees for Cities, said, "We are delighted to be working with the Reading tree wardens to increase tree canopy in Reading. The four standard trees we are planting at Emmer Green will increase local biodiversity and provide an opportunity for residents to leave a legacy for future generations".

Reading Borough Council's tree gang were also present carving new seating for the park from locally felled tree trunks. Annette Fairweather, current EGRA chairman, presented a small plaque to Margaret Ormonde, former chairman, in recognition of her contribution to the local community. This will eventually be mounted on the new seating.

Emmer Green recreation ground is well used by all generations of the local community so the new trees and seating will be greatly appreciated.



• Councilor Clare Grashoff and Reading Tree Warden, Dave Kenny with help from a very young Emmer Green resident, planting one of the new trees

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30th March

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Subject: Scenes from Village Life

13th April

Speaker: Rev'd Jenny Dowling

Subject: Maundy Thursday Communion – led by Jenny

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The Island Bohemian Bowls Club open days are on Sunday 7th May from 11am to 3.30pm and Monday 8th May from 5pm to 8pm. We do hope you can come along, whether you are an existing or new bowler or you are just interested in trying the game of bowls for the first time. If you cannot make the above dates, we do free coaching on Monday evenings from May onwards.

Bowling is for all ages and can be family fun, a social activity or a competitive sport; it's what you make it. We have members of all playing ability (beginners to county) and we are very proud to have two girls who play for the junior national team.

The game of bowls is an excellent way of keeping active, a low impact outdoor sport, with time to socialise and make new friends.



The club has a licensed bar and organises social events throughout the year.

The Island Bohemian club is uniquely situated on an island in the Thames providing a tranquil retreat, just minutes from the bustle of Reading town centre.

To arrive at the club you need to take a short ferry crossing.

The ferry points are from either river bank, at the end of Brigham Rd, RG1 8DP and the end of Wolsey Rd, RG4 8BY

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For more information ring Ann 9415270 or Len 262881 or visit the website: islandbohemian.co.uk

Handel's Oratorio Concert

Reading Festival Chorus will perform Handel's oratorio 'Judas Maccabaeus' at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8th April at St. Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LH. The choir will be accompanied by the Mavron Quartet, with Simon Dinsdale on the organ and Sam Baxter on the oboe, under the direction of Edward-Rhys Harry. Tickets cost £15 (under-17s free) and are available from 0118 983 4523 or tickets@readingfestivalchorus.org.uk. For further details see www.readingfestivalchorus.org.uk

Residents and volunteers help to create local nature area

A group of residents and volunteers have worked together to create a community nature area in Caversham.

Local resident Nikki Drury approached Reading Borough Council's Neighbourhoods team and asked for the area to be cleared last year and the idea blossomed to put the piece of overgrown land to better use.

Since then the council has worked with residents and The Conservation Volunteers to create a haven for nature and wildlife, known locally as Dingley Dell.

Ms Drury told the council her children often enjoyed playing in a wooded overgrown area behind Peel Close and adjacent to the play area in Caleta Close. They had also spotted a variety of wildlife in the area, including a family of muntjac deer.

Neighbourhood officers thought it would be a great idea if the land could be adapted to create a recognised nature area to encourage more wildlife and to make it more accessible for local families to visit.

The land is owned by the Council's education department but cannot be developed due to the proximity of a brook so permission was given to go ahead with the plans.

The Neighbourhoods team contacted community volunteering charity The Conservation Volunteers and developed a joint project.

The council and a small team of

residents cleared litter from the land last Easter. In January this year, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) worked with the Berkshire Biodiversity Action Team to clear rubbish and then the Reading Green Gym had about 26 people out to help dig, woodchip the path and carry out other improvements.

The Berkshire Biodiversity Action Team has since been back on several occasions to extend a dead hedge – a barrier constructed from foliage, cut branches etc – and finish the path.

The ambition is to install bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog homes and a bug hotel to encourage further wildlife. A fallen tree could be carved to create a seating area for picnics and some wild flowers could be planted.

The Conservation Volunteers are planning for the area to be used for a future Forest School, providing hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment.

Councillor Liz Terry, lead member of Neighbourhoods said: "It is wonderful to see how this project has taken off from a simple suggestion from an interested resident to involving so many people."

"This overgrown piece of land has been transformed thanks to the hard work of local residents and volunteers."

"It is a real haven for wildlife and I hope it will provide many hours of enjoyment and learning opportunities for local families in the future."

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CLUBS

Probus

There was no speaker at the February meeting of the Reading and District Probus club. Instead the meeting was given over to the club's AGM. After reports from the president and the secretary, the treasurer presented the accounts for 2016. The 2017 committee was elected, and Alf Chadwick was installed as president for the year.

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, which may be 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 9470709.

Rosehill WI

President Margaret Pyle welcomed members and guests to our February meeting. She went on to say that the record of the January meeting was available for anyone who wished to read it. Next, she thanked Pat Butler for the table flowers, and said that these would then be included in the raffle. Secretary Mary Robinson reminded us of the Spring Council meeting which is to be held on 3rd April at the new venue the Palmer Building on the Whiteknights campus. Apologies were received from Treasurer Judith Sharp however we were reminded that subscriptions were due for the year.

Scrabble club took place twice in February and book club also met. Cinema club saw two films *Collateral Beauty* and *La La Land*.

There is to be a Berkshire weekend visit to Denman college, on Friday 28th July to Sunday 30th July, and the courses arranged are, World Street Food with Peter Lien, singing Folk Songs with Kate Eckersley: and *Blenheim and the Churchills* with John Vigar.

Arlene Riley has kindly agreed to arrange a visit to Sonning Mill Theatre on 22nd June to see *'Don't Dress For Dinner'* a comedy by Marc Camerlotti which has all the marks of a classic French farce: marital infidelity, misunderstandings and mistaken identities among the upper class.

Our speaker, Linsey Evans, gave a very detailed talk about *Planting for Year Round Colour*. Linsey is a garden designer and showed us three gardens in the Thames Valley area she had planned with 'before and after' pictures. She told us how important it was to plan everything to the last detail and then went through the different types of plants from herbaceous to grasses and bulbs with others in between, showing slides of each one and also the best planting position. Finally came tea and biscuits followed by the raffle.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green, at 2.00 pm.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The International Women's Day Luncheon organised by the Townswomen's Guilds takes place this year in York. Caversham Heights Guild thought this was a long way to go for a lunch, so opted instead for the Forbury Restaurant in Reading, and considered women's issues and our distant fellow members while tucking in.

Our annual visit to the Mill at Sonning was to see *Dead Simple*, which had us on the edge of our seats

Cheese and non-alcoholic wine with a *bring and buy* and general socialising livened up our Annual General Meeting in March.

The social studies group were entertained by Mr Tony Weston, who told us about Brownsea Island-a wonderful wildlife sanctuary in the middle of Poole Harbour.

The cinema group went to see the much vaunted *La La Land* to see what the fuss was about (much and nothing spring to mind).

Scrabble, ambling and luncheon clubs continue to be enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20th April at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham. Any Ladies wishing to visit us will be very welcome. Our speaker will be Margaret Edwards who will share her gardening secrets with us.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

Stephanie Cornell with *'Sources of Inspiration'* will be our demonstrator on Wednesday April 12th at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist church, Highmoor Road.

For the rest of the year we have a varied programme with some new and exciting demonstrators, practical sessions, competitions, workshops and an outing to Wisley in August.

New members/guests are always welcome. Membership is £36 for the year or £6 each evening on the door. This is great value for money to see such talented and inspiring floral designers.

There are raffles where there is a chance to win a spectacular flower arrangement and an interval for refreshments.

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Caversham WI

At Caversham WI's February meeting, we welcomed Alan Copeland who returned to show us 'Eccentric London' part 2. Who knew there is a lighthouse looking down on St Pancras station, or that there is a Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice in Postman's Park, which was opened in 1900?

This enlightening talk was followed by a review of the local and national WI forthcoming events - with many keen to attend the WI Fair on Saturday April 1st. At this event - in Alexandra Palace, London - there will be a huge variety of stalls and workshops, to intrigue and to explore! It is open to the public and a coach is being organised to leave from Caversham. If you would like to join us: do get in touch.

Next month, we look forward to a social evening with games and a quiz. New members are very welcome to join our group. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 pm. There is easy parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Caversham.

For further details please contact our secretary, on 9475176.

The Caversham Heights Society

The Society held two meetings during February. The speaker on February 1st was Carl Feltham, whose subject was *Birds of Berkshire 2*, which concentrated on farmlands and waterways. This was a follow up to a previous talk last season and was given at short notice because the scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Carl is an ardent member of the RSPB and he recommended the RSPB website www.reading-rspb.org.uk for information on the local RSPB group.

There are around 250 breeding bird species which can be seen in the Berkshire area. Farmland is a man-made habitat which is good for insect life, which forms much of the food chain for birds, and farmers want to encourage bird life. Set-aside is good for wild flowers, which in turn encourages insect life.

The bulk of Carl's talk consisted of showing a superb set of photographs of different birds, each photograph being accompanied by a recording of the bird's song. He gave us interesting background information on each one. Many of the birds migrate to and from Berkshire at different times of the year; for example the house martin returns year after year to Africa while the Arctic tern migrates between the Arctic and Antarctic each year and can often be seen in this area.

Many local species, such as the swallow, have experienced drops in numbers over the years, and the house sparrow is now an endangered species because their habitat has been gradually destroyed. Interestingly they never stray more than 250 yards from where they were born. The song thrush is also a "red-listed" bird, but its population is thought to have bottomed out. The crow is a very intelligent bird, able to solve problems and the linnet, a popular cage bird in the Mediterranean area, is also falling in numbers locally.

The real success story is the red kite, which, since its re-introduction some years ago, now has a higher concentration in the Chilterns than anywhere else in the world! Of other birds that Carl mentioned the corn bunting apparently has regional dialects, birds from even neighbouring areas sounding different from one another; the turtle dove is also a critically endangered species while the lapwing population is increasing. The raven, a scavenger, is also regularly seen in Berkshire.

Carl then showed many pictures of birds found near waterways, such as the heron, the kingfisher, which is very common, and many types of duck, swans, geese and others too numerous to mention. He closed his talk by showing a picture of a 'murmuration' of starlings filling the sky with patterns which can quickly change.

This was an absolutely fascinating talk, lavishly illustrated by superb pictures, which was of interest to both seasoned birdwatchers and newcomers to the subject.

On February 15th there was another talk arranged at short notice, this one given by Louise Vincent who told the story of the family firm of Vincents of Reading. Louise is the great granddaughter of William Vincent, the founder of the company. Long term residents of the town may well remember the distinctive Vincent's building opposite Reading station.

Louise's great grandfather, William Vincent, started work in 1866 in a workshop in Arborfield, making wooden horseboxes and coaches. He bought an interest in the company. He made several innovations which he showed at an inventor's exhibition, winning two silver medals from the dairy show.

William, and his son, also William, worked 12 hour days six days a week to build up the business, and by the early 1900s had moved into car manufacture. They built their first motor body at their workshops in Castle Street in Reading. In 1904 the older William took part in the London to Brighton car rally. By this time they were making cars, carriages, taxicabs as well as horseboxes. They supplied coachwork for a Rolls Royce and in 1912 they displayed a motorised horsebox. During World War 1 they were making carriages for the army.

They designed a horsebox suitable for travel in an aeroplane and, as well as making horseboxes they had a thriving business hiring out horseboxes with a driver and groom to take horses to races in the country. The premises in Station Square opened in 1928, selling and maintaining cars as well as providing a 24-hour petrol station.

During World War II they branched out into making parts for Spitfires. In 1946 they built a horsebox for King George VI, made of wood. The firm's engineers extended the wheelbase and fitted it out so that it could be lived in for a short time. They once tested the strength of a horsebox with two elephants. The largest horsebox could carry four horses and carriages, and had sleeping accommodation for the driver. All their horseboxes were constructed of wood and Vincents exhibited at the Motor Show until the 1950s. The company ceased trading in the 1970s after becoming part of a larger grouping and acting as agents for Austin and Rolls Royce, and later BMW.

The talk was well illustrated with pictures of many vehicles which had been made by Vincents throughout the period from the late 1800s to the time the firm closed in the 1970s.

The society meets fortnightly at Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall in Highmoor Road on Wednesday evenings beginning with coffee at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome. Inquiries should be made either through the society's web site, cavershamheights.org or by contacting Carol Cozens on 9461509 or by email rooster10@btinternet.com or Jill Hodges on 9595307 or by email irishjill@hotmail.com

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