

# Lancaster flypast to open Caversham Church Fete

An iconic four-engine Avro Lancaster from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight is due to fly over Caversham Court Gardens at 1.00pm on Saturday, 9 July, for the annual Caversham Church Fete. PA474 is one of only two Lancaster aircraft remaining in airworthy condition out of the 7,377 that were built. PA474 was built in 1945.

The event organised by the Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, is a truly traditional fete, combining entertainment, refreshments, stalls and sideshows. It is sponsored by AB Walker Funeral Directors and Walmsley Estate Agents.

Entertainment includes a selection of music from the young musicians of Berkshire Maestros Arnold Band and the O'Gara School of Irish Dancing/Maguire O'Shea Academy. Younger fete-goers will be engrossed by Fred in the Shed, children's



Avro Lancaster PA474

races and much more.

There are sideshows from the coconut shy, hoopla and hook-a-duck to the bouncy castle. Stalls offer the ever popular tombola and chocolate tombola, cakes, books, plants and bric-a-brac, to jams and preserves. New, this year, is the jewellery stall. The Grand Draw takes a step into the French Alps with the top prize of a week in a holiday chalet. Other top prizes include a splash pool party at Rivermead, tea for two in The House of Lords, theatre dinner for two, a family river trip to Mapledurham House and Mill and a host of other prizes.

Tea and cakes, coffee and ice cream are available all afternoon. There is a Pimms tent near the river and Stevie's Kitchen will be serving hot food for the really hungry.

It all starts at 1.00pm as the ringing of St Peter's bells concludes with the Lancaster flypast.

## Art at Caversham Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

On May 23rd all members of the Art Group brought two of their favourite paintings to be judged in the annual Laurence Simkins Trophy Competition. Each member was able to give points up to 10 for each painting. At the end of the voting after adding up the scores, the following winners were announced and the Revd. David Jenkins did the honours by presenting the prizes.

1st Robert Stoddart with a painting of a section of Duomo Cathedral in Siena

2nd Janet Offord with Nuthatches and a Tree Creeper on a tree trunk

3rd Derek Richings with a Clipper Ship in full sail

4th Tao Barry with a Chinese style Mountain and Lake composition.

The Art Group meets on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm.

For more information please telephone 0118 9478607



1st Prize – Robert Stoddart



2nd Prize – Janet Offord

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## Caversham Clergy

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Tel: 947 5834

Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265  
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### METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

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

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Minister Rev'd Jonathan Edwards  
Church office tel 954 5353  
Email Secretary: [sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk)

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(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)  
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### 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 (contact)

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.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX Tel: 0118 947 1703.

Typeset and layout by RP Character Graphics, 4 Send Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8EH Tel: 07949 980982

Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW.

## TALKING POINT

by Jonathan Edwards

### UNITY AT WORK

There is nothing more unattractive than disunity – and churches have been famous for it for 2,000 years. It is said that there are more than 30,000 Christian denominations these days although I promise you I won't waste my time checking the figure. If it were just 100 it would still be embarrassing because Jesus, of all people, came to bring unity. Unity with Him, unity with his Father in Heaven and unity between all people. That was Jesus' intention. The one thing that churches ought to be famous for is unity.

It gives me great pleasure to work in Caversham because Christian unity is not merely something we pray and talk about – but something we do. There is nothing we can do about history. History has delivered all kinds of disunities to us. However, we can get on with being united now and that is exactly what we are doing. If you popped in to one of our monthly clergy lunches you would probably conclude that we were just a group of very good friends. You would be hard pressed to see the differences between us and all of our conversation is about getting to know one another better and to work more effectively together.

For the past two summers Caversham clergy have gone away together for two days. We have prayed together, eaten and drunk together, discussed together and laughed a great deal. These splendid occasions have been a celebration of unity – not uniformity! We are all very different from one another but as we have spent time together we have found that unity arises from everyone being themselves, and having a willingness to receive from one another.

The spectacular Summer Holiday Club that will be held from 1st to 5th August at Thameside School is a wonderful illustration of unity. This is unity in action – and how! It is led by people from many different churches within Churches Together in Caversham and we are confident that more than 100 children will attend every day. It simply would not be possible for any one church to hold such an amazing event. But together we can!

There are numerous ways in which Caversham churches work together. The *Bridge* itself is a great illustration of this. And the point we need to remember is that unity doesn't just happen. Unity doesn't spring into reality because people hope for it and long for it. Unity happens when people commit themselves to the hard work of making it happen.

Thank God for the unity which we enjoy in Caversham amongst the Christian churches and let's pray and work hard so that we can experience even more unity in the days to come.

*The Rev'd Jonathan Edwards is Prospects Ambassador and Transitional Minister of Caversham Baptist Church*

## 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  
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 August 2016 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 4th July**. The date for the September 2016 issue is **Monday 1st August**. Email address is [secretary@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ctmparish.org.uk)

Advertising copy for the August 2016 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 1st July**. The date for the September 2016 issue is **Friday 29th July**.

## PARISH OFFICES

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## Long term future secured for two Reading GP surgeries

Following public meetings last year and a comprehensive bidding process, North West Reading NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is awarding 10 year contracts to OneMedicalGroup for the provision of GP services at two Reading GP surgeries. The group will operate the Priory Avenue and Circuit Lane surgeries from September this year.

"The new 10 year contracts will deliver stability for both surgeries and improved service provision in line with our local strategy for primary care," said Dr Andy Ciecierski, chairman of North West Reading CCG. "We will be working closely with OneMedicalGroup and the existing provider to ensure a smooth transition for patients."

Established in 2004, OneMedicalGroup delivers primary care and urgent care services across the UK. The group has extensive experience in developing existing practices, and a strong ethos of patient engagement and supporting people to manage their long term conditions.

Chief executive Rachel Beverley-Stevenson commented: "We're delighted to be working with the Clinical

Commissioning Group and playing our part in securing the future of these two GP surgeries. We have a strong track record of delivering services in other parts of the UK through new models of care that provide more holistic support to meet the needs of our patients."

Patients registered at the two practices will have received a letter informing them of the change in provider. The letter advises patients that opening times for the surgeries remain unchanged and staff currently employed will have the right to transfer to the OneMedicalGroup.

The above report is by Steven Buckley Head of Strategic Communications & Engagement, Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit

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### Vicar's wife from Caversham to cycle through Myanmar sporting a Mohican

Bithja Jones, a vicar's wife from Caversham is taking part in a charity bicycle ride in Myanmar to raise funds for a children's home.

Bithja, a 36-year-old artist from Germany moved to the UK in 2007 and has two children, aged 1½ and 4.

She is a very keen cyclist and is often seen cycling across Reading with her son and daughter on her slightly unusual bikes.

The sponsored bike ride will take place in October to raise funds for the charity HopeAsia, which is based in Caversham and supports children in Cambodia, China and Myanmar.

The trip will involve about 20 cyclists riding 360km. In Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, they will visit the benefitting children's home which is currently looking after 40 children.

To reach her goal of raising a minimum of £3000 by mid-July, Bithja will give a fundraising talk on bicycles at St Andrew's church hall on Saturday 16 July at 7.30pm. There will be some unusual bikes to see and try out, and Bithja's bicycle-related art will be on show, with some pieces also for sale. Entry is £5 on the door for adults



(under-16s free) and includes refreshments.

Bithja says: "With the help of supporters from church and generous friends I have already raised around £1000. If I succeed in raising at least £3000 by 16 July, I will get my hair cut on the day and do my bicycle talk wearing a purple Mohican."

You can support this project by making a donation on mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bithjajones. As a thank-you every donor will receive an original lino print made by the cycling artist.

Many thanks to Jolanta Kilroy from JK Juniors in Caversham for providing the haircut and dye, to AWcycles in Caversham for providing cycling kit, to The Fisherman Cafe in Caversham for financial support and many thanks to Ink-Ability in Caversham for their generous support in printing the flyers.



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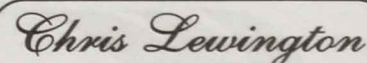
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## Council Submits Plans to Provide 28 Temporary Homes

The proposals are for modular homes on the site of the former mobile home park in Lowfield Road, Caversham.

The scheme is part of Reading Borough Council's Homelessness Strategy 2015 - 2020 which aims to tackle the chronic shortage of temporary housing in the borough and reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless families.

The planning application seeks temporary permission to install 28 self-contained units along with 32 car parking spaces, bicycle sheds, a play area and communal amenity space.

Each unit will be timber clad, have UPVC windows and doors and will contain two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen-diner and a living room.

The height of the buildings, coupled with their natural appearance and complementary landscaping aims to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

Members of the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee agreed the principle of the project at a meeting in November 2015.

Councillor Richard Davies, Reading's Lead Councillor for Housing, said: "House prices in Reading are amongst the highest outside London and demand for affordable housing far outstrips supply. The increase in the number of families requiring

emergency housing has resulted in the council having to use bed and breakfast accommodation which is unsuitable and disruptive for homeless families. The stock of affordable housing has been depleted for a number of reasons, including Right to Buy sales, high land prices and a declining supply of private rented accommodation available at housing benefit levels. The council's ability to build new affordable homes has also been severely hit by recent changes in legislation. The Lowfield Road scheme will provide 28 decent temporary homes for people who are in urgent need of help and is just one of the many innovative ways the council is working hard to tackle the housing crisis in Reading."

Other schemes in Reading's Homelessness Strategy include: the creation of a wholly owned housing company called Homes for Reading which will buy properties and let out a proportion at below-market rents; the construction of at least 40 new council-built homes in Conwy Close in Tilehurst and closer co-operation with private landlords through projects such as the Rent Guarantee Scheme.

The planning application for Lowfield Road is currently out to public consultation and will be considered at a future Planning Applications Committee meeting. The full application can be viewed by visiting: <http://planning.reading.gov.uk> and inserting planning application number 160762 in the search facility.

## Caversham Trents Football Club 2016 Presentation Day

Over 1500 parents friends and players attended the annual event on Sunday 5th June at Mapledurham Playing Fields where the players enjoy a fun football tournament and look forward to the awards ceremonies to find out the winners of various awards, including the Players Player, Managers Player and Most Improved Player of the Year awards for each team. The open fields are used extensively throughout the year for training and matches by the clubs teams which range in age groups from under6 to under21 with a total of 480 players. This was the main fund raising event of the year and over £1000 was raised on the Barbeque and raffle. The money will be going towards pitch improvements and the purchase of new 11-a-side junior goals and 9-a-side goals for Mapledurham. These improvements are

needed as Caversham Trents will have 10 teams based at Mapledurham this coming season, up from 6 in the season just passed, as the club continues to grow year on year.

Saturday afternoon football is also returning to Mapledurham, as White Eagles have requested to base their first team and reserves at Mapledurham.

Daniel Mander, the chairman of the club said "Caversham Trents is a football club that has an ethos that all shall play no matter the ability. As chairman I was very proud and humbled by the enormous contribution that our coaches have made to our club and the amount of time given to teaching our children valuable lessons in teamwork and respect for others as well as football skills. This was truly a fantastic day."



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### Thursday\* is Fisherman day!

\*every Thursday 2pm - 6pm

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# A new Appraisal of St Peter's Conservation Area

There is to be a community led re-appraisal of St Peter's Conservation Area (CA) and you are invited to attend the launch event on 16 July. Once adopted by the Council, the revised appraisal will be an important influence on planning decisions.



Bottom of St Peter's Hill – about 1900

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## Conservation Areas in Reading

Reading has 15 Conservation Areas, including Surley Row and St Peter's, north of the river. They should be appraised every five years to ensure that they reflect the up to date situation and are continuing to do the job they are designed for – to protect areas, 'the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

A new community-led, Reading-wide Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) has been set up to advise the Council when preparing CA Appraisals or policies for the preservation and enhancement of CAs, Heritage Sites or other areas of historical importance. CADRA and Friends of Caversham Court Gardens are both represented on the new CAAC.

Community-led appraisals will involve local people in assessing their CAs. Once a series of stages have been successfully completed the new appraisals will be formally adopted by Reading Borough Council and they will inform local planning decisions. The first Reading CA to begin their community-led appraisal was the Russell Street and Castle Hill CA, a large densely populated CA experiencing many of the problems of multiple occupation and inner city living.

## Advice from Historic England

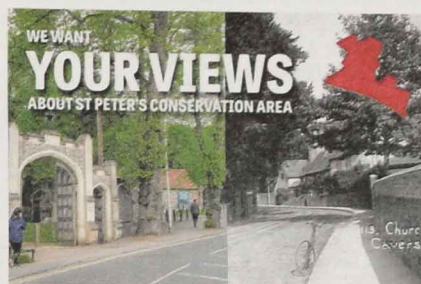
Historic England has a statutory role to give expert, constructive advice to owners, local authorities and the public, and to champion the wider historic environment. (English Heritage – now an independent charity – manages heritage sites and buildings.) Historic England have recently been advising both the Council and community volunteers. They organised training in Reading for local volunteers to teach them how to do appraisals of CAs using a 'toolkit'.

## Launching work on St Peter's CA

Historic England are clear that the appraisal should include local involvement and should capture local views on what makes the area special and distinctive. A launch event is to be held on Saturday 16 July at 4 pm, in St Peter's Church, Caversham, with drinks and cakes.

People who live or have a business nearby, or anyone with an interest in the CA, are invited to come along to learn more and give their views. Those who wish will be able to walk part of the CA using The Oxford Character Assessment Toolkit, which has been designed to help to examine the character of areas, buildings and places to identify and record what makes them distinctive and special. You will find information on the toolkit and all the key documents at [www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php) or [tinyurl.com/hxvh7cf](http://tinyurl.com/hxvh7cf)

As part of the exercise, historical maps, photographs and other information are being gathered. If you can contribute information about individual buildings in or near the CA, that would be very welcome. Please contact: [StPeterCA@cadra.org.uk](mailto:StPeterCA@cadra.org.uk)



### What makes this area special?

Following input from Historic England, a Community led appraisal is to consider issues and problems, boundary extensions, future enhancement and management. This will be formally adopted by Reading Borough Council, subject to agreement.

If you live or have a business nearby or have an interest in preserving and enhancing the Conservation Area, please come along to the

### Launch Event (with cake!)

on **Saturday 16 July at 4pm**

at **St Peter's Church, Caversham**

to learn more and give your views. Those interested are most welcome to join us in walking the area and recording what makes it special.

If you would like to participate but cannot attend on 16 July, please let us know. Contact details and further information at [tinyurl.com/hxvh7cf](http://tinyurl.com/hxvh7cf).

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## CHURCHES

## New minister installed at St John's church

The Revd Penny Cuthbert was licensed as the transition minister for St John's church during a service led by the Bishop of Reading on 6th June.

During the opening hymn, the ministers processed into the church which was full for the service. Penny was presented to the bishop by the Area Dean, and asked if she would commit herself to the ministry of the people to further the kingdom of God. She was welcomed by the ministry team of the parish.

Readings were given by Peter Cuthbert and Georgina Laverick before the bishop gave the sermon.

The choir, led by Mary Westley and specially formed for the service with singers from all three churches in the parish, sang the anthem *O Praise the Lord*.

Penny was then presented with water for baptism, oil of healing, a large bible, a copy of Common Worship, bread and wine, and a map as symbols of her ministry. She then made the declaration of assent, and swore the oath of allegiance and the oath of canonical obedience, before the bishop read the licence and gave it to the new minister, and blessed the minister and the team.

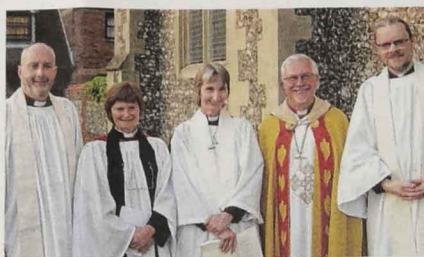
The bishop led the minister to her seat in the church and installed her in it, then presented her to the congregation, after which representatives of the church and community, including the Mayor of Reading, welcomed her, and the congregation greeted her with a round of applause.

A collection was taken for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund, which is dedicated to supporting the mission of the church worldwide, and provides help in areas such as humanitarian need, Christian education, training and mission.

After the service, refreshments were served in the church garden, and a cake with the inscription *Welcome and congratulations Penny* was cut and distributed.

Penny's appointment as transition minister is for a fixed term of four years.

Baptised as a child at St Margaret's, Mapledurham, Penny grew up in



Revd Stephen Pullin (Area Dean), Revd Olivia Graham (Archdeacon of Berkshire), Revd Penny Cuthbert, Rt Revd Andrew Proude (Bishop of Reading) and Revd Mike Smith (Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham)

Caversham. From a vague belief in God in childhood, Penny's faith crystallised at Durham University, spending time with church-going friends and being especially impressed by Jesus' story of the prodigal son. On her return to Reading, Penny attended Greyfriars Church, met and married husband Simon and began to feel a call to priesthood.

Ordained at Christ Church, Oxford in 2012, Penny has spent the last four years as a curate, supporting the vicar of St Agnes with St Paul and St Barnabas in South Reading and living in Whitley. She arrives back in Caversham at a time of change for the Church of St John the Baptist.

Penny will be called the Transition Minister for St John's, and she will be tasked with leading the congregation on a journey of discovery towards a new future, so that it has a greater impact in its local community and the church grows stronger for future generations.

"I am delighted to be coming to St John's as Transition Minister," she said. "I have had a strong sense of call to this post and sense St John's is at an exciting point in its history. I am looking forward

to serving the community in Caversham and eager to discover what God has in store for all of us in the years ahead."

The Revd Mike Smith, Penny's new boss as Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, welcomed her appointment: "Penny comes to Caversham with real enthusiasm for life and for sharing her Christian faith. As St John's church looks to the future, we have realised that we need to widen our appeal in the local community and be more relevant to the needs of those around us. Penny will have a great deal to offer us as she leads the church in this new work."

The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proude, said, "I believe Penny Cuthbert has been an answer to prayer. She is joining a strong ministry team in Caversham and I know she will be welcomed and loved by the local community."

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## CHURCHES

## Corpus Christi at St Anne's

On 27th May, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the children of St Anne's and English Martyrs schools participated in a beautiful Corpus Christi celebration at the church of Our Lady and St Anne. The Abbot of Douai Abbey concelebrated mass with Fr Paul, Parish Priest, and carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession around the church at the end of mass.

The children from both schools presented prayers and readings in a thoughtful and meaningful manner, whilst the Abbot's sermon enlightened all as to the shape of the church ceiling - an upturned boat in which we - as a community - sail as the body of Christ. The children of Year 3 looked stunning and smart (as appropriate) in their First Holy Communion outfits and we would like to congratulate them and express our support for them.

Returning to school, it was lovely to welcome parents and members of the parish for tea and biscuits (replete with chocolate). A glorious afternoon was enjoyed running in the (unexpected) sunshine. The atmosphere was one of great harmony and happiness.

*Sarah Bernto, Deputy head St Anne's School.*

*Photos by Jane Shaw*



Some of the First Communion children from St Anne's school

## St. Barnabas Church

St. Barnabas Church annual garden party will take place on Saturday 16th July at the new time of 1 pm till 4. This is to enable visitors to enjoy a lunchtime barbeque before visiting the many stalls. These will include the ever popular tombola, hoopla, bottle stall, plants, a hamper raffle, cakes, handicrafts, and much more. There will also be a children's cake decorating competition. Round off your afternoon with a strawberry cream tea. It is anticipated that the newly refurbished organ will be in place by then for all to see, hear and play for yourself! For further details please contact Wendy on 946 1365.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Highmoor Road

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Summer programme

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All meetings commence at 2.30 and are held in the church hall unless otherwise advised.

Thursday 7th July

Researching and Writing Historic Novels

Thursday 21st July

A relaxed event with afternoon tea

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## SPRING FAIR - Saturday 14th May 2016

There was much to choose from at the Fair. Tempting cakes and tea or coffee were served in the entrance hall. This is always popular with workers and guests alike.

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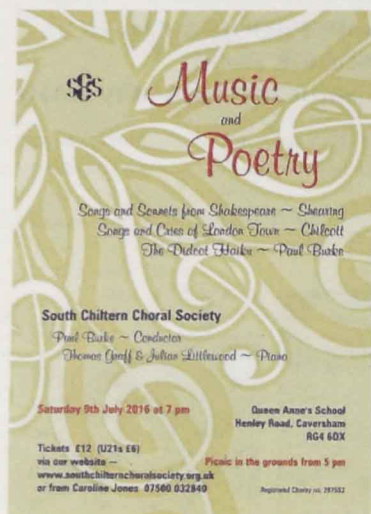
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**Music and Poetry**

*Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare ~ Sherrin  
Songs and Cries of London Town ~ Chilcott  
The Didcot Haiku ~ Paul Burke*

**South Chiltern Choral Society**  
Paul Burke ~ Conductor  
Thomas Graff & Julian Littlewood ~ Piano

Saturday 9th July 2016 at 7 pm  
Queen Anne's School  
Henley Road, Caversham  
RG4 6DX

Tickets £12 (£21a £6)  
via our website ~  
[www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)  
or from Caroline Jones 07500 032840

Picnic in the grounds from 5 pm

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## Reading Festival Chorus Concert

Reading Festival Chorus is proud to announce its concert, Haydn's The Seasons, at the Wesley Methodist Church, Queens Road, Reading on Saturday July 9th at 7.30 pm.

The choir will be conducted by Edward-Rhys Harry and accompanied by organist Edward Kemp-Luck, The Mavron Quartet, and three superb young soloists.

Tickets cost £13 (free for Under 17s) and are available from 0118 983 4523, [tickets@readingfestivalchorus.org.uk](mailto:tickets@readingfestivalchorus.org.uk), or on the door. For further information and other events, please visit [www.readingfestivalchorus.org.uk](http://www.readingfestivalchorus.org.uk).

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## Music and Poetry at Queen Anne's School

The South Chiltern Choral Society's equivalent to Glyndebourne is coming up soon! Their summer concert is to be held at Queen Anne's School, Henley Road, Caversham on 9th July and is combined with a picnic in the grounds of the school. The audience may picnic from 5pm (or inside if the weather is inclement), and the concert will start at 7pm. The theme of the summer concert is Music and Poetry, featuring 'Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare' by the jazz pianist George Shearing and Bob Chilcott's Songs and Cries of London Town. The choir will also perform The Didcot Haiku composed by their musical director and conductor Paul Burke, premiered in 2015 and based on short poems by James Potter about his commute through Didcot Parkway station. The smaller choral pieces in the programme are madrigals while some of the piano solos performed by Thomas Graff and Julian Littlewood also relate to London.

With over 100 members, many of whom have been singing with the choir for over 30 years, and with a varied repertoire of music, featuring guest professional musicians, the choir's performances are always well received. Tickets for adults are £12 (£6 U21) and are available via the choir's website [www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk) or the box office on 07500 032840

## Bible Friends

### The lost sheep

A shepherd had lots of sheep. He always counted them as they went into the sheepfold. But one night, a sheep was missing. The shepherd counted again. "98... 99..." Oh dear! The shepherd knew he should have one hundred sheep. What was he going to do?

The shepherd made sure the other sheep were safe. Then he went to search for the lost one. He looked behind walls, he looked near the stream, but he could not find the sheep.

He searched in bushes and he scrambled over rocks, but he still could not find it.

The shepherd climbed higher up the hillside. He walked along stony paths until he heard a quiet, "Baaa!" sound. The shepherd was so happy. At last, he had found his lost sheep. He lifted it onto his shoulders and carried it safely home.

The shepherd thought all his sheep were special.

God thinks we are all special too.

Luke 15:1-7



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## ENVIRONMENT

# THE MYSTERY OF THE MANSE

Following the publication of my article about Ebenezer West in the April issue, I have been asked about the house he gave to the Free Baptist Church for the use of the minister.

At the time, I didn't know where it was. After a bit of research, I found it was the building that is now No. 1 Prospect Street, the building to the right in the accompanying photograph.

There is in existence a booklet called *The Early History of Caversham Free Church*. No author is given, and no date of publication, but from the list of ministers printed inside, it must have been at some time in the 1930s. There I read: "On October 22nd, 1891, Mr West presented the manse as a free gift. He set down all the particulars and conditions under which the gift was made, which successive generations have kept up. It was really a house for the minister's residence."

Readers of the booklet in the 1930s would have known where the building was, but what are we to make of that last sentence, "It was really a house for the minister's residence"? This suggests that at the time, it wasn't being used as a house for the minister's residence.

Having got thus far, I thought I'd make a list of the ministers, and then see if I could find where they lived from the old street directories.

In 1882, the Revd T. C. Page was living at Burford House in Derby Road. The *Biographical Dictionary of Architects at Reading*, by Sidney Gold, says that this house was designed for Mr Page by the Reading architects, Cooper, Son and Millar, in 1879. It rather looks as though Mr Page had it built for himself at his own expense, because the next minister, the Revd Peter Morrison, lived at Ivy Cottages on Gosbrook Road. After him came the Revd Sydney Case, who was at No 1 The Woodlands, on Priest Hill in 1889, but after that, between 1893 and 1903, was at the minister's house at No 1 Prospect Street. The Revd A. C. Morgan Fletcher was there 1904-6, the Revd George Sneesby in 1908, and the Revd Joseph Nash, 1911-15. After that the house seems to have been let to someone named F. E. Timewell, but another minister returns there between 1924-26, the Revd Gurnos King. After him, No 1 Prospect Street is let to various people and businesses, and the ministers move around to Oakley Road, Kidmore Road and Balmore Drive.

The photograph shows the building, attached to the church on the south side, and to the building that is now a Chinese restaurant to the north. I have spent many a happy lunch-time in the Italian restaurant opposite, gazing at the façade, and wondering why it was built like that. The single-storey part to the left has at some time been extended upwards, with the top floor now being offices for Harrison's the solicitors. All of the ground floor is occupied by Farmer and Dyer, estate agents. But the three-storey part to the right doesn't look like a minister's house at all, and that frieze below the gable is most unusual. It's decorated with vine-leaves and bunches of grapes, with a white shield in the middle, bearing a red cross.

The picture comes from a photograph album which once belonged to William Wing. He was an architect, and another notable figure in Caversham's history. Perhaps he designed the building? The album is now in the strongroom at the Central Library, and I'm grateful to them for keeping it safe and allowing me to use the picture.

Happy Wanderer



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## CLUBS

### Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th July at Caversham Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, RG4 7BG. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm. £5 visitors, 50p tea/ coffee and biscuits in the interval.

The demonstrator is Lorraine Saunders. Her designs are entitled *Magic Moments* which you will be able to try and win in the raffle at 50p a ticket.

For more information see [www.bbando.org.uk](http://www.bbando.org.uk) or check out our Facebook page.

### Caversham WI

The May meeting was used to debate the resolutions going forward to the annual meeting of the WI in June. The two subjects, *Care for dementia patients in hospital* and *Food waste in shops* were presented and both voted on in favour.

Mrs Jean Shepherd, the WI advisor, talked to members about the future of Caversham WI and the need for new officers to keep it going.

The evening ended with one of the president's quizzes – this one on flowers. Next month's subject is *Walking across England*.

### Chazey WI

Our President Hilary Morrison welcomed members to the May meeting and introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Paul Sievers, who gave a talk on *The Great Gardens of the South of England* with glorious photographs to illustrate the gardens. Hilary thanked Dr. Sievers after he answered questions from members.

Tea and coffee came next and the business of the evening finished the programme.

The competition for this month was *A Summer Poem* judged by our speaker and the winner was Valerie Wing. The raffle was won by Teresa Manning.

We are hoping that our summer outing to the Isle Of Wight will be well supported by members and friends, more tickets need to be sold to have the required numbers for the coach.

The coffee morning was at the Coppa Club and this month's lunch at the Highwayman, both were very enjoyable.

Chazey WI meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall on the corner of the Woodcote Road and Highmoor Road in Caversham Heights at 7.45pm. New members welcome to come and join in our meetings, coffee mornings and lunches and to meet new friends.

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

In May Caversham Heights celebrated Townswomen's Guild day with an afternoon tea at Riseley, with hand embroidered table cloths, fine bone china and homemade cakes.

A coffee morning was held at the home of Wendy Colton, with a sale of books and Jigsaw puzzles. Over £100 was raised.

'Queen Victoria's colourful cousins' was the subject of a talk by Mr C Parish at our main meeting in May. In June we enjoyed our 55th birthday party.

The Social studies group went to 'The big Picture Show' with Mr Alan Copeland.

A party was held by our Federation to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, which was enjoyed by all the Guilds in our area.

At the end of June a group of us went to Bournemouth for a couple of days for the national AGM of the Townswomen's Guilds. We went to a lovely concert at the Pavilion the night before.

Ambling, scrabble, cinema and luncheon clubs continue to be enjoyed as usual.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st of July at 7.30pm. We meet at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road, Caversham. Our subject will be 'Ambulance-Community First Responders' by Christine Brook.

Any ladies wishing to join or visit us will be very welcome.

Linda Rumble

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## CLUBS

## Probus

The speaker at the May meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Gwen Barton who presented an illustrated talk entitled *From Russia with Love*. At this meeting members were joined by members of the Reading East Probus club, who normally meet at Sonning Golf Club.

The talk was basically a display of photographs taken during trips to Russia. We saw pictures of Red Square and the Kremlin which is huge and beautiful. There were many pictures of churches, including icons and paintings from their interiors. The Moscow underground is particularly memorable, with many wonderful paintings, and also chandeliers.

There were photos of Gorky Park, and of flowers and markets on the outskirts of Moscow, including one of a girl busking on a piano accordion to raise money. We saw pictures of people getting married. A monument to Peter the Great was shown, alongside the Moscow river; there was also a picture of his hunting lodge. There are many beggars in Moscow, but few pictures of them or of the less picturesque parts of the city.

Gwen travelled by train to St Petersburg, where she stayed with a Russian family in a high rise flat. Pictures of St Petersburg included the magnificent Winter Palace, the Peter the Great Palace with 27 fountains, and also the Catherine the Great Palace.

There were many more photographs, too numerous to mention here, which kept the members enthralled.

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](http://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 everyone to Rosehill's 53rd birthday meeting, including our visitors; Marlene Voke, Jean Sheppard and members from Caversham, Chazey and Sonning Glebe WIs. She thanked Barbara Andrew for the roses saying they would be included in the raffle. Margaret also said that an apology had been received from Secretary Mary Robinson as she is on holiday in the Lake District – let's hope she was having good weather, better than we have had in the south.

Margaret told us that the record of the May meeting was available for anyone who wished to see it. She then told us of the forthcoming groups events. The Cinema Group hopes to go to see 'Mother's Day' starring Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston, at a date to be decided later.

We were then transported to an ancient café in steamy down town Marrakesh for a display of belly dancing. This was performed by the Rachel Bennett School of Bellydance and they gave an excellent performance despite the fact that it was blowing a gale and very cold outside. After the performance members were invited to join in and this caused much hilarity. A cup of tea the cakes that had been produced by members and displayed by Yvonne Wright, were followed

by the raffle.

A few Rosehill members went to the Caversham Group Meeting on 25th May at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall. This was a very enjoyable evening with the local Presidents giving their annual reports followed by a talk by Erik Houlihan-Jong entitled 'A Chocolate Experience'. Erik talked about how the cocoa beans were harvested and the different types of chocolate that were available. He also handed round samples which we were able to taste. After his talk there was a short question and answer session followed by a cup of tea or coffee and the cakes that had been made by members.

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

## The Caversham Heights Society

The Caversham Heights Society ended its season with a mini-holiday to Devon. Nearly 40 members travelled to Torquay on 16th May and stayed at the Headland Hotel, once used by the Romanoff family, Russia's last Tsar and Tsarina. The views from the hotel were spectacular and the food and hospitality were excellent.

Several interesting trips had been arranged. The first was by steam train from Paignton to Kingswear and then across to Dartmouth by ferry to the one railway station designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel that was never used as a station because Parliament refused permission to build a bridge across the River Dart at that point. The group returned via the delightful fishing port of Brixham. The following day we went to Morwellham Quay, a restored mid-Victorian village situated at the highest navigable point on the River Tamar. During its heyday this was a bustling port where copper from the nearby mine, still explorable, was shipped to Wales for smelting. Today it boasts a pub, a Victorian school room, a village store, a blacksmith, a costume museum and a small chocolate workshop, the whole being an ideal place for school parties studying Victorian England.

Despite the adverse weather on the Thursday the group were able to explore Exeter, especially the cathedral, in the morning before visiting a fascinating glass blowing and marble factory and museum near Bovey Tracey in the afternoon. Our return journey took us via Cothey Manor and gardens near Wellington. Set in unspoilt rolling Somerset countryside this gem of a late fifteenth century manor house is set amidst lovely gardens reminiscent of Hidcote Manor, a National Trust property near Shipston on Stour in Gloucestershire. The group returned tired but enthusiastic by what they had experienced.

The new season begins on 21st September when John Brierley will talk about the 'Verney Family of Claydon in Buckinghamshire', a story of love, war and madness in the Civil War.

Meetings are held in the church hall next to Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Highmoor Road and begin at 7.30pm. A warm welcome is extended to anybody wishing to join the society. Inquiries should be made to Carol Cozens, the membership secretary, on 0118 946 1509 or at [rooster10@btinternet.com](mailto:rooster10@btinternet.com) or to Jill Hodges, the chairman, on 959 5307.

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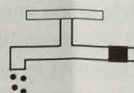


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