

Antiques Roadshow filmed in Caversham



Large crowds gathered at the BBC Caversham Park on June 26th for the filming of the BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow*, in which people are invited to bring their treasures along and have them appraised and valued by experts. Estimates put the number of people attending at over 4000. Long queues built up, and at one time people were queuing for up to three hours to have their exhibits examined.

After an initial examination of their objects, the owners were directed to one of a number of specialists in the relevant area, who were seated at tables spread around the lawn in front of the house. These experts then carried out a more thorough examination, and gave their view on the article's origin, date, authenticity, condition, and particularly its value. Film crews selected items to film which were thought to be interesting to a wider audience. There are always some people who are surprised and delighted to find that something that had been largely overlooked for years is actually quite valuable, while others have the opposite experience.

Among the personalities in evidence were the programme's presenter, Fiona Bruce, and some well-known experts such as Henry Sandon, a specialist in porcelain, who also gave a talk during the day.

Many people took the opportunity simply to see the magnificent grounds, laid out initially by Capability Brown, and the house itself, as the location is not normally open to the public.

It is anticipated that the programme will be screened later this year or early next year.



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ANGLICAN

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St Andrews

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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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 Colin Ferguson

I am writing a week after the result of the vote on Europe at a time of great division and unhappiness in both the country and in parliament. It was a campaign deeply marred by distortion of the truth, manipulation of the statistics and blatant scaremongering. Truth, respect and honesty have been victims of politicians who should know better. How do we move on when our government and the nation is so deeply divided? There are no victors in what has happened and how can we now find peace when so much anger has been stirred up?

Firstly we must recognise that peace is what is needed and it is of little value to spend our energy in blaming each other for what was or was not done. During August our Church lectionary has many stories about Faith, faith that takes us on new journeys, faces difficult decisions and overcomes the fears and doubts of God's people. Our vision of a new world is changing almost daily, but like the pilgrim we travel on in hope. Our hope now must be in a new relationship with Europe and a more settled political future. Voting out does not separate us from being an integral part of Europe or from responsibility for our national peace and harmony.

The church needs to be at the front of conciliation. The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken out against the way in which the campaign had been pursued and called for greater respect to be shown. I am sure his words reflected the feeling of many. Now we need to restore that respect by what we do. The process is a long one and a delicate one. People who thought that the situation was going to change overnight are going to be frustrated, but it is right that all avenues of reconciliation should be pursued. The vote was for a referendum, seeking of the electorate's opinion. It is not by itself the decision, even though it has been taken as such, for that needs to be taken slowly, carefully and with honesty, truth and respect.

Sadly there are casualties of the vote. David Cameron has had to take so much pressure, including personal abuse from those he once thought were friends that he has stepped down as Prime Minister. Whatever you might think of his politics he has put his heart and soul into the job and he deserved better. Some wounds are very deep. He deserves our prayers in his last few months of office as will his successor. His comment in Parliament that he thought that he was having a bad day is very true for the Labour party as it too begins to implode.

And what of us? What can we do to make the new journey a success? There are those who say that the church should not have anything to do with politics but we do have a task in making sure we know what is true and in making sure that we treat each other with respect and expect the same from our elected representatives. We should not sit back and complain, but where we can we should be involved. We have a voice for peace, for tolerance, for welcome and hope.

We voted in large numbers. Now it is our responsibility to make sure that what happens has our support where it mends and our challenge where it still tries to divide. Sadly even today there are stories of racist abuse and threatening behaviour to immigrant families. There are many elements of this these last few weeks of which we should be ashamed.

We need our prayers. Prayers of confession where we have been caught up in the abuse of the campaign, prayers of hope and love for those damaged by what has happened, and prayers of intercession for the future of our country.

Colin Ferguson is a Christian writer and an accredited lay preacher in the United Reformed church.



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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 1st 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)

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11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the September 2016 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 25th July**. The date for the October 2016 issue is **Monday 5th September**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Advertising copy for the September 2016 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 22nd July**. The date for the October 2016 issue is **Friday 2nd September**.

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SOMME 100

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME 1ST JULY-18TH NOVEMBER 1916

The Battle of the Somme started at 7.30am on July 1st 1916. A whistle was blown and the troops went over the top.

Thousands died within minutes of the start of the battle.

By the end of the first day 19,240 British soldiers had lost their lives and 38,230 were injured, the highest numbers of casualties ever suffered by the British army in just one day

By the end of the battles on November 18th 1916 more than one million men from both sides had been injured or killed.

On July 1st 10 Victoria Crosses for gallantry were awarded. By November there were 51.

After 141 days of fighting and the terrible sacrifices made the allies had advanced just 5 miles.

By 7.30am on July 1st 2016 Caversham Royal British Legion had laid a wreath in remembrance on the Caversham war memorial.

At 11am a commemoration took place in the vineyard of Caversham Court Gardens.

The chairman of Friends of Caversham Court, Vickie Abel, welcomed those present, including branch members of Caversham Royal British Legion, pupils from Hemdean House and Thameside primary schools and many others – young and old together to remember.

Vickie, together with Will Paice, head gardener at the gardens and designer, unveiled the beautiful red and white border of flowers spelling out Somme 1916 - 2016!

Ron Jewitt spoke of the great losses in the battle of the Somme and the profound effect the war had on our nation – fathers, husbands, brothers, sons were lost and the cream of the nations talent – scientists, sportsmen, statesmen, poets, artists and others were no more.

The Rev'd Marion Pyke, associate priest at St. Peter's church, said prayers emphasising the futility of war and of the great suffering inflicted by all conflicts – she asked all to pray for peace,

Pauline Palmer, poppy appeal organiser for Caversham, read the very moving poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon

The exhortation was rendered by Ron Jewitt, and wreaths laid. The standard bearer, Sean Brennan, lowered the branch standard, a sword salute was taken by Lieutenant J. McMaster TA, -ret'd, holding the sword taken over the top on 1st July, 1916, by his great uncle who received the MC for military action near Thiepval.

The last post was sounded by 18-Year-old Jarrod Waugh, two minutes silence observed and then Reveille.

(A very special thanks to Jarrod Waugh who stepped in at the last minute)

Vickie Abel and Ron Jewitt thanked all present and invited them to have a look at the poppies, in full bloom and growing in soil brought back from the Somme, near the entrance to the gardens.

'WE WILL (MUST) ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM'



Virtual Dementia Tour

"You can't really understand a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes."

This Cherokee proverb came true for me when I was invited to participate in something called the Virtual Dementia Tour by a local residential care home manager. Designed by P K Beville in 2001 the tour bus is designed to help you experience what it is like to be a sufferer of dementia. It is based upon years of research and the tour literally puts you in their shoes.

More effective than participating in a two hour long lecture, this seven minute virtual reality tour bombards the senses and leaves you with a unique and valuable experience that will make a lasting impression upon you. Your hearing, vision, sense of touch, and even the very soles in your shoes are all impaired. You cannot perform basic tasks. I used to picture dementia as an experience perhaps like being in a fog – I now know it is more like being in a whirlwind for many sufferers. I was moved.

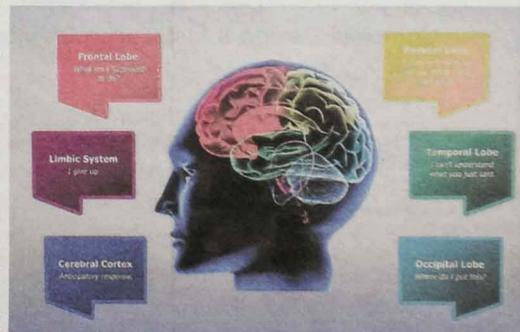
Deliberately given instructions in a terse and impersonal manner by an unnamed 'tour guide' the tour also helps you to understand how sufferers can feel treated and in that sense helps you to empathise with the often frightening situation they are placed in through their condition.

Affecting more than three quarters of a million people in the UK alone and expected to rise to two million by 2050, dementia is the 'D' word that has replaced the formerly unspeakable 'C' word of cancer in many ways in our society. As used to be the case with cancer sufferers, a BBC news programme has reported that over two thirds of dementia sufferers feel as though their life is over when they are diagnosed. Shame, embarrassment, and fear still surround this disease for sufferers and relatives alike. And that stigma will continue wherever there is resistance by the majority in walking in the shoes of the marginalised.

Research continues and there is even a mobile app called 'Sea Hero Quest' to assist in continuing studies in understanding dementia and how to counteract the disease. My own personal recommendation would be that the Virtual Dementia Tour bus not only be made available to residential care workers and others in the caring professions, but also in secondary schools. There is such a stigma about being elderly, let alone being a dementia sufferer, that I think all generations could benefit from walking in the shoes of the afflicted, even if only for seven minutes.

Finally, as a Christian I think I have learned a valuable spiritual insight that applies more generally to every person who may come across my path: If I am not prepared to walk in the shoes of others how can I help them know how to walk with God?

The Rev'd Derek Chandler, Vicar of St Barnabas Church
Emmer Green with Caversham Park LEP



From the Lookout Post

June and July saw all sorts of news in Caversham. By the time you read this column, some issues will have moved on or been overtaken by events.

Transport

At the recent Traffic Management Sub-Committee, the council reviewed a number of crossing points in Caversham. Initial police reports do not suggest that the layout of the road or visibility of the zebra crossing on Prospect Street contributed in any way to the accident that occurred on January 11th 2016 at the crossing. The report indicated a desire to lower the speed limit in the Lower Caversham area to 20mph and, as part of the review of this zebra crossing, the council would be working with CADRA. Arrangements for a joint meeting should be concluded soon.

At the same meeting, a report acknowledged the need to cross Gosbrook Road to reach the new pedestrian and cycle bridge. The committee agreed to develop a detail design, carry out a statutory consultation and advertise the alterations to the parking bays. If there are no objections, then the council will publish a notice for the crossing and make the traffic regulation orders for the changes to the parking arrangements. Any objections at that stage will be reported back to the committee.

The committee received a report on the serious accidents at the Highmoor Road/Albert Road junction, including a recent death, when cars overshot the stop signs. It was agreed to look again at the junction with the help of CADRA and the local action group HARC. Arrangements for a meeting are being confirmed.

Council officers consider that the installation of a zebra crossing in Rotherfield Way/Surley Row will best serve the needs of crossing pedestrians. The zebra crossing should be positioned at a point between the junction with Surley Row and the dropped footway crossing that serves the driveways of 37 Surley Row and 69 Rotherfield Way. The committee authorised officers to prepare a detailed design and, if satisfactory, to install the crossing.

St Peter's Conservation Area

Based on advice from Historic England, the appraisal for St Peter's Conservation Area is being revised by a community group. A launch event was held in St Peter's Church 16 July 2016. Read more at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>

St Martin's Centre

The planning committee has approved a request for the development to proceed on a phased basis. The developers, Hermes, have indicated they are keen to complete the full scheme with some revisions to the area previously envisaged for the Waitrose extension. There is no start date yet but Hermes aim to start with the new five storey building towards the telephone exchange as well as improvements to the existing square including replacement of all the horse chestnut trees. Cut back of the holm oak by Costa will proceed in two stages.

Extra care housing on Albert Road

A2dominion made some minor amendments to their plans which are available at http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb_PL/welcome.asp quoting reference 152277. The application was considered by the Planning Committee on 20 July 2016.

Although the provision is much needed, despite some minor changes there are major concerns over the current plans.

Site for the Heights Primary School

The Education Funding Agency has now made a formal offer to Reading Borough Council, the Trustees of Mapledurham Playing Fields. This was considered by the Council's Heights Free School Sub Committee in July. The report to the committee indicates that the offer includes "a payment of £1.36m, of which the EFA have attributed £30,775 to the value of the part of the Trust Land which they wish to purchase for the school." The full report is available at http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/5622/Item-4/pdf/Item_4.pdf.

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*every Thursday 2pm - 6pm

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CAVERSHAM CLERGY REFLECT ON DISCIPLESHIP

Bible Friends

I am the gate

Jesus said, "Just look at the sheep in their sheep pen. Its stone walls keep them safe at night. No wolf can harm them. No robber can steal them. They're safe as safe can be."

Can you see the shepherd? He's sleeping in the gateway of the sheep pen. The sheep cannot get out. If they did, they might get lost or hurt. But the shepherd is like a gate, keeping them in the pen where they are safe.

In the morning, the shepherd lets the sheep out through the gateway. He leads them to find good green grass to eat. The shepherd watches. Nothing can hurt the sheep.

At night, the shepherd calls the sheep. They know his voice and follow him back to the sheep pen. He sleeps in the gateway so that nothing can harm them. They are safe as safe can be.

Jesus said, "The gate keeps the sheep safe. God sent me to keep his friends safe for ever."

John 10:1-15



After the highly successful clergy retreat last year at Alton Abbey, nine Caversham ministers gathered together last month for a 48 hour gathering at Stanton House in the village of Stanton St John near Oxford.

The retreat focused on the subject of "Moving the Church from Consumerism to Discipleship". The sessions were led by the clergy themselves and they looked at the all pervasive influence of consumerism in our society. It was recognized that we are all, unavoidably, consumers but that we need to beware of consumerism which can mislead us into thinking that what we buy can satisfy our deepest needs. Consumerism suggests that the consumer is in control, and this way of thinking can easily creep into the life of the church. Churches can end up being entirely shaped by consumer demand rather than by the call of Christ. In six lively interactive sessions the clergy reflected on the way in which we need to put discipleship at the heart of church life.

Stanton House offered a wonderfully quiet rural setting in which to reflect together. The Revd Mike Smith, Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, commented, "The retreat gave me space to stop, think and pray in the company of trusted colleagues as we continued to discern God's will over our lives". The Revd Jenny Dowding, team leader of the Methodist Church in Caversham said, "The retreat was marked by honest sharing (even in our deep differences), real trust, prayer and laughter."

The Revd Jonathan Edwards, transitional minister of Caversham Baptist Church observed, "The retreat was a wonderful time. We are very blessed to enjoy such a strong and trusting relationship between the Caversham clergy at this time, and it is a very encouraging sign for the future of our work together as churches."

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TRIBUTES

Peter Lennon 1936 to 2016

Peter John Lennon was born in Pontefract on 27th June 1936. He was brought up a Catholic and attended St Joseph's School in Pontefract and then St Michael's Jesuit College in Leeds. Throughout his life, his deep Catholic faith was always of paramount importance to him.

After school he completed a plumbing apprenticeship and then joined the Royal Engineers but he developed TB and spent time in military hospitals and sanatoriums before being discharged from the army in the late 1950s.

After his discharge, he came to Caversham to work as a plumber. He joined the Parish of Our Lady and St Anne and became involved in parish activities. He renewed his involve-

ment with the Scouts. He helped start up English Martyrs' troop and ran the 83rd St Anne's troop until 1974 when he left to work overseas. He helped at St Anne's youth club where he met Maureen. They were married in September 1965 and had three sons.

Studying at Reading Technical College led to his joining the Civil Service in 1969 as a Clerk of Works. During the late 1970s and the 1980s his work, overseeing the construction of government buildings and infrastructure, took him abroad first to Dublin and then twice to Germany. He joined the Institute of Clerks of Works in 1973, became president in 1998 and was made a life member in 2004. He also chaired the Professional Standards' Committee.

On returning to Caversham in 1986, Peter once more became involved in parish life serving as parish chairman, parish health and safety officer, property manager, altar server, reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, choir member, member of the parish finance committee and, more recently, a committee member of the social side. Some of these positions he held simultaneously, others one after the other. Lots of things he did had no titles – he just got on with them. Peter was also a Catenian Brother and a member of the Reading Pastoral Forum. He was a warm and friendly person who welcomed newcomers to the parish and each parish priest he served could always say, "If there is a problem, ask Peter Lennon first." His knowledge and experience allowed him to play an important part in various building and maintenance projects including the extension to the Church and the Cenacle. Recognition of all his work came when he was presented with the Benemerenti Medal in July 1996.

Peter recently received the Alan Nabarro medal for living with diabetes for 50 years. Sadly, he was diagnosed with cancer in March this year and gradually had to give up most of his duties. He died, on Saturday 2nd April, much sooner than had been expected, in Maureen's arms and surrounded by their children. He leaves behind Maureen, their three sons, their wives and eight grandchildren and, as Father Paul said at his funeral, "a void in the parish that will be very hard to fill".

Alison Madeley

Alison was born in Stockport, Cheshire in November 1938, and lived most of her early life in east and south Manchester. She met John in a cycle racing club north of Manchester in 1956. At that time Alison worked in the Manchester Town Hall draughtsman's office, which gave her a keen eye for precision and accuracy. Later, she worked in a bookshop, Willshaws, for a while on the art section. Not until later in life did John appreciate how much she knew about art. Much later, for most of their married life, Alison was a partner in a commercial stationery company and was also a proof reader for John's books, where her precision was very evident - no mistake got past her.

When John met Alison she was a Unitarian, worshipping in a large church in East Manchester. No frills, no priests, just worship of God. Four years later in 1960, she was baptised and confirmed into the Church of England. They married in 1962 and lived near Altrincham, Cheshire for 11 years. In those years Alison was active in the church. After moving to Caversham in 1973, she was active in St Peter's, Caversham, for over 40 years. She played many roles but had a special ministry to young people. She loved Cherubim for under-fives in the Lady Chapel on Thursday afternoons. In the adult section, Alison was treasurer of St Peter's Mothers Union for nine years until her stroke in 2012.

Two years ago Alison started to attend the Quaker meeting house in Reading with John, after being reluctant to try it at first. But she loved it. In a sense it was return to childhood days. No frills worship. Alison sometimes described her faith as 'Low Church Manchester', which simply meant 'No Frills Christianity'. She said she was the Martha in the Martha and Mary story, i.e. the practical one. But like Martha, she could have huge spiritual insights.

If you could choose one word to sum up Alison, that word would be 'love'. Love for the family, the depth of which only they know. It was a love so deep that words cannot possibly do justice to it. She also loved her many friends. She would meet friends in the street, wherever, and know which school their children attended, what subjects they were doing, etc etc. She had a quite amazing memory, Alison's love had a source - she was deeply rooted in the love of God.

Four years ago, Alison had a severe stroke that left her body in a wheelchair, although she could walk up to 40 yards - but it did not confine her spirit. It did not stop her enjoying life, it did not stop John and Alison doing many of things they did before, going to France, to London, to the coast etc. And the stroke seemed to enhance other senses, of smell, of beauty, how she loved her garden. She had a raised flower bed built that she could tend herself. When she spent even an hour in the garden, she would often say in the evening, "what a wonderful day it's been". And she seemed to enjoy her food more, even John's cooking. One thing she missed was cycling.

About two years ago, Alison said that she would, of course, never have wanted to have a stroke, but she had since met some wonderful people, from physios to carers, from nurses to doctors, who she would never have met in the normal course of her life, and that meeting these people had greatly enriched her life.

In the last week of her life, Alison had an internal problem that proved to be terminal.

Someone had written "Life is a gift but also it is death that brings blessings of release".

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ENVIRONMENT

HAREBELLS



"Too well-known and too widely distributed to require a list of localities." So wrote George Claridge Druce, in his *'Flora of Berkshire'*, published in 1897. Sadly, this is not the case nowadays.

Harebells start to flower about now, and go on into the autumn. They are one of the most appealing wild flowers, with tough and wiry stems from which the delicate, translucent flowers hang down, the colour of a summer sky.

They like dry soils, but aren't all that fussy about where they'll grow. You can find them on rock ledges on mountains, and near the coast, on sand-dunes. They don't seem to mind about the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. When I was a teenager, I knew them from the limestone dales of Derbyshire, and from the acidic soils on Pennine gritstone, less than a mile from where we lived, where I spent many hours, wandering and wondering what life was all about. In this area, there are colonies of them on some of the Chiltern heathlands, such as Kingwood and Peppard commons, where you can find them flowering in the company of heather, bell-heather, and gorse, a colourful combination.

Confusingly, in Scotland, this plant is called the bluebell. Whether or not the name should be spelled 'harebell' or 'hairbell' is an interesting point. To botanists, it's *Campanula rotundifolia*, and it has thin, hair-like stems. Maybe this is the reason for the English name. The leaves you see are long and thin, and not round as the Latin name suggests. There are round leaves, but they're produced at the base of the plant in spring, and have usually dried up by the time the flowers open.

The connection between harebells and hares is tenuous: maybe the dryish places where harebells grow were also favoured by hares. But maybe, for all its heavenly blue colour, in folklore, the connection is rather more sinister. There are many old stories recorded by folklorists in which witches changed themselves into hares. Typically, the hare would be attacked by dogs, or otherwise wounded, and the next day, the witch was found to have sustained some injury on a corresponding part of her body. So, in the past, harebells were also known as witch-bells and witch-thimbles, and were best avoided. In parts of Scotland they could be the auld man's bells – i.e. the devil's bells – and should on no account be picked.

They were also associated with the fairies, and known as fairy cups, fairies' caps, fairy bells, fairy ringers, and fairies' thimbles. These names, together with the name harebell, have also been given to the foxglove, another plant with bell-shaped flowers and supernatural associations.

By contrast, harebells were also lady's thimbles – i.e. Our Lady's thimbles. So whether or not you were allowed to pick harebells, and what you called them, must have varied according to where you were brought up. Perhaps it's just as well that we can now read about the old lore for amusement, and have no cause to be frightened by it!

Happy Wanderer

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2016

We have arrived at the holiday season, the English weather being somewhat 'hit and miss' this year - no such worries with our 'Holiday at Home.' With lots of new activities to try, interesting demonstrations, musical entertainment, delicious lunches and friendly chatter we welcomed guests to a warm and inspiring week at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Each day began with a coffee and chance to get to know each other. Then came the opportunity to try out something new - mosaic work, glass painting, felt work, card making, planting colourful containers, to mention a few of the craft activities on offer. Guests were amazed at what they were able to achieve and take away to show their friends. Craft work is not everyone's cup of tea so there was always an alternative to stimulate the mind - play reading and a discussion on 'Remembering Toys of our Childhood' were popular choices.

'So you think you know Caversham' - this was one of the daily quizzes - photos of popular landmarks, businesses and details on buildings were not always as easy to identify as you may have thought, but they had our guests guessing. Following a gastronomic two course



lunch, the afternoon was a more leisurely affair - talks demonstrations, games and musical items. - Jim Plunkett (our friend from Gosbrook Road) and David Jenkins (our minister) demonstrated their musical and story-



telling talents and a singing group stretched our abilities. Forgetting inhibitions, guests joined in with hearty singing and raucous laughter.

'A Thought for the Day' completed each day - just a brief word from Rev'd Jenny Dowding or Rev'd David Jenkins to remind us how much we are loved and what God has done for us.

The idea of a holiday at home began in 2012, recognising that older members of our community and congregation found it increasingly difficult to go away on holiday so we ventured to bring the holiday to them. Now in its fourth year, numbers have grown and at the end of the holiday, guests came away eager to book for next year.

Guests said they had found out about our holiday in 'Caversham Bridge' and straight from the horse's mouth so to speak, guests from previous years passed on information to their friends, so we were able to extend a welcome to guests from further afield. We also welcomed guests and helpers from our sister church in Gosbrook Road but there is still room to grow.

We extend an invitation to all Churches Together in Caversham to join us - as guests or helpers - we can guarantee a holiday full of fun and laughter.



REInspired Caversham News Update!

In December 2015, Caroline Jennings, and Helen Strong, took over as Co-Project Managers for REInspired Caversham. Helen and I have known each other for eight years and are members of Caversham Baptist Church. In sharing the role together it has created a wonderful opportunity for us to expand the project and help Caversham schools deliver an innovative Christian curriculum. We have now established relationships with five different schools and our dedicated volunteers have helped us to teach eight sessions since March 2016, reaching a total of 570 children. The feedback from the schools has been very positive:

"The children engage really well in the sessions and there are a variety of hands-on activities. The lessons are different...and the questions always provoke thinking where children can compare and share their own experiences. All the pupils enjoy the 'open question' sessions and the subject knowledge of those delivering... means the answers are in detail." RECoordinator Thameside Primary School.

We taught a Year 6 session on 'Is anything ever eternal?' This raised some emotional discussions as the

children shared their thoughts on this and discovered what Christians believe. Here is a picture of a beautiful dragonfly made by a Year 6 child during the session after they had read a story that helped to explain life on earth and in Heaven to them:

REInspired is a wonderful charity that is reaching over 1000 children within schools in and around Caversham each academic year. The statistics show that only 5% of children now go to Sunday school, so it's a blessing we are able to reach them in their schools, and bring the true meaning and good news of the Gospel to them.

If you would like to be a part of this amazing project, then please do get in touch with either of us at caversham@reinspired.co.uk, or call us on 07581432018 or 07941572470. We would love more people from all denominations to come and see what we do. You are more than welcome to come and join us at one of our sessions and get a taste of what we do to see if you would like to get involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

Caroline Jennings, REInspired Caversham Project Manager.



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CHURCHES

Judith is new curate in Caversham

The Rev'd Dr Judith Ryder has joined the clergy team in the Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham as curate. Brought up in the Roman Catholic Church, Judith joined the Church of England in 2009 and, feeling called to church ministry, started training for ordination in 2013.

She was ordained by the Bishop of Reading in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, on July 2 and started her new ministry at St Peter's, Caversham, the next day. Judith will be learning her ministry over the next three years with the Rector, the Revd Mike Smith.

Having studied theology at St John's College, Oxford, in the mid '90s, Judith returned to Oxford to study mediaeval history, gaining a doctorate in Mediaeval Eastern Mediterranean, before working as a research fellow specialising in Byzantine studies at Wolfson College.

It was at St John's that she met husband Simon, an electrical engineer. To take up her new ministry, Judith and Simon, along with their four children, have moved to Caversham from Kidlington. At their church in the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle, Judith was involved in leading Messy Church and children's work more generally, as well as gaining experience in ministry ahead of her ordination.



Rev'd Dr Judith Ryder - the new curate for Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish

"Leaving Kidlington for Caversham was a big move for us but, while we were sad to leave, it really does seem that we are being sent to the right place - for the family, for me to continue my ministerial training, and hopefully for the parish," says Judith.

"I am really looking forward to working with Mike and the wider parish team; and to getting to know the people and the area; and its hopes and needs. It will be a pleasure to be in a parish with such a strong musical tradition, with different churches with different roles, and which is seeking to engage in mission in the local area."

The Revd Mike Smith, Judith's new boss as Rector of Caversham, welcomed her appointment: "Judith comes to Caversham with great enthusiasm and gifts, and a real desire to grow in her ministry as she learns with us and helps us learn about God. I look forward to supervising her time with us, and introducing her to the people of Caversham."

PET SERVICE AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



It will be pets in the congregation at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham on Sunday 14th August at 3pm for the annual pet service.

All creatures great and small are welcome at this highly popular annual event.

It is hoped that dogs, cats and animals of all kinds can be together in harmony. The service will be led by the Rev'd Jenny Dowding - the minister at Caversham Heights - who has previously led the pets and their owners in worship at this 'festival of fur and feather'.

The service will take place in a gazebo next to the church, with the organist playing the hymns on an electric keyboard, so not only can your pets come and enjoy the service but so can the birds and animals all around.

It is pleasing to be able to give this acknowledgement that it is not just we humans that are God's creation. If you are in the Caversham area, do come to the service and please bring your pets. You will all be most welcome.

Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

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1st September

Speaker: Ian Gibb - 'Cadet to Commodore'

15th September

A.G.M. - Followed by talk from
Rev'd Jenny Dowding

29th September

Rev'd David Jenkins will treat us to a
Musical afternoon in the church.

13th October

Speakers: Viv and Myra Emerson -
(Digital presentation)

Looking for Lemurs in Madagascar

27th October

Speaker: Mel Lewis - 'Berkshire Search and Rescue'

10th November

Speaker: Tony King - 'Hollywood to Broadway by
Train'

24th November

Speaker: Jane Whiting - 'Earley Charities'

8th December

'Carol of the Bells'

A Christmas Musical Afternoon in the church
Followed by tea and mince pies.

Christian Aid "Big Brekkie" at St Peter's Church

Christian Aid introduced a new fund-raising initiative this year called the Big Brekkie. On the Saturday morning of Christian Aid Week members of St. Peter's congregation and passers-by were invited into the church to enjoy a delicious breakfast for a voluntary donation to Christian Aid. This resulted in £120 being raised for Christian Aid.

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Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham

On Sunday 26th June, members of Reading Catholic parishes joined together to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham attached to the church of Our Lady and St Anne. The event was organised by Father John O'Shea, parish priest of St James parish, and included parishioners from St James church, English Martyrs, St Joseph's, Our Lady of Peace and St William of York.

Many of the pilgrims walked from their own parishes or joined the pilgrims along the way. As people arrived, they were welcomed with light refreshments by ladies from St Anne's, the main procession

reaching St Anne's church at 2.30pm. At 3pm all took their places in the church for the afternoon's service. The expected 100 pilgrims had swelled to nearly double that figure and the church was almost full.

The accompanying priests were Father John O'Shea from St James, Fr Michael Dennehy of English Martyrs and St Joseph's, Tilehurst, Father Matt Goddard and Father Armand de Malleray of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter based at St William of York and Father Stan Gibzinski from Our Lady of Peace.

An introduction about the unique place of pilgrimage in this Year of Mercy from

Fr Michael was followed by Fr Paul's short introduction to the history of the Shrine and then the service continued with prayers and hymns and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During exposition, priests were available around the church and many of the pilgrims took advantage of this opportunity to make their confessions. After further prayers and hymns, including one specially written for the Year of Mercy, everyone went out of the church and processed to re-enter the church through the Holy Door of Mercy next to Our Lady's Shrine.

Music was provided during the service by a group from St James church.



Enjoying a welcome cup of tea



Part of procession of pilgrim



Pilgrims arriving at church



St James Music group

St Anne's school

On 8th June a party was held to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. Each year group was asked to bring in a different party food. Several children contributed to describe the event.

"The Queen's Tea Party was a lovely success. What a wonderful turn out from lots of parents, and a delicious feast of party food was enjoyed by all on the day. A big thank you to all the children for colouring their flags for the bunting which will also be used at the Summer Fair. Thanks to all the children from Year 6 for your help. The Treasure Trail was great fun and thank you to everyone who helped to make this afternoon a lovely celebration."

On 10th June St Anne's cricket team played for the first time at the cricket tournament at Shiplake College.

A Year 6 pupil wrote the following report

"The cricket tournament at Shiplake College was really fun. We thrashed the schools we played in the first three games. Our bowling was amazing and we bowled out multiple people. We blocked many fours and caught quite a few balls. Another reason why the range of our scores was so big was because of our batting. We hit several sixes and uncountable fours, some of them even went into the car park! Our performance was great! We reached the semi-finals! Unfortunately, we lost against Caversham Primary in the semi-finals but not by far. The difference was only eighteen runs. Even with such a hard match, we managed to play our best and our confidence stayed with us. We've earned a Bronze medal and next time we'll aim even higher for a Gold! St Anne's is proud of our cricket performance and we are absolutely ready for the next!

Special thanks to Mr Gaylor for his efforts and to Ms Raciborska for driving us to the tournament."

Finally on the 24th June Year 6 pupils went to Douai Abbey for their end of school Mass. Their teacher wrote the following account.

"On a bright sunny morning Year 6 travelled by minibus to Douai Abbey to celebrate and reminisce their time at St Anne's school.

The children presented a large colourful image of an acorn which was a symbol of their new beginnings. Just like this little seed, they will flourish and grow into their full potential. When put into the correct environment and fed nutrients, they will develop, grow and prosper. This is a very exciting time for Year 6 as they begin to look to their future education at their secondary schools."

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Stay-a-while Lunch Club

The club, which meets on
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CLUBS

Probus

The speaker at the June meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Duncan Brown who presented a talk entitled *Britain's Waterways – Past, Present and Future*. At this meeting members were joined by their wives and other guests.

The first canals were developments of irrigation ditches, initially in Mesopotamia about 6000 years ago. The first real canals used for transport were built in China, and the Grand Canal of China is the oldest still in existence; parts of it date back to the 5th century BC. It is the longest canal in the world. The Royal Canal in Languedoc in France, now known as the Canal du Midi, was the first in Europe, built in the 17th century to link the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

The first canal in Britain was the Bridgewater Canal, completed in 1761, and built by the Duke of Bridgewater to move coal from his mines in Worsley to Manchester, because moving goods overland was very expensive. Canals made money for their owners, and at their peak there were about 4000 miles in Britain, fuelling the industrial revolution. Birmingham has 180 miles of canals, more than Venice or Amsterdam. Cadbury's had a fleet of narrow boats. Many families lived in boats, which were very cramped, and used the boats to transport goods.

The use of canals declined with the rise of the railways, and many canals fell into disuse.

The canals began to be brought back to life when they started to be used for leisure purposes. Many restoration projects were necessary to allow them to be used, but being lo-tech, they were relatively easy to restore.

Coming to the present day, Duncan showed many pictures of canals as they are now. He highlighted two tunnels, the Knowsley Hill and the Hardcastle tunnels. There is also a three-mile long tunnel near Huddersfield. In the past, canal users progressed along tunnels by 'legging', lying on their backs and walking along the roof. But with the advent of engines, forced ventilation became necessary. Hills and valleys were also a problem, and aqueducts were sometimes used rather than following the contours of the land. The mile-long Burnley embankment is the most famous, but also well-known are the Pontcysyllte aqueduct on the Llangollan canal, and the Barton Swing Aqueduct over the Manchester Ship Canal.

There are many locks on the canal network, and several flights of locks were pictured, including the Caen Hill locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal near Devizes. As well as travelling in narrow boats, some people, known as 'gongoooglers', stand and watch them. In addition to locks, other methods of changing levels include the Anderston Boat Lift, which is over 100 years old, and the Falkirk Wheel, which is a modern boat lift.

For the future, Duncan looked at volunteers continuing to clear canals, including the Wilts and Berks Canal, which has been derelict for 100 years, and linked the Thames at Abingdon via Swindon to the Kennet and Avon canal near Melksham. The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust aims to restore it to a navigable state.

The talk was illustrated with many superb photographs.

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 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 is 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: Scrabble on 8th and 22nd June, Book Club to meet on Monday, 6th June, Walking (or should we now say ambling?) on 7th and 21st June, weather permitting. The Cinema Group hopes to go to see 'Mother's Day' starring Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston, at a date to be decided later. The Knit and Natter group will meet on 10th June. Instead of knitting for Buscot Ward at the RBH, it has been suggested that twiddlemuffs be made for the hundreds of unfortunate people who suffer from dementia and several members said they would help – good luck to all.

After all this chat we were transported to an ancient café in steamy downtown 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 causing much hilarity.

We were then brought back to Emmer Green for a cup of tea and all the cakes that had been produced by members and displayed by Yvonne Wright, followed by the raffle.

A few of us from Rosehill also 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. This was 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. This was followed by a cup of tea or coffee and the lovely 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 would welcome any visitors.

The Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the end of June our Social Studies group enjoyed a talk by J Harrison on *An evolving garden*. Meanwhile another group visited Bournemouth for the national AGM of the Townswomen's Guilds.

We enjoyed a rousing concert at the Pavillion the night before, then on to the serious business next day. Afterwards we met our friends from Rotherham, with whom we are twinned, for coffee and a chat. Shame the weather was awful.

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

Our sub-groups: ambling, scrabble, cinema, and luncheon club are continuing as usual.

The next meeting, on 18th August, will be a social evening, salad and a chat, taking place at 7.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham.

Caversham WI

It was best foot forward for the speaker, Mrs J Windmill, or rather four feet forward as she and her husband walked from Land's End to John O'Groats. Lovely slides accompanied the talk which covered the sheer cliffs in Cornwall, wide open spaces in Yorkshire, the mystery of Loch Ness and all places in between.

The competition, a landscape picture, had Monica McMaster as winner with Ishbel Nicholson and Romagne Flight as runners up. Dates were agreed for summer garden parties, also the good news that volunteers would ensure the future of Caversham WI. Next month's meeting is 'seated keep fit'!

Rotary Club of Reading

Sandra Tucker Installed as President

At a ceremony held at Caversham Heath Golf Club on 28th June, Sandra Tucker was installed as president of the Rotary Club of Reading.

For outgoing president Bill Montague his year of office had contained many highlights. In particular he mentioned the concert by the Reading Symphony Orchestra held to raise funds for the Sand Dams project in Kenya and the club's second Santa Run, which raised over £17,000 for local charities. He praised the fellowship of the club as "the glue that holds us together."

Bill's successor is Sandra Tucker who also held presidential office in 2011/2012. Sandra said that Rotary consists of ordinary people doing extraordinary things and by continuing to pull together there would be no limit to Reading Rotary's potential.

Reading Rotary's third Santa Run will take place on Sunday 4th December

Outgoing president Bill Montague hands over to Sandra Tucker



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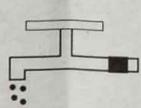
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