

Caversham author publishes her first novel

Retired accountant Julie Roberts, from Caversham, has secured her first book deal for her debut novel.

She has signed a contract with publishers Accent Press for her romantic novel, 'The Hidden Legacy'. The novel, set in Regency London in the year 1815, has as its subject the finding and return of a missing Turner painting to the Royal Academy in time for the opening of the summer exhibition. The book was shortlisted for an award by the Romantic Novelists Association.

Julie started her writing career after attending an adult creative writing class. She and four friends whom she met on the course have together published three books of short stories, but this is her first successful full-length novel.

Her three co-authored books of short stories, 'Fish Pie and Laughter', 'The Guilty Suitcase', and 'The Virgin Sardine' are available as eBooks or paperbacks. The fourth book in the series, 'Aphrodite's Picnic' has recently been published.

She is now working on her second novel, on a completely different topic.

'The Hidden Legacy' was showcased at a launch event held in July at the Caversham Bowls Club, of which Julie is a member. The photo of Julie in period costume reading an extract from the book was taken at this event. The painting which can be seen in the picture is of the artist Turner.

'The Hidden Legacy' can be obtained from Amazon as an eBook or a paperback.



Efforts to save 300 year old tree

Council tree officers are striving to save an ancient mulberry tree in Caversham Court Gardens.

The tree, which is believed to be over 300 years old, collapsed in late July. It can be found near the main gate of the gardens.

The collapse was due to a combination of the unusually wet spring weather making the tree's leaves particularly large and heavy this year, the tree leaning excessively to the south, and a rotting core, which is common in ancient mulberry trees.

In an attempt to save it, council tree experts have taken off a proportion of the canopy, leaving the limbs propped up. The tree has also been temporarily fenced off to prevent anyone from climbing on it and causing further damage. This will allow officers to monitor the tree without interference and prevent any accidents.



It is hoped that some of the tree will survive, even if other sections are deprived of nutrients and die off. The tree's limbs need time to settle

under their own weight and the tree needs time to develop coping mechanisms following this major shock.

The temporary security fence will be in place around the tree for the next couple of months to deter public access during the rest of the growing season. The tree will be monitored by officers and the fencing will be reviewed in the autumn.

Cllr Paul Gittings, lead member for culture, sport and consumer services, said: "Whilst we apologise for the appearance of the security fence, it is necessary to protect the tree and help keep it alive. It would be a real shame to lose this beautiful old mulberry that has graced Caversham Court Gardens for the last 300 years. Officers are doing all they can to return it to health for future generations to admire."

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

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

St Andrews

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

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

Revd Marion Pyke
Tel: 947 5834

Revd John Dudley Tel: 9470265
Revd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810
Revd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

Riverside Church (Reading)
www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Revd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Minister Revd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)
Crispin Fairbairn tel 9474529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.
Deacon: Hugh Anscombe

Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

TALKING POINT

by Mike Smith

Have you noticed God, and have you told anyone?

Perhaps that seems a strange question to ask! But how often does a day pass when, if you're honest, you have given little time to notice where God is in your life that day and where you have noticed God at work in the world, let alone told anyone about it? If I'm honest, all too frequently. For the professional religious leader, our lives can get so full of religious 'stuff' that there isn't space to actually look for the signs of the God to whom we dedicate our lives.

A number of the Caversham churches - St Barnabas, Caversham Park, the two Methodist churches, St Peter's, St John's and St Margaret's - are all engaged in a mission process called Partnership for Missional Church (PMC). This isn't a pre-packaged course or project, where we can take what someone else does and apply it to our own situation. For the reality of that scenario is often that the course, project or programme don't work as well for us as they did for some other church or when we took part in the training course. Instead PMC invites the local church to take a long hard look at themselves and their local context, and discern where God has been at work, and continues to be at work, in the church and in our local community. It is from that discernment point that the church is then encouraged to experiment in a new piece of mission activity, perhaps in partnership with some other group or person in the community. PMC teaches us that the key to mission is not doing a task of mission, but changing the culture of our churches so that in all things we are missionary.

So at the heart of PMC stands a spiritual discipline of noticing and naming God at work. It may be in big, significant ways we notice God - as peace is restored in a place of conflict or turmoil, where healing is brought to a person. But it is more likely that it is in the smaller things in life that we might see God - when someone does a good deed for someone else; when someone finds the inner strength to forgive; when love is offered unconditionally. There is God to be found, even if the situation doesn't involve someone who is Christian. Might we as Christians learn to see these moments, and see God at work? And might we encourage one another to name them as God moments? For the Kingdom of God, for which all Christians are asked to pray, is already coming amongst us, if only we will notice it and speak of it.

Rev'd Mike Smith is Rector of the Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham

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

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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 October 2016 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 5th September**. The date for the November 2016 issue is **Monday 3rd October**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk
Advertising copy for the October 2016 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 2nd September**. The date for the November 2016 issue is **Friday 30th September**.

PARISH OFFICES

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Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

ST BARNABAS

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

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 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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Vicar's wife sports a mohican for a charity in Myanmar



Jolanta from JK Junior Cuts in Caversham cutting and styling Bithja's hair

As reported in July Caversham Bridge, Bithja Moor, wife of the Revd Nigel Jones, vicar of St Andrew's church, is taking part in a charity cycle ride in Myanmar to raise funds for a children's home.

Her target was to raise £3000 by mid-July. She vowed to have a purple Mohican-style haircut if she achieved this. Bithja reached the target amount of her fundraising project and has been to the hairdressers!

She has raised £3,010.00 and can still receive donations for this project until the end of this year.

The sponsored cycle ride will take place in October.



The new finished hairstyle

Caversham Church Fete

The church fete, held in July in Caversham Court gardens, was a great success. The promised flypast of a Lancaster bomber from the battle of Britain memorial Flight was not possible as the only two Lancasters still flying were under repair, but a Hurricane fighter plane appeared instead.

Large crowds gathered, and were entertained by a variety of stalls and competitions, with music and dancing from local groups, as well as the ever-popular Fred in the Shed. Refreshments were served all afternoon, and a Pimms tent for the thirsty.

A substantial amount was raised to support the work of the churches in Caversham; the final figure is still awaited. The pictures of the Hurricane and of the crowds enjoying the fete were taken by David Collis.



Bible Friends

The story of the seeds

This is a story Jesus told.

Up and down the field went the farmer.

He threw seeds to one side and more seeds on the other side. Some seeds fell along the path where the soil was hard. Straight away, the birds came swooping down and gobbled them up.

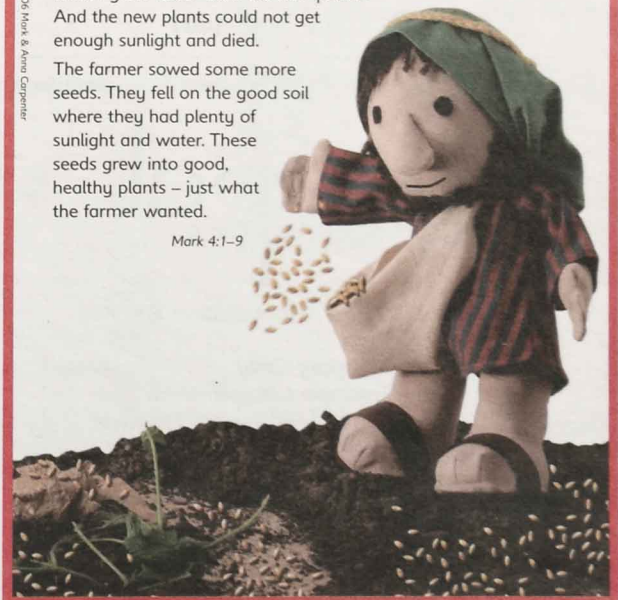
The farmer sowed more seeds. They fell on stony ground. Day after day, they started to grow. But it was so hot and dry on the stony ground that the new plants withered and died.

The farmer sowed more seeds. They fell among tall weeds growing on the edge of the field. Day after day, these seeds grew, but the weeds grew faster than the new plants.

And the new plants could not get enough sunlight and died.

The farmer sowed some more seeds. They fell on the good soil where they had plenty of sunlight and water. These seeds grew into good, healthy plants - just what the farmer wanted.

Mark 4:1-9



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From the Lookout Post

Highmoor Road/Albert Road

Following the tragic, fatal accident at the Highmoor Road/Albert Road crossroads in May, Caversham and District Residents Association and the Highmoor Albert Road Campaign met Reading Borough Council officers. Cllr Tony Page, chairman of the traffic management sub-committee, agreed to implement an experimental scheme, devised at the RBC/CADRA/HARC meeting.

The scheme consists of: removal of the centre of carriageway hatched markings in Albert Road, replacement with a simple centreline, moving the Highmoor Road (west) 'Stop' line forward by up to 1.0 metre, inclination of the Highmoor Road centrelines on the approach to Albert Road and installation of additional 'SLOW' markings in Albert Road.

It is hoped that these experimental measures will increase visibility, make the presence of the junction more obvious and slow Albert Road traffic.

CADRA and HARC are due to meet council officers again on 22nd August to review the changes.

Extra Care Housing on Albert Road

The Reading Borough Council planning committee on 20 July heard representations from neighbours, CADRA and councillors. After some debate, the committee voted by a small majority to approve the scheme. After a concerted campaign to highlight the problems with the scheme, there was disappointment locally that the committee was unwilling to request further changes to reduce the impact on the local area.

Local health services

In May 2012, CADRA invited Dr Rod Smith, then chairman of the local commissioning group to give an insight into how clinicians in hospitals and local surgeries have been able to shape the ways patient services are provided. Since then, health care and particularly primary health care has been much in the news. Growing demand for GP services and a shortage of GPs have created significant pressures. Patients report problems in getting appointments. A local surgery

has been in special measures. Pressure has grown on accident and emergency services and mental health services have struggled to meet patients' needs.

CADRA has invited the chairman of the North and West Reading clinical commissioning group, now Dr Andy Ciecierski from the Emmer Green Surgery, to speak at an open meeting in November this year. He will be accompanied by managers from the commissioning group and Healthwatch Reading.

Healthwatch is the name of the independent 'consumer champion for health and social care' launched by the Government in April 2013. <http://healthwatchreading.org.uk>. The recent AGM in Reading focused on the future of primary care in Reading. Speakers explained the developing roles of nurse prescribers, prescribing pharmacists and the new profession, physician associate, being taught at Reading University. Each of these professions, working within their area of competency, can free up time for the GPs and provide better access for patients.

The CADRA Open Meeting will take place at Thameside School Hall, Harley Road at 7.45pm on a date in November – still to be confirmed.

St Peter's Conservation Area

Local people and members of the new Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee gathered on 16 July in St Peter's Church. Karen Rowland, chairman of the CAAC, explained the importance of community involvement in the process or re-appraising conservation areas. A presentation on the Oxford Toolkit explained the different factors which can make up the special characteristics of an area 'which is desirable to protect or enhance'. Groups set out around different sections of the area to record their assessments. They returned to St Peter's for delicious cakes from the Ways and Means Trust. Everyone shared in a second presentation showing the importance of old maps and photographs in tracing the history of the area. The assessments recorded, the results of a short survey and the growing collection of historical information will all contribute to the preparation of the revised appraisal document for the Conservation Area.

The two presentations and further information are available at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>.



1877 map of Bridge Street/Church Road area.



Church Road in the 1930's.

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MBE for Caversham man

Roger Hopkinson was made MBE for services to the UK's general aviation community in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



Retired mechanical engineer Roger Hopkinson, an aviation enthusiast who has spent decades working with and building various forms of aircraft, has been recognised for services to the UK's general aviation community.

During his career he has been president of both the Light Aircraft Association UK and the European Federation of Light Experimental and Vintage Aircraft. He is also the vice chairman of the Royal Aero Club UK and a founding member of the General Aviation Alliance.

As well as taking leading roles in numerous aviation organisations, Mr Hopkinson is widely recognised for his engineering abilities, as he was the first person in Europe to successfully construct a four-seat Vans RV10.

News from St Anne's School

July was a busy month at St Anne's. Here are some of the highlights.

On 2nd July, the Summer Fair raised over £1000 which will go towards improvements to the school playground. As well as the usual stalls and side shows there was a garden and craft show with classes for baking, various plant events, and a class for a knitted or sewn item. A silent auction was also held. Mr Gaylor bravely volunteered to take part in 'soak the teacher'.

Year 4 pupils competed in a mini triathlon at Queen Anne's School and had an enjoyable morning representing their school. They were all awarded medals to wear with pride.

School sports day took the form of a mini olympics with children taking part at a number of 'sports stations'. Parents were able to move round with the children to cheer them on. A final obstacle race

completed the day. The PSA provided very welcome refreshments.

The last week of term was very busy indeed with the 'Leavers Mass' in Church on Tuesday, the Year 6 school play on Wednesday and the summer concert on Thursday evening. Reception children had their own special 'pirates activity fun day' on Thursday.

Summer Resurfacing Work

Reading Borough Council's annual summer road resurfacing was due to begin on August 8th and to last four weeks, weather permitting.

This year's £500,000 programme sees nine main roads, covering more than 23,000 square metres of road surface, renewed to create better and safer routes for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

Signed diversions will be in operation when road closures are required. In some instances, temporary parking restrictions on roads other than those mentioned in the list below will be necessary.

The roads being resurfaced in the Caversham area are:

1. Upper Woodcote Road (2 sections Richmond Road to Woodcote Way and Blagrave Lane to house no 188).
2. Portman Road near the Cow Lane railway bridges.
3. Caversham Road (Abattoirs Road to Northfield Road) Road.
4. Caversham Road (Thames Avenue to Brigham Road).

New Bus Service for Caversham

A new bus service began in July, called the 'X80 Regatta'. It is operated by Carousel Buses of High Wycombe, and links Reading Station with Caversham, Henley, Marlow and High Wycombe, following a similar route to that taken by the Arriva 800 service. It operates Monday to Saturday, approximately hourly throughout the day. For more details and a full timetable, visit the website www.carouselbuses.co.uk.

South Chiltern Choral Society

The South Chiltern Choral Society, based in Sonning Common, is looking for new members.

Under the direction of their new Director of Music, Paul Burke, the choir sings a varied and challenging repertoire, including classical masterpieces, 20th century music and also newly commissioned works.

They rehearse at Chiltern Edge School on Monday evenings, and sing 3 public concerts every year.

The choir is particularly looking for new men to join the tenor and bass sections.

If you are interested in singing in the choir or just want more information please contact Richard Larkin on 07557 049092 or contact the choir via the website: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

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CHURCHES

Greetings from Bishop Steven

Bishop Steven Croft, newly appointed as Bishop of Oxford, has written the following letter to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Oxford:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your various messages of welcome and for your prayers following the announcement of my nomination as the Bishop of Oxford. It's an enormous honour and privilege to be appointed to this role and I look forward very much to serving the communities of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in the coming years.

My Confirmation of Election as Bishop of Oxford was held on 6th July. I was due to pay homage to Her Majesty the Queen later in July and resume my place in the House of Lords. I will continue to meet the senior team in Oxford and plan for the autumn.

Ann and I hoped to move to the new See House in Kidlington at the end of August and I will be working to a normal diary in the diocese from early September. My inauguration is set for Friday 30th September in the Cathedral. There will then be four Welcome Eucharists at which I will preside and preach, one for each Archdeaconry:

Episcopal Area	Date	Day	Time	Venue
Reading	5th October	Wednesday	19.45	Reading Minster
Dorchester	9th October	Sunday	15.30	Dorchester Abbey
Oxford	12th October	Wednesday	19.30	Church of the Holy Family Blackbird Leys
Buckingham	13th October	Thursday	18.00	All Saints High Wycombe

I would like to meet as many people as possible over the first few weeks in post so please put one of these dates in your diary and I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope to visit the parish clergy of the Oxford Area in October and November. I am also planning a series of deanery days from November to July to begin to get to know and to listen to the whole diocese. During those

visits I look forward to engaging with lay people and clergy and getting to know the wider community as well as the church. I also look forward to being out and about across the whole diocese Sunday by Sunday.

You can discover something about me in advance from the diocesan website, should you wish to do so. I was formed as a parish priest in Halifax. I was shaped as a thinker and writer in Durham and through travelling the country as Archbishops' Missioner. I have been forged as a bishop in Sheffield and South Yorkshire, seeking to recall the church here and elsewhere to the mission of God.

I'm conscious I will have much to learn in my early years in Oxford. Please pray for me: for the gifts of humility, wisdom and gentleness for this new ministry. Pray in the words of the ordinal that my heart may daily be enlarged to love this great diocese to which God has now called me.

I'm looking forward very much to working with Bishop Colin, Bishop Andrew and Bishop Alan in the coming years and with the rest of the senior team. I'm conscious that the diocese owes a particular debt to Bishop Colin for his care and leadership during the long vacancy.

Based on the listening I have done so far, I will focus my ministry across the whole diocese in three areas in the early years: on engagement with children, young people and young adults; on enabling lay discipleship in the world and on engaging with the poorest communities across the diocese. These priorities are not a new diocesan strategy. That may emerge over time. They are initial themes for my own engagement with the whole diocese and I look forward to taking them forward with you.

I believe that the Christian faith and the Christian church will become ever more central in the life

of our nation and the world in the 21st Century as people seek again for meaning, for values, for purpose and for hope.

God has called the church to be a community of mercy and kindness, reflecting the nature of Jesus Christ and telling the good news of his love. Together we are called to be a community of missionary disciples: faithful, united, hopeful, creative and rejoicing in God's grace.

I look forward very much to meeting you, to knowing you and being known and to working with you,

In Christ



Steven Oxford

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CHURCHES

St Anne's Church Garden Party

At the end of July, many parishioners of Our Lady and St Anne's parish left Sunday morning Mass and strolled into the Presbytery garden for a garden party. The objective was to get people together to mix and talk and get to know each other in relaxed and pleasant surroundings. Refreshments, from tea and homemade cakes to Pimms and fresh cooked

burgers, were available to fend off pangs of hunger. Games were available so that conversation could carry on freely while the children were kept occupied.

Although fund raising was not the main objective, a raffle and a tombola stall raised funds for the church.

The sun shone without it being too hot and a pleasant morning was had by all.

Brass band concert at St John's

St John's Church, Gosbrook Road is the venue for a brass band concert on Friday 16th September at 7.30pm, featuring the Tadley Band, leader Stewart Lewins. Tickets are £8 from Richard Purkis on 0118 9475120 and are also available on the door. See the Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham website, www.ctmparish.org.uk for more information.

St Barnabas 'Growing Leaders' Course

In October 2015, members of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, embarked on a 10 session CPAS leaders course led by the Revd David Little, temporary assistant priest. The course was in three parts; firm foundations for Christian leadership, key skills of Christian leadership, and keeping faith in Christian leadership. They met monthly in the Parish Centre, with a one to one mentoring session in between. The course consisted of introductory talks followed by small group question and answer sessions, later coming together to discuss their findings.



A couple of quizzes made it light-hearted and there was a break for coffee and cake. The sessions generally ran for two hours. It was a time of sharing, learning our strengths and weaknesses and getting to know others in the congregation. Certificates were handed out to the participants on Sunday 24th July by David. Revd Derek Chandler, vicar at St Barnabas said "After some initial discussions, the Parochial Church Council endorsed and promoted the 'Growing Leaders' course at St Barnabas Church to its lay members. 'Growing Leaders' by CPAS is an excellent resource for churches seeking not only to equip lay people with leadership skills but for fostering Christian discipleship in a time when many individuals and church communities are searching for spiritual renewal. The Revd David Little was the key facilitator for the first course, but in the second launch of 'Growing Leaders' at St Barnabas, it will be a former lay participant of the course; that shows how much of a difference 'Growing Leaders' can make in your church in one year!"

If you would like to learn more of the practical aspects of running the course, then contact Derek. Further details of the course can be found on the CPAS website, www.cpas.org.uk

Furniture and Good As New Sale

There will be a Furniture and Good As New Sale at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Rd, Emmer Green on Saturday 17th September from 2 till 4 pm. Entry by donation. Many bargains to be had.

Bishop of Oxford takes seat in House of Lords

The new Bishop of Oxford has officially taken his seat in the House of Lords after the post remained vacant for nearly two years. He is one of 26 bishops who sit in the House of Lords.

The Right Reverend Dr Steven Croft was appointed in April after the Right Rev John Pritchard stepped down as leader of the diocese.

The first round of interviews held last year failed to produce a candidate.

Dr Croft, formerly Bishop of Sheffield, will take his seat at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, on 30 September.

During the ceremony at Westminster, Dr Croft swore an oath of allegiance to the Queen, the head of the Church of England.

After Downing Street announced his appointment earlier this year, Dr Croft had his election confirmed at Lambeth Palace on 6 July, which allows him to sit in the Lords before being accepted as Bishop of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Prior to the new appointment, Bishop of Dorchester the Right Reverend Colin Fletcher was the acting bishop for the area.



Bishops Steven Croft (left) and Colin Fletcher

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CAVERSHAM FETE, 1923

Many different events must have been held on Christchurch Meadows over the years. I saw something of the recent Readipop Festival, with its fairground rides, whilst walking back from Reading, over the new footbridge one evening. I guessed that people living nearby wouldn't be too pleased – and they weren't, if the letters page in the following Thursday's *Reading Chronicle* was anything to go by!

Whilst crossing the footbridge, I was put in mind of this rather gender event held in the same place 93 years ago. I'd been given a copy of the programme for the 1923 Caversham Fete some while back.

I find it interesting, because it raises so many questions I can't yet answer. For instance, the report of the fete in the 1923 *Chronicle* said that it was hoped that the proceeds would defray a debt of £200, but the programme just says that it was 'in aid of St Anne's Mission'. I wonder quite what 'St Anne's Mission' was – it was presumably something different from general church funds.

Then I had thought that the Cadogans had sold Caversham Park to Major Marsack in 1784 and gone away, but here we find Adele, Countess Cadogan, obviously a friend of the Catholic Church in Caversham, opening the fete and giving the prizes. She was Italian by birth, and the second wife of the fifth Earl Cadogan. He died in 1915, and she died in 1960!

When we come to the programme itself, there are a number of competitions which I hadn't come across before. A tug-of-war, and a baby show I understand. The programme explains that the veteran's race was for men over 40, and for every year over 40, they had to run one yard fewer, meaning that if you were, say, 56,

you only had to run 84 yards. There were several events involving horses – 'open jumping', a 'mounted tug-of-war', and something called 'musical stalls on horses'. There were 'musical stalls on cycles' as well, and there was 'dismounted push-ball'. There was also a donkey race. Music was provided by the Reading and Caversham Veterans' Band, and between 7.30 and 9.30, the evening ended with dancing.

Side-shows included guessing the weight of a pig, bowling for a pig (gentlemen only) and bowling for a joint of meat (ladies only). Surely, the gentlemen's prize can't really have been a live pig! The joint of meat, not surprisingly, was given by the Jennings Brothers. The prize for something called 'Tipping the Topper' was 'a packet of Players' – presumably Player's cigarettes.

There was a bran tub, and there were two competitions involving 'buried treasure', where you paid 2d for a peg, and stuck it in the ground where you guessed the 'treasure' had been buried. At seven o'clock the 'treasure' was unearthed, and the winner was the one whose peg was nearest the token that had been buried. One of the prizes was a ten shilling note, and the other a 'valuable Indian shawl' given by Miss E. Shepherd.

The 'novelty air-rifle competition' sounded a bit dangerous, but then I noticed that at the end there was a 'Notice to the Public', stating 'It must be understood that all attending this Fete do so at their own risk, and the promoters cannot hold themselves responsible for any accident that may occur.' I'm sure it wouldn't be allowed today!

Happy Wanderer

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The Committee desire to express their very sincere thanks to the Donors of Prizes, and to all those who have assisted in the arrangements of the Sports and Fete.

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Fit4All

A group of Caversham residents have united to form a charity called the Mapledurham Playing Fields Foundation, which is sponsoring an initiative called 'Fit4All' to try to ensure that Mapledurham Playing Fields (MPF) is used to its maximum potential to provide sport and recreational facilities for local people. The headline in the Fit4All promotional pamphlet is 'Let's make Mapledurham Playing Fields fit for all without losing land'. The group's rationale and proposals, as identified in its pamphlet, are summarised below:

Current situation

MPF has been for many years a valued recreational and social hub. The playing fields themselves are still popular, especially with footballers, though more pitches are needed and they need to be properly maintained, with better amenities. The pavilion was in regular use, but its condition has deteriorated so much that it had to be closed.

Reading Borough Council (RBC) twice proposed to sell land from MPF to fund repairs to the pavilion and other enhancements. Both proposals were rejected. RBC is expected to make a third proposal to sell land as a site for The Heights Primary School.

Recent volunteer initiatives have included:

£185,000 has been raised by The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) to restore the pavilion. The work is delayed pending an offer from the Education Funding Agency to buy land for the new school.

Caversham Tents Football Club (CTFC) has grown to 25 teams. Further growth requires the security of a long lease. RBC is unwilling to grant this until the outcome of any proposal to build The Heights Primary School is known.

In 2014 Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC) undertook an ambitious programme to improve its facilities, to triple court usage, and provide access and coaching for players with disabilities. The final part of the plan, to provide for wheelchair players, is delayed because an accessible toilet cannot be installed until the pavilion is restored.

Friends of MPF (FoMPF) work to conserve the natural environment and increase biodiversity. In 2002 Mapledurham Management Committee recommended that MPF should be awarded local nature reserve status, but the necessary registration was not made.

Steps

The turnaround should be planned in steps, to deliver improvements without disrupting access and availability more than necessary.

Step 1: restore the pavilion, reopen it to groups which have been displaced, attract new users and reinstate this source of income.

Step 2: build new changing rooms, to allow MPF to host sports to higher standards; refurbish original changing rooms to provide additional meeting rooms; all development should be conducted through the Recreation Ground Charity, to allow easy integration of volunteer involvement, sponsor engagement and maximum tax efficiency.

Step 3: enhance outdoor facilities, improve football pitches, restore the basketball court, register MPF as a Local Nature Reserve to ensure continued protection of the natural environment.

Step 4: (more major undertakings) relocate the playground closer to the pavilion and upgrade, allowing reconfiguration of MPF to accommodate more football pitches; install secure storage for sports equipment.

Step 5: consider new sporting and recreational amenities, including all weather pitches for football or rugby, and outdoor gym equipment.

Turnaround

MPF has an annual deficit: the cost of maintenance is greater than income from rental of the pavilion and lease of pitches and courts. It must be made financially viable.

How? Reverse the spiral of decline by removing constraints on volunteer initiatives,

and invest in the facilities, to allow increased utilisation and increase income to support further investment.

WADRA has raised sufficient funds to renovate the pavilion. Plans have been drawn up. The tendering process should be completed and the pavilion made fit for use.

CTFC has funds which could be invested in enhanced facilities. CTFC had preliminary discussions with the Football Association, which indicated willingness, in principle, to invest in enhancing the facilities. Any investment is only viable if CTFC is guaranteed continuing benefit over a long time frame, such as 20 years. This would allow the object of the Recreation Ground Charity (provision of a recreation ground) to be fulfilled.

Drive

To make this all happen we need supporters and volunteers. Initially we need sufficient supporters to demonstrate the strength of community commitment. To register support and be kept informed of developments, please email 'Me Too' to info@ProtectMPF.uk, or call Gordon Watt on 07957 481133.

When the proposal is accepted we will need volunteers:

CTFC would like to work in partnership with a committee of local people committed to improving MPF.

WADRA has raised funds for pavilion restoration. It plans to continue.

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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'

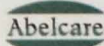
8th December

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A Christmas Musical Afternoon in the church
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CLUBS

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

Jane Haas will be our demonstrator for this month with the theme 'Green Fingers'. Jane has previously demonstrated at the club and teaches at our workshops so this will be a demonstration not to miss.

We will also be holding a cake sale in aid of Launchpad.

As usual doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on Wednesday 14th September at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham.

Visitors are welcome at £5.50.

Tea/coffee is available at 50p along with raffle tickets at 50p with a chance to win a beautiful arrangement by Jane Haas.

Rosehill WI

We were welcomed to our July meeting by Vice President Margaret Seal as our President Margaret Pyle was away. Margaret went on to say that Judith Sharp has agreed to be Treasurer; she welcomed Judith and hoped she would enjoy the task. She also said that the record of the June meeting was available for all to see. The NFWI Raffle tickets were on sale for anyone who wished to purchase one. Who would think that for just £1 you could win £10,000, an iRobot Roomba 875, theatre seats, Singer sewing machine, etc? Cards have been received from Caversham and Chazy WIs thanking Rosehill for inviting them to our birthday party, and of course, the belly dancing display. There is a report from Brenda Caborn about her time at the AGM for all to see. The birthday buttonholes were then distributed.

Our attention was drawn to Berkshire WI News in which several events are advertised, including a lunch at Grazeley Village Hall with Joyce Meader as speaker. Joyce is a historical knitting expert who owns an extensive collection of patterns dating back to 1817. There is also another outing entitled 'Feel the Silk - Taste the Gin' which will take place on 16th September and should be a very interesting day out. A Christmas Craft workshop is to be held on 15th October with the choice of either quilted Christmas card, fabric tree decoration, foliage door hanging, fabric covered box, pomander or Christmas stocking.

A group of 26 from Rosehill attended The Mill at Sonning for a matinee performance of 'It Runs In The Family' by Ray Cooney. This was a very enjoyable outing starting with lunch at 12.15 and then the show at 14.15. We all went home with a feel good factor and would like to thank Margaret Pyle for organising everything for us and making the day so successful.

Our speaker was Rosemary Edginton who spoke about 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'. Rosemary brought along her dog, a miniature poodle called Teaka (the name came from the fact that she is like the colour of teal). This interesting talk told us how it all started to the present day. Princess Anne is the patron, and it can cost up to £40,000 to train a dog. Some dogs are trained as guide dogs for the blind as well as hearing dogs.

Clean-up of Caversham alleyways

A team of volunteers from Thames Water joined members of the council's neighbourhood team for a community clean-up in Caversham.

The teams joined forces in July to sweep, clean, cut back and generally improve the appearance of footpaths along Lower Henley Road and alleyways in the surrounding area.

The council is looking to hold eight community events during this third year of Love Clean Reading in which streets, alleyways and towpaths across the borough receive a makeover.

More than 10 tonnes of litter and vegetation was collected during the Love Clean Reading 2 programme which took place between November 2015 and April 2016.

A total of 46 bags of rubbish and green waste were collected from the Lower Henley Road area.

Councillor Liz Terry, Reading's lead councillor for neighbourhoods,

said, "The council's neighbourhood and streetcare teams work hard to keep the borough clean but sometimes an extra effort is needed to reach areas a little off the beaten track. I'd like to thank Thames Water staff and residents for helping give these alleyways in Caversham a really good spruce up. I'm sure people who use them will really notice the difference. I hope we can hold many more similar community clean-ups over the coming months."

Paul Kerr, chief financial officer for wholesale wastewater at Thames Water, said, "It was great to see so many of our Thames Finance employees out helping Reading council as part of their clean-up programme. Giving back to our communities is, and always will be, very important to Thames Water and our employees, so it was a privilege to be able to make a difference locally at Lower Henley Road."

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

The next meeting will be at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green on 7th September at 2.00 pm.

Caversham Horticultural Society

All gardeners are welcome to visit the society's Autumn Show on Saturday 10th September which is held at Emmer Green Primary School. Entrance to the show is via the St Barnabas Road entrance and doors open at 2pm. In addition to horticultural exhibits there are classes in handicrafts and domestic categories and also several classes specifically for children. There will be a refreshment stall serving tea and cakes, and also a chance to purchase plants and spring bulbs.

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Stay-a-while Lunch Club

The club, which meets on
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Probus

The speaker at the July meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Graham Simms who presented a talk entitled 'Innovation Sparks'. Graham has had a career in research and development, and he is a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. He spent much of his career working for BAE Systems at the Rutherford Appleton laboratory, developing guidance systems for aircraft, particularly using laser technology. He ended his working life as a senior research fellow at Proctor and Gamble, working for Gillette developing razors. He has 25 patents to his name, in the areas of missile guidance and razor technology. He now does voluntary work. Graham calls himself an inventor, as this produces a much more favourable response from audiences, particularly schoolchildren, than using the term engineer.

His talk was around the theme of creativity, using one's knowledge and imagination to produce new thoughts and ideas, and he developed the theme of what triggers ideas, using a light bulb metaphor – what switches the light on? He recommended the book *Where good ideas come from* by Stephen Johnson. He explored in depth seven different sources for new ideas, giving examples of each:

Exadaptation – using technology developed for a different purpose; he used as examples Gutenberg, who invented the printing press using ideas already in existence in a wine press, the Lumiere brothers, who created film based on sewing machine technology, and Dyson's bagless vacuum cleaner. He recommended visits to museums to see technology, and think what else this technology could be used for.

Slow Hatch – where ideas develop over a period of time. He quoted Charles Darwin, who started a commonplace book in 1837, noting many things about living creatures, but it was not until 1859 that he published his Theory of Evolution, created out of all the notes he had taken in the intervening years. Also Tim Berners-Lee, who created the World Wide Web from ideas he had been working with over many years.

Platforms – build on ideas already in existence. In 1957 Sputnik was launched; scientists in the USA detected its 20 MHz signal, and measured the Doppler effect to calculate its position. Then they asked whether the same technology could be used for the satellite to know their position, and from this the first Satellite Navigation systems were created.

Adjacent Possible – using past ideas to develop current ideas. Ideas have their time, and may depend on the existence of supporting technology. Some ideas are time critical – eg Bell developed the telephone, and filed his patent in the morning of 14 Feb 1876, but Elisha Gray appeared with the same idea later that day – too late, or we would never have heard of the Bell Telephone. In 1881, Dr Tarnier, an obstetrician noticed that two thirds of premature babies died in the first week. But in zoos animals had a much better survival rate, as they used a light to keep the babies warm. From this the incubator was developed. After the tsunami, some hospitals had incubators that were out of action as they depended parts, which were expensive and had to be shipped from abroad. So a primitive incubator was developed using Toyota truck parts, which were readily available, so it was possible to keep them working. So we look for new ways of combining existing ideas, and it is important to get in early.

Liquid Networks – he quoted as an example Hogarth coffee houses, where many people gathered to share ideas. The wisdom of the crowd can be a potent force, as some individuals get smarter when they are connected to networks of people. It must be a liquid network, not solid, as this is too stable, or gas, as this creates chaos. It must be able to create new configurations sometimes through random connections. It is important to keep the network fluid.

Serendipity – discovery of things you were not looking for. Examples quoted were Mendeleev, who in Russia in 1871 developed the Periodic Table of elements from a dream, and from trying to classify existing known elements, he was able to identify gaps in the table, and predict the existence of unknown elements. Mestral developed Velcro after trying to clean his dog when it was covered in burrs. Schooler discovered that ideas flow better when doing mundane tasks, which allow the brain to

wander.

Error – Spencer Silver created 'Post-It' notes after making errors when testing glue, as the adhesive was too weak for normal use. William Parkin in 1856 created synthetic dyes from the dark oily sludge left when using coal tar in saccharin. Penicillin was developed after Alexander Fleming noticed that the mould at the bottom of the dish he had not cleaned had killed more bacteria than the substance he was testing.

He finished his talk by postulating that there is no such thing as a failed experiment. The important thing is to use your imagination.

This was a stimulating talk which gave the members much food for thought.

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.

The Caversham Heights Society

The 2016/17 season of the Caversham Heights Society begins on Wednesday 21st September at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall situated on the corner of Highmoor Road and Woodcote Road. The evening will start with coffee served from 7pm to 7.30pm. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting when last year's programme will be reviewed, the accounts presented and a new committee elected. The first lecture of the new season will then be given by John Brierley on 'The Verney Family of Claydon in Buckinghamshire'. Future lectures include 'Thames crossings from Ford to Flight' on October 5th, 'The Queen's Bodyguard' on October 19th and 'The Old bath Road' on November 2nd.

Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the Methodist Church Hall. New members are always welcome and initial inquiries should be made to the Treasurer, Carol Cozens on 946 1509 or by email at rooster10@btinternet.com. We look forward to greeting you.

Caversham WI

Keeping fit was the subject in July. Jeanette Hughes gave a detailed talk on aspects of keep fit and then led a session of simple exercises, mostly done sitting down. The importance of posture and muscle strengthening was emphasised. We hope everyone felt better after the session.

The competition, a keep fit tip, was judged with Margaret Cameron as winner and Romagne Flight and Beryl White as runners up.

The sad news of the death of Doreen Beard, one of our founder members, was given.

Caversham WI is renewing itself in time for the autumn start of activities in September. The present office holders are all retiring, the responsibilities of leading will be taken by other members and the 50 years traditions continued in perhaps new ways. Margaret, Sylvia and Sue have served the members so well for very many years and now is the time to thank them for all their work and above all for keeping a very happy group of women in fine control!

We are hoping to increase our membership and branch out in new ways and take the lead from the National WI in continuing to evolve. This year one of our national aims is to work to promote ways to prevent food waste. So if you would like to find out more, why not join us at our start of autumn meeting, a harvest supper on 15th September at 7.30pm in Church House, Church Street. There will be apple pie and cream followed by an auction of harvest fruit and vegetables. Come and see! Phone Sue Taylor the secretary on 0118 957 3483 for details.

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