

World of Faiths and Flowers at St Peter's

An experienced and gifted flower arranger, Pat Williams who chose the theme and orchestrated the recent Flower Festival at St Peter's has been involved for fourteen years with arranging flowers at the church. For the past three years she has been in charge of the flower arranging team. The choice of theme for the festival arose from a family interest in religions of the world and this inspired the title 'World of Faiths and Flowers'.

Although the theme was world-wide and the flowers came from a variety of countries, the arrangers were all 'home-grown' from St Peter's. They enthusiastically took up the challenge, interpreting in

flowers the Olympic flag representing the five continents, other countries such as South Africa, New Zealand, Madeira, Scotland and Ireland and faiths as diverse as those of the Greek Orthodox Church and Japanese Shintoism. Also represented were the beliefs of the Incas, the Buddhists, the ancient Greeks and Romans and the native North Americans. 'A lot was learnt along the way' remarked Pat 'as the arrangers researched their subjects in order to interpret them imaginatively and with accuracy'. The altar arrangement depicted the heart of the Christian faith, the Holy Trinity; and in the Lady Chapel was a pedestal symbolising the Roman Catholic veneration for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As always with such a project many people became involved lending artefacts and materials. The charity shops did well too as the team scoured the shelves for appropriate 'props'. Pat expressed her gratitude to those who helped behind the scenes, making and serving refreshments, and stewarding the event. Those involved were of all ages ranging from the children at Sunday Club who made the globes depicting nations of the world to the oldest contributor, over ninety.

Cheques of £ 200 have been sent to the "Speakability" charity and The St Peter's Sound System Fund.

The Rector, Canon Richard Kingsbury, summed up the World of Faiths and Flowers festival as a tremendous success. "It was an ambitious project,

representing just some of the faiths and cultures of the world. Apart from the stunning visual effect, the Festival brought home for me that God so loved the world - not just the church but the whole world, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Rastafarians - that He gave His Son to show the extent of His love. The many who visited the Festival will have taken home a memory of vivid colours and imaginative designs. The afternoon concerts by the Berkshire Recorder Consort and the St Peter's Choir added to the enjoyment. Heartfelt congratulations are due to Pat Williams and the St Peter's flower-arrangers."



Roman Catholicism.

O. Jewiss



Buddhism.

O. Jewiss



Judaism.

O. Jewiss

INSIDE

Drop the Debt Addicts	page 2	Guiding	pages 9
Youth	page 3	Caversham Folk Festival	page 9
From the Lookout Post	page 4	Obituary	page 10
Community	page 5	Happy Wanderer.....	page 10
Churches	pages 6, 7 & 8	The Clubs	pages 11

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12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Thursdays. Please note the Editors
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you do not regularly subscribe to the
paper and would like to do so, please
contact Mark Staunton on 947 2389.

DROP THE DEBT ADDICTS

The first symptoms became apparent in 1997 when
accompanying the Revd Rosemary Fletcher and her husband
James Rowley to a meeting in High Wycombe at which the
inspiring speaker was Ann Pettifor, Director of the Jubilee
2000 Coalition.

The addiction began to get a grip on us in Birmingham on
16th May 1998, when we were among 10,000
demonstrators who formed a human chain around the
Convention Centre where the G7 leaders were in session.
They were debating what, if any, action they might take to
bring debt relief to more than the mere half dozen countries
which had benefited since the initiative to reduce the debts
of the world's poorest countries had been launched in 1996.

By 1999 we were hooked, finding ourselves standing on a
bridge across the Rhine in Cologne, and forming, with
50,000 other demonstrators, a human chain around the
German city where the G7 leaders finally got round to
pledging \$100bn of debt cancellation.

The Genoa experience in July 2001 might well have cured
us of the addiction. We demonstrators were kept well away
from the palace where the G7 were meeting and the protest
march disintegrated into groups which snaked their way
through back streets to steer clear of burnt out cars and still
smouldering refuse bins.

However, we could not resist the opportunity to make our
way to Edinburgh to play a modest part in the 250,000
strong human chain around the city that pressed the G8 to
Make Poverty History. They were urged to cancel the debts
of the world's poorest countries, to make trade fairer for
them and to increase the aid necessary to combat AIDS and
meet the millenium targets for education and health.

Look out for John Madeley's report on the outcomes of the
Gleneagles Summit in the next issue of the Caversham
Bridge.

EMA and LMA



The Edinburgh Human Chain, 2nd July 2005

E.M. Allies

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the September 2005 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church
House by noon on Wednesday 27th July. The date for submission of items for the October 2005 issue
will be Wednesday 7th September 2005.

All advertising copy for the September 2005 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road,
Caversham, by Tuesday 26th July 2005. For the October 2005 issue the date will be Tuesday 6th
September 2005.

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EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mrs Marjorie Tillman, Mr Kevin Corrigan, Mrs Kathy Munne, Mrs Val Reynolds, Mr Alan Bradbury
c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX Tel: 947 1703. Email: parishoffice@stpetercaversham.idps.co.uk
ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs Sarah Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham RG4 7AN. Tel: 377 3020. Email sarah.lobley@hemsco.net
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 947 2389.
COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham RG4 7BG. Tel: 947 4017.
POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Branch, 11 Gurney Drive, Caversham, RG4 7LG. Tel: 947 7534.

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
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CAVERSHAM CLERGY

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Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road.
Tel: 947 9130.
(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30. Tel: 947 1703
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Fr Christopher Bester, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common
Tel: 972 3418

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Rev H R Gayle Tel: 945 3849 (contact)

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St John's, Gosbrook Road

8.00am The Holy Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church
notice boards.

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion (apart
from 2nd Sunday)
10.00am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
All Age Worship (at Festival Times)

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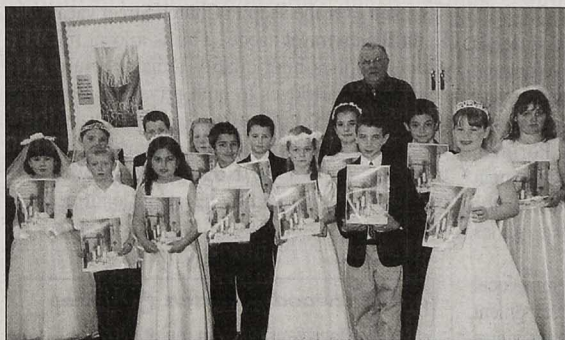
News from St Martin's

On Trinity Sunday, fifteen children made their First Holy Communion at St Michael's Church in Sonning Common.



Class 2 Carnival Presentation.

Photo: Jane Shaw



Father Ellis with the First Communion group proudly displaying their certificates.

The following Thursday was the feast of Corpus Christi and the fourteen First Communicants from St Martin's donned their special clothes and attended Mass in the school hall with the the rest of the school and those family and friends who were able to attend. Father Ellis celebrated Mass and afterwards he presented the children with their commemorative certificates and gold lapel crosses to remind them of this very important day in their lives.

The First Communion children were then able to have refreshments with family and friends in the hall before resuming their normal school clothes for the rest of the day.

Later in the term the school held its annual Arts Week. The theme of the week was Carnival and on the 4th July, before an audience of parents and school governors, the children displayed the results of their work. Each class developed the theme in a different way but musical instruments of various sorts featured strongly – blowers, whistles, rattles and shakers. Tie-dyed T-shirts, embroidered and printed T-shirts, head-dresses in different forms all featured, as did the class banners, from decorated flags to ornate creatures reminiscent of the ones in Caribbean carnivals.

Perhaps two stars of the show were Mr Frost in his highly coloured shirt and shorts and Mrs Hands leading her group in a Samba after the initial parade.

Report by Jane Shaw

News from St Anne's School

On 29th June, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, the whole school attended Mass at Our Lady and St Anne's Church. With great organisation, all the children were seated in church with enough room left for parishioners who also came to Mass. The children sang beautifully, particularly the two-part Communion hymn which had a wonderful haunting sound.

Later that day, school sports were held with all the customary events. The rain held off until the end of the infants' sports in the afternoon.

On 1st July, the church was the scene for the Confirmation Mass for fifteen children from the school along with three others. Canon Tom Farrell celebrated Mass and confirmed the children. During his homily, he talked about the gifts received in Confirmation and related them to the coming G8 conference. He said that young people must use their talents in the fight against poverty in the world and should share their gifts and love with all those in need in any way, not only those suffering poverty in the conventional sense.

After the service, there were refreshments in the Cenacle and Canon Farrell presented the candidates with their certificates.

CAVERSHAM PARK PRE SCHOOL PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR THE PARENTS

To celebrate the end of the topic – Music, Rhythm & Dance – the children at Caversham Park Pre-School put on a mini-show for their parents.

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Will the people of Caversham do it again? Over 1,600 people attended the public exhibitions on transport proposals for the north of Reading. Our latest invitation from the Borough Council is to a workshop on the Reading Borough Local Development Framework. Under new government guidelines this will replace the Local Plan.

A series of consultation workshops took place across Reading including one at the Arthur Legge Centre in July. There is a small glossy leaflet available in Caversham Library and a questionnaire. These are also available from the Council offices or via the website - www.reading.gov.uk. Select 'environment and planning' then 'planning' and look for 'Core Strategy Document: Issues and Options.' You should find an interactive questionnaire and a comments form. Comments were invited by the end of July but I am advised that they will be accepted up to early September.

This stage of the process looks in very broad terms at how new housing can be provided in central Reading, existing residential areas, existing employment areas, previously undeveloped land or some combination of all four. It looks specifically at the protection of open spaces.

The planners' analysis suggests that the preferred option could be to focus high density housing, employment and retail on central Reading. Development elsewhere would be at a density which reflected access by public transport and the character of the area. This would be added to by releasing areas currently known as employment land such as Battle Hospital, parts of Portman Road/Richfield Avenue, Chatham Street and the station area. Employment development would be focused mainly on the A33 corridor and parts of the Chatham Street and the station area. This is inevitably a gross oversimplification but I was trying to keep it short!

The purpose of setting out these issues is to provide a basis for seeking local views before moving on to the next stage in drawing up the Local Development Framework. We all care about development in our area so do send your views and make sure that you join your local association so that they can speak with authority on your behalf.

Policing

The 6th of June marked the formal appointment of Graham Dix to the post of Caversham Neighbourhood Inspector. It is welcome to have an Inspector dedicated to Caversham. Unfortunately, it is one in, two out, with PC Lewis now in Southcote and PC Moir Acting Sergeant on Oxford Road. That leaves Caversham with a Police Sergeant and two PCs. Whilst awaiting replacements, Inspector Dix is assigning Special Constables to the Caversham team and adding one or two probationers. He will be communicating to Caversham residents about the plans to implement Neighbourhood Policing, including the respective roles of neighbourhood and incident response police.

The problem of youths causing antisocial behaviour, graffiti and damage is being addressed by having shift officers patrol key areas and police writing to parents of young people stopped during these patrols. Those youths not taking advice are "engaged" via Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Regrettably, one family may face eviction due to continued anti-social behaviour.

Licensing

Local residents have been expressing their concerns on a number of licensing applications. Pipers Island has caused concerns on a number of fronts. It appears that the building is higher than the approved application and this is being investigated. There is also an application to extend the licensing hours. Aside from the understandable concerns of the adjacent Riverside Court, too many people know of the tragic consequences that can result from intoxication and a river. Local councillors are expected to oppose this application which is likely to be heard in September.

Another application to extend licensing hours is from The Grosvenor on Kidmore Road. Local residents are very concerned about the potential for yet more noise and disturbance and are mobilising opposition to the application. We expect that the application will have been heard before this column goes to press.

Whereas pub licences are now granted by the Borough Council, betting shops continue to be licensed by magistrates. Last week a licence was granted for a betting shop in the vacant property next to Wordplay in Prospect Street. We understand that the company are keen to work closely with the local community to minimise potential problems and we hope this will work out in practice. Speaking of Prospect Street, I was very pleased to see the old Post Office smartened up and taking on a new lease of life with the barber's shop moving down the hill. Sadly, I had no excuse to go to their champagne opening!

Allotments

The Borough Council has recently produced a 10-year Allotment Plan for public consultation, listing six laudable aims. The recommendations, sent out to allotment holders, nearly all hit the mark in regard to users' needs although it is difficult to see how the use of water butts is practicable on most allotment sites. Allotments are not only valued by users but by the community at large as green

space in an urban environment. The plan is available via the council's web site or by calling 0800 626540. Views can be submitted by post to the RBC Parks Service, e-mail at parks.admin@reading.gov.uk or via the council web site.

A chance to recycle



The lack of a central glass recycling bin is still causing concern. Space in the car parks is at a premium, and who would manage the area to limit vandalism? Any suggestions for a central Caversham site and a manager?

And finally, for all you computer buffs, you can now buy your replacement ink cartridges without having to go in to Reading. The Inkdrop company has taken over the shop in Church Street vacated by Keith Bailey travel agents. This is a local franchise which supplies high quality remanufactured and compatible cartridges to both private and business users with a saving of up to 60% on original cartridges. Further reductions are available if you take in your old cartridge and you will save essential plastics and metals from ending up in landfill.

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COMMUNITY

Fun for all the family at Caversham Festival

The programme is rapidly taking shape for the Third Caversham Festival to be held on Saturday, 10 September. The event is again to be held on Westfield Green in Lower Caversham, just off Gosbrook Road. The show will open at 10 am and close around 5.30 pm and will be free to everyone!

One of the largest attractions will be the Caversham Horticultural Society's Annual Show, where the winning trophies will be presented by Miss Sarah Tull, Member of Youth Parliament for Reading.

Music and dance feature high on the programme and performers are expected to include The Radio Days Big Band; Thameside Maypole Dancers; Highdown School Bands; Dave and Syd's Folk Music; the Mel Stempinski Group; line dancers; Mo's Place Childrens' dance, and much more besides. Young people are also being encouraged to take part and there will be the very successful "Unplugged" tent with its own programme, which will include Inuit Monk, Jodie O'Callaghan, and The Mannequins.

Local schools will be at the forefront, with contributions from Micklands, Highdown and Thameside, and from Caversham and Newbridge Nursery Schools. For the younger people there will be a nursery tent, a story teller, face painting, a bouncy castle, balloon race and lots more fun.

A number of organisations and individuals are

mounting displays or giving demonstrations, including Caversham Rotary Club (The sponsors of the Festival), Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Reading Beekeepers Association, a stick maker, a Bat Group, Caversham & District Residents' Association, Caversham Good Neighbours, British Shintaido, T'ai Chi, several promoters of alternative therapies, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Caversham Library, Scouts and the Police.

Visitors will have a wide choice of food and drink, including access to a tea tent, a beer tent and barbecued meats. There will be "real time" lemonade, icecream, the Bina Indian food experience, donut stand, Pulp n' Gulp and other outlets.

There will also be lots to buy, including books from St Peter's second-hand display, WI cakes, Traidcraft foods and other items; maps and books from the Reading Map Company and toys and books, etc. Elsewhere on the showground will be a tent with displays of arts and crafts and an art exhibition.

Finally, a number of charity organisations are mounting displays, including Sue Ryder Care, Duchess of York Hospice and the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre.

The organisers will be welcoming The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Riaz Chaudri and his wife during the course of the Festival.

Caversham Theatre win Drama Festival Award

As reported briefly in last month's Stop Press, local amateur drama group Caversham Theatre were awarded a prize at the Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festival in June, when they presented the one-act play "Close to Croydon", written by Gillian Plowman. Over the six nights of the festival a total of 17 one-act plays were performed and on Friday night the adjudicator, Sally Noble, summed up the festival and the Festival Awards were presented.

Caversham Theatre were delighted when it was

announced that they had won the Punters' Prize - this is awarded to the best production as voted for by those members of the audience who have attended all six nights of the Festival. They were also very pleased to be told that the Adjudicator had placed them third in the Best Overall Production Category.

Despite putting on plays in Caversham two or three times a year for over twenty years this was the first time that Caversham Theatre had entered a Drama Festival. Director Jon Skeet said "We entered the festival with very little idea of what to expect, and certainly very little thought of winning a prize. We aimed to have fun and do the best we could - and from that point of view, we knew we'd been successful as soon as the curtains closed. To win the Punters' Prize as well is icing on the cake. We're all thrilled, and we're looking forward to returning next year."

"Close to Croydon" is a darkly humorous play in which two strangers, Hugo (played by Simon Lovelock) and Martha (played by Kathy Munns) sit inside an overturned carriage of a train which has crashed, close to Croydon. Over the course of their brief encounter, they show each other, and perhaps themselves, the many facets that make up their lives. We also hear from two rescue workers, George (played by Richard Stainthorpe) and Anthea (played by Denise Wallbanks).

Caversham Theatre's next production will be on November 10, 11 and 12, at St. Anne's Hall, Washington Road, Caversham. Full details will be available soon; for further information about Caversham Theatre please contact Bob Green on 0118 947 7372.

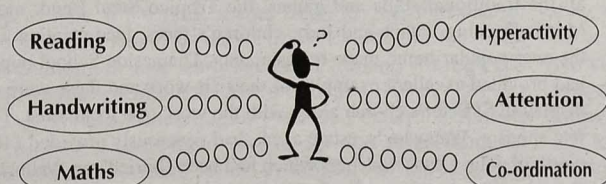


R Stainthorpe

Simon Lovelock and Kathy Munns as Hugo and Martha at Wallingford

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CAVERSHAM, READING RG4 0JF**AROUND THE CHURCHES****ST BARNABAS – THIS IS YOUR LIFE!**

St Barnabas' Patronal Festival, which was observed on the Sunday following St Barnabas Day, took on a new form this year when the Vicar (the Revd Derek Chandler) appeared with a Big Red Book, called forth St Barnabas from the congregation and in the format characteristic of a well known television show proceeded to summon up characters from St Barnabas' past to remind him (and the congregation) of his achievements. Voices boomed through the sound system before these New Testament figures appeared in the "flesh". St Barnabas was a man of stature (played by the tallest man in the church), a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. We were reminded of the significant contribution Barnabas had made in preaching at Antioch, where Jesus' followers were first called Christians, and in his seeking out of Paul prior to their missionary journey together with John Mark over whom they had a disagreement; then there was the involvement with Peter back in Jerusalem.

This was no passive "This is your Life"; when the Roman Governor of Cyprus, Sergius Paulus, and his entourage arrived, including the sorcerer Elymus, the congregation rose to greet them as they processed through the church. Again there was congregational participation when it came to the stoning of Barnabas by the Iconiums. This dramatic, costumed, interactive event threw a fresh light on the contribution to the life of the

Church of Barnabas, the son of consolation, an encourager; this was an event set within the context of a normal Sunday Service that educated and also encouraged those present.



St Barnabas being presented with the Big Red Book.

DEAN PLACES ST PETER ON THE EDGE

The special preacher at the Patronal Festival at St Peter's Church this year was the Very Revd Christopher Lewis, Dean of Christ Church which, with Eton College, shares the patronage of St Peter's. Set within the context of a Festal Evensong, in which the excellence of the choir shone through in an opening motet *Tu es Petrus*, John Ireland's *Te Deum* and a closing anthem of praise, Dean Christopher portrayed St Peter in a new light. He suggested that Peter was not good churchy material; he was impetuous, putting his foot in it at the Transfiguration, denying Christ at the time of Jesus' trial, a man who was happier fishing than being a leader and someone who was more on the edge than at the centre. He developed this further by reference to a poem by VA Fanshawe entitled *Outpatients*, which dealt with those on the edge of the institution where there is a wrong

atmosphere, noisy children, commotion, a bit like some churches where some have not learnt how to be reverent. He suggested Peter was like those who deal with the outpatients; someone on the edge of the institution working with those at its margins.

Dean Christopher drew a parallel with the present day where the Christian is dealing with life on the edge. He drew attention to the way in which the Archbishop of Canterbury is turned upon by the media either because he appears to go along with society or because he speaks out within the fragmented society in which we live. Peter was a martyr, the true meaning of which is the witness to his faith, his exact position after the resurrection. Like Peter we also may have to suffer so that others may flourish. For us the take-home lesson is the example of St Peter who was made out of unlikely material.



The Very Revd Christopher Lewis, Dean of Christ Church, (centre) was photographed after the Service with the St Peter's clergy, Canon Richard Kingsbury and the Revd Heather Serjeant.

ST MARGARET'S AND ST PETER'S FETE 2005

At 7.30 am a Church Warden was at Caversham Court to take delivery of one of this year's innovations.... the portaloos, kindly provided by the Council. Within forty-five minutes the first gazebo had been erected and the lorry full of tables and chairs was being unloaded. Soon many volunteers were putting up tents, gazebos, hurdles, coconut shies, skittles, the PA system etc. Stalls were set up and stall-holders arrived with their goods and games etc all with an eye on the cloudy skies. The drizzle cleared (and stayed away) and at 1.30 pm Hurst Hump Morris Dancers gave a performance in St Martin's Precinct, accompanied by sandwich boarded cubs advertising the fete and selling programmes. They then made their way to Caversham Court where St Peter's bells



Morris Dancers at St Martins Precinct.

were welcoming the crowds. Another Parish Fete was underway with all the traditional stalls and games, the Tropico Steel Band, more Morris Dancing, Punch and Judy, children's races, face painting and the ever popular home made refreshments. Thameside School pupils had provided excellent examples of their art-work and these were on display in St Peter's church along with the work of a local artist. The fete sponsor, Walmsley's, estate agent, had generously provided £100 worth of John Lewis vouchers which had been "buried" on Walmsley Treasure Island and treasure hunters had been trying to find the spot throughout the afternoon. At the end the winner was announced along with the winner of the football signed by the Reading team and winners of other competitions. The Rector then picked the tickets for the twenty Grand Draw prizes, excitement mounting as he approached the top prize of £200. Another successful and fun-filled afternoon was over.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

News from Our Lady and St Anne's Parish

There have been two recent events at the church of Our Lady and St Anne's in Caversham which reflect two ends of the Ordination spectrum.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

On the 5th June, 2005, Fr Thomas Meagher celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained at Oscott College, the diocesan college, in 1955. He was curate at Our Lady and St Anne's from 1955-61 and parish priest from 1981-94 and he returned on 4th June to celebrate Mass at St Anne's.

Father Meagher was instrumental with Patty Naxton in setting up the choir when he was parish priest and, at his request, they sang the Latin Missa De Angelis, joined enthusiastically by the congregation. They also sang two four-part motets and led three joyful, even triumphant, hymns.

During the homily, Father Meagher talked about the sacrifice that being a priest entailed but pointed out the joys that more than made up for it.

Father Tony Jones concelebrated Mass and at the end spoke a few words of appreciation of Father Meagher. He raised a laugh when he referred accidentally (or was it?) to his "Golden Wedding" but pointed out that the vocation of a priest is rather like marriage but the priest is married to the church and not to one individual. He then presented a gift from

the parish in the form of a cheque. Father Meagher expressed his surprise and gratitude at this.

After Mass a sumptuous spread was available in the Cenacle for all to enjoy. If the amount and quality of the food provided reflected their affection for him, Father Meagher was a well-loved man.



Father Meagher with the Choir after the service.

- Jane Shaw

It is worth noting that the present staff and students of Oscott College had visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham earlier in the day and all sent their congratulations to Father Meagher.

Father John Ellis of St Michael's, Sonning Common, was also ordained on the 5th June 1955. His Golden Jubilee was celebrated a week later. Our

wishes, prayers and congratulations went to him also.

The following Friday, Father Tony, the choir and a small group of guests went to Winchester where Father Meagher now lives in his retirement. At the lovely church of St Peter, the choir again sang at a concelebrated Mass graced by the presence of the Bishop Crispin Hollis of Portsmouth, and Monsignor Peter Doyle, Bishop Elect of Northampton. At a reception after Mass a cake was cut, glasses of champagne were raised and gifts were presented. Then a celebratory meal was held in the original chapel of St Peter's. All those present agreed that it was a lovely day.

ARCHBISHOP ORDAINS DEACON IN CAVERSHAM

On 25th June, Archbishop Nichols of Birmingham came to Caversham to ordain Michael Walker as a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The church was crowded for the moving ceremony.

During the Mass, concelebrated by the Archbishop and several priests of the diocese, Michael was presented to the Archbishop by Fr Paul Chamberlain, Director of Deacons in the Archdiocese. He was questioned by the Archbishop on his willingness and resolve to discharge the office of Deacon and gave his promise of obedience. Michael then prostrated himself in front of the altar during the singing of the Litany of the Saints after which the Archbishop laid his hands on his head and said the

prayer of consecration through which Michael became a Deacon. After his consecration, Deacon Michael was invested with Stole and Dalmatic by his wife, Sarah, assisted by Father Tony Jones and Father Colin Wolczak, a friend of many years. He was then presented with the Book of Gospels and took his place, as Deacon, to assist with the Mass.



The new Deacon with Archbishop Nichols and Father Tony

- Jane Shaw

During Mass, the Choir, the Music Group and a choir of children from St Anne's School all contributed to the service and Michael's wife sang the hymn "Amazing Grace".

After Mass all retired to the school hall where a veritable feast had been laid on, the highlight of which was the ceremonial "spooning of the Tiramisu".

A LONG WALK FROM CAVERSHAM

For a little while now, it has been known that Father Tony Jones would be away from Caversham for much of September and early October, making the age-old pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. He is planning to walk there from St Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrenées, a distance of just under 500 miles, and will be seeking to raise funds in support of Mpoza, Our Lady and St Anne's sister parish in South Africa.

However, his departure on this venture acquired a whole new dimension when, over the weekend 2nd/3rd

July, he told parishioners that, following his pilgrimage, he would be returning, not to Caversham but to another parish in the Birmingham Archdiocese. By the time this is being read in *Caversham Bridge*, more should be known about both Fr Tony's ultimate destination and the identity of his successor but, as this edition was being prepared, no further information was available and Fr Tony himself was away on a well earned holiday. Hopefully, next month's issue will be able to shed more light.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

St Michael's Flower Festival

Father John Ellis was ordained at Oscott College, Birmingham, on 5th June 1955. He came to St Michael's Church in 1989. He retired from being Parish Priest at the beginning of July and shortly before that celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood.

To mark both occasions, the parish held a Flower Festival on 17th to 19th June. Flower arrangers from the parish and from other local churches participated as did members of the Caversham & Chiltern, and Haslemere flower clubs. The church was a beautiful sight. The "flower ladies" thank all who helped in any way. Donations from visitors during the weekend and sponsorships, fund-raising etc resulted in the sum of £1450 being given to CAFOD.

A thanksgiving service for Father Ellis was held at the end of the Festival. The jubilee celebrations had started with a youth service which the young people of the parish had themselves organized and presented. Then on 12th June a parish lunch was held. Among the gifts given to Father Ellis was a book in the form of "This is your life" which contained, among many other memories, references to his sixteen years as a Naval Chaplain and to his three years in Canada.

When he came to Sonning Common, he brought with him a wealth of experience, which has enabled him to serve the parish with great compassion, wisdom and understanding. He will be greatly missed.



Father Ellis outside St Michael's

Shirley Rixon

NEWS OF FORMER CAVERSHAM CLERGY

We are pleased to learn that Canon Adrian Dorber, Priest-in-Charge of St Barnabas between 1985 and 1988, is to be installed as the new Dean of Lichfield Cathedral on 24 September. Adrian, who has just celebrated 25 years in the priesthood, left Emmer Green to become Chaplain to Portsmouth Polytechnic which then evolved into the University of Portsmouth. He also had a role at the Cathedral while in Portsmouth. In 1997 he moved to Brancepeth in County Durham as Priest-in-Charge and since 2001 he has been Director of Ministry and Training in the Durham Diocese; he is also an Honorary Canon at Durham Cathedral. On behalf of our readers we wish Adrian every blessing as he moves to his new ministry and we wish him, Caroline and their family happiness in their new home in Lichfield.

Bible Society Blackberry Walk

Join us on Saturday 17 September for the 2005 Bible Society sponsored blackberry walk!

We meet at 2pm at Reading Bridge House (the home of United Bible Societies) for a walk along the north bank of the Thames as far as Whitechurch.

The walk is suitable for all ages - walking, biking or pushchairing.

Tea will be available halfway at Mapledurham Church; those completing the walk can catch a train home from Pangbourne.

Come for all or part, sponsored or £5 donation to Bible Society.

Are you able to offer help with making cakes or serving teas or stewarding along the walk?

Would you be willing to make blackberry jam for donations to the Bible Society?

Further details and sponsorship forms from Sue Wilmot on 0118 959 9796 or sue.wilmot@biblesociety.org.uk

DIAMOND WEDDING



Caversham couple Ray and Nora Goodman recently celebrated sixty happy years together. They were married at Christchurch, Old Town, Swindon on 26th May 1945. After war service and teacher training at Burderop College near Swindon, the couple moved to teaching posts in Reading. They have lived for many years in Caversham and are well known to the many members of clubs who have listened to and watched their travelogues. Nora is currently treasurer of the Caversham Horticultural Society and both are active members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church. As a thanksgiving for their celebrations many friends joined them to make a substantial donation to NCH

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GIRLGUIDING IN CAVERSHAM

Caroline Smith, the retiring District Commissioner for Caversham, writes of the activities of the last year. Caroline's successor as District Commissioner will be Catharine Sharman.

Caversham District is still one of the largest districts in the County with 12 units and 276 girls.

Our Rainbow Unit will have a complete change of uniformed leadership in September as Amanda Wise and Moira Holloway will be leaving when their daughters move on to Brownies. The good news is that two new people, Sue Ralph and Victoria Stevens, are both going into uniform and are about to start on the Leadership Qualification with help from Helen Randall. They have also gained two Young Leaders. Thanks to Amanda and Moira for starting the unit.

Congratulations to both Jenny Lambden of 3rd Caversham Brownies and Vanessa Hine of 2nd Caversham Guides who passed indoor holiday licences in the last year.

All the District Brownie Units took part in our 90th Birthday celebration, a Stars and Stripes party, on 4th July. We had face paints, a party room, Statue of Liberty headdresses, parachute games, Hawaiian garlands, friendship bracelets, popcorn, commemorative badges and more. Each girl had her own individually decorated birthday cake with a candle in it. We finished with a balloon release and the furthest travelled balloon made it to Roden in the Netherlands.

Our District won the Beryl Whittaker Shield earlier this year with several girls getting individual prizes for their work. The shield has been suitably engraved and is being passed around the District.

Units associated with churches have continued to take part in church activities – attending and leading services, giving food at Harvest, toys at Christmas and running stalls at Church fetes. Some units also took part in Remembrance Day commemorations at the war memorial by the Thames.

The Rainbows have been visited by a fire engine and firemen and some snakes and reptiles. They have made pizzas, started a friendship quilt, dressed up and even made blindfold sandwiches which could be messy but fun.

4th Caversham Brownies have planted trees, taken part

in the Great British Annual Garden Bird Watch, sung carols at the Arthur Clarke Home, celebrated Chinese New Year and completed many, many badges.

5th Caversham Brownies raised £760 at a sponsored keep fit night in November. The money was spent in a 45 minute dash round Toys R Us, buying toys and books which were then given to Reading Family Aid via St Peter's Church Christmas Toy Service in December.

1st Emmer Green Brownies won the District Sports event, knocking the mighty 3rd Caversham off the top slot. They have been to the Checkendon Equestrian Centre and watched horses swimming in the therapy pool. They have held a pop stars evening and a face your fears evening.

2nd Emmer Green have been looking at disability awareness including both hearing and guide dogs and Paralympics. They also did the Region Splash badge.

2nd Caversham Park Brownies also took part in the Splash badge including water tasting, floating vegetables and watery crafts, and have also enjoyed badge work, drama evenings and swimming.

Six of the seven Brownie units took part in holidays. 2nd Emmer Green squashed a year of festivals into one weekend, celebrating bonfire night, Valentine's Day, Easter and lots more. 5th Caversham, 1st Emmer Green and 2nd Caversham Park enjoyed a Go For It weekend for their older girls in October.

2nd Caversham Guides have enjoyed cook outs, raised money on Jeans for Genes day and held a disability awareness evening which brought home some of the difficulties their fellow guide, Natasha Taylor, finds in her every day life.

3rd Caversham Guides now have 2 guiders as Maureen Parsons has completed the Leadership Qualification. The unit raised £150 at St John's Christmas Fair. They have packed bags in M & S and impressed everyone with their conduct on the day. They had a successful day in Basingstoke and went both ice skating and bowling.

2nd Emmer Green Guides have gained a new guider in Nicola Ovenden who is now 18 and working on her warrant. Their Thinking Day money bought items for Feed The Children who are working with the children affected by the tsunami and with children in Africa. They held a football competition, designing strips and a banner

and coming up with their own team names. Their first two Baden Powell Challenges were awarded to Emma Trussell and Laura Panter.

1st Caversham Park Guides have enjoyed outside activities like a bug and bat hunt at Clayfield Copse and a hike to Mapledurham. They have been visited by a representative of Air Ambulance, by the police to talk about drugs and by a lady who dresses dolls in international guiding uniforms. They have completed lots of crafts and 'Go For Its'. Their Young Leader, Katherine O'Halloran, has gone into adult uniform and is working on the Leadership Qualification.

All four guide units have holidayed and also camped with varying favour from the weather. Eleanor De Sausmarez of 2nd Caversham gained her Camp Permit. Katherine O'Halloran of 1st Caversham Park took part in the Mexico trip and loved it so much that she is hoping to go back and work there once she has finished at college.

A group of Young Leaders from the District is going to the international jamboree in Denmark this summer.

The last five years have been challenging at times but always rewarding. It has given me the opportunity to get to know all the guiders in the District and see the fabulous work that they are doing with their girls. I would like to thank them for their support and ask that they look after Catharine as they have me.

Guiding in Caversham is always looking for adult assistance. If you can spare some hours to help a unit or to help with administration please contact Caroline Smith on 0118 949 2382 (daytime only).

2005 Caversham Charity Folk Festival Summer Sizzler

The festival ran this year from Monday 20th to Saturday 26th of June. Each of the venues covered one evening, and we were very fortunate to again be supported by the 4 venues listed below.

The Monday Blues evening at the Crown was hosted by Paul Critchfield and artists included local blues band, Blue Rocket. The atmosphere was as exciting as ever!

Tudor Lodge, who hosted the Tuesday event at the Prince of Wales, set the scene with half an hour of their own material. Lovely melodies, thoughtful lyrics and well balanced harmonies – a delight. Then Neil Davies, a regular on the Reading folk scene, was joined by his son Phil, making his first ever appearance. The audience was treated to a superb set of classic favourites including a beautifully delivered Eagles song. Special guest star was Woody's One Man Band. Woody, who recently appeared on the Paul O'Grady show, gave us all that you'd expect, plus some great blues based material – without the one-man band gear. The evening closed with Tudor Lodge retaking the stage for some all time favourite 60's songs.

On Wednesday, the bar at the Clifton Arms reverberated to the rhythms of bluegrass from the excellent local band Home Territory, while the back room hosted traditional Irish music from several accomplished instrumentalists who included local singer Sara Daniels. Andy Oliver contributed a confident acoustic blues set, supported by Jimmy Carroll on harmonica and manic fiddler, Pete. Malcolm Smith was MC.

On Thursday, Mike Tierney hosted an informal evening of contributions from a great variety of excellent local artists at the Retreat in Reading.

On Saturday, Damien Clarke, founder and ex leader of Pressgang, and the Ding Dong Daddios represented us with performances at the Waterfest in Reading. Damien represented us again later that evening with an appearance at Wittfest.

Finally, on Sunday, Readifolk were pleased to introduce a concert evening with Patty Vetta and Alan Franks at the Clifton Arms. This was folk music at its best, a mix of old and new, in a traditional setting.

The events were all part of the Caversham Charity Folk Festival, and all the performers gave their time and talents free. The audiences that packed the venues gave generously in support of a number of local charities.

Further information about CCFF and the Charities it supports can be found at www.ccff.org.uk

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HAPPY WANDERER

The Romance of Language

Since I was a child, and I persuaded my favourite aunt to buy me a copy of Edward Step's *Wayside and Woodland Flowers* in a Manchester department store (Kendal Milne's) for 12/6d (63p), I have known about Ploughman's Spikenard.

It wasn't until I set foot on the chalk downs near Reading some twenty years later that I actually saw it, and I must admit, it was a bit disappointing – fairly tall, but rather untidy, and a rather dull yellow. What I should have done – and probably would have done, had I known at the time – was to take a piece home, and hang it up somewhere, and let it perfume the house, because apparently that is what country people did.

Real spikenard was very expensive: the Bible tells us so (John 12:3). It was the ointment with which Mary Magdalene anointed Jesus's feet. John Wycliffe's translation, from the 1380s, has: "Marie took a pound of oynement spikenard, or trewe nard, precious," while the 1611 Authorised Version has: "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly." It was originally produced from a plant that grew in



Happy Wanderer

northern India, *Nardostachys jatamansi*.

When I first saw the plant, on Watlington Hill, my friends and I had had some discussion on the significance of the name, so on my return I was inspired to reach for the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and for my books on plant names and plant lore. The word "nard" is ancient, and occurs in Latin and Greek, and signified the plant and the ointment made from it. But the OED isn't so sure about the "spike" part of the name: it could refer to a flower or fruiting spike on a plant, or it could have come into the language from Old French, "spicanade," in which

case the "spike" would have signified "spice" and "spicy."

The Ploughman's Spikenard is, I suppose, something like the original ploughman's lunch – something cheap and cheerful with which labouring people have to be contented. Or the Ploughman's Weatherglass, an old Wiltshire name for the Scarlet Pimpernel, which closes its flowers before rain – not really as effective as a barometer, but at least it's free! *Happy Wanderer*

TRIBUTE

Miss Nora Jones – 2 April 1910 – 9 May 2005



Marion Elliott

Sadly Nora passed away on the 9th May 2005 at Beacher Hall, Bath Road, Reading after celebrating her 95th birthday party on 2nd April at Beacher Hall among her friends.

Nora had lived most of her life in Caversham – Church Road, Priory Avenue, The Alms Houses, Westfield Road, Bristow Court and finally Beacher Hall.

Milwards was her place of work and she will be remembered as "Miss Jones, Head Salesperson".

Nora was a very active lady and helped The League of Friends at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on Thursdays, pushing a trolley around the wards. She was a great bridge player, an accomplished artist, and enjoyed her luncheon club meetings on Monday at the Methodist Church in Highmoor Road. She was a member of the League of Health and Beauty for many years.

Nora will be greatly missed by all her friends.

AFTER DEATH.....

Recently I made an infrequent visit to Southwark Cathedral for a thanksgiving service for those people who had donated their bodies either for medical research or for organ transplant. The reason that I was at the service was that both my brother and his wife, who had died recently, had donated their bodies and I wished to attend the thanksgiving service. Although another brother had been a doctor, and one of my granddaughters is reading medicine at Cambridge, and I knew that bodies were necessary for the teaching of human anatomy, I had not realised how very necessary it was for the students to have access to bodies for their tuition and research.

After having a chat with one of the Chaplains to a medical school (who had himself donated his body) I made the decision to donate mine. But how? After contacting my

local medical practice I was advised to get in touch with the mortuary at the RBH, but no, they were not a teaching hospital, so I rang up an undertaker, who gave me the address of the University of Oxford Dept of Human Anatomy and Genetics, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QX. On request they kindly sent me the necessary information and application form necessary to carry out my wishes.

I am so very thankful for all the assistance and treatment that I and my family have received: broken legs, elbows, operations for appendicitis etc. One way in which I can show my gratitude will be to give my body, to help with the training of future doctors.

It may be that anyone reading this might be thinking along the same lines.

Bill Vincent

Christian Aid Collection

The Christian Aid Week street collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised the sum of £11,635.85 this year. This amount includes the sum of £437.97 raised by Queen Anne's School in their own envelope and Chapel collection. The sum of £4,584.40 was declared for Gift Aid which means that an additional £1293.03 can be added to the above total. The collection taken at the annual Christian Aid Service at Lower Caversham Methodist Church came to £194.40. Nine walkers took part in the Christian Aid Walk at Henley and they raised £653.20.

Overall the results this year were the same as 2004 and 2003. Once again, grateful thanks are due to all who helped in any way to bring about this excellent result.

the CLUBS

Caversham Women's Institute

Caversham members were 'thriving' at their last meeting when the speaker Ann Byard, spoke about the work of 'Thrive'. This charity provides gardening therapy for disadvantaged people. Clear graphics projected onto the wall explained the details of the work and how they achieve their aims. The local headquarters at Beech Hill often has open days and also sells some of their produce. The speaker judged the competition - a petite flower arrangement. Margaret Cameron was the winner with Ann Hall coming second. The raffle was boosted with the addition of a ginger cake and organic coffee as a gift from Yorkshire Tea plus tea for the refreshment interval.

Caversham Community Association

Sunny June began in the usual way with an informal games evening. The following week provided some mind exercise with a quiz evening. Pictures of old Reading proved a talking point plus general knowledge and anagram teasers. More energetic exercise came the following week with a sports evening and various team games.

More seriously, an extra general meeting was held the following week to discuss the notice from Reading Adult College for the Association to leave the Arthur Legge Centre. Everyone was keen to keep the club going and it was agreed that an alternate venue would be sought.

Stop Press. The Association will meet at Church House from the beginning of August on a Monday at 7.30pm. New members will be most welcome.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs Edna Manning, Chairman, welcomed members to our June meeting and, gave apologies for absences. All activities were reported on and are going well.

Mrs Ann Deane was to go to the NCM at Cardiff as the Guild's delegate, along with two observers. Mrs Manning wished them all well.

The speaker, Mr. Robin Smith, and his wife were introduced by the Chairman. They gave a most enjoyable slide show on Petra and Jordan. The Rock and Stone Formation and also the buildings carved out of the Rock were fascinating.

Mrs Manning gave the vote of thanks; members showed their appreciation in the usual way. Competition 'Best Rose' was won by Mrs Gladys Gale.

Meetings are held at Church House,

Caversham, and new members are welcome, do come and join us.

Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th August, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club will host a demonstration by David Martin entitled "Let me entertain you". The venue is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. The entrance fee is £4.00 for visitors, £3.00 for senior citizens and refreshments will be available. The Club meets at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on the second Wednesday of each month, and visitors are very welcome. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400

St Peter's Wives Group

At the June meeting Julie and Tony Roberts, welcomed members to their garden in Caversham to see Tony's model railway in action. The track, with bridges and tunnels, had been skilfully created by Tony on a 'raised bed' about three feet high, with imaginative miniaturised planting to match the scale of the engines.

A few husbands came along for the evening and were soon to be found in Tony's workshop at the end of the garden discussing model railways and radio-controlled model aircraft.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served in the garden and the proceeds of the evening were donated by Julie and Tony to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

Many thanks to them for their hospitality.

The next meeting, on 16th August, will be a day's outing to Highclere Castle.

New members always welcome. Contact Mrs Jean Crosbie (0118 947 0545).

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Guild Meeting on Tuesday 14th June began with the speaker, instead of the usual business matters, so members brought lively minds to Mr Len Wells' talk on the History of our Police Force. Mr Wells lost no time in engaging their interest, beginning with a personal history. Mr Wells started his career in the Metropolitan Police, then at retirement became a civilian worker for Thames Valley Police, becoming curator of the Police Museum at Sulhamstead. The Museum has much to offer about well known crimes in the area, going back to Victorian times. Mr Wells went back further in time - with drawings of constables appointed during the reign of Charles II and the inevitable 'Peelers' of Robert Peel. He showed uniforms modelled by a Guild Member, complete with a range of truncheons, handcuffs, etc which entertained the 'not guilty' audience.

Coming to the present day, Mr Wells gave a warning about bogus callers.

The Emmer Green Branch meets at St Barnabas Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. New members are always welcome!

British Legion, Caversham Branch

The Branch has been very busy over the last few months. In addition to its usual welfare work and monthly supper and social evenings members have been heavily involved with the 60th anniversary of the End of World War II events.

So far this year the branch has organised services in Caversham to re-dedicate our War Memorial and to mark the 60th anniversary of VE Day. The 60th anniversary of VJ Day service will be held at the Caversham War Memorial at 11.20am on Sunday 14th August. A party is being organised. Many members attended the Royal Berkshire Parade and Commemoration in Reading at which our Standard was paraded.

The Branch has been invited to share a stall with Waitrose at the Caversham Festival.

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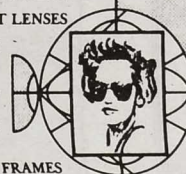
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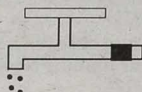
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