

SAYING GOODBYE TO FATHER TONY

On 4th September, Our Lady and St Anne's parish said goodbye to Father Tony Jones who had been Parish Priest for nearly eleven eventful years. At the 10.30 Mass on Sunday morning, the choir and band both contributed to the music to make the Mass very special. Father Tony spoke about his years in Caversham, taking his theme from the readings of the Mass and summing them up with the words, "Seek out Christ and then live out your life accordingly in love for your fellow men". At the end of Mass, Deacon Michael, on behalf of the Parish, said a few words of appreciation and farewell then all the young children assembled in front of the altar to sing a song with actions. Father Tony was barely able to conceal his emotions. He just managed to say, "Thank you" but tears turned to smiles as the final hymn was sung with gusto – "Walk, walk in the light" – to set Father Tony's feet into the right mode for his 500 mile pilgrimage walk.

From midday until well into the afternoon, a hog roast was held on the school field. This was prepared by a professional caterer and was provided as a thank you to the parishioners for all the support and fundraising that had gone on during the year. People brought rugs and chairs and ate

the roast pork – oh! that gorgeous pork crackling – with salads and accompaniments that they provided themselves. The Caversham weather joined in the party spirit and the sun shone as nearly 450 parishioners enjoyed one of the happiest and friendliest get-togethers that has taken place. When all had eaten their fill, a raffle was held which, along with donations, raised £516 for church funds.

Father Tony donned his pilgrimage walking gear and said his farewells all round the field. The following morning he flew to France to prepare for his walk along the ancient pilgrimage way to the Church of Santiago de Compostela. His pilgrimage started on 8th September, the feast of Our Lady's Birthday. He left knowing that he had already been promised in sponsorship most of the £10,000 that he hoped to raise to finalise the amount pledged by the parish for the building of the church and clinic in Mpoza



Father Tony ready for his 500 mile pilgrimage.

Jane Shaw

in South Africa.

When he returns to England, it will not be to St Anne's but to his new parish in Royal Leamington Spa. He has promised, however, that he will come and visit us very shortly, probably some time in late November. (See also page 9). *Report by Jane Shaw*

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12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
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contact Mark Staunton on 947 2389.

TALKING POINT

By
John Ogden

"It's grace, dear boy"

As I write it's the exam results season again. More students than ever have attained top grades, often in a dazzling fireworks display of academic achievement. Congratulations, and well done to all of you! You have tried very hard and most of you have succeeded.

But yet again the question is asked: have standards slipped? Are the exams too easy now? Do students not have to try so hard to get a high grade?

Before your blood boils over, I'm not going to set fire to another debate along those lines. Just hold in your mind that thought about trying harder.

I was once asked what is the distinctive thing about the Christian religion. It's an experience I share with C S Lewis, the brilliant academic. He became a Christian late in life and against much inner protest, then went on to be one of the most remarkable advocates for the Christian faith, through his radio talks and his many books, both stories (for adults and children) and some more scholarly books about faith and its implications.

Both C S Lewis and I came up with the same answer. In Lewis's own words: "Oh, that's easy. It's grace, dear boy, it's grace." In all honesty I am confident our answers were genuinely independent; I wasn't simply quoting the great man, either consciously or unconsciously. But clearly we were both hearing the same music.

So, what is grace? Christians often use the word. We use it at the end of almost every service, in the blessing. But what exactly is it?

Let me begin, teasingly, by trying to mark out some boundaries, saying what isn't grace. Some say that we can sort out the mess in our own lives, in our families, in our world, simply by trying harder, being better people, thinking more about others, being more kind and patient, being more ready to listen than we are to speak our mind. Some churches make this a test of admission. If you aren't seriously trying you can't come in. But Jesus never ever said "Try harder". He simply said "Believe the Good News".

Surely, if the test we set for people is "are you really trying" we can hardly be surprised if they jump to the conclusion that this - trying harder - is the real deal.

Grace starts from a very different place. Grace starts by recognising and accepting that there are drastic limits to what we can achieve just by trying harder. We can never deserve God's love. All we have to do - all we can do - is to recognise and accept the love of God. In the words of a notable theologian of a few decades ago: "accept that you are accepted".

You won't be more acceptable by trying harder. You can't shut off the love of God by trying and failing, or by not trying. All you can accomplish that way is to make sure that you don't receive God's love. Not because God doesn't want you to have it, but because you've slammed the door in his face.

Oh yes - one more thought. Once you are secure in God's love (oh yes, you'll know all right), just remember that God's great hunger and desire is that other people know about it too, through your grace towards them.

The Revd Dr John Ogden is a member of the Methodist team ministry in Caversham.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for November 2005 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 5th October. The date for submission of items for the December 2005 issue will be Wednesday 2nd November 2005.

All advertising copy for the November 2005 issue should be sent to Mrs Loble, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 4th October 2005. For the December 2005 issue the date will be Tuesday 1st November 2005.

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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**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
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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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10.30am	Prospect Street
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9.45am (second Sunday)	

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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

YOUTH

JERSEY JAUNT 2005

At the start of the summer holidays, 1st Caversham Park Guides enjoyed a unit holiday on Jersey. Despite a mixed bag of weather, the girls were able to have a go at ceramic painting at Jersey Pottery, enjoy an Island tour followed by a meal out, a trip to the zoo, a trip in the Puddleduck Ferries to Elizabeth Castle in St Helier Bay, plus trips to the beach for sandcastle competitions, beach olympics and a paddle. The end of the week saw us all in grass skirts to enjoy a BBQ and party games Hawaii style.

The girls all had a wonderful

week, returning home tired but happy.

If anybody would like to join our unit, we usually have vacancies; please call Heather O'Halloran on Reading 948 1966 for more details.



— Heather O'Halloran

1st Caversham Park Guides Unit holiday to Jersey July 2005.

NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S SCHOOL

Returning to school after the holiday, the children found a newly-surfaced playground ready to be tested and approved. Two netball courts had been marked out in white and other games may be



— Jane Shaw

The seat will hold a lot of children.

played in the same area by observing the appropriate red-marked boundaries. Rounders, short-tennis and football are all catered for and children and staff can make up their own games.

One of the mature trees growing in the playground has had a seat put round it to enable children to sit in the shade, to chat and perhaps to offer advice to the games players. For those who might prefer a less action-filled break, the trees round the edge of the field provide shade and there is grass to sit on. N Shaw

From the Lookout Post

Mapledurham Playing Fields

The latest news is that the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee intends to conduct a wide consultation on up to four proposals late this autumn, probably in November. Although the Committee has four proposals in mind, it has taken the view that it would be prudent to seek preliminary soundings from the Charities Commission and the Playing Fields Association. It would be unfortunate if there was public support for a proposal which was subsequently eliminated by either the Charities Commission or the Playing Fields Association.

At the time of writing, one of these bodies is not inclined to offer a preliminary view! Even if these two bodies do offer views, the proposals and consultation plans will need to be endorsed by the Reading Borough Council Cabinet.

The timing of a November consultation is not ideal. However, if the time slippage experience is anything to go by, this will be delayed into 2006. Whenever the consultation occurs, CADRA is committed to giving these critical matters as broad and intensive a debate as possible. Watch this space.

Woodcote Road Accidents

The recent sight of the huge overturned straw lorry, on the east side of Woodcote Road, near Richmond Avenue, caused every observer to shudder with fear. The four high large bales crushed eleven bollards over twenty eight metres and destroyed eight metres of brick wall, on the

far side of the pavement. Instead of bollards being crushed by the bales, it could just as easily have been families out for a summer walk or a group of children making their way to the park.

This incident is just the latest at this spot, in a long history of lorries overturning or shedding their loads. Many of the accidents could be prevented by enforcement of the 30mph speed limit. Of course the laws should be observed by all, but the weight and size of a lorry can create immense damage.

Leaving the accident scene, I noticed a lorry driver proceeding at speed up Woodcote Road, munching a huge sandwich. It made a change from seeing the drivers using their mobiles! The need for stricter enforcement has been brought to the attention of the Inspector who is Head of Road Policing for this area.

Reading Festival

Noise, pardon me, music, is part and parcel of being adjacent to Reading Festival, as we are in Caversham. However, we had thought that the experience of the continuous smell of smoke for the week was a thing of the past. That was certainly not so this year, with the offensive smoke lingering across Caversham as far as Priest Hill. To compound the issue, we now have confirmation that gas canisters and aerosols were being thrown on to fires, causing serious injuries as well as further disturbance.

Surely there must be a complete ban on fires on the site!

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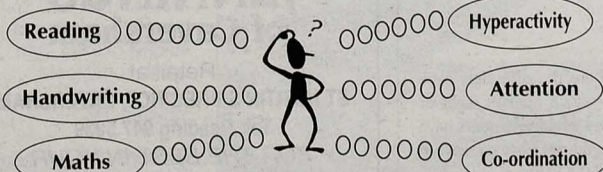
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COMMUNITY

INTRODUCING INSPECTOR DIX OF THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Dear Residents of Caversham,

I took up my role as Sector Inspector at Reading in January this year. This gave me responsibility for Policing over all of the North and West of Reading, which included Tilehurst, Southcote, Oxford Road and Caversham. Since June this year my role has changed to that of the Caversham Neighbourhood Inspector enabling me to focus much more closely on the problems specific to your area. I am supported by a team of four Constables and one Sergeant, reflecting Thames Valley Police's intention to develop Community policing. (Previously Caversham had only three Constables and no dedicated supervisors). I am currently holding one vacancy but my team as it stands in September is as follows:

Sgt Warren McKeown
PC John Finnerty – Thames and Mapledurham
PC Chris Manetta – Peppard
PC Stuart Murdoch – Lower Caversham
PC Richard Carter (Temporarily seconded to team)

Reading Police continue to provide 24 hour response in support of us.

The problems prevalent in Caversham very quickly became apparent to me and I am sure you will recognise them as:

1. Youth Disorder – Gangs of youths causing intimidation and unlawful riding of motor cycles
2. Damage and Graffiti
3. Burglary

Youth Disorder

Since February I have managed to increase Police patrols in some of the known 'hotspot areas' where youths gather and have had some limited successes. I am however under no illusion that the problems residents are facing require intense and sustained work by my team and all of the other agencies in partnership. To that end, amongst other initiatives, I have recently secured a 'Dispersal Order' under new Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation which gives Police powers to break up groups of two or more who congregate together. This also includes a power of arrest for those who fail to comply.

The Dispersal Order was in force from 22nd July until 24th September 2005 covering the area north of the river Thames. Police operations intensified during this period under 'Operation Flagship'. There have been some encouraging results. The levels of anti-social behaviour in and around Emmer Green Shops and Hemdean Road have dramatically reduced. I would like to thank responsible parents and young people for achieving this.

There is inevitably a hard core of youths who cause misery to residents, particularly in Lower Caversham. I am currently working in partnership with the various housing associations to secure several Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), injunctions with a power of arrest and possible evictions on these people. We are rapidly gaining evidence with the help of residents to secure these orders and I have every expectation that this action will provide a significant reduction in the levels of anti-social behaviour and crime. I have written personally to every resident in the Amersham Road estate requesting information on known offenders and am starting to receive useful evidence that I can use in court without the need of the resident to attend. I hope that this information will continue to arrive.

Youths riding **motor cycles, scooters and monkey bikes** erratically and unlawfully on our roads, parks and public places is currently a national problem. We are able to seize such vehicles ridden in an anti-social manner using new powers under the Police Reform Act 2002. To date we have seized several such vehicles and given a number of final warnings to youths who if seen on the vehicle again by police will have the vehicle seized.

Damage and Graffiti

When I first started in Reading, Councillor Mark Ralph pointed out the large amount of graffiti prevalent in the area of the Milestone Centre and the alleyway from there to Emmer Green shops. I admit I was surprised at the intensity of graffiti at that location, which is otherwise an extremely pleasant area. In partnership with Reading Borough Council, we have secured funding to have all of this graffiti removed. Work started during the week of 12th September.

I hope to encourage residents to try and keep this a 'graffiti free' area and am looking for volunteers to form a 'working party' to maintain the area. We will of course be monitoring the area covertly, and by using cameras, to catch any person defacing the area. Anyone caught can expect very positive Police action. I hope to work in partnership with the local schools and youth services to change the youth culture in Caversham away from graffiti. I have a vision of **"a graffiti free Caversham"**, perhaps volunteers can help me with this vision? I also wish to encourage residents and shop owners to remove any graffiti they may have on their properties themselves.

Burglary

With the warm weather we have had a number of burglaries where the offenders have entered via open windows – please do not leave ground floor windows open at night or when you are not at home!!! We have also had numerous burglaries where offenders have used an implement to hook car keys through letter boxes – please do not leave car keys in view or near the front door. If you see anything suspicious please call the Police.

Contacting Us - Police Surgeries

I am pleased to announce that we will be holding regular 'Surgeries' at the Church House Office, Church Street. They will be held on every first Monday of each month between 5pm and 8pm commencing 3rd October. You will be able to raise specific issues which you can feel can be dealt with by the Police, who can offer either a chat in confidence or as a small

group to discuss these issues. You will be able to speak to one or more of my team at these times. You can of course contact us by phone or e-mail or in person if you see any of us around.

Inspector Graham Dix –
graham.dix@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Sgt Warren McKeown –
warren.mckeown@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
PC John Finnerty –
john.finnerty@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
PC Chris Manetta –
chris.manneta@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
PC Stuart Murdoch –
stuart.murdoch@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The generic Thames Valley Police Tel. No. is now 0845 8 505505 Please use this number to report crime, suspicious incidents etc. and to contact us.

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Graham Dix
Caversham Neighbourhood Inspector

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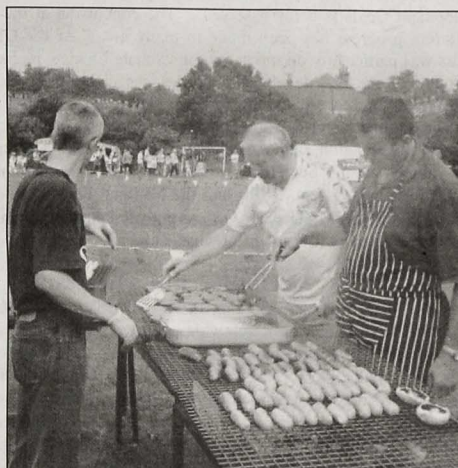
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ALL THE FUN OF THE FESTIVAL

Some scenes from the third highly successful Caversham Festival held in Westfield Gardens on 11 September.



Members of the Organising Committee, who are to be congratulated on an excellent day; from left Bob Hudson, Philippa Ratcliffe (Marshall), Trevor Keable (Chair) and Richard Hill



St Peter's Scouts do a brisk trade in hot dogs cooked by their leaders at the back of the tent.



Caversham Horticultural Society demonstrate their expertise in the Flower Show.



The Bouncy Castle was popular (below) as were the fire engine and local police (above).



The Mayor, Councillor Riaz Chaudhri, (above) toured the stalls and here talks to Angela MacMahon about Reading Cycle Campaign.

(right) The T'ai chi team show skill and co-ordination in the arena.



Pictures by
O. Jewiss

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DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE SPECTRE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

This year's theme for One World Week is "Promises, promises!" 2005 has been highlighted as a promising year because the UK holds the EU and G8 presidencies, the Commission for Africa has reported and progress towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goals is being assessed. The conclusion at the year-end may be that insufficient progress has been made in many areas. At the Gleneagles G8 meeting progress was particularly disappointing on Climate Change, its likely impact being most catastrophic on the least developed countries, especially in Africa. The Caversham One World Week Group focuses on this topic so that as custodians of this planet we leave to future generations a world worth inheriting. The associated activities are to help us understand the situation and suggest ways we may make a contribution to improve it. This is timely as on 1 September a coalition of 18 agencies, including Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tearfund, Oxfam, RSPB and the National Federation of Women's Institutes, launched "STOP CLIMATE CHAOS" to put pressure on government, whose plans to tackle climate change fall far short of what is needed.

Activities in Caversham

On Friday, 14 October at 7.30 pm, there will be an Open Meeting in Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road, with an opportunity to learn about Climate Change, its consequences and what we might do about it. The Revd Professor Ian James, Head of the School of Maths, Meteorology and Physics at Reading University and the Bishop of Oxford's Advisor on the Environment, will talk about the cause and results of Climate Change; Professor Chris Garforth, Research Director in the International and Rural Development Department of the School of Agriculture, Policy and Rural Development, also of Reading University, will speak about the effects on Africa. Finally Dr Martin Hodson of Oxford Brookes University and a key member of the Oxford Environment Group SAGE will suggest ways in which we might take action to reduce the effects of Climate Change. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion, with some environmental exhibits and a Traidcraft stall. Tickets, price £2 (including refreshments), may be obtained through the churches or from Martyn Allies (0118 947 2007). During One World Week, 22-29 October, an exhibit on the same theme will be in Caversham Public Library. It is hoped that local schools will include something on Climate Change during the Autumn Term in their studies under the National Curriculum. Schoolchildren are being invited to join in a competition designing an environmental "snakes and ladders" game.

Climate Change - causes

Attention in recent years has focused on the increasing level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), as a cause of Climate Change. The temperature at the surface of the earth depends on radiation from the sun. Some of its energy is reflected back from the earth but the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere prevents some of this infra-red radiation escaping and this is reflected back. Without this the average temperature at the earth's surface would fall from the current 15°C to an inhospitable -18°C. Since the Industrial Revolution, levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere have risen from 280 parts per million (ppm) to their present 378 ppm, largely due to human activity, e.g. burning coal, oil and gas. This rise in the level of CO₂, which could double by 2050, has already led to a small rise in average global temperature.

- and effects in the UK

The extent of the inevitable change in the climate over the coming decades is not known. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that global average temperatures will rise by between 1.4 and 5.8°C over the current century. The predictions for Britain are:

- Temperature increases of 0.4 to 1.6°C by the 2020s and 0.7 to 2.6°C by the 2050s.
- More winter rainfall by 2050s, but a decrease during summer in S England by up to 22%.
- Higher evaporation rates reducing water availability, particularly in the SE.
- Sea-level rise of as much as 78cm by 2050s in SE England but less in NW Britain.

This means hotter, drier summers, but more intense summer storms causing localised flooding as the capacity of drainage systems is exceeded; in anticipation, design standards have already been increased. At the same time the risk of drought will also increase.

Milder winters will provide more food for insects which will reproduce faster. Pest species (eg greenfly) are likely to increase and insects' ranges will move northwards to increase the risk of insect borne diseases like malaria becoming established in Britain.

Increased air temperatures will affect the distribution of woodland species; while oaks will flourish, beech could disappear from parts of S England. As temperatures rise in the North Sea, seabirds like puffins and guillemots will be at risk because of effects on the plankton to sandeel food chain on which their chicks are fed.

- effects worldwide and on Africa in particular

The rise in average global temperature will increase the volume occupied by the oceans and result in a recession of the polar icecaps and glaciers. The consequential rise in sea level has been forecast to cause flooding of low lying land; up to 150 million people could become environmental refugees. The increase in average temperature is expected to lead to a changing pattern of agriculture, increased drought in some areas and increased storms in others. Some theories suggest that a melting of the polar icecap may in time lead to a change in the thermohaline circulation in the oceans; this could mean a change in the Gulf Stream and a possible cooling for the UK, its climate becoming more like Nova Scotia's.

The IPCC predicts greater effects of climate change in developing countries, affecting investment in them, their economy and ultimately loss of life. Africa, the world's poorest region, is the continent most vulnerable because widespread poverty will limit the capability to adapt. In Africa small-scale farming provides employment for 70 per cent of working people and most of the food. It is overwhelmingly dependent on direct rainfall and therefore exceptionally vulnerable to weather uncertainties and extremes. Africa is already afflicted by widespread poverty, recurrent droughts and floods, an immediate daily dependence on natural resources, a heavy disease burden, and numerous conflicts, all further complicated by an unjust international trade system and the burden of unpayable debt.

What can we do about it?

The first response should be to reduce the output of CO₂ by a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and the substitution of alternative forms of energy. Houses and transport, respectively responsible for 28% and 26% of the CO₂ emissions in the UK, are the two main areas where a positive effect can be made.

Houses should be better insulated: cavity walls and roof insulation respectively give a 35% and 25% reduction in heat loss; double glazing, draught excluders and drawing curtains at night also reduce heat loss by another 25%. Energy is saved and CO₂ emissions reduced by turning down room thermostats by even 1°C; thermostats on all the radiators, insulating hot water tanks and not leaving the TV on stand-by all reduce energy bills, as do solar panels which harness energy without producing any CO₂.

Most transport emits large quantities of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, the output of which can be reduced by walking, cycling or using public transport wherever possible. Many car journeys could be shared and air-miles reduced by taking holidays in the UK rather than abroad. Buying locally grown food rather than that freighted long distances, particularly by air from abroad, also reduces harmful emissions and transport costs.

Recently manufactured electrical appliances ranging from washing machines to long-life electric light bulbs are much more energy efficient than their predecessors; those with A or A* rated EU Energy Labels are the best buys. Contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (0800 512 012) or the Thames Valley Energy Centre (0800 107 0047; www.tvec.org.uk) for further information.

New technology and renewable energy

At national and international level much effort is going into new technologies to reduce output in energy generation, sequestering CO₂ underground, and harnessing of wind, solar, water, tidal and wave power, development of nuclear fusion technology and the use of hydrogen fuel cells in cars. A recent report from the New Economics Foundation hails micro-power, which produces energy at the point of use, as the cheap, safe energy of the future. Already it is possible to harness renewable energy on a domestic scale; limited government grants encourage its installation.

There is enough sunshine in England to make solar panels worthwhile. These heat water or another fluid, the heat from which is then transferred to the domestic hot water system. Solar thermal installations start at about £2,000; there are grants of up to £400. If you live in Caversham's higher heights and are prepared to have a sizeable mast in your garden, wind power is worth considering. Wind turbines cost £2,500 to £5,000 per kilowatt of electric power (kWe); grants of £1000 per kWe are offered. Another form of home produced energy uses ground source heat pumps; these, however, require electricity for operation and cost £4,000 to £6,000; a £1,200 grant is offered. For more information about renewable energy sources contact clear-skies (0870 2430 930; www.clear-skies.org).

One World Week in Caversham aims at raising our awareness of the problem of Climate Change and will challenge us to respond appropriately.

One World Week in Caversham

THE SPECTRE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A seminar on the likely effects of climate change on this country and on Africa and our response to it.

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(Reading University)

Professor Chris Garforth

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

'AGE OF THE EARTH' - TALK

Earth 'is 200 million years older than we thought' ran a recent headline in a broadsheet national newspaper. Debate continues to rage about the age of our planet - even among the 'experts' in the scientific community.

In October Caversham Hill Chapel is giving a platform to a Christian specialist on the subject. Paul Garner is a former information scientist with a Cambridge-based pharmaceutical company who is a Fellow of the Geological Society, and has spoken about the origins of life and the rocks on Earth on radio and to audiences of all ages throughout the UK and internationally.

In his talk he will offer a critical examination of the dating methods geologists use to support theories that the Earth is many millions of years old. Using a scientific case study from the UK and other research, he will question the 'long ages' view and present a more modest estimate that may surprise and intrigue his audience.

Paul Garner gives his talk, 'The Age of the Earth', at Caversham Hill Chapel, 119 Peppard Road, Caversham, on Tuesday, October 11, at 8.00pm. Admission is free.

FINDING TIME4U AT CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Are you looking for some time to reflect on spiritual and parenting issues in an informal and relaxed environment? Then come and join Time4U! This is a new daytime group, organised by Caversham Baptist Church in Prospect Street and runs fortnightly on a Wednesday from 10.00 - 11.30 am. The Church will be hosting a programme of family relevant, Bible based discussions and testimonies on a variety of topics related to everyday issues. During this session any pre-school or younger children will enjoy their own group of fun filled activities including craft and singing, followed by a time together with the adults.

When the groups convene at the end, CCA (Christian Community Action), along with members of Caversham Baptist Church, will open a coffee shop in the church lounge and will offer advice to anyone who needs practical help in their lives or someone to listen to them.

"It is our hope that we can help and support families in our community with a spiritual perspective on topical and parenting issues in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. There will be facilities to counsel on a one to one basis and an opportunity to discuss some of the issues we face in our daily lives" says the group leader, Michelle Barnett.

For further information contact Michelle on 0118 954 5353, email time4u@cavbaptist.org.uk or see our website at www.cavbaptist.org.uk.

ST ANDREW'S TIDDLERS (term time Fridays 2.00pm-3.00pm)

Tiddlers began in January 1992. It was started by Rosemary Carpenter, the wife of Bill Carpenter, vicar of St Andrew's at that time, with help from members of the Mother's Union as well as a member of the congregation who played the piano for us for over 10 years.

We keep to the same format which the children love, beginning with our penny collection and song when tiny fingers try to fit the pennies into slots in the box, for Helen House, the children's hospice in Oxford. Prayers and songs follow with a story, then round the piano for action songs, a Bible story and a resounding song with musical instruments, finally picture colouring or handicrafts.

When Rosemary and Bill Carpenter moved away, Debbie Burton and Cathy Davidson stepped forward to fill the big gap, then Debbie took on the responsibility alone with help from some St Andrew's MU members and others from the congregation. She organises the sessions and some of the Mums help with the running of some of the activities.

All children are warmly welcomed from 0-5 years, with a parent or grandparent.

We finish the afternoon with tea, orange juice and biscuits and sometimes birthday cake.

We all look forward to 2 o'clock on Fridays.

More information from Debbie Burton on 0118 954 3777.

Caversham Hill Debt Centre autumn dates

For anyone suffering problems of financial debt, Caversham Hill Debt Advice Centre has trained counsellors on hand to give advice. The Centre will be open from 9.30am to 1.00pm on the following Saturdays in the autumn: 1 October, 5 November and 3 December. The service is free and confidential and bookings are by appointment with Anne Shakeshaft, telephone 0118 972 2438. Caversham Hill Chapel is at 119 Peppard Road, Caversham.

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church News

It's a Boy! It's a Boy! It's a Boy! - Friends at Gosbrook Road celebrate the birth of three new baby boys.

On June 21st George Peter Scott was welcomed into the world by Robin and Catherine. George Peter is the first grandchild of Julia and Chris Hackman. Congratulations to all the family and especially to Catherine our Senior Steward.

On July 20th Revd John Ogden and Monica announced the arrival of Samuel James their first grandchild. Congratulations to all the family.

On July 25th Robin and Sarah Dryden were blessed with a second son Alexander, a brother for James. May God bless all three little boys and their loving families.

St Andrew's Healing Service

The next Healing Service with laying on of hands and anointing will be on Tuesday October 18th at 7.30pm. A Guild Service is held every month, usually the third Tuesday at 7.30pm, also with laying on of hands and anointing offered. All are welcome at any of these services which are held at St Andrew's Church, Harrogate Road, Caversham. Further enquiries to June DeVille, Branch Secretary of Guild of St Raphael. Tel. 0118 947 8452.

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COMMUNITY

CAVERSHAM CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL - (CCFF)

END OF AN ERA

After 13 years of fundraising for local charities, the CCFF has closed down. During that time, the annual Summer Festival, and more recently, the additional "Winter Warmer", had become important features in the Caversham diary. Its work was appreciated, not only by the charities that benefited, but also by festival goers and musicians alike.

During its 13-year life, CCFF raised over £55,000 for its adopted charities. During that time, the President, and driving force, was Mike Tierney and it is his reluctant resignation which has resulted in this closure. Mike has always had a dedicated team of hard working people around him on the committee. Often though, there were not quite enough people to spread the load and, as some left, it was sometimes difficult to find replacements. The continually increasing red tape also added pressure, which contributed to his decision.

Our many thanks go to all the supporters who helped make things happen. In addition to all the committee members, there are the landlords of the pubs who provided both venues and donations to the funds, those who provided PA equipment, marquees, and much other technical support, Reading Council, with whom we have worked closely, and, of course, the local newspapers and radio who have supported us generously with their column inches and airtime, and with whom we have had such enjoyable relationships. Thanks also to the great and varied musicians, who gave their services free of charge, and finally, to the festival goers, who kept the event alive, and gave generously in support of our charities.

For those who have been involved in any way, as organiser, musician, or audience, the CCFF will live on in our memories as part of our history, and stories of memorable performances and evenings of excellent music will be told for many years to come.

The official closing of the charity included distributing financial reserves among the adopted charities; this resulted in each of the charities listed below receiving a £640 final donation, bringing the total donations over the 13 years to just over £55,000 as mentioned above.

Berkshire Autistic Society
Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre
British Red Cross (Berkshire Branch)
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Duchess of Kent House Trust
Headway
Reading Cruse Bereavement Care
Reading Family Aid Group
Reading Mental Health Resource Centre
The Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases

The Committee's last words

Below is the official press release issued by Mervyn Else on behalf of the Committee.

Mike Tierney has announced his retirement as President of the Caversham Charity Folk Festival. Begun by Mike in October 1993 at the Miller's Arms in Caversham, the CCFF has raised well over £50,000 for various local charities from Summer Festivals and Winter Warmers in and around Caversham.

Mike's is a difficult act to follow, as those who attend his regular pub sessions will agree, and it is, therefore, with regret that we have to announce the closure of CCFF at the same time.

The present committee would like to thank all those who have been involved in the CCFF over the past years, but, in particular, Mike himself for his hard work, time and enthusiasm.

So what will he be doing with all that spare time and energy? He tells us that he has acquired a second allotment, and we must imagine him pottering among the parsnips with possibly the occasional pluck on the banjo to encourage the beans, giving a whole new meaning to the phrase - roots music. Or maybe his basso molto profundo, Satchmo-eat-your-heart-out voice will be heard echoing across the Holybrook water meadows of Coley Park with only the cows to appreciate it.

Anyway, we wish him well in his retirement.....

"..... pulling weeds and picking stones, man is made of dreams and bones, feel the need to grow my own, for the time is close at hand, rain fall rain, sun and rain, find my way in nature's chain, tune my body and my brain, to the music of the land".

Further information about CCFF and the Charities it supported, can be found at: -
www.ccff.org.uk

NEW SEASON FOR CAVERSHAM THEATRE

Following an excursion to the Wallingford Drama Festival in June, Caversham Theatre is delighted to be home again for the next production.

This will be on November 10, 11 and 12 at St Anne's Hall, Washington Road. Entitled "Life Goes On", this is a thoughtful and engaging comedy which opens in the hours following the funeral of George Marlow, who left this life unexpectedly whilst engaging in a spot of DIY. The arrival of his ghost, back to tie up the loose ends of his life, has a positive effect on each member of the family, in varying ways, proving that life does, after all, go on. The cast includes Simon Lovelock, Martin Leckie, Lis Martin, Kathy Munns and Anne Piper. Tickets available locally from mid-October, or phone 947 7372 for more information. Following that, the next production will be J B Priestley's "An Inspector Calls". This will be in March next year, at the same venue. We look forward to seeing you at both.

Bring Out Your Antiques

On Saturday 15th October there will be a Charity Antiques Road Show in St Anne's School Hall, Washington Road. From 1 o'clock to 5 o'clock in the afternoon you can bring your antiques to be talked about and valued by various experts.

All proceeds to go to the Gateway Fund of Our Lady and St Anne's Church.

Further details will be available in Church porches and other places around Caversham.

'The Conscience of the BBC'

Local resident and member of St Peter's congregation, Jacqui Kavanagh was the recent recipient of an international award from the Scope Foundation. Jacqui, who has looked after the BBC's written archives since 1974, received the award in recognition of her services to the archivist's profession. The distinguished historian, Asa Briggs, who has written extensively about the BBC, nominated her for the prize, describing Jacqui as 'the conscience of the BBC' in maintaining the archive and making it accessible to visitors.



Jacqui Kavanagh.

CASTDRAMA

CAST drama is a local inter-church group. They have produced "Dangerous Journey" (Pilgrims Progress) and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" in recent years.

Their next production is "The Magician's Nephew" on Friday, 11th November at 8pm and Saturday 12th November at 6.30pm at Bearwood College Theatre, Wokingham (near Lower Earley).

Further details from Greyfriars Bookshop 951 6710 or 947 2823 or castdrama@hotmail.com
Come and find out how Narnia began!

Rev Father Tony Jones - Our Lady and St Anne's 1994-2005

Fr Tony arrived at Our Lady and St Anne's, Caversham, in November 1994, having spent the previous three years at Our Lady's, Nuneaton. He left St Anne's on the 5th September 2005 for St Peter's in Royal Leamington Spa, via a pilgrimage on foot to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain, a journey of some 500 miles, and a period of Retreat in Spain; he joins his new parish on the 1st of November 2005. The following reviews some of the happenings throughout these eleven years.

The parish celebrated its centenary in 1996, the theme including all the Sacraments of the church. A flower festival was held, with all the churches in Caversham taking part, and a video was made of all the events, one of the most memorable being the Sacrament of Baptism held in the Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, when the baptism of fire nearly caused a conflagration with too many votive candles alight at the same time.

This same year, a pilgrimage to Rome was made of which the highlight was presenting the gilded Crown for the Statue of Our Lady of Caversham to the Pope for his Blessing, and presenting His Holiness with a framed picture of Our Lady of Caversham; His Holiness responded by giving his Blessing to the parish. Later in the year, the Papal Nuncio visited the Parish and the Statue was solemnly crowned. In October a celebration Dinner and Dance was held at the Holiday Inn with over a hundred parishioners taking



Jane Shaw

Father Tony says an emotional "thank-you" at the end of Mass.

part.

Another parish pilgrimage was made as part of the Birmingham Diocesan pilgrimage, this time to Lourdes in South West France. Memorable from this occasion was the small group Mass celebrated by Fr Tony in the "cachout", the local Prison where the family of St Bernadette had had rooms.

One of the hardest decisions of Fr Tony's time in Caversham, made together with the Finance Committee, was the sale of The Heights Chapel. It was never an easy decision but it had to be made.

Our Primary School

left for our new Parish Priest, Fr Giles Goward, to decide his future requirements. The Presbytery garden has also had a full make over and is now low maintenance.

The refurbishment of the church, with the extension to the Narthex and the new meeting room, "The Cenacle", will be a lasting reminder of Fr Tony's involvement in the Parish. Evolving from the Mission, it was suggested that, having benefited from our predecessors' building of the parish, both spiritual and temporal, we in turn should build something for future generations to enjoy and use in the service of Our Blessed Lord. There is no doubt that the Cenacle is an immense benefit to the Parish and to visitors alike.

The Church and The Shrine are a prayerful place to worship and enjoy in the Presence of Our Lord, with His Blessed Mother. The recent closure of the Visitation Convent has required an overview, an added responsibility.

Fr Tony was a great supporter of Clergy Together in Caversham and readily took his share in the activities, especially the lunches shared with his

fellow clergy. He was also the Rural Dean of the South Oxfordshire Deanery which made further demands on his time.

Whenever possible, Wednesday was his day off, more recently a time to practise distance walks in preparation for his Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

"Just a Word", a half page commentary in the Parish weekly newsletter, covered a wide variety of subjects that frequently led to discussions, always welcome, and will be missed by many.

By far the greatest gift from Fr Tony was his Spirituality; he made every service special to the individual, be it a Wedding, a Christening, a Funeral, or whatever situation; it was always very personal and readily understood by all. He will be in our prayers on his journey from here to Leamington Spa through Santiago de Compostela.

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One World Stage at WOMAD

I was, perhaps, naïve to agree to give a *MakePovertyHistory* presentation at WOMAD on behalf of Caversham Churches Together. With the CAFOD/Jubilee Debt/TradeJustice/OXFAM coalition, plans for a Powerpoint presentation (impossible on the outdoor One World Stage!) evolved to street theatre.

We chose four pieces, obtaining scripts for two and creating the others. The first sketch illustrated the unfairness of international trade in the form of a 'Penalty Shoot-Out' between 'rich' and 'poor' countries. Carrying three sets of amazingly cumbersome American Football gear through Caversham and getting the goal into the car must have provided entertainment for many! The rich countries played in American football outfits, symbolising their huge subsidies when trading on the international market. The poor countries, in shorts and T shirts, played attached to a long pole controlled by "Mr World Trade Organisation". The rich scored three goals in their penalty shootout. The poor, with little chance of success as the ball was tied to the footballer's leg, had only one try.

The next sketch contrasted our attitudes to tragedies occurring in poor countries and at home. Similarly, we next contrasted three 'moaners' complaining about public services in this country with real life in Zambia.

The last sketch portrayed 'Xambosa', an imaginary African country, straitjacketed by Unpayable Debt, Insufficient Aid and Unfair Trade Rules. When untied, Xambosa can move with dignity and trade herself out of poverty. Music from eleven drummers of the Beatroots Bateria Band added to our presentation.

At our stall in the One World tent we provided information about *MakePovertyHistory* issues and persuaded WOMAD visitors to sign postcards to Ministers. We shook buckets around the site for the Niger appeal and, to the drumming of the Beatroots Bateria Band, during the Children's Procession, we collected £2,596.50!

Clare Palmer

the CLUBS

St Peter's Wives' Group

The Group enjoyed a very pleasant Strawberry Supper and Bring and Buy Sale at their July meeting. The strawberries and cream were delicious and were served with fruit punch and home-made shortbread, courtesy of members of the committee. The Bring and Buy sale was well-supported and funds were raised towards our annual donation to the Sue Ryder Home.

In August there was an outing to Highclere Castle. The weather was kind and all enjoyed strolling around the impressive grounds and admiring the beautiful herbaceous borders in the Monks' Garden and the Secret Garden. After a guided tour of the Castle, with its impressive interior, and a brief history of the Carnarvon family, there was just time for a cream tea before departure back to Caversham. A most enjoyable day.

The next meeting will be held at Church House on 18th October at 8.00pm when the subject will be 'Cards for All Occasions' by Mary Neale and Linda Brown. New members are always welcome. Contact: Mrs Jean Crosbie (chairman) on 0118 947 0545.

Caversham Chiltern Flower Club

On Wednesday, 12th October, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club is holding a Flower Demonstration by Pat King at Caversham

Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, Caversham. The demonstration starts at 7.30pm, doors open 6.45pm. Entrance fee £4.00 visitors, £3.00 Senior Citizens. Refreshments available. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and welcomes all those who love flowers and all things horticultural. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 947 7400

Reading and District Probus Club

Reading and District Probus Club members were able to see and hear what goes on in the island of St Lucia, things not normally experienced by the holiday visitor, as Bob Court told of his time with the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

After retiring from being a lecturer at Reading College, he and his wife spent two years in what the islanders called schools! Teaching the boys carpentry enabled them to make their own benches and cupboards and classroom fittings. Homework was done after school in the classroom; there was either no room at home or they couldn't take the work home.

Barrack blocks had been converted to classrooms for Community Schools; third year students came from other islands to finish off their course to become teachers themselves, the girls learning shorthand and typing and 'office work'.

On completion of his two year term he joined the VSO Association, representing St Lucia at the Commonwealth Assembly which is held in Great Britain.

Illustrating his talk with slides, he showed the conditions he worked under and related many tales of island life. The members applauded after the 'Vote of Thanks' given by Ron Jewett.

Talks have been arranged for the next twelve months, mainly by invited speakers, on the 2nd Monday of each month. Are you retired? Like

to know more about PROBUS? Ring the Secretary, Ray Head, on 0118 941 1445. It could be 'just up your street'!

The Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

The Branch organised a Service and party for the 60th anniversary of VJ Day. Over 200 people attended either the Service at Caversham War Memorial or the party afterwards at Caversham Working Men's Club - most attended both! The Service was a very emotional occasion for all those who attended but especially for the Veterans and families of those who served in World War II.

Many names of Caversham people who died in World War II were added to the Memorial earlier in the year and this made the occasion especially moving. One of the names added was that of Ron Goodchild who received the Military Medal for bravery and sadly died in Italy in 1943. He and his father managed the gardens at Queen Anne's School. Ron's brother and his sister, Dorothy Briddcutt, were at the Service to remember him and his service with the 10th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The next major event in the Branch's diary is the Poppy Appeal in Caversham. If you can spare an hour or two to help, please give Pauline a ring on 947 5345. The more helpers, the bigger the sum collected and the more ex-service people or their families helped.

Please spare the time to help in this, the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. We really do owe it to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to give us the freedom we enjoy today. They truly gave their today for our tomorrow so please spare 60 minutes of your time - a minute for every year of peace.

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Former director of Sutton's Seeds, Norman Underwood died in August aged 90.

Educated at Reading School, where he was a contemporary of John and Roy Boulting, Arthur Negus and Tom Dollery, he left in 1931 to join Sutton's as a junior. In 1936 he was appointed to the Indian office in Calcutta where he remained until the outbreak of war. He joined a Gurkha regiment as a junior officer and stayed on in India, eventually re-joining Sutton's. He married in 1945.

He returned to England in 1951 to become Sutton's representative in Sussex. After two spells in Kenya investigating its horticultural potential, he was promoted back to Reading in 1959 to set up a new venture to sell seeds direct via selected stockists. He moved with

his family to Emmer Green in September 1959, beginning a very happy association with the area that lasted until his death. His responsibilities at Sutton's increased, leading to his appointment to the board of directors, a position he held until Sutton's left Reading in 1976. In the 1970s he began to lend his time to the James Butcher Housing Association, serving as a committee member for several years. After his active support ended, he became a Vice President. He was always a keen gardener and some Emmer Green residents will remember his colourful border displays. He died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital after a short illness leaving his wife, two children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

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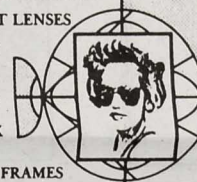
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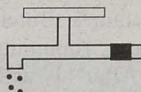
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