



Above: Phil Chatsfield and Dave Palmer man the Traidcraft Stall.

MORE PICTURES OF CAVERSHAM FESTIVAL



Above: Good Neighbours Joyce Carney and Mary Richings with Caversham Area Beat Officer Richard Carter and Special Constable Rachel Chidgey.



Right: Emmer Green Shintaido demonstrate self expression and vitality in the arena.

ALL PICTURES TAKEN BY
OWEN JEWISS

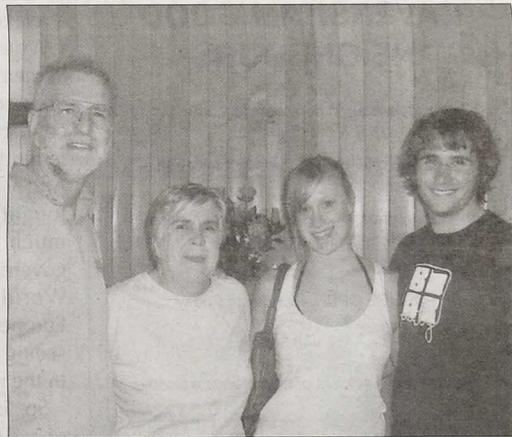


Reading 3000

Bringing hope to the people of Mozambique.

Left: Pamela Chilvers sings at the Concert at Caversham Baptist Church – report on page 5

Right: Neil and Hilary Applegate, Ruth Cantwell and Stuart Mathers, all of whom visited Chiaquelaine this summer.



Part of the 1000 strong congregation at the Regenerate Launch – see report on page 6

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">INSIDE</h1>	Community	page 3	Book Review	page 9
	Ex Libris	page 4	Tribute	page 9
	Churches	page 5, 6, 7 & 8	Environment	page 10
	Chaplaincy & University	page 8	The Clubs	pages 10 & 11

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The *Caversham Bridge* is your paper, providing a link between the churches and the community.

Contributions are welcomed if they are relevant to community matters or church life. Copy should be kept short, typed in double spacing if possible and with a word count. Copy dates are given in the paper each month and copy should be handed in at the Parish Office at Church House, Church Street, Caversham. The office is open 9.30 - 12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note the Editors reserve the right to edit copy if necessary.

The *Caversham Bridge* is delivered each month to homes in Caversham. It could be delivered to you for £2.40 per year. If you do not regularly subscribe to the paper and would like to do so, please contact Mark Staunton on 947 2389.

TALKING POINT

By
Eric Chappell

Thinking of Remembrance

They say that Rosemary is for remembrance. I have a bush in my garden which reminds me of colleagues I used to work with, since they gave it to me. I also have many other plants and shrubs which remind my wife and me of places we have been to and of people who have played significant parts in our lives. I remember, too, years ago the planting of poppies in a garden of remembrance for the Armistice Day ceremonies.

November is a particular time of the year for memories and remembering. On All Souls Day long departed loved ones are often remembered and on November 11th we recall the sacrifice of millions of men and women in the wars that have taken place in the last ninety years.

2005 has been a special year for recalling major events in our country's history. We have seen the 60th anniversaries of VE-Day and VJ-Day come and go; Trafalgar's two hundredth anniversary has been regally remembered.

All of these occasions are marked with due pomp and ceremony, yet there are times in the year when celebrations are held to remember other national occasions. Guy Fawkes Day on November 5th is one such event. Originally it celebrated the defeat of an attempted coup d'etat aimed at overthrowing the protestant regime and restoring a catholic one. Who now remembers the origin of the event? Time is no respecter of ideologies or persons and it is good to see protestants, catholics and non-believers all joining in the fun of the celebrations. (Would that the two sides in Northern Ireland could develop such a relaxed relationship today!)

When we recall the horrors of global conflict in our annual Remembrance ceremonies we are still too close to those events to do other than mourn the deaths of so many people caught up in conflict and ponder on what we have lost in their passing. We are reminded that they died to preserve our freedoms and way of life. And yet, do we realise how those freedoms and customs they fought to preserve have changed? After the First World War much of the old order was swept away and newer forms of government established in many European countries. The Second World War led to the demise of the remaining empires of European states. Today, after the Iraqi conflict, we in Britain are seeing many of our prized freedoms being eroded by government in the name of security.

So, is it sufficient for us merely to remember past sacrifice on occasions of Remembrance? Surely we need to reflect on the causes of war and on how we can influence those in power to pursue policies leading to global harmony, not global conflict?

(Eric Chappell is a member of the Editorial Board).

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for December 2005 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 2nd November. The date for submission of items for the January 2006 issue will be Wednesday 30th November 2005.

All advertising copy for the December 2005 issue should be sent to Mrs Loble, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 1st November 2005. For the January 2006 issue the date will be Tuesday 29th 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

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)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am Prospect Street
6.30pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road)
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road
9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm

Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC**Our Lady and St Anne's, Southview Avenue**

Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers),

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

COMMUNITY

News from St Martin's

As the school settled into the Autumn term, Father Chris came to celebrate the Welcome Mass for the whole school. Each term the new children in the reception class and any other new children are specially welcomed into the school at this Mass and presented with certificates to mark the occasion.

Father Chris talked to the children during the Mass and asked them to listen to Jesus and to love one another as He has asked them to. Many parents, particularly those of the new entrants, attended the Mass.

The staff of the school also attended another Mass - the annual Catholic Cluster Mass. This is held near the beginning of term, in a different church each year, for all those working in the Catholic schools of the area and also for Catholic teachers working in other schools. This year the Mass was held at the Church of St John Bosco in Woodley. The Parish Priest, another Father Chris, instead of preaching, told a story of a child who was failing until a concerned teacher looked into his records and saw the reason why. By showing a special interest in him she helped him to overcome his problems.

On Sunday, 2nd October, sixteen year Six pupils and accompanying staff went for their visit to Kingswood and it is hoped that there will be plenty of exciting news about their activities next month.

Report by Jane Shaw

Diamond Wedding Celebration Cyril and Trixie Kirby

Cyril and Trixie Kirby, who celebrated their diamond wedding in September, first met during their school years in Westcliff-on-Sea where they were both born.

Cyril worked for the Sun Life Assurance Society and in March 1939 joined the Territorial Army. In September of that year he was called up and was sent to Palestine in February 1940. Captured at Fort Macheli in the Western Desert in 1941, he was a POW in Italy until its capitulation. He escaped into the mountains and lived off the land for seven weeks until he was captured by the Germans and taken to Germany, where he remained until released by American forces in 1945.

Trixie worked in London during the blitz, travelling daily from Westcliff-on-Sea, then helped every evening in the church canteen for troops. She joined the WRNS in 1943 and was demobbed in 1945.

Trixie and Cyril were married that year and later moved for business reasons to Newcastle, Staffs, then to Huddersfield and latterly to Reading. Cyril retired in 1981.

They have two sons and five granddaughters. Until recently Trixie sang in various choirs including the New Elizabethan

Singers. Cyril has been involved with the Kennet Camera Club and was a volunteer with Safety Street. Their garden and other activities and hobbies still give them quite a busy life.



Tallest Sunflower?

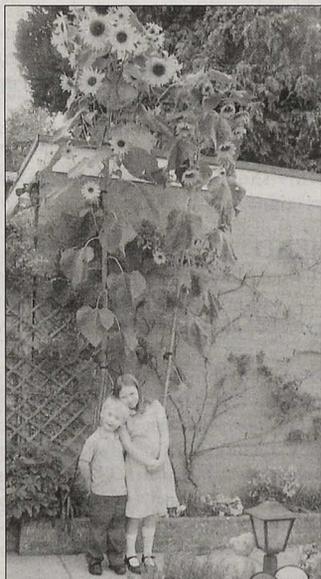


Photo by Mrs Strong

13ft 4 1/2 inches tall; it was grown by Rebecca-Ann and Matthew in their Grandparents' garden for the competition in aid of the Mozambique Relief Fund for Reading3000.

Forthcoming Events

CAVERSHAM THEATRE

The next production by Caversham Theatre will take place on 10, 11 and 12 November at St Anne's Hall, Washington Road. This will be a thoughtful comedy entitled "Life Goes On", written by Adrian Hodges. Tickets cost £5 (£4 concessions), available by phoning 0118 947 7372. Performances commence at 7.30pm. Future plans include a production of "An Inspector Calls" by J B Priestley in March next year.

LANGTREE SINFONIA CONCERT

On Saturday 19th November 2005, the Langtree Sinfonia, under its conductor Paul Fox, will be holding its autumn concert at Christchurch, Reading Road, Henley on Thames.

The programme opens with the Overture 'Son and Stranger' by Mendelssohn. Caroline Woodhouse is the soloist in Weber's Clarinet Concerto No 1 and the final piece to be played is Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4 in A, 'The Italian'.

Tickets and programmes (£7.50) will be available at the door or at 'Inspiration', 1 The Arcade, Goring or by phoning 0118 941 5498.

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

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FROM PIPER'S TO PLANNING - HOW DID WE GET TO THIS?

Piper's Island has been described as the gateway to Caversham. It is certainly a focal point from road and river for all of Reading for most people travelling the north - south route. Love it or hate it the new development is with us. So how did it come about?

Blooded by tackling the traffic issue a few months ago, I thought the interest in Piper's Island would be an excellent opportunity to look at the planning process in Reading.

So what is the system? Is it inherently inefficient or even corrupt? Does the Council merely rubber stamp schemes to get them out of the way? How did Piper's Island end up as it is? There was only one way to find out - I would enter the lions' den. So who better to ask than an ex-chair of planning and a current member of the Planning Advisory Committee, Cllr Richard Stainthorp.

I am not going to make any value judgements in this piece; I am sure you, the readers, will draw your own conclusions.

BEFORE A PLANNING APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED

Surprise, surprise; Central Government has set the Council "targets". The Council is expected to reach a decision within a certain time limit. For minor developments this is 8 weeks, 13 for major.

And the penalties? Failure to meet the targets results in less money coming from Central Government to the Council. So how have the Council gone about trying to comply?

First of all about 87% of applications are dealt with by the Council Officers, not by the Councillors on the Planning Applications Committee. Any development of fewer than 10 houses is delegated to the Officers. A Councillor can ask that an application that would normally be delegated should be considered by the Committee. So if you as a resident have special concerns, it is clear you should approach your Councillor. Another result is that the Council encourages pre-application negotiations with developers. These do not fall within the time limit and smooth the way for speedier decision making.

THE SUBMISSION

Once the application is made, the whole consultation process has to be fitted into the time limit. The Committee meets once a month so, depending on the timing of the application, this can curtail the time even more.

There are certain agencies which have to be consulted by law. These are external bodies such as English Nature, Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive, etc. The Council also consults internally on matters such as Education, Traffic, Leisure, Archaeology, etc. Strangely, there is no statutory requirement to consult individually with local residents.

However, Reading Council does in fact offer the opportunity for locals to make comments. We in CADRA receive a list of all applications and sort through those relevant to Caversham. Individuals are alerted by the yellow planning notice, sometimes a local newspaper advertisement is required, and immediate neighbours are sent a letter by the Council alerting them to the application. Again it is useful to consult with your local Councillor, find out the grounds for objection (or support), unite with other neighbours and, better still, with your local residents' association.

EXAMINING THE CASE

For planning purposes, Reading is divided into several areas, each with its own team. However, an individual Officer is appointed to oversee each application. As mentioned above, each Councillor gets a weekly planning list, as do organisations such as CADRA. A ward Councillor can also ask for a site visit by the Council team. These visits take place once a month, on Friday afternoons. The Committee has to wait for all these consultation reports, including those from outside agencies. No leeway is given if these agencies are a bit tardy. The time limits mentioned above still apply. Once all the consultation reports are in, the officers compile a report and a recommendation, with reasons if they recommend a Refusal. Part of any recommendation to grant may be the famous Section 106 agreement. This is where the Council asks for money so that the application may proceed. This is not a public bribe. Any development is going to put pressure on existing resources; education, transport, leisure and the like. The amount levied is

related to the size of the development.

For residential schemes of over 15 houses the Council has a policy of requiring 38% affordable housing, (rising to 50% in the future). Other conditions, such as the hours when work may take place, may also be imposed.

DECISION TIME

Once a decision has been made then 'agendas' have to be sent to all interested parties five working days before the Committee meeting. Planning meets once a month on a Wednesday.

In preparation, the Planning Management Committee has a preliminary meeting with the Officers on the Monday prior to the Planning Applications Committee, to clarify any technical queries. The ward Councillors are free to arrange their own meetings, along party lines if relevant, to work out how to represent their views, and those of their constituents, at the Planning Applications Committee meeting.

If members of the public have sent in objections they will be asked if they wish to speak at this meeting. At the moment objectors are given five minutes total combined time to make their points. When issues that may not have been fully aired by Officers are put forward, it is normal for a Deferment to be recommended. In fact the Council estimates that about 50% of Deferments are the result of public representations at the public Committee meeting.

Neither the Council nor public objectors have the right to call upon the applicant to explain his case or ask questions about the application.

THE ENDGAME

There are three possible decisions the Committee may reach: Grant, Refusal and Deferral.

If Granted then there is no right of appeal by an objector. If Refused the applicant may appeal; it goes to a Government Inspector. He is totally independent of the Council and in most cases his decision is final.

If Deferred then further reports have to be prepared and the process returns to Committee.

Once again all this should be completed within the Government's "target" times.

THE WAY AHEAD

I said above that I would leave it to the readers to come to their own opinions. I will say, though, that two facts kept striking me as I interviewed Cllr Stainthorp and again as I wrote this.

First of all the Council is tightly restricted by Government legislation. The Council, though acting as a quasi-legal body, has none of the powers of a normal court. It cannot demand to cross-examine an applicant nor can it easily impose fines or penalties for breaches of conditions. The problems of retrospective applications, such as Piper's Island, pose a whole new area of complications. The Council does not have the powers we assume it may, or should, have in dealing with such issues.

The process is only on the way to becoming properly democratic. The lack of rights of appeal, the restrictions on public debate, the time limits imposed, are all aspects that require improvement. Some are a source of concern to the Council as much as to all who participate in the process. To put it colloquially, the cards are stacked in favour of the developer.

Secondly, as highlighted throughout this article, the role of the ward Councillor is most significant. The best way we, the public, can make our views heard is through direct representation and though talking to our local Councillors.

For instance, at the Piper's Island hearing only one of the objectors was able to speak because the main objector over-ran his time. However, the ward Councillor, Sue Stainthorp, who has no such time limit, was able to put forward, on behalf of CADRA and all the residents, a coherent, logical, well presented list of reasons which helped persuade the Committee to do the best they could in the circumstances which was to decide on a Deferral.

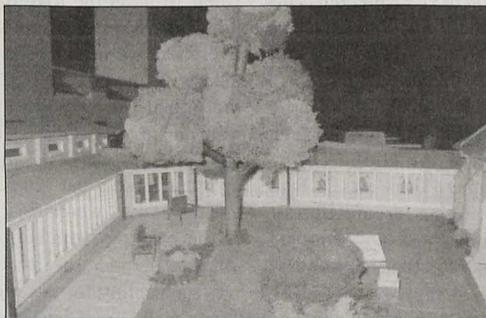
I always finish with a plea to readers to join CADRA. We aim to safeguard the interests of Caversham residents through our dealings with the Council and other agencies. The more residents who join, the stronger we become. For £2.00 per household you can give us an even stronger voice. Membership forms are available at the Library.

St Andrew's Caversham: A vision for reaching out to the community

St Andrew's Caversham PCC recently unveiled a model of Phase 1 of their ambitious plan to redevelop their church hall into a centre better to serve the needs of our local community. Amateur model maker, churchwarden Geoff Kent described the Model as "a visualisation of the cloisters linking the church to the hall, which is both a physical link as well as being a representation of the missionary link between the church and the local community".

Phases 1 and 2 of the development will see the present 'tired' church hall turned into a modern complex designed to meet the needs of the local community, both secular and spiritual. Geoff advises that "St Andrew's recognises that the church has a need to reach out to the local community, to encourage interaction and meet their needs if we are to achieve our missionary objectives and if we wish to encourage the growth of the church".

The hall development is intended to complement the recently launched "Regenerate" movement aimed at enabling grass roots ongoing mission (evangelism / and evangelisation). St Andrew's PCC see the hall development as a vehicle for

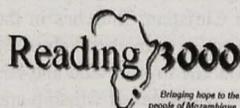


encouraging initial contact with otherwise non-church going members of the community as well as strengthening relationships within the St Andrew's church family. At the Regenerate launch, the message from Luke 6.45 was highlighted "...for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks". St Andrew's church's mouth speaks of welcome.

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, who delivered the keynote address at the launch of Regenerate, is coming to preside and preach at the 10.00 am Family Eucharist on Sunday 4th December to encourage us in our Mission - following our Patronal Festival Eucharist on Wednesday, 30th November at 7.30 pm when our guest preacher is the Revd Nigel Hardcastle, Chairman of Reading Churches Together. All are

welcome to join us.

St Andrew's is actively engaged in many fundraising events for the development. To participate in these events, or to find out how you can help in this project, please visit St Andrew's web page at www.standrewscaversham.org, or contact Father Keith Kinnaird or the Church Wardens at St Andrew's Church.



READING3000 BENEFITS FROM "EXTRAVAGANT LOVE"

Caversham Baptist Church was the venue in early September for an enthralling evening with talented local singer, pianist and composer Pamela Chilvers who gave a faultless rendition of all 15 religious songs in her new album "Extravagant Love". The music and most of the words were written by Pamela, who drew inspiration from Old and New Testament Bible passages; some were written to celebrate the baptisms of friends and family. They are songs of great beauty and meaning that speak from the heart of God's love for us and what He has done through Jesus his Son.

There was a capacity audience in the Church for the evening, given in aid of Reading3000 which supports the work of Hope in Africa at Chiaquelane in the south of Mozambique with which the churches in Caversham have a close link. This issue carries a report on page 6 of a visit there during the summer by a party of mostly young people drawn from Caversham and further afield. This follows two previous visits; two years ago a party from

Caversham built a playground for the children. First hand accounts of experiences from this year's visit were given during the evening by Ruth Cantwell, Stuart Mathers and also Neil Applegate, the moving force behind Reading 3000. This charity seeks to encourage and facilitate the work there by 3000 people pledging to give a minimal sum of £1 a month for five years. Numbers involved are steadily rising but have so far only reached 850.

This was an inspiring and memorable evening aided by the whole repertoire being available afterwards on a CD accompanied by a transcript of all the words. Copies of this CD "Extravagant Love" may be obtained from WordPlay in Prospect Street, price £10, of which £8 will go to Hope for Africa. The concert at the Baptist Church raised nearly £700 for Hope for Africa. Any who missed this concert or would like to hear it again may do so in Henley-on-Thames during November; watch the *Henley Standard* for further details not available at the time of going to press.

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AN OUTSTANDING LAUNCH FOR "REGENERATE"

Over 1,000 people from every strand of the Christian Church in Reading filled the Globe, the home of the Church of God World Wide Mission in Portman Road, on 25 September for the launch of "Regenerate". This apt name, defined in the dictionary as a spiritual reawakening, heralded the start of something big for this town and its surroundings. Rarely are so many from such a wide spectrum of Christians seen together worshipping God and pledging themselves for the extension of His Kingdom. This itself is a tribute to how well the leadership of our Churches linked through the Reading Christian Network and Churches Together in Reading work with one another.

The service was introduced by the Revd Nigel Hardcastle (Chairman of Churches Together in Reading); the Reading Central Salvation Army Band and the Globe Group provided the music and led the singing. The Revd Dr Paul Sheppy (Abbey Baptist Church), Mgrs Jeremy Garratt (Vicar General, Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese) and Pastor Yinka Oyekan (Grovelands Christian Fellowship) briefly and successively explained that we are doing mission because Jesus invites us all to join in the searching and sending; we are doing this together because our diversity is contrary to the will of Christ; we all worship the same Lord. We believe that God is determined to do something about Reading which requires more than a one-off event.

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, challenged the large gathering through an interactive Keynote Address in which we were asked to discuss with our neighbours at different stages two different sets of questions. What do we do when a non-churchgoer comes to stay at the weekend? Do we go off to church by ourselves saying we will be back in two hours, do we give it a miss or do we say: we are going to church; would you like to come with us? Secondly how do we react when it subsequently

transpires that our houseguest has come to see us after a family bereavement to ask us about our faith? Do we panic and phone for the minister, hope that God will put words in our mouth or are we ready to give the reason for the hope that is within us? The Bishop reminded us that we cannot give what we have not got. If we are to be fruitful we must begin with ourselves. Each one of us needs to be a place of receiving and acknowledging our need of God. He said that when Jesus is the love of our lives then from the good things we have received we can act in the name of God. Every day we need the gospel to transform our lives; only then will our faces reflect the glory which is Christ. As individual Christians we need to learn again what God wants us to be. God is the evangelist and not us and it is His Spirit that works through the Church. The Bishop ended by reminding us that "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks", words from Luke 6 verse 45 which was part of the reading from scripture that preceded and again followed his address.

Responsibility for this initiative is in the hands of a Core Group made up of representatives from the various strands of the Christian Church in Reading. After the Bishop's address they were introduced to the gathering as a Group; they and the whole process were held in prayer by Pastor Barry Kirk of Reading Christian Network before the Core Group initiated a sign of peace that spread through the congregation.

This was a remarkable evening in which those who were present witnessed the combined Christian Churches in the town putting their faith in an enterprise through which many more will come to hear more about the love of God and His saving grace. We returned to our own places of worship and congregations intent on making "Regenerate" the focus for prayer during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity next January. Ideas and resources for mission will be available at

From Politics to People

The issue of the poverty that millions of people face on the African continent has, over the past year, had both media and political attention. Even amongst the debris of 7th July the G8 summit was discussing debt relief and trade justice. As western countries face tragedies of their own, the continuing plight of African people is still only just beneath the surface. So how do we get from politics and policies to understanding the difficulties faced by the people of Africa or more specifically of Mozambique?

Reading3000 is a UK Christian charity based in the RG postcode. It twins Christians in Reading with the village of Chiaquelane in southern Mozambique, creating a unique partnership between the two communities. This summer a team of 15 people from local Caversham churches and elsewhere visited the Hope for Africa mission camp in Chiaquelane over the course of July and August.

We swapped our showers for buckets and our light switches for torches and candles, and got just a taster of the normality that is the struggle of day-to-day life for the people of Mozambique. We soon discovered how much longer basic routines, such as fetching water, took. Working alongside local volunteers, some of us swapped our study books for spades and dug the foundations for a community centre, which will provide storage for the crops grown in the agricultural project, as well as classrooms and much needed indoor meeting space during the rainy season, whilst others took to teaching sewing skills to women in the community, giving them a potential future source of income.

Much of southern Africa is currently suffering from a food crisis due to drought. Even as we returned to the UK, people's crops were failing and they were left trying to buy maize that wasn't there with money they didn't have. Yet as ever there is always hope, with surrounding countries such as South Africa offering their surplus food. Even those involved in the Reading3000 camp in Chiaquelane were able to help themselves and their neighbours

for a short time by offering the local volunteers food for their time. Also the mission has been given fields with a usable irrigation system for its agricultural school and was able to sell its successful maize crop. It is this agricultural school (sponsored by churches and individuals across wider Reading) that hopes to educate the local community with farming techniques which could ensure success for local people's crops in future years. These projects are already helping to grow a community founded in eventual self-sustainability.

Mozambique is a success story in terms of its independence and growing development. We saw many young people going to school for three years of free education, due to debt relief from western countries, but it's hard to see a Government held back in helping its own people further because of unfair trade rules and other debts. The mission in Chiaquelane is providing the local church and community with a place of training and education through the form of eventually self-sustainable projects, like the sewing and agricultural schools.

Visiting Chiaquelane taught us many things, but in all it gave us a passion to see something different take place in Mozambique...they will not become like the 'western world' but will develop in a way that we probably can't foresee; the people of that country have not been through the same historical lessons as the UK, lessons that shape the way we think and learn, they have valuable experiences and lessons of their own that shape the way they think and learn. Political decisions do have a profound effect on people's standards of living, but it is through the people and their culture, and in the case of Chiaquelane the church working with the wider community, that this happens and takes on some significance in day-to-day life.

No matter how hard the task, having the church united across the globe is having an amazing impact on the lives of those involved

By Hannah Thompson & Stuart Mather

AROUND THE CHURCHES

New Parish Priest for Our Lady and St Anne's



Pic - Kath Turner

Father Giles when he arrived in Caversham.

On Saturday 17th September, Father Giles Goward arrived in Caversham to take up his position as Parish Priest of the Church of Our Lady and St Anne. Father Giles introduces himself with the following words.

"I thought you Catholics stayed in the same Diocese for life," said one of the Anglican Clergy in West Worcester when I told her I was leaving my parish and coming to Caversham near Reading. "We do," I said, "Caversham is in Birmingham Diocese", "Never," she said, "you must have some funny shaped Dioceses." I have now worked in three corners of our strangely shaped Diocese, Newcastle under Lyme in the North, where I was a Curate, Worcester, which was my first parish, in the far West, and now Caversham in the South. I have also been in the middle as, like Fr Tony Jones before me, I was Secretary (Chaplain) to the Archbishop of Birmingham. Perhaps once you have been Secretary, Archbishops think it is safer to keep you as far away as possible!

In fact all the above seem "south" to me as I was born and brought up in the West Riding of Yorkshire, the third of four children. My father worked in the worsted and later cashmere spinning industry, which is now all but gone in West Yorkshire, and my mother was a wardrobe mistress. After school I went to University in Durham which is where I decided that, perhaps, God was calling me to be a priest. After leaving university and a couple of years working in Sunderland I still felt He was calling me to the priesthood and offered myself for training. I trained at St Mary's College, Oscott, the Birmingham Diocesan Seminary and I was ordained priest on July 14th 1995, so one of the last things I did in my previous parish was to celebrate my tenth anniversary.

I look forward to playing my part in building on the firm foundations laid by so many faithful priests and people here at St Anne's. I look forward, too, to working and praying with the other members of Churches Together in Caversham, conscious of Our Lord's desire that, "we should all be one so that the world may believe in the one who sent me." (John 17:23).

Pilgrim's Progress

Things didn't start too well for Fr Tony's walk to Santiago de Compostela for, on his first day, 8th September, the rain crashed down throughout the day. Fortunately, things picked up after that and the following night he joined the main body of pilgrims in the refuge at Roncesvalles. Hundreds were doing the pilgrimage and the refuges were packed at night with folk from all over the world - a great experience but not one conducive to sleep.

Two weeks in, his feet, hips, knees etc were all working well with only one little blister to report. The pilgrimage was producing its usual crop of diverse experiences: conversations with a wide variety of humanity, being woken up by an enclosed Cistercian nun, sleeping al fresco on a warm night while avoiding the SNORER, and so on. Cold struck on the Mesata, the high and empty plain between Burgos and León, and 'the Priest with the sombrero' became the one with the woolly gloves and bobble hat!

Finally, on 14th October, he arrived at his goal: the shrine of St James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. To quote Fr Tony: 'I cannot put into words the exhilaration and celebration shared with all the other pilgrims who arrived at the same time'. The next day, he concelebrated the daily Pilgrims' Mass in the Cathedral during which he read the English part of the Eucharist Prayer while all his pals in the congregation waved, and the following day, celebrated an English Mass with the latter, his very close 'fellow travellers' of the previous six weeks. After a few days in Santiago, he was due to 'retreat' to Valladolid before arriving at his new parish on the 31st October. *Per adua ad Leamington Spa.*

NEWS OF FORMER CAVERSHAM CLERGY

The Revd Edward Tildesley, currently Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team Ministry with responsibility for Clifton Hampden, Culham, and Long Wittenham with Little Wittenham, has been appointed Vicar of the Church of the Ascension, Aldershot, in the Guildford Diocese. He will take up his new appointment sometime in Advent. Edward Tildesley was a non-stipendiary curate at St Barnabas between 1996 and 1999, during which time he was also Chaplain at Shiplake College. On behalf of those who remember him the *Caversham Bridge* wishes him and his wife, Pippa and daughter, Dora, every blessing as they move to a new home and sphere of ministry.

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COMMUNITY

Christian Healing is alive and well

In 1997, The Order of Jacob's Well was inaugurated by its Patron, Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury), with the remit to seek out, train and encourage those called to the healing ministry of the Church. Much of its work is focused on Jesus' command to "go out, preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and heal the sick". Particularly in the last two years, the Order has seen many of those prayed for receive physical healing, both at its healing centre in Cwbran and at the various "Wells", or small healing groups, around the UK.

This fast growing and non-denominational Order of wholeness and healing is led by the Revd Mike Endicott. Although based in South Wales, Mike and his team like to visit locations throughout the UK and abroad to teach about healing. In addition, regular 3-4 day ministry training schools and physical healing clinics are held at Llangasty in the beautiful Brecon Beacons.

For those who would like to know more about this subject, The Order of Jacob's Well runs a detailed course incorporating theory and practical training. Both clergy and lay people are able to become licensed into the Order via this course, thus enabling them to bring the Ministry of Healing back to their own communities. In addition, Mike Endicott is the author of a number of books which explore concepts of healing.

On Saturday 26th November 2005, between 10.30am and 4.00pm, Mike Endicott and his team will be at Christ Church URC in Henley-on-

Thames. The last time he came to Christ Church we saw people receive all sorts of physical healing – so do come along if this subject is of interest to you, or if you would like prayer for your own healing. As Mike is known for both the clarity and the humour of his teaching, this should be an entertaining and deeply thought provoking day.

Snacks and hot drinks will be available. Parking in the church car park is limited, but there should be plenty of street parking and public parking available. Registration will be from 10.00am at £5 per head – everyone is welcome. If in the meantime you would like to know more about Mike Endicott's visit or about The Order of Jacob's Well and its work, please contact David Males on 0118 947 5293 or at david.males@tesco.net

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Revd Dr John Ogden

For the past few years I've been a member of the chaplaincy team at the university. It's been a fascinating and challenging way to continue an association with the university that began in 1966 when I first became a Lecturer.

We are a small ecumenical team, offering to the students and staff of the university a listening ear and a challenge. The university very kindly provides a cottage, which serves as our base. The chaplaincy, however, has to meet all the running costs: heat, light, telephone – that sort of thing – as well as repairs and renewals. And that's before we even think about anything to do with the actual work of chaplaincy.

When I say "tiny" I do mean "tiny", no room can hold more than a dozen people, so for bigger meetings we have to book one of the university rooms. There's a kitchen (which badly needs refurbishing), a very small office, a quiet room, a room adjoining the kitchen where many conversations take place, and a library.

The Chaplaincy Centre – rather unusually among university chaplaincy centres – is a home-from-home for students. They gather to make coffee, toast sandwiches, do their study in peace, chat about this and that, including coursework and faith issues.

We respond to crises of all kinds. Some of these are in the public domain within the university, such as the death of a student; others are much more private and of course remain so. Ours is very much a ministry of listening friendship.

The denominations involved in the ecumenical partnership all contribute to the running costs of the centre. The Christian Union makes a modest but valued contribution. Students do what they can, but their budgets are very tight. With the full-cost fees, their disposable income will be even less in future. For several years we have run a scheme we call the Friends of Chaplaincy. It began as a way of involving Christian members of staff and former students who had used and valued the work of the chaplaincy when they were here.

Despite all this we have been running at a deficit for two or three years. Soon we won't be able to meet even the basic running costs of the Chaplaincy Centre. Unlike a typical parish church we don't have a congregation to whom we can explain our financial needs in the expectation of a substantial response.

Over recent years we have worked hard to restructure our finances in a way that makes all this clear. One of the first tasks facing us in this new academic year is that of letting people in the churches of the Reading Area know what we do and why we think it is important. To do this we are willing to come to a PCC meeting or house group; just let us know. Our telephone number is 378 8797 (there is an answering service), or you can email us at chaplaincy@reading.ac.uk.

We would also like to invite anyone to become a Friend of the Chaplaincy. It may be that you have reason to remember your own university experience with gratitude, or you have a relative who is involved in university chaplaincy. If you would like to help, please get in touch, and we can supply you with a gift aid form (we are a registered charity) and we can provide you with regular news about what's going on, projects in hand and dreams for the future.

BOOK NEWS

100 WAYS TO MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

author John Madeley

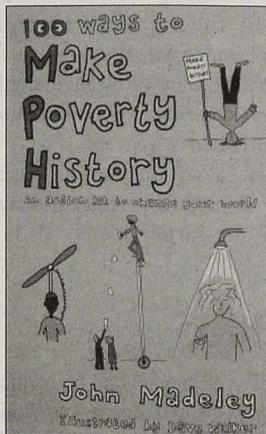
This new book, illustrated with cartoon figures by David Walker, is sub-titled "An action kit to change your world." Actions speak louder than words and this book is designed, not simply as an interesting read but to stimulate activity from its reader. The actions are grouped into six sections. The first and longest section asks the reader to persuade those in authority to change policies which damage the poor. Twenty-five

actions listed include writing to the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, other Ministers, the President of the World Bank, your MP, MEP and others, urging them, in relation to their various responsibilities, to Make Poverty History. This section highlights a whole raft of relevant concerns relating to debt relief, fairer trade, international agreements that hamper development of, and trade from, poorer countries, the failure to meet interim targets for Millennium Development Goals and international aid. For many of the actions recommended, the text contains information and/or an explanation of the subject, plus a source for additional information, mostly on the internet, and guidance on where and what to write.

Action is not left to the individual; with missionary zeal John Madeley persuades us to raise awareness in his second section of twenty-two activities. The report in last month's *Caversham Bridge* on street theatre at WOMAD was an example of one such action. The third section gives six ways in which you can get to know more about poverty and what is being done about it. Sections four and five tell us about how we can influence the situation through our personal life style. There are thirteen examples of how we can influence through our purchasing power and twenty-four examples whereby we can change things by the way we live. These range from the purchase of Fairtrade goods and the way we travel, to the way we use resources. They demonstrate our interconnectedness and show how life style in the developed parts of the world has repercussions on those in less developed countries, particularly on the 1.3 billion living on less than one US dollar a day and the 800 million who are denied the basic human right of adequate food.

A short final section of ten actions urges us to rise to the challenge through such actions as prayer, tithing, fasting, prophesy, being ready with an answer, and a suggestion that we monitor our own personal target on the actions we are taking. This book is a compendium of knowledge by an expert in this field; it should be essential reading and no person, having done so, should be short of an answer on the need to make poverty history. We could start by buying a copy of the book, reading it and then deciding what we should do. Copies are available in Caversham at WordPlay in Prospect Street.

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TRIBUTE

CELIA ROBINSON

1940-2005



Many readers of *Caversham Bridge* will, over the years, have used the services of *Robin James Opticians* of Church Street, and the first point of contact for many of them will have been Celia Robinson who worked there as a receptionist from 1977 until 2003 when, alas, her declining health made further work impossible.

Celia first arrived in Caversham in 1972 when her husband, Richard, joined the academic staff of Reading University. Their two daughters, Claire and Julia, were enrolled at Caversham Primary School and it was the

mums at the school gate who were to form the launch pad for the many friendships Celia was to make during her time in Caversham.

From this primary school group grew that loose association of people, well-known for their activities, not least their Spring visits to Bournemouth and their Christmas shopping trips to Winchester. More friendships were formed with fellow parishioners at Our Lady and St Anne's where Celia, whose religion was a constant thread throughout her life, worshipped and where, in due course, she joined the choir. She was also in regular evidence at the Summer and Christmas Parish Fetes, helping to run the plant stall. And then, of course, there were the work place friends at *Robin James's*.

Sadly, the cancer that Celia fought so valiantly for the last eighteen months of her life was not to be denied and she died on 15th July. The many friends she had gathered in Caversham, members of her family, and friends from earlier days were all well represented at her Requiem at the Church of Our Lady and St Anne on the 26th July.

In paying tribute to her on this occasion, her brother Tim, reminded the congregation that, while acknowledging the solemnity of the Requiem Mass, they were also celebrating the life of a truly lovely lady. He likened Celia to a large, bright, perfectly clear diamond for, like a rare gem, she had no hidden sides or rough edges to her personality and no parts of her character were hard to fathom. Just as a diamond absorbed light and reflected it back many times brighter, so Celia had a rare gift to absorb friendship, affection and love and to amplify them before reflecting them back. Although, like a diamond, her personality had many facets, friendship was always dominant. Diamonds were, of course, indestructible and, while Celia might have disappeared from view, the light and love she had generated would continue to shine, and she would live on in the thoughts and prayers and in the abiding memories of those who had known her.

Caversham Bridge extends its deepest sympathies to Richard, to Claire and Julia, and to Celia's grand-daughter Sofia whose recent arrival meant so much to Celia in her last few months.

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St Peter's Wives' Group

Those at the September meeting were saddened to hear of the death of Kath Fulbrook, a long-time member of the group, who will be sadly missed by all her friends.

Gwen Roberts was the speaker for the evening, with an illustrated talk entitled "To Russia With Love". Her slides of the Kremlin and the colourful St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square were excellent. Her audience admired the spacious public gardens with their fountains, and were amazed by the beautiful cathedrals, with their golden domes and opulent interiors, where the amount of gold on display took their breath away. Robes worn by kings and gowns worn by Queen Catherine, decorated with silver and diamonds, were also on display, together with the throne of Peter the Great and the Tsar's bible, a huge volume embellished with gold and diamonds. In the magnificent church of St Sergius there was a large shield of solid gold and the walls were almost completely covered in gold icons. The Underground system in Moscow is also a work of art, with beautifully carved ceilings, marble walls and chandeliers.

Gwen and her husband also visited the Winter Palace, The Hermitage, which is so large that a whole day would be needed to do it justice. They saw about an eighth on their visit, including a room made entirely of malachite, a Jasper vase weighing 16 tonnes made in one piece, a wonderful collection of Fabergé eggs and beautifully decorated ceilings with chandeliers. There were also wonderful statues, including The Three Graces. The Summer Palace, too, was magnificent, with 127 fountains playing to classical music in the colourful gardens.

An enjoyable evening.

The next meeting at Church House will be the AGM on 15 November.

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

Caversham St Andrew Church Fellowship

This group, which is open to anyone, was founded in 1964 and meets regularly on the second Thursday in the month in St Andrew's Hall in Albert Road, Caversham Heights (by no 9 bus stop), with refreshments. Speakers are invited on topical subjects and also outside visits and meetings are arranged. The annual programme is published in advance.

There are annual fixtures; in February the Filmmakers and Video Club show us a selection of their previous year's work, in July we visit a local church to say evening Compline, tour the church learning the history before retiring to an inn for refreshments, in August, a visit to a member's home for a social chat and in November a church member shows holiday slides.

Thus in July, we visited St. Mary's, Stratfield Saye on the Estate of the Duke of Wellington, our Vicar Revd. Keith Kinnaird said Compline and the Church architect talked to us. We were given a great welcome by the Churchwarden on a perfect summer's evening. In September Mr Colin Ferguson spoke on "Mediation in Family Matters", with reference to eliminating hostility and conflagration in divorce and children's problems.

On 13th October Mark Pargeter spoke on "Princess Margaret and I" about arranging her diary. On November 10th Eric Apsden will present his holiday slides. We invite everyone to join us and enquiries can be made to Rodney Oliver tel. 0118 9478920.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

With Christmas in mind, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club is holding an Open Evening with a very festive theme. Dr. Christina Curtis, a National Demonstrator, is giving a demonstration entitled "Dreaming of Christmas", which will inspire and delight all those present. The date is Wednesday 9th November, at The Salvation Army Citadel, Reading, starting at 7.30pm - doors open 6.30pm. Entrance fee £7, with seasonal refreshments, and seasonal sales

tables. If you need floral ideas for Christmas, then this is the evening for you! For further information contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 947 7400.

Caversham Women's Institute

Law and order was the rule for the September meeting. Holidays and illness had depleted numbers but those present heard a most interesting presentation from Mr Ken Wells, curator of the Thames Valley Police Museum. He told some amusing stories of his police service and brought along items of uniform and equipment. Miss Margaret Cameron became the model to display the uniform though not quite the right shape!

The business part of the evening began on a sad note with the announcement of the death of Mrs Kath Fulbrook, a member for many years. Arrangements for the Autumn Fair on November 5th were made and after tea the raffle was drawn. It is hoped to invite Mr Wells back for another look at policing in Reading.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning welcomed members to the September meeting and thanked Mrs B Holder for the floral arrangement.

She then announced this would be the last meeting in Church House; in future meetings will be in the Baptist Church Hall across the road. It was hoped, being on the ground floor with no stairs, old members would be attracted back and possibly new ones recruited.

She then introduced Mrs Jean Broughton, Federation Chairman who was paying a welcome visit

The Garden Party in August was a great success and greatly enjoyed on a lovely warm summer day. Edna thanked Mrs Trixie Kirby for the use of her beautiful garden. Emmer Green TG's invitation to their garden party was attended by Edna. Mrs Ann Deane represented us at Caversham Festival.

Speaker, Mr Ray Goodman, gave a very interesting talk on his travels to Sri Lanka, illustrated with slides. He began with his first visit when he was in the services sixty years ago. He returned more recently for a holiday because as he said, he was so impressed with this very beautiful island, certainly the slides showing the tropical plants and terraced tea bushes gave us a good idea of the climate.

Mrs E Manning thanked him on behalf of members.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Guild members were welcomed back after the summer break by their Chairman, Mrs Helen Holloway. She gave news of old members and welcomed new visitors. She had been delighted by the attendance at the Annual Garden Party, which had taken place on a perfect late summer day at the home of Mrs Ann Davies, and thanks were due to her and all who had worked to make it such a friendly success.

Activities were announced for the coming season. Arts & Crafts Group will meet at the Town Hall to visit the Toy Exhibition. At their coming gatherings Words & Music will look at old cookery writings and the Gardening Group will study dahlias. Plans are being made for the Guild Birthday Party.

Probably most members feared that the evening's talk on 'Fleet Street' would plunge them into the paparazzi world, but the Speaker, Mrs Val Pretlove, took them back in time to the days before the modern Press was born, with a brilliant presentation of the history and architecture of this very special London street. 1930s newspaper buildings were indeed included with the Wren churches and taverns where Dr Johnson and many writers once met. The excellent slides led up alleyways to view the delightful gardens of the Inns of Court and other places of interest. Influences came from Roman times, the Knights Templar, the Great Fire and the Second World War.

The original Temple Bar had been moved around the country, then returned to the City; one church spire had finished up in a field in Remenham - another story! Mrs Marie Rogers, who gave a Vote of Thanks, voiced everyone's wish that they had been more observant on past visits, and many resolved to walk down Fleet Street again before long.

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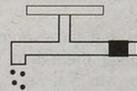
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