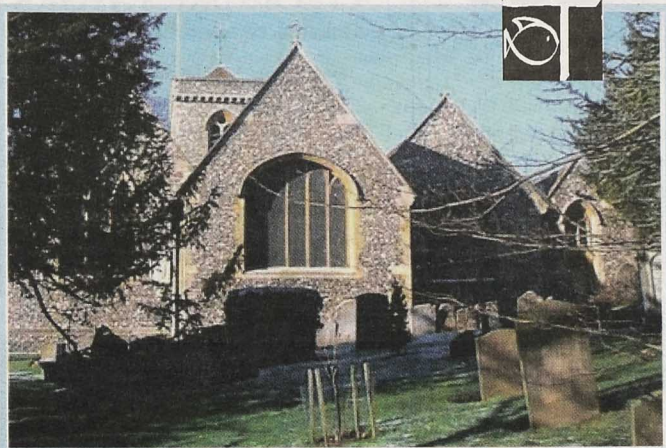
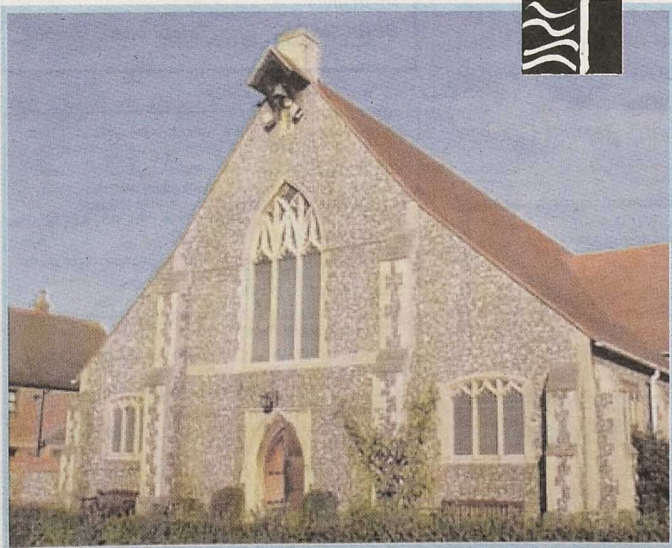


THREE IN ONE MAKES A NEW PARISH



The three churches, with their respective logos, which have equal status in the new parish: Above St Peter's, left St Margaret's and below St John's. Inset right: Dan Tyndall – the new rector



You may not realise it, but if your home is in a large part of Caversham or in Mapledurham you are now living in a different parish from where you were a month or so ago.

On June 1st the new parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham came into being and the former parishes of St Peter's and St Margaret's, Mapledurham, and St John's in Lower Caversham ceased to exist. There are no changes to the boundaries of the original parishes.

The parishes of St Andrew's in Caversham, St Barnabas in Emmer Green and the Caversham Park ecumenical church remain unchanged.

All three churches in the new parish retain their status as parish churches and their names, and are all of equal status.

The new parish is the result of the reorganisation of the Church of England in this area which began when Canon Richard Kingsbury retired from the post of Rector at St Peter's.

Also on June 1st the Revd Dan Tyndall became rector of the new parish. He says: "I went to bed as a priest in charge and woke up the next day as rector."

No induction or licensing service is needed although the technicality is that the freehold, which was suspended when Canon Kingsbury left, is now reinstated. The Revd Tyndall will have overall leadership responsibility for all three churches within the parish. He does not expect that parishioners will notice much change despite the new structure. "The most significant difference is that among the clergy team working in the parish, some will have parish-wide responsibilities."

For example, the Revd Jeremy Tear, who was licensed as community priest at St John's in March, will have overall

responsibility for mission both in a hands-on way and in an enabling and training role. The rector believes that the majority of people will find that their church retains its identity and is allowed to evolve in its own way.

"We are not seeking to build a franchise but to put in place a framework which will enable each church to thrive and grow," he says.

"We're not wanting to create three churches that all look and feel

the same. People choose a

church to attend for many

reasons and we want to

enable our three churches

to remain different,

distinct and unique. We

want to celebrate that

diversity and encourage

the churches to grow in the

ways that are right for them."

There will be one parochial church council for the new parish consisting of the clergy, wardens, deanery synod representatives and three lay members from each church. Its first meeting has already been held.

Although there was no official ceremony to mark the birth of the new parish, there is a month of special celebrations. These include the patronal festivals of all three churches, two of which have already taken place.

The finale will be an event involving a boat and a bishop. A boat is being hired to pick up people from St John's near Caversham lock, it will sail upstream to pick up people from St Peter's at Caversham Bridge and then to St Margaret's at Mapledurham. There will be a service conducted by the Bishop of Reading, the Right Revd Stephen Cotterell. It will be one of his final duties before he moves to become Bishop of Chelmsford.

The service will include the rededication of the church bells.

For more information on the new parish go to its web site: www.ctmparish.org.uk



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Rev'd Keith Knee-Robinson, 8 Hewett Close,
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Rev'd Jerry Tear, St John's Vicarage, Caversham
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Rev'd Dan Tyndall, The Rectory, 20 Church
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TALKING POINT

by

Paul Rhodes

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

In an age of sound-bites this one is about as meaningless as any other. For one thing most people think a church is a building and therefore one without walls would consist of a roof and four pillars. Tricky when it rained. Worse when it snowed. Moreover, I'm sorry to say that, when anyone visits our own South Street building, the first thing they find is a huge stone wall – though they hopefully find a friendly welcome inside.

Church buildings are OK – though look on the websites of churches which don't own their own buildings and most are growing in numbers. Why is this? One reason is vulnerability. Churches which don't own their own buildings tend to be fairly young and have started small in number. They had to grow or they would have fizzled out with nothing to say they had ever existed.

However, it is possible that there is another reason why these churches grow. Not having a 'home of their own' they are automatically forced to become part of the community. They have to hire community buildings which are also used by other groups. Because they do not own their own premises they cannot host a church basket-weaving group so they have to join the community basket-weavers. Instead of opening the doors and saying: "Come to us", they have to be the ones who do the going.

Because of this, relationships are made and trust is built up. They listen to what others have to say and others listen to them. The church has come back to being part of the community instead of a separate organization which meets in a strange-shaped building and holds events similar to the ones which the community hold anyway.

By the way, a church without walls is one which makes people feel at home. It is not an exclusive club doing things the way it has always done them. Just as a couple who want a child make their home child-friendly, so a church which wants people to come in makes it welcoming.

Paul Rhodes is pastor of Caversham Baptist Church

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Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the August 2010 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday July 6th. The date for the September 2010 issue is Tuesday August 3rd 2010.

Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the August 2010 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday July 2nd 2010. The date for the September 2010 issue is Friday July 30th 2010.

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EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mr Alan Bradbury, Mr Philip DeVill, Mrs Myra Emerson, Mrs Rhona Flower, Mrs Pat Williams.
c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. RG4 8AX Tel: 947 1703. Email: office@ctmparish.org.uk

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham RG4 7EB Tel: 947 6958. Email: Alanwright77@aol.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mrs Carol Moloney, 19 Woodcote Way, Caversham RG4 7HE. Tel: 947 1370.

COMPANY CHAIRMAN: Mrs Marjorie Tillman, 30 Cardinal Close, Caversham, Tel 947 5711.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mrs Catharine Sharman, 12 Sheepwalk, Caversham RG4 8

COMPANY TREASURER: Mrs J Belcher, 33 The Ridgeway, Caversham RG4 8NX. Tel: 947 4772

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Mrs D. Moore, 8 Springfield Mews, Surley Row, Caversham RG4 7QA. Tel: 947 3713
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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BROWN OWL LEAVES THE NEST

Margaret Pearson, Brown Owl since 1995, retired from 4th Caversham St Andrew's Brownie pack in May. The pack organised a surprise farewell party for her to celebrate the time and energy Margaret has spent with well over 200 girls since first joining. The celebrations included a performance from each of the groups, to say a big thank you. Many cards and gifts of thanks were given to Margaret, who in turn gave the pack a gift of new Snowy, Tawny and Barn Owl mascots to welcome the three new leaders who will now share the running of the pack.

Margaret will be especially remembered for her many interests which she has shared with the Brownies over the years. Tree planting at Mapledurham playing fields, bird watching at her house and woodland days at Clayfield Copse are now popular events in their programme. Her love of music, and especially country dancing, has left the girls adept at singing and performing and they are often seen using these skills in support of St Andrew's Church, the Arthur Clark Home and Guiding District events.

Past and present Brownies have always been encouraged by Margaret to welcome challenge through undertaking individual badges and joining in district and division events. Margaret and her husband David joined 11 Guiders from the south west region on a trek in Nepal to Everest base camp, attaining a height of 17,500 feet and raising money to support the charity Water Aid.

Margaret's involvement in the Girl Guiding movement started back in Cambridge in 1952 when she first became a Brownie and then a Guide. She achieved the Queen's Guide Award in 1961 and continued as a young leader, then known as a Cadet. She ran a Guide Pack in Jamaica for two years, and after returning home became involved again when her daughter became a Brownie in Caversham.

Margaret said, "I have loved seeing the enthusiasm of the girls over the years. They have always been open to challenge, learning and having fun together. As leader, I have also learned a lot personally: from abseiling and archery to life saving, from participating in the Walking Safely leadership scheme. The opportunities have been there for me and I have made lots of lasting friendships along the way. Some of my best years have been as



Margaret with Brownies at her farewell party.

Brown Owl with 4th Caversham Brownies and I would like all the girls I have met there over the years to know that in my opinion you are and always will be The Best!"

Trefoil Guild meets in Reading

Retired Caversham and Emmer Green Brownie and Guide Unit Leaders were among members of all ages who attended the South-West Region Trefoil Guild AGM on 15th May. This was hosted by Berkshire this year at Reading Town Hall, and visitors from other parts of the region greatly admired the magnificent venue and enjoyed listening to a recital on the Father Willis organ by one of our members, Mary Harwood.

Members were invited to stick post-it notes onto a "Membership Mountain" chart, stating the year in which they entered Guiding, be it as a Brownie, Guide or Leader, and there were entries going back to the 1930s.

As well as the usual AGM reports, members were treated to some excerpts from Berkshire Girlguiding's recent production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".



Caroline Smith

A big black horse inspects some of the princesses.

Can't you see I'm a Princess? Rainbow Guide Centenary Party

As part of the ongoing Centenary celebrations, Rainbows from 1st and 2nd Caversham, together with Rainbows from Park Church, took part in one of the national celebrations – a Princess themed party at Foxlease in Hampshire. Princess dresses, tiaras and trainers were the outfit of choice. After a shaky start involving loo trips and tears, the bus full of princesses made it to their destination and were greeted with the sight of two large, black horses, called Jack & Kai, pulling a ribbon festooned open carriage. The girls piled in and were happily pulled round the Foxlease grounds at quite a trot. There were so many activities to choose from: craft, facepainting, drumming, giant games, a princess slipper treasure hunt, bouncy castle, belly dancing, trampolines, a roundabout, balloon animals and adventure playground. After a lunchtime photocall with the press, the picnic lunch on the grass was very welcome. The time flew past and soon it was time to leave. The 2nd Caversham unit managed to sneak in a final carriage ride before boarding the coach. It was a long tiring, but happy day for everyone.

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RELIGION AND POLITICS

'I may disagree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' Often attributed to Voltaire, this is a thought provoking assertion.

However it poses a difficult conundrum. It is the basis of our modern liberal democratic way of life. Yet, if it is carried to its logical conclusion, we are faced with defending the indefensible: namely the 'rights' of racists, militant extremists and others to promulgate views with their intent of destroying that very same tolerant democratic society.

We have just passed through what may well turn out to be the beginning of the most revolutionary period in these islands' history for several hundred years. Now there is a controversial statement! But let us see how the new politics pan out. It may all fizzle away in recriminations or we may be on the cusp of changes unforeseen by those now at the helm. A warning from history! Very rarely do those who embark on radical reform and change see what they envisaged come about. Events, as Harold Macmillan famously said, and other socio-political forces take over, leaving the power brokers at the pawn brokers. Remember, you read it here first.

'So what about religion?' you ask. If religion can offer anything then it can give us a moral code. Christianity proffers us a twofold moral imperative. Love your neighbour, and your enemy, as yourself. The question then is not, 'Who is my neighbour?', but: 'What is love?'

The relationship between the individual and society, together with the principles that govern that relationship, are at the core of both politics and religion.

Logically, therefore, if you are a Christian, you cannot divorce your politics from your religion and vice versa.

**THE EXPERIMENT:
A WORKED EXAMPLE**

When I was at school, as we oldies say, we looked at a mathematical model and followed it up with 'worked examples'.

In 2003 the then government passed a new Licensing Act. This offered almost unlimited freedom in the sale of alcohol. CADRA helped many in our community to challenge the impact this would have in residential areas. Reading Borough Council, as the new licensing authority, helped in these worrying times by laying down strict criteria as regards noise and other potential problems.

Few would defend the social consequences of the Act as its results have become increasingly evident. I don't know what the new Reading Council coalition's stance is on this but I am here copying for the reader the consultation document as it appeared on the Council's website in late May:

Reading Borough Council wants to see more people of different ages enjoying nights out in the town centre by limiting the number of pubs and clubs designed to attract large numbers of standing drinkers.

To achieve this, the council is considering introducing a new policy which will allow it to restrict licences to pubs and clubs designed only to attract large numbers of standing drinkers and promote the sale of cheap alcohol.

Under what is known as a 'cumulative impact' policy, large 'vertical drinking' establishments would be unlikely to be granted licences unless they could demonstrate that their operation would not result in an increase in crime and disorder.

CIVIC DUTY

Where there is a right there is a duty. This is another useful aphorism. Whatever our political and religious background and leanings, I am sure we are all concerned about the impact our lives have on others, and indeed the impact others' way of life has on us.

And so it is with the effects of drink related licences. Cumulative impact relates to the potential effect of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. In some areas, the number, type and density of premises selling alcohol for consumption on or off the premises can result in serious problems of nuisance and disorder, either outside the premises or some distance away, for example at taxi queues or at fast food outlets.

Many local authorities across the country have adopted cumulative impact policies so that they can shape the future development of their towns and cities in a positive way.

Cumulative impact policies are likely to be adopted where serious problems of crime and disorder may be arising. Although overall levels of crime and disorder in Reading are falling, which is certainly good news, these levels do remain very high in the town centre.

The Town Centre Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is a group that meets regularly and is attended by police and council officers and members of the business community and residents. The NAG

has identified alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour as its main priority requiring action. It may be that a cumulative impact policy could assist in addressing the concerns of the NAG.

Having started with a rather theoretical and un-English approach to an issue, I am finishing with a good old fashioned, British, pragmatic conclusion.

Take part in local democracy and social action. If you need more information go to the relevant websites, attend NAG meetings, join your local residents' association, become a CADRA member and activist.

We have just experienced a political revolution. Where it will end is anyone's guess. But by taking an active role, as the recent election counts showed, each one of us can have an impact.

AND FINALLY

A big thank you to our outgoing Mayor, Cllr Fred Pugh and his wife, Jean, the Mayoress. I don't know how often I have gone to some function or another, even very minor ones, and there they were.

On behalf of our community, Jean and Fred, enjoy a well earned rest!

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Fred and Jean look back on a wonderful year

Caversham residents Councillor Fred Pugh and his wife Jean are taking a well-earned rest after completing his year as mayor of Reading which he describes as "wonderful but tiring".

That's not surprising when you consider that he fulfilled over 300 engagements, more often than not accompanied by Jean as mayoress. They attended 26 church services, and five funerals; two of the latter were services with full military honours for young men who had lost their lives in Afghanistan. Two were for freemen of the borough, Martyn Allies and Bob Green, both Caversham residents.

The Pughs went to such diverse events as school assemblies, the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Oracle, a falconry festival at Englefield House, an open-air production of Twelfth Night at the university and -- a first for both of them -- a professional football match. Fred describes himself as a serial opener. He opened shops, offices, fetes, school extensions, a new health centre, a beer festival and countless bottles of wine.

They both commented that they were made to feel really welcome by all the organisations they visited. They made particular mention of the ethnic minorities who were genuinely pleased to entertain them. Another highlight was the Buckingham Palace garden party. Two of three parties last year had rain but Jean and Fred were lucky and went to the dry one.

Fred, whose career on the council spans 34 years with a short break in the early nineties, revived the tradition of the civic ball by putting on a dinner dance at the Hilton hotel to celebrate St George's Day. The occasion was greatly enhanced by the presence of a real white horse, a red dragon and St George. The event raised £3,000 towards the mayor's charities.

Celebrating the centenary of the guide movement, they attended a guide afternoon at Rivermead. It was also the centenary of the first scout troop in Reading. They went to the international guide camp in Windsor Great Park (WINGS), visited cub and brownie groups and entertained brownies and the Trefoil Group (older guides) in the mayor's parlour. One important aspect of the job is that he has to chair council meetings and there are certain events which, by tradition, are always attended by the mayor. These are Remembrance Day, the official opening of the Crown Court, the civic carol service and the switching on of the Christmas lights. This year they were switched on by a Coronation Street star which meant 7,000 people turned up.

When talking to children, Fred would tell them that the best thing about being mayor was "riding in the big car". At one time there was an official mayoral car with a chauffeur but now the mayoral car and driver are hired as needed, otherwise the mayor (or mayoress) drive themselves.



Fred in his mayoral regalia.

They enjoyed entertaining in the mayor's parlour as it gave them full scope to extend hospitality to friends and associates. They visited one of Reading's twin towns, Clonmel in Ireland for St Patrick's Day and enjoyed a traditional Irish welcome.

The mayoral chain is made up of links bearing separate inscriptions as each mayor has a link dedicated to him and his year. So the retiring mayor chooses the highlights he wishes to be recorded on his link. Fred chose three: the re-opening of Caversham Court, the 200th anniversary of the Kennet and Avon canal and the visit of the Countess of Wessex to open the new Avenue School. One of Fred's last duties was to act as returning officer for the General Election in Reading East, announcing the result at 7am having stayed up all night for the count.

Both Jean and Fred said what a huge learning curve the year had been. They discovered a lot about Reading and its people, and were surprised and impressed to learn that at least 24 per cent of the population are engaged as volunteers in different spheres, especially in work with youth groups.

During Fred's year in office a total of more than £11,000 was raised for charity, the chosen charities being Diabetes UK and Sue Ryder, Nettlebed. This included the money from the dinner-dance. The Reading half-marathon raised £2000 plus a donation of £1000 from Sweatshop, sponsors of the event. The rest was made up of lots of smaller donations. There were three mayor's teams in the half-marathon, one ran the whole course and there were two relay teams organised by their daughter Katherine.

Fred summed up by saying that being mayor had been a huge honour and a privilege. His final words were to thank Jean for all her support. They can both look back on a job well done and many wonderful memories. *Marjorie Tillman*

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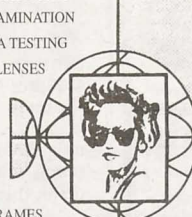
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lights down on theatre

Caversham Theatre is producing a final evening of entertainment, following a decision this year to close the group, after the recent death of Bob Green. It has become increasingly challenging to put on productions, for a number of reasons, and the group would like to go out with a bang!

So, for one night only, they will present *The Lights Go Down* on Saturday 10th July at St Anne's Hall, Caversham. This will comprise two one-act plays - "Motivation", a thought-provoking drama, and "Curses, Foiled Again!" by Evelyn Hood, a light-hearted send-up of the Victorian melodrama. There will be a light supper served in the interval.

There will be no entry charge, but patrons are invited to make a donation. Any proceeds, together with funds remaining with the group, will be passed to local youth theatre groups. Because of seating limitations, admission will be by ticket obtained in advance. Contact 947 3728, or 954 6680 for tickets.

Its Fiesta time

In their summer concert, the South Chiltern Choral Society under the direction of Gwyn Arch will be presenting a programme entirely devoted to Hispanic music including - the much-loved Misa Criolla (Creole Mass) with Robert Ortiz (tenor), Nocturnos de la Ventana, settings of poems by Lorca and other Latin-American classics.

The choir will be accompanied by Cafecito, a South American Buena Vista-style band. They will also play cha-cha-chas, boleros, danzons and Cuban music and further entertainment will be provided by the Raymond Miles Dancers.

The concert is at Highdown School, Emmer Green, on Saturday July 10th at 5pm and 8pm. Tickets from Linda Rumble 9543193.

Music with Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers are a mixed voice choir who perform a variety of music including songs from the shows, traditional and modern music. They will be presenting an evening of summer music at St John's Church on Saturday 17th July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 from Richard Purkis, 9475120, or on the door.

Will the sausage sizzle?

Caversham Baptist Church is holding a Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 4th July (3.00 - 4.30pm) at its North Caversham premises at 191 Kidmore Road. It will be an informal gathering hoping to attract people from the neighbourhood, especially those who are not in touch with any church. Apart from food and drink there will be children's activities.

A SUMMER OF GOALS

This summer all eyes have turned to South Africa as, for the first time, the World Cup is held in Africa. Fans from the nations of the world will be passionate about the goals scored there. Ten years ago the hopes and aspirations of the world focussed on another set of goals: those defined by the United Nations as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Targets which were to be met by 2015 were set for eight goals and 18 objectives. Poverty was the first on the list. Sadly the most recent assessments indicate that none of the targets is likely to be achieved in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since their inception the conscience of the world, and particularly that of Christians, has continued to be pricked by the activity of Christian development agencies. The reduction in poverty continues to be at the forefront of their activity.

Every envelope delivered during Christian Aid Week this year bore the word POVERTY with the subtle message of the middle letters OVER being printed in a different colour. Those attending the United Christian Aid Week service at St John's church in May saw a heart-wrenching DVD of the conditions in one of the slums in Nairobi: Matopene, the name of which in Swahili literally means "in the mud". Here up to 10 people may live in a small tin shed without sanitation and with an open sewer running outside their door. When it

rains the sewer overflows into the house. The Christian Aid Week envelope had a picture of a child eating by such an open sewer.

In her address Maranda St John Nicolle, the facilitator of Christian Concern for One World, drew on the readings



Keith Stephen-Evans, Caversham Christian Aid organiser, (left) with Maranda St John Nicolle and the Revd Jeremy Tear at the service.

from *Revelation* and *St John's Gospel*, pointing out that the New Jerusalem is God's perfect world, but through God's Holy Spirit we could help build the kingdom now.

In Kiambui, another slum, a Christian activist working with Maji na Ufanisi, Christian Aid's partner in the area, has helped to clean up the area by providing sanitation blocks and steel pipework for clean water. Those giving and those who were engaged in house to house collections are helping to provide the resources for such work. Just £32 can buy the materials needed to build 10 metres of new drains to prevent flooding and protect families from disease. It is hoped that a similar scheme will help to clean up Matopene.

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CHURCHES

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR CHURCHES TOGETHER IN READING

At their AGM in early June, Churches Together in Reading elected local Christian author Michael Penny as their new chairman in succession to the Revd Denis Smith. They also re-elected Mabel Boyd, manager of Churches in Reading Drop in Centre and Churches in Reading Women's Centre, and Yinka Oyekan, senior minister at Reading Community Church, as vice-chairs. Mabel Boyd has special responsibilities for links with Impact Reading, a network of Christian social action organisations in Reading and surrounding areas, while Yinka Oyekan's special responsibilities are for links with the Reading Christian Network and CLASS (Church Links and Schools Support).

Although Michael Penny has not been involved with Churches Together in Reading until now, he is very active in the community and attends both Reading Central Salvation Army, where he serves on the prayer and worship committee, and St Stephen's C of E in Upper Basildon, where he is a member of the ministry team.

He spent nine years in America where he was a minister of a free church and returned to the UK ten years ago and since then he has built up quite an itinerant ministry. He has taken services at both Reading central and Reading west Salvation Army; Grange and Tilehurst United Reformed churches; and Anglican churches in Upper Basildon, Aldworth, Ashampstead and Bradfield. He has also spoken at churches in Oxfordshire.

This year he was the speaker at the Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Mary's in the Butts. He is a conference speaker and has spoken in Baptist churches as far apart as Abergavenny and Glasgow, and Methodist churches in Anglesey and Nottingham. Last autumn he undertook a six week speaking tour of various churches in Canada and America, and this

autumn he is returning to Australia for three weeks and is the main speaker at the annual conference of the Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia. From there he has two weeks of engagements in New Zealand.

Michael works for the Open Bible Trust, editing their magazine *Search* and the rest of their publications. He has written several major books and his latest one, *Following Philipians*, is aimed at people who have just completed the Alpha Course.

He has appeared on both BBC Radio Berks and Radio Oxford, and is a regular on Premier Radio, often appearing on the Sunday Breakfast programme with Andy Walton. In fact he was on Premier Radio on the first Sunday of June, following the shootings in Cumbria.

As can be seen, he is a very busy man, and when asked what he does to relax he says "Mathematics!" He came to Reading University from Wales in 1963 to read maths and still teaches A-Level maths for five hours a week at Prospect School.

He says: "There is so much good Christian work going on in Reading that I am not aware of. My first task as chairman is to familiarise myself with what is going on and to get to know the good people who give up so much of their time so freely to help others."



O. Jewiss

Michael Penny (on the right), the new chairman of Churches Together in Reading, with Mabel Boyd and Yinka Oyekan, vice-chairs.

WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

St John's church in lower Caversham has recently welcomed its new community priest, Rev. Jeremy Tear, and his family. Jeremy has some new ideas for the church, one of which is a season of all age worship services running from June to October 10th, and

hopefully beyond. These services will take place every second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. and alternate between all age worship (non-eucharistic) services lasting approximately 45 minutes and all age communion services lasting approximately an hour.

Anointing the sick at St Anne's

The parish conference of the SVP arranged the annual service for the anointing of the sick during May. Lifts were arranged for those not normally able to get to church and the congregation included many from St Anne's and neighbouring parishes who wished for the church's blessing for varying degrees of ill-health.

There were three parts to the ceremony – prayers for the sick and recital of the rosary, then the laying on of hands and the anointing with holy oil of Chrism and finally Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with the old familiar Latin hymns and the Divine Praises.

Hymns were sung by the congregation while Father Giles went round the church firstly laying his hands on those who wished it and then anointing the foreheads of the sick with holy oil of Chrism.

After the service, all retired to the Cenacle and the sick and elderly were served a splendid tea, provided by the SVP members, and had the chance to catch up with friends. Altogether it was an uplifting spiritual and social occasion.



Photo: Jane Shaw

Father Giles anointing a member of the congregation

TALK ON MISSION

The Revd Rosemary Fletcher and her husband James Rowley will give a talk entitled "Making ministers in a troubled land" at Caversham Methodist church, Gosbrook Road, on Sunday July 25. It will start at 3.30pm.

They will speak about their five years in Sri Lanka as mission partners at the Theological College of Lanka where many of the ministers in training have been greatly affected by the years of internal war. Come and hear of their experiences and of the faith that has upheld the student ministers and their families during the years of conflict.

The talk will be followed by refreshments. Rosemary, formerly Methodist minister in Caversham, will conduct the evening service at 6.30 p.m.

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TRIBUTE

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1921 - 2010

After a lifetime of involvement in the Methodist church, Olive Morgan died in May at the age of 88. She leaves two children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Olive was born in Durham into a large, strongly Methodist family, the fifth of seven children. Her father was a Methodist local preacher and Sunday school superintendent and her mother a fervent supporter of overseas missions work. At the age of 17 she went to work for the civil service in London. She began to worship at Clapham High Street Methodist church, and almost immediately met her future husband, Edward Morgan, who was studying at pharmaceutical college. They married in 1941 when Edward was called up. Olive was evacuated to Southport where she began local preaching, a great ambition.

In 1948, Olive and Ted moved to Caversham where Ted opened the Edward Morgan pharmacy in Church Street. Both Olive and at times daughter Sheila served in the shop.

Olive was unable to continue local preaching but found new outlets for service when she became an active member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, where she served with great dedication for 62 years. For many years she taught in the Sunday school and supported missionary work through the Junior Missionary Association. She was a pastoral visitor and served on numerous committees. Until recently, she was a circuit representative at the Southampton district synod and played active roles at national conferences,



including stewarding and running bookstalls.

Olive's thirst for learning and passionate enthusiasm for her many and varied activities did not wane with age, quite the reverse. At the age of 80, she taught herself to use a computer, completing 13 courses. A year later she started her own blog. Her daily postings covered a wide range of social and religious issues and also personal exploits, trips to family events, conferences and study courses.

She thought nothing of packing several different activities into one day and fervently continued her work as media publicity director and producer of the monthly Prayer Guidelines for the local Methodist churches and sight-checker and researcher for Wycliffe Associates, right up to the last few weeks of her life.

Over the many years she lived in Caversham, Olive built up a large number of contacts, all of whom were extremely important to her. She was very supportive of her friends and neighbours and they of her. One of the tributes at her thanksgiving service described Olive as having a "bus stop" ministry as she so readily talked to those she met while out and about.

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH
(GOSBROOK ROAD)

July 4	10.30 am	J Madeley
	6.30pm	J Skeet
July 11	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Rev'd Jenny Dowding
		at Caversham Heights
July 18	10.30am	Deacon Becky Bawden
	6.30pm	Rev'd Jenny Dowding
July 25	10.30am	Danie Neads
	6.30pm	Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

July 4	10.30am	Deacon Becky Bawden
	6.30pm	at Gosbrook Road
July 11	9.00am	Holy Communion -
		Rev'd Jenny Dowding
	10.30am	Henry Stroud
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Bawden
July 18	10.30am	Robin Gowers
	6.30pm	at Gosbrook Road
July 25	10.30am	Rev'd Jenny Dowding
	6.30pm	at Gosbrook Road

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July 11	9.45am	Deacon Becky Bawden
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ENVIRONMENT

A close look at trefoils

One of my childhood pleasures, and one I haven't really grown out of, is lying down in a grassy area in summer, and seeing what's growing.

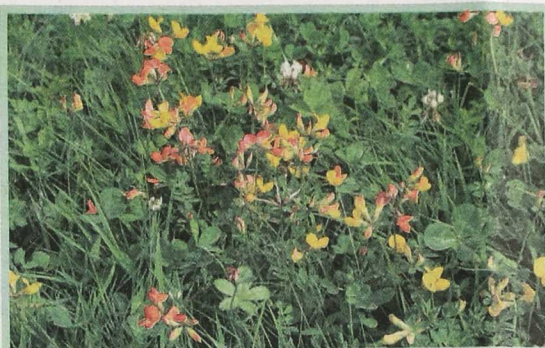
Last week I was out with a group of friends, and sank to my knees to get a better look at a plant on a roadside verge. My friends walked on, knowing my habits. A car pulled out of a nearby drive, and asked if I was a Muslim, at prayer. "No", said my friends, "he's just looking at a plant on your verge!"

If you're a real expert, you can tell a good deal from looking at what's growing about the condition of the soil – whether it's well-drained or liable to waterlogging, acidic or alkaline. You can also work out what other wild plants are likely to be growing in that area.

But for the purposes of this article, I was thinking of how my childhood friends and I would look for daisies to make daisy-chains. We held buttercups under one another's chins to see if we liked butter. We looked for pignuts and vinegar leaves to eat. We picked plantain heads to have fencing matches. And we looked for four-leaved clovers to bring us good luck. No doubt today's youngsters would think it decidedly "uncool".

Normally, of course, a clover has just three leaflets, and any plant with three leaflets is, in English, a trefoil. The word seems to have arrived from Old French, "trefle" – which meant a plant with three leaflets, and, interestingly, also the suit in a pack of cards, clubs.

This month's photograph is of the bird's-foot trefoil.



Typically, it provides a splash of brightest yellow, sometimes flushed with bright red, in a variety of situations. You can spot it in fields, in lawns, on roadside verges, at the edges of woods, on sand dunes – I once photographed it growing through the gravel surface of a car park. And it flowers all summer.

Geoffrey Grigson, in *"The Englishman's Flora"*, lists over 70 traditional English names for it. Some refer to the flowers, which have reminded people of lady's slippers, and dutchmen's clogs, or when flushed with red, bacon and eggs.

To understand the "bird's-foot" bit of the name, you need to see the fruits. Each stalk, which once carried five or so flowers at the top, can carry five or so long pods with hooks at the end, held horizontally. This gave rise to name's like ladies' fingers, highly descriptive granny's

cuckoo's stockings, and the highly descriptive granny's toenails.

Why not re-visit these childhood delights, and if you remember it, you could hum that silly old song from long ago that went:

I'm looking over a four-leaf clover

That I overlooked before.

One leaf is sunshine, the second is rain,

Third is the roses that grow in the lane.

No need explaining, the one remaining

Is somebody I adore . . .

Happy Wanderer

Teeming with wildlife in the park

It is well known that you see more wild life in some of our parks than you do in some parts of the countryside. Mapledurham playing fields is one of those parks.

As some of the Mapledurham conservationist volunteers walked around at the end of May doing a wild flower survey they were aware of the bird song, the huge ants' nests, the many varieties of flying insects (including the alien ladybird), the tracks left by fox and badger and the tiny oak trees growing in the uncut grass. They should also take the credit, for some of that wild life has been achieved by them, by planting up those clumps of trees, 10 years ago, and persuading the parks department to leave a margin of grass around them and the edges of the fields. Two of the children who helped to plant the trees 10 years ago must be teenagers by now. We don't know who they were, but well done them!

As to the flower survey, the volunteers could have done with 'Happy Wanderer' to

help them as they scratched their heads over hawkbits and white umbrellifers!

Later that day about 40 people gathered in the twilight with Tina Gower to meet the bats of Mapledurham playing fields. Tina is a member of the local bat group [Berk Bucks and Oxon] and answered lots of questions about these fascinating little creatures. She looks after injured bats and brought two with her. Rosie the noctule was determined to keep warm round the back of her neck while her tiny pipistrelle, who the children named Fidget, kept up a steady chattering picked up by the bat detectors that Tina had brought. Unfortunately the bat residents of the playing fields decided that it was really too cold to be out and as Venus set in the west only the sounds of a couple of pipistrelles were picked up near the elm shaw.

At Clayfield Copse this month there will be a pond survey by members of Reading Urban Wildlife Group and in October a fungus foray with Gordon Crutchfield.



Who were the youngsters helping to plant trees 10 years ago?

CAVERSHAM COURT UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who came on the day of the Green Flag judging in May. We won't know whether Caversham Court has achieved the prestigious green flag standard until later in the summer but the presence of so many people enjoying the gardens spoke volumes.

As one of his last engagements as Mayor, Councillor Fred Pugh had planned to show the garden to the Mayor of Clonmel, one of Reading's twin towns. Unfortunately the Mayor's visit to Reading had to be cancelled as volcanic ash disrupted his travel plans.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4 July – First Sunday tours, 2.30 – 5pm.

Volunteers from the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be on hand to give informal guided walks or to answer questions about the garden and its refurbishment.

Sunday 4 July 7.30pm

Come and enjoy the Mikron Theatre performance of *Striking the Balance . . . fighting all the way for equal pay* on the lower lawn. Bring your own seats to this free performance which

chronicles the continuing struggle for equal pay. For further details see <http://www.mikron.org.uk/strikingBlurb.php>

Saturday 10 July 1.45pm

Parish fete: "Lots of fun for all the family!"

Saturday 17 July

Artists from TVU will be working in the gardens along with some of their students.

Sunday 1 August – First Sunday tours, 2.30 – 5pm

FCCG volunteers will give informal guided walks or answer questions about the gardens and its refurbishment. Just turn up and bring your friends!

WHAT IS FLOWERING IN JULY

- Look out for the purple penstemon and blue delphiniums in the east border
- Enjoy the vibrant bedding plants in the glass house border near the tea kiosk – how do they compare with last year?
- The bank below St Peter's should be patches of colour as the lavender, hyssop and santolina all come into bloom.

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Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

In May the members of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were entertained by Bill Port who gave an interesting and enthusiastic account of the history of the Kenton Theatre, Henley. It is the fourth oldest theatre in England and the building has had a chequered past. Among other things it has been a school, church, workshop and a store for beer barrels and also West End show scenery. The building is owned by the Town Council although moves are afoot to purchase it so fund raising is on-going. In 1969 a financier, Pat Matthews, paid off outstanding debts on condition that the theatre was run by amateurs. It is still run by volunteers, only the cleaners being paid employees. In 2009 there were 54 shows. The entertainment is varied, with amateur dramatics, lectures, and many famous faces perform there. There is said to be a ghost, Mary Blandy, maybe more and several people have experienced viewings and strange sensations over the years. Audrey Preston gave a vote of thanks.

All groups are functioning; we look forward to the rest of our year which includes our garden party in August. Jules Boam was welcomed as a new member and Marion Cooper, Jean Perrin and Ruth Witcher were presented with badges and certificates, signed by the national chairman, to mark 50 years continuous membership of the Townswomen's Guild.

At our meeting on Tuesday 13th July, Jean Dyer will talk on 'Character dolls and their history'. All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month except August, starting at 7.30pm, and are held at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Emmer Green, where all ladies are welcome.

St Peter's Wives Group

The May meeting took the form of a plant exchange and quiz and members brought along cuttings and spare plants from their gardens. The plants were not for sale, but members were encouraged to make donations for plants they wished to acquire, and the money raised will be sent to Sue Ryder, Nettlebed, our charity of choice.

The quiz was devised by our chairman, Sylvia, and consisted of two parts – a gardeners' quiz, where we were given clues as to the names of plants, and a flower quiz in which we were asked to identify various flowers from colour pictures. The winners of each part were given a small prize.

The evening was most enjoyable and, in the absence of a speaker, members took the opportunity to socialise.

Our next meeting will be on 20th July, but not at Church House. We will be having lunch at the Cuning Man in Burghfield, before visiting the Police Museum in the afternoon.

New members are always welcome.

Probus Club

The Reading and District Probus Club were entertained by Mrs Gwen Barton, talking about her sojourn in Namibia, a country influenced by Dutch settlers and again by German development after WW1. Game parks are the main attraction for the travellers and tourists.

Sand and mountains, together with the wind carved rocks, have their own natural attraction as have the petrified trees of ancient forests of 3000BC. The country is home to many wildlife reserves (admittedly hundreds of miles apart). At the Okavango Reserve lions and leopards are fed by wardens and consequently are used to humans (so it is said!). The names of settlements have their own meanings, for instance, Monstap translates as "the land of dirty water". One name known well in Europe is Luderitz, a diamond mining area.

Chazey WI

Claire Taylor, MBE, came to talk to Chazey WI about her cricketer career. At the June meeting members were fascinated to hear about her achievements, particularly in 2009 when she was named Player of the Series in the inaugural Women's World Twenty/20 competition, and steered England through to victory and retention of the Ashes.

Quietly spoken and self-effacing, she talked about her early

schooldays and the drive and determination which eventually led to her earning a place in the England women's cricket team and the success she subsequently enjoyed.

For relaxation she plays the violin, and practised in front of her fellow players before she felt confident enough to pass an audition and win a place in the Aldworth Symphony Orchestra.

She received her MBE in the 2010 New Year Honours.

Rosehill WI

At the meeting in May, Mrs Margaret Seal, Secretary conducted the discussion of the resolution which was "mandatory clear labelling of food with true country of origin". Members wanted to know source of food, not just where it was processed. So often food is sourced elsewhere and packaged as British. The Resolution was voted on and passed unanimously and was later sent to the Berkshire representative for voting on at the NFWI AGM in June.

Mrs Rosemary Weekes reported on the Berkshire Spring Federation meeting held at the Hexagon in April.

Mrs Margaret Pyle gave an insight into her day at Denman College cookery school and explained the course and recipes which were tried.

Mrs Brenda Strong then told members of her years spent in the Land Army. She had laid out a display of photos and the medal which was awarded to the members of the land army only last year.

Altogether a very entertaining afternoon. After tea and the raffle the meeting was closed.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall Emmer Green at 2pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Caversham Croquet Club

On May Bank Holiday, there was tea and sunny weather at Caversham Croquet Club at the Albert Road Recreation Ground as the club opened its gate to the public. In the afternoon they were run of their feet with takers.

Several families tried out 'golf croquet', a simplified shorter game, which as well as needing some skill can cause much debate and hilarity! More couples and individuals had more serious coaching from John Wakeford, and other members of the club were on hand.

The club members are a friendly informal bunch and anyone can come and have a go at this fascinating traditional game. For a 'try out' session, contact John Wakeford the club's development officer, on 901 7120

Caversham WI

The resolution concerning labelling of meat products to indicate the country of origin of the meat content was debated and everyone agreed with the principle. Before the debate the usual business had been held and thanks expressed to everyone who contributed to the group meeting the evening before.

After a cup of tea, a social time was enjoyed before the raffle was called.

Caversham Community Association

May was a slightly shorter month with two bank holidays and began on a sad note when the death of Mrs Joan Tarrent was announced. She was a long standing member and will be much missed.

Meetings included a games session, a knit-and-natter evening and a popular bingo session.





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Where a pig might fly.....

Some traditionalists would say that pigs might fly before a cutting edge contemporary art exhibition could take place in a church, writes *Roxana Tohaneanu-Shields*. But at the beginning of May a pig did fly in St Andrew's church, Caversham, as one of the works on show in the May Be exhibition.

The pig was suspended above the front rows of the pews. This work was the conception of Bithja Moor, a talented German born artist who is the wife of the vicar, the Revd Nigel Jones. She called the sculpture *Let it fly* and from the first time I set eyes on it, it made me smile. My response to the work was a reaction to the artist's creative gesture embodied in pinkish papier mâché whose execution and presentation captured something so rare in the visual arts: humour.

Bithja also exhibited two big colour pencil drawings which proved the artist's extraordinary skill and unique approach.

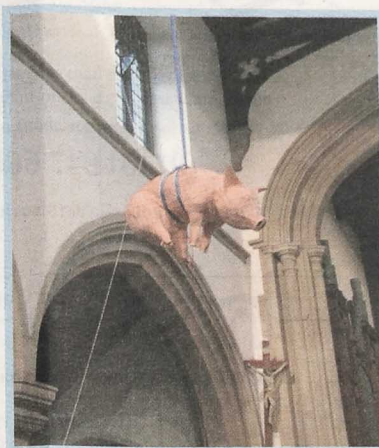
The exhibition included the work of four other artists, Jo Thomas, Ingrid Jensen, Shelley Montague and Elaine Newman, who used a variety of media. Again this exhibition surprised not only through the quality of the work but through an extraordinary understanding of the space – a church could be an incongruous place for quirky artistic intentions.

For example, Jo Thomas' work, a drawing (goldleaf and graphite on paper), a film (a DVD projection) and small glass plates inhabited this temporary space with a classical elegance. The small pieces of glass filled with ink and colours evoked a lost world of photography of the 19th century without artificial light and flashes.

Elaine Newman exhibited a series of etchings, lithographs and engravings of different animals. Her work reminded me of God's animal kingdom or Noah's ark. Most of her animals were presented as isolated from their environment.

Another intriguing work was Ingrid Jensen's interactive work. This piece compels the audience (one at a time) to sit down and take part in Ingrid's game-work by arranging different words according to their beliefs.

I particularly enjoyed Shelley Montague's ceramic pieces which were insinuated everywhere in the church - hanging on the colonnades, resting on small chairs and displayed on a table.



The pig flies high above the pews.

Award to a special Lion

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions club celebrated their 29th anniversary with a charter dinner and dance at Goring and Streatley golf club during which a special presentation to immediate past president Chris Stevens was made by Lion district governor Judith Goodchild on behalf of the international president Eberhard Wirfs.

The International President's Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Lion Chris in recognition of his distinguished achievements in fulfilling the service mission of Lions Clubs International. A certificate signed by Eberhard Wirfs recognises Chris for serving many years as the Lions District 105D webmaster and his service to the organisation in general, having been local club president several times.

If you want to know more about the Lions contact them on 0845 833 9837, website www.lions-gwd.org.uk

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