

# RESCUE CAVERSHAM 2011

Do you notice an absence of litter when you walk about Caversham? Do you notice the odd beer can, plastic bottle or plastic bag thoughtlessly discarded? You could see plenty, some just feet from a litter bin, when you're walking through parts of Christchurch or Hill's Meadows. Those are two of the areas scheduled for voluntary clean up by Caversham GLOBE supporters, as part of the annual RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event), taking place all across Reading Borough in week ending 12/13 March.

During RESCUE 2010, Caversham GLOBE supporters collected 26 sacks of polluting litter, scrap metal, glass, and other items from Hill's Meadow and Balmore Walk for disposal by the Council. Some other local pedestrian routes which were cleared by GLOBE volunteers last November are once again badly littered.

Could you spare two hours to take part in RESCUE 2011? Do you have a hated local litter black spot that you think should be cleared – perhaps a green area, footpath or alleyway? Volunteers are provided with litter picking tools and offered protective gloves. To volunteer, or find out more about the work of the Caversham GLOBE supporters, make contact via ([www.cavershamglobe.org.uk](http://www.cavershamglobe.org.uk)) or text Richard Denney on 07768 958407.



Debris collected in Hills Meadow 2010.

Richard Denney

## LOCAL COPPICED WOODLAND



J. Oliver

Many of the woods around Caversham were planted for coppiced wood. They were an indispensable part of the local economy. The wood was used for fencing, fuel, building etc and Clayfield Copse is well known for its displays of woodland flowers, bluebells, early purple orchids and anemones, which all attract a variety of butterflies and birds. Much of the coppice was hazel. The coppice was cut roughly on a seven year rota system. The bush wash cut right down to a few inches, then left and the following year another area would be coppiced. Each area (coppice) was protected from deer, who enjoy nibbling the young shoots. The clearance of the hazel looks drastic, but it all grows again and more light reaches the ground for the flowers.

In the next months Friends of Clayfield Copse have permission to coppice some of the hazel. There are good stands along the ride in Clayfield Copse itself. The hazel poles will be taken for hedge laying projects elsewhere in the area and for bean poles. The bean poles will be on sale at Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 30th April. On that day there will also be tours of the garden and allotments, and local wood products and plant stalls. Money raised will go to local charities, including the conservation volunteers organisations.

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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

Rev'd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.  
Tel: 947 8239.

[www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,

Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788

[www.standrewscaversham.org](http://www.standrewscaversham.org)

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Rev'd Dan Tyndall

The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4 7AD

Tel: 947 9505

Rev'd Keith Kneeb-Robinson

8 Hewett Close, Caversham RG4 7ER Tel: 947 7868

Rev'd Jeremy Tear

St John's Vicarage, St John's Road, Tel: 946 2884

Caversham RG4 5AN

Rev'd Graeme Fancourt

18 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham RG4 7DD

Tel: 947 8450

Rev'd Marion Pyke

26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ Tel: 947 5834

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Rev'd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road,

Caversham Park. Tel: 947 0258

Heather Wilson, 15 Northbrook Road, Caversham

Park. Tel: 947 5152

### METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.

Tel: 947 2223

Deacon Becky Lovatt, 1 Forge Close, Caversham RG4

8BG. Tel: 948 2530

### BAPTIST

Church Secretary Tel: 947 9772

### GRACE CHURCH (formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Giles Goward, The Presbytery,

2 South View Avenue.

Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon Mike Walker, Tel: 07786 836146

Fr Christopher Bester, 18 Peppard Road,

Sonning Common. Tel: 972 3418

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## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the April 2011 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 1st March. The date for the May 2011 issue is Tuesday 5th April 2011.

Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the April 2011 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 25th February 2011. The date for the May 2011 issue is Friday 1st April 2011.

## TALKING POINT

by

Jeremy Tear

"Forty days and forty nights" goes the traditional Lenten hymn. Yes, it's that time of year again, with Ash Wednesday on 9 March, signalling the beginning of the 40 day period leading up to Easter. Traditionally, Lent has been viewed as a rather solemn, austere season with its emphasis for Christians on fasting and self-denial. But while not denying the benefits of the latter, I want to suggest that we might choose to view it somewhat differently this year.

Rather than focussing on what we might give up, how about thinking if there is something we might take on instead? Now there is a danger in this approach if it means that Lent becomes reduced to a season of failed New Year's resolutions. For example, I have often decided that it is the right time to return to the gym but the impetus has often worn off in a week or two, and I'm back to square one. Maintaining a new discipline for 40 days is a hard task! But perhaps we could view Lent as an opportunity to introduce a new rhythm into our lives on a weekly basis, something that might even continue after the season is over.

One suggestion would be to use Lent as the opportunity to put a new Fairtrade item into our weekly shopping baskets. Yes, we pay a higher premium for fairly traded goods, but that premium helps to make a real difference to the lives of Fairtrade producers, often helping to purchase healthcare or schooling for example. Lent might be the opportunity for some of us to start attending a weekly bible study group, whether following the Churches Together course on "Jesus, the Earthly Powers, and Us" or something else being run in our churches instead. It could also be the opportunity for us to attend to important relationships in our lives, giving more time to family members or friends.

All of the above suggestions are designed to be life-giving, whether giving life to others or life to ourselves. It is that sense of energising which Lent is about for me, after all that's why Jesus went into the desert - to not only wrestle with his calling perhaps but also to find the energy to begin it.

So whatever you might take on for Lent this year (it might even be going to church!), try doing something which you feel will be life-giving. There's nothing worse, in my book, of treating Lent as a season of rushing around trying to be extra holy doing lots of churchy things and ending up exhausted and life-less at the end of it. Surely, that's not good news for us or for others. But viewed as a season for refreshment and renewal Lent has the opportunity to be life transforming, if we will let it.

So may I wish you a life-giving Lent.

*Jeremy Tear is a community priest for the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham*

## 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

10.00am Parish Communion

#### 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)

#### St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)  
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

#### St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am Parish Communion

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

#### Meeting at Caversham Park School

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

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am South Street  
3.45pm Hymn Café (3rd Sunday)  
6.00pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

### GRACE CHURCH Old Peppard Road

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

### THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

#### Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm

#### Gosbrook Road

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

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

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### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

#### Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service

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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## Gosbrook House

Something different this month. A while ago I asked the editors of *Caversham Bridge* if they would like an occasional article about Caversham's history from me. Natural history and local history have both been interests of mine since childhood. At the time I didn't have any particular subject in mind, but since the editors responded positively, I thought that the next time I had occasion to do a bit of Caversham local history investigation, I might write something about it for the "Bridge".

This photograph shows Gosbrook House, between the former Arthur Legge Adult Education Centre and the former West Memorial Institute in Gosbrook Road as it was a year or two ago. Since then it has become more and more dilapidated, with cracks appearing in the side wall, bricks falling out, and one of the window-frames threatening to fall into the yard.

With the fancy barge-boards, the bits of raised terra-cotta decoration, and the name of the building within the border with scalloped corners, I thought that this must at one time have been more than an ordinary house.

The earliest evidence I found for its existence was the first large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1877. It didn't appear in the 1871 census returns, but in 1881 it was a plumber's premises, occupied by Mrs Fanny Brunson, a widow, who seems to have been continuing her husband's business. She had four children and employed a servant. In 1883 it was still a plumber's, but the name had changed to Frederick Goddard.

By 1884 it had become the Caversham Posting Establishment, run by J. S. Thompson. By 1887 the proprietor was A. Broadway, and by

1897 it was Vernon Emson. It was a place where you could hire a horse, or a horse-drawn cab or carriage. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Emson advertised that they ran buses between Caversham and the Reading stations.

In the 20th century, the proprietor was Tom Dix, and he made the transition from horse-drawn transport to motor transport. He was in business into the 1930s, when local directories describe him as a taxi proprietor.

From 1937 onwards, the building was used by various engineering firms – perhaps not surprising considering the other engineering firms nearby in Wolsey Road. There was the Sentinel Engineering Company, followed by Hamilton Smith (Engineering) Ltd. After the Second World War, Barnes and Avis moved in. Their musical instrument shop in Friar Street is still well remembered, and directories described the building as their works. It seems that Mr. Avis may have been an electrical engineer, because by 1950 there was a firm called Avis and Baggs there, makers of electrical transformers. The name of the firm sounds like something from a Dickens novel.

In 1958, there was a firm called F. E. Noakes (Engineering) Ltd., tool makers and precision engineers, and they were at Gosbrook House for about ten years, when Fuller, Read and Co., electrical wholesalers moved in.

The picture shows the last use made of the building. It had been The Reading Boiler Room – a place where young Christians could go to pray. I seem to remember it had a notice advertising "prayer 24/7".

Now, the future of the building looks decidedly limited, and I expect the next person to enter it will be the demolition contractor!



Happy Wanderer

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# Ex Libris

## MARCH HARES

When I was a lot younger I was a keen runner and one of my favourite races was called 'hare and hounds'. I loved being the hare. Given a brief start over my hunters off I would dash, crossing fields and marshland, which I knew well, hoping to make it 'home' before the pack caught up with me.

With my turn to write coming round again and seeing it was for the March issue, I am sorry to say the madness of March hares, rather than the thrill of the chase, leapt to mind.

## THE GOOD NEWS STORY

Not being able to be in two places at once, despite my youthful prowess as a runner, and having two meetings scheduled at the same time, here is a report from CADRA's special correspondent.

*The CADRA meeting on 26 January with Pat Baxter, Head of Transport, was well attended with every seat filled. Following the funding announcement before Christmas, Mrs Baxter was able to give members a virtual tour of the new station entrances. Over time, the planned northern entrance is expected to serve 40% of those using the station. It will have its own taxi rank and bus stops. Once completed, all Caversham bus services will stop there before stopping again south of the station.*

*Following the road works over the past months, there will be major changes to bus routes through the centre. These are scheduled for mid April, so look out for notices and publicity or the web link to all revised routes from www.cadra.org.uk.*

*Removing the rat run along Gravel Hill has increased traffic on other routes linking Peppard Road to Woodcote Road, in particular at the Oakley Road junction with Kidmore Road. Monitoring reports are also available from the CADRA website. Members agreed that snow clearance had been much improved from the previous year. Purchase of two small snow ploughs had enabled pavements over the bridges to be kept clear. Draft transport plans for the next few years will shortly be available for comment. Again, a link to the information will be shown on the CADRA website once the documents are available.*

## THE BAD NEWS STORY

Do you remember the race riots of 2001 in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham? Are you old enough to remember Notting Hill 1958? Or much more recently do you recall those in Birmingham 2005 which were between Black British and South Asian communities?

Reading has a tradition of being a host to many racial and religious traditions. The Irish flooded the town with the building of Brunel's railway. One of the first Catholic schools and churches after the reformation, St James, was built in Reading. Non-conformist groups have played a prominent life in the town for over 200 years. William Penn the Quaker is one such famous person. Reading Synagogue, which celebrated its centenary at the turn of the century, is witness to the presence of our Jewish community. And so I could go on.

Today Reading is proud to be one of the most diverse cultural towns in Britain. We have strong Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Caribbean, Philippine, and Goan communities. We have recently welcomed an influx of Eastern Europeans.

And yet we have had no race riots. This has not happened by chance or because of the rarefied air of Reading. It has been due to the hard work of community leaders over many years. Today as you walk through the Oracle you will see a truly rainbow community. You will see young couples and groups of friends of mixed backgrounds. When you go on a bus your friendly, and I do mean friendly, neighbour is as likely to be Caribbean or Asian as white British.

No, this has not happened by chance. Reading Borough Council, whatever its political colour, has also contributed immeasurably to our town's success. As the leader of the council, Andrew Cumpsty, recently said, 'Reading is a place where people of all races live and work side by side...' that is something to take pride in and be celebrated.

Not least of the reasons for this harmony has been the work of Reading Council for Racial Equality (RCRE). As Rajinder Sophal, RCRE's director, says, 'the vast majority of people want to live in peace and harmony across all religions and communities.'

So why I have called this a BAD NEWS STORY? I shall make no excuses but there is no other way of interpreting the £90K cut of RCRE's grant recently voted for by the coalition council. In response the Deputy Council leader, Cllr Kirsten Bayes, insisted that the council had informed the voluntary sector of the changes in November and that a number of services provided by RCRE could

now be accessed through other organisations. She explained that many RCRE services were now available through Reading CAB, Reading Voluntary Action, RBC (Reading Borough Council) and Thames Valley Police, and said that savings would allow more money to be passed to frontline, community and equality services.

Don't say I don't give both sides of the story. I am just not convinced by this argument. As anyone working in the voluntary sector knows, replacing a proven successful strategy with an unknown is a dangerous option and this is a very dangerous option. We are replacing a dedicated, focused and successful organisation, which by its very title underpins the principles of community cohesion, with a disparate, and now under-funded, patchwork of organisations. Do any of us really believe that the police and RBC will have the trust of communities when tensions arise? Will they have the resources? Can they have the expertise of those people who work in and are from our varied communities? Of course not!

I do hope that in a couple of years time we won't find Reading race riots on the internet alongside those I mentioned above.

It will cost a lot more than £90 000 to fix this one.

## AND THE...

Very well, we have an economic black hole. We need to tighten our belts. But a diet is not the same as starvation. An ill person needs sustenance not for someone to come along and cut off the oxygen. Some of you readers will disagree with me. Perhaps once more, I am the hare being chased by baying hounds. But for the record I always made it 'home.'



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Caversham 100 years on

Word is spreading about plans to celebrate Caversham and its heritage during 2011 - 100 years after the enactment of the Reading Extension Order was passed. Children in Caversham have been busy designing a logo for the project to be included on the new website and all publicity; look out for this in the next issue. A wealth of information and material on local history is available in Reading museums and libraries and we are looking at ways to make this more widely available. If you can offer some time to help with the research and collection of information, we would be delighted to hear from you.

A Grand Caversham Garden Party is planned for Saturday 10 September in Caversham Court. Please put the date in your diaries. Plans are starting to take shape for all manner of different entertainments that day. Mobile exhibitions will be available to borrow; let us know if you would be able to offer display space.

Please contact Vickie Abel [chair@fccg.org.uk](mailto:chair@fccg.org.uk) or Frances.Hill@cavershamrotary.org.uk or Helen.Lambert@cadra.org.uk



South Chiltern Choral Society

## Spring Concert

A rare opportunity!

The awe-inspiring Falklands Chapel at Pangbourne College will be the setting for the **South Chiltern Choral Society** Spring Concert, when the choir will be singing two very different works, **Beethoven's "Mass in C"** and **"Gloria"** by Karl Jenkins. Although, historically, "The Mass in C", written in 1807 at the beginning of Beethoven's career, has been relatively infrequently performed compared with the better-known "Missa Solemnis", it is a work much appreciated by Beethoven aficionados. In contrast "Gloria" by Karl Jenkins (who is known particularly for his work, "The Armed Man") received its first performance in July 2010 in the Royal Albert Hall. This is a very dramatic piece which again reflects Jenkins' predilection for the sounds of ethnic and Third World cultures.

As the society always likes to give opportunities to young singers, they will be joined by four soloists currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music Post Graduate course for potential opera singers: Fiona Howell (Soprano), Belinda Williams (Alto) Stuart Jackson (Tenor) and Gareth John (Bass) and they will be accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra under their conductor, Gwyn Arch. This is a rare opportunity to hear both of these works, so why not put the date in your diary now?!

The concert will take place on April 16th at 7.30pm. Tickets at £12, or £6 for under 18s, can be obtained from Linda Rumble in the SCCS Box Office, phone 0118 9543193.

Further information on the choir website: [southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk](http://southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk)

## Sinking of the Titanic

Thursday 14th April is the 99th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. There will be a talk about this tragedy at 7.30pm on 14th April in Our Lady & St. Anne's Church, South View Avenue, when the maritime historian Michael Naxton will present an illustrated talk entitled *TITANIC, MYTHS AND MYSTERIES*, a fascinating look at this great liner which has an enduring place in maritime history. Further details in next month's edition.

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## Reading Haydn Choir

The Reading Haydn Choir is returning to Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Saturday 26th March for its Spring Concert of Rossini's Petite Messe Solennele. Joining the choir under its conductor Mandy Kesel will be four world-class soloists - Rebecca van den Berg, Martha Bredin, Stephen Jeffes and Stephen Wells. We look forward to welcoming you.

The concert starts at 19.30, and tickets can be purchased on the door, or by contacting [tickets@haydnchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@haydnchoir.org.uk), £13 full, £10 concessions, £5 under 16s.

## Concert of English Music

Paraphrase, a local choir now in its 20th year, is holding a concert of English Music in St Andrew's Church, Harrogate Road, Caversham, on Saturday 9th April at 7.30pm. The programme will include music by Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, Percy Grainger, Stanford and the premiere of a new setting by Martin Jones of Siegfried Sassoon's first World War poem, *Everyone Sang*. The choir is directed by Valerie Hoppe MBE and accompanied by Martin Jones.

Tickets are £8 (children free), and are available from [Tickets@paraphrase.org.uk](mailto:Tickets@paraphrase.org.uk) or from Lindsay Mullaney on 947 0478.

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**CHURCHES**

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

*(International and interdenominational)*

**'How many loaves have you?'**

On Friday March 4th 2011 women from around the world will celebrate the Women's World Day of Prayer. The service has been written by the women of Chile. It is an appropriate theme as bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of every day life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them as they share this service with us.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. Further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, can be found on the WWDP website at [www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org).

The services being held locally on March 4th are at St James RC Church, Reading at 10.30am and St Anne's RC Church, Caversham at 8.00pm. The speaker at the evening service will Heather Wilson, Baptist minister in training at Caversham Park Church. We look forward to seeing you at one of these services.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service**

This year, the ecumenical service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in the church of Our Lady and St Anne and it took the form of the devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

Each of the fourteen stations was marked by a short prayer led by Deacon Mike followed by a meditation and prayer read by representatives from all of the churches present. Father Giles remained by the lectern to help each reader as they came up to read.

The music group from St Anne's led the opening and recessional hymns and also the short chorus which was sung between the Stations.

After the service there was time for members of the different churches in Caversham to meet informally.



J. Shaw

**Lent 2011: Jesus, The Earthly Powers, and Us**

Lent starts late this year, not until March 9th. Just two years ago, Good Friday was on March 21st.

A late Lent means there is more time after Christmas to make preparations for the Lenten season - and not least to sign up for Lent groups. The title of this year's 5-week course is JESUS, THE EARTHLY POWERS, AND US.

This is a course with a difference. It should appeal both to Lent group regulars and to readers who may not have taken part in a Lent group before. The course engages firmly with the world of today. It has been devised by Reading Churches Campaigning Network which is dedicated to fighting world poverty and economic injustice.

The view of many is that Jesus shunned politics. Jesus didn't do politics, they say, so we aren't called on to do it either. But is this right?

This course will challenge both our accepted view of Jesus and our engagement with the world. It may lead to change, but the church - and that's the people who go to it - is always changing. The course may encourage us to give higher priority to making poverty history, to care as Jesus did for the poor and the oppressed, and to work for justice for all God's people.

Groups are being organised differently this year. Instead of a number of ecumenical groups, churches are running the course in their own groups, or organising a special group. It is most important that no one is left out. If anyone who does not attend a Caversham church wishes to join a group, please contact me as below. A group will be found for everyone who wants to take part.

A 5 course booklet for each course participant will be available in February, price £3.50.

John Madeley, tel: 9476063. e-mail: [john.madeley@gmail.com](mailto:john.madeley@gmail.com)

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## CHURCHES

## St Andrew's Concert Series

5th March 7.30pm



Having been offered the opportunity to buy the recently reconditioned August Forster grand piano, St Andrews were so thrilled by the response to the first concert given by Timothy, Naomi and Adrienne Watts, that they have decided to have a series of Spring, Summer and Autumn concerts.

The Spring concert will be given by Naomi Watts (cello), Ilya Movchan (violin) and Christopher Guild (piano). They are all prize-winning musicians in their final year completing Masters in Performance degrees at London Conservatoires as well as working professionally.

Naomi Watts is a local girl who began to have cello lessons at the age of six with Marie Howard from Caversham. She progressed through the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and at the age of nine was a scholarship student. She then auditioned for the National Children's Orchestra which brought her into contact with other musical children, many of whom attended specialist music schools. A music scholar at St Joseph's, Naomi was becoming more determined that she really needed to join her friends from specialist music school and auditioned successfully for a government scholarship to the Purcell School near Watford. She spent four years there, before gaining a place at the Royal College of Music.

She obtained her Bachelor of Music Degree with first class honours and has taken part in Master Classes with many of the world's leading cellists.

This summer she is one of a small number of students from America and London to take part in a series of concerts conducted by maestro Lorin Maazel, rehearsing at his ranch in Texas before touring in America, Canada and China.

Naomi is very fortunate to have played one of the RCM's most valued instruments, made by Matteo Goffrilli in the early eighteenth century. Until recently she has never owned her own instrument - she now has a Stradivarius copy. If anyone knows of someone with an unwanted Stradivarius, Amati, Goffrilli, or similar her parents would be delighted to hear from them!!

The forthcoming concert promises to be an enjoyable evening.

The programme will be varied including piano trios and solo items by: Schubert, Brahms, Kreisler and Piazzolla and the ticket will include refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

To encourage more young people to attend classical concerts the church are offering free entry to the under 16s.

This is a great opportunity to hear professional musicians without having to travel to London. Tickets can be bought from Wordplay in Caversham, or ring Jane Pares on 0118 9484112.

Prices: £10, concessions £8, under 16s free.

St Andrew's  
centenary  
celebrations

Preparations are underway to celebrate the centenary of St Andrew's church, Caversham Heights, just after Easter. There will be a fortnight of activities from 25th April to 8th May, including a contemporary art exhibition, and concerts by Paul Manley on the organ on 4th May and the Reading Male Voice Choir on 7th May. As part of the celebrations, the church will be mounting an exhibition about the history of St Andrew's and the local area, and any information, photos or memories you might like to share would be welcome. You also have a chance to enter the garage mural competition, details of which can be found below.

For more details check the St Andrew's website

[www.standrewscaversham.org/centenary](http://www.standrewscaversham.org/centenary)

or call the vicar, Nigel Jones on

0118 947 2788.

## Garage Mural Competition



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All entries will be exhibited in an exhibition in the Hall of St Andrew's Church, Caversham during the centenary celebrations of the church on the 6th and 7th of May 2011.

**How to enter:**

- ▶ Draw or paint your design on an A4 or A3 sized paper. (There is no set theme)
- ▶ Write your name, address, e-mail address (optional) and your date of birth clearly on the back of your design.
- ▶ Post it through the Church letter box on Albert Road or through the Vicarage letter box on Harrogate Road.

[www.standrewscaversham.org](http://www.standrewscaversham.org)



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**CHURCHES**

**What came after 1611?**

**The King James Version is 400 years old in 2011**

by Michael Penny  
 Chairman, Churches Together in Reading

The Scottish poet Robert Burns, in his poem *The Cotter's Saturday Night*, stated that the language of the King James Version (KJV) was 'the language of the soul'. It became very popular, and there were very many reprints, but some of those ran into trouble because of errors; some serious, some not.

In a book I wrote on the Old Testament prophet Joel, somehow the word 'not' was left out of a rather crucial sentence. This somewhat changed what I had intended to say! In 1631, just 20 years after the first printing of the KJV, we had what has become known as the 'Wicked Bible' or the 'Sinners Bible'. But it is better known as the 'Adulterous Bible', because the word 'not' was omitted from Exodus 20:14, making the seventh commandment read, "Thou shalt commit adultery".

'The Vinegar Bible' (1717) had "The Parable of the Vinegar", instead of 'vineyard', and 'The Lions Bible' (1804) had "thy son shall come forth from thy lions", instead of 'loins' (1 Kings 8:19). And there are very many more. If you google "The Vinegar Bible" you will find them.

The Adulterous Bible was printed by the Royal Printers (Robert Baker and Martin Lucas). They were fined £300 (about £35,000 - £40,000 in today's value) and had their licence revoked. The Adulterous Bible was rapidly recalled, removed from circulation and burned, but a few survived and the British Library has a copy, as does the New York public library!

The language of the KJV is majestic, when read by someone who has command of the language. Charlton Heston made a series of videos featuring him visiting Israel and reading (or reciting) appropriate passages from the KJV; it was spell-binding.

By the mid-nineteenth century there was a call for a revision of the KJV. Many ordinary people found the sentence structure difficult to read and some of its words were archaic. However, many clergy and scholars wanted a revision for a different reason.

The New Testament of the KJV was a translation from a Greek text called the Textus Receptus which had been compiled by Erasmus in Holland in about 1516. Since then many more Greek manuscripts of parts of the New Testament had been discovered. Westcott and Hort compiled a new Greek text and in the late 1880s the Revised Version was published. However, it was severely criticised in some quarters and it never gained in popularity. The KJV held sway.

In the USA the American Standard Version was published in 1901, followed by the Twentieth Century Bible in 1904, but the former won the popularity stakes. It was revised in the late 1940s and 1950 saw the publication of the Revised Standard Version (RSV). This one gained popularity not only in the USA, but also in Britain where some churches, and many schools, used the RSV, seeing it as more understandable than the KJV. When I went to Grammar School in Wales in 1954, we were given copies of the RSV to use in Religious Education.

By 1960 everyone was waiting in anticipation for the New English Bible and it eventually appeared in 1961, and disappeared almost immediately. Many felt it fell between two stools; it was neither an accurate translation nor a good paraphrase. For Catholics, their first Bible in English translated from the original Hebrew and Greek, The Jerusalem Bible, did not come until 1966. Its most famous contributor was J R R Tolkien who did the translation of the prophet Jonah.

International Scholars from around the world got together to work on a new translation which would keep an eye on the language of the KJV, and try to produce a readable but accurate translation. However, before they had finished, the Good News Bible, with its line drawings, was published in 1976. This rather loose, and in places quite inaccurate, translation gained a great deal of popularity, some of which it still retains.

However, 1978 saw the publication of the New International

Version, which has become second only to the King James Version in popularity, and this is the one used in St. Stephen's. In places it is very much like the KJV (but in modern speech), and it does have a good balance between readability and accuracy in translation.

Since then there has been a plethora of translations and revisions, showing just how much people are still interested in the Bible and what it says.

In 1982 the KJV, based on the Textus Receptus, was eventually revised after 361 years. It is known either as the 'Revised Authorised Version' (the name for it in Britain) or the 'New King James Version' (the name in the USA). However, one wonders if this New King James Version will still be around in 400 years time, or will the original one still be going. I'm not a betting man, but if I were, I think I would put my money on the original.

If you would like to find out more about the King James Version and the translations that came after it, as well as before, I have done a Youtube video for the Open Bible Trust. Please go to [www.obt.org.uk](http://www.obt.org.uk) and click on the youtube button.

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## MISCELLANY

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Everyone is invited, members and non-members, to the annual meeting of the Friends of Caversham Court at Reading Canoe Club on The Warren on Wednesday, 23 March, 7pm for 7.30pm. Put it in your diary now!

#### Gardens and Landscapes

Ben Viljoen, a noted speaker on the history of landscape gardening, will give an illustrated talk after the briefest possible AGM. Ben Viljoen, vice-chairman of the Berkshire Gardens Trust, will talk about the evolution of a number of important gardens in the Thames Valley. He will bring us up to date on some recent discoveries about the work in Berkshire and Oxfordshire of some of the great English landscape gardeners, such as Charles Bridgeman and Humphrey Repton. Ben will look at the landscaping of the estates at Purley Hall and Caversham Park, among others. The work of fashionable garden designers will have influenced the development of smaller estates such as the gardens in what later became Caversham Court.

Come along for what promises to be a fascinating evening and enjoy refreshments sponsored by Caversham's Farmer & Dyer.

You will be able to renew your membership if it has lapsed. Alternatively contact Alison Hewitt, FCCG membership secretary, 31 All Hallows Road, Caversham, RG4 5LP Tel: 0118 947 6968. E-mail: [friends@fccg.org.uk](mailto:friends@fccg.org.uk). Membership costs £2.00 per person to December 2011 or £5 for a three-year membership until December 2013.



### Sun helps Lions run

The 26th annual 10k charity road run organised by Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club was started in Woodcote by Sir John Madejski and completed in brilliant sunshine on Sunday 9th January 2011. Although the Lions had been out early to spread salt and grit on many parts of the route, there were some icy patches. Despite there being no wind the course was slow and so the record finish time of 30:31 still stands.

First over the finish line was Chris Green from Reading, timed at 35:13.61. The first female was 9th over the line, Samantha Amend from Marlow, timed at 38:36.48.

All finishers received a medal. The winners' cups and trophies were presented by Sir John Madejski.

Volunteers from a number of other local clubs and organisations helped the Lions maintain the enjoyment and safety of the event. A team from St John Ambulance provided first aid cover, but thankfully no injuries were reported and the UK Athletic Association provided a team of referees.

Ten local businesses made generous contributions. Warmingham estate agents were the major sponsor, others included The Henley Standard, Halarose Ltd, JRS Services, Woodborough House Dental Practice, Caversham Heath Golf Club, Bouchier Fencing Co, Sol-Tec Ltd, Johnson Matthey and the Boathouse Dental Surgery.

The proceeds and sponsorship money from this event are still being received, but are estimated to exceed £3,000 and will be split between the local area Macmillan Cancer Support and the Air Ambulance (Berks/Oxon/Bucks).



Group of winners with Sir John Madejski.

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## CLUBS

## Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

During the autumn members enjoyed various talks on learning to make gift boxes with an origami expert, on the origins of chocolate and how the beans are grown, followed by a sale of Belgian chocolates. In December a Christmas lunch at the Travellers' Rest was much enjoyed, with good food and prompt service. This was followed two weeks later by a tea party which celebrated both Christmas and the Guild's birthday, as Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild started in December 1961.

Members were also represented at the Berkshire Federation's Christmas event when members of nine Guilds took part in seasonal readings and carols, followed by a Scottish dancing demonstration in which all the ladies were invited to take part.

The Guild's monthly lunches have continued to be popular and the Craft Group make Christmas cards for all members, as well as cards for their own use.

The Guild has been pleased to welcome new members and visitors during 2010, and are always pleased to welcome any ladies to our Guild meetings at 2pm on the third Thursday of each month, at Caversham Baptist Hall, South Street.

The ladies will be happy to introduce themselves to visitors and tell them about the varied talks and hobbies there are to be enjoyed.

## Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Guild met in early January after the Christmas break, and all groups enjoyed a lunch at the Toby carvery, a quiz and a party at the end of the month.

The speaker, Nick Brazil, gave an excellent account of his visit to Peru, a contrast of poverty and stunning scenery, ancient civilisations and colourful, happy people. His recent slides showed a country far advanced in knowledge as far back as thousands of years. Following recent earthquakes, it has been the ancient Inca buildings which have remained standing, being built on ball foundations rather than stone blocks, thus giving them movement with the earth's tremors rather than collapsing.

## Caversham WI

The first meeting of the New Year was also the beginning of Caversham WI's golden jubilee year so it was appropriate that the president began with the record of the inaugural meeting in 1961. The evening was called "Memories" and included various readings and a talk from Romagne Flight. This was about a trip with a group of teenagers to Russia and her continuing links with the people she met there.

After refreshments the president produced a quiz with three new members teaming up to win the first prize.

## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

To start a new year of demonstrations, outings, day-schools and hands-on fun with flowers, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club are holding a demonstration entitled "Shades of the Season" by Coral Gardiner on Wednesday 9th March. The venue as always is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, and the meeting starts at 7.30pm - doors opening 6.45pm. Entrance £4.50. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and visitors are always very welcome.

On Saturday 26th March, the club is holding a jumble sale in Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, starting 10am. Entrance 20p. This is always a very popular sale with excellent quality items at amazingly low prices!

For details of any of the above, please contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400.

## Caversham Heights Society

On 5 January members had an unexpected meeting with an interesting and inspiring film show due to the postponement of Angela Spencer-Harper's talk on the history of three Chiltern villages.

Leni Riefenstahl found fame in Hitler's Nazi Germany as a film maker. She was given a free hand by Hitler to produce propaganda films for the Nazi regime. Born in 1902 to a prosperous family, she became a star pupil at the Berlin Russian Dance School then quickly moved to film making. Her fame spread far and wide attracting Hitler's attention. Leni was well ahead of her time in an industry dominated by men. She filmed party rallies and the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. She always denied being the mouthpiece of the Nazi Party and made an enemy of Goebbels, seen by him as a competitor for Hitler's attention rather than acting as a team player. Banned from visiting and working in Germany after the war, she did return to film making and photography with some spectacular underwater films of the Red Sea. Leni died in September 2003 aged 101 leaving a legacy that lingers on.

Another well attended meeting was held on 19th January when Richard Day illustrated the Windsor Castle fire of 1992 with some wonderful slides and first hand experience of the event. Richard was a part-time fireman with the castle's own fire brigade and led the first crew into battle against the fire. His background as the Queen's head bookbinder and seven-year apprenticeship at Windsor Castle gave him a special insight into the five-year restoration needed to rebuild the damage done by the fire. Richard ran the bindery, preparing all presentations for state visits and upkeep of the library at all the royal residences. He retired in 2002 after 45 years service.

On 2 March Mass Hassan will speak on the important issue of Water Aid awareness. Hassan, a chartered civil and water engineering management consultant, is Water Aid's speakers' coordinator for the Thames region. He has worked in the water industry in the UK and 26 countries.

Details of the Society and the full season's programme can be seen on the website at [www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk) or ring the secretary Beldon Bensley on 0118 934 5004.

## Caversham Royal British Legion Annual Burns Night Supper

Fifty legion members celebrated Burns Night at Reading Golf Club, Kidmore End Road, Caversham on Monday 24th January, 2011.

Pipe Major Ron Paterson from St. Andrews Pipe Band played the bagpipes to welcome guests and then piped in and addressed the haggis - a great start to a very enjoyable and hilarious evening.

The Selkirk Grace was said by the Branch President Ron Jewitt, and then the eating began!! - haggis and black pudding with a whisky sauce and more whisky for the haggis, followed by roast Scottish Beef and all the trimmings, including the traditional 'neeps'. A traditional dessert of Cranachan (whisky soaked raspberries in cream and honey with toasted oats followed and to finish coffee, mints and shortbread.

The traditional 'Toast to the Lassies' was proposed by Ron Jewitt in Robbie Burns own words. The reply 'Toast to the Laddies' came from the Branch Treasurer and organiser of the evening, Pauline Palmer. She was aware of the fact that she had to bridge the dangerous chasm between serious intent and sparkling wit!! The speech went down well with the ladies but the men were reminded of the fact that Robbie Burns, whilst being a great poet, was also a womaniser, and father to many children by different mothers. However more than 200 years have passed since Robbie Burns and at this supper, unlike most of the ones he attended, the ladies were there to enjoy the evening, eating and drinking!

The attendance of the Piper really added to the evening and the 'Scottish flavour' lasted from start to finish in verbal and liquid form!

The Legion in Caversham enjoys itself but takes its welfare and fundraising role very seriously - to date for the 2010 Appeal it has raised over £37,000. Want to know more about the Legion in Caversham? Ring either Ron on 948 1147 or Pauline on 947 5345.



## Reading and District Probus Club

The Ladies' Lunch is always a favourite with the members' wives and friends with all the festive trimmings, crackers and paper hats that never fit! The honoured guest was Revd Keith Knee-Robinson who spoke of his time as a civil engineer before joining the staff at Bradfield College where his experience was invaluable when he supervised building and maintenance work.

Awareness of the pleasure of giving prompted him to become a minister. Giving is central to everyday life from birth, baptism, 21st, weddings and especially at Christmas, giving joy and happiness.

In complete contrast, the subject of the next meeting was 'The lessons learnt and disasters avoided in 20,000 miles of sailing', illustrating the pitfalls, near misses, dangers and things going wrong as opposed to plain sailing. Roger Shaw, the commodore of the Henley Offshore sailing group, told of the trip from Plymouth to Corfu in stages over a period of 3 years, sailing the west coast of Spain, Gibraltar, east Spain and the Mediterranean. Lighter and amusing events overshadowed the gales encountered, such as the grab bag (the emergency bag always at the ready containing passports, documents and money, but one time it only contained dirty washing!), the stowaway rat on board, all contributed to the humorous tales of sailing, as did the blowing of horn and whistle of port and starboard when attempting anchorage (great fun if you are watching!)

The speaker's secretary announced future talks in 2011 including tuberculosis, WAMSAD by Steve Horton (of Air Ambulance fame), Rudolf Hess (cover up) - quite an assortment of interests for men who have retired. Meetings once a month for lunch could be just the tack to take. Contact Raymond Head tel. 0118 941 1445 or email [raymond.head@supanet.com](mailto:raymond.head@supanet.com).

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The snow and icy weather in December caused cancellation of the Christmas Party, so we were glad to meet up again in January, to listen to Rosina Marsh. Her talk was entitled 'Amazing Facts about Cats' and we were truly amazed at some of the facts she presented.

Cats are in the same category as Marmite - people either love them or hate them. It is thought that domestic cats are all descended from the Jackson cat, which existed in North Africa 8,000 years ago. They were first tamed by the ancient Egyptians and lived in their temples and were also often mummified and buried in tombs.

Rosina's talk was so interesting and illustrated how cats have been useful to man for centuries. They were used by the Phoenicians for catching rats on ships, cat holes were cut in church doors (the first cat flaps!) to rid churches of rodents, and they were used in the construction of a huge dam by pulling string through pipes, which was then attached to cables and pulled through. They are also responsible for the invention by Percy Shaw of cats-eyes on roads after he saw a cat's eyes glinting at him in his bicycle's headlight.

Cats have healing properties, especially for old people, as they like being stroked and stroking is good for the heartbeat. They have been featured in many children's stories and poetry and are often seen on calendars. Their main drawback is that they cannot walk backwards - sometimes resulting in them having to be rescued from tall trees! This was a most enjoyable evening and many thanks to Rosina.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 15 March at Church House, when our speaker will be Gillian Lilley on the subject of Theatre and Mobility. Meetings now start at 7.30pm, to give members time to have tea or coffee and chat to each other before the talk.

New members are always welcome. Contact: Mrs Sylvia Harris (Chairman) - 947 4857.

**Chazey WI**

Family history is a subject in which most of us have an interest, and Richard Tanner's talk to Chazey WI generated much enthusiasm at the January meeting.

With practical tips, anecdotes and an abundance of personal stories he demonstrated how easy it is to begin family research, not only by tracing a family tree but also in learning about the lives of our forebears, their trades and professions. He showed us how to locate records, begin more advanced research, and for the eager beavers he recommended books which would be particularly useful.

It was a fascinating introduction to genealogy and much enjoyed by members and their visitors.

If you would like to come along to Chazey WI we would be delighted to give you a warm welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month (7.45pm) in Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham. We have a lively and interesting programme throughout the year.

**Reading Gardeners**

Our meetings in Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road are on alternate Wednesdays and begin at 7.30pm.

March 9th The author and garden designer Graham Pavey will talk on 'Vertical Gardening'.

March 23rd Howard Drury, who some of us met at Ashwood Nurseries last year, will speak about 'The Primula Family'

Our AGM will be on April 6th.

For further information please go to our website [readinggardenersclub.org.uk](http://readinggardenersclub.org.uk)

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