

# Inspired RE for local schools

After a few false starts, *REinspired Caversham* has really begun to take off. In the last few weeks volunteers from across the churches in Caversham have worked together to “marry” pupils at Caversham School, Newbridge Nursery and Micklands Primary. Excitement about weddings was generated by the Royal Wedding and we were able to walk the children through a wedding service at both St John’s Church and St Peter’s. We helped the children understand that a wedding is first and foremost an act of worship with hymns, bible readings and prayers; and that people marry one another by saying various words to each other and holding hands in particular ways.

RE

CAVERSHAM  
INSPIRED



Lighting a candle.

Later in June, Thameside School came to St Peter’s Church for a session on Signs and Symbols. We helped the children explore their own important things and significant places. With the help of volunteers from five local churches, the children investigated four key symbols of the Christian faith. They made a cross with twigs and twine, watched a doll being baptised in the font and made the secret sign of the fish. Learning about the Light of Christ, they each lit a candle and thought about something personal and special.

*REinspired Caversham* is a project sponsored by Churches Together in Caversham under the leadership of Dan Tyndall, Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham. Dan explained the potential of this project: “The mission of churches is to serve the communities in which they are set. This schools work is one of the most exciting ways in which we can do this. Not only are we showing that the churches of Caversham can work together for the good of others, but also we are helping our local schools to deliver an enhanced R.E. curriculum.”

Two schools have already signed up for sessions from *REinspired Caversham* for the next academic year and funding is available to appoint a part time worker to help develop the project. For more information about this exciting new development please contact Dan Tyndall (0118 947 9505 or [caversham@reinspired.org.uk](mailto:caversham@reinspired.org.uk))



Watching baby doll being baptised at font.



Cross made from twigs and twine.



Sign of fish drawn in sand.

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## Caversham Clergy

### ANGLICAN

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

www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,  
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788

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 Kneec-Robinson

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

Rev'd Jeremy Tear

St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,

Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884

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

### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

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Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the September 2011 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 2nd August. The date for the October 2011 issue is Tuesday 30th August 2011. Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the September 2011 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 29th July 2011. The date for the October 2011 issue is Friday 26th August 2011.

## TALKING POINT

by

Graeme Fancourt

## ALL WILL BE WELL

Earlier this year, I re-read one of my favourite modern novels, *The Kite Runner*. Whilst the story's central character is a boy whom we watch grow up, making good and bad choices, it is really about the modern history of Afghanistan, from the early 1970's through Communist invasion and Taliban rule. What we are presented with is a country of great beauty whose enchanting culture carries both pride and shame: it is a person, like the central character, who is searching for redemption. The yearning that one day, 'all will be well'.

To the book's credit, this redemption is never easy, always being something that requires a personal commitment, but ultimately is subject to forces beyond any one person's control. In this sense, the book can help us think about redemption as we return from our summer breaks to face the reality of our normal routines.

The act that took place through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ is a gift in the most incredible sense of the word, as it reaches throughout time, into the deepest core of our being, to call us to love God and our neighbour. This redemption, which calls both the individual and the world around us to be transformed, is part of the exciting reality of what Jesus called the Kingdom of God, giving us the hope to believe that 'all **will** be well'.

The first Easter day was the dawn of a new age of creation, where resurrection subverted the world's expectations of life and death, law and grace, male and female, Jew and gentile. Following the resurrection, we can see that the expectations humanity had about God – whatever their religion or culture – fell way short of what was revealed in and through Jesus. No longer was salvation and damnation dependent upon genetic lineage or saying the right magic words: 'all will be well'.

But the road of redemption has no short cuts. We know all too well that we live in a world of both beauty and destruction, and that we ourselves are capable of unconditional love and intolerable cruelty. However, the road has been laid, and we are journeying with one another to a destination of unimaginable wonder, sharing what we learn on the way. And this is the good news: redemption is in our midst, and whilst we are in the presence of both joy and pain, by the gift of the cross and the resurrection we can be brought closer to God and our neighbour.

The book ends with this same conflict of cross and resurrection; that somehow both are an important part of what it means to find redemption. So whatever is ahead of us, let us try and remember that the road has been laid, even if the road is not easy.

All will be well.

*Rev Dr Graeme Fancourt is curate at St Peter's*

## 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 (except 2nd Sunday)  
10.00am All Age Worship (2nd Sunday)

#### 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)  
6.30pm 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)

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

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10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

#### Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

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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# WEA READING



Autumn 2011/Spring and Summer 2012

Brochures now available

Anyone wanting to know more about the history of Reading should attend the varied WEA courses soon to be on offer in the town. Tutor Margaret Simons starts a series in September on the making of modern Reading – from 1945's three Bs of beer, bulbs and biscuits to the town we know today. There is also a series of WEA organised town walks in the spring with Richard Wilson exploring Reading's historical and architectural heritage, together with a summer session by Penny Hunter on Reading writers who have lived in the town, or just passed through, including Mary Russell Mitford, Oscar Wilde and Elizabeth Taylor. Also a WEA study day on Saturday 12 November to share memories of 'Caversham 100', in a day of celebration of the heritage of 'the village' a century on from incorporation within the borough of Reading; there will be talks, displays and audio visual entertainment.

In the spring term WEA lecturer Adam Smith concentrates on country house living, and how the stately homes of England were rescued and transformed, and in addition he hosts a study day in June to be held in Basildon Park. There is a review of the Victorian country houses of Berkshire by Margaret Simons examining the new edition of Pevsner, 'the Buildings of Berkshire' which has been recently revised by Geoffrey Tyack.

The new WEA Brochure, listing courses for Reading branch of the Workers' Educational Association, is now available and gives details of all of the above. This is the third year's programme that the branch has organised and includes 59 options over the three terms – ranging from archaeology and pop art, to astronomy and Schubert – either at a series of daytime courses or at Saturday study days. All are competitively priced. The four Reading venues used for WEA classes are central and easy to get to by public transport. They are:- the Randolph College 141 Whiteknights Road, Hamilton Centre in Bulmershe Road, Friends Meeting House at 2 Church Street, and RISC 35-38 London Street.

The new WEA Brochures will shortly be available at public libraries in the Reading and district areas. They can also be had by contacting Carole Kingston on 0118 946 4137, WEAreading@googlemail.com. or at 27 Derby Road Caversham Reading RG4 5HE.

The WEA is the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education and the first branch ever formed was in Reading. A WEA branch is a group of volunteers who organise local learning in their town to meet the needs of the community and they are supported by national and regional professional staff. There are neighbouring WEA branches in Wokingham, Henley, Sonning Common, Maidenhead, Windsor and Wallingford.

## Kidmore End Pre-School outstanding

Kidmore End Pre-School are delighted to be rated Outstanding by Ofsted, following an inspection two weeks ago.

Operating from the parish rooms in Kidmore End, the small village pre-school received a glowing report and achieved the 'outstanding' rating in every single category. The inspectors found the learning environment to be 'inspirational', contributing directly to the 33 children on the roll being 'incredibly confident, happy and thoroughly enjoying their time at the pre-school'.

Staff were praised as dedicated, pro-active and highly successful, and the report also commented on the pre-school's exceptional commitment to 'inspire children to learn in a calm and secure way'.

Gemma Malaperiman, chairman of the pre-school committee, said: "We've known for quite some time that our pre-school is a very special place, where the children are encouraged to play, learn and grow in a wonderfully nurturing environment. To have it officially recognized is fantastic, and a testament to the enthusiasm and devotion of the staff who work so hard towards creating a welcoming family atmosphere."

Nicola Liddon-Horncastle, pre-school manager, said: "It's lovely to have the friendly, caring nature of our pre-school endorsed by Ofsted. We are a small pre-school, which means we can work closely with the very supportive parents of the children in our care to make sure every child's individual needs are met. We also enjoy close links with Kidmore End primary school, which contributes to the important community feel and means we get to know many families in the area."

Kidmore End Pre-school has a few places available for September 2012. For more information, please contact registrar Louise Wood on 0118 9242740 or email enquiry@keps.co.uk

## Barge Theatre at Caversham Court

### Beer Street...a heady draught of people, pubs, brews and brewing

The Mikron Theatre came to Caversham Court again in early July and the troupe of four actors had the audience of about 150 people roaring with laughter as they told the story of pubs and beer and the part they play in society.

The story started with a derelict pub being brought to life by a young couple, the couple's struggles, starting a micro-brewery, becoming more successful and the big brewery who tried to buy them out. This is interwoven with characters and snippets of history, including the church and the effects of the smoking ban. Each actor played a different character in each scene and it was brilliantly coordinated. Adrian Palmer was particularly good when he played the part of a drunk, falling all over the place and around objects, and the audience, whilst singing.

They have been to Caversham Court before so let's hope they come again next year.

SCB

## Caversham Bridge

Volunteers are urgently required as soon as possible to deliver Caversham Bridge paper in Kidmore Road Caversham. If you could spare the time to deliver once a month and collect subscriptions annually, please contact the CTM Parish Office (tel: 947 1703 or email: office@ctmparish.org.uk)

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
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# From the Lookout Post

## Policing matters

Caversham policing staff changes continue with PC Debbie Smith leaving to take up a new role in Thames Valley Police. Filling the position of neighbourhood specialist officer for Lower Caversham will be PC Joe Evans. Two years ago PC Evans had a three month stint with the Caversham policing team. PC Leon Cunningham will also be attached to the local team for the summer period.

The summer period has shown an increase in various types of crime and anti-social behaviour. One worrying development is the increase in the use of mini moto and off road motor bikes, which are unlicensed and uninsured, and driven in a dangerous manner by individuals with no licence and no helmet. They have been sighted both on public roadways and on private land.

A major concern is that such erratic riding could result in an accident, resulting in injury to vulnerable pedestrians, notably the elderly or children. Good intelligence has resulted in the identification of three offenders who have been visited by the police. However, further identification is sought from the public. The non-emergency phone number is 0845 8 505 505, or if the informant wishes to remain anonymous call crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Burglaries of homes, sheds and garages are also occurring and the theft of bicycles is on the increase. The warmer weather often creates easier access for criminals. Police advise residents to take measures to keep their buildings secure by locking doors and ground floor windows and not leaving tools or equipment available to be used to break in. Bicycle thefts often occur when inadequate locks are used, or when they are stored in less secure garages or sheds. Owners of expensive bikes are urged to invest in quality locks and, if possible, store the bike in a more secure location, including in the house.

## Trees in St Martin's Precinct

On Sunday 26 June, tree surgery was carried out on trees in the precinct. Prior notice had been given by the council to CADRA and Caversham GLOBE. Following discussions with the owners, an independent assessment and report was commissioned by the council which recommended that all the trees except one (the sycamore at the rear of the precinct) could be retained for the time being, subject to various specified works. Council officers approved a tree work application to reduce the horse chestnut trees and the holm oak within the centre of St Martin's Precinct by a limited amount. The reductions

are in line with the recommendations of the independent report.

In the longer term, it is considered that, in view of the expected continued decline in the condition of the two chestnuts on the frontage, they will need to be replaced as a part of a wider upgrade of the centre sometime in the future.

## Parking in Caversham centre

The absence of parking controls on the section of the car park near Iceland led to all day parking in that area. As a consequence there was regularly excess pressure on the car park which often led to a tailback of traffic through Caversham. There are now controls on that section of the car park and a three-hour maximum stay is being imposed.

## Gravel works near Sonning

Phase two of the current works is now underway, works for phase three are planned for May 2012 and progressive restoration is due for completion in 2013. A new planning application for the much larger area beyond Spring Lane is in progress. This will include consideration of hydrology and flooding issues in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Plans are being drawn up for the marina site restoration near Caversham and we hope to see new footpaths and information boards.

## Buses

Reading Buses have been collating comments about bus services to and from Caversham following the changes in bus routes and bus stops in the town centre. CADRA (the Caversham and District Residents' Association) is also feeding in comments and would be glad to receive individual views. Contact info@cadra.org.uk.

## Caversham 100 Years On

### Exhibitions

More exhibitions have been produced including: Caversham Court, Caversham Village and 'Old Caversham Today'. There will be exhibitions in Caversham Library from 6th to 20th August as well as in the window of the picture framer on Church Road throughout August. Others will be completed for September and all those completed to date will be in the marquee at the Grand Caversham Garden party on 10 September.

To book one or more of the exhibition boards, contact info@Caversham100YearsOn.org.uk or call 0330 100 2828. The separate boards will fit in even a small car without difficulty.

### Events over the Heritage Weekend

Caversham will be marking the Heritage Open Days (8th-11th September) in style this year, with a fine programme of events over the weekend.

On Saturday 10th September there will be a Grand Garden Party in Caversham Court gardens, featuring music, poetry, theatre, activities for children - and a free ferry to take passengers over the river from the Thameside Promenade. Caversham Horticultural Society will be holding their annual show in the gardens, so there will be plenty to see and do. This year being the centenary of Caversham joining the borough of Reading, there will be an Edwardian theme to the day, so don't be surprised if you see a few boaters and parasols around. In fact, why not dress up and join in? Get those hats out of the attic, grab a picnic basket and come along. Cream teas will be on sale when the event opens at 12 noon, Pimms from 5pm and there will be music until 9pm.

Caversham Court will be the venue for a performance of "The Land of Walter Giffard", a piece written specially about the history of Caversham Court by poet Jenny Leach. Giffard fought with William the Conqueror and was given the manor of Caversham, along with vast estates elsewhere,

after 1066. Anne Latto will be performing the piece at 3pm on Sunday, 4th September and again at 3pm on Sunday 11th.

St Peter's Church will be open for visitors from 2.30pm on Sunday 11th September, and the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be offering tours of the gardens.

A new addition to the Heritage Open Days offerings this year is Caversham Baptist Church, in South Street. (See page 5 for details). Look out for more details about the Heritage Open days 8th-11 September in the local press and on the national website [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/).

### [www.Caversham100YearsOn.org.uk](http://www.Caversham100YearsOn.org.uk)

The list of sources, pictures and videos on local history continues to grow. Can you offer any others or send pictures for the gallery? Do check the website for the most up to date information on events.

### Correspondence

The feature in July's Caversham Bridge on the campaign for the replacement of Mapledurham Hall prompts me to ask what happened to the promised replacement of Balmore Hall. This very well - used hall in Hemdean Road had been left to the people of Caversham by the Misses Radcliffe of Balmore House in memory of their brother who was killed in the Boer war. The hall was managed by St Peters, when Canon Grimwade was the rector, and was sold for the development of Balmore Park surgery; the proceeds of the sale were intended to pay for another hall to be built somewhere in the parish.

Is that money still held in reserve, and can it be made available to help the Mapledurham Hall campaign for a hall which could benefit all Caversham residents?

Una Waters



# 90 YEARS OF THE LEGION



The Legion (now the Royal British Legion) was formed in 1921 and this year marks its 90th Anniversary.

In 1921 several ex-Forces associations joined together to try to improve the lives of those who had fought in previous wars, especially the 1st World War.

The youth of Great Britain had given their all to fight and in many cases they had volunteered to defend their country. All had hoped to come back to a free and better country. In reality tens of thousands died and many of those who did come home were either suffering from terrible injuries – physical and mental- or were struck down on their return by a strain of flu that was pandemic at the time and claimed almost as many lives as those lost during the fighting.

They and their families suffered terrible deprivation in all aspects of their lives and so the Legion was formed to help survivors of war and their dependants obtain food, housing and medical attention.

Ninety years after its foundation the Legion is needed as much today as it ever was, in fact probably more so. The suffering from current conflicts is having traumatic consequences for service personnel and their families. Whilst medical advances mean that more people now survive the terrors of war, their lives are nonetheless changed forever. The Legion tries to ensure that all service personnel and their families are able to cope by helping in any way it can.

In Caversham the Royal British Legion takes fund raising for the Poppy Appeal very seriously and every penny it collects goes directly to fund help for service personnel and their families. Last year, thanks to the generosity of all of Caversham, the amount collected was almost £40,000.

While the branch takes its fundraising very seriously it also likes to have some fun and look after its membership which has increased from 17 to over 220. It holds monthly socials, including bingo, to bring its members together and to raise funds for the running costs of the Branch. It also enjoys regular coach trips.

This year, to mark the 90th anniversary, extra events are being put on. Recently, the president of the Caversham branch, Ron Jewitt hosted a lunch at the Griffin for the members who are over 90 years old – the total years represented being 1,500!! They celebrated the Royal Wedding, the anniversary of the Legion and very importantly each of their own 90 years.

The branch meets at the Caversham Working Men's Club by kind permission of its committee. On St. Patrick's Day a social was held with over 100 attending. This event, and the music by Touchwood, was so well received that the branch held a follow-up Cockney lunch time event together with raffle, bingo and jellied eels on Bank Holiday Monday. The Legion was also invited, by the club, to its celebrations for the Royal Wedding and St. George's Day.

This year, besides all the socials, the branch has already taken full coach loads of members and friends to Portsmouth, Clarke's Outlet Centre and Minehead, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham and Cardiff Castle.

If you would like to know more about the Legion, especially in Caversham, please ring Ron on 948 1147.



## CHURCH OPENS ITS DOORS

To celebrate National Heritage weekend, Caversham Baptist Church will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday September 10th from 11am - 4pm and on Sunday 11th from 2pm - 4pm.

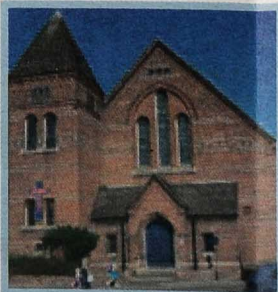
In the 1860s Caversham was a tiny village connected to Reading by a narrow road with high hedges and trees on either side. The population was about 1,700. The roads were very poor so much so that the village was jokingly referred to as "Caversham-in-the-Mud". With only the parish church in which to worship, non-conformists were forced to walk to Reading to worship as there were no Sunday buses or trams.

In due course, a plot of land was given and money donated to build a place of worship for Baptists living in Caversham and in 1866 the West Memorial Hall in Gosbrook Road, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, architect of many illustrious buildings such as the Natural History Museum and Reading Town Hall, was opened for worship. Later, the need for a larger building became apparent and the

present building, designed again by Alfred Waterhouse, opened its doors on October 2nd 1877 for worship and outreach. In recent years, the West Memorial Hall has been converted into apartments

Much of the history of the church will be on display over the weekend together with displays on what the church is doing today to reach out to the community of Caversham, so fulfilling the vision of the original founders of Caversham Baptist Church over 145 years ago.

Refreshments will be available.





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**CHURCHES**

**Ordination of two Caversham clergy**

On Sunday 26 June, two members of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish clergy team were ordained at the Reading Minster church. The ordination was performed by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Rev Andrew Proude, at a service attended by over 600 people. At this service, the bishop ordained 18 members of the clergy from the Reading area. The two from Caversham were Graeme Fancourt and Marion Pyke. The choir from St Peter's Caversham, under the direction of the choirmaster Ian Westley, provided the music.

The ordination liturgy involves the Bishop, with other priests, laying hands upon each candidate and ordaining them priest. He then anoints their hands with oil, in order to perform the functions of a priest. Finally, each new priest is presented with a Bible as a reminder and symbol of their call to proclaim Christ in both word and sacrament.

After the service, their ordination was celebrated in Caversham, beginning with a cream tea in the rectory garden, attended by a large number of parishioners. This was followed by a festive communion service in St Peter's church, at which the Rev Marion Pyke presided at the Eucharist for the first time. The preacher at this service was Revd Mary Harwood, a friend of Marion's.

The Rev Graeme Fancourt presided at communion for the first time at St Peter's on the following Sunday, when the preacher was the Revd Canon Chris Burke, canon for learning and development at Sheffield Cathedral. At the end of the service, Graeme was presented with a stole decorated by the junior members of St Peter's congregation.

Originally from Yorkshire, Graeme Fancourt has been attached to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish as curate for the last year, having been appointed to complete his training to become a priest under the direction of the rector, the Rev Dan Tyndall. Graeme is married and has two young daughters. He had an exciting few days, because on 30 June he collected his doctoral degree from Durham University; his thesis, 'The Participative Self', looks at theological and postmodern understandings of the human person.



Marion Pyke with the Bishop of Reading.

Marion Pyke has been a resident of Caversham for over 45 years, and has performed many varied and interesting jobs during her lifetime, including that of a Psychiatric Social Worker for over 20 years. Marion was a licensed Lay Minister in 2004 but this was not to be her final calling. In 2007 she realised that it was a call to the Priesthood where her vocation lay and so she embarked on another course of study to achieve this. Marion is a mother and grandmother, and although she lost her husband last year, she managed through this period to continue with her studies and to complete her training to become an ordained minister. Writing in the parish newsletter, Marion thanked everyone for the love and support given her on the long journey to priesthood. So many people kept her going through the darkest days of her life when John died. The encouragement and support given to her was amazing. She hopes to serve us all for many years.

We congratulate both Graeme and Marion on their ordination, and wish them both well in their future ministry to the people of Caversham and Mapledurham.



Graeme Fancourt, second from left, pictured after receiving his doctorate, with Rev'd Drs Alan Bartlett, Gavin Wakefield and Rev'd Professor David Wilkinson.

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**CHURCHES**

## Successful Methodist Weekend

On June 10th, 11th & 12th Caversham Heights and Gosbrook Road Methodist Churches got together for a Lay Witness Weekend.

This is a special time when a group of about a dozen people from different parts of the country come together to run a Lay Witness Weekend. Our weekend was entitled "Sharing God's Love". All the people on the team who came to Caversham were lay people just like you and me.

The Friday evening started with a shared meal, an uplifting service with testimonies and group discussion. The whole weekend was taken up with eating, sharing and worship. All the meals, the two evening meals at Caversham Heights and the Saturday lunch at Gosbrook Road, were very good. We were grateful to Wesley Methodist Church for serving the Friday meal and to Tilehurst Methodist Church for providing the Saturday evening one. The Saturday Ploughman's Lunch was organized by Rouxlé Mooney from Gosbrook Road, our friendly professional chef, and was beautifully presented and delicious.

The weekend culminated on the Sunday morning in a Celebration service at Caversham Heights and a Family Sharing service at Gosbrook Road. At the latter service, a special cake, cut by Rhea (who has been attending for about a year) and Eileen (who has been coming for around 50 years) was enjoyed by all.

The idea of the weekend was to get to know each other better, pray together, worship together and find out our strengths and weaknesses, and share how we can get to know God better.

The weekend took months of planning, with many people working very hard doing all the various jobs to make the event a success. Thanks must go to Viv Emerson (Caversham Heights) and David Herbert (Gosbrook Road) for their leadership and dedication.

So what now? We need to move forward by strengthening our prayer time, our bible study, our togetherness and our outreach. Keeping each church in touch with the other, in social, spiritual and pastoral concerns. Maybe taking a leaf from the old saying "A family that prays together stays together" and hopefully by keeping this old proverb in mind, we will be Sharing God's Love with each other and the wider community.

Eunice Cooper



Photo by Bradley Treeton

Anne Muller

## Summer Concert at St Andrews

If you haven't already discovered the excellent series of concerts at St Andrew's church, I urge you to come along to the next. The third concert took place on 25th June when three first-class professional musicians, Adrienne Black (piano), Mark Lacey (clarinet, alto saxophone) and Jacqueline Pischorn (voice), treated us to a rich variety of songs and music ranging from Purcell to Noel Coward.

The performances were top quality and yet the concert was relaxed. The musicians were happy to engage with the audience, taking the trouble to introduce their musical choices, so that we could watch out for Hady's surprises and Betjeman's vivid nightclub descriptions. I was interested to learn that Ludwig Spohr, unknown to me, was more popular than Beethoven in his time.

The theme was the contrast between Austrian/German and English songs. Jacqueline, herself from Austria, sang Schubert's "Shepherd on the Rock" - a beautiful song where the clarinet provides an important second voice - with such intensity and feeling that it seemed she had loved the song from birth. It was fantastic to share her enthusiasm for her native songs and then also to be surprised by her excellent English diction and playful enjoyment of the English selection.

The programme included a great variety and not just song. Adrienne gave an expressive performance of Hady's Piano Sonata in F (complete with its surprise and rather abrupt ending) and Mark played two lively samba and ragtime pieces by Reading-educated Richard Rodney Bennett. At the end the audience laughed when the irrepressible Jacqueline gave hilarious performances of Noel Coward's "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" and "Mad about the Boy".

The fourth concert in the series (for flute, bassoon and piano) with a previous winner of the BBC Young Woodwind Musician of the Year will take place at St Andrew's on October 15th.

## Corpus Christi at Mapledurham

Bishop Kenney returned to Mapledurham once more to celebrate the open air mass for the feast of Corpus Christi. He was assisted by Deacon Mike Walker at the altar with Father Giles directing the proceedings.

This year the First Communion children from St Martin's school joined those from St Anne's and St Paul's.

During a short homily, Bishop Kenney talked about children liking food. Holy Communion is in the form of bread and wine and is food for our souls. He encouraged the children to think about Jesus all the time in ordinary tasks like eating

and drinking and washing. Jesus is with us always.

The rain held off during mass but came down hard as the procession of the Blessed Sacrament formed - "You are not praying hard enough", Father Giles admonished the congregation - but the sun relented and reappeared as the procession carried on past the front of Mapledurham House.

After Benediction, Bishop Kenney presented Holy Communion mementoes to the children. Another downpour sent everyone scurrying for shelter.

Refreshments were available for those who wanted them but this year were eaten indoors in the shelter of the Old Manor House and other outbuildings. Bishop Kenney stayed to eat and chat with those who also stayed for lunch.



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**CHURCHES**

**DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY**

Could this be the answer to that Holy Grail many people are looking for? It might be a summary of the Beatitudes which are part of the Sermon on the Mount, to be found in Matthew's gospel chapters 5-7. Key parts of these chapters were studied, examined and discussed during the Kirchentag, a forum and conference held by the Protestant Churches in Germany every two years. The timing is centred on Ascension Day, early June this year. The slogan of this Kirchentag was.. da wird dein Hertz auch sein, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also".

Each time it is held in a different city, this time it was in Dresden. I might add that I was persuaded to go by Robert, my husband, who is chairman of the Reading-Düsseldorf Association and speaks reasonable German. I must admit that I have a "get by" ability, but that was not necessarily a problem.

It started with a service in the open air. Fortunately it stopped raining by mid day. At 5.30, musicians on brass declared the start and we shared small spaces to sit or stand on the water meadows or prom on both sides of the Elbe with 82,000 people. The dais with leaders seemed remote, so it was easier to follow from the huge television screen. After the service, we had an "Evening of encounters", walking around the city centre, meeting people at the various stands supplying typical German foods and drinks supplied by local parishes- and a few commercial ones. We were invited to join quizzes, watch marching bands and listen to music ranging from jazz on a street corner, to rock in a pedestrianised area and light classics in a tea garden. This was a light ending to the day which had started with a march of solidarity with the city's Jewish Community going from the Kreuz Church to the rebuilt Synagogue.

Bible studies were a popular part of the event. Unfortunately, we picked the most popular, given by former Bishop of Hamburg, Dr. Margot Käbmann. We got there 25 minutes early, but had to sit outside the 3,000 seater ice rink and hear her relayed to the several hundred sitting on the grass at the entrance area. We missed the English translation inside, but could get it from the website later. She talked about the human striving for happiness and what it meant for different people, based on each beatitude. We heard this theme explained further when on Saturday, we did manage to get in to a very good talk by Kathy Galloway, once a leader of the Iona Community, now Director of Christian Aid. She urged us to look for our treasure, our priorities in life. Who was a treasure? It was more important to look for God's way in relationships and seek his values, to ponder whether we can have it all when that may come at other's expense. A test of our faith is to distinguish between our needs and our wants.

There were joyful services, where we worshipped together. There, even if the congregation were standing outside the door, there were no "Full up" notices. We worshipped in a Caribbean service, a service to celebrate the Meissen covenant between the Old Catholics, Lutheran and Evangelical churches with the Church of England and a Communion in the area where we were staying with the Methodists. We went to a late night café to meet and chat with people from the Mennonite Church and listen to jazz piano.

There were many exhibition stands in three areas of the city, with themes of Mission, Fair Trade, Church organisations, and this being the former East Germany, projects supported by the Deaconesses. I exchanged notes with a lay minister, Robert spoke to a Catholic group who had campaigned for the Canonisation of Oscar Romero and a nationwide group which supplies food to homeless and vulnerable peoples' centres similar to CIRDIC. There were supplies for Sunday schools and youth work- and we took part in publicity for their work to promote women's groups in developing countries.

Can you imagine a Sunday Communion with a congregation of over 100,000 and of not getting communion until after the last hymn? That was the closing service!

I came home with a well exercised brain and muscles, with an enthusiasm for the ministry tasks ahead, gained from staying with a generous young couple who gave us bed and breakfast, and mixing with christians of like mind who were prepared to join in, discuss and worship together.

Margaret Dimmick

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## ENVIRONMENT

## Wild Teasel

Teasel should be in flower this month, and usually goes on into September. The nectar attracts bees and butterflies, and I have happy memories of pointing a camera at the flowers, hoping that an unwary silver-washed fritillary or peacock butterfly will come within range and begin to feed.

It's a fairly common plant in the Thames valley. It likes damp and clayey places, and can sometimes be found in large numbers. Quite unmistakable, it grows tall (up to about six feet) and handsome – worthy of a photograph at the different stages of its development.

At the end of the year, the plant dries up and turns a pale brown, but remains standing. Those spiky seed-heads look impressive, dead or alive, and are good in flower arrangements. Children have been known to make them into toy hedgehogs.

This is not the plant usually used for carding woollen cloth – for that a close relative from southern Europe, Fuller's Teasel, was used. It had curved rather than straight spikes to its flower heads.

These were cut into two, and mounted into wooden frames. The frames were then fastened onto revolving drums. The little hooks of the flower heads would "tease" the surface of the cloth, and raise the nap, or pile. The process may well have gone on in Reading, where the making of woollen cloth was the staple industry in the Middle Ages, and into Tudor times.

Eventually, the use of natural teasel heads was replaced by a device using little steel hooks. One of the last fabrics where the teasel was the preferred way of raising the nap

was the green baize used for billiard tables.

The botanical Latin name of the plant, *Dipsacus*, comes from a Greek word signifying thirst, which denotes another curious feature of teasel. The leaves grow in pairs on opposite sides of the stem, and the leaf bases are joined on either side the stem, to form a kind of cup. After rain or heavy dew, the cup fills with water.

This has given rise to some of the old "country" names given to the plant, such as Venus's Cup, Venus's Basin, and even Venus's Bath. The alternative Christian versions are Our Lady's Cup, etc. The water in the cups was once thought to have special properties. Ladies who bathed their faces in it would become more beautiful than ever – teasel-water would also remove warts and freckles, and would relieve sore eyes.

I can't help wondering why the cups have evolved. Nothing that I've read suggests that the plant can absorb water from the cups.

There is also a grisly aspect to the cups, because they usually contain dead and drowning insects. Some writers have suggested that the cups help in pollination by trapping small insects climbing up the stems in search of nectar, which would otherwise consume the nectar without cross-pollinating the flowers.

No-one says definitely that the plant can absorb nutrients from the dead and dissolving insects, though one writer says "it is possible that the plant may draw some of its nourishment from the dead bodies of its victims, after the manner of true pitcher-plants; but it is a point that cannot easily be settled." *Happy Wanderer*



## CONSERVATION NEWS



Poppies in Clayfield.

Despite the wet June, July started off hot and dry. Clayfield Copse and Mapledurham playing fields have been full of a huge variety of colourful flowers and butterflies. Mapledurham volunteers had a session recording the different species, the red poppies put on a wonderful display between the fruit trees. Friends of Clayfield were excited to find another species of orchid, among the many flowers there, making three different species over the last three years. They are temperamental plants, here one year not the next and seemingly in different places. All volunteers are pleased with the news that Reading Borough are putting in stewardship plans for all their parks.

## Caversham Court

The lavender bank in Caversham Court Gardens has been a feast for the eyes this year, and a real magnet for bees and butterflies. Planting includes yellow santolina, or cotton lavender, lavender hidcote, ballota pseudodictamnus with its yellowish-grey-green leaves, and aromatic hiscop.



Photo courtesy of Friends of Caversham Court

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## CLUBS

## Caversham Women's Institute

It was local history in focus for members at the June meeting. Gerry Westall and his wife told us of the history of Suttons Seeds – one of Reading 3 'Bs'. He had many pictures of the firm's history plus a DVD that proved unwilling to run! An added interest was a collection of old postcards of Caversham.

Details of the outing on the river from Henley were given and everyone was encouraged to come. The competition – a single rose – was won by Margaret Cameron and the evening concluded with a raffle.

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## Sue Ryder memorial gift from Lions

Goring, Woodcote and District Lions Club has made a donation of £510 to the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed in memory of one of their members who died in March.

Lion David White died on 19th March 2011 at the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading aged 67. The club made the donation, with the support of his widow Sue, to the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed, where it will go towards an appeal for special new recliner chairs for patients.

David was a much valued and respected Lion who had been a member of a Lions Club in Tenerife for six years before returning to the U.K. On moving to the area he joined the local Lions only a couple of years ago. He was soon actively involved in helping others in need within our community as well as bringing his novel and practical skills to fund raising events.

The Sue Ryder appeal is still £4,800 short of the funds needed to purchase another three of these special recliner chairs which are very comfortable, mobile and especially softly upholstered to prevent skin damage and pressure sores, as well as having smooth wipe clean surfaces.

On receiving the donation from the Lions Vicki Collins, fund raiser for Sue Ryder, said "It is so important to ensure that our patients are as comfortable as possible and so we are very appreciative of this donation from the Lions".

For more information about Sue Ryder, or to make a donation please telephone the fund raising team on 01491-641070 or e-mail: fundraising.nettlebed@suerider.org

## Caversham Heights Society

The outing on 27th April to Layer Marney Tower, near Colchester, gave members a chance to see this 80 ft gatehouse, the tallest in England. It was conceived by the first Lord Marney, Henry VIII's Lord Privy Seal in the 16th century as the start of an ambitious project to rival Hampton Court. In the end only the gatehouse, outbuildings and church were completed. The buildings are fine examples of Tudor brickwork and from the top of the tower are extensive views across Essex towards the Blackwater estuary and beyond. The site was bought by the Charrington family in 1957 and we were greeted by Mrs Charrington, wife of the owner who arranged a light lunch for us. She shared the history of the tower and its past owners with us and showed us the large magnificent tapestries she is making. Incidentally, the BBC recorded a future edition of Antiques Roadshow there on 12th May.

This year's visit to the Proms will be on 27th August, with Mozart's Piano Concerto No 27 and Beethoven's Symphony No 3, the Eroica, on the programme. The Orchestra is the Zurich Tonhalle conducted by David Zinman with Maria João Pires, piano.

A highlight of the year was the mini holiday in May when 45 members went on a coach holiday to the Lake District. We stayed in Morecambe with visits to the Lakes each day. Highlights included visits to the Wensleydale Cheese Factory (samples were enthusiastically enjoyed), the Keswick Pencil Factory and Owlthistle Mills. This gave us plenty of opportunity for shopping and sightseeing as we drove round the lakes and through Grasmere. Although it was rainy and windy we were able to appreciate the steam train ride and boat ride to Windermere. Morecambe boasted, a magnificent statue of the comedian Eric Morecambe on the seafront. It provided an excellent backdrop to photographers taking pictures of the sunsets.

The society's 2011-2012 season begins on 21 September when Dr David George will illustrate his talk on *Coral Reefs, the Jewels of the Sea*. It is expected that there will be vacancies for the new

season and membership interest should be made to the secretary on 0118 934 5004 or by email to mail@cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk. Our website at www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk gives further information about the society.

## St Peter's Wives Group

Our June meeting took the form of our annual Strawberry Supper. There were ample tasty strawberries to go around, with cream or crème fraiche and boudoir biscuits to accompany them. This was all most enjoyable and it was a pleasure to chat with our fellow members whilst enjoying the feast.

After the strawberries, Mr Keith Churcher, a magician and the husband of one of our members, performed a selection of his magic tricks for our entertainment. Some of these required a certain amount of audience participation, which was fun. It was all very clever and Keith told us that he had been inspired by his grandfather to take up magic, as he remembers as a child being fascinated by his tricks. We were unable to discover how he performed his magic, but thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Our next meeting will be at Church House on Tuesday, 16 August at 8.00pm. Our speaker will be Catharine Sharman, with a talk entitled "100 Years of Girl Guiding Adventures".

New members are always welcome.

## Caversham Round Table

What will you be doing next week? Ever thought of joining your local Round Table group?

Round Table is an international charitable organisation for men up to 45 years old. Its members come from a wide range of backgrounds, religions and nationalities. It's all about getting to know new people, experiencing new things, having some fun as well as raising money for charity. Round Table's sister organisation is Ladies Circle.

Caversham Round table is the only such group in Reading and this year celebrates its 40th charter. July gatherings saw them helping with the St Peter's church fete and a fun evening of "human table football". Future events include a comedy night, local brewery visit and a business meeting.

Recent beneficiaries of charity work and collections include Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Ridgeline Trust and Daisy's Dream. Round Table members achieve a great sense of satisfaction in presenting money to charities, not least as a reward for the collecting and event organisation.

With 40 years under their belt they are now looking to boost numbers for the next 40 years. For the next meeting contact James at message@hotmail.com or Rob Whittle on 954 5785.

## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

"Echoes" is the title of a floral demonstration by Hazel McGregor to be held by Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club on Wednesday 10th August at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd., starting at 7.30pm, doors opening 6.45pm. Entrance £4.50 for visitors who are always very welcome. A book and plant stall, a sales table and refreshments will be available. This event promises to be a "resounding" success! For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400.

## A Life of Harmony

You may remember the article that appeared in this paper shortly after the death of Miss Ruth Ascher last August, entitled "Pianist who was saved by Einstein".

Her family's story begins in Germany, followed by her escape to England through the good auspices of Albert Einstein. It continues in Caversham, and includes her years teaching music at Queen Anne's School and her active life in retirement. Her passion for music and her strong Jewish faith, together with the warm concern for her multitude of friends are clearly seen.

"A Life of Harmony – the extraordinary story of pianist Ruth Ascher" is a softback book of 120 pages with contributions from over 30 people.

It includes 16 black & white photographs, plus colour photos on the cover.

Copies of the book are now available from Sylvia Chumbley, (36 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7LU tel: 947 0762 email: cschumbley@waitrose.com) or from Wordplay, the Caversham bookshop in Prospect Street.

The price, which includes p & p in this country, is £7 per copy.

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## TRIBUTE

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray, who died in June, was a most faithful member of St. Andrew's church, not just in attendance but in the huge contribution she made to the life and worship of the church. Everyone knows about her incredible dedication to the flower arranging but that was not everything.

For example, in the last year of her life Ann took home all of the frontals to our High Altar, one after another, always meticulously planning ahead around the church seasons, knowing when we would next need each one, and spent many, many hours repairing them. In a few years some of them would literally have fallen apart, they were so frayed, but she repaired each one, on her own. An entirely invisible labour of love, saving the church many thousands of pounds. I think she enjoyed it.

Ann Rose Goodall was born on 6 November 1941. She was an only child. Her father died when she was two. Her mother Mabel brought her up on her own for several years. Mabel eventually remarried and Ann got on very well with her stepfather, Edwin. They lived in Littlewick Green near Maidenhead. Ann went to the Piggott secondary school in Wargrave where her school reports said "she did too much talking"...! Ann was proud that her granddaughter Megan also now goes to that same school.

She met Philip when they both worked for Fairey Aviation at White Waltham airfield in 1959. They married in 1961 and emigrated to Australia in 1966, and lived in Perth for nearly five years. Their son Ian was born there in 1967. They all returned to the UK in 1970 and came to live at Conisboro Avenue.

Ann joined St Andrew's shortly afterwards. She was a playgroup teacher here in the early 1970s.

Ann spent a large amount of her time supporting St Andrews church in various ways, involving herself in many activities and events. She was involved in organising church flowers for more than 25 years, and took great pleasure in making arrangements for weddings, funerals and services. Ann went on many church trips and social events with St Andrew's groups and friends. The people at the church were like family to her.

She liked to read newspapers including the Twyford Advertiser to keep track of events in her past and present families' area. She enjoyed reading autobiographies, watching rugby on the TV, doing crosswords, listening to the radio. She liked cooking and enjoyed knitting, crocheting and doing jigsaws. She actively supported many charities and wildlife organisations. She was very patriotic and proud of her English heritage. She was a real character and so her absence will be all the more obvious.

She was mother to Ian and mother-in-law to Janine, grandma to Megan and Robert. Ann's family would like to thank all those who supported her during her last few months including Lucia, Emma, Edith, Diane, Pat, Lorna, Ann and Pauline. Ann, we will miss you.



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