

# Caversham kids get cooking!

During the summer term, a group of up to 20 children aged 7-11 from the Amersham Road estate gathered at its Youth and Community Centre to participate in a weekly cooking club. Known as the ARCC (Amersham Road Cooking Club), it involved a weekly theme which was reflected in the cooking as well as associated craft making and games.

The idea of a cooking club was identified by local children and mums, and supported by local churches (St John's, St Peter's, and the Methodist Churches), with mums and local volunteers helping to plan and run the sessions. Catalyst Housing Association and Reading Borough Council's Thriving Neighbourhood Team helped to train and support those involved.

The climax of the eight week cooking club was a 'Come Dine With Me' event held in July. The children cooked and served a three course meal for the Mayor, local councillor Tom Stanway, a chef from Jamie's Italian restaurant in Reading and representatives from the Council, Catalyst, the local community and churches.

Speaking of the cooking club, local community priest Rev Jeremy Tear said, "It was good to be involved working in partnership as churches with the Council and Catalyst to help realise local people's ideas. I believe the cooking club has helped to further a sense of community on the estate and the partners are looking forward to continuing some kind of work there in the autumn."

*Jeremy Tear*



Photo: Stuart Rider

## Triumphs and Tempests at Caversham Court



Courtesy Friends of Caversham Court

Caversham Court Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag and Heritage Green Flag for the second year running! These prestigious awards are the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces. Many congratulations to head gardener Emily Waters and her team for maintaining the gardens to such a high standard and making them so welcoming.

Congratulations too, to members of the Progress Theatre, who staged Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the gardens from 23rd to 30th July. The run happily coincided with a spell of fine

weather, enabling theatre-goers to enjoy the storms and turbulence on stage while keeping themselves and their picnics dry. The actors and musicians created a spirited and colourful entertainment, the magic on stage deepened by the magical lighting in the gardens as darkness fell.

The Progress Theatre revels in Caversham Court this year are not quite over: members of the theatre will be casting more spells at the Grand Caversham Garden Party on 10th September, this time in Edwardian mode.



In the kitchen

Photo Liz Stephens

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01628 175814919

## 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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### ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre  
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Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the October 2011 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 30th August. The date for the November 2011 issue is Tuesday 4th October 2011. Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the October 2011 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 26th August 2011. The date for the November 2011 issue is Friday 30th September 2011.

# TALKING POINT TAKE A REST

## An editorial view

*Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had completed all the work he had been doing so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. Genesis 2 v 1-3.*

*Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Exodus 20 v 8-11.*

A day of rest and quiet continues to be observed by most Christians on Sundays. Many of us will remember when Sunday really was a special day with shops closed and little entertainment available. Attendance at church was common with whole families attending up to three times a day.

In 1984 Sunday sporting events were allowed for the first time and in 1994 shops were permitted to open. Those two events changed the Sundays we had known; they are lost and gone forever. Many have forgotten the original meaning of Sunday as normal life carries on. Many people now have to work on Sundays and take a day off some other time in the week.

These days more families attend the supermarket on Sunday than church. Busy life goes on 24/7; one more load in the washing-machine, one more lawn-mower taken from the shed, one more car to wash. I am as guilty as the next person in this.

Everywhere people are busy, striving to keep up with all those things that need to be done. Where is the time to slow down, to rest, to stop and think, to enjoy our families? Working too hard can lead to exhaustion and can affect our health.

We need to find time to stop, rest and find a quiet moment in the hustle and bustle of busy lives. A time to reflect, to pray and to re-connect with the living Lord, to be still and hear again the voice of love speaking to us. We can then go back to our commitments with renewed energy and lightness of spirit.

The Sabbath was given by God to be the time for us to rest. We need it more than ever now so for our own sakes we should TAKE A REST.

## 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)

#### Church Street, Reading

10.30am

(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

#### Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School

11.00am Divine Worship

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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## COMMUNITY

## Help Needed

I am currently doing some research into Caversham's history and wonder if one of your readers could help me?

I am interested to know more of the Caversham Literary and Debating Society, which met on Saturday nights in the 1930s, sometimes in St Andrew's hall or in St Peter's School Hall.

I would particularly like to know the date of a talk by Mr A W Wolters, the president, on *How did civilisation spread?* The Rev W F Wood was in the chair. I have found mention of several other meetings but none relating to that particular occasion.

Are there any minutes of the society and when did it close? (Research on the internet has produced details of a similarly named society in Caversham, New Zealand).

I should be grateful for any information. I can be contacted at 26 College Road, Reading RG6 1QB or on dianamackarill@greenbee.net

## Concert in Caversham

The autumn concert will be held in St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights on 15th October 7.30 pm. The three performers will be Ben Hudson (bassoon), Emer McDonough (flute) and accompanist Adrienne Black (harp/sichord/piano).

The concert showcases the talent of Berkshire boy Ben Hudson, a former student of Presentation College and, in 1997, a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year. He is currently co-principal with the Manchester Camerata and principal bassoon with the Northern Chamber Orchestra. Emer McDonough is principal flute with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The programme will include a variety of trios and duos and the ticket price will include refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

To encourage young people to attend classical concerts entry is free to the under 16s. This is a great opportunity to hear excellent professional musicians. Tickets can be bought in advance (reduced rate) from Wordplay in Caversham. For more information and reservations ring Virginia Cullura on: 0118 9463202

Prices: £12 refreshments included in the price (£10 concessions /in advance), under 16s free.

## MISCELLANY

## Guiding Awards

Guiders from across Caversham were presented with their Leadership Qualification and Long Service Awards by the District President, Helen Holloway, herself a former guider from Caversham, at a rather wet barbecue in July. The awards added up to 195 years service, which included the 30 year award for Debbie Tarrant from 1st Emmer Green Brownies. Thanks to all the leadership teams for their hard work and dedication in all the units - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. If you could spare a little time to help - not just at weekly meetings, but with finance, administration, or sharing other skills you may have - please contact cavershamguides@hotmail.co.uk



## APPLE DAY CELEBRATION

The annual open day will be held at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham, RG4 7UW on Sunday 9th October from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

At Cross Lanes we grow over 50 varieties of apples, all different - sweet, sharp, juicy, crisp, nutty, rich, aromatic, complex and delicious. Come along to our open day and you will be able to try many of them. You can never get tired of apples with such a selection. Sweet juicy pears will be out for tasting too.

There are a host of other attractions too. Children will enjoy the apple games and seeing the array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel? See how the fresh apple juice is made and sample the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, jams and jellies with local eggs and plants too.

Take the opportunity to find out about the work that goes into producing the apples by joining one of the guided

walks at 11.00am, 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. Do you have problems with pest and disease or with your pruning? Displays in the barn will answer your questions. Many surprising stories about apples will be there too.

Try your hand at conkers. The Goring, Woodcote and District Lions will be there running the annual Conker Challenge to raise funds to support Lions charitable activities in the local community.

The farm shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open as usual. Tea and refreshments will be available all day.

Entrance and car parking are free. For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see [www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk](http://www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk).

NOTE. If you miss the day, the farm shop is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm until the apples run out in January. Or see us at Farmers' Markets in Reading, Purley, Wallingford, Henley, Abingdon and others.

## Meeting about changes to Caversham bus services

Are you uncertain about new bus routes in Caversham? Are you confused about bus stops in Reading Centre?

Following complaints about lack of clear information about proposed changes to bus routes north of the river, and confusion about bus stops in Reading centre, Caversham Liberal Democrats have invited James Freeman, Manager of Reading Buses, to explain and to answer questions at a public meeting on Monday 5th September at the Baptist Centre, Gosbrook Road, starting at 7.30pm.

All are welcome.

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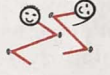
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## Ex Libris

Did you know that Caversham is celebrating a 100 years in its existing form? Well those of you who are world wide web users need only log on to <http://www.caversham100yearson.org.uk> to find out more.

Throughout September, October and November there will be a variety of events including talks, exhibitions, study days etc. If I pick one at random that interests me in particular, the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group will be giving a presentation on Caversham's industrial heritage and providing opportunities to share your reminiscences. This will be held on Friday 28th October, 7.30-10.00 pm in Church House, Caversham.

The library is always my first port of call for local information. And I believe there will be much more in this paper to whet your appetites.

### ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

There will be a talk by Richard Lethbridge, author of the New Shell Guide to Oxfordshire and Berkshire. This will be on September 8th at 7.30 in St James' Church by the Forbury. It is entitled the Evolution of English Church Architecture. (Although the talk is not in Caversham I thought I should mention it as it follows the Reading Catholic Day organised by David Cliffe and centred in Caversham). This will be part of the Heritage Open Days activities in Reading. We are fortunate in Caversham to be able to boast a wide variety of church styles spanning several centuries. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the architectural heritage on our doorstep.

### THE LOVE OF FOOD - INTRODUCING THE READING TOWN MEAL 1 October 2011

Now is the time when we gardeners often find ourselves with a glut of something or another on our hands. Well here is a chance to give some of this produce away or, if you are not gardeners, to enjoy it at its best. On 1st October, a celebration of home grown food and local produce will take place in Forbury Gardens: the very first Reading Town Meal. Food4Families is organising the Reading Town Meal with the support of Reading Borough Council, Reading College (catering department), Living Reading and a host

of local groups and organisations including Thames Valley Farmers Market Cooperative and True Food Co-op. The meal will be cooked by Reading College catering students from produce grown in Food4Families community gardens, by allotment holders and other growers from across Reading.

Among the attractions are:

- A special Farmers' Market, located in the Buttermarket
- Cookery demonstrations by local food champion, Paul Clerehugh of the London Street Brasserie and Ready Steady Cook competition finalists
- Information and demonstrations from local food producers and growers
- Food4Families produce displays and children's scarecrow competition
- Pumpkin competitions; adult, child and group categories
- Family fun and children's entertainments with music from local schools and community bands

To find out more contact Catrin Jones at Food4Families. Tel:01189586692 Email: [catrin@risc.org.uk](mailto:catrin@risc.org.uk)

Whether one is passionate about architecture, archaeology or gardening, it is really important to be passionate about our community life and this piece is a tribute to all who work so hard in their own fields to make our lives so much more meaningful.

## Caversham 100 Years On

### Mobile exhibitions

The exhibition boards have been out and about around Caversham. Large numbers of people came to look at the stalls at St Peter's fete and at the Caversham Festival. In August, Caversham library and the Picture Framer shop kindly offered space. That will be repeated in October with different exhibitions.

The latest exhibition completed is about Caversham village. It shows a dedication to Mary Kift. Without the extraordinary wealth of material which Mary gathered, only a small part of this would have been possible.

### Grand Caversham garden party

The garden party in Caversham Court Gardens, on Saturday 10th September from 12noon to 9pm, promises to be an exciting event. A ferry will operate and a marquee will provide shelter if needed. This will also contain the Caversham Horticultural Society autumn show which will run from 1pm to 4.30pm to allow time for judging (see page 10 for full information).

There will be music and entertainment and Play Rangers for children. Bring a picnic, enjoy a cream tea or glass of Pimms.



CADRA at St Peter's fete.

### More events

September 4 and 11 – The land of Walter Giffard, an epic tale.

September 10 and 11 – Visits to Caversham Baptist Church

September 11 – Tours of Caversham Court gardens and St Peter's Church

September 17 – 'Write your Memories,' a creative writing workshop

September 24 to 30 – St John's Church open for exhibitions

October 28 – Caversham's Industrial Heritage

November 9 – 'Caversham - a century'

November 12 – 'Caversham's heritage', WEA study day.

Full details are in leaflets around Caversham or at [www.Caversham100yearson.org.uk/Events](http://www.Caversham100yearson.org.uk/Events)

## WAS IT A CHAPEL? THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE MEDICAL MUSEUM

### History of the Museum Building

Visitors to the Museum at the Royal Berks Hospital are always impressed by the ornate wooden roof beams and many ask if it was originally the hospital chapel. In fact it was the hospital laundry, built in 1882. The architect was Joseph Morris, who also created the splendid chapel below the original main staircase. His design for the laundry is on show in the Museum, together with evocative photographs of the machinery and workers in action. The laundry closed in the 1960s and became a neglected store room. When the Museum was being established the Manifold Trust contributed handsomely towards restoration work on this lovely building.

### The Museum

The Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre (registered charity No.1084890) first opened the Museum in 2001. Then with financial help, particularly from Heritage Lottery Fund, we completely redesigned and expanded in 2008. The new design is in modules, ranging from surgery and anaesthesia to pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, dentistry and military medicine. An audio history unit provides memories of times

past. By far the most popular display is the iron lung and we recently acquired a 1940s training film showing the care of a real polio patient. We show this on a small screen actually on the iron lung so you can see exactly how it all worked. It is a moving reminder of how lucky we all are to have been immunised with the polio vaccine.

### Opening Times

Our Open Days are on the first and third Sundays of each month 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Laminated information sheets give a wealth of information and the volunteer Museum team are all ex-hospital staff, so visitors are given expert guidance. Admission is free, but donations are very welcome. We also welcome specially arranged group visits, organised by Betty Messer (01189549371 [bettytmesser@aol.com](mailto:bettytmesser@aol.com)). Signposting directs you to the Museum entrance in the North Block basement corridor. Afterwards, it is only 100 yards to the North Block foyer. Why not also visit Joseph Morris's beautiful hospital chapel?

Dr Marshall Barr  
Hon Archivist, Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre

## Spitfire draws the crowds at the Caversham Church Fete

An impressive flypast by a World War II Supermarine Spitfire, part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF), made this year's Caversham Church Fete an event to remember. All eyes were on the plane, a veteran of the Battle of



Spitfire flies overhead.

Britain, as it flew once along the Thames and then twice over the heads of fete-goers in Caversham Court. The sight brought memories to those old enough to remember the plane in its heyday and admiring looks from all.

The flypast was the high point of a very successful afternoon organised by the congregation and friends of St Peter's and St Margaret's churches. The fete attracted an estimated 2,000 people to an afternoon filled with entertainment, games and stalls. The total raised was £9,000 – a record amount for this annual event. It will be split between the churches, a number of charitable causes and the work of the Church of England.

Attractions included music from the Berkshire Maestros Holst brass band, Morris dancing by the Kennet Morris Men and Fred in the Shed with his irreverent mix of magic, humour and ventriloquism. There were also stalls representing various local organisations, including the Caversham and District Residents' Association, the Friends of Caversham Court, Good Neighbours, the Caversham Festival and Rescue Remedies, a charity dedicated to helping find new homes for unwanted dogs.

On behalf of the organising committee, Nigel Smith, committee chairman, thanked the Round Table, the Rotary Club, the St Peter's Brownie pack, the 3rd Reading Scout Group and all other friends who gave their time and energy to make the afternoon such a success. He also thanked Reading Borough Council for the use of the gardens and Walmsley Estate Agency for their long-standing commitment to this event, and also for sponsoring the balloon race. He described the fete as an opportunity for all residents of Caversham to join together to celebrate the sense of community they enjoy and to reinforce the central role St Peter's and St Margaret's churches play in that community.

The aircraft which made the flypast was Spitfire Vb, AB910, flown by Squadron Leader Duncan Mason. BBMF do not charge for flypasts but are continually raising money for charitable causes. If you saw the flypast and would like to show your appreciation by helping Duncan in his latest fundraising venture you can do so by visiting: <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/bbmfandrafat>



Overview.



Bric a brac stall.

### Big Band Concert

The Mills Tones Dance Band will be playing the sounds of the Glen Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington Big Band era at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, Caversham, RG4 8EB on Saturday 17th September from 7:30 pm. Dance or just listen!

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## CHURCHES

# St Barnabastide Dedication of Quiet Garden

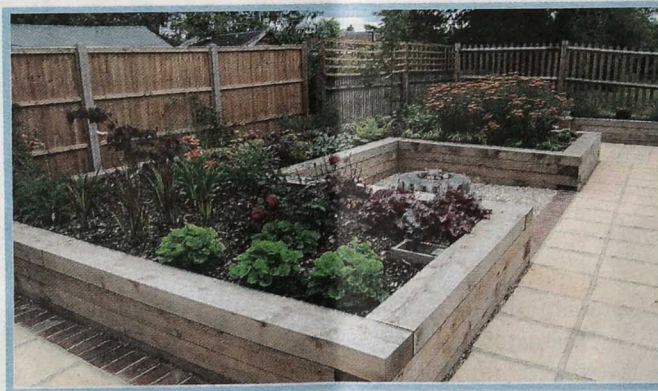
In a special Patronal Festival service of hymns and prayers the Quiet Garden at St Barnabas was dedicated on 11th June. With many extra chairs the congregation filled the permanent and extra seating in the garden. The vicar, Revd Derek Chandler, with lay minister Elizabeth Gash, dedicated each of the 11 themed beds with an appropriate prayer and a symbolic sprinkling of Holy Water. This is no ordinary garden: developed from an untidy piece of land to the north of the church, it completes the Parish Centre development, itself dedicated just two years previously.



O. Jewiss

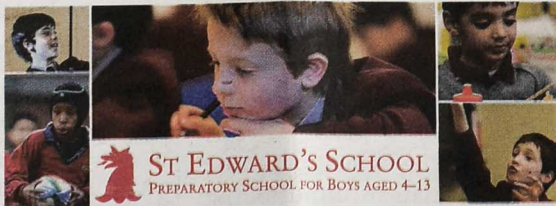
Those wishing to visit the Quiet Garden may do so when the Parish Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 8.30 and 11.00am or on Wednesday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30am, when there is a welcome cup of coffee. The Quiet Garden is also open at the end of any service. An illustrated little booklet gives details of the themes and planting of each of the beds and a prayer that helps to engage spiritually with each.

Rarely do St Barnabas Patronal Festival and a major Church Festival fall on adjacent days. This year they merged together like a seamless thread. No sooner had the congregation dedicated the Quiet Garden than we were into Pentecost giving thanks for the First Fruits. The Quiet Garden in its first year is indeed a first fruit. The special preacher at Pentecost, Revd Chris Russell - renowned for his work with young people at St Laurence's Church in Reading - said that the Holy Spirit comes to God's people. As individuals we could not change the world but communities can change the world. As a local Christian community we could be transforming in our locality and thereby begin to transform the world.



O. Jewiss

The photos show an overall view of the Quiet Garden and a more detailed look at the raised beds.



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## CHURCHES

## Anointing of the sick at Our Lady and St Anne's

Many sick and housebound parishioners of Our Lady and St Anne's parish came to church on a Sunday in July for the annual service of anointing the sick organised by the conference of the SVP.

Prayers for the sick were said and readings from scripture were read, then hymns were sung during the laying-on of hands. The rosary was recited as Father Giles, assisted by Deacon Mike, went round the church to anoint all who wished him to, using Holy Oil of Chrism which had been blessed during Holy Week.

Benediction then followed with the singing of Latin hymns, favourites of the mainly elderly congregation.

All then retired to the Cenacle to enjoy the tea provided by members of the SVP. Added to the pleasure of sitting and being waited on was the joy of meeting and catching up with friends not often seen.

## World Youth Day

August was a very exciting month for three young ladies from the parish of Our Lady and St. Anne in Caversham heading to Madrid for World Youth Day 2011 to join a group of 130 young people from Portsmouth Diocese. They were among 3,800 pilgrims coming from the UK. In Madrid, two million young people were expected to attend from age 16 upwards from all over the world - more than those who attended the World Cup in South Africa 2010!

World Youth Day is the international gathering of Young Catholics which happens every two to three years in different cities around the world.

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## READING CATHOLIC STUDY DAY

Reading local studies librarian David Cliffe organized a Catholic study day in July, in collaboration with the churches of Our Lady and St Anne in Caversham and St James in Reading. The day started close to the possible site of the mediaeval shrine of St Mary in Caversham, and ended next to the ruins of the Abbey: the history of Reading and of Catholicism embodied in these two places.

Mediaevalist Julia Boorman explored the historical sources describing the site of the shrine of St Mary, which is now thought to have been close to where Dean's Farm is today. The fabulously wealthy shrine was splendid with relics donated by pilgrims, as described by the infamous Dr John London, who was sent in 1538 to close the shrine and strip it of its valuables. The chapel of St Anne, on old Caversham bridge, suffered a similar fate; stones from the chapel were later rescued from the river and are now built into the restored shrine of Our Lady in St Anne's church. Reading Abbey's fate is well known.

Sheila Ephraim looked at the fate of Catholics in Reading after the Reformation, focusing on the effect of the Penal Laws of the 1570s-1590s. The degree of persecution varied: penalties for recusancy - the civil offence of refusing to attend Anglican services - were not strictly enforced unless there was some external threat which made Catholics suspect. Well-known Catholic families such as the Blounts of Mapledurham maintained their high status; the only recusant who lost his lands during Elizabeth's reign was Francis Englefield, who was accused of treason. Priests, concealed in the houses of Catholic gentry, celebrated mass in secret. Some families were split by the strife - Thomas Vachell was the commissioner who suppressed Reading Abbey, yet his sons remained recusants.

Behind the solemn title *The Return of the Legal Practice of Catholicism to Reading (1790-1840)* lay the fascinating story of how hundreds of French priests landed up in the King's Arms Hotel at the top of Castle Street. Lindsay and John Mullaney explained that in the late 18th century, when the Catholic Relief Acts were passed, George III needed the support of Catholics in the country and more particularly in the army for the war against France. Meanwhile, the church in France was undergoing as tumultuous a revolution as the state itself, and thousands of French priests fled from France all over Europe and beyond. Some later returned to their homeland, but by 1802 there were still 342 French priests in Reading. At the end of the 19th century Florence Crawshay of Caversham Park converted to Catholicism and invited a group of French Sisters of Mercy to come to live in Caversham. The parish of Caversham developed from the nunnery, and in 1903 St Anne's church was consecrated in South View Avenue, with Mrs Crawshay a generous benefactor.

## East Africa Appeal

Caversham Heights Methodist Church has held a number of events and collections in support of the appeal to remedy the terrible famine conditions in the Horn of Africa.

So far the money raised has reached a total of £2160 and gift aid will add about another £310. There will be more donations at a later date as more money continues to come in.

This sum was reached by retiring collections after services in the church and by an Open Garden party held at the home of Ken and Barbara Macrae on Sunday 17th July. They organised a cream tea (at very short notice) and invited church members, their neighbours and enlisted the help of Churches Together in Caversham to make this event an ecumenical affair. A leaflet drop in the area ensured the event was well advertised.

The sun shone and the event was very well attended by about 150 people. There was a bring and buy stall and a raffle. The sum of £1500 was raised.

We record our thanks to Ken and Barbara, to their helpers and to all who attended.

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**CHURCHES****St Margaret's, Mapledurham – Three Firsts in 12 Days**

All those who worship at St Margaret's, Mapledurham, had an exceptionally busy time during the latter part of July. Everybody had a part to play, whether it was as bellringers, flower arrangers, caterers, cleaners, musicians, readers or as any of the other unheralded, but necessary, people who make sure that everything goes to plan during worship.

St Margaret's patronal festival was celebrated on the evening of Wednesday 20th July, when we welcomed Canon Roger Royle, the broadcaster and author, to preach. The Rector, Revd Dan Tyndall, was President at the service and he was assisted at the eucharist by Canon Roger and by Revd Keith Knee Robinson.

Before Canon Roger became so familiar to television and radio audiences, he was Conduct (senior chaplain) at Eton College. St Margaret's has had a direct association with the College since its foundation by Henry VI in 1440 and a long line of Eton headmasters and fellows were, on retirement, rectors of Mapledurham throughout much of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Canon Roger is newly appointed by the current provost and fellows of Eton to maintain a link with St Margaret's and those other ancient English parish churches which have traditional links with the College.

On the following Sunday, we welcomed the Bishop of Reading, Bishop Andrew Proude, as celebrant and preacher, on his first visit to Mapledurham. He came in the more humble role of a parish priest, rather than that of bishop, and was assisted at the altar by Revd Keith Knee Robinson. Thankfully, the weather was warm and sunny on this occasion and all who attended the service enjoyed refreshments in the churchyard afterwards, giving Bishop Andrew and his wife the opportunity to meet some of his new flock.

On the last Sunday of the month, the Revd Dr Graeme Fancourt, curate in the parish, paid his first visit to St Margaret's in his enhanced role as ordained priest. He preached, and was the celebrant at the eucharist, assisted by Revd Keith Knee Robinson.

St Margaret's, Mapledurham, has been a place of Christian worship for well over 800 years and is visited by people from all over the world, as the visitors' book regularly testifies. The eucharist is celebrated here each Sunday at 11.00am and on other special occasions. The church is open daily throughout the year for visitors and for quiet meditation and reflection.



St. Margaret's, Mapledurham, a place of Christian worship for well over 800 years and still a place of peace and tranquility, today.

**St Peter's choir**

St Peter's choir is a competent group of about 30 singers who rehearse on Friday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30pm (juniors) and 7.30pm until about 9.30pm for adults. The choir sings at the 9.45am Eucharist and at the 6.30pm evening service. At least once a month the choir sings a fully choral service either Evensong or a Mass setting. Choral services have included Schubert's 'Mass in C' and Advent, Christmas and Epiphany carol services.

Once or twice a year the choir travels to sing services elsewhere (most recently in the cathedrals at Coventry and Bristol) and often performs outside of the church such as at secular and Christmas concerts. There is also a church

music group who play at the 9.45am service several times a year.

The choir tackles a diverse musical diet from traditional cathedral repertoire through to Taizé and Iona material, African chants and worship songs.

Members of the choir follow the RSCM medal scheme and there are at present bronze, silver and gold award holders within its ranks.

There is an active social calendar including summer barbecues and Christmas parties. All music and instruction is provided free.

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St. Peter's Church Choir, Caversham, 2010

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ENVIRONMENT

# Buddleja

It was about 1958 that I first saw a buddleja, the "butterfly bush" in the garden of a cottage near where I lived, and I made a point of looking at it over the wall whenever I passed by, in the hope of seeing butterflies feeding on the flowers. Those flowers continued into September, and I was not disappointed.

In those days we used to spell its name "buddleia," but now the spelling preferred by botanists is with a 'j'. The botanical name, *buddleja davidii*, commemorates two naturalists. The Rev Adam Buddle (1662-1715) was an Essex parson and naturalist, and Père Armand David (1826-1900) a French missionary and naturalist. Père David worked in China, and was the first to discover many plants and animals new to western science.

The shrub was brought to France in the 1890s, where it was cultivated and 'improved' as a garden subject, and it was the 'improved' buddleja which was brought to this country around 1900 by nurserymen. By the 1920s, it had escaped into the wild, and was beginning its rampage over the land. This is graphically illustrated in the two editions of the *Atlas of the British Flora*, published in 1962 and 2002. There seem to have been two centres from which it spread, one in the Bristol area and the other in the London area. Yet there are still areas of Scotland it hasn't yet reached.

The idea for this article came into my head whilst weeding some gravel in my garden, and having to pull up several buddleja seedlings. It wasn't many weeks since I'd last weeded it, yet here were several seedlings, many yards from the nearest bush, about a foot high, and firmly rooted.

Back indoors, I reached down that wonderful book,



*Weeds and Aliens*, published back in 1961 but still very relevant. Its author, Sir Edward Salisbury, had been born in 1886, and held posts at various universities before becoming director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. By all accounts he was a rather formal Edwardian gentleman with a liking for suits, stiff collars and spats.

Nevertheless, he was a practical scientist. He tells us that like many invasive plants, the fruits of the buddleja are readily carried along in air currents, and he produced a table, showing the time it took for the seeds or fruits of various plants to fall ten feet, in a draught-free room. Rosebay willowherb took 43.4 seconds on average. Gallant soldiers took 3.4 seconds, and buddleja came somewhere in the middle, at 5.4 seconds.

I cannot help imagining Sir Edward, properly dressed, standing on a step-ladder with a seed in one hand, a stopwatch in the other, and a notebook close by!

Sadly now, we learn that the buddleja is proving something of a headache for Network Rail in southern England. In China, the shrub grows in rocks and scree. Here, it likes railway ballast (and also the gravel in my garden). According to press reports, Network Rail claims its woes are compounded by the more ecologically friendly methods it now uses for weed control, which are not so effective. There are worries about the effects of the seeds germinating in the walls of cuttings, embankments, bridges and viaducts, and the roots expanding to crack the joints in the masonry. To cap it all, when it does have a "blitz" on buddleja in an area, Network Rail comes in for criticism from nature-lovers - an unenviable situation.

Happy Wanderer

## Clayfield Copse

Many people enjoy the walks around Clayfield fields, which this summer have had spectacular wild flowers. 'The Friends of' were asked if they could arrange refurbishment of a bench alongside Blackhouse Wood and restore some of the view from that bench in memory of a loved one. The Friends considered the plan. The ash had grown particularly thickly there in the last few years and had obstructed light and the view across the field and there were solid brambles along the path. With consultation with Reading parks dept, they and midweek volunteers, CRoW, created a glade opposite the bench which is now a very pleasant place to sit. The grass and flowers will soon grow where only brambles grew and the field beyond can be seen through the trees. Before and after pictures can be seen on [www.econetreading.org.uk](http://www.econetreading.org.uk). Most of the ash trees on the fields will be left to grow naturally, but here and there, should be open sunny glades, vistas and wide rides to allow the flowers, grasses, birds and myriads of insects there to thrive. The wood taken was cut into stakes and hedge laying materials, some to be used on site, some to be used at the Wolf Trust later in the year. There is also a small log and brush pile habitat. The rest, the brush, will be part of another habitat pile or burned on the bonfire on November 6th. All will be welcome.



J Oliver

P.S Feasts of blackberries are available along many pathways and hedgerows.

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## CLUBS

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

August was a quiet month for the Guild with only a strawberry tea and a picnic in the park to enjoy. The park in question was the Discovery Centre at Thatcham, with lots of ducks and other wild fowl.

The regular monthly meetings start again on 15th September with a talk from Mr Darren Curtis on child/parent (or in our case grandparent) psychology. Later in the month some of us will be going to London to see The Lion King.

New members and visitors are always welcome. We meet at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Rd, Caversham on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm.

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## Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Members have been enjoying a variety of interesting talks every month this year. As well as Branch meetings, a representative has attended every meeting of Berkshire Townswomen's Guild Federation in Reading, where members learn of the Berkshire Guild's various activities and are invited to attend the national meeting and events, such as national Scrabble competitions and carol services, held around the country. The national AGM in June was also attended by a Caversham Afternoon Guild delegate. All these events remind members that Townswomen's Guild is a national organisation, whose mandates at each AGM can influence local councils and Parliament.

In December members will be celebrating the branch's fiftieth anniversary with suitable events.

Monthly meetings take place on the third Thursday at 2.00pm at Caversham Baptist Church Hall. All ladies are welcome to join.

## Rosehill Women's Institute

The well attended July meeting was opened by President Mrs Brenda Caborn who welcomed members and visitors. Secretary Mrs Margaret Seal read out all the notices, after which Brenda introduced our speaker Mr Peter Smith. His talk was entitled The Royal Collection.

This was a very interesting talk. Peter had on display six scale models of the Royal Horse-drawn coaches including the one used for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Peter told members that each coach had taken about 2 years to complete. They are so detailed and very accurate. First he has to take detailed measurements and photos. These are then drawn to scale. Each carriage is made and assembled and then taken to pieces again so that they can be hand painted with 6 coats of paint. The paint is supplied by the Palace which takes a very keen interest in the models (eventually to be displayed at the Palace). All moving parts work. They are exquisite models. Each coach is kept in its own hand crafted box for transporting to exhibitions and craft fairs. There followed a question and answer session with Peter. The meeting closed with a raffle and refreshments.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall starting at 2pm. Visitors are always welcome

## Caversham Women's Institute

'It's in the post' was the theme of Caversham's July meeting. The speaker, Mr Rogers, showed a very comprehensive set of slides on the workings of the modern post office sorting methods. This was contrasted with historical pictures of how the post was delivered, the introduction of '1p' stamps and some unusual and remote post boxes.

The competition 'an unusual stamp' was won by Margaret Cameron who recalled her student job sorting post for Christmas. Runners up were the two Doreens!!

Reminders of the summer garden parties were given with the hope of good weather and meetings start again on September 15th.

## Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

On Wednesday 14th September, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club will be holding a demonstration by Jackie Page entitled "That's Capital", starting at 7.30pm, doors opening 6.45pm. The venue as ever is Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Rd., entrance £4.50 for visitors, who are always very welcome. Plants,

books and a sales table will be available, and also refreshments. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and is very much enjoyed by those who love all things floral. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400

## Caversham Horticultural Society

This year's autumn show is not being held at our usual school venue but will form part of the 'Great Caversham Garden Party' at Caversham Court on Saturday 10th September. While the garden party celebrations start at mid day, the society's marquee will open to visitors at 1.00pm to allow time for the setting up and judging of the exhibits.

Exhibiting in this show is not restricted to members. Residents (within the RG4 postal district) are invited to exhibit in a number of open categories. These are listed in the show schedule which can be viewed on this link to the society's web site [www.cavershamhorticultural.org.uk/Show%20schedule.htm](http://www.cavershamhorticultural.org.uk/Show%20schedule.htm) Alternatively contact the show secretary Dora Gombos at [dora@foreverevents.co.uk](mailto:dora@foreverevents.co.uk) for details.

## Reading Gardeners

Meetings are held in Caversham Primary School Hall on alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm

The Winter Programme begins on October 5th when Michael Keith-Lucas will give a talk on 'Pollination- the sex life of plants'.

On Wednesday October 19th there is a special meeting 'An Evening with Alys Fowler'.

Alys is an author, former Gardener's World presenter and was recently seen in the TV coverage of the Hampton Court Flower Festival. She will give a talk on 'The Edible Garden'. The meeting will begin at 7pm with drinks and canapés, followed by the talk and questions at 7.45pm. There will also be a raffle and a sale of greetings cards and prints by Jenny Jowett. Tickets for this special event (including a glass of wine or soft drink and canapés) will be £3 for members and £5 for non-members. Apply for tickets to Gill Betts, 38, Priest Hill, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RY Tel. 0118 9477125 and please enclose a s.a.e.

For further information see [readinggardenersclub.org.uk](http://readinggardenersclub.org.uk)

## The Reading & District Probus Club

The summertime lunch with the members' ladies as guests was an opportunity for Rachael McCrimble to talk about the way monitoring older people at home is conducted (a subject dear to the older generation). Anecdotes and amusing talks made luncheon an enjoyable gathering.

One meeting's subject - Global Warming - was, is and will be controversial. Science is a wonderful thing; it can prove two opposites, both of which are a hypothesis of any research. Such was the case when Peter Kirby gave his talk complete with graphs and charts proving there has been, is, and could be a global warming increase of 0.005°C per decade. Records at monitoring stations round the world suggest CO2 is probably the culprit. However, global warming is also affected by natural, terrestrial, solar (sun spots) forces, and the galaxies. The results show man-made CO2 is about 0.015% of the atmosphere. Statistics indicate that water vapour is 95% of all warming gases. So what about CO2? It is beneficial, as life could not exist without it. The answers should be 'breathe in, but don't breathe out!' QED

If you are a retired chap, would like a cosmic lunch once a month, record your result with the secretary Raymond Head on 0118 941 1445 or email [Raymond-head@supernet.com](mailto:Raymond-head@supernet.com)

## Caversham Heights Society

The new season for Caversham Heights Society will open on 21 September with a talk by Dr David George entitled Jewels of the Sea, an exploration of coral reefs. A short AGM will precede this talk and at all meetings there is an opportunity for a coffee and chat beforehand. Meetings begin at 8pm (7.30pm on 21 September). The programme of fortnightly talks includes subjects ranging from the Cutty Sark to the World of Bees, from managing a National Trust property to gardening for the disabled. The Christmas event is an organ recital and the programme of visits includes a London theatre trip and National Trust properties Sheffield Park Gardens in Sussex and Waddesdon Manor (a magnificent French style Chateau) in Buckinghamshire. As in previous years, a visit to a Promenade Concert will take place in the summer.

The mini holiday next May will be to Northumberland from 21 to 25 May; the programme will be announced later. Further information on the Society, including the full talks programme can be found on the website, [www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.cav-hts-soc.fsnet.co.uk), or by telephoning 0118 934 5004.

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The successful applicant will need to be IT literate (and able to learn new software), have good organisation and communication skills, and be able to work alone as well as to deadlines.

The secretary will also need to be sympathetic to the Christian faith, deal discretely and confidentially with people and issues, and have good interpersonal skills.

*For more details please contact* Rev Dan Tyndall, Rector, 0118 947 9505 or dan@ctmparish.org.uk

*Applications should be received by Thursday 15 September.  
Interviews will be held in Caversham on Tuesday 20 September*



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The job as Project Co-Ordinator will involve learning about its potential from a similar local project, developing appropriate links within schools, growing a team of volunteers from across the churches, assisting in delivering sessions and establishing a sound financial footing for the future.

The co-ordinator will need excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to work alone and to deadlines, have good IT skills and the initiative to create opportunities.

The successful applicant will need to be sympathetic both to the aims of the project and to the Christian faith and will also need a suitable working environment at home.

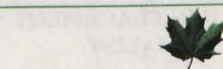
*For more details please contact* Rev Dan Tyndall on 947 9505 or dan@ctmparish.org.uk

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