

# Grand Caversham garden party

Grey skies could not dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds of visitors who came to Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 10th September for the Grand Caversham Garden Party. Many entered into the Edwardian spirit with a fine show of hats, waistcoats and flounces, led by promenading players from Progress Theatre. The Right Worshipful Mayor of Reading, Debs Edwards arrived by ferry preceded by a noisy demonstration of "suffragettes" and went on to present prizes to winners in the Caversham Horticultural Society autumn show. During the afternoon the High Society Jazz band kept feet tapping. They were followed by a local choir, Rivarate, and the Musikissmo folk and roots band in the evening. Traditional games kept adults and children alike entertained. The Brickwork Poets read verses specially written for Caversham, and in the marquee, the full set of exhibition boards produced for the Caversham 100 Years On project were on show. Cream teas served by the Tea Kiosk charities were a popular draw, as were the Pimms and canapés served in the early evening.



Busy in the marquee.



Enjoying the exhibits.



Dressed for the occasion.



Guessing the weight of the cabbage.



The Brickwork Poets reading in the Vinery.



Musikissmo round off the evening.

*Photos by Carolyn Jenkins & Helen Lambert*

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### ANGLICAN

Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.  
Tel: 947 8239.

www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

Revd Nigel Jones, St Andrews Vicarage,  
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788

www.standrewscaversham.org

St Peter, St Margaret, St John

Revd Dan Tyndall

The Rectory, 20 Church Rd, Caversham RG4 7AD  
Tel: 947 9505

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

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St John's Vicarage, St John's Road,  
Caversham RG4 5AN Tel: 946 2884

Revd Graeme Fancourt

18 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham RG4 7DD  
Tel: 947 8450

Revd Marion Pyke

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

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Revd 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)

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Fr Giles Goward, The Presbytery,  
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Fr Bob Devaney, Tel: 07786 836146

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## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the December 2011 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 1st November. The date for the January 2011 issue is Tuesday 22nd November 2011. Email address as above.

Advertising copy for the December 2011 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 28th October 2011. The date for the January 2011 issue is Friday 18th November 2011.

## TALKING POINT

by

Heather Wilson

### A Life to emulate

*"What Difference Does my Belief Make to my Life?"*

*"First of all, we all have to have a belief in someone or something. Maybe we put our belief in and trust in our own ability. My belief is in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and a true belief brings faith in that Person. It is that faith that holds a major part in my life and helps me through every day.*

*"All things are possible with God; after all he is my creator and knows all about me, so I can ask him for help in every way while I put my trust in him. I have proved this so much in my life, especially when difficulties arise, He is always there ready to guide me and lead me to the right answer, when I ask him in faith, both in times of happiness and times of sadness.*

*"Especially so since my husband died, when I suddenly felt very alone, without the support of my lifelong partner. But my faith in God was still with me, and has helped me through, giving me the courage to go on day by day. I ask him for guidance and he is always there to give it, when I put my trust in Him. He has promised in 'His Book' to be with me always and I can truly say my life is far happier & fulfilled having belief and trust in God. But my faith has to be fed and kept alive, and this I can do by reading and understanding 'His Book' 'The Bible' and worshipping with His people.*

*"One verse I love is Proverbs 3:5 which reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your paths."*

*"Life is so much easier for me knowing I have a reservoir of blessings available through putting my trust in God. But my prayers are not all answered just as I want them, because God knows what is best for me. So I have to wait, but looking back I can see how He has 'directed my path' and continue to thank him for His daily care"*

The above quotation was read out at a funeral. The lady whose funeral it was had written this and read it out when her husband died.

It's hard to know who or what to trust today. The news has been full of the mobile phone hacking scandal. The public's trust in the media has been shattered, and no-one has said, "Sorry" yet. The thirst for salacious headlines has come at a cost, especially to those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. Without a belief that includes a strong moral compass in our lives, we just live for ourselves.

This lady's trust in God meant that she lived a life that had meaning and purpose and a clear direction. If we have God in our lives then we will love others as He does, and not be afraid to speak out about injustice and corruption. What a life to emulate and what a better world it would be if we did!

*Heather Wilson is a Baptist Minister in Training and is at Caversham Park Church.*

## 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  
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#### Gosbrook Road

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#### Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

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#### 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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# Beneath Caversham Court

A great deal of work has gone into researching the history of Caversham Court in recent years, and I have followed with interest the changes to the gardens, and the marking out of the foundations of the old house. Recently, while researching something else, I came across this photograph, which surprised me.

I had not known that when the house was demolished, in 1933, all these fragments of a medieval stone building were discovered in the foundations.

The picture was in the volume of the Local History Recording Scheme covering Caversham. Local historians from across Berkshire were invited to submit pages, and the scheme ran from the 1920s to the 1960s. I believe that two copies were made of everything, and one set of volumes was kept in the Berkshire Record Office, and the other in the Central Library. There is nothing at all for some small parishes, but for Caversham there is a great deal – partly because one of the instigators of the scheme, Mr. C. B. Willcocks, lived in St. Peter's Avenue in Caversham.

In his article on Caversham Court, formerly the Old Rectory, he wrote: "In 1933, when Caversham Old Rectory was demolished, I noticed that internally, running parallel with the river, was the base of a thick wall built of stone, etc., which appeared to be the remains of an earlier building. . . ." Some of the stones in this wall were gathered together and photographed, and that is what we are looking at here.

This discovery raised a number of questions.

Was there a medieval building on this site, and if so, what was it? Or were these stones brought from somewhere else, and used to form the foundations of Caversham Court? If this was the case, where could the stones have come from? Was it the Chapel of St. Mary or St. Peter's Church in Caversham, or one of the bridge chapels, or could it have been Reading Abbey? And what happened to the stones? There is still a lot to find out about Caversham in the Middle Ages.

In the same volume of the LHRs are two articles from the 1920s by the then Rector of Caversham, the Rev. W. W. Longford. Unfortunately, these appear to contradict one another. In 1929 he wrote that Caversham Court "incorporates the medieval Rectory of Caversham, which faces west down the garden." But two years earlier he had written that the medieval rectory was at the bottom of the garden of the present rectory, a timber-framed building. It had disappeared without trace, except for a water pump. Interestingly, the present-day list of listed buildings states that what is still the rectory was built in 1843, but the wall surrounding the garden is much older, and must have surrounded an earlier house.

And incidentally, yet another article about Caversham Court in this volume says that in 1928, Caversham Court was being used as a club. The directory for the following year bears this out: the entry reads: "Caversham Court Club. A. Wright, Secretary." Happy Wanderer



## COMPANY SECRETARY

The current Company Secretary of Caversham Christian News Ltd (The Caversham Bridge) is moving away from Caversham and we need a replacement to take over from her as soon as possible.

The key duties of the role are:

1. To prepare and minute three or four board meetings per year.
2. As designated company secretary, to prepare and submit annual returns and any other statutory requirements to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

Total time commitment is in the region of 15-20 hours per year centred around each of the board meetings.

If you are interested and would like to talk about it, the present secretary would be happy to discuss the role in more detail. Apply to Marjorie Tillman c/o The Parish Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX. Email: office@ctmparish.org.uk.

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## Cafecito CD

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# Ex Libris

## HARVESTS AND FESTIVALS

There is nothing like being there.

The Caversham 100 Years On celebrations and reminiscences filled our lives with a diversity of events and entertainments to satisfy every taste.

Perhaps the spirit of participation is infectious. The Caversham Allotment and Garden Association enjoyed a record breaking number of entries. It was heartening to see so many people coming along to the annual show at St. John's Hall; far more than in preceding years.

In case you haven't come across this organisation it is open to anyone for a very modest annual membership fee of £2.00, (£1.00 for pensioners). You can not only enjoy the companionship of fellow gardeners, but also benefit from remarkable reductions in costs at the Garden Shed on the Henley Road Allotment every Sunday morning. There is also the opportunity to come to the monthly meeting at Church House where a variety of speakers cover a range of topics over the course of a year. For instance on November 8th, at 7.30, Anthony Powell will be giving a talk on 'Plant Cover.' Earlier this year the Head Gardener from Basildon Park gave an informative and entertaining talk on his work at our local National Trust property. The Society also organises outings to events and gardens.



The association's record-breaking show.

## THE TOWN MEAL

Do you remember our Indian Summer? It coincided with the Town Meal on the first of October. Organised by Food4Families, based at RISC, in collaboration with Reading Council, the idea was to show just how, by pooling our resources, we can produce healthy locally grown food and feed a large number of people. The Forbury Gardens resounded to the music of local bands. Over a thousand people enjoyed a free lunch prepared by catering students from Reading College. Paul Clerehugh of the London Street Brasserie and Reading Steady Cook finalists Ben Zagorski and Rick Wyatt gave cookery demonstrations. Reading Leisure and Sport offered Zumba exercise taster sessions. Tips and information on food growing were on hand from a variety of local groups and individuals.

With the increasing cost of living, growing one's own vegetables is not only healthy and enjoyable, but makes economic sense. For example, from an investment of about £10 this year I grew over 150 kgs of potatoes. At an average cost of 50p per kg at a supermarket, that alone was a saving of over £50, even taking into account a bag of compost or two.

Caversham should be proud of boasting so many great gardeners. In the recent Reading in Bloom competition Caversham residents won several awards, totalling about half of those on offer! Among several winners first prizes went to John and Alwyn Scholfield, (Best Kept Allotment) and Piotr Olszanecki, (Front Garden under 12ft). Our youngsters also demonstrated their green fingers. Congratulations to New Bridge Nursery School. The pupils here not only gained a gold award but also topped the lists in Reading as a whole.

That brings me back to how I started. If you are not sure about gardening why not join one of our local horticultural groups? If our nursery children can do it, so can you.



Town meal at the Forbury.

## NAG

Neighbourhood Action Groups work to make our community a more pleasant place to live. I am sure all readers of this paper work for this end. We may not always agree on the best way to achieve it but we do agree on being good neighbours. So if you want to be a bit more active why not go along to the NAG public meeting at the New Testament Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th November. This is sponsored by the Council's Safer Communities Unit and will be an opportunity to find out what is being done to improve our area and to have your say.

There is a web site [www.surveymonkey.com/s/LGKRQFQ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LGKRQFQ). This will lead you to a survey about the area and how you think it could be improved. I have to admit my current pet hate is noise. Be it late night parties, fireworks at midnight or 'joy' planes spoiling our summer skies, we seem to live surrounded by frenetic selfishness and lack of consideration. Perhaps I will be accused of just this very fault for being intolerant.

## BEING THERE

I began by saying that there is nothing quite like 'being there.' Taking part in our community activities, influencing the quality of our life, is always worth the effort. I am, however, reminded of the Peter Seller's film of that name. If you don't know the film take a look. Perhaps in these difficult financial and social times there is a wider message for us all.

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## Donation to Self Help Africa

It is usual for the board of the Caversham Christian News Ltd to make one donation locally and the other to somewhere abroad. The international charity chosen this year is Self Help Africa. When my husband died the charity we selected to which people might wish to donate was Self Help Africa, and the board unanimously agreed that Caversham Bridge should give £1,000 to Self Help Africa.

### Economic empowerment

The aim of the charity is 'economic empowerment for rural Africa' and it operates in nine countries. Of those nine, Ethiopia and Ghana have achieved most in reducing poverty and hunger. In Ethiopia seed co-operatives are producing good quality seed stock and ensuring that farmers are getting it at the right time. In Eritrea farmer groups are working together to store collected rainwater and establish large-scale irrigation.

In Burkina Faso rural communities are recultivating land to increase productivity. In Malawi a plentiful supply of fish, fruit and vegetables have been produced from small fish ponds excavated on their farms and available water has been used to irrigate small fruit and vegetable plots. In the ponds they rear tilapia fish for sale. The proceeds have gone towards goats, new homes and extended plots.

### Savings and Credit

Families can improve their lot by joining Self Help Africa's rural savings and credit programmes. These target women, training them in management, administration and leadership so that they can form savings and credit co-operatives which enable them to establish small income-generating enterprises.

In Gogne in Eritrea about 100 women participated in a home economics training course and a further 30 received training in the manufacture of fuel efficient cooking stoves. More than 425 stoves have been produced and sold by local women in the last three years. In Africa a little goes a long way. These stoves use less wood so time is not spent searching for and collecting fuel. Twenty-five pounds will help a family start keeping bees. The sale of honey is a valuable source of income and is also nutritious for the family. Bees are also an important farming resource as they pollinate crops.

Finally the story of Wondimu Wotasa. At one time he earned less than £13 a month and his family couldn't survive without food handouts. He joined a savings group and after six months of financial training obtained a loan of £140 which he invested in cattle rearing, repaying the loan with interest. Five years on his income is £2,000 pa. When serious complications set in during the birth of his son, he was able to pay for urgent medical care. He and his wife can now save £3-00 per month for their children.

This charity helps people to help themselves by improving their education and increasing their self respect.

*Marjorie Tillman*

## Caversham Thousand for Durban?

"Don't drop the ball on climate change" is a CAFOD initiative calling on the government to push for progress in the United Nations climate change talks in Durban this December.

The famine affecting over 10 million people in the Horn of Africa and East Africa this year was the tragic culmination of some of the worst droughts the region has ever experienced.

Famine makes news. Less newsworthy are the African people who are being displaced from their homes because of drought. They are continually on the move in search of food and water.

Aid agency reports suggest that the problems have become worse during the last ten years because climate change is leading to an increased frequency of drought. Unless Western countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions the problems will only get worse. Poorer countries also need financial help to adapt to the climate change.

The December meeting will give Western countries the opportunity to make an important contribution. In 2007 countries agreed to build a strong international regime to tackle the disastrous effects of climate change but little progress has been made. The task is urgent. Unless there is agreement it will be the poor who suffer most. It is vital that our government does not drop the ball on climate change.

The theme of this year's One World Week was "Living for the Planet". We were asked to think about what it means to live for our planet. "Acting together to communicate with decision makers and holding them to account, gives us collective power to influence change towards a fairer and more environmentally sustainable world" say the One World Week organisers.

During November let's show our collective power by writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Go to [http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=58&ea\\_campaign.id=11183](http://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=58&ea_campaign.id=11183)

Either e-mail the prepared letter or write your own letter. Alternately you can post a letter to The Chancellor of the Exchequer, 11 Downing Street, London SW1 2AA.

If a thousand people in Caversham write our community will have made a contribution.

## Local author's new book

Climate change has become one of the most discussed issues of our time. The science is hotly debated more than its impact on people. On 17th October John Madeley launched his new novel *Let Live; A bike ride, climate change and the CIA*. It looks at the effect of climate change as it affects the poor in Africa and at the powerful interests which do not want people to know who is causing the change.

As severe drought in Africa has led to famine this year what lies behind it? Famine is news. *Let Live* discusses how climate change is displacing people who never make the news. Told through the eyes of an environmentalist journalist on a bike it is a story that draws on the author's experience of the issues and the countries featured in the book. It describes the reaction, behind the scene, of powerful interests to the critical articles the journalist writes about the failure of the West to curb carbon emissions.

Caroline Lucas MP has described the book as an incisive account of the damage climate change is doing to the poor and is a searing indictment of the policies of Western country governments which demands action.

The book is published by Longstone Books at £8.99. (ISBN:078-09568344-1-6)

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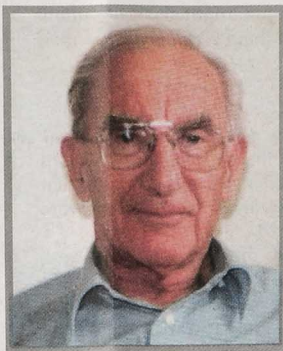
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**TRIBUTE**

**Ken Tillman 1929 - 2011**



Ken was born and brought up in Wallasey in the Wirral. As a pupil at Wallasey Grammar School he acquired his lifelong love of music, as one of the masters took small groups of boys to hear the Liverpool Phil and the Hallé.

On leaving school he drifted into insurance which he quickly grew to hate but after doing his National Service in the Army Education Corps he applied to do a degree and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. He felt he didn't have time to take three years for the degree so he did it in two. Spurred on by the fear he might fail, he worked incredibly hard and in the first term of his PGCE year he landed a job in the physics department of the prestigious Latymer Upper School for Boys in Hammersmith.

Just before Christmas 1956 he met Marjorie when he was judging an inter-hall debate and she was competing. Sixteen days later he proposed. They were to be together for 55 years, married for 52 of them.

After four years at Latymer Ken moved to Bolton School, a Direct Grant school for boys. Typically he plunged into a number of activities: the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, running the Student Christian Movement, in charge of science careers, coaching and refereeing sport. After about five years he wanted a department of his own. He was offered the post of head of science at Kendrick School in Reading. After four years living in Earley the family moved to Caversham.

Life was full and fulfilling. The couple now had two children, Kathy and Steve. Marjorie worked part-time. Ken bought a VW motor caravan and in the holidays they travelled extensively in the UK and Europe, keeping a photographic record.

Ken was to be at Kendrick for 22 happy years. He was heavily involved, running the science department, looking after the minibus, and instigating community service schemes and sixth form studies. At home he grew vegetables, delivered the Caversham Bridge to distributors, was on the stewardship committee at St Peter's and a sidesman. He and Marjorie were founder members of the Caversham Players which for over ten years entertained audiences in St Andrew's hall.

Two years after retiring Ken decided they could use their expertise in a developing country and enjoy some more travel. The British Council was recruiting qualified teachers to work in Botswana and Ken was determined to go. Six months later the couple were embarking on the three most exciting years of their lives. With so much to learn about the people, the culture, the wildlife, Ken wrote copiously in his diary and photographed everything possible. They were the only Europeans attending the Anglican church in Mahalapye so the sermon was preached in Setswana, then in English for their benefit. At the Peace the congregation didn't soberly walk around exchanging handshakes. They danced! Ken became involved with a little family who had fallen on hard times, a widow with three children. The only job she could get was in a bar which meant leaving the children at night. They were desperately poor and their home was under threat. Marjorie employed her to help in the house and Ken negotiated with the chief so that the family could continue living in the compound. He replaced a leaky old rondavel house to give them adequate accommodation and helped them with school uniforms, shoes and books.

On their return home there were new diversions as grandchildren arrived. Travelling and photography continued resulting in a good record of the grandchildren growing up and albums of pictures of China and India and nearer home, the Normandy beaches, Tunisia, Eastern Europe and the Côte d'Azur. Another interest was being a chaplaincy volunteer at the hospital and latterly they enjoyed membership of the Caversham Heights Society.

His final challenge was a battle with cancer which he was cautiously optimistic he would win. For over a year he stoically endured surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy but eventually it spread and nothing could be done.

The Service of Thanksgiving for Ken's life was held at St Peter's on 3rd September at which his love of life and his varied interests were celebrated.



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## Changing face at Church House

You may have noticed that Church House is undergoing a bit of a face-lift. However it's not just the bricks and mortar that are changing... so is the face in the parish office. In the office you'll be meeting Alex Humphreys rather than Caroline Smith, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to explain what's behind this change.

Over the last few months we have reviewed the administrative support needed in Church House and across the three churches of the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham. Caroline Smith, who has been in of the parish office for two years now, is paid for a set number of hours every week. However, like Mary Tucker before her, Caroline is often in the office outside her hours and she works for more hours than she is paid.

As a parish we are getting busier and busier with more demands being made on us all, including Caroline. A number of options were explored before we decided to split the role into two posts and to appoint a parish secretary to work alongside Caroline as parish administrator. We interviewed candidates at the end of September and I am delighted to say that Alex Humphreys has accepted the invitation to take on this new role.

So in the coming weeks you will find Alex in the parish office from 9.30 am to 12.00 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There will be a few weeks of handover when 'office hours' may be more fluid! Please make her welcome and bear with her as she settles in to this new role.

Dan Tyndall Rector

## Project co-ordinator appointed

You may have seen the advert in Caversham Bridge for a project co-ordinator for *REinspired Caversham*. We interviewed a very strong set of candidates. In the end, Jane Borgeaud was offered the post and I am delighted to say that she accepted our offer. Jane is a member of St Andrew's Church in Caversham and comes with a vast experience in school teaching and leadership. She started as project co-ordinator in early October with a long list of things she needs to address over the course of this academic year.

We only have funding for this post until July 2012. Jane will be seeking to get to know the churches and the schools, to develop a volunteer team and deliver RE sessions for schools, and also be exploring how to make the project financially sustainable.

It's only through the financial support of Church House, Caversham, and St Laurence Church Lands Trust, Reading, that we have been able to make this appointment which we hope will be the springboard that will enable *REinspired Caversham* to be established as a sustainable, long-term enterprise.

Churches Together in Caversham is promoting REinspired Caversham as its schools work project based on a model that has been around in Earley for the last ten years. In June we ran a session for Thameside School in St Peters Church and Micklands are setting dates for sessions in December.

For more information about *REinspired Caversham*, please contact Dan Tyndall (dan@ctm.parish.org.uk or 0118 947 9505) or you can contact Jane on caversham@reinspired.org.uk

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## News from St Margaret's

Director of Mission for the Diocese of Oxford, Michael Beasley, came to St Margaret's Mapledurham in September. He preached at the Eucharist on the gospel reading for the day, the parable of labourers in the vineyard, encouraging us to consider what Christ understands by "good economics". He concluded by suggesting that Jesus turns upside down most traditional views of what is fair, and left us with the question: Do we know which way is up?

Michael was also in Mapledurham to offer the services of the diocese to the people of the church as they begin to wonder about the next phase of development for St Margaret's. Rev Keith Knee-Robinson, who has been serving the church as a priest for over ten years (and as Churchwarden before that), announced some time ago that he intends to step down from this role in June next year. St Margaret's, part of the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, has begun to think through the implications of this impending change and Michael was able to share with the congregation some of the opportunities that the diocese is able to offer to help discern the best way forward. Rev Dan Tyndall, Rector of the parish, said "It was very good to welcome Michael to St Margaret's and to hear from him just how many churches are engaged in the same kind of conversations that we need to have at Mapledurham. The future of this wonderful building and committed community is not in any doubt and it was interesting to hear how the diocese can help us."



L-R Peter Stratton church warden, Rev Michael Beasley, Rev Dan Tyndall.

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**Sunday 13th November 2011****Parade & Service**

Parade will leave Westfield Road at 10:25 and march through Caversham for the service that will take place at 10:50 at Caversham War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows. Music courtesy of East Reading Salvation Army Band.

ALL WELCOME ON BOTH OCCASIONS  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

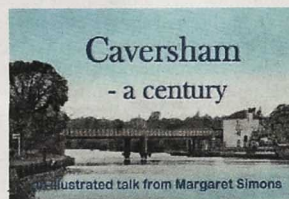


Any queries contact Pauline Palmer [porkypeppard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:porkypeppard@hotmail.co.uk)

**Caversham 100 Years On**

The exhibitions have been out and about again during October. There is another chance to see them at St John's Church November 26th to December 2nd from 12noon to 4pm. The exhibition will also be at the open evening: Caversham-a-century on the 9th November the anniversary of the boundary change, when Margaret Simons will give an illustrated talk on the changes which were fundamental in the shaping of today's Caversham. Everyone is welcome.

Look out for the exhibition in Reading Museum from 1st November. 'Caversham at Work and Play'



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**Bus route 22**

The changes to the 22 bus route have caused much turmoil both to local residents and to the Reading Bus Company.

At the meeting organised by the local Lib-Dems, residents of the area showed how angry they were about the changes which have re-routed the service away from Priest Hill to Oakley Road Hill. Following a suggestion made to the bus company it was decided to amend the route through the top end of Oakley Road so that it has run since 26th September down Kidmore Road to the Mount and from there resumes its path along Albert Road.

However when this was announced, residents of Kidmore Road were also angry that without consultation buses were to travel along the stretch of the road which follows the route of an old country lane. This has several bends in it where forward visibility is not good. They have been seeking a meeting with the bus company to follow up the matter.

The local residents have expressed much concern about the safety issues at the junction at the top of Oakley Hill/Kidmore Road. It is particularly difficult when children are going to and from Caversham Primary School.

The latest development (as this paper goes to press) is that the Western Traffic Commissioners have told the bus company that the re-routing along Kidmore Road is not legal as insufficient notice has been given of the change. This means that from the 8th October the buses have to cross the junction of Kidmore Road/Oakley Road and go along Oakley Road to turn right into Albert Road towards St Andrew's Church (the original published change). This will carry on at least until 9th November which is the earliest date after giving formal notice of any proposed re-routing to the Traffic Commissioners. It of course assumes that permission will be given and for that we have to wait and see!

It seems that whatever route is finally authorised some residents in and around Caversham Heights will not be pleased - whether they live in Priest Hill, Kidmore Road or Oakley Road.

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# Conservation volunteering

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— Photography by Bridget Parslow  
A pipstrell bat: 'holding a pip in one hand and a camera in the other is difficult!



Showfield at Clayfield Copse.



A cobweb.

## Brownies get digging

Making the most of one of the remaining light evenings of the year and some beautiful September sunshine, 4th Caversham Brownies recently planted trees at Mapledurham playing fields. This Brownie pack has been helping the local community in this way now for fifteen years and the latest seven to 10-year-old girls in the pack enjoyed searching for the trees planted by their predecessors. The girls worked together in small groups, digging and getting stuck in, under the careful supervision of the adults who came to help. The Brownies were very pleased with themselves when we met the following week. They were eager to tell us which tree they had planted and many are planning to go back to check on progress in the coming months. Many thanks to the adults who made the evening possible. If you can give any time to support Girlguiding in Caversham please contact us at [cavershamguides@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cavershamguides@hotmail.co.uk)



## Scout and Guide awards

After much hard work, sisters Kathryn and Rachel Williams were recently awarded their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards at a meeting of 89th Reading Explorer Scouts. Their younger brother, Anthony, was also awarded his Bronze Award earlier in the year, having completed it through his school, Chiltern Edge.

The volunteering section involved assisting at the weekly meetings of 5th Caversham Brownies for Kathryn and Rachel (where they are respectively known as Dormouse and Otter) and 3rd Reading Cubs for Anthony. Other categories of the Awards included activities and achievements in public speaking, cookery, athletics and sailing. They also trained for and organised their expeditions, which took place in the New Forest and Oxford area.



Anthony (left) and Katherine and Rachel with their awards.



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## Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

It is evident that the Pavilion is more than likely not repairable. The decision of the RBC Cabinet/Trustees is to rebuild the changing rooms alone, but designed with the ability to add a new hall in the future.

Warren and District Residents' Association (WADRA) are working with a local architect on achieving a design for the entire replacement and upgrade of the Pavilion, costing approximately £500,000. Funding is a challenge, but fundraising has already begun. WADRA members along with RBC are pursuing a package of grants, Section 106 money, fundraising events and Festival Republic donations to enable a complete replacement and upgrade of the Pavilion.

WADRA has been busy this year with a number of fund-raising events over the summer including a dinner dance held at Caversham Heath Golf Club, a number of car boot sales at the Playing Fields, a 4 day metal recycling drive and metal recycling after Reading Festival (which raised £2400). We have raised close to £7k via the events this summer, but more importantly, we are seeking to raise the profile of the campaign with the local community for the much needed replacement of the pavilion. The fund-raising activities will also help when applying for grants, as it shows grant-giving organisations that we are serious about wanting a replacement pavilion that will serve the entire community for a wide range of recreational activities, not just the football.

We have created a Google Group so it is easier for WADRA to communicate by email with the entire Caversham community about future events. Most of the time spent organising any of these events is communicating to the community. People deliver leaflets, send emails and make phone calls, 'getting the word out' is more time consuming than organising the actual event. Please help us by joining the online Google Group, so that you will receive all the emails on events. All you need to do is to go to <http://groups.google.com> and enter mpfag in the searchbox at the top of the page then follow the instructions provided. We are planning events for November and December, so if you would like to be kept informed, please join now. You will only receive emails concerning events for fundraising for the Pavilion. Future events include a Quiz Night and a Wine Tasting Evening. We have already booked the date for the Summer Dinner Dance for 16 June 2012.

We are always looking for interested people to help in a small way without having to make a long term commitment. We are looking for people who can help with writing press releases, deliver a little as 50 leaflets for an event, help on the day of an event, or if you have a good idea, run a single fundraising event. If you have any ideas for fundraising or would like to help out on some of the forthcoming events in any way, please contact Elisa Miles at [elisa@delgaldo.co.uk](mailto:elisa@delgaldo.co.uk).

## CLUBS

### Rosehill WI

President Brenda Caborn opened the September meeting and welcomed members and visitors. Margaret Seal read out the correspondence and business notices.

Brenda had invited members to an Open House Coffee morning on Sept 14th to raise money for Berkshire Federation and Rosehill.

During July & August outings had been made to The Vyne nr Basingstoke and to 'Glydebourne in the Barn' at Purley. Those members who went on these outings found them very enjoyable.

Brenda also announced that if members would like a Christmas Lunch at Goring Heath Golf Club and if enough wished to go this was planned for Dec 15th.

Brenda then welcomed Evelyn Burt who talked about Happy Feet. Evelyn gave a most interesting talk on her work as a Chiropractor and made a serious subject light-hearted and informative. Many questions were asked.

The meeting closed with a Raffle and a cup of tea. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall Emmer Green.

Visitors are very welcome.

### Caversham Townswomen's Guild

With Christmas almost upon us, Caversham Heights T.G. are looking forward to a trip to St Albans for the annual National Carol Service and the Christmas party. In October we learnt about the running of Mapledurham estate from Mr Corrie Starling. The Luncheon club goes from strength to strength and a visit to the Bird in Hand at Knowl Hill was enjoyed by all. On a more serious note, working together as a national organisation, we can bring pressure to bear on Government and powerful institutions. One case in point is the backtracking by the banks on the abolition of cheques, partly as a result of our mandate of 2010.

Our next meeting is on November 17th, when we will hear from the Queen's bookbinder about Restoration and Conservation. New members and visitors are always welcome, we meet at 7.30 at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Road Caversham

### Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club

Once again, Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club is holding its Annual Open Evening at Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common on Wednesday 9th November. A demonstration by Jane Haas entitled "Magic & Sparkle" will begin at 7.15p.m., doors opening 6.15p.m. to allow time for festive refreshments and view the Christmas Sales

Table. A raffle of the stunning arrangements will be held. Tickets are £10 and include refreshments. For further information contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 9477400 or Sara Steward on 0118 9473006.

### Caversham Horticultural Society

Gardeners are invited to our Christmas talk and social get together on Wednesday 7th December. We are pleased to invite Gill Passman a member and silver medal winner at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Gill's talk "All About Airplants" discusses the fascinating world of these tropical plants which rooted on other plants take all their nutrients from their leaves rather than from their root system. As always the meeting will be held at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road at 7.45pm.

### Caversham Heights Society

The season ended on 27 August with a glorious highlight when a party of music-lovers went to the Proms. The Society makes an annual visit to the Proms and members eagerly await the programme for 2012.

The first meeting of our 2011-2012 season on 21 September was well attended and as usual commenced with the AGM. This was followed by a fascinating talk entitled, Coral Reefs, the Jewels of the Sea, by Dr David George, late of the Natural History Museum. Dr George is a professional Marine Biologist/Diver and underwater photographer and dives on coral reefs throughout the world both in the course of his work and for pleasure. He remains a consultant on behalf of the NHM, particularly in relation to the biology and ecology of coral reefs and man's impact upon them.

The talk described how coral 'lives' and how reefs are formed, sometimes leading to the formation of atolls, in relatively shallow warm waters, such as in the Arabian Gulf and off Eastern Australia (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef). Coral itself, although basically animal in nature is mostly static. Nutrients include plankton but some species consume small fish! Dr George went on to show spectacular pictures of the widely different types of coral he has photographed. Coral is fragile and easily damaged by careless divers, changing sea levels and increasing water temperature, so global warming is a potential threat in the future. Dr George concluded by showing us his specialised underwater camera equipment.

Future talks cover a wide range of subjects from the Testing of UK Nuclear Weapons in the USA to the recently restored clipper ship, The Cutty Sark. Several day trips over the season are planned together with our usual short holiday which will be to Northumberland in May 2012.

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**FORTHCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS****Rivarate prepares for new season**

*Rivarate*, the choir for mixed voices, is no longer one of Caversham's better kept secrets. Now entering its fourth season under its director of music, Alison Golby, the choir is preparing for a charity concert at St. Peter's Church, Earley, on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm. The concert will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Caversham and profits will be shared between two charities, Sue Ryder Care and Polio Plus. Tickets cost £10 each including refreshments. They are available from John Manners on 972 2358 or John Armitage on 947 8967.

The choir will make its next Caversham appearance with open-air carols on the afternoon of Saturday 17th December.

The choir was founded in 2008 and has grown in numbers from just over 20 singers at the start, to its present strength of 85. It has had to move to a different rehearsal venue to accommodate expanding numbers. It is obvious that there are many people in Caversham, Emmer Green and the surrounding area who enjoy choral singing and who want to join an active, successful choir. There is no formal audition for prospective members.

*Rivarate* has an increasingly wide-ranging repertoire. Last season, the choir performed to full houses in St. Andrew's Church, Albert Road and in the Methodist Church in Caversham Heights. In September, they performed to a full tent in Caversham Court, as part of the centenary celebration.

**Langtree Sinfonia autumn concert**

The autumn concert of the Langtree Sinfonia will be held in St Mary's Church, Wallingford, on Saturday, 19th November at 7.00pm.

The evening starts with Schubert's *Rosamunde* overture, a popular piece with characteristic melodies. The evening continues with Beethoven's two *Romances* for violin and orchestra, written around the turn of the 19th century.

The soloist for these works is Sharon Warnes. Having studied violin at the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College, Sharon has had a professional playing career which has spanned more than 20 years, including solo, chamber and orchestral music.

The evening will conclude with Schubert's 1st Symphony written when the composer was just 16 and which shows a combination of classical form and youthful exuberance. Paul Cox is the conductor.

Tickets are available at the door, by phone on 941 5498 or at also at 'Inspiration' The Arcade, Goring. They cost £8.50 (adults), £4 (students) and are free for under 16s

**A very English Christmas!**

Yet another new departure for the South Chiltern Choral Society in its 60th Anniversary year! The Christmas concert will be devoted to seasonal music by living English composers, among others Alan Bullard and Bob Chilcott. The programme will also feature the much-loved *Gloria* by John Rutter and *Songs of the Nativity* by Howard Blake. This is a great opportunity to hear a work which, although written in 1990, will be performed for only the third time.

The choir, conducted by Gwyn Arch, will be accompanied by *Chiltern Brass*, percussion and organ and will be joined by the Sonning Common Primary School choir who will sing a

**Carols in  
Caversham Court**

programme of their own, including Howard Blake's *Walking in the Air*, as well as contributing to a joint item. There will be the usual audience participation in traditional carols.

The dates are Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm and Sunday 18th December at 2pm at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common. Tickets are £12 for adults, £6 for under 18s and children under 5 free. Contact Mary Esslement on 987 4346.

St Peter's choir will be leading the singing for an evening of traditional Christmas carols in Caversham Court on Monday 19 December, at 7.30pm. The Tea Kiosk will be serving mulled wine and mince pies from 7pm in aid of the Kiosk charities. Members of the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be lighting your way in the magical floodlit gardens. Wrap up warm and come along to sing in the festive season.

The dates are Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm and Sunday 18th December at 2pm at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common.

Tickets are £12 for adults, £6 for under 18s and children under 5 free. Contact Mary Esslement on 987 4346.

  
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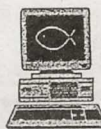
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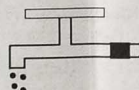
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