

# PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday this year is on April 1st, and in the garden of the house where I was born was a tree we called a palm tree. Of course, it was really a sallow, goat willow or pussy willow tree, but as a small boy I didn't know that. At our church, branches of this "palm" appeared on the altar on Palm Sunday. I have read that in the same part of the country, but earlier in the twentieth century, children had to wear sprigs of "palm" when they went to Sunday School on Palm Sunday, otherwise they were liable to get their hair pulled. This is rather like wearing sprigs of oak on Oak Apple Day, where the penalty for non-compliance was being stung with nettles.

According to the King James Version of the Bible, the only one of the gospel writers to mention palm specifically in connection with Christ's entry into Jerusalem is St John. In verses 12 and 13 of Chapter 12, we learn that when the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him. Matthew and Mark just mention branches, and Luke mentions the strewing of clothes, but not branches. Since palm trees will not grow easily in this country, willow twigs, especially those bearing golden catkins, have long been used instead, to decorate churches, and carry in processions.

In Reading there was a notable exception, when real palm branches were used. In 1901, St. James's Catholic Church held a Palm Sunday procession, and from a photograph taken on the day, you can see that it involved girls dressed all in white, a donkey, and real palm branches.

Unfortunately some of the Protestant community took exception to the carrying of the Host through the streets, under a canopy. The Chief Constable wrote a stern letter to the Catholic priest, and then had to retract it, and the whole kerfuffle looked rather silly.



I see that again this year there will be a Palm Sunday procession in Caversham Heights, involving St. Andrew's (Church of England) and Caversham Heights Methodist Church. I trust no-one will raise any objections, and that the local residents will realise that, yes, there are many people living near them to whom Christian faith is important.

Before finishing this month's topic, I would like to thank the lady who sent a message to the *Bridge* in response to my January article, which was about gorse. I wrote that *I didn't know whether gorse flowers had ever been used in perfumery*. My correspondent remembered that when she was in her "courting days" in the 1950s, she used to wear a perfume called "Yellow Gorse," which she thought was made by Coty.

Since reading this, I searched the Internet, and found that several small firms do make a gorse perfume, though I didn't find "Yellow Gorse" by Coty. But I also discovered that many

people cannot smell gorse flowers at all. This explains why in the past there were occasions when I have been enthusing about the perfume coming from the gorse bushes, and friends have looked at me rather oddly! This may also be why gorse perfume is not as popular as it might be.  
*Happy Wanderer*



## A HAPPY EASTER TO OUR READERS

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18 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham RG4 7DD  
Tel: 947 8450  
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26 Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RZ  
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### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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Caversham Park. Tel: 947 0258  
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### ROMAN CATHOLIC

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### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

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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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## TALKING POINT

by

Derek Chandler

### Doubting Thomas

I think you could safely say that for people who aren't Christians the biggest stumbling block in Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We live in a scientific age that wants to test and measure everything. If we can't see it we won't believe it. And people rising from the dead – well seriously! But doubting the resurrection isn't just limited to our age. There have been people in all ages who have doubted that Jesus was raised from the dead. Strangely enough the first person to doubt the resurrection of Jesus was not someone opposed to Christianity. It was in fact one of Jesus' closest supporters- a man by the name of Thomas. Because he had not seen Jesus resurrected with his own eyes he wouldn't believe. Thomas wasn't there when Jesus appeared to the disciples. When Jesus appears to Thomas he said "Stop doubting and believe" (John 20:27).

Well that's all well and good for Thomas but what about us today? What about the people today who find it hard to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Well unfortunately we are not in the same position as Thomas. All these events took place about 2000 years ago. If you are the Thomas type who says "I won't believe until I see", then you are going to be disappointed. When all this happened 2000 years ago, you obviously weren't there to see it. But that doesn't let you ESCAPE the issue. You still have to decide if you believe it is true. Saying you don't believe in the First World War because you didn't see it with your own eyes doesn't make it any less true. But what you can do is investigate the facts – check the books, read the papers from the time.

When it comes to investigating the resurrection of Jesus the same evidence is there. In the Gospel accounts we are given eye witness evidence. Look at what John – an eye witness – had to say (John 20:30-31). When Thomas saw the risen Jesus he knew immediately what the consequences were. There was no escaping it. Jesus was who he claimed to be – he truly was the son of God. And when you believe that Jesus is the risen Lord then the consequences are obvious – you believe in him and you trust him. John also tells us that believing in the risen Jesus has a reward. The reward that goes with believing in Jesus is life – real life. Placing your trust in the risen Jesus is a life changing experience.

If you are reading this as someone who already believes in the risen Lord Jesus then Easter is especially a time for you to be reminded of the hope that you have. If you are reading this as someone like Thomas was – unsure about Jesus being raised from the dead - then make sure that this Easter you check out the FACTS about Jesus. John, who was an eye-witness to Jesus rising from the dead says this to you: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name". (John 20:31)

*Revd Derek Chandler is vicar of St Barnabas, Emmer Green.*

## 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  
6.00pm Evening Service

## Caversham Bridge

Contributions for the May 2012 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by Tuesday 27th March. The date for the June 2012 issue is Tuesday 1st May 2012.

Email address is below.

Advertising copy for the May 2012 issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, by Friday 23rd March 2012. The date for the June 2012 issue is Friday 27th April 2012.

Please note: the dates for the May issue are earlier this year as Easter is early in April.

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## MISCELLANY

## CTC More Than Gold (Olympics) update

Readers of last month's Caversham Bridge will have heard about the exciting plans which Churches Together in Caversham (CTC) have for the Olympics this summer, namely participation in the Caversham Festival, a children's holiday club, and involvement in the More Than Gold's athletes family homestay programme. (More Than Gold is a Christian 'umbrella' organisation seeking to help local churches with acts of service, outreach and hospitality during the games).

In terms of the Caversham Festival, plans are now well underway for this on Sunday July 8 at Christchurch Meadows, and it is a great privilege for the churches to be partnering Readipop (the local music charity behind the festival). The festival will kick off with a large, all-age open air service on the main stage at around 11 a.m. to which church members, and others, are welcome (NB churches are being encouraged to move their main service from their churches to the Meadows that morning). From 12 noon there will be free inflatables/funfair attractions provided by Churches Together, along with a performance space in which local schools/sports clubs are being invited to give short displays of their singing, acting, sporting abilities, as well as the opportunity for everyone to take part in some light hearted sporting activities. There will also be a prayer and information tent, and Christian bookstall. CTC will also be providing a couple of bands to play on one of the festival stages.

The Rev. Jeremy Tear, chairman of the CTC Olympics Steering Group, said: "It promises to be an excellent day. The Olympics provide the churches with an exciting opportunity to engage with others in their community and this is exactly what we will be doing."

In addition to the Caversham Festival, Churches Together will be running a children's holiday club for primary school age children at a local venue between Monday 23rd and Friday 27th July. This will be lots of fun with games, quizzes, singing and bible stories, culminating in an event to which all the children's families will be invited on the 27th July, the day of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. CTC are also encouraging members of the churches to consider hosting the family of a visiting athlete through the More Than Gold' athlete family homestay programme.

Many volunteers will be needed to enable the above activities to take place, so if you are interested in helping contact Jan Beardsley, CTC Olympics events co-ordinator at janet.beardsley@tiscali.co.uk or your church's More Than Gold rep. For helping with the holiday club, contact Megan Temple, CTC Olympics holiday club co-ordinator at megan.temple@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk or your church's More Than Gold rep. If you are interested in the athlete family homestay programme, visit [www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk)

*Jeremy Tear, CTC chairman of Olympics steering group*

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Computer advice by Francis Brown  
Save £100 on your next PC!

This is not an advert. Many of my students buy a PC and then spend another £100 unnecessarily. The salesperson will always suggest a deal for two extras with a big discount. Let me suggest that you don't need either of them.

Firstly, the salesperson will offer Office 2010 for about £70 discounted from £90, but fail to mention that all new computers come loaded with a copy of Office 2010 Starter. For home use, this is an excellent product.

Secondly, the salesperson will offer a discount on the Internet security package already loaded (but not fully installed). The new annual licence will run from the day that the trial period ends. This item will be offered at about £30 discounted from £60. The salesperson will fail to mention that Microsoft Security Essentials is free to download and use. On Windows 7 computers, it has had very favourable reviews. I do not bother with the trial software but promptly download and update Microsoft Security Essentials. Then I remove the trial software. It is not a good idea to run two security packages at the same time. See [www.fbrown.org](http://www.fbrown.org) for more information on this topic.

## EASTER EGG TRAIL IN CAVERSHAM COURT

EASTER SATURDAY 7 APRIL 2-4pm

Come along to Caversham Court on Easter Saturday, when the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be hosting an Easter Egg Trail on a nature theme in the lovely riverside gardens. All young competitors will win an Easter Egg prize. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Entry is free, but donations to the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be appreciated. The tea kiosk will be open for refreshments all afternoon. Further information about the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens - [friends@fccg.org.uk](mailto:friends@fccg.org.uk) or 0118 947 5062.

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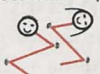
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# From The Lookout Post

## CADRA AGM

The CADRA AGM will be at Thameside School Hall, Harley Road (off Wolsey Road) on Tuesday 15 May at 7.30pm. The brief formal business will be followed by a talk from local GP Dr Rod Smith on the subject, "Is the NHS safe in the hands of local clinicians?" As well as being a GP in Caversham for many years, Rod Smith chairs the Commissioning Group for North West Reading. He is also chairman of the West Berkshire Federation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. He has been closely involved for many years with local and national initiatives to integrate community and hospital services. This makes him particularly well placed to give an insight into how clinicians in hospitals and local surgeries have been able to shape the ways in which patient services are provided. It promises to be an interesting evening.



Non members are very welcome and will be able to join at the meeting for just £3.00 per annum per household. Copies of the 'Caversham 100 Years On' exhibition booklet will be on sale.

## New Parking Restrictions in Caversham

A consultation is expected in March or April for a series of new parking restrictions. In Caversham, these include sections of Henley Road, Wolsey Road, Hemdean Road, Albert Road and Elliots Way.

## Local events for the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics

It will be a busy time in Caversham over the next few months. On 26 May a Diamond Jubilee Fete will be held on The Mapledurham Playing Fields. On 4 June, there will be a Diamond Jubilee Picnic in the Park at Emmer Green Recreation Ground and on 16 June a Charity Dinner Dance at Caversham Heath Golf Club with all proceeds going towards the regeneration of the Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion and Community Hall.

There will also be a SMART 2012 free one day family event on Saturday 4th August to fit with the Olympic Games Super Saturday. The event will run from 11am - 6pm with an evening event at Rivermead including the Battle of the School Bands from schools in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

A ferry service is planned to link the Thameside Promenade and Caversham Court. Leading up to the event there will be a number of arts and music led activities in schools. The site will include a Sporting Village, Community Groups, Creative Village, Acoustic Stage and Workshop Area, Open Air Arena, Demonstrations, Main Stage and Funfair.

## Planning

The development behind New Directions Caversham Centre is now underway with construction access via Wolsey Road and Abbotsmead Place. This will provide sheltered housing units with a non-resident warden. A large void is being constructed under the building to hold water in the event of a flood. Following objections from CADRA, an application for large illuminated signs with flags above was refused.

A new application is being considered for demolition of the old bakehouse on the corner of Hemdean Road and Rectory Road to provide seven one bedroom apartments. The proposal is that this would 'wrap round' Wellington House with the Physiotherapy practice. The scheme does not provide parking which is causing local concern and part of it projects forward from the building line on Rectory Road.

## South Oxfordshire plans

The South Oxfordshire Core Strategy was reviewed recently by the Secretary of State. The previous intention to provide 1060 homes on unallocated sites was refused and more specific plans are required on where these homes might be built. The intention is that these would be provided in Thame, Wallingford and the 'larger villages' which could include Woodcote and Sonning Common. The

policy continues to state that it does not provide for 'urban extensions to Reading'.

Lafarge submitted an application to extract a further 1.86 million tonnes of sand and gravel from land east of Spring Lane which is currently under consideration. This is estimated to last over a period of 12 years with the land being progressively restored to agriculture and nature conservation uses. A new, direct northern access from Henley Road (A4155) would be provided to import inert restoration materials into the site. There is much concern about the impact of more lorry traffic through Caversham and the potential impact on the flood plain.

## Station Hill

A consultation took place at the end of February for the Station Hill development and detailed planning applications are expected this summer. Friars Walk, the Western Tower and Thames Tower will be demolished. Plans include offices, apartments, shops, restaurants, cafes, leisure facilities and the remodelling of the existing Garrard Street NCP car park.

Work to replace Thames Tower will be a separate scheme with the intention of creating a new landmark and Reading's tallest building. This will provide space for shops and cafes at street level on the new station plaza and Station Road. Upper floors will include modern office development. For more details see [www.stationhill-reading.co.uk/our-emerging-proposal](http://www.stationhill-reading.co.uk/our-emerging-proposal) and [www.thamestower.com](http://www.thamestower.com)

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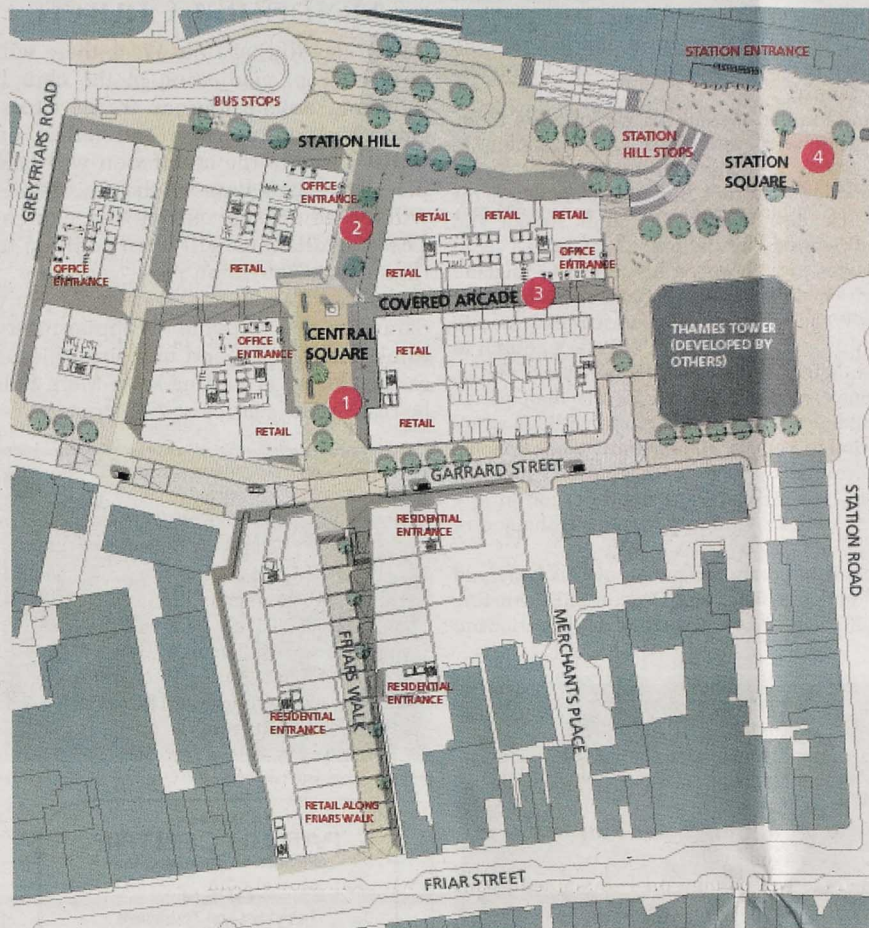
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# From the Lookout Post Station Hill Redevelopment



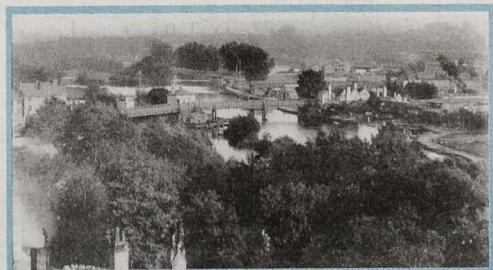
Illustrative masterplan



1 Central Square 2 Pedestrian Street 3 Covered Arcade 4 Station Square

## Photographs wanted!

Caversham Traders Association have a video on Caversham which can be seen on [www.choosecaversham.co.uk](http://www.choosecaversham.co.uk) and also [Caversham100YearOn.org.uk](http://Caversham100YearOn.org.uk) It can be accessed at



View in 1904



View in 2011

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWc4h30tdcY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWc4h30tdcY) as well.

Chris Walton, the chairman of the association, is hoping to update this movie. The last few pictures were taken from the top of St Peter's Church but there is a big gap between 1904 and 2011. He is keen to know if readers either have photos or are aware of the existence of any that could fill the gap. He would also be interested in any other photos that could be worth including in an updated version.

Chris Walton asks that any such photographs be dropped in to him at 2 Prospect Street so that he can scan and return them. Alternatively they can be emailed to him at:

[cavershamtraders@googlemail.com](mailto:cavershamtraders@googlemail.com)

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**CHURCHES**

**DEACON HUGH ANSCOMBE**

On Sunday 19 February, a new face was seen in the pulpit at the church of Our Lady and St Anne when Deacon Hugh Anscombe preached and introduced himself to the congregation. He retired four years ago from his job as a mechanical engineer and has recently moved from Swindon to live in Caversham to spend his retirement near his daughter and her family.

He was born in Southampton and started his working life there, first as an engineering apprentice and later as a graduate in mechanical engineering. After his marriage to Margaret in St Osmond's church, Salisbury, his work took him to Canada where his first daughter was born. He also worked in Saudi Arabia and Somerset before settling in Swindon for the past 25 years.

Another daughter and a son were born on his return to England from Canada. His elder girl has now lived in Caversham for eight years and owns a shop in Prospect Street. His son was ordained to the priesthood in 2010 and is assistant priest at St Peter's church in Gloucester. Sadly his other daughter died just after her 21st birthday.

The seeds of the diaconate were first sown by his then parish priest about 20 years ago and, after much deliberation with his wife's help, he started his formation in January 1994. Family bereavements and a busy period at work resulted in the formation period extending to five and a half years but he was finally ordained deacon in July 1999. Since then he served in his Swindon parish until the end of last year.

He is now looking forward to joining the parish of Our Lady and St Anne, working alongside Father Giles and Deacon Mike, trusting that he and his wife Margaret can make worthwhile contributions to the life of the parish.



**REinspired Caversham - an update**

Exciting things are afoot at REinspired Caversham, a project which enables volunteers from the pews of local churches to support the delivery of the RE curriculum in local schools.

Since the appointment of the coordinator, Jane Borgeaud, in October, the project has run very successful sessions with Year 5 and 6 children from two local schools. Children from Micklands School visited Caversham Baptist Church in December for a session on stewardship and giving, and more recently Thameside students attended a session on Christian signs and symbols at St Peter's Church.

Feedback from school staff has been very positive. One teacher commented: "The children were extremely enthusiastic talking about what they had learnt on the way back to school and also during the remaining sessions of the day. All staff commented on the effectiveness of the organisation once we had arrived at church and feel that the session ran very smoothly especially considering the sizes of the groups. All the volunteers we worked with were very enthusiastic and keen to share their knowledge, especially when answering the children's questions."

Further sessions are planned in the near future. We are also extremely fortunate that Alun Graham from Romans estate agents is planning a sponsored swim of the Channel in August/September 2013 in support of the project and two other local charities. We are hopeful that this will help us to secure a firm financial footing to enable the project to continue to support Caversham schools for free in the years ahead.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication to the work of the project and to thank Alun for offering us the opportunity to benefit from his impressive feat.

If you would like to support the project as a volunteer, or by sponsoring Alun, or would simply like to find out more, or if you are from a Caversham school and would like to investigate how the project could support your school, please contact Jane Borgeaud (caversham@reinspired.org.uk)

**Holy Week at Caversham Heights Methodist Church**

Each day during Holy Week there will be a walk of meditation in the church reflecting on the Journey to the Cross. Opportunities to pause and reflect on Christ's way to the crucifixion will take place at varying times of the day; details will be advertised outside the church. These meditations will be in addition to the services shown on page 7 opposite.

The service on the evening of Holy Saturday will provide an opportunity think over the life and ministry of Jesus as the Gospel according to St Mark will be read in the service at 7-8.30pm.



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**Thursday\* is Fisherman day!**  
\*every Thursday 2pm - 6pm  
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# EASTER SERVICES FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER DAY

**St Andrew's**

Palm Sunday	9.30 am	United procession of witness from Kelvedon way
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Agape meal and Eucharist Liturgy
Good Friday	2.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Cross with Holy Communion
Holy Saturday	9.00 pm	The Easter Liturgy
Easter Day	8.00 am 10.00 am 11.30 am	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist Said Eucharist

**St Margaret Mapledurham**

Palm Sunday	11.00 am	Passion Reading and Giving of Palms with Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday	6.30 for 7.00 pm	A Passover Liturgy and Supper at Trench Green Hall followed by a short service of Stripping the Altar and Meditation in the church.
Good Friday	11.00 am	The Stations of the Cross (followed by a country Walk and Picnic)
Easter Day	11.00 am	Easter Day Eucharist

8.00 pm	Sung Eucharist, with foot washing and Watch until midnight
9.00 am 12noon	Morning Prayer Three Hours Devotion, Rev Dr Trevor Dennis
8.00 am 9.45am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Choral Evensong

Thursday 5th April	7.30 pm	Washing of Feet*
Good Friday		Service led by Robert Dimmick.*
Holy Saturday		Joining in with Churches Together "Easter Sing"
Easter Day	11.00 am	Communion Service led by Heather Wilson

\*Venue details from either Rev Margaret Dimmick or Heather Wilson

**St Barnabas, Emmer Green**

Palm Sunday	9.30am	Palm Sunday Procession and Communion
Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion with Footwashing
Good Friday	2.00pm	Good Friday Reflective Service
Easter Day	5.30am 8.00am 9.30am	Easter Dawn Eucharist Easter Day Said Communion BCP Easter Day Family Communion

**Our Lady & St Anne's**

Thursday	7.30 pm	Penitential Service
29 March	10 am & 6.30 pm	Mass
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	12 noon 3.00 pm 7.00 pm	Children's Stations Liturgy of the Passion Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday	10.30 am 8.00 pm	Morning Prayer Solemn Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	10 am & 6.30 pm	Mass

**Caversham Baptist Church**

Good Friday	10.30 am	United Morning Service (with Methodist Churches)
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**Caversham Heights Methodist Church**

Palm Sunday	9.30 am	United Procession of Witness from Kelvedon Way
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Service with Holy Communion
Saturday 7th April	7.00 pm	Reading of St Mark's Gospel
Easter Day	8.00 am 10.30am	Holy Communion followed by Church breakfast Morning Worship with Holy Communion

**St John the Baptist Caversham**

Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 3rd April	7.30pm	Holy Week Communion
Wednesday		
4th April	9.00 am	Holy Week Communion
Maunday Thursday	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Holy Communion Agape with Holy Communion (an informal bring and share meal)
Good Friday	9.00 pm	Short Vigil
Easter Day	10.00 am 10.00 am	All Age Service All Age Communion

**New Testament Church of God**

Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Lord's Supper
Good Friday	11.00 am	Service
Holy Saturday	7.30 pm	Baptismal Service
Easter Day	11.00 am	Morning Service

**Gosbrook Road Methodist Church**

Palm Sunday	10.30 am	Worship
Good Friday	7.30 pm	Service of Meditation
Easter day	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Church Breakfast Morning Worship Evening Worship

**St Peter Caversham**

Palm Sunday	8.00am 9.45am	Holy Communion Palm Sunday Procession from Caversham Court and Parish Communion
Holy Week - daily	6.30pm	Stainer's Crucifixion
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	9.00 am 5.00 pm 7.00 pm 8.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Quiet Hour Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer

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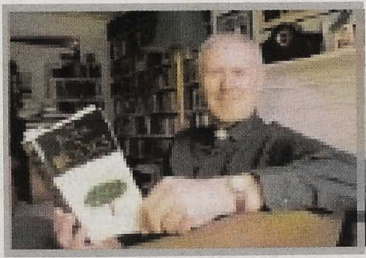
Good Friday	10.30 am	Service
Easter Day	10.30 am	Service

**St Michael's, Sonning Common**

Palm Sunday	9 & 10.30 am	Blessing of the Palms
Monday 2 April	7.00 pm	Service of Reconciliation
Maundy Thursday	7.00 pm	Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	10.00 am 12 noon 3.00 pm 9.00 pm	Walk of Witness starting from Christ the King, Sedgewell Rd Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy Vigil (Commemorating the time that Jesus lay in the tomb. Easter Vigil, the Resurrection of Our Lord. Begins with the blessing of New Fire from which the Paschal candle is lit)
Holy Saturday	9.00 pm	
Easter Day	9 & 10.30 am	Mass for Easter

**Caversham Park LEP**

Tuesday 3rd April	7.00 pm	Agape meal at St Barnabas Parish Centre.
Wednesday 4th April	10.30 am	House communion*



## Three hours to tell the story

This Good Friday, 6 April, the traditional Three Hours service at St Peter's Church in Caversham will be led by the Rev Canon Dr Trevor Dennis who, until his retirement in 2010, was vice-dean at Chester Cathedral.

Before going to Chester he taught Old Testament studies at Salisbury and Wells Theological College, where Revd Dan Tyndall (now Rector of the parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham) was one of his students. He has published a number of books on biblical narratives, a children's Bible, and several collections of stories and poems on biblical themes.

When asked why he writes in this way he said: 'I sometimes find that I can say things through storytelling or poetry that I can't put any other way. That is particularly true when it comes to the great moments of the Christian year, such as Good Friday, when we enter so deep into the mystery of God.'

Dan Tyndall said he was delighted to have had his invitation accepted by his former Old Testament tutor: 'It's really exciting that Trevor will be with us for Good Friday. We have been so fortunate in the last couple of years with our speakers and I know that Trevor will continue this tradition. Last year Bishop Andrew wove some reflections from Ethiopia into his talks, and this year Trevor will use his skill in storytelling and meditation to help us engage afresh with the events of the day. He might make us laugh; he might well take us to the point of tears; and he'll certainly make us think.'

The Three Hours service starts at 12.00 noon and ends as we remember that moment when Christ breathes his last and dies.

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Reading Festival Chorus**  
 On Saturday 21st April Reading Festival Chorus will be performing Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* at Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading. The performance will be conducted by Edward-Rhys Harry and accompanied by Simon Dinsdale (organ), Jane Seymour (piano) and Annabel Thwaite (piano).  
 The soloists are Rhiannon Llewellyn (soprano), Helen Bruce (mezzo soprano), David Webb (tenor) and Ed Ballard (bass).  
 Tickets are available from Alison Mackay (tel 0118 983 4523), from Chorus members, at the door or via the website www.readingfestivalchorus.org.uk. They cost £15 adults, £13 concessions and £2 for children.

**Phoenix Choir at Emmer Green**  
 Reading Phoenix Choir will be making a much anticipated return visit to St Barnabas on Saturday 28th April. The concert will be a varied programme of both sacred and popular items, presented in the choir's inimitable style, ensuring an enjoyable evening for all. The concert commences at 7.30pm, and interval refreshments will be available. Tickets are obtainable from Richard Gash on 0118 9475744, or by post from 240 Peppard Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8UA.

**Reading Youth Orchestra concert at St John's Church, Caversham**

Reading Youth Orchestra is the second oldest youth orchestra in Britain. It draws its members from the greater Reading area, including Caversham, and continues to meet on Friday evenings in term time.  
 This Orchestra, with its history strongly rooted in the Youth and Community Service of Reading has developed greatly since its beginnings in 1944. In January this year it moved rehearsal venue to Reading University London Road Site.  
 It is some years since Reading Youth Orchestra last performed in Caversham.  
 Its current Music Director is Paul Cox, who, along with his work as Head of Strings at Southampton University, teaches conducting and has many years experience with youth orchestras, as well as local and professional orchestras. Paul will be conducting the forthcoming concert at St John's Church, on Saturday 28th April at 7.30 pm. The programme will include Symphony No 8, *The Unfinished* by Schubert, *Finlandia* by Sibelius, selections from *Phantom of the Opera* and highlights from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. All are welcome to come and support these youngsters.  
 Tickets on the door £6 adults, £4 concessions, £2 children, £14 family tickets.  
 For further information contact 07843 969907 or visit www.ryo.org.uk

**St Andrew's Church swing jazz night**

On May 12th at 7.30pm St Andrews Church Caversham Heights, renowned for its classical concert series, is putting on something rather different - an evening of swing jazz music by The Roy Bailey Big Band! The band was formed some twenty years ago when several local musicians got together to play their favourite dance music. The number of instrumentalists has gradually increased since that time and today there is a pool of some twenty-five players and also vocalists from Berkshire and surrounding counties. The band now has a wide repertoire of many big band classics as well as contemporary pieces. It plays at concerts and private functions in and around Oxfordshire and Berkshire, including at charity concerts such as this one for St Andrews where proceeds will go to CIRDC (Churches in Reading drop in centre). Over the years the band has had a mixture of players of all ages and is particularly proud of the younger players who have gone on to play professionally. Not an evening to be missed! Tickets will go fast so phone Leslie Maynerd (0118) 947 6067 to book yours for £10 (concessions £8) to include light refreshments after the performance.



**Mapledurham Pavilion - Community Hall Regeneration charity dinner dance**

Following the success of last year's Charity Dinner Dance, the Warren & District Residents Association (WADRA) has organised a second dinner dance to be held on the 16th of June at the Caversham Heath Golf Club at 7.15pm. The evening will include a reception drink, three course meal, wine, coffee, a silent auction, and music and dancing until 1am. Also, again this year, John Holland of Thimbleby & Shorland will be the auctioneer for the Auction of Promises, which will include tickets to Reading Festival, a week of tennis camp, Sunday lunches, and Hexagon performances. Tickets are £45 each and we can create tables of 8-12. The tickets are going quickly, so call or email to reserve. To make a reservation, or for more information, please contact WADRA at info@WADRA.org.uk or on 07540 822898.

All proceeds to go to the regeneration of the Mapledurham Pavilion & Community Hall

**www.caversham.org.uk**  
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## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Fete

Mapledurham Playing Fields

26 May 2012 12 - 4pm

Organised by Warren & District Residents Association

All proceeds to go to the regeneration of the Mapledurham Pavilion & Community Hall

The Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) is very proud to announce it will be holding a Summer Fete to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course the Summer Olympics. The Fete, to be held on 26 May from 12-4pm at the Mapledurham Pavilion and Playing Fields, is designed to be an afternoon of fun and entertainment for the whole family. The Fete will include games, entertainment, sporting competitions, music, dance, food and drink, vendors' stalls, vintage cars, car boot sales and bouncy castles. We are in the planning stages and new participants are booking every week. We currently have:

- Sporting events and competitions for all ages including Tennis, Rugby, Football, Bowls and Golf
- Arts & Crafts, and a variety of vendors' stalls
- Car boot sale area
- Vintage car display
- Live music and dance acts
- Bouncy Castle
- Food and Drink - BBQ, cake stalls, beer tents
- Competitions & games for school children
- Craft stall, face painting, henna
- Fancy dress parade and competition
- Raffle prizes

We are still accepting activities or events run by sporting teams or clubs, music and dance acts, vendors or stall holders, as well as welcoming anyone who would like to come and help with the organisation or help to run a WADRA stall on the day. Additionally we always welcome any individual or company who would like to sponsor an activity. If you would like more information, please contact WADRA at [info@WADRA.org.uk](mailto:info@WADRA.org.uk) or on 07540 822898

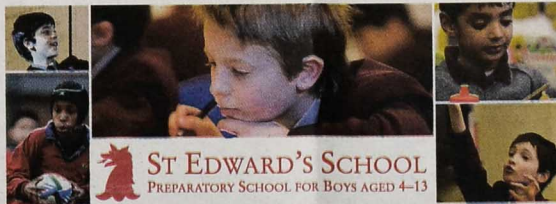
## Children first

Think of a young person you know who is almost 18. They could be a friend, relative, child - or even you at that age. Now imagine that at the age of 18 the youngster will have to leave the family home and live independently: managing their housing, money, cooking, washing and job or education. There will be no safety net of a home to return to if things go wrong, no "bank of mum and dad" to bail out debts, nobody to help sort out the inevitable mistakes young people make. If they are academically successful and make it to university they will have no home to return to in the holidays; if they are unemployed nobody to make sure they sign on; if they end up in prison, no family network to help them back on the straight and narrow when they come out. Can you imagine how that person would get on?

This is what happens to many young people leaving the care system: those perhaps least able to cope as they are still struggling with the problems caused by their difficult childhoods.

A group of foster carers, frustrated at watching young people, who had previously been supported and helped by foster families, flounder when faced with going it alone, trying to live as adults when they were still needy children inside, so they decided to do something about it by setting up a charity, Children First West Berkshire. CFWB has secured their first house in Thatcham. Young people as described above live in this shared house, with additional support. A 'role model tenant', a young person a few years older lives in the house with them and helps them to learn to manage bills and household chores - a buddy rather than a parent. Additional support is provided by trustees and volunteers.

If you would like to help we would love to hear from you, every bit of help makes a real difference for a young person, whether you are a regular or occasional volunteer. CFWB is looking for mentors or buddies; a gardener to help get the garden straight and then teach gardening; someone to help with house maintenance and pass on their skills to the young people; an electrician; people who might help with accessing sports and hobbies, job hunting, interviews, study skills etc. Learning new skills, at whatever level, and knowing someone cares builds confidence, which grows into self esteem, which in turn gives a young person the best platform for a fulfilling and happy life ahead, it is hard to exaggerate how big a difference helping these young people in seemingly small ways can make. If you think you can help, either now or in the future, please contact [children1stwestberkshire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:children1stwestberkshire@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01635 500849 John - 07833787283 Julie



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## CLUBS

**St Peter's Wives Group**

Mrs Jean Dyer came along to talk to us about the history of knitting at our February meeting.

She started her talk by telling us about the ways in which people have covered themselves over millennia, initially with woad and then progressing through animal skins, etc to various fabrics, some of which were worn thousands of years BC, scraps of which have been found in ancient tombs. She also talked about the cotton trade from India and the silk trade from Japan. Elizabeth I loved silk stockings, which originated in France, and after setting up the Silk Guild sent people over to France to study the patterns.

Jean left school in Manchester at the age of 14 and became a trainee knitting pattern designer. When she started she couldn't knit and had to practise for some time. It was a five-year apprenticeship and there were ten professional knitters working nine-hour days, with no talking, who tested the new patterns. If mistakes were discovered after the patterns had been published, they would all have had to be recalled.

Jean left this employment at the age of 19, after being paid the same wage for the whole five years. She then took up a nursing career for the rest of her working life, but always retained her interest in knitting.

She brought along a selection of items she has designed and made over the years, and we marvelled at the complexity of the patterns. They included Guernseys, which are very heavy and are still worn today, mainly by fishermen, Fair Isle sweaters, which are knitted with four needles and not for the faint-hearted and a beautiful fine shawl, which was wonderfully soft and light.

Jean was a very engaging speaker and we all thoroughly enjoyed her talk and very much admired her handiwork.

Our next meeting at Church House will be on Tuesday, 17 April at 8.00pm when Malcolm Nelson will be giving a talk about smugglers.

New members are always welcome.

**Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club**

The April meeting for Caversham & Chiltern Flower Club will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, Wednesday 18th, and not the usual second Wednesday. This is due to the Easter Holidays. A hands-on-session making floral handbags will take place at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm. Bring a pair of scissors! These evenings are always very popular and provide great fun while chatting to friends. Visitors very welcome. Entrance £4.50. A book and plant stall will be available and also refreshments. For further details contact Berna Macdonald on 0118 947 74000

**Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild**

March was the month for Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's A.G.M and cheese and wine supper, a very pleasant social occasion.

Seven members undertook the complicated journey to Llandudno for a lunch. Our thanks are due to the patient man at the ticket office on Reading station, who sorted out our various rail passes and connections.

Men of a Welsh Male Voice Choir and an expert on Welsh loving spoons provided the after lunch entertainment.

A trip to the *Floriade* in Holland has been arranged by the Berkshire Federation of Townswomen's Guilds in April.

Continuing the floral theme the next meeting is on Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm at St Andrews church hall, Albert Rd., when David Grainger will give a talk on *Japan in blossom* time.

All visitors and new members very welcome.

**Caversham WI**

Members were transported to Egypt at the February meeting when Mr and Mrs Tanner showed slides of their trip along the Nile in a felucca – which we learned was a sailing boat!

The competition – an Egyptian memento – had four entries. After tea, the business part included reminders of future events including a meal out at a Greek restaurant – a new experience for some. There was also a reminder that the next meeting is the annual meeting.

**Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild**

In January, David Godwin gave an interesting and informative talk on the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Museum. Housed in a former chapel it contains exhibits dating back to the hospital's early days.

February was a members' meeting when a quiz was enjoyed and members were told of the various outings and events which will take place in 2012-2013. The AGM takes place in March when committee members are re-elected or new members welcomed. Amongst this year's activities will be a visit to the House of Commons, a river cruise from Henley (with members of Berkshire's Townswomen's Guild) and a visit to the Guild at Fareham, Hampshire.

In addition to the craft group and luncheon club, a scrabble club has started, and other groups will be arranged as selected by members during the year.

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

Visitors are very welcome.

**Reading Gardeners**

If you want to exhibit at a horticultural show but are not sure how to prepare your entries, then help is at hand. Caversham Horticultural Society invites gardeners to come to the first talk of 2012 when show judge Barry Newman will give a talk upon this subject, concentrating upon the exhibit categories of vegetables, herbs and fruit. The talk starts at 7.45pm on Wednesday 18th April at the society's usual venue, Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road.

**Caversham Horticultural Society**

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**Caversham Heights Society**

The story of the **Cutty Sark** was our first talk in February and it became much more personal when we learned that the speaker, Martin Woodgett, was the great grandson of Captain Richard Woodgett, a skipper of the clipper from 1885-1895. This historical ship was the best preserved ship of the Merchant Navy and was named after the short shift worn by the witch in the poem *Tam o' Shanter* by Burns.

Martin, who was steeped in the history of this famous clipper, took us through the history of the Cutty Sark since it was built in 1869 for the tea trade. While under conservation in 2007 it was badly damaged by fire. Grants have been given to finance repairs, and the Cutty Sark will be restored and open to the public this year.

Richard Woodgett became skipper at the age of 40, and took the clipper, with its cargoes of wool, as far south as he could, travelling through stormy seas at record speeds. The Cutty Sark had many successful years tea trading with China but the competition became too strong and cargoes of wool replaced the tea runs. Capt Woodgett left behind a wonderful legacy of photographs of the clipper which he had taken himself. Daily life on board was demanding, the diet monotonous and the pay poor. The skipper received £20 a month, the crew £4.

As well as photography, Capt Woodgett had several hobbies which brought in extra income. He took collie dogs on voyages and sold the puppies when he reached his destination and taught apprentices to roller skate on deck and ride bicycles between the decks.

Later in February, Myra and Viv Emerson, members of the society, gave a fascinating account of their holiday to China in 2010. They had taken excellent photographs to illustrate their journey from Shanghai to Beijing and we were invited to see more photos after the talk. We were treated to slides and descriptions of the Terracotta Army, jade and silk factories, Tiananmen Square, the Olympic Stadium, the Great Wall, gardens and statues, and a river cruise, were among many wonderful sights.

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80) and playing ability (beginner to county players). New members are  
especially welcome, free instruction is available from qualified coaches.  
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The majority of our club fixtures, including friendlies with other local  
clubs, are mixed. We also have men's and women's sides in all the local  
League and Cup Competitions. The Club also has annual in-house  
competitions with cups and trophies and an honours board for the  
results.

There is a full summer programme of matches from April to September.  
The winter has a programme of social events e.g. annual dinner dance,  
race night, skittles, bingo and quizzes. Wednesday evenings from  
October to March we play cards and dominoes at the clubhouse.

There are various types of membership, Full, Junior, Disabled and  
Associate (Social).

We hope to see you at one of our Open Days and only ask that you  
wear flat shoes - bowls and other equipment will be provided.

If you miss the Open Days, please drop in any Friday evening after  
6:30pm and talk to our members.

Don't forget to visit our website [www.bowlsshiplake.com](http://www.bowlsshiplake.com) or ring  
0118-947-5220

**Caversham Rotary Club**

In February Little Heath School hosted the district final of the Rotary  
Young Chef competition, organised by Caversham Rotary Club. Among  
the competitors from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire was  
Izzy Love, a year 10 student at Little Heath School who won the local  
competition last November. The competition is an annual event run in  
association with Filippo Berio Olive Oil. The winner of this stage goes  
onto the regional competition and, if successful, to the national final in  
April. The winner, of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year, wins two weeks  
in Italy as the guest of Filippo Berio.

The challenge facing the competitors is to cook a two course meal for  
two people costing no more than £10. The judges, as well as judging the  
excellence of the dishes, have to award marks for healthy choices, how  
organised the competitors were, and how tidy they kept their work  
space. They gave the prize to Megan Gambrell from Oxford Cherwell  
Valley College, Banbury and the runner up was Martha Collinson from  
Charters school, Ascot. Both will go to next stage of competition in  
Brighton.

Tony Hampton who organised the event on behalf of Caversham  
Rotary Club said "I was amazed how ambitious the students were in  
their choice of dishes and how excellent the results were, as good as  
many restaurant meals. Their parents must be very lucky to have such  
great cooks in the family."

The Young Chef competition is one of several competitions that Rotary  
runs nationally for young people each year, among others are public  
speaking, technology and music. Rotary International also maintains the  
biggest post graduate international scholarship programme in the world.  
Each year about 1000 Ambassadorial Scholars from many countries go  
to study their chosen subject in another country, many coming here to  
attend Oxford, Reading, or Brunel universities.

Jitesh Patel, president of the club, thanked all the organisers and the  
teachers present, including the head of food technology at Little Heath,  
Jenny Day, herself a former winner of the local competition.

For further information contact:-

Tony Hampton Tel. 0118 984 3699 or [Tonyhampt@aol.com](mailto:Tonyhampt@aol.com)

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