

## Christian Unity Service at Our Lady & St. Anne

This year's Unity Service was held at Our Lady & St. Anne Roman Catholic church. Given that the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' was launched by a Catholic priest from Lyon, the Abbé Paul Couturier, in the early years of the 20th century, it is fitting that from time to time a Catholic church is host to this annual celebration. Last year, when the new parish priest at South View Avenue, Father Patrick H. Daly, was the preacher at the Unity Service in the Anglican parish church, St. Peter's, the ceremony, although relaxed and to some extent informal, still was shrouded in the majesty which the Established Church alone can provide. The Unity Service this year was a more non-Conformist event and was held on Wednesday 23 January. Hosted in the Catholic church and with the Methodist chair of CCT, the Reverend David Jenkins, as guest preacher, the congregation too was drawn largely from the Catholic, Methodist and Baptist communities of Caversham. We prayed of course for all the church communities

of our suburb, including our numerous Anglican parishes, and yet – given that John Wesley was author of many of our hymns – the whole ceremony had a non-Conformist flavour. What was wonderful was how everyone present, not least the choir in the organ gallery, sang with what John Keats would describe as "full-throated ease." Our preacher reminded us of the Catholic roots of the Unity Octave and said, with good reason, that all preachers – Methodist, Anglican or Catholic, Evangelical or High Church – all took their cue from Jesus' first public appearance in the synagogue of his native Nazareth. The preaching, regardless of which ecclesial tradition inspired the words, must focus on the values of the Kingdom of God. One of those values, as Paul frequently reminded the early Christian communities to which he wrote, is hospitality. And hospitality was on offer immediately after the prayer service in the Cenacle and enjoyed by all.

[Contributed by Father Patrick H. Daly, parish priest]



### LENT GROUPS 2019 More choice than ever!

www.cavershamchurch.org.uk

#### Monday

**7.30pm The Creed: our Profession of Christian Faith**  
March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15  
Fr Patrick Daly  
Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Church RG4 5AB  
Contact: o.l.a.s.a.office@gmail.com 0118 947 1787

#### Tuesday

**On 5th March, Shrove Tuesday, the Flipping Marvellous Pancake Party 3.15-5pm at Grace Church, RG4 8TR**

**10.30am From the Ram to the Lamb** (Scripture Union)  
Five sessions commencing March 12th  
Rev Colin Baker  
Sacrifice— from Abraham to Jesus  
The Lounge, Caversham Baptist Church, South Street  
Contact: pastor@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk 0118-375-8916

#### Wednesday

**10am The Commandments** (C of E Pilgrim Course)  
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17  
St Andrew's Church, Harrogate Road, RG4 7AW  
*Please tell us if you plan to attend so we can order the booklets!*  
Contact: St Andrew's Mothers' Union- Maggie Barden 0118-954-3515

**7.30pm Daring to See God Now** (York Course)  
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10: Rev James Mather & Rev Nigel Jones  
St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, RG4 7AW  
*Please tell us if you plan to attend so we can order the booklets!*  
Contact: vicar@standrewscaversham.org 0118-947-2788

**8pm From the Ram to the Lamb** (Scripture Union)  
Five sessions commencing March 6th  
Sacrifice— from Abraham to Jesus  
Hosted by Richard Wilson, 7 Blenheim Road, RG4 7RT  
Contact: pastor@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk 0118-375-8916

#### Thursday

**10am From the Ram to the Lamb** (Scripture Union)  
Five sessions commencing March 14th  
Sacrifice— from Abraham to Jesus  
Hosted by Suea, 15 Brill Close, Caversham RG4 7RD  
Contact: pastor@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk 0118-375-8916

**2pm The Bible Course** (Bible Society)  
Eight sessions commencing February 21st **← N.B. starts before Lent!**  
The course shows how the key books, famous characters and epic events form one BIG story, from Genesis to Revelation. The course also provides tools and skills that help apply the Bible to everyday life.  
Wesley Lounge, Caversham Heights Methodist Church, RG4 7BG  
Contact: Brenda Caborn 0118-947-2404  
*Please tell us if you plan to attend so we can order the booklets!*

**6.15pm Hospitality at Home**  
Not able to commit to a weekly house group during Lent but still want to do something? Then come to Hospitality at Home for home cooked food and company. March 7th for six weeks: Come once, come all 6 weeks, the choice is yours. No need to book except for special diets (vegetarian and gluten free will be catered for every week). During the meal there will be a short reading on the subject of hospitality and the option to join in or listen to a discussion if you want to.  
The Rectory, 20 Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AD  
Contact: Rev Rachel Ross Smith 0118-947-8896 or 07884-371688

**7- 10pm Lent Film Club**  
March 7, 14, 21, April 4, 11  
Rev Judith Ryder and Rev Derek Chandler  
St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA  
Contact: 0118-947-8239 or judith@ctmparish.org.uk

**8pm Discovering Hope**  
Using the Psalms of lament as a guide, we'll be taking some space to explore how expressing our emotions to God can help us find hope.  
Five sessions commencing March 14th  
Hosted by Nicki Wisdom and Jane Robson at 268 Henley Road, RG4 6LS  
Contact: nickiwisdom@yahoo.co.uk or 07813-307405

**8pm From the Ram to the Lamb** (Scripture Union)  
Five sessions commencing March 7th  
Sacrifice— from Abraham to Jesus  
Hosted by Martyn Strong, 30 Evesham Road, Emmer Green RG4 8RG  
Contact: pastor@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk 0118-375-8916

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### Bishop Andrew at St Andrew's Church on Ash Wednesday

Bishop Andrew of Reading is coming to St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham Heights on Ash Wednesday March 6th at 7.30pm to conduct the Ash Wednesday service marking the beginning of Lent. This will be his last service in Caversham before he retires in May.

# Caversham Clergy

## ANGLICAN

St Barnabas  
Rev'd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road.  
Tel: 947 8239.  
www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

St Andrew  
Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrew's Vicarage,  
Harrogate Road. Tel: 947 2788  
www.standrewscaversham.org

Caversham Thameside Ministry -  
St Peter, St Margaret, St John  
Rev'd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Road, Caversham RG4 7AD Tel: 9479505  
rector@ctmparish.org.uk

Rev'd Marion Pyke Tel: 947 5834  
Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265  
Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331810  
Rev'd Judith Ryder Tel: 9473783

## CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (LEP)

(Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and URC)  
Contact: Dr Alison Johnston  
Tel: 0118 947 5152. www.cpv.org.uk

## METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.  
Tel: 947 2223  
Rev'd D Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

## CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev'd Colin Baker  
Church office tel 0118 954 5353  
Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

## RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)

www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

## GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)  
www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk Tel 9474529

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne  
Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery,  
2 South View Avenue. Tel: 947 1787.

## St Michael

Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels,  
Sonning Common Tel: 972 3418

## NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009

# TALKING POINT

by Rev. Marion Pyke



I write this article sitting in a house in a private road which has now decided to shut its gates to Caversham. Derby Road has decided to control who it lets in and who it shuts out!

Ironically my brief was to write about the theme of hospitality in all our Caversham churches. Are the two compatible? Hospitality is more than inviting someone into your home for a cup of tea. It involves opening up, welcoming, accepting, giving, sharing, loving, advocating, even sacrificing. God is hospitable to us, if we let him, he shares his love all the time. Hospitality is making others feel at home. Some folks automatically make you feel at home. Others may make you wish you were!

The context of Christian Hospitality is love. Love, first for what Christ has given you with the recognition that everything you have is a gift from Him and belongs to Him. Second it is a love for others.

Hospitality means, primarily, the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines or rules and regulations.

Jesus eats with outsiders, he does not preach to them. He does not try to convert them. He gives them free space. What does it cost us to be hospitable? How should we practice hospitality? Without grumbling. This may be the hardest part! How often do we find ourselves struggling to serve others cheerfully? The command to be hospitable is unconditional. It does not say, "Show hospitality if you have time....or, if it is convenient...." or, "if you have a big enough house...or, if you have a complete set of matching plates".

We are called to be hospitable no matter who we are and no matter what our circumstances are, AND we are to do it without complaining. Hospitality, therefore, is a concrete, down-to-earth test of our fervent love for God and His people. Love can be an abstract, indistinct idea; hospitality is specific and tangible. We seldom complain about loving others too much, but we do complain about the inconveniences of hospitality. Hospitality is love in action. Hospitality is the flesh and muscle on the bones of love. Through caring acts of hospitality, the reality of our love is tested.

Rev. Marion Pyke

Associate Priest. St Peter's, Caversham

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[www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk)  
**0118 948 3466**

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 11.30am  
Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ANGLICAN

### St Peter, St Peter's Hill

8.00am Holy Communion – BCP (first, second and fourth Sundays)  
Matins – BCP (Third Sunday)  
9.30am Holy Communion (second, third and fourth Sundays)  
Service of the Word (First Sunday)  
6.30pm Holy Communion with Healing Prayers usually 1st Sunday, Evensong (usually Choral on second Sunday)

### St John, Gosbrook Road

9.30am Holy Communion (first, third and fourth Sundays)  
9.30am All Age Worship (second Sunday)  
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

### St Margaret, Mapledurham

11.15am Holy Communion (first, second and fourth Sundays) Morning Worship (third Sunday)  
Fifth Sunday – Parish wide service (check website for details)

### St Andrew, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)  
First Sunday, Family Eucharist  
11.30am The Eucharist first Sunday BCP

### St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Said Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Parish Communion  
9.30am COGS for all ages (1st Sunday of Month)

### RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Meeting at Hemdean House School, Hemdean Road, Caversham  
10.00am Morning Worship & Teaching

### 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, South Street

10.30am Morning Worship each Sunday  
6.30pm House of Prayer (praise and prayer) –  
2nd Sunday each month  
3.45pm Messy Church – for all the family  
Fourth Sunday of the month

### GRACE CHURCH, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church

### THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

#### Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am  
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)  
Gosbrook Road  
10.30am

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

### Our Lady and St Anne, Southview Avenue

Saturday 5.30pm,  
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm  
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

### St Michael, Sonning Common

5.30pm Saturday  
9.00 and 10.30am Monday

### 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 2019: Copy price and subscription price

Caversham Bridge is sold at £0.40 per copy. The subscription price which includes delivery to your home address is increased to £5.00 / year (for 12 issues) from January 2019.

## Caversham Bridge

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Email address is: editors@cavershambridge.org  
Advertising copy for the April 2019 issue should be sent to Mr A. Wright, Twigmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by Friday 1st March. The date for the May issue Friday 29th March. Email address is: advertising@cavershambridge.org

## PARISH OFFICES

### PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM

St Peter, St Margaret, St John  
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX  
Tuesday and Friday 9.30am to 2pm  
Tel: 947 1703 email: secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

### ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Centre  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-10.30am  
Tel: 947 6310 Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk

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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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# Reading Youth Orchestra celebrates 75th Anniversary with a Spring Concert

It is said that music brings people together. Looking at Reading Youth Orchestra, one of the oldest youth orchestras in the country, this is an easy fact to observe. We have a group of students who bond over a common hobby, who grow as young people and musicians by learning and playing music together, and striving to achieve a musical outcome both accomplished and beautiful.

This phenomenon has been in our very own Reading for 75 years now. In 1944, before the end of the war and shortly after the Youth Committee began instrumental lessons at more modest fees, the youth orchestra was founded. It started with only 11 players, many of whom could not even read music. And yet music was made and performed, and the orchestra grew in size, talent and confidence. In 1947 the orchestra went on their first tour to Holland, and in 1949 played to two thousand people in Düsseldorf, the orchestra by then having 60 members.



Over the years, the orchestra can find former members now in many professional orchestras and teaching positions across the country, as well as other far flung places. Members have come and gone, our size has fluctuated, the political appetite for

music provision has been on its own journey, and yet we still bring players together every week to learn, enjoy and play music.

Reading Youth Orchestra exists today with the same focus it has always had - providing young musicians in

the area with the opportunity to develop by playing fantastic repertoire in a friendly and sociable environment. There is a prestige in enabling our students to appear with accomplished professional soloists, but also in giving them the means to be soloists themselves.

We are delighted to present our 75th Anniversary concert featuring talented members of our ensemble as soloists. Led by Euan Mallett, the first half will present solos from flautist Michi Aneez, oboist Abbey Hardy and baritone David Cox. The second half will be the cheerful and full-of-life 8th Symphony by Dvorak, inspired by Czech and Slavonic folk music.

Join us on Saturday 16th March 2019 at 7.00pm in St Joseph's College, Reading RG1 5JT to hear the results of our members' hard work. Tickets for this 75th Anniversary Spring Concert are available on the door (cash only): Adult £10, Concession/Child £5, Family ticket £20.

Programme: Chaminade Concertino for Flute and Orchestra, Bellini Oboe Concerto in Eb Major, Dvorak Symphony No.8 in G Major. The Orchestra is conducted by Paul Cox. Enquiries about the concert or membership to [reading.youth.orch@gmail.com](mailto:reading.youth.orch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.readingyouthorchestra.co.uk](http://www.readingyouthorchestra.co.uk)

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# Highdown School - Caversham's hub for secondary education

Highdown School was established as a comprehensive school in 1971. Currently some 1350 students are enrolled from 11 to 18 years of age. The school includes three Grade II listed buildings within its 32 acre grounds, and is very proud to be at the heart of its community. The school estate is buzzing all day and every weekend and holiday many members of 'Highdown Sport and Leisure' come to use our facilities. We are delighted that many clubs book our swimming pool and astro turf pitches as well as other areas - Highdown never sleeps!

As Headteacher, and on behalf of the School, I am very glad to be contributing to the 'Caversham Bridge' newspaper and hope that this feature will give the community a better understanding of what we do in school and of life inside the Highdown gates. Highdown was awarded academy status in 2010 and was judged to be a **good school, with many outstanding features** by Ofsted in April 2015 and which was confirmed in a short inspection in October 2018.

The ethos of the school is very clear: "Highdown School is a very special place. As Headteacher, I am very proud of all we do here and our resolute determination to continue to improve every day. Staff and students alike aspire to achieve excellence in all we do. Our commitment and resilience is underpinned by core values of honesty, responsibility, respect, tolerance and courtesy".

\*Our philosophy is simple – great teaching supported by committed pastoral care gives great outcomes and life chances for our young people. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and provides a solid platform for life in our Sixth Form. Life at Highdown is a five or more likely a seven year journey. We provide learning opportunities to ensure our students remain stimulated and motivated and develop a lifelong thirst for learning. Highdowners should go from outstanding lesson to outstanding lesson being challenged and guided to make the most of great opportunities".

To continue, we can look at some of the school's activities which capture our range and diversity.

**Presentation Evening:** Before



Christmas, the annual Certificate Presentation Evening took place. Congratulations to all the students who

collected their GCSE and A Level certificates. There were also prizes given out to recognise outstanding achievements and the prize winners are pictured with Headteacher Ms Cave and the special guest, adventurer Charlie Walker (cwexplore.com).

**Out and About in English! Year 9 Micklands Trip:** At the end of term 2, thirty Year 9 students visited Micklands Primary school. The Year 9 students had worked hard to prepare exciting, inspiring and engaging Christmas narratives during their English lessons and during their visit, they worked with Year 4 students in small groups, reading their narratives and facilitating work for the primary students based on the stories that they had created.

**Waitrose & Partners Caversham Community Matters Scheme - February 2019:** Community Matters is an initiative to enable Waitrose branches to support local charities. Each branch has £1,000 per month to be divided proportionally, as indicated by customer token votes, between three nominated local organisations. Highdown PTA has been selected as one of the organisations for February so we hoped you may have taken a token every time you shopped in Waitrose last month and put it in the Highdown section!



**Duke of Edinburgh's Award:** This year we have celebrated over 50 of our students completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, an amazing achievement for all involved. While most people are aware of the challenges of the expedition section of the award our participants have also completed over 1000 hours of volunteering to support their communities and developed teamwork and leadership skills that will help them throughout their lives.

**Textiles:** Year 10 & 12 took part in a 'Make it Personal in Textiles' workshop. The students had the opportunity to work alongside textile designer Jane Bowler to gain first-hand experience of how she works using this information to inspire their own set of samples in preparation for their upcoming deadlines. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about different career paths available within the industry, and were all really inspired and motivated to continue developing their independent projects.



**Highdown Riverside School:** As many of you know, Highdown is bidding to open the new school in Reading, responding to the need for more local places and the fact that we are heavily oversubscribed.

Please could you support this process by registering your support at <http://www.highdownriversideschool.org/>

This would be most appreciated, even if you do not have any more children to come through Highdown, the local authority data

shows that there are increasing numbers looking for places in our area and Highdown wants to offer local families real choice.

**Thames Water Visit:** Thames Water visited during February to discuss their efforts in the workplace to help support the mental health and wellbeing of their staff. Year 11 students had an assembly focused on this, followed by a workshop on what our young people expect from employees. This session was a brilliant chance for a large local employer to go through any concerns or worries our students might have about the world of work. With 'Time to Talk' day being this week, Highdown is keen to keep our students feeling supported and offering a wide range of experiences, including with outside agencies, to best support our students.

**Get Into Teaching:** We are really proud of our 2019 PGCE cohort of trainee teachers from Oxford, Reading, Brighton and UCL Universities. Great teachers in the making, learning from the inspirational teachers at Highdown. If you are thinking of becoming that next inspirational teacher please don't hesitate to email Dr A Love, Professional Tutor at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre ([anlove@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:anlove@highdown.reading.sch.uk)) to discuss how we can support your journey. [Contributed by Ms R E Cave, Headteacher, and colleagues]

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## Caversham Heights Society: November talks on fusion power and swan upping

November 2018 saw two contrasting talks given to members of the Caversham Heights Society. The first, given by Chris Warwick from the Culham Atomic Research laboratories on the 7th November entitled 'Fusion - a clean future?', was a serious and thoughtful explanation of the attempts at Culham to fuse hydrogen atoms together in order to generate energy that could then be used in the National Grid. This has been the Holy Grail since the 1950s but still has a long way to go.

There is a sense of urgency to find a means of producing cheaper energy as soon as possible because it is estimated that the amount of energy needed will double by 2050. Currently the USA uses twice the amount of energy than any other country. Both Professors Stephen Hawking and Brian Cox have advocated the development of nuclear power as the future way to go and Russia and the European

countries are working on ways to create and harness nuclear power in a sustainable manner. The Russians began with their Tokamak reactor and the Joint European Torus (JET), funded by the EU, is what is being used at Culham.

Although hydrogen particles have been joined together the difficulties are in getting them to stick together for sufficient lengths of time to be able to generate electricity. The hope is that JET scientists will be able to do this by 2050, although the old-fashioned power stations would need to be adapted for any benefits to be felt. If such developments can be achieved the benefits would be clean energy; the need to burn fossil fuels would be eliminated; and the timescale could be long lasting. If JET could be replicated on a smaller scale the UK could become the leading country in this sphere.

The second talk, on the 21st November, was given by

David Barber, the Queen's Swan Marker. For those who were unaware of the history of Swan Upping and of how and why the recording of the number of swans and cygnets on the Thames was, and is, so important David's talk was informative, enthralling, colourful and humorous. He began by describing the importance of swans to the royal household's menu from at least 1186 and how the medieval kings laid claim to all mute swans swimming in open water. Any study of the feasts of the Tudor monarchs would see the numbers of swans eaten. Gradually the two powerful and wealthy Livery companies, the Dyers and the Vintners, were also given rights to own certain swans as were many abbots of monasteries and important barons and landowners. Today, apart from the Ilchester family who own the swans at Abbotsbury in Dorset, only the Queen and the Livery companies can lay claim to ownership. Fortunately swans are no longer eaten.

In the third week of July a colourful ceremonial procession of six wooden skiffs, two representing the Crown, and two each for the Livery Companies, each member dressed in their red uniforms spend five days rowing the 79 miles up the Thames from Sunbury to Abingdon. The purpose of the 'Swan Upping' (so called because the boats go 'up' the Thames and the swans are taken 'up' from the water to be checked, counted and ringed) is to check on their health and condition and to help with conservation. Sadly in recent years there has been a decline in numbers because of foxes, birds of prey and birds getting snagged in nylon fishing gear or tackle. Also there has been a move to prevent people feeding swans and geese with bread. Our speaker said that this had been detrimental and should be stopped.

Talks in 2019 include 'The Digital Society', 'The development of Public Libraries' and 'Crime and Punishment in the 21st Century.' Meetings are held on alternate Wednesday evenings at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall at 8.00pm following coffee at 7.15pm. New members are always welcome and details can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org) or by email to: [contact@cavershamheights.org](mailto:contact@cavershamheights.org)

## The Digital Society: danger, disruption and opportunity

There was only one evening talk for the Caversham Heights Society during January. This was a very topical one on 'The Digital Society: danger, disruption and opportunity' given by Nick Jones, former Head of Digital Communications at No. 10 Downing Street, during David Cameron's premiership and now working for the HS2 project. He is also an adviser to business as well as to government.

He began his talk by explaining how he became involved with the Internet and digital communications while he was working with Craig Oliver on the student magazine at St Andrews University. He then went into journalism and became fascinated by new and digital forms of communicating the news. Nick said that his whole life had been affected by digital technology because the Internet was first launched in 1969, the year of his birth. Today over 90% of the UK population is connected through computers, smartphones, ipads or tablets and numerous other gadgets developed either by Apple or Microsoft. Nick said that he became even more involved when, as a civil servant, he was asked to help set up a digital communications network at No. 10 under David Cameron. Until then government was technologically way behind the times. Now technologies are used daily for distributing masses of information through the Government Communication Service to, or through, numerous government departments such as the NHS, the Ministry of Defence, or the Environment Agency. Some of the information is precisely that, information, some is propaganda such as used by RT ('Russia Today').

Nick stressed that technology as such is neutral. How it is used might not be. It now provides global interconnectedness

in a matter of seconds providing instant news although how this is presented is often biased. Nick also stressed three aspects of the digital revolution- Create, Connect and Share. Creative ideas can now be easily shared with like-minded friends and colleagues; the world is now globally connected; and photographs/selfies and personal news can quickly be shared. These are the positives. The negatives, however, include fake news, false information, incitement to terrorism, hatred, violence, pornographic images, encouragement to self-harm, the 'Dark Web', easily accessed by sexual predators across the world and cyberattacks, either perpetrated by criminals or by perceived hostile countries such as Russia or China. Unfortunately our security and police forces, let alone the Government, are several steps behind and the laws to curb, control or block such activities are often even further behind. While much good has arisen from the digital age there are still many moral and ethical issues that need to be addressed urgently.

This was an interesting and thought provoking talk. What came across very clearly, however, was the great gulf in the knowledge, use and awareness of digital matters between the older generation such as many members of the CHS and the 'tech savvy' younger generation to whom this is part of daily life.

Meetings of the CHS are held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in the Caversham Heights Methodist church hall in Highmoor Road beginning with coffee and chat at 7.15pm. New members are welcome and further information can be found at [www.cavershamheights.org](http://www.cavershamheights.org) or by email to: [contact@cavershamheights.org](mailto:contact@cavershamheights.org)

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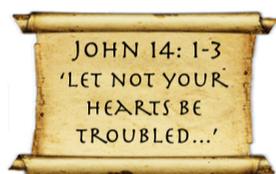
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# The Influence of Victorian Mourning in Reading Cemetery – History of Reading Society

The subject of the January talk was the Influence of Victorian Mourning in Reading Cemetery. The speaker was Anna Ellis who as a mature student has completed a BA Honours degree in archaeology at the University of Reading.

On the 6th May 1843 the *'Berkshire Chronicle'* reported the first interment at the new Reading Cemetery. The burial was of Elizabeth Jacobs the daughter of Mr T. Jacobs of Eldon Terrace, Reading and the mourners were led by the Reverend William Legg of Broad Street Chapel; a considerable number of spectators had gathered to witness the event.

The Reading Cemetery Company was established by an Act of Parliament in 1842 to build and maintain a cemetery on the outskirts of the town; it would be funded by the sale of company shares and burial plots. It was

based on the seven 'garden cemeteries' that were established on the outskirts of London and whose layouts were influenced by the writings of the landscape gardener and botanist John Claudius Loudon.

The purpose of these 'out-of-town' cemeteries was to move the dead from the immediate proximity of the living, this in response to the growing national campaign against the universal custom of burying the dead in churchyards. Reading's growing population and the increasing mortality rate, particularly from the most feared of Victorian killers – cholera – meant that the overcrowded burial grounds in the town's parish churches were now a hazard to public health.

The site of the new cemetery at Hatton's Platt in Earley was purchased from a Mr. Cholmeley. It



The cemetery gate c. 1910

is flanked by the London and Wokingham Roads and is surrounded by a high perimeter wall, built to prevent grave robbing. The site is bisected by a central avenue approached through the neo-classical gatehouse. The interred are segregated: the non-Conformists are buried opposite the gatehouse and the Conformists (Church of England) nearer to Palmer Park. Originally there were two chapels. The trees and shrubs were supplied by Suttons Seeds of Reading.

In 1861, after the death of her husband Prince Albert, Queen Victoria influenced a vogue, following a bereavement, for more flamboyant,

ritualized forms of public behaviour at funerals and a more outward mourning etiquette.

The bereaved were often led into spending more than was either necessary or desirable for a funeral. To avoid the ignominy of a 'pauper's funeral' many families on low incomes would save money each week to pay for it. A typical funeral comprised the 'wake' a social gathering in the home of the deceased followed by a remembrance service at a church. The deceased would then be conveyed



A general view of the cemetery entrance c. 1893

to the cemetery by a horse-drawn cortège, the coffin bedecked in wreaths and the horses' heads adorned with plumes. A clergyman would preside at a short ceremony at the graveside before burial.

The burial plot could be marked by a simple metal or wooden cross; more expensive headstones with

an inscription made of stone, marble or granite were popular. The wealthy would erect ornate monuments: statues on plinths, obelisks and broken columns were some of the designs available.

Immediately, a period of mourning would commence: this could last between a year and two years. The most restrictive etiquette applied to widows: the convention required them, at all times, to be attired entirely in black garments which were made of crepe, a dull silk; a veil should be worn to cover the face and any jewellery was made of jet. Widowers would usually wear a black arm band.

Today, there are 70,000 burials and 12,000 monuments at the cemetery. In 2002 the cemetery was Grade II listed by English Heritage. Additionally, two monuments are Grade II listed:



A general view of the memorials

one is to Bernard Laurence Hieatt a world record holding motorcycle rider and pilot, and the other, a pair of cast-iron urns dedicated to the Barratt and Andrews families, once owners of a local iron foundry.

The subject of the next talk will be the *'History of Reading Allotments'*. The speaker will be Evelyn Williams. It will take place at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome, £2 to non-members.

[Contributed by the History of Reading Society]

# A taste of the Royal institution at Highdown, Caversham

While the Royal Institution is best known for its annual Christmas Lectures, it also has an extensive educational outreach programme. Last term thirty Year 5 children from the nine Caversham primary schools – Caversham, Caversham Park, Emmer Green, Micklands, St Anne's, St Martin's, The Heights, The Hill and Thameside - greatly enjoyed a series of six mathematics masterclasses hosted at Highdown School.



A period engraving of the City of Königsberg

Primary mathematics masterclasses are free hands-on, interactive sessions led by enthusiastic practitioners from academia, education and industry. The Caversham children were selected by their teachers as pupils who would be 'curious about mathematics and well-motivated'. They were expected to attend all six workshops in their own time after school! The sessions go beyond the school curriculum and bring maths to life in surprising topics. They proved extremely popular and all but one of the children attended every masterclass.

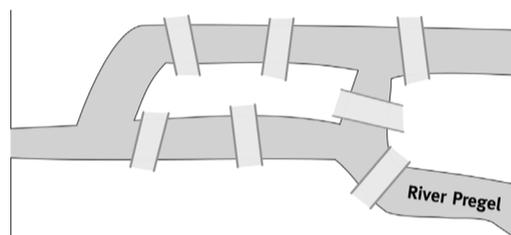
Our series kicked off at Hallowe'en with a session on 'Platonic Solids' by Alison Eves from the Royal Institution. The session ended with each child making a dodecahedron 'pumpkin', complete with LED light. The second session, by a lecturer from Plymouth University on cryptography, involved the children deciphering all manner of codes. The next masterclass was led by a Highdown Maths teacher, Jason Davison, a mathematical magician who regularly presents a maths magic show at the Edinburgh Festival. He was quite amazing and the children all went home with some mathematical tricks to show their families and friends. However, none of them were able to execute the perfect shuffle that Jason demonstrated!

The historical problem, the 'Seven Bridges of Königsberg' (a city in Prussia) formed the basis of the fourth session. The problem was to devise a walk through the city that would cross each of the bridges once and once only. Exploring this introduced the children to networks. A local engineer delivered the fifth workshop, challenging



Dodecahedron pumpkins

the children to build and stress test an 'oil rig' using marshmallows and straws. The final masterclass by lecturers from the University of Hertfordshire was a practical session on anamorphic art, where a picture only looked normal from one position or through a cylindrical mirror.



A diagram of the bridges of Königsberg

Parents were invited to the end of this final session. The children and the regular Highdown sixth-form helpers were presented with attendance certificates from the Royal Institution by Professor Davies. They will also be invited to attend an event at the Royal Institution this summer. The Ri (<http://www.rigb.org>) is well worth visiting, ten elements were discovered there as well as pioneering work by Faraday, Davy and other well-known scientists.

The Masterclasses aim to open the eyes of young people to the excitement,



Students busy at work in class

beauty and value of mathematics and to help inspire the next generation. They are run throughout the country, but this is only the second series to be established in the Reading area. I would like to thank Mrs Julie Noctor, from Highdown, who liaised with Penny Mason, Julie Goring and myself, and with Julie Heaps who helped on a regular basis. If you are interested in learning more, or supporting the proposed 2019 Autumn Masterclass series in any way, please contact the organiser, Linda Glithro ([linda@glithro.com](mailto:linda@glithro.com)). [Contributed by Linda Glithro]

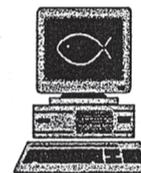
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# Caversham flood defence proposals – are these the right solution?

For most people who live near the Thames in Caversham, flooding of some kind is a known risk. Some may even remember the flood of 1947 or at least have seen pictures. Currently a major flood is estimated to occur once in a hundred years, but current proposals by the Environment Agency (EA) for a large-scale Flood Alleviation Scheme in Caversham are predicated on an even bigger flood, once-in-200-years – that is a 0.5% chance of such an event occurring every year.

Drop-in consultation events in June/

July and December 2018 held by the EA gave local residents the opportunity to question, comment and vote for one of four options. Of those who did respond to the consultation, 55% said they did not want the EA to pursue any of the flood defence proposals (Option 4). Even so, the EA is pressing ahead with the development of detailed designs for a massive scheme that will change forever the green spaces and residential areas along the Thames in Caversham.

Everyone who lives in, commutes through or just enjoys the river environment between Caversham Bridge and Nire Road (Lower Caversham) will be affected.

The currently proposed flood measures include:

- ca. 4km of flood walls and embankments (some expected to be as high as 2.8m and 19m wide) on the north side of the river
- flood walls between Reading Bridge and Caversham Bridge on the south side (to mitigate the effect of the defences on the north side)
- a 25m wide 'conveyance channel' that will cut through the current play area in Christchurch Meadows and into Hill's Meadow.

For more information visit the EA's information page on the scheme (here <http://tinyurl.com/ya2qvcc4>).

It is questionable whether the heavy-engineering solutions drawn up by the EA's partners, engineering firm Jacobs, are a necessary, proportionate and appropriate solution to the known and expected problems of flooding in this area. At the very least, the scheme will result in substantial tree and hedge loss, impact on the movements of wildlife and permanently alter the local landscape.

An emerging campaign against the scheme, made up of local residents and community groups, intends to increase local awareness, raise questions about the adequacy of the consultation and press the EA to engage with the serious concerns about and objections to the scheme from residents, businesses and those for whom the riverside environment is an essential part of their lives.

If you want to support the campaign by offering time and/or expertise, or you just want to find out what concerns people have in your particular locality, please contact CABFAS (Campaign for a Better Flood Plain Alleviation Scheme) by email at: [cabfas.campaign@gmail.com](mailto:cabfas.campaign@gmail.com)

If you have questions or comments for the EA, please do raise these directly with the EA project team at [reading@cavershamscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:reading@cavershamscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk). The more people comment on the scheme the better.

## Trip to Llandudno

Debbie Lambie is working with Reading Voluntary Action to organize a four day trip to Llandudno. Details and contact information are provided in the box below.



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## Winter tree identification walk at Mapledurham Playing Fields

Over 40 people turned out on a chilly morning with the Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields to take a walk with Reading Tree Warden Marcus Wheeler. Marcus admitted it can be tricky identifying trees at this time of year,

but guided the participants through the clues of bud shape and colour, twig patterns, bark patterns, fallen leaves below, etc and told interesting facts about trees generally. At the end there was tea, coffee and cake provided by Ken and Barbara Macrae at the bottom of their garden.

The Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields are concerned about several aspects of the Landscape Plan for the fields, and are continuing to raise questions with Reading Borough Council.

The group usually meet on the third Saturday morning of the month in the orchard. All are welcome and gloves, tools, tea and guidance are provided.

Check beforehand on the econet website [www.econet.reading.org.uk](http://www.econet.reading.org.uk)



Participants on the winter identification walk

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# Pangbourne Choral Society's 'Glorious' Spring Concert

Pangbourne Choral Society's Spring Concert will be held on Saturday, 16th March starting at 7.30 pm in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College with a programme featuring Poulenc, Wagner and Puccini.

The Concert will focus on the 'Gloria' masses of Francis Poulenc (1959) and Giacomo Puccini (1880), interspersed with Richard Wagner's 'Siegfried Idyll' (1870). The three pieces are rich with music of the Romantic genre ideal for large choir and orchestra.

The centerpiece consists of the two celebratory *Gloria* masses. The Puccini is an early work pointing directly to later operatic compositions with wonderfully rich vocal scoring of the Latin Mass. Although composed in 1880, it only gained full international recognition in 1959.

Poulenc's 'Gloria' is equally rich pointing towards the post-Romantic musical era.

Wagner's 'Siegfried Idyll' was originally intended as a private piece – a birthday present for his wife Cosima, on the birth of their son. The orchestration was expanded to 35 players when eventually it 'went public'.

The 100-strong PCS will be joined (on this occasion) by the 46-strong Southern Sinfonia Orchestra. Both will be conducted by Pangbourne College Music Director, Ellie Calver, making this the ideal concert to usher in the Spring and a more positive mood in these uncertain times.

Our talented young soloists are Danae Eleni (soprano) in the Poulenc, Adam Tunnicliffe (tenor) and Robert Garland (baritone).

Mick Lewers, PCS Chairman comments: "The Choir is loving each and every rehearsal of this wonderful music and a great concert is in prospect".

Tickets £15.00 including programme (£8.00 for age 18 and under) are available online ([www.pangbournechoral.org.uk](http://www.pangbournechoral.org.uk)), from Choral Society members, and also at Garlands Organic, 6 Reading Road, Pangbourne or on the door. Early booking is advised. Contact if required: 0118 984 5079

## William Marshal: celebrating his 800th Anniversary

The great William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke, was Regent to the boy King Henry III and he died at his manor house in Caversham on 14th May 1219. After his death his body was taken across the Thames to Reading Abbey for a solemn mass, and conveyed thence to the Temple church in London for burial. It was thanks to William Marshal that a French invasion force was defeated at Lincoln in 1216, and it was he who ensured that Magna Carta, and the Plantagenet dynasty, survived. A most illustrious resident of Caversham, indeed.

CADRA and the 'Friends of Caversham Court Gardens', along with other Caversham residents, are working on marking the 800th anniversary of Marshal's death with a number of initiatives, which we hope will include a permanent memorial as well as various events. We will be keeping the public informed about the progress of these initiatives and more details will appear in *Caversham Bridge*.

## Caversham Court Gardens photography competition!

Win a £25 gift voucher with an entry to the Caversham Court Gardens photographic competition! To mark the 10th anniversary year of the refurbishment of the gardens, the Friends of Caversham



A colourful corner of Caversham Court Gardens

Court Gardens are holding a photography competition, to run from March to the end of October 2019. A gallery of photographs through the years and seasons would be a great way to mark the anniversary of our now mature gardens. Get snapping with your phone or camera as the seasons change, or look out any photographs you have taken since 2009 that you think captures the spirit of the gardens. The best pictures will go on our website, with credits, and could go on to win the gift voucher. Full details on the FCCG website [www.fccg.org.uk](http://www.fccg.org.uk).

## Songbird: a concert by the Glass Ensemble: Saturday 23rd March

The twenty female voices of Berkshire based Glass Ensemble present a concert celebrating female artists from the last 60 years, including Eva Cassidy, Aretha Franklin, Joni Mitchell and more. Expect a range of music for voices and piano, through soul, folk, R'n'B, jazz and gospel. Alongside this, the group will be exploring medieval and contemporary music by female composers including Hildegard of Bingen, Judith Weir, Kerry Andrew and Sheena Phillips.

The concert takes place on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. The venue is South Hill Park Recital Room, Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA. Tickets are £13.00; under 18s £6.00.

[www.facebook.com/GlassEnsembleBerkshire](http://www.facebook.com/GlassEnsembleBerkshire)



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## Tribute to Norman Kent



Norman Kent was born in Birmingham in 1926 and came to Reading as a small boy, where his widowed mother could work as a Housekeeper at Farley Hill, near Arborfield. Later, he moved to George Street in Reading and at 13 years old started work as a baker's boy with a most recalcitrant horse called Nobby. Norman had a great affection for Nobby and he told many a tale of how this obdurate and obstinate creature would act up!

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, Norman started work as a junior fireman and three years later he enlisted with the 14th/19th King's Royal Hussars, starting work in the Quarter-Masters Office. Later, enticed by an extra sixpence a day, he started parachute training and spent some time in France having joined a secretive new unit called the Special Air Service - SAS, cutting telephone wires and otherwise disrupting communications.

After the war, Norman secured a job as a supplies clerk in The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food in London, where he met Betty, a 'fiery' telephonist and in 1952 they were married at St Laurence's Church in Reading. Norman took a job as a manager of a men's outfitters in the town and started doing 'alteration tailoring'; he also showed a flair for window dressing and sign writing. He started to develop a growing interest in conjuring and he

would make items for magic tricks such as a, 'Chopping the Lady in Half' box, and this led him on to doing magic shows for children's parties.

Norman and Betty had five children and they attended St Andrew's church in Caversham, where many great friendships were formed. Norman volunteered to lead the Sunday school and would make models to show and illustrate Bible stories which the children loved. By the time he had to give up, he had increased attendance to more than 180 each week!

In the 1970's Norman was asked to repaint and re-clothe a set of Punch and Judy puppets that were in a very poor condition. He became entranced with them and made his own set of puppets, as well as a Punch and Judy theatre, and soon his weekends were taken up doing puppet shows all around the country. He received a commission to make more sets of puppets and these were sold in a London store and then began to be shipped all over the world! Many in Caversham will remember his wonderful Punch and Judy shows at Summer Fairs.

Norman liked to raise money for charity and was very concerned with the plight of children in poverty and distress so he joined the Caversham branch of the Save the Children Fund, subsequently becoming Chairman and he organised many charity events. Within

a short time he had greatly increased the charity's income, raising tens of thousands of pounds, and in 1983 he was presented to HRH Princess Anne in recognition of his efforts.

Gradually the tailoring business grew and so Norman set up a company, Kent and Sons, and became based at Church House in Caversham - complete with a giant pair of scissors hanging in the shop window! Sons Norman and then Roger joined him in the business until he retired in 1998. Roger carried on at Church House until 2001 then moved the business to Tilehurst, where he continued until his untimely death in 2017.

Norman relied heavily on the power of prayer, with a sure knowledge that it was prayer that helped him survive a ruptured spleen and then bowel cancer. He joined the St Raphael prayer group at St Andrews and he helped initiate a regular service of healing. He was also a Lay assistant leading Intercessions and serving the Chalice until his eyesight failed him.

When Betty, Norman's wife of 63 years died in 2015 Norman's health began to deteriorate rapidly until he needed full time care. In November 2018, at the age of 92, Norman too sadly passed away.

He was an outstanding friend to many and will be sorely missed. For a 'Thursday's child with Far to Go', he certainly did - just that.

## Curry Night raises funds for the parish of Our Lady and St Anne

On Saturday 19th January at around seven o'clock in the evening some 60 parishioners and friends met in the Cenacle at Our Lady and St Anne RC Church in Caversham to enjoy a Curry Night and to combine culinary enjoyment with some charitable fundraising. Edwin Raj and a goodly number of members of the Tamil Catholic community who worship at Our Lady and St Anne were the prime movers in what turned out to be a splendid social evening as well as an introduction to South Indian cuisine. A wonderful group of wives and ladies had laboured mightily in their respective

kitchens to provide a feast of 'genuine home cooking'. A varied and very tasty menu of chicken, mutton and various vegetable curries, assorted kinds of rice dish, samosas and accompaniments was presented. We were all happy to join the buffet queue for one or many more rounds of appetizing food. Once again the sensations of home cooking versus the restaurant kind (of memory) is always striking and tends to favour the former. For those who may be more familiar with the North Indian styles and in the UK associated with chefs from Sylhet, Nepal and Bangladesh, they could experience deep flavours

and tastes without the sensations of chili and pepper. We are very fortunate to have such a group in our parish who clearly love to cook and entertain, and indeed the 'team' has done the same event a few times over recent years. Some of us hope that a similar event might be repeated once in a while. A very friendly and social occasion in the best of parish traditions. Nearly £550.00 was raised to be divided between the parish conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) and general parish funds. *'Thanks be to all who laboured over their stoves!'*  
[Contributed by Stephen A. Roberts]

## All Emojis Welcome at the 3rd Space

Fourteen children accompanied by seven adults were greeted by the welcoming team for the first ever 3rd Space (Café style church) at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green at 2.00pm on Sunday 27th January, and what fun we had!

After a selection of cakes, fruit, and a chat, we got to know each other by playing Pictionary. I remember when my children were young, how Pictionary would draw us close together. No pun intended.

On every table were emojis, which are images used on social media which relate to emotions we might be feeling at that moment e.g. happy, sleepy, anxious etc. Everyone was asked what emojis are. Do they use them? What are their favourite emojis? Families then designed and created their own emoji that reflected the emotion they were feeling, or ones that represented their family.

After a contemporary worship song Revd Derek Chandler said that all are emojis are welcome in God's heart, no matter how we are feeling. Jesus wants to come close to us whether we feel worried, shy, excited, or even when we show a wink face!

The 3rd Space is 'A pioneering initiative led by the two churchwardens of St. Barnabas providing young people and families with a welcoming, dynamic, non-threatening environment in which to explore the Christian faith. This is an exciting new model for religious worship which allows parents and children the space to participate together.' The 3rd Space will be held in the Parish Centre on the last Sunday of every month.

Contact David Howell at [dhowell194@gmail.com](mailto:dhowell194@gmail.com) If you would like to know more about the 3rd Space.

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Creativity Emoji style: a busy group



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# Submitting material for publication in Caversham Bridge: some guidelines for contributors

This note is designed to be helpful both for regular contributors as well as giving guidance to the occasional or new contributor.

**Submitting text copy:** we encourage submission electronically by email to: [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org). Text can be submitted as a Word document and/ or pasted in to the body of the email. Picture files can be attached, most commonly using the jpeg format.

**Labelling digital files:** it is very helpful and indeed essential for your Word or picture file to be labelled to help identify it amongst the many we receive. A key word(s) referring to the topic together with a date is a useful convention. For example, the Word file of this piece could be labelled as 'Submitting to CB.140219.doc'

**Laying out text:** All contributions go through an editorial process so any variation in the original submission can be addressed. Select a title for you piece. For the body of the text use a clear font like Calibri Body, Ariel or Times New Roman and 12pt with single spacing is adequate. We are content for regular contributors to submit in a customary layout and the editors simply post-edit.

**House style:** Over the last year the editorial group has been developing a house style. A good way to apply this if you are submitting a piece is simply to look at a selection of previous issues since mid-2018. In due course an author guide is planned to identify best practice for spelling, capitalization, italicization, naming conventions,

quotation practices and reference to publications and digital media and resources.

**Length of piece:** As 'Caversham Bridge' mixes text features with advertising, the maximum length of a piece is around 1000 words: if a piece is longer then it can be split but as a rule we try and avoid this. A piece of 500 – 600 words may occupy about half a page of mixed text and advertising. A piece of 200 – 400 words could still provide good scope for a piece. Shorter notices up to 200 words are very viable. Editors advice is simply to write as you feel you wish to tell your story: editors then look at all pieces anyway and if necessary are happy to correspond with authors to assist and advise.

## CLUBS

### Caversham WI

Our January meetings are set aside as an opportunity for any one of the members to present a topic on a subject of interest. Previously we have had a wide range of talks and demonstrations. This year, our President took us into the scientific world reflecting her interest and career. For an hour we learned facts and had demonstrations about the way things are measured (from the temperature in industrial processes to the weight of potatoes in the supermarket), underpinned by long-standing world-wide cooperation between international organisations. This agreement ensures that when we purchase a kilogram of anything, anywhere, it really is the same weight! The scientists are working continuously to ensure the validity of the measurements we use on a daily basis. The complexity of the task is such that their measurements can be better than even 0.0001 % of the value. This certainly took us into realms most of us had never known were there.

February's meeting stayed on a science theme – we welcomed a local professor whose focus is on climate change. We learned more about it and discussed what we might be able to do to help.

Ladies are very welcome to visit our friendly group: your first three visits are free. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30 in the evenings, which helps avoid childcare issues. There is nearby parking and a lift to the first floor meeting room at Church House, Church Road RG4 8AX. More details can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/hwzj6zy> or search for 'Caversham WI'.

### Rosehill WI

President Arlene Riley welcomed all (including visitors) to our first meeting of 2019 which took place on Wednesday, 2nd January at 2.00 pm and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Arlene then introduced our speaker, Paul Whittle. Paul's talk was entitled 'Steam to Mandalay'. It was a very interesting talk, with slides, about the history of Burma with all its political upheavals over the years. Part of the talk was about a steamer trip on the River Irrawaddy from Mandalay heading north. From the slides we were able to see many and varied temples all very lavishly decorated.

After the talk birthday buttonholes were handed out to those with birthdays in January. Arlene then told us that Pat Butler will not be renewing her membership due to ill health, and thanked her for her contribution to Rosehill WI over the years. Arlene also reported that Margaret Pyle has had an operation and is recovering well.

We closed the meeting with refreshments followed by the raffle. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green, at 2.00pm.

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild had a quiet January with no meetings. Nevertheless the cinema group went to see 'Collette' at the Vue cinema and the Luncheon club had a nice meal at the Cote Brasserie.

We met again in February when Jaye Windmill told us about the 'Witches of Pendle', and Tony King entertained the Social Studies group. A visit was made to the Mill at Sonning to see 'Fanny by gaslight'. Our Annual General Meeting took place in February and Richard Snailham told the Social Studies group about the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

In March we will be going to the Coppid Beech Hotel to celebrate 'International Women's Day'.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April at 2.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall, 74, Highmoor road, Caversham, Any ladies wishing to visit or join us will be most welcome.



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# THE LIBRARY CLOCK

In November last year I went to hear a talk by Dr Megan Aldrich, 'The Architectural History of Caversham – a Personal View.' She said that the library was one of her favourite buildings, and I could see why.

The souvenir brochure produced for the library's opening said that the architectural style was 'Free Renaissance.' The first edition of Pevsner's Berkshire volume in the 'Buildings of England' series ignored the library completely, preferring to mention Alfred Waterhouse's two Baptist Free Churches. The second edition called it 'provokingly eccentric.' Megan Aldrich thought it owed much to the Arts and Crafts Movement. I tend to agree with her, and with whoever drew up the official listing documents which make this a 'listed' building. There, it is described as 'sub-Voysey,' after Charles Voysey, a leading exponent of the Arts and Crafts movement. The original door-handles and key-holes look very much like his work.

The architect was decided by competition. There were seven entries, and the designs went on public exhibition in the Police Court House in Church Road, opposite 'The Griffin'. A Reading architect, Mr. W. G. Lewton, was the winner.

Lewton had always intended for there to be a clock in the tower, above the porch, but the early drawings just show one plain clock face flush with the brickwork. The projecting clock with two faces, supported by the carved figure, was an afterthought. It was paid for by William Bullivant

Williams. He lived in St. Peter's Avenue, was a director of Huntley and Palmers, and had given the land on which the library stands in the first place.



In the 'listing' document, the statue holding up the clock is described as 'an Atlas figure'. With his sombre robe, wings and scythe, he is obviously Old Father Time. I have so far been unable to discover the name of the sculptor, but in a good light, you can just make out the initials 'B. L.' below the bracket on which the figure stands. I think that 'B. L.' might have been Benjamin Lloyd, a Welsh sculptor. It is tempting to think that Mr. Williams and Mr. Lloyd might have known one another, and decided on the sculpture between them, but this is pure speculation.

As originally installed, the clock was illuminated at night by three gas-lights, and it had a chiming mechanism. Mr. Williams paid for the mechanism to be maintained by the Reading clockmakers and jewellers, Bracher and Sydenham, during his life-time. Mr. Williams died in 1917. Some years ago, I was allowed to climb the tower to see the clock chamber. There was no trace of the chiming mechanism, but on the floor was a metal cowl which had once been above the gas-lights, with a chimney to take away the heat and other products of combustion.

To celebrate the library's centenary in 2007, the clock was once again illuminated at night, this time by electricity. Recently, the lights have stopped working. I hope they will soon be fixed.

Happy Wanderer

## Mindfulness and the Spiritual Life

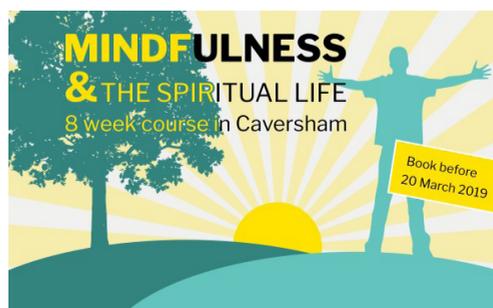
An 8 week course is to be held at St Andrew's Church, Albert Road, Caversham Heights in conjunction with the Reading Interfaith Group. The course is aimed at those of any faith or of none. The course is run by Tim Stead, an Anglican Priest and experienced mindfulness teacher and author of 'See love be: mindfulness and the spiritual life'.

The first session is on Wednesday 8th May from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and then for the following 7 consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7.30 to 9.00pm.

The cost is £100.00 per person + book (RRP £9.99). Please let us know if cost if the only reason you could not attend: financial support may be available. Booking deadline: 20th March!

Registration or questions: [contact@readinginterfaith.org.uk](mailto:contact@readinginterfaith.org.uk) or [office@standrewscaversham.org](mailto:office@standrewscaversham.org)

Meanwhile, St Andrew's is already hosting 'Meditation for All', including those of any faith, or of none, on the first Saturday of the month at 9.45am - 10.30am and the third Thursday of the month from 8.00pm - 8.30pm.



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# Caversham Centre replacement sub-Post Office update: no progress at mid-February

Matt Rodda MP received a further communication from the Post Office at the end of January about the ongoing matter of a sub-Post Office for Caversham Centre (see 'Caversham Bridge', February 2019 p.1). In the current absence of a clear resolution of the matter to the satisfaction of Caversham residents the content of the most recent statement received from the Post Office is as follows:

"I can confirm that we are intending to open a Post Office at 163-165 Caversham Road, Reading, RG1 8BB towards the end of February. We will contact you when we are in a position to confirm the exact proposed date. However, this is part of our strategy to open new Post Offices where we believe they are sustainable, and was planned before we aware of the resignation of the Caversham Postmaster (in fact I understand

preliminary discussions began last February). This "New Network Location" is not a replacement for the current Caversham Post Office. My Field team colleagues are still in the process of looking for a replacement Post Office in Caversham and I will update you on how this is going when there have been any substantive developments."

It seems therefore that we can conclude the following, that although a Sub-Post Office is due to open on Caversham Road, this is not intended to be the replacement to the branch on Church Street and the Post Office are still searching for a replacement in Caversham centre itself. Our MP is puzzled as to why this was not explained to him when he made his initial inquiries about the Caversham Road site back in mid-December, when the PO must surely have known the position.

By the time this issue of CB goes to press, the team working at the Church Street branch have been served their redundancy notices. Matt Rodda has continued to express concerns over the handling of this matter by the PO. The office closed at the end of January seemingly without any official notification being posted. Our MPs office has remained in close contact with the staff at Church Street whose treatment by their former employer seems cursory.

Matt has identified a real issue with communication here and he will continue to liaise with Ken Penton at the Post Office to try to resolve this. In the meantime, Matt would urge any local businesses who wish to bid to host the replacement sub post Office to do so by contacting the Post Office administration.

## Retirement of Helen Wallace: Part 2

In the February issue of 'Caversham Bridge' we reported on the retirement of Helen Wallace, who until recently was the Head Teacher of Thameside School in Caversham. In our report on page 4 we correctly noted the Pride of Reading Award to the School in November 2018. However, an editorial gremlin led to the transposition of the supporting photograph of the presentation to page 3, alongside the celebration of another local award success. It is great local news to see Caversham life celebrated in these ways. However, the editorial team do apologize to all parties our lapse in continuity. Nevertheless, no harm done in another presentation of the photographic evidence! So we hope additional publicity will bring its reward. Once again, editorial congratulations!

In the meantime we can report that the Head Teacher recruitment process has been completed. From a strong field of candidates the governors decided to appoint Mrs Sophie Greenaway who was previously the deputy Head Teacher.



Portrait of award winner  
Helen Wallace



Front from left to right – Rachel Williams (Year 1 Teacher); Helen Wallace (Headteacher) and Sophie Greenaway (Deputy Headteacher). Back Row from left to right – Martin Gardner, Sales Director of award sponsor Qwerty; Gary Welch, Thameside Primary School parent who nominated Mrs Wallace for the award; Jem Whitmore, Managing Director of sponsor Qwerty (Theale based design and print company).

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**13:00: Rob Nickless**– Safe Movement of Bee Hives

**14:00 – Pam Hunter** –  
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# Canonization of the Blessed John Henry Newman

On February 13th Pope Francis approved the canonization of the Blessed John Henry Newman, a Roman Catholic Cardinal, scholar and founder of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Birmingham. The Birmingham Oratory is an English Catholic religious community of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, located in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham. The community was founded in 1849 by the Blessed John Henry Newman, and was the first house of that congregation in England. Newman was born in 1801 and died in 1890. Anglicans and Roman Catholics alike have good reason to rejoice in this canonization since in his life he was a religious, theological and spiritual leader of great re-known. For

Roman Catholic worshippers in Caversham, Sonning Common and points north John Henry Newman can be considered 'local' in the sense that today these catholic parishes are all situated at the southern end of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Birmingham. For Anglicans, Newman's formative years of education and his ecclesiastical life are associated with Oxford. He was an undergraduate at Trinity College, before his election to a Fellowship at Oriel College in 1822. After taking orders he became vicar of the university church of St Mary's in 1828. In the 1830s he reflected deeply on Anglicanism and the Church of England and worked on a number of Tracts including the controversial 'Tract 90' which attempted to interpret the '39 Articles of the Church of England' in a Catholic sense. In 1842 he retired from his vicariate and took up a life of monastic seclusion at Littlemore, close to Oxford, to continue writing and reflection. In 1845 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and ordained a priest in 1847. He went on to found the Birmingham Oratory in 1848. He was created a cardinal in 1879. Between his conversion and becoming a cardinal Newman was intensively occupied in the revival and 'reconstruction' of the Roman Catholic faith in Great Britain, leaving a legacy to Anglicanism as those who espoused a 'High Church' view of liturgy and theology which reflected an Anglo-Catholicism. Newman continued to write and think on a wide range of religious as well as social subjects and is acknowledged as a leading Nineteenth century thinker. And amidst all this Newman sustained the full range of parochial and pastoral duties. His biographer Ian Kerr has written extensively on Newman and is a first port of call for any reader who wishes to go further (Ian Ker. *John Henry Newman: a biography*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988 & 2009).

In the Roman Catholic Church the road to sainthood is well defined and involves a great deal of evidence gathering and attestation. Throughout the Twentieth Century the potential sainthood of Newman was considered as a valid 'cause'. The association of miraculous intervention with sainthood is a tenet to be fulfilled. The first miracle attributed to Newman's intercession involved the complete and inexplicable healing of a deacon from a disabling spinal condition. His second miracle concerned the healing of a pregnant American woman. The woman prayed for

the intercession of Cardinal Newman at the time of a life-threatening diagnosis, and her doctors have been unable to explain how or why she was able to suddenly recover.

The great step forward comes with Beatification, and for John Henry Newman this was celebrated publicly by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham, England on Sunday 19th September 2010. Groups from parishes all over the Archdiocese converged on Cofton Park that day many leaving their parishes shortly after midnight to be in position. Many parishioners from Our Lady and St Anne will not forget their journey from night into day which turned out to be quite a wet September Birmingham. The beatification was the final event in a one week papal visit to the UK by Pope Benedict. Papal visits to the UK are not frequent events, so the canonization announcement has raised some hopes that the Newman event may be celebrated on British soil on a similar manner. This would be a first for Pope Francis. Watch this space and keep tuned in to the media is all that can be said. All Christians can celebrate the canonization of John Henry Newman whatever their denomination as a mutual embodiment of Christian values. Our recent CTC ecumenical Unity service (reported on our front page) is testimony to the spirit and desire which Newman's life reflects.

The announcement of Newman's canonization on February 13th 2019 can be set in a wider context. On the same day Pope Francis also announced the canonization of Bl. Maria Teresa Chiramel Mankidiyan of India, the founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, who died in 1926 in Kuzhikkattussery. He also approved the canonization of martyred Jesuit Fr. Salvatore Vittorio Emilio Moscoso Cardenas, who was killed in hatred of the faith in Ecuador in 1897.

Those declared to have lived lives of heroic virtue and to be on the path to beatification are Cardinal József Mindszenty, archbishop of Esztergom and primate of Hungary (1892-1975); Fr. Giovanni Battista Zuaboni, founder of the Secular Institute of the Company of the Holy Family (1880-1939); Jesuit Fr. Manuel Garcia Nieto (1894-1974); Sr. Serafina Formai, foundress of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Glad Message (1876-1954); and Sr. Maria Berenice Duque Hencker, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Annunciation (1898-1993).

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## World Day of Prayer

Our Lady and St Anne Roman Catholic Church (South View Avenue, Caversham) is hosting this year's service for the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March and does so on behalf of other Christian churches in Caversham. The service begins at 7.00pm and will be followed by refreshments in the Cenacle.

Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared the service this year and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have

faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in

each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

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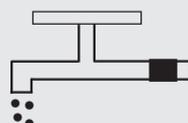
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