



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ALL WELCOME



St. Barnabas, Emmer Green

Sun 7 Dec	9.30am	Toy Service
Wed 17 Dec	7.00pm	Christingle Service
Sun 21 Dec	4.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Nativity Play
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Said Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Sung Family Communion

St John the Baptist Caversham

Sun 14 Dec	10.00am	All Age Christingle
Wed 17 Dec	7.30pm	Carol service
Sun 21 Dec	10.00am	Parish Communion
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Nativity Live! Starting at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	All Age Christmas Communion

St Peter Caversham

Sun 30 Nov	6.30pm	Advent Carols
Sun 7 Dec	9.45am	Toy Service
Mon 15 Dec	7.30pm	Carol Service in Caversham Court
Sun 21 Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 21 Dec	9.45am	Parish Communion
Sun 21 Dec	6.30pm	9 lessons and carols
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Christmas Day	9.45am	Christmas Communion

St Margaret Mapledurham

Sun 14 Dec	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sun 14 Dec	6.30pm	Carol service
Sun 22 Dec	11.00am	Parish Communion
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight mass
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Communion

St Andrew's Caversham

Sun 14 Dec	3.30pm	Christmas at Messy Church
Sun 21 Dec	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight with mince pies and mulled wine
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Nativity Service with a real baby
Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Christmas Night Service
Christmas Day	10.00am	All Age Eucharist

Our Lady & St Anne's

Friday 19 December		
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Mass
Christmas Day	9.00am	Mass
	11.00am	Mass

New Testament Church of God

Sun 21 Dec	11.00am	Morning Service
Sun 21 Dec	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning service
Sun 28 Dec	11.00am	Morning Service
Wed 31 Dec	10.00pm	Thanksgiving Service

Caversham Park LEP in Caversham Park Primary School

20 December		
Christmas Eve		<i>Times not available at time of going to press</i>
Christmas Day		

Caversham Baptist Church (South Street)

Sun 7 Dec	3.45pm	
	- 5.45pm	Messy Nativity (includes cooked tea)
Sun 21 Dec	10.30am	Family Nativity

Christmas Eve	7.30pm	Carols By Candlelight. Followed by mince pies & mulled wine
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day Family Service

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

Sun 21 Dec	10.30am	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Live Nativity. With real animals. Leaving Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road at 4pm, procession ends at St. John's Church for all-age worship and refreshments
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Worship

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Sunday 7 Dec	10.30am	Gift service (food for Christian Community Action)
Sunday 21 Dec	10.30am	Children's service:
Sunday 21 Dec	5.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	'Midnight' Communion service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Worship

Grace Church

Sun 14 Dec	4.30pm	Family carol service with lots of noise, fun and celebration. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Sun 21 Dec	6.30pm	Carols by candlelight, a traditional carol service. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Short family service followed by Christmas lunch

A Merry Christmas to All Our Readers

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Caversham Clergy

ANGLICAN

St Barnabas

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

St Andrews

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

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 Jeremy Tear

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

Rev'd Marion Pyke

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

Rev'd John Dudley Tel: 9470265

RIVERSIDE CHURCH (READING)

Rev'd Rob Beardsley Tel: 07736 353233
Email: robg.beardsley@sky.com
www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Secretary: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev'd Jenny Dowding, 72 Highmoor Road.
Tel: 947 2223

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Transitional Ministers Rev'd Jonathan Edwards
Church office tel 954 5353
Email Secretary: sue.cantwell@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Colin Gault. Tel: 948 4151

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Fr Paul Martin, The Presbytery,
2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787.

Deacon: Hugh Anscombe

Fr Paul Rowan

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev'd H R Gayle Tel: 946 3009 (contact)

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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TALKING POINT

by Mike Smith

Presents. Food. Family. Busyness. Rest. Worship.

What will your Christmas be about? I wonder whether it will be a time of equality? To a mathematician equality means two things are exactly the same. Social equality might mean that two people or groups have the same rights and opportunities. Our legal system is predicated on equality under the law.

But God and equality? Religion is so often seen as a divisive force in society. But the Christmas story is a good place to think about equality. It makes an important statement - all people are equal before God, and invited to worship God side by side.

According to Jewish law, God being born human should have involved Kings, palaces, proclamations and all aspects of the Jewish establishment. But God chooses another path - a young woman courageously says 'yes' to God, risking her own alienation from society; shepherds, the most lowly of trades, are given the first glimpse of this God-human; foreigners (illegal immigrants?) are the ones who travel from afar to greet this new born king.

None of them should by right be involved with the coming of God to earth - but God uses them to show that we all, from the highest to the lowest, are equal before him and can play a vital role in his purposes for creation. We are invited to gaze and wonder at this child born for our salvation, to kneel in the light shining out from a humble stable, equal with one another before God. There is no difference now in our social status, rank, profession, wealth, colour, gender or sexuality. 'I am not worthy' has no place as God bids us to come and worship.

And as we gather in that light, God invites us to bring our hopes for, and fears of, life - our hopes for peace, health, work and love, and our fear of unemployment, poverty, death, conflict. We are again all equal in having such hopes and fears whatever they may be for us, and Emmanuel - God with us - invites us all to come to him with our frailties.

I do hope that this month, whatever the planning for Christmas might bring, we might find some time to reflect on the Christmas story once again, and the offer it makes to each one of us. But to realise that God's offer is one where we put aside differences, and accept our equality before him. May that equality be an inspiration to our lives, and help us to work for greater equality in our society. God treats us all equally, regardless of who we are, what we do, or what we have done in life. His offer of new life through his incarnate Son will be proclaimed once again this Christmas, might our hearts be courageous, like Mary, and say 'yes' this year?

John Donne's lovely poetical prayer sums up this invitation for me:

Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house
where shall be no darkness or dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise no silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity
in the habitations of your glory and dominion,
world without end.

John Donne, 1753-1631

Rev Mike Smith is Rector of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham.

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

8.30am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
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 first and third Sundays only, first Sunday BCP
6.30pm	Evening Prayer (as announced)

St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Family Communion (apart from 1st Sunday)
9.30am	Family Service (1st Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

11.00am	Parish Communion
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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
8.00pm	House of Prayer (praise and prayer) - 2nd Sunday each month
3.45pm	Messy Church - for all the family First Sunday of the month

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
6.30pm (second and fourth Sundays)
Gosbrook Road
10.30am
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 February 2015 issue should be sent to Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish Office by **Monday 5th January**. The date for the March 2015 issue is **Monday 30th January**. Email address is secretary@ctmparish.org.uk
Advertising copy for the February issue should be sent to Mr A Wright, Twiggmoor, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham by **Friday 2nd January**. The date for the March 2015 issue is **Friday 30th January**.

PARISH OFFICES

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM THAMESIDE AND MAPLEDURHAM
St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.00noon
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



CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

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Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased either from WordPlay, Prospect Street or Caversham Thameside Parish Office, Church Street

Autumn Fair at Caversham Heights Methodist Church

The Autumn Fair at Caversham Heights Methodist Church held annually, this year on November 1st) to support various charities, alternating each year between projects overseas and local ones. Two charities were nominated this year and Church Council decided to support both. These were 'Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service (Berkshire's Children's Hospice Service)' and 'Wyfold Group Riding for the Disabled'.

The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service was founded in 2007 by Fiona and John Devine. Their son, Alexander, had been diagnosed with a rare brain tumour when he was four years old and sadly lost his battle when he was only eight. Inspired by Alexander's courage and determination they set out to provide specialist palliative care for other children. Since its inception the charity has provided the Alexander's Care Team delivering palliative care, respite and support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in their own homes across Berkshire and the surrounding areas. A year ago the charity launched a capital campaign to raise £5m to build a children's hospice within Berkshire so that families can access the care and support they need within their local community. A six acre site has been donated in Maidenhead for the building and site preparations for the work are planned to commence this autumn. For further information visit www.alexanderdevine.org

The Wyfold Group Riding for the Disabled began over 40 years ago providing riding opportunities to some of the patients of the then Borocourt Hospital. Initially the Group was very small using ponies borrowed from a local riding school. Over the years the activity has expanded and the Group now owns seven ponies serving some 60 riders and 15 drivers each week. A major step forward occurred in 1998 when Borocourt Hospital was closed and the site redeveloped for housing. As a condition of the planning consent, the developer provided a site of some 13 acres for the Group on a long lease at

a peppercorn rent and a major fundraising activity enabled the Group to construct and equip purpose built facilities with a meeting room, storage and an all-weather riding arena plus fencing and water to the pasture. The quality of life of all the disabled children and adults who come to the Group is greatly enhanced simply through the involvement with horses. Both mentally and physically disabled become different people once the horse is part of the equation. For further information visit www.wyfoldrda.org.uk

The stalls with a multitude of items for sale included good quality gifts, crafts, plants, books, Traidcraft, cakes, bread and children's toys – many of them new. The activities included games, a raffle, a treasure hunt and guess the weight of the cake. Coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches consisting of homemade soup and a ploughman's were served throughout the proceedings.

Representatives from both charities being supported by the event were present and were available throughout the day to answer questions about their organisation. They both had stalls with items for sale and displayed information.

The provisional amount raised by the Autumn Fair is £1,500. The final amount is to be shared equally between the two charities.



The popular home made bread stall sold out very quickly.

Thomas Plant values antiques and collectables at St. Peter's

For the second year running, St. Peter's Church welcomed Neil Shuttleworth and Thomas Plant of Special Auction Services, Newbury for a 'Flog-it' style valuation day in aid of the organ appeal.

There was a steady stream of visitors during the four hour event - 56 people brought their antiques and collectables to be valued by the experts: paintings, jewellery, furniture, a miners' lamp, an 1860 prisoner of war 'bobbin in a bottle', figurines and busts, china and glass. Among the quirkier items were a German walking stick with metal souvenir badges dating from 1937 and a knife issued to a member of the Hitler Youth and a bust of Christ from Belgium complete with shrapnel holes. A good number of items were handed over to be auctioned at a later date, some of the proceeds being donated to the organ appeal.

While visitors waited patiently to be seen by Neil and Thomas, they were able to enjoy tea, coffee, homemade cakes and scones or have a go at a quiz on antiques.

£521 was raised in aid of the organ appeal



which was launched in December 2012 and has already raised £40,000.

Everyone who came to the event – whether to have items valued or helping out as part of the team – agreed that it had been a wonderful day.

Photo shows Ann Larkin talking to Thomas Plant about a 'bobbin in a bottle' probably made by a prisoner of war in 1860.

Bible Friends

Mary's song

God had sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have a baby. The baby would be God's Son. After the angel had gone, Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth.


When Mary came to Elizabeth's house, she did not have to tell Elizabeth about the baby, Elizabeth already knew! God had told her!

"How wonderful!" shouted Elizabeth. "You are going to be the mother of God's Son!"

Mary was so happy that she sang this song:

"I'm so glad that God loves me!
Every day, I'll praise him.
When friends see what he has done,
They will say, "Amazing!"
God takes care of
those in need,
Helps all those
who love him.
God is great and God is good,
There's no one above him!"

Luke 1:46-55



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READING'S ABBEY QUARTER - AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

John Mullaney, known to many readers as the co-proprietor with his wife, Lindsay, of Caversham Bookshop and as an editor of the Caversham Bridge, writes here about his new book.

Over the last three years I have been researching various aspects of Reading's Abbey Quarter. As I undertook my research it became clear that there is a wealth of exciting and unseen material which throws a fresh light on this beautiful part of Reading. And so the questions grew, one on top of the other, and I discovered the rich archive in Reading Library. This is a

collection not just of archaeological reports, which can be a bit daunting, but of old drawings, photographs and maps which brought the whole area alive. They also showed the extent to which the Forbury has changed.

The work could not have been completed without the help and cooperation of the library and my especial thanks go to Ann Smith at the central library and David Cliffe, who will be known to many readers.

The timing of my researches into the ancient Abbey, and the land on which it stood, coincided with Reading Borough's bid for Heritage Lottery Fund money to safeguard the Ruins and bring them back into public use. Like many of us I have admired the old Town Hall, wondered at the antiquity of the Gateway and St Lawrence's Church and enjoyed the Forbury Gardens.

But what is the story behind these buildings and open spaces? How many of us know about the beginnings of our university on this site? When,

why and how were the Maiwand Lion and bandstand erected? Did the Lion's sculptor really get the paws wrong and commit suicide? And how old is the Abbey Gateway? Walking down from the Forbury to the Blade and so to the Holy Brook, how many of us have wondered at the remains of the old Abbey Mill? And then if we stroll towards the Kennet we come to the tranquil waters beside Chestnut Walk, just behind the Abbey Ruins. Then of course there is Reading Gaol. Nearly everyone has heard of Oscar Wilde and the 'Ballad of Reading Gaol'. But when was this built, who built it, what is like inside?

The book is over 200 pages long with illustrations on almost every page. It is the first book where a study of the Abbey Quarter has brought together the past and the present and shown the changes over time. The book costs £15 and is available from local bookshops and Reading Museum. It can also be ordered from www.scalloshellpress.co.uk.

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Hope for Tomorrow

Hope for Tomorrow is a national charity dedicated to bringing cancer treatment closer to patient's homes. Their mobile chemotherapy units reduce long distances of travel, waiting times and help avoid the stresses and strains of busy Oncology centres. In 2007 the charity launched the world's first mobile chemotherapy unit in a unique partnership with the NHS. Provided and maintained by the charity and operated by highly trained NHS staff, these well-equipped units allow cancer patients to receive treatment in a restful environment closer to home.

Mobile chemotherapy units can travel to set locations throughout their counties of operation and have the capacity to treat up to twenty patients a day. Currently eight units are operating

in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, East Kent, Berkshire, Lincolnshire and parts of Dorset. Each unit can deliver up to 2000 treatments per year, saving patients on average 80,000 miles of travel.

The sixth mobile chemotherapy unit was launched on Thursday 23rd January 2014 at the Royal Berkshire Hospital by Hope for Tomorrow patron Ross Brawn, and is named Teddy in memory of his late mother. The unit will work from the West Berkshire Community Hospital in Thatcham and will be operated by the qualified Oncology nursing team from the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Treatments have commenced and other planned locations at this point include Townlands Community Hospital in Henley.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Caversham Artists and Friends

Returning for a third year, Caversham Artists and Friends will be holding their Christmas Gala on Sunday 7th December at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Rd, Caversham from 2 to 6pm.

The Christmas Gala offers a one-stop opportunity to buy Christmas gifts and treats for all ages. There will be printmakers, painters, photographers,

weavers, potters and jewellers offering totally unique and original art and crafts to suit all pockets.

The gala will feature many of the artists and craftspeople who took part in the Caversham Artists Trail this May as well as some new and exciting guests.

There will be an opportunity to preview the gala with samples of work being on show at Caversham Library from Tuesday 2nd December until Saturday 6th (midday-5pm Mon, Wed, Fri; 9am-7pm Tues & Thurs and 9am-noon on Sat).

There is a car park on site. Free entry to the Show.

Wyfold Riding for the Disabled Christmas Celebration

Wyfold Riding for the Disabled Group will hold their popular Christmas celebration on Saturday 6th December from 5pm to 7pm at their stables and centre at Kingwood. There will be the usual attractions, including the children's nativity and Father Christmas who has offered to make an early appearance to take orders. The evening will be attended by the Woodley Concert Band, who will lead the carol singing.

Tickets at £5 (children under 12 are free) can be obtained from Roger Hadaway, 01491 681273 or rc.hadaway@btinternet.com, from any member of Wyfold Riding for the Disabled, or on the gate.

Christmas Carols in Caversham Court Monday 15 December

The choir of St Peter's church will be leading the singing for an evening of traditional Christmas carols in Caversham Court on Monday 15th December, at 7.30pm. Members of the Salvation Army Band will add to the festive music.

The floodlit gardens will be open from 6.15 pm and mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies will be on sale in the Tea Kiosk in aid of local charities. The church bells will ring out from 7.15pm.

Members of the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens will be lighting your way in the gardens. Wrap up warmly, bring a torch (to read the carol sheets!) and come along to sing in the festive season. Kindly sponsored by Philip Baker & Co.

Concerts in Caversham

Professional musicians on your doorstep!

A 'Christmas Concert by Candlelight'

Will be held at St Andrew's Church Caversham on 6th December at 7.30pm

The concert will feature

The Caversham Ensemble Chamber Orchestra

with soloists:

Susannah Fairbairn (soprano)

Gabriel Diaz (trumpet)

Julian Tear and Simon Baggs (violins) and Timothy Watts (oboe)

The concert will include Christmas music from Handel's Messiah, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Corelli's Christmas Concerto, Bach's concerto for oboe and violin, Vivaldi's concerto for two violins and much more.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the interval.

Tickets, costing £16 /£18 are available in advance from Walton's the Jewellers in Prospect Street

Telephone: 0118 9484112 or 01189463202

Or tickets on the door at £18/£20

Children under 16 free

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SAT 6th DECEMBER
10.30 - 12.30



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ORGAN APPEAL

CHRISTMAS GALA 2014
Caversham Artists & Friends

DEC 07 SUN	ST. ANDREW'S HALL ALBERT ROAD CAVERSHAM RG4 7AW	14:00 To 18:30
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GOLDEN TWIN, ANYONE?

In September, I found that I needed a new blue toner cartridge for my printer, and as I made my way to the shop, I was thinking that it had been quite a good summer with lots of blue skies in my photographs. I strode out, carrying the empty cartridge for recycling, to the shop called Ink-Ability, in that wedge-

shaped building between Gosbrook Road and South Street. As I was waiting for the card machine to connect with a computer somewhere, I happened to look up, and saw the photograph below of the shop as it was in its early days.

The cheerful man behind the counter said he'd got the picture from Chris Walton, the jeweller in Prospect Street, and that he'd love to know when the picture was taken, and what other businesses had been in that building over the years. I don't think he realised at first that he was talking to just the right person, who would enjoy taking on the necessary bit of research, and he seemed surprised and delighted to have the results. I checked with Mr. Walton, who was also cheerful, to make sure he was happy for me to share the photograph with 'Caversham Bridge' readers. Permission was immediately and enthusiastically given. He told me that he now has a lot more old photographs of Caversham, and that these will be appearing on the 'Choose Caversham' website, run by Caversham Traders, before very long. I've watched the 'Caversham then and now' presentation on this website a number of times.

The building, No. 2 Gosbrook Road (formerly No. 2 Gosbrook Street) must have gone up around 1900. It's not shown on the 1898 Ordnance Survey, but is listed in the 1901 directory, occupied by Frederick William Slade, corn and coal merchant. And here we see Mr. Slade, standing outside his shop. He probably lived upstairs, and had a sitting room with the oriel window you can see over the door. For his business, he would have needed at least one horse and cart, some storage indoors for the corn, hay and straw, and a yard in which to stack the coal.

The name over the door changed to Walter C. Hunt in 1917. He was a corn and seed merchant, and had the Broad Street Corn Stores in the middle of Reading. He ran this Caversham shop until some time around 1945.

Then the use of the building changed completely. In 1947 it was the factory of Frygoods Ltd, fishcake manufacturers, and by 1952, the company had changed, but they were still fryers. The Golden Twin Manufacturing Company made potato crisps there for around 20 years. A friend of mine, who grew up in Caversham, remembered that in summer, they had the windows open when they were frying. If he was lucky, when he went past, he'd be given a few crisps as a treat.

From 1973 onwards, Marston Radiator Services were there – these were radiators for motor vehicles, not for central heating. They were there till 1985, and then Fuller Read and Company, tool dealers, moved in, but only stayed on this site for about four years. There seems to have been a gap between them

moving out, and Whiteknights estate agents moving in, around 1993. Whiteknights were there till 2010, and soon after that The Ink-Drop moved in, which is now Ink-Ability.

I was surprised at how much I had forgotten, despite passing the building almost daily since 1984. I'd heard stories about there being a crisp factory there, which have been proved correct. The only mystery remaining is why on earth they called the product 'Golden Twin Crisps'!

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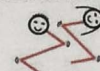
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Marjorie Whitehead's 100th birthday

Congratulations to Marjorie Whitehead who celebrated her 100th birthday on 3 November. Marjorie has been an active parishioner at Our Lady and St. Anne in South View Avenue since she moved to Caversham in 1952 from Kingsbury with her husband, Reg and sons John and Francis. Her third son, Peter was born in 1955.

From the early days of the Heights chapel in Richmond Road, she was on the cleaning rota and continued to help keep it spick and span and decked with fresh flowers almost up to the time it was closed. She contributed cakes to the cake stall at garden fetes, helped organise Lenten hunger lunches and, having been proficient in needlework since a young girl, in later years she became a founder member of the parish Chat and Craft Group making a variety of items for sale to help raise funds for parish projects.

Marjorie was the second of five sisters and was born in Hampstead. The Kinsey girls were very close and enjoyed a happy childhood in Ealing and later Hanwell with schooldays at Gumley House, Isleworth, with FCJ nuns. Whilst she was an au-pair in Amiens, the family moved to West Ealing and then just before the outbreak of war to Northwood Hills. She married Reg Whitehead in 1941.

Marjorie and Reg stayed close to her sisters and their families as they grew up. Sadly Reg passed away in 1986 and she is the last remaining of the Kinsey girls. Happily though, all apart from one of her 22 nieces and nephews with their partners, gathered from all over the country, with some travelling from Australia and Northern Ireland, joined her three sons and their partners, four grandsons, two granddaughters, great grandson and several friends for a joyous celebration at The Elephant at Pangbourne on Sunday 2 November. Fr Paul Martin, parish priest at Our Lady and St. Anne presented her with an Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis.

She welcomed numerous local friends and neighbours to an informal "at home" celebration on the day itself. Still determinedly independent and despite failed eyesight she still manages to live independently, putting her longevity down to not thinking about age, doing whatever turns up and seizing each day as it comes"

News from Our Lady and St Anne's church

At the end of the summer, there was much sadness among the parishioners of the church of Lady and St Anne at the deaths of three men who had been long-standing members of the parish.

Ray Davison was born in Prestwich, near Manchester, but grew up and attended school in Stockport. He saw service during WW2 and during training near Glasgow met his future wife Jean. Later he served in Italy. He and Jean married after the war and eventually arrived in Caversham in 1962. Ray worked in town planning and arrived in time to join the team responsible for the development of Reading town centre and the building of the IDR. He was a willing helper in many ways at St Anne's parish and for many years was an active member of the SVP. His health failed during his later years and he died at the end of August.

Eric Swallow was born in Beaconsfield. As a young man, he survived many months in hospital with TB. His wife Sophie says they carried out their courtship in the hospital. At the end of his successful treatment, he and Sophie married in Beaconsfield and he continued to work for Barclays Bank. He obtained a transfer to Barclays in Caversham and became a familiar figure in the bank where he worked for many years as Chief Clerk. He was also a very skilled wood worker. The family all attended St Anne's church and Eric was a devoted, helpful member of the congregation. Sadly his health failed during his last years and he died at the end of September.

Patrick (Paddy) Duffy was born in Ireland in spring of 1914 and he died in October not long after celebrating his 100th birthday. He lived through WW1, through the troubled times of the 1920s and 1930s and then through WW2. He eventually came to Caversham and had been a member of St Anne's parish for many years. He attended Mass regularly and was remembered by most people from recent years as a friendly, sociable man, who was always good for a laugh and who would dance at any opportunity. He regularly attended the SVP parties for Senior Citizens and was full of high spirits at the Tuesday afternoon teas organised by Mary and Agnes at St Anne's church. As Father Paul said at his funeral mass, there would be plenty of good craic in Heaven when Paddy got there.

A Special Baptism Service at St Barnabas

On Sunday 27th July, the congregation of St Barnabas Church witnessed the baptism of Zoe England and Noel Drury. This was a very special day for the church as both Zoe and Noel had attended Alpha courses - Zoe at Greyfriars Church in Reading in 2009, and Noel at St Barnabas back in the spring of this year.

In a moving and emotional talk to the congregation, both Zoe and Noel spoke of their personal journey that led them to being baptised and of the support they have received from the St Barnabas ministry team.

The service was lively and joyful as Zoe and Noel, with the support of their family and friends made their declarations before the church congregation.

Elizabeth Gash from the St. Barnabas Church leadership team, who was involved with the Alpha course earlier in the year, said "It was inspirational to see adults choose and ask to be baptised and we pray for many more. Alpha has been a real source of encouragement for St Barnabas."

Details of future activities at St Barnabas Church are advertised in this newspaper and can also be found at www.saintbarnabas.org.uk



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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

As you will probably be aware, much has been written in the local press recently about the growing pressure to build a Free School called The Heights on Mapledurham Playing Fields in Caversham.

Letters from a small minority calling for the new school to be built on Mapledurham Playing Fields were a desperate ploy to deflect it from being built in Upper Warren Avenue at a location which is wholly unsuitable for a 350 pupil primary school. High Ridge was bought by the EFA who have spent over £1.2m of taxpayers' money on a location which even many parents and representatives of the Heights School Committee think is unsuitable. Does this purchase really represent value for money? Is the site perhaps simply a sinister stalking horse to persuade residents to target Mapledurham Playing Fields as a desperate alternative. It seems pretty clear that the Playing Fields is the site the EFA and Heights School really want.

Those who support building a school on Mapledurham Playing Fields typify a knee jerk reaction which the EFA and others in authority would clearly have anticipated would happen in response to news that High Ridge had been acquired for the Free School site. What would the EFA's and authorities reaction be, one wonders, if everyone voted unilaterally for the High Ridge site to proceed? Would it ever pass Planning Application?

It's a great pity our MP is unwilling to stand up and publicly say the long term provision of the playing fields must come above any short term needs of schooling and should be taken out of any competition for sites. Surely, given the political party he represents with their policies around the Big Society, and desire to get more people doing exercise to get Britain fit, maintaining open spaces for the purposes of sport and exercise should be a key priority. It would be wholly reasonable to expect that he should support protection of the Mapledurham Playing Fields charitable status trust and not encourage any thoughts of trying to break its protection.

Any focus on Mapledurham Playing Fields displays a short term and somewhat selfish focus, suggesting the new school is nothing more than an elitist venture. Parents should carefully consider the bigger picture and long term needs of the whole society in the area because then they would realise that this is such a poor choice. It is only a matter of time before South Oxfordshire District Council press ahead with their plans for mass housing development just north of the Caversham border. When this happens, green space will become a vital and very scarce commodity which makes it all the more important to protect the Trust and preserve Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion for the purpose it was intended. Charles Hewett, who bequeathed the land to the residents was very specific that it should be used as free public open space for sporting and recreational purposes only and we, the residents, have a duty to preserve those principles and wishes.

Similarly, the parents who are promoting the school are equally not prepared to say they do not want the school located on Mapledurham playing fields because in truth, they do, even though nearly 85% of prospective children for the Heights Free School live north east of the A4074. How will they walk to school? Will they really have to cross the very busy and often dangerous A4074 at least twice daily? Travel Plans published by the Heights already indicate that some 70% of parents will use a vehicle to ferry their children to and from school which will simply increase already congested roads in the area.

There are other excellent locations east of the A4074 for a school and it is critical that these are seriously considered by the EFA. One site in particular stands out at Hemdean Valley because it was previously considered for a school and even received planning permission but the school never materialised because of political in-fighting. Reading Borough Council already own the site which begs the question, why haven't they already promoted it vigorously to the EFA and The Heights? They have the power to influence and to negotiate around restrictive covenants on the site. Importantly, by promoting this site, they will be giving this and future generations of primary school aged children, a school to be proud of with first class education which surely has to come before any other considerations?

Martin Brommell

Caversham Heights Resident of 11 years

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Work on Reading's new shared pedestrian and cycle bridge began in October

Construction firm Balfour Beatty was selected by Reading Borough Council to build the new structure which, when complete, will be approximately 120m long, with a 68m span over the River Thames. It will be located to the east of Fry's Island, between Caversham and Reading bridges and will provide a new route for pedestrians and cyclists from Caversham into Reading and to and from the station. On the northern side it will link to the existing paths running through Christchurch Meadows. To the south it will link to an improved riverside foot and cycle path and connect via Norman Place onto Vastern Road.

The bridge is being funded through the council's local sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF.) Construction of the new bridge will continue until early Summer 2015.

Tony Page, Reading Borough Council's Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, said: "The construction of any large structure of this kind brings with it some disruption. The Council has worked to carefully plan construction routes with local residents in mind, diverting construction traffic away from central Caversham and minimising impact of people who regularly visit Christchurch Meadows."

Work to prepare the construction site, set up a temporary compound on the far eastern boundary of Christchurch Meadows and lay the temporary construction access road has started. Access will be from a temporary vehicle entrance on George Street, specifically chosen to minimise disruption for local residents and guide construction traffic away from central Caversham.

The council has relocated the popular playground within Christchurch Meadows, equipment has been kept and the new play area also benefits from some additional items such as a wooden 'pirate ship' in the relocated sand pit area and a replacement 'zip wire' for the playground will be put into place.

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News from St John's

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CLUBS

Caversham Heights Society

The Caversham Heights Society had four events during October, two outings and two lectures. The first outing was on 30th September to visit Brunel's SS Great Britain in its permanent resting place in Bristol's dry dock. The museum and the ship itself were a fascinating insight into a Victorian masterpiece. The SS Great Britain, which was salvaged from the Falkland Islands and towed 5000 miles to Britain, is one of the most important ships ever. The first seagoing iron vessel, the first ship to use propellers instead of paddles, and the first ship to use coal-fired engines as well as sail. In the afternoon we visited Tyntesfield House and gardens near Clevedon. Tyntesfield is one of the largest and grandest Victorian houses to be acquired by the National Trust.

The first lecture of the month took place on 1st October, following the Society's AGM. Graham Kirby gave a masterly overview of 'the History of Numismatics.' Graham gave us a history of how and why different coins came about. Some were to show the power of the person whose head appeared on the coins, some were produced as coins, or medals, to commemorate special events. Later key cities, such as Oxford, London and Wallingford, produced their own coinage. The influence of the early Greeks on European coinage lasted many centuries and the use of different metals, copper, silver, bronze and gold were often replaced by inferior metals. The Tudors were notorious for debasing the coinage in this way and the present Royal Mint has been similarly guilty!

On 15th October we had a talk on 'the Art of Deception in World War 2', given by Hugh Granger, who has made a study of the techniques used by the British to deceive the Germans and her allies in World War 2. Following the terrible bombing raids on Coventry the authorities decided to set up decoys, called 'starfish,' around cities. These were a half-mile in diameter and were made of metal strips, scrapped wood, coal and other materials to disorientate enemy pilots. Mock airports and runways, factories, even small towns and cities were created to confuse the enemy. As a result many cities escaped even worse damage than they might otherwise have done. However it was in the North Africa campaign, especially in Libya and Egypt, around El Alamein, that deception was taken to a fine art to deceive the enemy generals. Perhaps the most audacious deception was 'the Man who Never was' that led the Germans to think that the Allies would invade through Greece whereas the invasion was through Sicily and Italy. The only scheme to fail was at the beginning of Operation Overlord in May/June 1944 before the D Day landings, when every trick was used to lead the Germans to think that the Allied invasion would take place from the Kent coast towards Calais and Belgium. Unfortunately the wind and weather played havoc with the plans and instead of German troops being moved from Normandy towards the Low Countries they remained firmly entrenched in Normandy. That apart, so effective were the British ruses that the Soviet Union, and later Russia, still use deception in their war armoury. It is probably true to say that all Society members, of whatever age, were enthralled by this talk.

The last event of October was on the 25th. The morning was spent sight-seeing or shopping in Windsor, the afternoon in Eton College theatre being entertained by the Windsor and Eton Opera's performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Mikado.'

The CHS meets the first and third Wednesday evening from September until early April in Caversham Heights Methodist Church hall. New members are always welcome. Further information can be obtained by calling Jill Hodges on 0118 959 5307.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The guild is very sad to announce the death of Mrs Edna Manning, This lovely lady joined the guild in January 1970 and gave much of her time in all aspects. She once joked that the only thing she had not done was the teas! However she served as chairman for two double stints also as treasurer, secretary, speakers list arranger, hostess and competition organiser. Many afternoons were enjoyed learning new crafts with her. Edna started work for her daughter as financial director at the age of 70 and they both helped the guild in so many ways (especially when membership fell several years ago) and enabled us to survive and thrive. She was always a fount of knowledge and support to me as chairman - she will be sorely missed but Edna herself would not wish us to dwell in sadness but continue her good work though we will never maintain her wonderful choice of clothes, hairstyle and general deportment. We were able to share her 90th birthday at the end of July -her last meeting before she became ill, though she was in regular contact with us right up to her death.

The guild has enjoyed two speakers recently -Mr Brice who talked with enthusiasm for the books that he handles in the Oxfam shop in Reading, from children's to education in all languages and history. Last month we were entertained by authoress Beth Elliot, who clearly though she is a novelist writes about her own experiences, travels and places her heroes in historical situations

and places. Members continue to learn new crafts and experience varied foods. Christmas is now upon us to be followed by 'Cats' in the New Year! We continue to meet in the Baptist Church hall at 2-00 on the third Thursday and you are most welcome to join us

Probus

The speaker at the October meeting of the Reading and District Probus Club was Susan Purcell who gave a talk entitled 'The History and Compilation of Dictionaries'. The first dictionary which defined English words with English definitions, published in 1604, was Robert Cawdrey's Table Alphabeticall, which had a few thousand entries, and was needed to define foreign objects which were appearing in Britain.

The best known dictionary after that was that of Samuel Johnson, which was published in 1755, and took seven years to complete. It contained some 40000 definitions, and he completed it single-handedly, apart from some clerical assistance. Johnson's dictionary remained the pre-eminent dictionary until 1857, when it was realised that a new dictionary was required, and work began on what became the Oxford English Dictionary, the first part being published in 1884. It was published in full in 1928 in ten volumes. Supplements were issued at intervals, and a second edition printed in 1989.

A third edition has been in preparation since 2000. It is unlikely that a complete edition will ever be published in printed form as it will probably only be available electronically. New words are added at regular intervals.

Many other dictionaries have been produced over the years, but the OED remains pre-eminent.

Probus is a club for retired men, who enjoy a meal once a month in the congenial company of like-minded men. Lunch is followed by a talk on a variety of interesting subjects. The club meets at the Caversham Heath golf club. If you are interested in joining, then contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709.

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CLUBS

Reading Gardeners

We had three very interesting and varied topics at the end of 2014.

On October 29th, Duncan Coombs of Pershore College spoke on 'Hidcote, a garden created by Lawrence Johnston'.

On November 12th, Marcus Dancer who has a specialist clematis nursery told us 'How to grow Clematis Successfully'.

On November 26th, Stephen Griffiths, the Curator of Abbotsbury sub-tropical Garden in Dorset talked about 'Plant hunting in the National Parks of Chile'.

The year will be rounded off by our Christmas Social on December 10th.

Chazey WI

Dinah Warnock was the speaker at our October meeting and her subject, 'The History of Hair Styles' had our rapt attention. With a varied array of slides she took us through hair fashions at home and overseas. Hair washing, we discovered, is comparatively recent. In days gone by it was the custom of society ladies to have their hair fashioned in semi-permanent creations of some considerable extravagance, regardless of hygiene, for the enjoyment of prestige. Hair was a symbol of strength, reflected in the adornments she depicted. It was a well crafted talk, given with humour and enthusiasm.

Chazey WI meet on the first Tuesday of every month, 7.30 for 7.45pm, at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church. We have lots of interesting speakers so why not come along?

Caversham Horticultural Society

For our final talk this year on Wednesday 3rd December we are delighted to have Matthew Wilson (Channel 4's "Landscape Man" and also regular panellist for Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time) discussing how to garden in a time of climate change. This talk will include much practical advice for the amateur gardener. It will be followed by the society's social get together with a glass of wine, mince pies and other festive food. Admission on the door is £5 for non-members, which includes the talk and refreshments.

This talk starting at 7.45pm will be held at our usual venue Caversham Primary School in Hemdean Road.

Caversham WI

It was all systems go for members when they welcomed Mr Simon Beasley as their speaker. He is the network manager for transport in Reading and was able to give a detailed overview of transport matters particularly in Caversham. Maps illustrated the need for another bridge!

The competition – a model or picture of a form of transport produced a varied selection with Sylvia Myszor, Ann Hall and Claire Elliot declared winners.

The President reported on the Federation meeting at The Hexagon with a brilliant speaker – Michael Portillo. Calendars and diaries for next year were available. An interesting evening was much improved by the use of the new lift in Church House.

Rosehill WI

In October we had our Harvest Lunch at St Barnabas Church Hall. The lunch opened with President Margaret Pyle welcoming all who were present. We then sat down to tuck into our delicious lunch, thank you to those who supplied and displayed the food.

We then had a short meeting in which Margaret read the correspondence; announced the routes for the walks in the coming months and confirmed the dates of the scrabble. Margaret went on to say that Margaret Seal had offered to do the birthday buttonholes following the departure of Doreen Mann. The next bring and buy will be in December. Margaret also drew our attention to the various talks and outings, plus a craft taster day (Beginners' patchwork, Cross stitch, Singleton buttons, Iris folding, Willow Star or a Gift Box).

After the meeting we had a quiz provided by Pat and Richard Denney – which was enjoyed by all. After the quiz, a cup of tea and finally the raffle before everyone went home.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green at 2.00 pm, and make any visitors very welcome.

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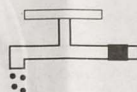
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