

MEET OUR NEW BISHOP

The Right Revd Stephen Cottrell was consecrated Bishop of Reading by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 4th May. He moved to Berkshire with his wife Rebecca and their three sons a little over two weeks earlier. It was during that period that he very kindly granted an interview to our reporter who, on behalf of our readers, was able to welcome him and his family and offer our prayerful support for his ministry among us. He was immediately interested and pleased to hear that in Caversham we had been using his book "I Thirst" as our Lent study material.

The interview did not cover the ground already written about Bishop Stephen in the Oxford Diocesan paper *The Door*. His background is in parishes in South London, Chichester and Huddersfield, as part of the Springboard Team which was a driving force during the Decade of Evangelism, as Diocesan Missioner in the Wakefield Diocese and Canon Pastor at Peterborough Cathedral. He was also one of the co-authors of the well known Emmaus Course.

How is my life a blessing to my neighbours?

Bishop Stephen cannot see how, as Christians, we can fail to be concerned about justice, peace and environmental issues. "We have no choice," he says, "the Christian faith is about the whole of life." If invited to a church he would be asking: "How is your church a blessing to this community? How is it showing to the community another way of living? How are you demonstrating God's love in action?" He would also put to individuals the question he asks himself: "How is my life a blessing to my neighbours?" He says that we are challenged to make a difference, but what if we are indistinguishable from those who are not Christian? An English heresy is that a Christian is a good person but it is our attitudes that make us Christian. It is our knowledge of and our need of God and his love that should make us more generous, merciful, tolerant and gentle to those around us; we live by a different set of values that ought to shape our lives.

Being a strong supporter of Fairtrade, he was glad to learn that Oxford has voted to become a Fairtrade Diocese, and would be encouraging Fairtrade stalls and understanding of the principles involved.

Young people

Asked about the ministry to the young, Bishop Stephen said, "It is hugely important that the church encourages families, children and young people, but not to the detriment of everybody else. Older people love to see young people in the church". As Bishop he said that he would do all he could to encourage the young. His greatest joy in parish ministry has been seeing children and families coming to church.

Children and Communion

There are ongoing discussions in parts of Caversham about the possibility of admitting children to communion before confirmation. Not only is the Bishop in favour, but he was personally involved in introducing this in an experimental way in the Southwark Diocese and subsequently responsible for introducing it in two other places. At a basic level he had never heard anyone give a satisfactory theological reason why a baptised person cannot receive communion. Children have a deep full faith appropriate to their level of understanding; it is a dangerous English heresy that you reach an age when you understand; neither does faith come through works and knowledge. Faith is a free gift for the Christian; he said that if a child expresses a love for God and is baptised then that child is ready to receive communion. He believes that it is a good idea to involve the family in the preparation of children so that they all understand the situation.

Evangelism

Bishop Stephen also spoke about evangelism from his Springboard

experience. In common with most people now working in the area, he believes that currently the better way forward is for individual churches to put on mission weekends rather than to hold big area events.

The future of the Church

Bishop Stephen expressed optimism about the future of the Church. Because its resources are spread thinly the Church appears to be in a worse state than it is. In fact it is incredibly strong, especially when churches get together. He expressed delight that the Anglican Methodist Covenant had been signed and he hopes that this will lead to a much closer working together at local level. We are already united through our baptism in Christ. A more visible working unity, he believes, is something that we shall discover in practice. He would do all he could to bless and encourage local co-operation between churches, although laws and traditions have to be respected. He feels strongly that our lack of unity is an offence to God and a barrier to mission. If we can't agree among ourselves how can we speak about reconciliation? Jesus prayed for our unity in order that the world might believe.

Our relations with other faiths

Bishop Stephen does not see any problem about getting alongside people of other faiths. Generally they love talking about God without being embarrassed, are robust about what they believe, and are mystified by the wishy washy attitude of Christians. The basic rule is being prepared to listen and this applies whether we speak to someone of another faith or a secular agnostic person; all are made in the image of God. Although we can do much together we must not pretend that we believe in the same things.

Ordination of Women

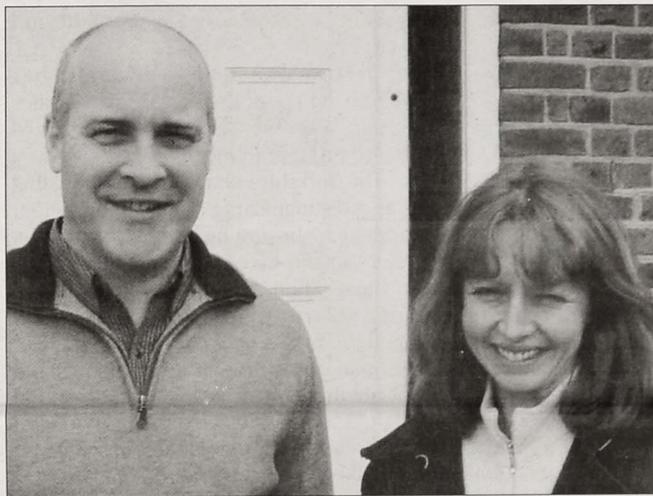
Bishop Stephen is a joyful supporter of the ordination of women and expects them to be ordained to the episcopate in due course. Although the present arrangements are messy and upsetting they do work. He finds it painful that relations with the Roman Catholic Church have been hugely set back.

Human sexuality

The Bishop thought that the question of human sexuality was a bigger issue for the church than that of the ordination of women and potentially would be much more divisive. Christians of goodwill hold radically different positions and he will try to guide the church in this area. We are all in the image of God and, although there is an issue over ordained ministers, at local level we are called to welcome all people.

We are all God's children

Finally what Bishop Stephen had to say embraced the whole age range. In God's eyes we are all little children, all his beloved children.



The informal photograph of the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell and his wife Rebecca was taken shortly after they arrived in Berkshire before his consecration as Bishop of Reading

O. Jewiss

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At its annual general meeting, held recently, the board of the company decided to give £400 to CIRDIC and £100 to Reading3000. As readers are aware the company is the publisher of the Caversham Bridge.

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Contributions are welcomed if they are relevant to community matters or church life. Copy should be kept short, typed in double spacing if possible and with a word count. Copy dates are given in the paper each month and copy should be handed in at the Parish Office at Church House, Church Street, Caversham. The office is open 9.30 - 12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note the Editors reserve the right to edit copy if necessary.

The Caversham Bridge is delivered each month to homes in Caversham. It could be delivered to you for £2.40 per year. If you do not regularly subscribe to the paper and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office on 947 1703.

TALKING POINT

By
John Ogden

Striving for Consistency

St Paul once claimed that he had learned how to be all things to all men, in order that he might save some. We may feel that he was on to a loser with that strategy; didn't some cynic once remark that you can't please all of the people all of the time? Certainly, as a leadership style it has severe drawbacks. People like to know where they stand. A leader who says one thing one day and something completely different the next is going to find it hard to win respect and enthusiastic support.

One of the most difficult skills that parents have to learn is how to be consistent in the way they treat their children. There is a place for firmness and a place for being relaxed; but a child depends on parental consistency to discover what right and wrong are.

At the time of writing, a correspondent to the BBC has commented on a couple of items of news: the appeal of churches in Yorkshire that voters should shun the BNP and the negative reaction of some Christians to the appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Dean of St Alban's. The Yorkshire churches are appealing to a sense of inclusiveness as a distinguishing mark of our nation, while the second group appear to be urging upon Christians a diametrically opposite view. On the face of this evidence, the Christian church seems to have fallen at the first hurdle in the Consistency Handicap. Are we trying too hard to please too many audiences at the same time?

Many decades ago a wise man observed that if you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything. This seems to suggest that there's one way of being right and many ways of being wrong; if you aren't a hundred per cent clear and decisive about what you do believe then you are quite likely to drift into error.

The sad thing about this is that all too often such decisiveness comes across as negative. Our attempts at consistency can all too easily appear to be consistently intolerant and negative. If *this* is definitely OK, then *that* is emphatically ruled out.

St Paul wrote a number of letters to the little church communities he founded; in them he dealt with practical issues like human relationships, collections for the poor, and issues like what to believe and how to live. In one of these letters, to a thriving church in Philippi, he urged his readers to keep their attention focused on the positive, the good things. Don't dwell on ugly things at all; concentrate on things that everyone would commend anyway.

Jesus himself was known for welcoming people in, not for driving people out.

Let's agree that if we're going to aim for consistency, let it be about the good and the positive. If we're going to be decisive, let's be decisively for something, not just bleating against something else. Let's be known for the things we are in favour of, rather than for the things we're against.

*Revd Dr John Ogden is a member of the
Methodist team in Caversham*

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the July 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday June 2nd. The date for submission of items for the August 2004 issue will be Wednesday 7th July.

All advertising copy for the July 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs Loble, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 1st June. For the August 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday 6th July 2004.

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mappedurham 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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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

8.00am The Holy Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

St Andrew's, Harrogate Road

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)

An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

St Barnabas', Grove Road, Emmer Green

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart
from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mappedurham

11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
All Age Worship (4th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am Prospect Street
6.30pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

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Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

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Woodcote Parish Church

9.45am (second Sunday)

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

YOUTH

Highdown School Sixth Form Recital

Another lovely evening's entertainment was had by all at the Highdown School 6th Form Recital held in the beautiful setting of BBC Monitoring in Caversham on Sunday 28th March.

The concert opened with a diverse collection of vocal pieces sung by the talented Zoe Savin whose choice of repertoire demonstrated the dexterity and beauty of her voice. This was followed by Richard Guy who 'jazzed up' proceedings with his brilliant performance of 'All Blues'.

The programme was varied and included a string duet and solos performed by Hannah Philips and Claire Armitage, a piano solo by Siobhan Goodchild and a guitar and vocal performance of Pink Floyd's 'Wish you Were Here' by Patrick Langridge and Tom Woods.

Jo Waterman and Laura Joannides should both be commended for their expressive vocal performances of 'Someone Like You' and 'Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man'.

The evening was rounded off with a stunning trumpet solo performed by Katie Bunting and the mother and son team of Elaine and Richard Guy playing a piano duet arrangement of Handel's 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba'.

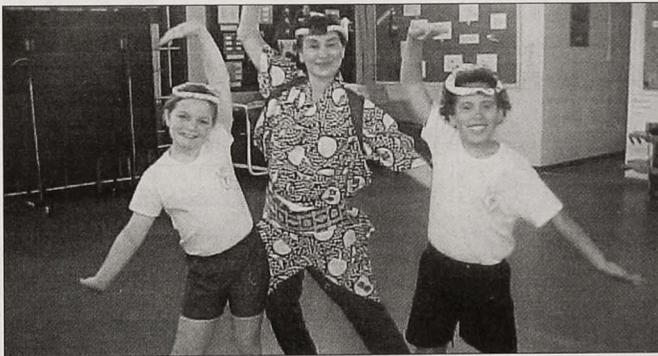
All students should be congratulated for the hard work they put into making the evening a success. For some it was their final performance as students at Highdown School.



News from St Martin's School

The children of St Martin's RC Primary school had a wonderful experience of Japanese performing arts when Naoko Takasaki visited the school in the first week of the summer term.

A traditional dance called *Kappore* was performed by Naoko, who wore a Yukata style costume. Throughout the week, children were encouraged to participate in the *Kappore* dance that Naoko had adapted for them.



Naoko puts two of the pupils through their paces.

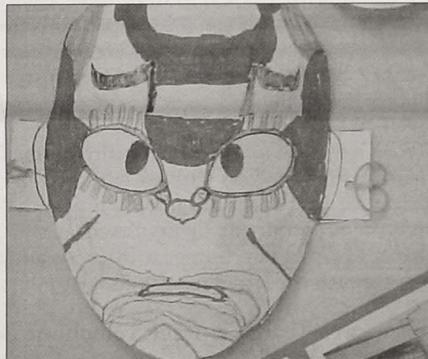
WALKING FEVER GETS INTO ACTION AT ST ANDREW'S

By Katie Noble (aged 10)

On Good Friday about 30 people from St Andrew's went on a walk to Mapledurham, followed by a picnic. The group, including some visitors from Germany (who are trying to set up some exchange visits), left the hall after the eleven o'clock family service, which was followed by drinks and hot cross buns. It was a nice sunny day, so nice that some people took their dogs with them. We took our own picnics and chatted away to each other, between mouthfuls of food of course. On the way back some people went by car and some people walked home, we went two different ways. Everybody who walked home had very sore feet and legs. On the way there we walked past a farm and it was very smelly. Both grown-ups and children had a great day!

"It was a lovely day although at one point it was a bit too hot!" one of the walkers said.

Photo I.R. Noble



One of the masks made by pupils.

Older children in the school followed up this work by designing masks and looking at a type of face make-up called *Kumadori* that is traditionally part of Japanese performing arts in the theatre.

Jane Shaw

Fundraising Quiz for African Venture

In September, I shall be travelling to the mountainous Western region of Kenya with a group of about twenty 'Gappers', (people aged 17-19 taking a year out before going to university) to work for four months as an assistant teacher teaching English, sports and other extra-curricular activities before going to Manchester University to read Economics and Development Studies. The expedition has been organised by the 'year out' company *Africa and Asia Venture* and I will need to raise over three thousand pounds for the experience.

To help me reach my target, I have organised a fun and informal fundraising quiz to take place on Saturday 5th June at 8.00pm in St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road. Tickets are £10 for a team of up to four and are available from me in advance, tel: 0118 947 3913; all ages welcome.

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FROM THE LOOKOUT POST

Prospect Street

Readers will have seen the closure of the Post Office on Prospect Street. Many of the traders there have had other problems and need your support. Oxford Street and Chester Street, which lead off Prospect Street, have for many years had a mixture of two hour parking and residents' parking. With the increase in the number of restaurants in that area, residents were finding it increasingly difficult to park. As part of a wider RBC review of parking, the number of residents' spaces was increased substantially and there are now only two short term places for general use.

Unfortunately, this change has made it more difficult to access shops and services higher up Prospect Street, and consequently, trade has reduced markedly. The Chester Street car park is regularly full during the day and the Waitrose car park is too far away for the elderly or disabled to walk or for heavy items to be carried. If this loss of trade continues the shops and services are threatened. The traders have asked for short term parking spaces from 10am to 4pm when the residents' spaces are underused. A petition to this effect has been well supported. The commercial survival of that area is important for the community as a whole.

Reading's Community Safety Strategy

At the end of April there was an interesting and well-attended conference drawing together a wide range of individuals and organisations. The main focus was on tackling drug use and drug-related crime. The determination to make progress is encouraging although the scale of the problem is sobering.

Creepers Attacks

If this is a new phrase for you, that makes two of us. It refers initially to the theft of house and/or car keys through the house letterbox. The thief then either gains access to the house and/or drives off with the car. There have been at least two of these recently in Caversham. The more audacious one was when the house owner returned home, after working all night, and was shocked to find an empty driveway instead of three cars! Even though the family had been sleeping in the house, the thieves had taken all three cars!

Your letterbox makes an easy entry point for thieves to "fish" for your house or car keys without entering your home – a lesson to us to remove keys and other valuables from near the letterbox and to take them upstairs at night. Another step to further reduce the chances of this happening or thieves gaining access to your door lock through the letterbox is to fit a letterbox guard or cage.

Streetscare Team Contact Telephone Numbers

Reading Borough Council's Streetscare Team have three telephone contact numbers depending on what is required. Abandoned vehicles should be reported on 0118 939 0243. The range of refuse matters, such as collections, bulky items, wheelie bins and recycling are dealt with by ringing 0800 834 035. Other matters such as street cleaning, flytipping, graffiti, needle hotline, litter bins and grass and trees are dealt with by ringing 0800 626 540. The Streetscare team has recently increased its capability to deal with graffiti and will promptly deal with offensive graffiti on private or public property.

North Reading Youth Project

The North Reading Youth Project (NRYP) trailer to bring a range of information and activities to the younger people north of the river has now been commissioned. For some of the time, in this initial period, it will circulate on an "ad hoc" manner to introduce the facility to young people and ascertain when and where it can be most effectively deployed. After this settling in period, it is planned to have a more formal schedule so that users will know when and where it is. On four evenings per week it is already scheduled to be at three of the sites used by the NRYP.

The NRYP has also produced a leaflet for younger people. It gives the address of the four youth centres, the timing of particular activities and 12 telephone numbers for information, advice, support and counselling. There are also tips for staying safe when out and about and a special section on security for mobile phone users.

Another success of the NRYP is that the Warren Canoe Club has been revived. The three times per week that it is open are listed in the leaflet.

Contact details for the NRYP are: phone 901 5610, www.readingyouth.org or at the NRYP Offices c/o Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre on Grove Rd.

Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion

We add to the May Caversham Bridge Bystander report of the CADRA AGM. The Chairman of the Trustees of the Playing Fields shared with the CADRA AGM their intentions on the future plans, which had been agreed at a meeting earlier that evening. There were a number of options, the favoured one being the sale of land from the playing fields along Hewitt Avenue for the building of eight bungalows. The proceeds of the sale would be used for the construction and maintenance of a new pavilion. The promised further consultation would then take the form of responses to the planning application.

Anyone with views on these matters should be alert to the planning permission notices, so that they may make responses. There should also be an opportunity to make representations to the Charity Commissioners.

CADRA will be keen to assist in getting more detailed information on these matters into the public domain to permit a more informed and extensive debate and views to be registered. If appropriate a public meeting will be organised.

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Emmer Green Residents' Association



20th AGM St Barnabas Church Hall, 10th April 2004

Nearly sixty residents attended the meeting chaired by Paul Gallagher. Councillors Bob Green and Annette Hendry were also present.

The most notable event of the year had been the unveiling of the new village sign, and as the Council has reimbursed the costs of that, the association's bank balance was in a healthy state and new local projects were being considered. A local tradesmen's list had been compiled and vetted, especially for members.

The Chairman's report covered many ongoing issues but, judging from the questions that followed, many were concerned at the levels of petty vandalism, including graffiti. The Safer Caversham Forum had set up a 'hot spots' forum phone line.

The issue of most contention was planning, mostly pockets of infilling, but adding up to a sizeable number in total. Although of most concern to those in the immediate vicinity, it has wider implications for the general infrastructure and local amenities. The Council was also bound by planning law and Government requirements. If the Council loses on appeal it stands to lose such things as help with education and roads from the developer.

Four new members were co-opted on to the committee, with all existing members standing for another year.

Gill Franklin from Cross Lanes Fruit Farm then gave a fascinating talk on apples. They were first introduced to this country by the Romans and there are currently 2000 varieties, all with different flavours and fruiting at different times. Cross Lanes provides over 40 of these together with pears and plums. Apples are for sale in season direct from the orchard or at local farmers' markets.



Gill Franklin at her stall at a Farmers' Market.

Photo Clive Ormonde

CORRECTION TO 'ERNIE'S BARBER SHOPS'

It was good to hear that so many people enjoyed the article in April's edition of the Caversham Bridge. Several people kindly phoned to reminisce.

However there was one small error in the web address as printed, which would have prevented anyone seeing the website with its pictures.

The correct address is: uk.geocities.com/cschumbley

Do have a look if you get time. And the complete booklet is for sale at The Caversham Bookshop; CDs with the text and pictures can be obtained from me, Sylvia Chumbley on (0118) 947 0762 at £5 each.

WALK AROUND EMMER GREEN

Last year Nomad reported on a 'Walk around Emmer Green', which comprised a small route map plus three pages of pictorial and written clues of features that could be seen on the walk. This proved very popular, raising funds for the Water Aid charity and for the Amajuba Education Fund that helps students in South Africa to get degrees or professional qualifications to become doctors, nurses or teachers.

Paul Gallagher, Chairman, Emmer Green Residents' Association, will be producing another Emmer Green walk in the same format this year, which will follow a different and slightly shorter route but with the same number of clue sheets. As last year, these will be on sale for just £1 at the St Barnabas Church Garden Party on Saturday 10th July or may be obtained directly from Paul Gallagher (tel 948 4707).

A successful year for the Thames Rescue Service – providing safety boats for the Caversham/Reading area since 1970

Thames Rescue Service at Reading had a very successful year during 2003 in terms of the numbers of events covered. TRS was present at just about every river event in West Berkshire and Oxfordshire, covering about 25 events, some lasting two or more days. The most arduous event was the provision of six rescue boats (12 people) for the Great River Race in London in which many competitors were from Reading, Sonning and Goring.

Attendance at the Great River Race was only possible thanks to a last minute offer of help from the Reading Round Table to tow some of the boats to the start at Ham. However, returning the boats afterwards was very difficult as there were only two drivers and they had already been in the boats that day. TRS fear that without more help they will be unable to continue to cover this race. Both WOMAD and the Reading Rock Festival require them to make superhuman efforts to man their boats over several days. Fortunately, local residents gave much appreciated support in the safety boat for these two events last year.

Ideally, TRS would like to build up a larger team to spread the load and ensure that they are able to grant all requests for support. Help is needed both on the water and in preparing, maintaining and delivering the boats to events. They would be delighted to hear from anyone who takes an interest in the Thames and would love the chance to drive one of their boats or help prepare for an event. For more information, please phone Bob O'Neill. 0118 947 2023.

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Much interest was aroused by a talk, given at the Caversham Heights Society earlier this year, by members of Re3 on recycling municipal waste. Re3 is responsible for planning the waste management of the three central Berkshire local authorities of Bracknell, Reading and Wokingham. As the need for recycling is so important today, the following article has been prepared from information provided by Re3. The Caversham Bridge is grateful for their co-operation.

Why do we need to recycle?

On average each of us individually produces about half a tonne of rubbish in a year (just under 10cwt). The amount of waste created in central Berkshire has increased over the years because of population growth, increased economic prosperity and the nature of our life styles - shopping, DIY and gardening are all waste-producing leisure activities. We also have to remember that much of the material we use comes from finite resources. While meeting the needs of our present generation our consumption of these finite resources must not compromise the needs of future generations. The landfill capacity for storing waste is quickly running out and there are environmental problems associated with landfill sites (such as toxic metal residues and atmospheric emissions which may contribute to climate change). Such are the problems that have led to the introduction of the Landfill Tax and produced the EU Directives; both aimed at reducing the amount of waste to be buried. The government has set targets requiring Reading to compost and recycle 24% of waste by 2005/6. There is also at present a non-statutory target to recycle or compost at least 30% and to recover value from 45% of municipal waste by 2010. There has therefore to be a continuing policy of reusing, through recycling and composting, the waste we produce and the aim must be to increase each year the percentage of waste returned to use.

What happens to household waste?

Much ordinary waste is collected in the black wheelie bins, at bottle and other bank collection points and through waste being taken to the Civic Amenity Site. All such rubbish is sorted into 'green waste', which can be composted down into soil conditioners, recyclable items, eg glass, furniture, white goods, motor oil, car batteries and paint, and the residue which is treated biologically, to stabilise organic materials, and reduced in weight. This residue is then land filled, ie controlled infilling of an existing hole in the ground.

So what happens when our red wheelie-bins are emptied into the back of the refuse lorry? The contents are taken to the Material Reclamation Facility at Beenham for sorting into groups of the same materials. Here they are tipped onto a large conveyor belt and, as it carries the refuse along, steel cans are removed by magnet and other materials - aluminium cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and papers - are sorted either mechanically or manually. When the materials are separated, the cans, the piles of plastic bottles and the cardboard are packed into bales while the newspapers are loaded into large containers.

Where is material recycled?

The bales of steel cans are then taken to Llanelli in South Wales, the aluminium ones to Milton Keynes. At each recycling plant the metal is shredded, washed and then either squashed into rolls of new metal or made into ingots. Recycled steel can then be turned into many different items from new cans to bicycles or paper clips. The recycled aluminium is usually used to make new food and drink cans.

Plastic bottles go to either St Helens on Merseyside or to Stratford-on-Avon. Again the plastic is shredded and washed before being remoulded into new products such as fleece clothing, pipes or garden furniture.

Paper and cardboard go to Watchet in Somerset or to Kemsley in Kent. The recycling process involves washing, pulping and rolling into new grades of paper. Depending on the quality of the new paper it is used for printing new magazines and newspapers or is made into packaging materials or cardboard boxes.

What is the cost?

While the local authorities are striving to recycle and reuse as much waste as possible, this all comes at a substantial cost which is ultimately paid for by us as council tax payers. Landfill tax currently costs £14 a tonne but is expected to rise to £35 a tonne within a decade. The local authorities in central Berkshire have to face a potential landfill tax bill of around £6 billion by 2010. It therefore becomes our civic duty to ensure that each of us creates as little collectable waste as possible.

How can we do our bit to help?

There are various ways we can help cut down the amount of material that ends up as waste:

- Much of our packaging is non-recyclable plastic so we can cut down on the number of plastic bags we use, particularly when shopping at supermarkets. We can re-use these time and time again and we can use reusable bags and old-fashioned shopping bags. (In this connection the National Trust currently has a notice in its Gift Shops advising shoppers that some 20 tonnes of plastic bags were used last year - they ask shoppers to co-operate by wanting less plastic wrapping for their purchases.)
- We can also aim to buy goods that have little or no plastic wrapping. (It is ironic that while ordinary fruit and vegetables are sold loose, a

substantial part of organically grown fruit and vegetables is sealed in plastic wrappers).

- Many of us can make compost from kitchen waste (vegetable peelings and teabags) and from garden waste (cut grass, leaves and hedge trimmings) at home.
- We can use re-usable items such as rechargeable batteries.
- We should only buy the amounts of materials needed for our DIY and gardening jobs.
- We can register with mail preference services to refuse junk mail.
- If we have items that are no longer wanted, and they are re-usable, take them to charity shops or car-boot sales. We can also buy recycled products where possible.
- As a last suggestion we can help the local authorities' collection services by pre-sorting our waste into the correct bins at home, at local banks and the civic amenity site.

Remember - Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

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LEGION PLANS TO REMEMBER D-DAY

FOR OUR TOMORROW THEY GAVE THEIR TODAY - WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Caversham Royal British Legion will be commemorating the 60th Anniversary of D-Day on Sunday 6th June and everyone is welcome to attend the day's events. At 11.30am there will be a short Service at the War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows, then, at 12 noon, several Standards will be lowered outside the Caversham Working Men's Club. The Club has kindly allowed the Legion to use its facilities between 12 noon and 5.30pm when any ex-service person or their families will be welcomed. There will be a limited number of lunch tickets available, to purchase for those who have not received theirs through their local ex-Service Association.

Caversham Royal British Legion also wants to make a more lasting contribution to mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and, indeed, the end of the War in 1945.

As many of you know, our War Memorial has only the names of Caversham people who fell in the 1st World War. The War Memorial was erected by what was the Caversham Traders' Association (a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce) and the generosity of the people of Caversham. The Caversham Branch of the Royal British Legion wants to add the names of

those Caversham people who fell during World War II and have already obtained a list from the War Graves Commission. We want to make a positive start to raise funds to affix a plaque to the Memorial and hope to be able to have it in place by the 60th Anniversary of the end of the War in 2005, when it will be dedicated.

Fund-raising for local projects is always difficult as all the Poppy Appeal collection has to go into the National 'pot' to help ex-Service people and their families who are in need.

We are hoping that you will support us in our aim to raise the money for this project. Can you help in any way at all - cash, kind, anything - even it is only buying or selling raffle tickets (we hope to have these available by June).

Our village of Caversham has always been so supportive of the Royal British Legion. Our forebears managed to get the Fallen of World War I remembered; let us make sure that the Fallen of World War II are also remembered so that future generations can appreciate the sacrifices made for their freedom and well-being.

Think you can help? Want to know more about the Royal British Legion in Caversham? Give Pauline a ring on 947 5345.

RU RG4?

The Berkshire Group of Plan (UK) the international charity with members in 15 donor countries who sponsor children in 45 of the poorest lands in Africa, Asia and South America, is aware of ten supporters who live in Caversham and believe that there may be many more. If you are one of them, do please ring the Berkshire Group Organiser, Martyn Allies on 0118 947 2007

Plan sponsors donate £12 to £15 a month and are put in touch with a child in a country of their choice with whom they are encouraged to correspond and to whom they can send the occasional present.

The monthly donations do not go directly to the child, however. Plan arranges for a number of children to be sponsored in a village or urban locality, and the contributions for all the children are pooled and the parents of the children decide on what the priorities are for the community. It may be

that there is an urgent need for provision of clean drinking water or for the school roof to be repaired or for the children to be inoculated against TB or typhoid.

From time to time, Plan identifies a pressing requirement which cannot be met from the regular sponsorship income and it launches an appeal to which the Berkshire group responds by arranging fund raising events. Inoculations cannot be carried out if there is no medical centre, so the Berkshire Group recently raised £1,200 towards the equipping of a clinic at Nanaben in Ghana.

Now the Group is raising funds for a new project with 'Music and Poetry for a Midsummer Evening' which will be held in Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Saturday 12th June at 7.45pm. Tickets are £7 (with £6 concessions) and may be obtained by phoning the number given above.

Soundz of Summer Music Festival 2004

26th and 27th June.

The third Abbey Music Festival provides an eclectic mix of music for the family over the weekend. The event takes place at the Reading Abbey RFC grounds at Rosehill, Peppard Road, Emmer Green (just beyond the town boundary).

On the Saturday, between 1.00pm and 11.00pm, a relaxed day out can be enjoyed with funfair, BBQ, pig-roast, real ale tent and a variety of stalls to support the musical offerings of ten bands. On the Sunday, from 1.00pm until 9.00pm there will be a 'New Rock Fallacy', bringing a Rock 'n' Roll day of music from underground rock and metal. Again there will be funfair, BBQ and real ale tent.

The tickets for Saturday cost £5 in advance or £10 at the gate and under 16s £5. For the Sunday event tickets cost £12.50. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed and some towards a memorial to Jono Kirton, a local Emmer Green resident who was tragically killed in a recent accident.

For further information telephone 947 6428 or go to music@abbefrfc.org

South Chiltern Choral Society Summer Concert

CARMEN

On Saturday 10th July

the South Chiltern Choral Society will be performing a semi-staged concert version of Bizet's ever-popular opera Carmen. The choir, accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra and under the direction of Gwyn Arch, will be joined by four young soloists; Zoë Todd will sing the role of Carmen, Tara Overend the role of Micaela, Paul Keohone the role of Escamillo and Darren Fox the role of Don José.

The concert, which begins at 8.00pm, will be held at the Oratory School, Woodcote. The school grounds will be open for picnicking before the concert from 6.30pm. The concert promises to be an ideal summer's evening outing for all the family to enjoy the exciting music and see the choir dressed in bright costumes.

Tickets are available from Michèle Whitehead (01491 578 641) and cost £12 or £8 for under 18s.

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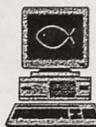
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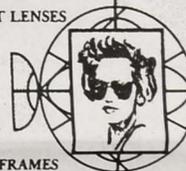
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

St Barnabas Church celebrates 75 years

Did you know that long before "The Vicar of Dibley" existed, Saint Barnabas was a prominent figure in the Bible. Originally named Joseph and coming from Cyprus, the name Barnabas was given to him by members of the early Christian community recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Barnabas literally means 'encourager', and it seems he was a significant builder of community life, reaching people through his practical faith. This example forms a potent inspiration to the church dedicated in his name in Emmer Green today.

A prominent local landmark, St Barnabas Church has served the surrounding community for seventy-five years. The first church building was provided in the latter part of the 19th Century in the form of a corrugated iron mission church. This still stands as the present church hall. A replacement was started in the 1920s and the present church was consecrated on 29th June 1929. The congregation and the community

hold the present church building in considerable affection and St Barnabas, by its location and function, still possesses something of the "village church" about it.

This year, St Barnabas Day, Friday 11th June, will mark the beginning of a weekend of events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the consecration of the present church. This will include a special patronal eucharist on the Friday evening, presided over by the new Bishop of Reading with special invitations to former clergy of St Barnabas Church. On Saturday there will be an anniversary dinner in the church, and a family worship and barbecue event will round off the Sunday. These various events will, each in its own way, express a special thanksgiving for the life of St Barnabas Church, past and present.



Photo Clive Ormande

But what of the future? Since the arrival of the 21st century, and conscious of the 75th anniversary, the congregation has been thinking about its future as a worshipping community and what might be required to meet the needs of a different era. The church's worship, fellowship and outreach have all been considered and discussed. One result will be the beginning of a fundraising project to raise approximately £300,000 for a new parish centre. The aim is to make the church more visible as a living community, not just as a building. This will make St Barnabas more accessible for people who want something of what is offered in personal enrichment but may find our formal acts of worship rather daunting on their initial approach. Seeking to serve, not only the church but also the wider community, in the twenty-first century is a great challenge. Thankfully, Barnabas provides an excellent example to follow for the church dedicated in his name. This year, why not celebrate St Barnabas Day personally and make 11th June a day when you offer someone a special word of encouragement?

If you would like to know more about the 75th anniversary celebrations or the new parish centre building project, please speak to the vicar, Rev Derek Chandler (Tel: 0118 947 8239).

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News from Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

A happy celebration was held by the Women's Fellowship for Miss Violet Cummings to celebrate her 80th birthday. This was a surprise party held at the home of Cynthia Neave.

Violet thought she had just come with a friend to deliver a parcel! Much to her surprise all her friends were there to wish her happy birthday.



Photo Eunice Cooper

The Spring Fair was a great success, lots of stalls, lots of people and plenty of sunshine. All the church took part, including The Boys' Brigade, The Cadence Cadets, The Playgroup and Toddler Group. It was lovely barbecue weather so we all enjoyed the hot dogs and burgers for lunch. Over £600 was raised for the development fund. Thanks to all for their support.

A NEW ECUMENICAL VENTURE

The Rev John Dudley is to start a new Bible Study Group meeting in the Wesley Lounge at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on alternate Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesday, June 8th, June 22nd, July 13th and July 27th. All are welcome.

The first subject will be a Study of the Gospel of Mark.

New Testament Church of God

The New Testament Church of God has started holding a monthly free Gospel Concert at the church. The main singer is Liz Mitchell (from Boney M). She is an international singer and member of the Caversham church. At these concerts she is supported by outstanding singers – at the May concert Bishop George Benson "Flame", a well known Gospel singer from Nottingham took part.

The next concert is being held on Tuesday 22nd June starting at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm). Future dates are (Tuesdays) 20th July, 17th August, 21st September, 19th October and 16th November. Details of the December concert will be available in due course.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

HOLY WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S



Washing of the feet

Photo by Kath Turner

Following the blessing of palms in the Cenacle, Palm Sunday's congregation processed, bearing their palms, back into church where the contrasting gospel accounts of the first Palm Sunday and of the Passion highlighted what must have been the terrible confusion among the disciples at that time.

At Maundy Thursday's Mass, Fr Tony washed the feet of twelve members of the congregation in commemoration of Christ's washing the feet of his Apostles at the Last Supper. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was carried to the Altar of Repose where it remained exposed for prayer and adoration until midnight, and the main altar was stripped of all adornment, the tabernacle being left empty.

No Mass is said on Good Friday. Instead, the Solemn Liturgy of the Cross was held in the afternoon with the reading of St John's account of the Passion followed by Veneration of the Cross to the sung accompaniment of the Reproaches, 'Oh my people! What have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!' There is an overwhelming feeling of emptiness in the bare church.

Holy Saturday's Vigil Mass, held after dark, began with the Service of Light. From a freshly lit fire in the car park, 'the fire to inflame us with love and hope', the Easter candle was lit and blessed and, as the congregation processed into the darkened church, the candles they carried were lit from the Easter candle until the whole church was ablaze with light, one of the most heart-stopping moments of the church's year.

This year's Easter Vigil was particularly special for three people in the congregation. During the Mass, David Kennedy was baptised by Fr Tony and he, along with Jill Gates and Stephen Dale, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church. After Mass, they retired to the Cenacle to enjoy refreshments and the congratulations of fellow parishioners.



David Kennedy, Stephen Dale and Jill Gates are received into the church.

Photo by Kath Turner



David Kennedy is Baptised at the Easter Vigil.

Photo by Kath Turner

C of E CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF WOMEN'S PRIESTLY MINISTRY

The Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin was the venue in late April for a celebratory service with the theme of Faith, Love and Hope marking the 10th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England. Many of those who were ordained 10 years previously in the same church by the then Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd John Bone, were again present with him, the special preacher for the occasion. The combined choirs of three Berkshire churches, St Peter's Caversham, St Peter's Earley and St James's Finchampstead, that have experienced the ministry of women led the group of women priests into the Minster. Many other ordained women were in the congregation together with a cross section of the population, including many male clergy.

The service was led by the Revd Elizabeth Jackson, former Chaplain to the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust. Eleven other women priests contributed to the service by either lighting symbolic candles, leading prayers, reading lessons or reflecting

on their ministry. These reflections illustrated the frustrations and hostility leading up to their ordination and sometimes subsequently, their joy on being ordained, the acceptance of their ministry and the richness it has brought to the church in their various forms of ministry.

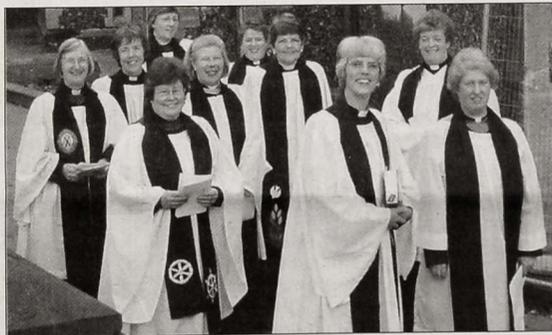


Photo O. Jewiss

Some of those taking part in the service, among whom are the Revd Canon Christine Allsopp, onetime curate in Caversham (far left), and the Revds Cathy Pynn, (formerly of Caversham), Rosalind Rutherford and Margaret Dimmick (all front of picture).

Bishop Bone used a seafaring image of the Church as either a beached and decaying wreck or a rebuilt boat ready to take to the waters for a voyage into the unknown. He spoke about the early days of the church with its structured life, prayers, the breaking of bread, sharing and teaching and where there was a place for women in it all. With the ordination of women we have been rebuilding for a new age; they are sharing in our common life, dealing with poorer parishes and a hungry people, giving new revelation through their teaching. We are discovering new understandings of the world and new ways of sharing the truth we treasure. It is an illustration that where change is embraced we can bring renewal and a fresh vigour.

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the CLUBS

Caversham Ladies Club

The April meeting began with the Chairman Mrs Brenda Strong welcoming four new members to the Club. After the usual business items we enjoyed a delicious Easter tea with each member bringing a plate of food and the Committee serving cups of tea. During tea each table had a Quiz on Chocolates, Sweets and Biscuits to solve. Everyone was given a new laid egg and a piece of Easter cake to take home.

New members are always welcome on the second Thursday of each month (not August) at two o'clock in the Caversham Baptist Church in Prospect Street.

Caversham Women's Institute

April is the time for the resolutions meeting when, following the business, the Women's Institute Advisor introduced the three resolutions. Mrs Jean Shepherd presented the arguments for and against the three. Each one was passed unanimously as everyone was strongly in agreement with banning trafficking in women and children, control of GM crops and Government funding for air ambulance services. The competition for an Easter Bonnet was won by Margaret Hatcher and the winners paraded their creations.

Mrs Shepherd was warmly thanked for her expertise in leading the discussion and the evening ended with the raffle.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs Edna Manning, Chairman, welcomed members, including one new one, Mrs W Steele.

Mrs Roberts, speaker, gave a very interesting talk on "Short Stories", and how she became interested in writing. She also gave useful tips on what and what not to do for anyone showing an interest. She read out some of her work and then invited questions. Mrs Doris Smith proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of members.

A boat trip, August 16th, to start from Henley was being arranged by Federation to mark the 75th anniversary of Townswomen's Guilds. Five tickets to each Guild.

The competition "Poem for Spring" was won by Mrs M Davies.

Next Guild meeting is on 17th June at 2.00pm, at Church House Caversham. New members welcome.

St Peter's Wives' Group

We spent a very pleasant evening in April at the Waitrose store in Caversham, where we were welcomed by John Hagues, the Manager, and Claire Holland, the cheese specialist. We were invited upstairs for an informal talk about the origins of Waitrose and a cheese-tasting session and Mr Hagues advised us that this year Waitrose are celebrating 20 years of trading in Caversham.

The first John Lewis store was opened in 1864 in Oxford Street and the first Waitrose store, originally named Waite, Rose & Taylor, was opened in 1906. Spedan Lewis, son of John Lewis, was responsible for the creation of the first Trust Settlement in 1929, which ensured that the people who worked in the business, owned the business. From the opening of the first supermarket in 1955 the chain has expanded and in 2003 there were 140 supermarkets, mainly in the south of England, and another 20 stores have been purchased this year. Mr Hagues told us about the spirit of co-operation within the company where all members of staff work towards the common good and also about the company's emphasis on freshness and quality and the fact that all their suppliers are known personally to the company.

After a short talk by Claire, we were invited to taste four different cheeses and members' opinions differed widely. Some loved the Applewood smoked cheese, whilst others preferred the organic Stilton or the sheep's cheese and Glastonbury Farmhouse Cheddar. Fruit juice and coffee were offered, which rounded off a very pleasant evening. Many thanks to Mr Hagues and Claire for taking the trouble to speak to us.

Our next meeting in Church House will be held on Tuesday, 15th June at 8.00pm, when we will be entertained by Mr Leslie Moody with a talk entitled 'House on the Rock'. New members always welcome.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The March meeting began with the sad information that Muriel Cordle, a lifelong member of the Townswomen's Guild organisation, had recently passed away. Representatives attended her funeral and a donation in her memory had been sent to the National Kidney Research Fund. Names of new officers and committee were announced and members reminded that suggestions for interests and activities are always welcome.

Arts and Crafts had visited the John Piper exhibition at the museum, and Margot Southerland gave notice of the Stephen Trinder Exhibition at the Hexagon, running until 22nd May in aid of Cancer Care. Interest in sewing had revived and was to be the focus of the next meeting. Attendance at the Words and Music Group had increased and entertainment for the Guild's Christmas celebration was under discussion. Jean Perrin had hosted the gardening group in her glorious spring garden display of flowers and foliage.

The speaker for the evening, Mr Bob Aggiss, chairman of Caversham Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association, spoke on "Container Gardening". He showed that with care, planning and creativity, any type of container can become a magnificent feature, indoors or out. His slides, ranging from close-ups of individual flowers to artistic bedding arrangements with mixed species and colours, were superb. Mairwen West thanked him for an evening full of interest and colour.

The Guild meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green. Do come and visit us.

Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

The Branch continues to flourish and has undertaken a lot of welfare work of various kinds; whether it is filling in forms, hospital or home visits or arranging 'home alarms' or wheelchairs and other aids.

The monthly supper/social remains very popular and is a 'painless' way of raising funds through the raffle. Want to know more about the RBL in Caversham? Ex-Service and need help? Give Pauline a ring on 947 5345.

Reading and District Probus Club

"More than just a 'Bus Service'"

Mr Norman Fryer-Saxby came 'on his own'! (Nobody followed him - unlike the Buses!) Well, he is the Commercial Manager of 'Goldline'. Starting his career as an apprentice smithy, he failed. Putting a pony's leg in a vice to shoe it didn't help! Eventually finding his niche in transport, he said he regretted the decline of the construction of 'British buses' which were renowned all over the world.

Reading Buses is the largest of the three divisions, having 200 buses; Newbury buses number 50; Goldline Travel has 40 coaches. It was interesting to learn that Goldline drivers earn less than bus drivers, mainly by choice, preferring touring to a regular route. Reading Council own all the buses, being one out of thirteen in the whole of England that do; all the others have been sold off. Anticipating questions, he explained that some 'Park and Ride' car parks were now too small, whereas Green Park area had not developed or been occupied commercially as had been anticipated. Thames Valley Park has four buses serving it but only a hundred passengers. Alternative fuels were discussed. Using four million litres a year, diesel at 62p per litre was the most economically viable as there was a government grant only for diesel. Hence diesel cost the company only 41p per litre, and alternatives were not viable. Insurance was the biggest outlay as only two companies would insure buses and that with an horrendous excess. "Why don't drivers turn off their engines?" Answer - "To keep up air pressure for brakes and doors". More air was expanded. All appreciated the talk illustrating "The other side".

So if you chaps who are over 55, retired, like to have a bit of company once a month and meet up for lunch, give the secretary a ring on 0118 941 1445; he will tell you all about Probus.

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