

# WE WISH OUR READERS A PEACEFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS



From St Peter's

D. Reynolds

A way in a manger, no  
crib for a bed, the  
little Lord Jesus lay down  
his sweet head.

The stars in the bright  
skylooked down where he  
lay, the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I  
ask you to stay close by me  
for ever, and love me,  
I pray.

Bless all the world's  
children in your tender  
care, and fit us for heaven  
to live with you there.

Anon



From St Annes.

Kath Turner



From a private home.

D. Reynolds



From Caversham Heights Methodist Church



At Mapledurham 2001/2

V Downs

*Above are pictures of some cribs scenes found in Caversham.*

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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.

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**TALKING POINT**

By

Marion Pyke

**The Adventure begins**

In the town centre the wet pavements glitter with the reflection of Christmas lights and shops blaze with colour in the darkening winter afternoons. As Christmas gets closer the streets are full of shoppers driven by the unspoken anxiety that they may not be ready for the big event. Supermarkets brace themselves for the coming rush for food and drink, some remaining open 24hrs a day to meet the demand – we're talking survival here!

Only the Church seems not to have caught on to the fact that Christmas is coming. While people are becoming more and more frenzied with Christmas shopping, we change not to the white and gold of joyful celebration, but to the sombre purple vestments of the Advent season. With unfashionable integrity the Church lays before us a time to reflect on who we are and what we are called to be. Advent is the beginning of the word 'adventure' and faith is an adventure or it is nothing. It is a journey into the unknown leaving the secure and comfortable behind and moving into unfamiliar territory – a time to ask questions of ourselves.

"Christmas? Humbug" shouted Scrooge. He had better things to do than keep a ridiculous religious festival – business to be done, profits to be made. But suddenly, his secure little world falls apart in three terrifying dreams, the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future reveal other possibilities to him – he was led out of darkness into light. How we all love the end of Dickens' story when Scrooge repents and becomes the 'good guy' on Christmas morning. He was given a second chance and he took it.

So what does this little known season of Advent mean? Why do we bother with any of this when all we need to do is to go with the crowd? Join the crowd well equipped with credit cards and cheque books. "If you've got it, spend it," is the law of the High Street. If you haven't got it you can still spend it with interest free credit, all the time in the world to pay! The shops are warm and inviting and piped Christmas music soothes or irritates our frayed nerves. Or we can stop and ask ourselves in this time of Advent – "What are we doing? Why are we doing it?"

Our journey, unlike that of Scrooge, is not one of dreams but is one which involves names and situations so familiar and so much associated with childhood that, to the adult mind, may seem unreal. It is set in an age so far from ours that, again, there is a sense of unreality. Can we, as mature adults, be seriously thinking of doing business with three wise men, shepherds, angels and a stable? Are we prepared to make this journey and run the risk of wasting valuable time? Are we all too grown up for this and, with Scrooge, turn away and should "Christmas? Humbug."

We all have the choice – we are all called in this Advent season to travel from darkness to light, to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Light, the Christ child lying in a manger in Bethlehem. The choice is ours – don't let it slip by for another year!

I wish you all a challenging Advent and a very peaceful Christmas.  
Marion Pyke is a Licensed Lay Minister at St Peter's Caversham

**CAVERSHAM BRIDGE**

Contributions for the January 2005 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 24th November. The date for submission of items for the February 2005 issue will be Wednesday 5th January. All advertising copy for the January 2005 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 23rd November 2004. For the February 2005 issue the date will be Tuesday January 4th 2005.

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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  
The 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, Mapledurham**  
11.00am Parish Communion

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11.00am Divine Worship  
6.00pm Evening Service



# SCHOOL NEWS

## News from St Martin's School

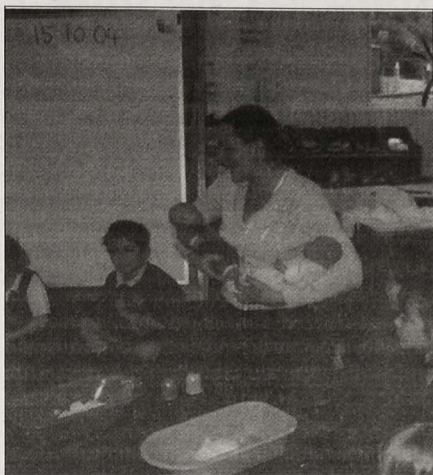
During the first half term, Class One started a new topic for their PHSE lessons – "A New Baby".

Their class teacher, Mrs Hackett, describes one lesson as follows:-

"We invited the mother of one of our girls to join our class during one of our sessions this week. She had recently had a baby and we thought the experience would be valuable to the children. They were able to interact with both Mum and baby and were able to ask questions relating to the baby's needs."

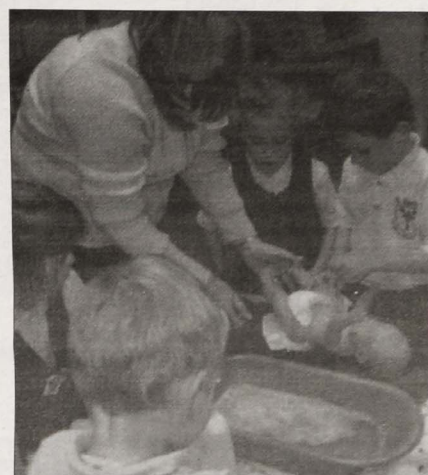
"During the session the children were able to explore how we bath and change our babies. We used a number of baby baths and dolls for the children to have some real hands-on practice. It was amazing to see the children interacting with the dolls and they showed them the same love and care that they would show a real baby."

The children have loved the topic and got a lot out of the practical sessions. A nursery has been developed in the classroom where the children are able to continue their learning by bathing, dressing, feeding and looking after the class babies.



St Martins School

Mrs Hackett nurses two of the class babies



St Martins School

Children helping to bath a class baby.

## St. Anne's School

On 5 October the children of St Anne's School had their annual Harvest Mass. The children had been asked to take in apples and vegetables and these had been arranged on the altar before the Mass. At the Offertory the children took small, ceremonial baskets of apples to be put with the display. After Mass, while the children went back to school, the congregation was invited to refreshments in the Cenacle.

A few days later the Harvest Lunch was held in the school hall, the children having designed and sent out invitations to parishioners who responded by joining the lunch party. The vegetables, which had been on the



altar, were made into soup at home by parents. The children, under supervision, made the apples into a crumble in school.

At the meal the top children served the visitors and the other children, once they had finished their own lunch, could either help with serving, sit with their family or friends or just chat. As the meal was held at the school lunch time, children and guests all ate together in the hall.

In the school newsletter Mrs Nash, the headteacher, thanked all the helpers, especially Katie Stirling who had organised and overseen the event.

*Report by Norman Shaw*



Picture above by Jane Shaw shows the arrangement of fruit and vegetables on the altar.

Two pictures by Angela Fung show the children who did the serving with some of their guests.



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# FROM THE LOOKOUT POST

## Message in a Bottle

You may remember the song. Here under the same name is an excellent idea from the Lions International. The concept is that those who have special health needs or live on their own place valuable information, such as required medication or health conditions, in a specially labelled little plastic bottle inside their fridge door. Two stickers are provided, to be placed inside the front door and on the fridge, to advise emergency services or helpers that information is contained in the clearly identified bottle. There is also a personal information sheet included to help remind users as to what information would be useful. The Lions International *Message in a Bottle* kits are said to be available from surgeries and chemists but so far I have only found them at the Balmore Park surgery. Alternatively, Lions member John Rowe (947 1802) will deliver.

## Pipers Island Construction Halted

That may have been the message on the Reading Chronicle placards but, in my view, that was far from what is occurring in practice. Let me back up and start with my recent attendance at two hours of my first RBC Planning Committee meeting. The agenda was kindly organised so that those applications on which members of the public had registered their intention to speak would be considered first. The first two hours dealt with four planning applications after a number of procedural matters and Tree Preservation Orders had been considered. The common factor to all four of these planning applications was that they were retrospective applications for considerable developments. That is, that the owner and/or developer was either in construction phase or had actually completed construction and was enjoying unencumbered use of the facility. There were muffled murmurings from councillors and officials about construction underway or development completed, but no indication of any sanctions being employed. It appeared to me that these large scale commercial developers have a free rein in comparison to those of us who go through all the planning and building control hoops to make modest changes to our houses.

And so it was to discussion on Pipers Island which resulted in the Planning Committee deferring the application and requesting a site visit so that they could consider some of the matters for themselves on location. I viewed part of the subsequent Councillors' site visit and noted that, even as they arrived, a yellow jacketed work force was hard at it, including tamping in new gravel to raise the height of the floor, and hence the building height. The workmen did finally take a break for a few minutes so that it did not seem quite so "in the Councillors' faces" but they were still clearly going to return to their grafting as soon as the officials departed.

Pipers Island with its prominent gateway position, adjacent to Caversham Bridge, deserves greater attention than was given in the cobbled together and scant planning application submitted by the developer and the laissez-faire attitude of RBC.

## Mapledurham Playing Field Pavilion

The intention of the Trustees is now to have another more comprehensive consultation on 3 alternatives, starting in February 2005. This is one fewer alternative than originally proposed as it has been decided that the entire building cannot be rased owing to contractual obligations to some users. Sadly, the unwillingness of RBC to provide the capital investment and maintenance allocation for a new pavilion makes the sale of some of the land to generate funds an **RBC tactic**. An odd caveat in this proposal is that an equivalent area of land must be identified for open space purposes. But where would this be located and why not just sell that land for development? A view which is steadily growing among local residents is that land sale should be ruled out by scaling back the pavilion to a rudimentary changing room facility. The residents' associations will assist in making the consultation as widespread as possible and trying to make the best out of what is a poor set of choices.

## Safer Caversham Forum

Starting soon, all Reading residents will receive, twice a year, a short Newsletter from their local forum. It will give an insight into current issues and provide relevant diary dates, such as the monthly Thames Valley Police surgeries at Church House. It will also list useful phone numbers for a range of matters from street lighting to bins which have been missed.

But before you receive the inaugural Safer Caversham Forum Newsletter, what has this group been discussing? A welcome contribution

by the RBC Street Environment manager included news that official groups would be invited to apply for small scale DIY graffiti removal kits; there would be a training session as a prerequisite to receiving a kit. The kits are intended to assist in the prompt removal of small-scale graffiti when these are easier to deal with. There has been welcome clarification that the Council will remove sharps (ie needles etc) from private property at no charge. Another RBC official explained the transfer of licensing premises selling alcohol from the Magistrates Court to the RBC licensing section, and further documentation, including a consultation questionnaire, was distributed. An intertwined discussion on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders how they can be constructively employed for the benefit of all, including the offending party together with news of a reduction in burglary statistics for Caversham, gave grounds for a more positive view that the crime rates were being reduced.

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## Community News

### Hall for Highdown (again)

I apologise for the near monopoly of correspondence on this subject but I feel I must write to answer the questions posed by William Deller. Why, he asks, is Highdown "so short of cash at this point of time" that they need even to consider selling playing fields" (his underlining) especially given the Government has given extra money over the past 7 years?

We have indeed had extra money; I have lots of pretty graphs to prove it which I would welcome sharing with Mr Deller or anyone else who is interested. These show more money for our budget and – without blinding everyone with pages of figures (anoraks to be worn) – our total budget for 1995 was £2,052k, rising to £3,660k in 2003. After removing staffing costs (around 80% of all costs) and other fixed costs (rates, for instance, are over £120k) we were left in 1995 with £0 to spend on "extras" and around £40,000 in 2004. A school hall costs in the region of £2.5m.

Much of the extra money provided by the Government still goes directly to the Local Authority (LEA) who distribute via their own formula to the schools in their area. In Reading there are three key areas of distribution for the 7 Secondary Schools based on "tapering" (dependent on numbers of children within the school, even if full) and "condition of buildings" (A1 and A2). The criteria for distribution is unique to Reading, but of the £820k available, Highdown received 4% – under £30,000 – compared to Kendrick which received 27% (over £220,000).

We also need a school hall; such buildings have always been financed via the LEA. However, our LEA has not been able to prioritise our desperate need over other educational priorities. As discussed, we are trying everything to fund the hall without land sale.

William Deller's final point defeats me: "the community," he states "is being taken for granted." I affirm Highdown is a community school and works for and with the community. There is a compelling and yet to be countered argument that, for our community, our children's education is more important than excess land that provides pretty views. If you can counter that argument, please let me know.

Finally, to imply that these are "minor matters settled under any other business at Governors' meeting" is both wrong and insulting to all our hard working Governors.

Trevor Keable  
Chair to Governors, Highdown

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### School crossing Patroller needed

The Caversham Bridge understands that there has been a long unfilled vacancy for a school crossing patroller at the junction of Kidmore Road and Oakley Road. This crossing is used by a lot of young children going to and from Caversham Primary School and Caversham Heights. Many parents of young children would have their minds put at ease if they knew that their children would be helped safely across this busy junction.

Apparently the vacancy has existed for over a year and is still open. It has been suggested that it could suit someone retired who would like to put something back into the community. It requires six hours a week during term time only. The pay is £6.59 an hour, with uniform and training provided. The contact for further information is Jeff Fisher at Reading Borough Council (0118 939 0902).

### LEST WE FORGET

Caversham has definitely not forgotten its Fallen. The fund set up to finance the addition of the names of the Fallen from World War II to the Memorial in Christchurch Meadows is going really well. The response to the request for any names that people might know that were not included on the original list in the October issue has been very good. We have been given the following names which were not listed in the October or November issues:

P Avarad Hayward H Ballard  
GF Bryant J P Carter  
PJ Clarke HBK Moss  
K Lunn G Ruck  
SH Willes and Civilian – Louis Fontes  
(Winner of the Le Mans 24hr race in 1935) and a couple of spelling corrections.

If any reader knows of any other name or names, please get in touch by the end of December (Pauline on 947 5345). We hope to get things under way so that the Memorial can be ready for the various commemorations that will be taking place in 2005.

The November Remembrance stirs many feelings in many people and this year has been no exception in Caversham. 'REMEMBRANCE' cannot be emphasised enough – no one wants to glorify war but we must never forget the Fallen. We must try to ensure that future generations may live in peace in a way that those who made the greatest sacrifice of all would have wished.

As the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaches it is pleasing to see so many more people wearing the red poppy which symbolises the grateful remembrance of all the sacrifices made because of conflict.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

### An Addendum to Lest We Forget

Further research has revealed another missing name from the list of those who lost their lives in the Second World War published in the last issue of the Caversham Bridge, namely that of LIA Willett, whose name has now been added to the Book of Remembrance. The name of RFC Weallens was incorrectly spelt in the copy given to the Caversham Bridge and is correct on page 113 of *Emmer Green Past and Present*. Our researcher presents his apologies.

### STOP PRESS

There is now a new bookshop in Caversham. WordPlay at 18 Prospect Street (phone 0118 948 2800) is offering a good selection of popular and specialist books from stock and to order. They are also selling a wide range of games, puzzles, crafts and traditional toys.

Julia and Chris King, a local couple, decided upon this idea when they decided to combine books and toys in Caversham. They will offer a very fast book ordering service and hope that local families will enjoy having their own real toy shop.

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# MESSIAH



Most of us are familiar with the words and music of this great oratorio, but old Bill Jones from Golcar, a little village in the West Riding, had never been to a performance and he tried to persuade a friend to go with him to the Huddersfield Town Hall to hear the famous choral society, but his friend refused.

'Nay,' he said. 'That sort o' music's nowt in my line. I like a good comic song or a lively gig, but I reckon nowt to this sacred stuff as they call it. It's beyond me. An' another thing, there'll be none of our sort there. It'll be mostly religious folk and swells done up in boiled shirts and wimmen wi' nowt much on. Nay, you go by theesens and then you can tell me all about it sometime.'

So Bill went by himself, and the next time the old pals met, this conversation took place.

'Well, cum on, 'ow did you get on at the Messiah? Tell us about it, but wait till I've filled me pipe, then I can tek it in a bit better.'

'Eee, well,' said Bill, 'it were fair champion; I wouldn't a missed it for all the tea in China. When I got there the Town Hall were crowded. It was choc full o' folk, and I had a job to get a seat, but no wonder - it was all them singers, they took up half the gallery.'

'There was a chap larkin' about on the organ. He weren't playing nowt in particular, just running 'is fingers up and down as if he were practising, like our Martha used to do when she started to learn to play the pianner. Well, after a bit, a lot o' chaps came in carrying fiddles, then they brought in the Messiah. Well, that's what I took it to be. It was the biggest instrument on the platform and it was covered in a big green bag. Anyroad, they took the bag off it and then a bloke rubbed its belly with a stick, and you should have heard it groan. It were summat like the last expiring moan of a dying cow.'

'I was just thinking o' going when a little chap came on, all dolled up in a white waistcoat and wi' a flower in his buttonhole, and everything went dead quiet. You could hev heard a pin drop. He had a stick in his hand and he started waving it about and all the singers stared at him. I reckon they were wondering what was the matter with him.'

'Then they started to sing, and they hadn't been going long before they were fratching like cats. I reckon he should 'a walloped one or two of 'em with that stick. First one side said they were the King o' Glory, then t'other side said they were, and they went at it hammer and tongs, but it fizzled out, so I've no idea which side won.'

'Then there was a bit o'bother about some sheep that was lost. I don't know who they belonged to, but they must have been champion twisters and turners, judgin' by the words and the fancy music. One lot o' singers must have been very fond o' mutton, 'cos they kept singing "All we like sheep". I couldn't help saying to a bloke next to me that sheep's alright in moderation, but I like a bit o' underdone beef mesel', and he looked daggers at me and said "Shhhh", so I shushed.'

'Then a chap stood up and sung by hisself. They must 'a been his sheep, 'cos he said every mountain and hill should be laid low. I thought they'd be sure to find 'em if they did that, as well as findin' work for the unemployed. Then up jumped another bloke, an' 'e did look mad. I wondered if they'd taken his sheep to make up for them he'd lost. He said they'd imagined a vain thing. He was in a right state, I can tell you.'

'Then the organist started bangin' and the rest o' the band was just as mad, 'cos the way they was sawin' at them fiddles I thought they was goin' to go through 'em; I bet everybody was glad when that bloke sat down.'

'A lot o' wimmen stood up after that, and all of 'em looked as if they were, well, gettin' on a bit. Some of 'em must 'a bin sixty-four if they was a day. They sang, "Unto us a child is born" and the chaps sang back "Wonderful", an' I thought "Wonderful? It's a bloomin' miracle!" After that they sobered down a bit and sang about a lass called Joyce Greatly. I've never heard of her myself, but the chaps had, 'cos they all looked mighty pleased about it.'

'Then some bloke got up and said he was the king o' kings, another one said he was, and then blow me, they all started arguing about the matter and they all suddenly shouted "Hallelujah, it's going to rain for ever and ever." Well, at that I jumped up and made straight for the door. I'd had me money's worth and, besides, I was thinkin' that if it was goin' to rain for ever and ever, I'd better get home before the flood came.'

'It was a really good do, though You should 'a come, but oh, I do hope they find them sheep.'

## Editors' Note

This piece was discovered in the papers of the late father of one of our readers. It ended with the note "Written by Mary Wood, this account of a well loved piece of music was a contribution by a correspondent who came across it in a parish magazine, and is reproduced with permission". We do not know how old the document was and it is possible that it could be up to fifty years old. Our own enquiries in Yorkshire have drawn a blank on its origin. We understand that it has been known there for some years and one source did not know the name of the author. If we have inadvertently transgressed any copyright we apologise.

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# Christmas in Caversham



*To wish you peace and joy this Christmas - and to invite you to our services*  
Come and join the Caversham Christian Community at a church near you this Christmas

## ANGLICAN

### St Andrew's, Harrogate Road, Caversham

12 December	3.00pm	Christingle Carol Service
19 December	6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service with Carols
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass (sung) with Carols
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (said)
	10.00am	Family Eucharist (sung) with Carols and Prayers at the Crib
26 December	10.00am	(sung) <i>No other Services today</i>
2 January 2005	10.00am	Family Service with Eucharist of the Epiphany
6 January	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist (with incense) for Epiphany

### St Barnabas, Grove Road, Emmer Green

19 December	4.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Nativity Play and Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Communion (BCP) (said)
	9.30am	Family Communion (said)
26 December	9.30am	Parish Communion (said)

### St John's, Gosbrook Road, Caversham

19 December	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (1662)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Holy Baptism
	3.00pm	Carol Service - followed by refreshments
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib service (A Family Celebration)
	11.30pm	Procession and Solemn Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (1662)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Carols
26 December	11.00am	Holy Eucharist (St Stephen's Day)

### St Margaret's, Mapledurham

19 December	6.30pm	Carol Service (Festival of Lessons and Carols)
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Christingle Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Communion and Carols
26 December	11.00am	Holy Communion

### St Peter's, Church Road, Caversham

19 December	6.30pm	Carol Service (Festival of Lessons and Carols)
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle Service (doors closed when seats full - for safety)
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion (said)
	9.45am	Family Communion and Carols
26 December	9.45am	Holy Communion and Carols

6 January (Epiphany)	9.30am	Holy Communion
	8.00pm	Sung Eucharist

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL PEPPARD ROAD

19 December	4.30 - 5.15pm	Carol service for young families (followed by coffee and mince pies)
	6.30 - 7.45pm	Carols by candlelight (followed by refreshments)
Christmas Day	10.30am	Short Family Service

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH, CAVERSHAM

19 December	10.30am	Nativity Toy Service
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight at South Street followed by hot mince pies
Christmas Day	10.30am	All Age Christmas Morning Service (No evening service)
26 December	10.30am	All Age Worship (No evening service)

\* \* \* \* \*

## METHODIST CHURCH

### Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road)

19 December	10.30am	All Age Worship & Parade Service - Mr Henry Stroud
	6.30pm	Candlelight Carols - Revd Dermot Thornberry
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	at Caversham Heights
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Worship. Revd Dermot Thornberry
26 December	10.30am	All Age Worship - Revd Dermot Thornberry
2 January 2005	10.30am	Revd John Ogden
	6.30pm	Revd Lynne Davis
9 January	10.30am	Covenant Service - Revd Dermot Thornberry

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church

12 December	10.30am	All Age Worship & Parade Gift service in aid of Christian Community Action - Mr Chris Evans
	3.00pm	Diocesan Deaf Church (Berks, Bucks, Oxon) Christmas Communion and Carols - all are invited. Preacher: Revd Trevor Dorcy, Tea to follow. No evening service
19 December	10.30am	Holy Communion - Revd Dermot Thornberry

4.00pm	Christingle Service – Revd Dr John Ogden No evening service
11.15pm	United Service of Holy Communion – Revd Dermot Thornberry
10.30am	Family Worship – Revd Dr John Ogden
10.30am	Revd Dr John Ogden
9.00am	Holy Communion – Revd Dermot Thornberry
10.30am	Revd Dermot Thornberry
6.30pm	Revd Simon Howard
10.30am	Mr David Beek
6.30pm	Covenant Service – Revd Dr John Ogden

## NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, CHURCH STREET CAVERSHAM

12 December	11.00am	Women's Sunday
14 December	7.30pm for 8.00pm	Christmas Concert
19 December	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning Service
31 December	11.00pm	Thanksgiving Service

\* \* \* \* \*

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

### Our Lady and St Anne

18 December	5.30pm	Mass Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent
19 December	10.00am & 6.30pm	Mass 4th Sunday of Advent
20, 21 & 22 December	9.15am	Mass
23 December	6.00pm	Mass
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Mass
	6.30pm	Family Mass & Procession to the Crib
	10.00pm	Solemn Mass of Christmas Night
Christmas Day	9.00am & 10.30am	Mass
26 December	10.00am & 6.30pm	Mass, Feast of the Holy Family
1 January 2005	11.00am	Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

### Confessions

Saturday 18 December	10.30 - 11.30am, 6.30 - 7.00pm
Thursday 23 December	7.30 - 8.30pm

### CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH LEP

12 December	11.00am	Morning Worship
19 December	11.00am	Carol Service - All Age Worship
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	11.00am	All Age Worship
26 December	11.00am	Holy Communion
2 January 2005	11.00am	Covenant Service and Holy Communion

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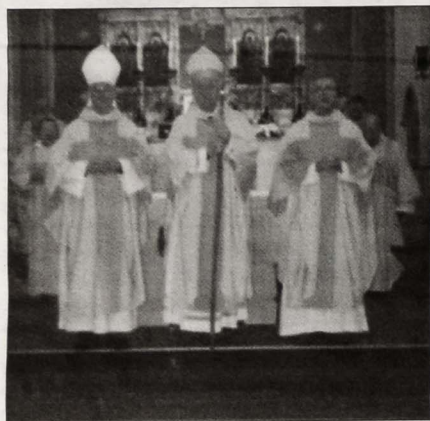


Photo by Kath Turner

Archbishop Nichols, Bishop Pargeter and Canon Farrell at the end of mass

## News from Our Lady and St Anne's Parish Plenary meeting of the Deanery Visitation

Archbishop Vincent Nichols' Visitation to the Oxford Deanery ended with a plenary meeting and concelebrated Mass at the church of Our Lady and St Anne on October 12th. Members of the seven parishes of the Deanery attended. Some were visiting St Anne's for the first time and expressed admiration for the newly decorated church and the extension with its meeting room.

Before Mass, Archbishop Vincent, Bishop Philip Pargeter and Canon Tom Farrell each spoke a few words about the parishes that they had personally visited. All three spoke warmly of their experience of each parish and they expressed a general view that they were well pleased with the way that the parishes were run and how the parishioners fulfilled their Christian mission whilst at the same time leaving room for improvement in different ways in the individual parishes.

Mass followed with the parish priests from each of the seven churches that make up the deanery concelebrating alongside the Archbishop, the Bishop and the Canon.

Deacon Francis Andrews from St Michael's,

Sonning Common, assisted at the mass although we were told that his wife, Mary, had died the previous night after a long fight against cancer. He was assured of prayers from all those present.

During Mass, the Archbishop spoke further about what he hoped would come from the visitation, particularly concerning inter-parish co-operation. A combined choir from several of the parishes sang during mass - a first manifestation of that co-operation. At the offertory, representatives of each parish handed to the Archbishop a copy of their parish profile.

After mass, the congregation retired to the Cenacle where a sumptuous spread of food had been prepared, brought in by parishioners and arranged by several ladies of the parish. People from the different parishes chatted with each other and the conversations continued long after the Archbishop had left for his journey home. He left behind him the feeling that perhaps Birmingham was not so far away after all, we really do belong to the Archdiocese of Birmingham and we are a real part of the South Oxfordshire Deanery.

Report by Jane Shaw

**St Barnabas Church**  
SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER  
2.00pm

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

at St Barnabas Church Hall,  
Grove Road, Emmer Green  
In aid of Amajuba Educational Fund

**GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**  
Saturday December 4th

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

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**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH**  
Saturday 4th December

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

11am-2pm

In aid of Chiltern Centre for  
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## GOSPEL CONCERT

Tuesday 14th December  
at 8pm  
New Testament Church of God  
Doors open 7.30pm

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR UNITY Annual Caversham Service

Sunday 23rd January 2005  
at  
St Peter's Church at 4.30pm  
Speaker: **Sue Wilmot**  
on "The Unifying power of Scripture"

**Church Women Together in Caversham**  
Tuesday December 14th

### ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

at  
**Caversham Methodist Church**  
Gosbrook Road  
**2.30pm**  
Speaker: Rev. Dermot Thornberry  
Tea and mince pies will be served after the  
service.  
Everyone welcome

## St Peter's Choir trip to Portsmouth Cathedral 16th October 2004

By Karel Meenderink aged 10½

The day started at 2 o'clock. Everyone was putting their books and papers out ready for Mary Westley (conductor). She ran us through the service.

Inside the Cathedral the walls were all white (sandstone I think). There was a little shop that sold postcards and books about Jesus and the Cathedral. It also sold the regular tourist gifts. While we were practising, some of the Cathedral's volunteer helpers took groups of tourists around the Cathedral and explained about different parts of the building.

After practising until 4 o'clock we could walk over the road to a hall to get biscuits and a drink. Then we were free for one hour. Stephen, Gregory, Hannah and I walked down to the

harbour wall and watched the boats for a few minutes. We then walked further along to an arcade and persuaded my Dad and Pam to let us go in. We played on the machines until a quarter to five before dragging ourselves away from them.

When we got back to the Cathedral we were told to hurry and get our robes on. Some people from Mary's choir came back from the town one minute before starting, so they were rushing. As we processed in we hummed the lines of the first anthem, "Teach us Thy way", by Fox, in our heads. The service flew by and before we knew it we were processing back out. Back in the choir's room we said our goodbyes and headed back home, tired after a long day's work.



O. Jewiss

Our picture shows members of the Year 6 Recorder Band from Emmer Green School at the St Barnabas Harvest Festival.

### School Band and Choir at St Barnabas Harvest Festival

The involvement of the Year 6 Recorder Band and Choir from Emmer Green Primary School has become a regular feature of the Harvest Festival celebrations at St Barnabas Church. In a special afternoon service, also attended by the local Brownies and Guides, much of the music was provided by the School Choir and Band under the direction of Mrs Lorna Heyes. Chris Evans, the Methodist Youth and Community Worker, gave an arresting talk about giving things away in response to what God has given to us. The many harvest gifts were subsequently distributed to the Churches in Reading Drop-in-Centre and the Churches in Reading Women's Centre.

### More Preferment for Former Caversham Clergy

News has reached us from Canada that the Revd Christine Rowe, who was a Non-Stipendiary Minister at St John's between 1993 and 2000 when her husband Stephen was Vicar, was appointed Archdeacon of



Our picture shows the Revd Christine Rowe at the time of her departure to Canada.

Burrard in the Diocese of New Westminster, British Columbia, in September. Since 2002 Christine has been Regional Dean of East Vancouver. While in Caversham Christine was also Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers' Union and a Chaplain at both the Reading Young Offenders' Institution and the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals Trust. The Rowe family left Caversham on Stephen's appointment as Chaplain to the Missions to Seafarers in Vancouver. On behalf of its readers the *Caversham Bridge* congratulates Christine on her new appointment whilst sending greetings to the family.





## Well done - but not finished: OWW's contribution to Chiaquelane

The impact of One World Week and its associated fund raising events have made a significant contribution to the funds needed to complete the installation of a new well in Chiaquelane, the Mozambican community with which Caversham is linked through the charity Reading3000. Your Move, through the Quiz, Car Boot Sale, Young Musicians Concert and donations, raised around £1,300 of the optimistic target of £6,000 and served to draw attention to the problems of inadequate clean water and sanitation, not only in Chiaquelane but worldwide. Further donations may still be made through Martyn Allies, 26 Woodcote Road, Caversham RG4 7BA, (cheques should be made payable to WorldShare (Reading3000)), or as a supporter of Reading3000, about which information is available in the Churches.

### Car Boot Sale and Young Musicians Concert

A damp and dismal Saturday morning in mid-October is not the best time to be having a car boot sale, but a drier interlude between drizzle and showers brought a fair attendance; the hot refreshment stall was very popular. By contrast, the Young Musicians Concert was well attended and expertly compèred by Chris Evans. It brought together a miscellany of ten high quality individual and group contributions varying from pop to classical music and a dramatic contribution by St Andrew's Stan's Crew. While it is invidious to pick out individual performances from seven churches, the verve and talent of the two ten-year olds from St Peter's on drums and electric guitar were inspirational. Caversham can be proud of the abilities of its young people and their willingness to be involved in such an event.



St Peter's Young Musicians, Hugh Serjeant and Tom Pryce, on drums and electric guitar.

O Jewiss

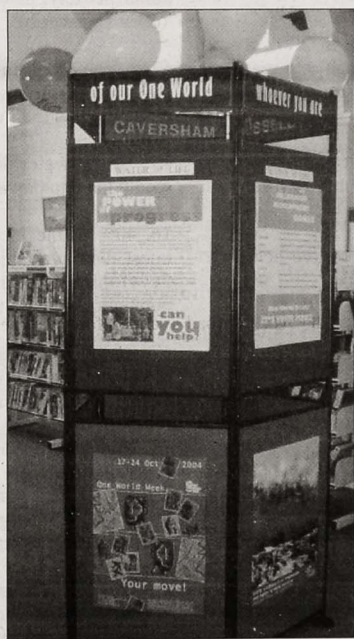


Exhibit in Library

O Jewiss

primary or secondary school level. Three schools signified their involvement and WH Smith's tokens have been awarded to the top entries at each of those schools: Caversham Primary School, Sarah Caswall; Highdown School, jointly to Scott Walker and Gemma

Jamieson; and Chiltern Edge School, jointly to Carl Walker, Tony Gutteridge and David Jenkins. A more searching quiz was available to those past school age. Some 150 people aspired to the challenge although far fewer completed it. The three best results were separated by just one point so three prizes of Fairtrade goodies have been given to the winners: 1st - John Pearce, 2nd Caroline Burden, both from Caversham Heights Methodist Church, and 3rd Diane Elliss from Gosbrook Road Methodist Church.

The correct answers are embodied in the numbered statements on the next page which describe further the

growing international situation concerning the supply of clean water and the need for adequate sanitation for the world's population. Its final focus is on the needs of the Chiaquelane community in Mozambique which One World Week in Caversham has sought to help.



A section of the Car Boot Sale

O Jewiss

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CLUBS****Caversham Heights  
Townswomen's Guild**

The speaker for our October meeting was the very enthusiastic John Brearley and his topic was 'Reading in the English Civil War' (not 'The War of The Roses', Mr Brearley emphasised).

Mr Brearley said that the war, three hundred and fifty years ago, when Englishmen fought Englishmen, was an awful, bloody story about what happened to ordinary people when Charles I came to the throne.

The main emphasis of the talk was how the war impacted on the town of Reading.

Charles I wanted Reading as a principal fortress and, incredibly, as Reading was noted for its cloth, the order was given to fortify the town with bolts of cloth driven into the ground - only a few feet high!

The people of Reading were bled dry as they had to finance two thousand soldiers as well as horses that were garrisoned in the town.

Both St Giles's Church, Reading and St Peter's Church, Caversham lost their towers during the fighting.

The King was finally beaten at Marston Moor, taken to what is now the BBC House at the top of Caversham, where he met his children, then taken to London where he was tried and executed.

Mr Brearley concluded this rousing story by playing a 'marching tune' which would have been played during the Civil War.

All present at the meeting enjoyed the talk and Margaret Miles gave a vote of thanks to the speaker.

Our Chairman, Hazel New, presided over the meeting, all usual business was covered, the harvest sale held at our September meeting made £62, reminders were given that tickets for our Christmas party on the 16th December were now available. After coffee, biscuits and chat, the meeting closed.

To any ladies who would like to come and join us, we meet every third Thursday at St Andrew's Hall, Caversham Heights, at 7.30pm. Do come along, we will be pleased to see you.

**Caversham Women's Institute**

It was an evening of nostalgia for members when Mr Eighteen showed his slides of Reading and Caversham. His passion for postcards, collected over many years, resulted in local views people could remember plus many going back to Victorian times.

The competition - a Souvenir of Reading - was won by Joyce Roberts. After refreshments, reminders of future events were given. The raffle was drawn to end a most enjoyable evening. The next meeting in November will be on the subject of reflexology.

**One World Week Quiz Answers**

1. About two-thirds of the Earth's surface is water but only 2.5% is not salty and some of that is locked up in the icecaps and glaciers. Of what is left, about 20% is in remote areas, and much of the rest arrives at the wrong time and place, as monsoons and floods. Less than 0.08 % of the Earth's water is available to humans. (answer a)

2. At the Earth Summit in Johannesburg in 2002 it was agreed to halve the proportion of people unable to reach, or afford, safe drinking water and have access to basic sanitation by 2015. (answer b)

3. Over 1 billion people worldwide don't have access to clean water (current world population is 6 billion). (answer c)

4. Over 2 billion people worldwide don't have access to sanitation. (answer c)

5. 80% of disease in developing countries is caused by water-related diseases. (answer c)

6. Many children die every hour from water-related diseases. Nearly 6,000 die each day, equivalent to 20 jumbo jets crashing. (answer b)

7. After pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases are the second most serious killer of children under five worldwide; in most cases these can be prevented or treated. The number of children killed annually is 1.8 million. (answer b)

8. The simple act of washing hands with soap and water can reduce diarrhoea by 40% (answer b)

9. A human being requires 2.5 litres a day for drinking and 9 litres for hygiene. The average Briton uses 135 litres each day. (The average American uses four times as much.) (answer b)

10. In parts of Africa and Asia women and children carry on their heads, for up to 6 km, much of the water to be used. A litre of water weighs one kg and one person normally carries 20 kg, the UK airport baggage allowance. (answer c)

11. The average Ghanaian earns a minute fraction of what an average Londoner earns. The supply of water does not come through a tap but is fetched in buckets. The daily expenditure on water is equal to that of a Londoner. (answer c)

12. The world's water markets are worth £480 billion per year (not £240 billion as stated on the quiz sheets). 'Water for human use' is not generally covered by the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), but the UK Government, as part of the EU, is pushing for its inclusion.

If Botswana places its water supply into private hands it will be unable to subsidise poor communities with profits from more affluent areas. (answer c)

13. In Zambia 80% of the population live on less than one dollar per day; privatisation of public services results in job losses. (answer b)

14. The IMF and the World Bank encourage heavily indebted countries to sell public services to obtain more money to pay their debts. (answer a)

15. If the water supply in Ghana were privatised, people would have to pay about 55p per litre. (answer c)

16. 40% of the 22 major donors' aid in 2001 and 2002 (the latest data available) was going to the 30 highest priority developing countries in which live 90% of the world's population who do not have access to safe water. (answer a)

17. Of the 30 highest priority developing countries, 17 have so far produced Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, but in only 2 of these is water a clear priority. (answer a)

18. To meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development, countries were set a target of preparing Integrated Water Resource Management Plans by 2005. Out of 22 major donors and 30 highest priority countries only 30 are on course to meet the target. (answer b)

19. Five countries, Afghanistan, Oman, China, India and Pakistan will not be able to meet their water needs in 2025 and will face absolute water scarcity. (answers a, d, g, j and k)

20. Germany is the only country that gives more than 10% of its aid for water and sanitation. (answer b)

21. On average globally 70% of water is used in agriculture. (answer c)

22. The Tigris, Euphrates, Amu Darya, Syr Darya and the Jordan rivers each have insufficient water to meet the irrigation needs and other water requirements of the countries through which they flow. (answers c, d, e, f and h)

23. It will cost £6,000 to complete the water well in Chiaquelane in Mozambique. (answer b)

In whatever way you were involved in One World Week the people of Chiaquelane will be most grateful for your response. Since OWW the material exhibited during the week in Caversham Public Library has been used for a mobile display in the churches thus enabling as many as possible to become aware of the issues.



## the CLUBS

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning opened the meeting on October 21st with the sad news of the death of our oldest member, Mrs May Deacon. The date for the Christmas lunch on December 2nd at the Travellers' Rest in Henley Road was announced. The Federation Report was given, disclosing forthcoming events.

Following the business, Mrs Moss gave a most interesting talk on the history of Fabergé. She also brought along her own collection of decorated eggs, and told us how she started doing this work; they were mostly goose eggs, and with the use of braid, beads, ribbons and even transfers, were transformed into very beautiful copies of Fabergé work. One had even been made into a musical box. Mrs Manning thanked her on behalf of members who were invited to take a close inspection later.

Tea and cakes, provided by the Chairman, were then enjoyed as part of our celebration of the Townswomen's Guild's 75th Anniversary. We hold our meetings every third Thursday at 2pm at Church House Caversham. All are welcome – do come and join us.

### Caversham Community Association

October began and ended with fun and games for members. The month began with the usual games evening. The following week was very popular when Chairman Margaret Briggs celebrated a special birthday by organising a bingo evening - lots of chocolate prizes with cake and wine to follow.

The speaker, Mrs Evelyn Burt, came the following Monday to tell rather fewer than usual numbers about Reiki healing, a very interesting subject. Back to fun and games with the traditional Hallowe'en party. Everyone wore black and red and enjoyed party games - and fiendish quiz before a supper of hot dogs and onions. A parade of witches resulted in Barbara Holdsworth being judged the winner, along with model black cat.

### Rosehill WI

At their meeting on Wednesday 3 November, the members of Rosehill WI were privileged to be introduced to a wonderful 60 mile walk around Berkshire by Nick Channon, author of several books of walks around Berkshire and regular columnist with the Reading Chronicle.

Starting on the Ridgeway south of Wantage we headed off in the direction of Streatley with a diversion to Farnborough to visit the Old Rectory, home from 1945 to 1951 of John Betjeman. Along the Thames, past Beale and through Pangbourne to Mapledurham and on to the Horseshoe Bridge, where we turned to follow the Kennet into the heart of Reading. The speaker was able to show us some of the enormous changes which had taken place over the last 10 years. Following the Kennet we took a diversion to see the Watermill Theatre at Bagnor and even a chunk of the Berlin Wall now resting in the grounds of Bagnor Manor. Returning to the Kennet we passed through Thatcham, Newbury and on to Hungerford before leaving the Kennet to travel south to Combe Gibbett, with a wonderful

view over three counties. And all this from the comfort of our chairs without the effort of climbing a single stile! The members of Rosehill's enthusiastic rambling group recognised many of the locations having long been followers of Nick Channon's walks.

Rosehill WI meets on the first Wednesday of every month at St Barnabas Church, Grove Road. Visitors are always welcome

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At their October meeting members and guests gathered to enjoy the Guild's birthday party. Tables were decorated in purple, green and white and members had been encouraged to dress in the fashion of the 1920-30s or to wear the Guild colours.

Mrs Margot Sutherland, acting as compère, outlined the programme for the evening. The Vice-Chairman, Mrs Barbara Jepson, welcomed the guests and proceeded with the business side of the meeting.

The Arts and Crafts group were continuing with their current sewing project. Mesdames Edna Barnes, Helen Collins, Lily Hensley and Margot Sutherland had received awards for their entries to the Smalley Platten Cup Competition held at Thame. The Words and Music group had met to plan the Guild Christmas programme and the Gardening group had enjoyed a visit to Waterperry Gardens to see the Michaelmas daisy borders.

Refreshments were then served before the entertainment began. The recital was given by Lori Tingay, a classically trained singer who delighted her audience with her talented rendering of songs from theatrical shows through the years. All appreciated her sparkling personality and the true pleasure she brought to her performance.

### St Peter's Wives' Group

At our October meeting, Mr Callan, a member of the English Silver Spoon Society, came to talk to us about his hobby, and provided a most interesting history of the silver spoon and its evolution over the centuries.

Silver spoons were originally pure silver, which was fairly soft and easily bent, and early Roman spoons were made with twisted stems, which gave them added strength and rigidity.

Later, other ways of producing 'silver' were invented, the first being Sheffield plate, which was discovered in 1740 and consisted of 200th of an inch of silver with added copper. There are very few of these spoons still around – which makes those that have survived very valuable.

Then there was electro-plating, which has 2,000th of an inch of Silver, and Sterling silver, from the German 'Easterling' which is 25% silver and 75% copper. This usually carries the lion stamp.

Mr Callan described the Coronation spoon which was made in 1200, and various others used by Puritans between 1630 and 1670, and in 1666 the Triffid spoon which was in production until around 1700.

Mr Callan was able to show us various spoons from his collection, his oldest dating from the 1600s, and it was fascinating to observe how they had evolved over the centuries. He also advised us that silver cutlery can be acquired at a more reasonable price from auctions than at large department stores, and you are also purchasing something which will probably increase in value over the years.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on Tuesday 21 December at Church House. Members are kindly asked to bring a plate of food.

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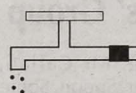
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