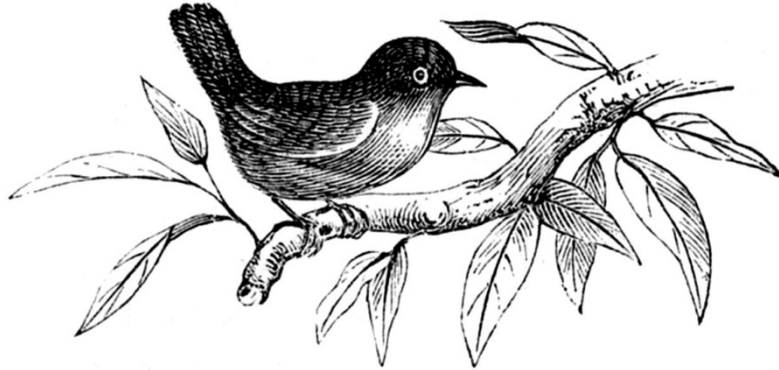


CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH  
and  
CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

**NEWSLETTER**



**FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018 –  
plus 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL WHICH IS EASTER DAY  
Volume 44 No 2**

**MINISTERIAL TEAM**

**Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Team Leader - 0118 947 2223**

**Rev'd David Jenkins – 0118 327 1592**

**Rev'd Dr John Ogden**

**Website: [www.cavhmc.org.uk](http://www.cavhmc.org.uk)**

**Our Minister's Letter**

Dear Friends

***“We must build dykes of courage to hold back the flood of fear” – Martin Luther King Jnr***

In my daily newspaper this week is an article by Tony Schwartz in which he identifies fear as the dominant emotion of our times. Fear of 'the other' in many guises - fear of immigrants, fear of Muslims, fear of powerful 'rogue' states – these, and other, largely irrational, fears, contribute to the mood of our culture. Schwartz goes on to observe the effects of this. “In the face of fear it is a physiological fact that our most primitive and selfish instincts emerge. ... we become more self-centred and our vision narrows to the perceived threat ... we lose the capacity for empathy,

rationality, proportionality and attention to the longer-term consequences of our actions."

He describes his personal mission to encourage and help business leaders become more human and humanise workplaces. He concludes that we are all capable of looking beyond our self-interest and, in contrast to Donald Trump's claim "I alone can do it," our watchword should be "We, together, can do it."

We all recognise the many dimensions of fear that are about in our society. We might add emotions such as fear of death and fear of the future. There is no doubt from our work this past year in understanding loneliness in our neighbourhood, that fear has a destructive effect on individual lives and on community.

In the coming weeks of Lent, we journey again with Jesus to Jerusalem. On the cross, Jesus took upon himself the sin of the world – the evil, the selfishness, the fear – and sacrificed himself in love for the world, so that the power of sin and death over us was overcome. As we celebrate the Resurrection, we affirm that, not only has Jesus set us free from sin and death, but that *fear* no longer has a hold on us.

"There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear."

(1 John 4: 18) As disciples of Jesus, we know that we are deeply, deeply loved, and that there is nothing to fear. Perhaps the best gift we can offer the world, is to be people who live without fear, but who pursue compassion, justice and love - together.

As always, I commend the Lent groups, the various events in Holy Week, and the special gathering on Sunday 11 February, when we meet to discern God's next steps for our two churches, in our journey to become the community God is calling us to be.

**Shalom, Jenny**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**2018 will see commemorations to mark the end of the First World War. Caversham PASTORAL NEWS FROM CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS Heights are planning events over the weekend of October**

**20th and 21st. Further information will be included in the next edition of the church magazine. In the meantime, please ensure that you have these dates in your diary so that YOU don't miss out.**

**It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Derek Richings** a long standing and valued member of Caversham Heights Church and formerly at Gosbrook Road Church.

**It is also with sadness we have to report the deaths of Jim Pilgrim** who has been a member at Caversham Heights for many years – a quiet man who will be remembered for his lovely front garden on the corner of Highmoor and Ikley Roads. Giving pleasure to all who passed by and **Tom Chadwick – a long serving member of Caversham Heights.** Tom was a gentle-man, always willing to lend a hand and we remember his produce stall at our Autumn Fairs. Our love and prayers are with all families at this sad time.

## **SEPARATED FAMILIES – MORE DEVELOPMENTS**

There have been quite a few developments since the October – November Newsletter. I start with picking up something I mentioned then.

I wrote in that Newsletter about a meeting that Caroline Dinenage, the new Minister responsible for child maintenance, had with Families Need Fathers (FNF) and others in July. They all raised the problems of unaffordable child maintenance assessments and she promised to get her officials to look at the evidence I had sent to the Select Committee.

Caroline Dinenage met again with FNF in December. FNF were told that a lot of work had already been done by civil servants on the analysis I had provided. They spoke of meeting FNF and me in the New Year and fixing a date before Christmas. However, this did not happen and I learned yesterday that Caroline Dinenage has now been moved to a job in another government department. She showed a willingness to listen and act so I was sorry to hear the news of her departure.

Good news is that there is a Conservative MP, Alex Burghart, who seems willing to get involved. Alex used to work at the Centre for Social Justice which is where he was made aware of the problems and my work. Last year, when he was in the Number 10 Policy Unit, he asked for copies of my research. However, before we could build on that, Theresa May called a General Election and he stood as a candidate. After his election, I contacted him again and we have met twice in London. I'll keep you informed.

A brief mention that, some time ago, I was asked by the BBC Radio 4 programme Money Box if I could help with a listener's query on child maintenance problems. After some reluctance (it was an aspect I was unfamiliar with and I had to do quite a lot of work) I agreed. I'll let you know if anything comes of it. I also continue to respond to Government consultations and submit evidence to Select Committee inquiries.

Summing up, there have been several developments which **could** lead to progress and a widening web of people who have been made aware of the problems. I do not know what the future holds but will continue to do my best to take each new step as it is put before me.

The support of your prayers would be appreciated.

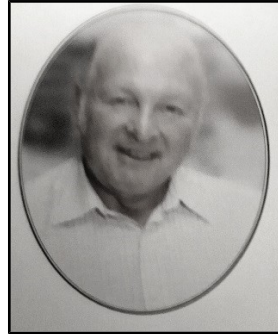
*Christine Dugdale, 10 January 2018*

**STOP PRESS**

**A DATE HAS NOW BEEN FIXED. I WILL BE MEETING WITH CIVIL SERVANTS TO DISCUSS THE CHILD MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY.**

**Please continue to hold Christine in your prayers**

### **Tribute to Derek Richings**



Derek was born and brought up in the City of Gloucester - the second child of four children. His elder brother John and his wife who were not able to attend the thanksgiving service due to ill health.

Derek attended the local school, then at the age of 11 he went to Sir Thomas Richie's Grammar School where he was chosen for the school's swimming team. During that time he also became a member of the Sea Scouts. He remained at that school until he left full-time education but continued his love of swimming until the last few years of his life.

At the age of 17 Derek was apprenticed to a firm of Heating Engineers and having successfully completed his training he continued to work for heating and plumbing companies for some years before he decided he would like to teach. He started by teaching part-time evening classes at Gloucester Technical College until he obtained a full-time post at Reading Technical College in 1966 where he remained until he retired.

He was well liked by the students and he made full use of their willingness to please him by asking them to fetch him chips at lunchtime to go with the food Mary had supplied.

Derek's love of singing began as a child when he sang with the choir of his local church. He was persuaded by one of the secretaries of Reading College to give Reading Male Voice Choir a try. Since then he was a loyal member for over 27 years. He had expressed a wish to attend a rehearsal before Christmas but sadly that was not to be.

Derek started a snooker club to which choir members and their friends were invited to join. All showed a very competitive spirit and some wives were able to tell when their men got home whether they had won or lost!

Although Derek and Mary had married in a Methodist Church in Gloucester they had not joined one in Caversham until a boy they were fostering started going to Boys Brigade at Gosbrook Road Church. He came home one evening and mentioned that the officers had asked whether the boys knew of any parent who would go to help out so along Derek went with William to the next meeting and was hooked.

After moving to live in Caversham Heights we became members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church and Derek was asked if he would start a brigade. He remained Captain for a number of years before handing over the reins to a younger officer but continued to play a role in the running of the brigade which eventually joined forces with the Gosbrook Road Brigade. In July 2003 Derek was presented with a long service award by the Southern District President of the Boys Brigade for 25 years service to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caversham Boys Brigade at this church.

Boys Brigade was the start of his involvement in pantomimes in both churches. His first one was an adaptation of one with which his daughter Marguerite had been involved. From then on he would either write or adapt others, take part or direct as well as painting scenery. He would persuade choir members and friend from far and near to come and see them and invariably there was a good audience. He even got members from Mary's choir in Maidenhead to attend. His one grouse was that he had to wear his dinner jacket which he hated and referred to as his 'penguin suit'. He was willing to do any task from Front of House to selling raffle tickets and auctioning the flowers to add to the money raised for the selected charity.

He was a Sunday school teacher at Caversham Heights church for many years, also a member of the Church Council plus helping with the maintenance.

When an Art Group was set up at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church Derek joined and was able to give full flow to his talent as an artist. He has presented many of his paintings to family and friends as well as hanging them in any spare space he could find. It was a hobby that he was able to continue during his illness which was a great help in occupying his time.

Despite his involvement in many activities Mary and family remained his first consideration and love. Two of his proudest moments were walking daughter, Marguerite, down the aisle at her wedding in this church nearly 35 years ago and then having the honour of doing the same for granddaughter, Hannah, nearly 3 years ago. He was very proud of both his granddaughters and their achievements. The arrival of a great-granddaughter last December was another great joy.

His love was extended to wider family members and friends. His happiness was making other people happy and giving help in any way he could. He had a great rapport with children and would tease them unmercifully. The tributes in the many cards and letters Mary and family have received are a lasting memorial of the way he lived his life.

**Mary Richings**

## PASTORAL NEWS FROM GOSBROOK ROAD

Several of our members have been suffering from the usual winter illnesses over Christmas and New Year and we pray they will all make a good recovery.

We have good news to celebrate however that some members and friends have had new babies born into their families: on 14th November a grandson, James, for Jennifer Jones, on 28th November a son, Samuel, for Liliam and Renato Fonseca, and on 12th December a grandson, Elliott, for Gareth Sweeting. We send our congratulations to these families.

Barbara Tucker (Paula Jenkins mother) is very poorly in Parkside Care Home - please hold her in your prayers.

We also continue to remember in prayer our housebound friend Gwenda Buckledee.

### **Churches Together in Caversham Lent Groups 2018**

*These are likely to be this year's Lent groups - look out for flyers in the churches and on the CTC website ([cavershamchurch.org.uk](http://cavershamchurch.org.uk)) nearer the time*

#### **On the Third Day: How can we recapture the explosive power of the Resurrection?**

The 2018 York course - Five sessions, on the following Tuesday evenings at Caversham Heights Methodist Church: Feb 20 & 27; March 6, 13, 27.

Leaders: Revd Jenny Dowding and Steve Barden

#### **Everybody Welcome**

A course for all church members to look afresh at what it means to be a welcoming, embracing community. Five sessions using a Members Manual and some DVD clips.

St. John's Mothers Union extends an open invitation to join them on Tuesdays at 2 pm in Caversham Hall, St. John's Road, Caversham, starting on 20th February 2018.

Further information from Ann Deane (0118 954 3814) or Rev. John Dudley (0118 954 6664)

#### **Happiness**

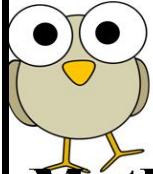
Back by popular demand. What is happiness? Can we increase our levels of happiness? A course by Livability. Four sessions on Wednesday evenings at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, starting on Feb 28th.

Leaders: Lesley Boardley and Revd Nigel Jones. Further info from Nigel at 0118-947-2788.

#### **Six Profiles of Jesus of Nazareth:**

Six Monday evenings (starting Feb 19th) at Our Lady and St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, led by Fr Patrick Daly.

**Religion in Film**- led by Revd Derek Chandler and Revd Judith Ryder, at St Barnabas, Emmer Green

 ?? **Quiz Night**  
**At Gosbrook Road**  
**Methodist Church Caversham**  
**MARCH 3rd, 7pm**  
**Entrance £5 including refreshments**  
**Pay at the Door**  
**5 or 6 in a team (but we are not counting!)**  
**Grand Raffle—Good Questions**  
**Quiz master: Viv Emerson**  
**Supporting children in Cambodia**

### **ODA - Opportunities for Development through Art**

This is the charity which the congregation at Gosbrook Road voted to support for 2017/18

This charity operates in Cambodia and when I was there in March 2016 I visited the orphanage situated in the Angkor Wat temple area, and was extremely impressed by all that I saw. The orphanage and the charity were started by Leng Touch – who was himself orphaned during the Cambodian troubles. He realised how lucky he was to be taken in by an aunt and uncle, and brought up in a loving family home. This is his aim for the children he and his wife look after in Angkor Wat. We watched the children dance a traditional Asparta Art Dance and were then shown around the orphanage. There was a dormitory for the girls and another for the boys. Having seen children's bedrooms in this country I was amazed at how tidy their dormitories were. They each had a small section in a large wardrobe to keep all their clothes and they were immaculate.



As the children were showing us around they were very keen to practice their English – which I thought was very good. English is a vital skill for them, as in the Siem Reap area there are good employment opportunities with all the tourists visiting Angkor Wat but they have to speak English even for a housekeeping/cleaning job. All the children attend school each morning and have extra classes in the afternoon. Leng is an artist and teaches the children,

who produce amazing pictures, and their aim is that the sale of pictures will eventually make the orphanage self-sufficient.

Another significant expense is school uniform for all the children – Cambodian law states that children cannot attend school unless they have uniform and a set costs \$27.

In addition to the orphanage – or Homestay Village as they call it - ODA runs 7 English Schools in outlying villages – all of which are registered with the education authority and provide uniforms for many of the children attending these schools. The hope is that these children will then be able move away from subsistence farming to start small businesses or other more stable employment.

This seemed to me a wonderful charity working in a very troubled country and I am delighted that Gosbrook Road chose to support this cause for the current year. If you would like to know any more please look at <http://www.odaopportunitiescambodia.org/>

## **DAIRY DATES – CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS**

### **FEBRUARY**

#### **LENT GROUPS – FULL DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

**Mission-Shaped intro – a circuit course open to everyone – Thursdays in February - 8, 15, 22: 2.30 p.m. (see also in March)**

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

9 a.m. Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion

10.30 Rev'd Chris Evans

**6.30 at Tadley Common- Circuit Service for the recognition of Symon Turner as a Local**

#### **Preacher**

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion

**12.30-3.30 p.m. at Caversham Heights – meeting plus 2 course hot lunch for the next stage of PMC**

6.30 Rev'd David Jenkins

#### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**PANCAKE PARTY AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS – arrival between 7 and 7.30 p.m. Tickets from Ken and Barbara Macrae**

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Mr David Wise

NO 6.30 SERVICE

#### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins

6.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Circuit Meeting at Tadley Main Road**

### **MARCH**

**Mission-Shaped intro – a circuit course open to everyone – 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March at Caversham Heights 2.30. p.m.**

#### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March –**

**QUIZ NIGHT AT Gosbrook Road - 7 p.m. pay at the door**

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

9. a.m. Rev'd David Jenkins - Holy Communion

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding



NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins - Holy Communion

6.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Dr James Mather

NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - CLOCKS GO FORWARD TONIGHT**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – PALM SUNDAY**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding

6.30 Rev'd David Jenkins – Holy Communion

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March Holy Week service of reflection at  
7.30 p.m. at Gosbrook Road led by Rev'd David Jenkins**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion at Caversham Heights  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Good Friday – 30<sup>th</sup> March united service 10.30 at Caversham Baptist Church followed by Walk  
of Witness to Caversham Court Gardens.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – EASTER DAY**



**Sunrise service – in garden of Macraes**

9 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the hall

10.30 Rev'd Dr James Mather - Holy  
Communion

NO 6.30 SERVICE

**DIARY DATES – GOSBROOK ROAD**

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Preacher**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins

**12.30-3.30 p.m. at Caversham Heights – meeting plus lunch for the next stage of PMC**

6.30 AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS - Rev'd David Jenkins

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**PANCAKE PARTY AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS – arrival between 7 and 7.30 Tickets from Ken and  
Barbara Macrae**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Andy Moffoot

NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Mrs Marion Cruddas

6.30 AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS – Rev'd Jenny Dowding

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Circuit Meeting at Tadley Main Road**

**MARCH**

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**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - QUIZ NIGHT AT Gosbrook Road 7 p.m. pay at the door.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 **(To be advised)**

NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Dr James Mather – Holy Communion

**12.30-3.30 p.m. at Caversham Heights – meeting plus hot lunch for the next stage of PMC**

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10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding

NO 6.30 SERVICE

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**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – EASTER DAY**



**Sunrise Service – in Macraes' garden**

10.30 – Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion

**Something to look forward to in April –**

**DAVID JENKINS IN CONCERT**

**'DREAMING DREAMS'**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**With**

**Rachel Scarlett (Soprano and Flautist)**

**Renato Fonseca (Flautist)**

**and**

**Mystery guest artistes**

**Deadline date for articles for April/May Newsletter is 5<sup>th</sup> March  
2018**