

St John the Baptist Caversham: A Timeline 1900–2015

RED LETTER DAYS	1919 My father sang in St. John's			1978 Building of a new scout and guide hut	1985 Wedding at St. John's including regular congregation and guests
					1985 Our wedding day in October
BLUE DAYS					1980s Before we moved to Caversham we attended St John's church for the wedding of our daughter about 25 years ago. They are still happily married.
	1900	1950	1960	1970	1980
					1985 Closure of Sunday school

RED LETTER DAYS	1990s My Godson's Baptism	2006 Red letter day/time - our valiant church wardens	2010 When Jeremy joined St. John's	The children of Sunday Club and Cooking Club's understanding of the gospel teach me many things. A breath of fresh air - thank you	Perceived desire to go forward as a church even though struggling
	1993 Dedication of garden of remembrance	2008 Returning to active worship	2012+ The Community spirit at Easter events		
BLUE DAYS		2007 Confirmation preparation with Revd Steven Rowe	2012 Hope after the stillbirth of my grandson	Consultation for new clergy	2010 Opening of Caversham community cafe (3 C's)
	1990	2000	2010	Our clergy and leaders	Hope for the future of our church with all the lay preachers
	1990 When I left St. John's and losing friends who introduced me into church	Hearing people driven away by priest in charge Friends leaving St. John's On 2 occasions from 2000, long interregnums made us sad - "the hungry sheep look up and are not fed" Saying goodbye to members of the church due to death, ill health or discomfort	2010+ When we have a children's service and no children attend	Hope for the future	Continuing development of community outreach with the community cafe and community garden
			2010+ Coming back after 18 years and seeing congregation so much older and sparser		Children as part of church
			2015 When St. John's was left without a regular vicar		Hope that our new priest will lead us into greater communion with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
					There is hope in the regular lay workers and Preachers and also in the lady priests



A Chronology 1870–2015

- 1870s** Caversham was largely rural but the population expanded four-fold by the end of the century. Existing Anglican churches were no longer able to cope with the number of people wishing to attend Sunday service.
- 1887** September. *Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee year.* Commencement of the building of the Church of St John the Baptist in the Early English style. Builders: Wheeler Bros under the direction of the architect, Mr Warren.
- 1888** Addition of a North Aisle to the original plans, thanks to a further donation from General and Mrs Radcliffe of Balmore, who were already generous benefactors. Miss Noble from The Hill donated the font, also designed by the architect.
- 1888** Church consecrated on 8th November. Many gifts were received over the first few months including the chancel screen, designed by the architect and given by Miss Radcliffe. Mrs Radcliffe gave the altar rails.
- 1889** Purchase of Organ.
Built by FH Browne of Deal and dedicated on St John's Day 1889. Mr Warren designed the organ case. We have recently learned that the chairs were made by West and Collier, Church Furniture makers of Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames.
- 1897** East window given as a thank offering by parishioners and friends for the work of the Vicar and first priest in charge.
- 2000** The Vicar at that time, Stephen Rowe, leaves and seven years of interregnum follow.
- 2008** St John's is incorporated into the newly formed Parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, with Dan Tyndall as Rector.
- 2010** Jeremy Tear is appointed as Community Priest, based at St John's.
- 2014** Mike Smith installed as Rector.