

Eileen and Labour say Thank you to voters!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who voted Labour in Church Ward on the 5th May this year. I feel proud and privileged to continue the work in Church Ward with my two ward colleagues. We have a lot of ideas for things that we would like to achieve over the next two years and we would love to hear of anything that you would like us to be involved with. Our job is to continue to listen and act on your concerns and issues. We have monthly surgeries in the Whitley café in the Community centre in Northumberland Avenue. In addition to this, we will be holding 'walking' surgeries throughout the ward - coming to you to find out what is important to you moving forward. As the plans for the library move continue, we will ensure that you are kept informed and involved in the 'community Hub' as it starts to take



Ashley, Eileen and Paul celebrate at the count

shape. Over the summer, we will be looking to begin our consultation work, finding roads for inclusion in the already successful 20MPH zone which have been created in other areas. We will continue to work with residents on things which are important to them, including anti-social behaviour and parking problems. We can only be successful if we listen, but we need you to talk to us. Please get in touch if you have anything that we need our help with!

Reading Council to help with housing



The Council will use houses to help residents struggling with housing costs

A new housing company owned by Reading Borough Council will be created soon to help people struggling to find a suitable home. The new venture in Reading aims to help people who are living in temporary or unsuitable housing or in bed and breakfast accommodation. The company would buy properties to let at a mix of market rates and at discounted rents. The new company aims to offer good-quality, responsibly managed private-rented

accommodation, separate from the council's general housing stock. The Council are also looking to help current and prospective tenants. Letting agents and property managers in Reading are being warned to make sure they are displaying the fees they charge or risk a £5,000 penalty. The Council believes around 100 letting agents operate in the borough and officers are stepping up their investigative work to make sure they are complying with the law.

Resident survey & calendar this summer

Church Ward Councillors will be working on the updated version of the popular South Reading calendar in the upcoming weeks. This will be the third edition of the calendar that will take us to the end of 2016 packed with local events in the area. Funded and distributed by the Church Ward Labour party, the calendar brings together lots of information from local organisations into one place. The calendar includes local schools, churches, charities and anything else if people get in contact with us. If you have an event that you wish to appear on the calendar, please contact us as soon as possible. We are hoping to deliver the calendar to you in July.

As well as this Councillors will be out over the summer asking residents their views on the area they live in. This will help us and the Council formulate where our priorities should lie in the coming years to help improve the area. We will have copies of the survey available in the Whitley cafe as well as speaking to residents in person. We basically want to know what you like and what you think can be improved in the area. The survey can also be completed online from the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W353HMC30>. Councillors will also be in attendance at local events including WhitFest on June 18th and the South Reading Churches fun day on July 9th.



Eileen and Ashley showing off the South Reading calendar

News and events from around Church Ward



Ashley in his role as Governor at Ridgeway's new block



Eileen and Ashley were invited to Sahara UK's national football tournament at Rabsons Rec.



Councillors and helpers after a recent clean up



Labour Councillors and activists ready to speak to residents.

The local election campaign did not stop Councillors engaging in their usual tasks. Ashley, as a Governor of Ridgeway has been helping to over see the new block which is now open and in use for staff. It demonstrates the great work of Reading Council's primary expansion plans benefiting our kids. There has also been a clean up of Rabsons Rec (despite the cold weather), attending a Sahara national football tournament and discussing the Whitley library consultation with residents.

If you wish to speak to us about any local issues in your area, remember we have Councillor surgeries on the first Saturday of every month from 10.30am-12pm at the Whitley Café on Northumberland Avenue.

Vote Remain on June 23rd for workers rights

The Tories could launch a fresh assault on the rights of working people if Britain leaves the European Union. The last Labour government made sure our membership of the EU guaranteed basic rights for every British worker. Rights like paid maternity and paternity leave and the right to 28 days paid leave a year are now protected by Britain's EU membership. Agency workers, and workers whose company changes ownership all have guaranteed protections

too. Equal pay for men and women who do the same work, and protection against discrimination in the workplace are all guaranteed because Britain is in Europe. If we leave the EU, all those rights could be ripped up by a Tory government in the future. Local Labour Councillor Ashley Pearce said: "The basic rights of British workers are on the ballot paper in this referendum. I'm voting to remain in the EU to protect the rights of working people."

How to get in touch

📞 07776238861

@ eileen4church@gmail.com

🌐 ash-pearce-church-ward.co.uk

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Write to...

Labour South East, 3 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading, RG1 2TH