

# A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

## **New Season, New Life**

After the miserable onslaught of the wettest winter on record, the daffodils in my garden have finally struggled up from the watery earth to flower in all their glory. The blossom is on the blackthorn, back garden robin is at war with his rival, the dunnocks are flirting with each other, the thrush is in full song, and the long tailed tits seem to have left for pastures new. Dare we believe that spring has arrived? I sure hope so.

With the annual season of renewal, the longer days and the warmer weather comes the Easter feast. Everything in the church year should be looking forward to this moment, this day when we celebrate not just renewal but resurrection. The moment our Saviour walked from the tomb and opened the gates of glory for all who dare to love him.

This should be the best time of year, a time of joy and festivity, and I invite you warmly to celebrate with us this Easter. All our services are on our website.

However, I know, for many of you, this season will be a time of struggle and pain, as the last year will have brought change that is unwelcome and loss that is hard to bear; and, at times like these, it is hard to see beauty through a veil of tears.

Be assured of our prayers, and be assured too that Jesus himself walked the lonely road of loss, pain and death – Good Friday shows us that. However, if nothing else, Easter should remind us that, when Jesus walked from that tomb, he left us with the gift of life. Then he said: ‘My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you’; and he promised: ‘Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ Something to celebrate indeed!

Catherine Blundell

March 2014

PS: The Easter celebrations this year will not start as early as usual. As Easter is so late, our annual sunrise service would have had to start at about 5am. For some reason this was thought to be a touch too early.

# A note from the Editors

Sam a touch too early? Do you cringe with shame? Or just say to yourself: 'Thank goodness for that!'

Getting up at 5 in the morning in our household usually has one of two connotations:

1. The telephone rings: something awful has happened that needs our attention, OR
2. We are going on a long and exciting journey.

It's curious that both of these resonate with Easter. The dreadful events of Good Friday must have been bad enough for Jesus' disciples, and when (in St Luke's Gospel version) they went to his tomb very early in the morning, and found Jesus' body gone, that must have been a truly awful moment.

But the long and exciting journey soon began, with the revelation of Jesus' glorious Resurrection. And we are still involved in that exciting journey – a journey that does indeed include awful things, but has the prospect of a safe homecoming!

With spring bursting all round us, we can all too quickly forget the awful trauma that has befallen so many people following the recent floods. One of our senior parishioners (not the only one) reported that a design fault in her house had led to an outside wall being saturated with rain-water, and this had then drained into her kitchen and ruined it. The Insurance Company were querying coverage, because it was the fault of the builders, but the house was out of warranty. Rectifying the design fault would be problematic and expensive.

We have been invited to help flood relief financially, and this can be done, for Berkshire relief, by donating via: <http://www.berkshirecf.org/>

What local issues do you think need attention? Do write to us!

## From the Registers

### **Baptisms**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014:

Lucy Rayner

Chloe Talbot

Ellen Talbot

## Funerals

26th February Late Mr Frederick Sturges at Easthampstead  
Crematorium

4th March Late Mr Derek Rowden at Easthampstead  
Crematorium

### REQUIESCANT IN PACE

## Bits and Pieces

Church Office opening hours (Friday closed):

Mondays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesdays: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Thursdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Contact info:

### Church Office

c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5 8RR

Phone: 01344 882933

Web: [www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](http://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)

email: [admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](mailto:admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)

### Morning office (daily prayers)

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tuesdays: 9:15am, usually Mary Knight, will be at St Martin's

Fridays: 9:30am, usually Catherine Blundell, will be at St. Peter's

## Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

### Parish events and Diary Information

If you are arranging an event please contact Alison Burt in the Church Office so that it can be noted in the Church diary and mentioned on the website. Alison will endeavour to keep track of activities and timings etc. View event details on our website:

[www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](http://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)

### Collation dates for the Parish Magazine

The next few dates for the collation are:

25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014

27<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Collators and deliverers of the magazine, please note!

**The deadline for articles and text for this part of the Parish Mag is always the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month preceding publication.**

## **Chavey Down WI - dates for your diary.**

Our April meeting will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Martins Church Hall at 7:45pm.

This is our members evening at which one of our own members and her husband – Angela and Martin – will give a slide show and talk on “The Road to Mandalay”, where they holidayed last year.

Our competition this month is “Something mysterious”. May is the beginning of our new program so, if you are thinking of joining us, now is a good time.

We will again be having a stall at the May Day Fair.

Janey Bethune- Williams

## **Chavey Down Association dates**

Reminder: next Memory garden clear up day is 5<sup>th</sup> April. Followed by June 7<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> May: Chavey Down Association Annual General meeting 7pm for 7:30pm to approx. 10pm. Cheese and wine will be served after the meeting.

28<sup>th</sup> June Annual Senior Citizens summer outing. Coach leaves Scott's Mews Priory Road 9am return 8:30pm. Destination: Eastbourne.



"I think the D.I.Y. Palm Sunday palm-kit you ordered online is here, dear..."

## **Winkfield Mayday Fair 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**We need sponsorship & raffle prizes!**

If you are a local business perhaps you would consider a donation to help cover the expense of organising the event. Alternatively you may be able to donate a raffle prize. In return your company will be acknowledged in the programme and on posters at the event.

You are invited to join in the fun of

# May Day



A day for the Community by the Community

## **Winkfield Row May Day Fair Bank Holiday Monday**

**12.00 midday – 4.00pm**

**Carnation Hall  
Chavey Down Road**

The Winkfield Row May Day Fair is a non-profit making event.  
All surplus proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

### **WE NEED MORE HELPERS!**

If you are able to help organise the event or can spare a few hours on the day please call Wendy French on 01344 883528 or email:  
[wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org](mailto:wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org)

## **We need Volunteer helpers too!!**

With just a handful of us organising the event, we really do need your help in the run up to the fair, or to help out on the day with setting up, selling raffle tickets and lucky programmes, and helping to clear up at the end. We cannot manage to do it all on our own!

If you can help with any of the above, please contact Wendy French.  
Tel: 883528 or email: [wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org](mailto:wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org)

## **WEA adult learning – Day School**

The WEA adult learning charity's Slough and Windsor Branches have a Day School on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Slough Central Library.

This Day School is titled 'Sleuths and Storytellers'. Four Thames Valley Writers will explore children's and crime fiction through the writings of Enid Blyton and Kenneth Grahame and then Agatha Christie and Colin Dexter.

Timing is 9:30am to 3:30 pm, and the fee is £20pp. Contact Patricia Powell on 01753 852754 or at [powell.pa@btopenworld.com](mailto:powell.pa@btopenworld.com) or see [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk).

## **St Mary's Church organ restoration Plant Sale**

The Women's Guild will be holding a Plant Sale at St Mary' Church, Winkfield, on **SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2014**. This plant sale is being held to raise funds for the Organ Restoration.

To make this a success a large number of plants will be required. Could we therefore please ask members of the Parish to donate plants, perhaps by splitting perennial plants from their garden, or by other means? We would be happy to collect any plants – just telephone 886324.

Doreen Potter

Note. The refurbishment work on the Organ was postponed from March 2013 because of urgently needed work on other organs from BC SHEPHERD & SONS who will carry out our work. I am advised that the current target date is October 2014. You may be interested to look at their website (given below). Ed.

<http://www.bcshepherdandsons.co.uk/>

## **Magazine Ads Section - Volunteer Support Required**

We are looking for a second Volunteer to support the Advertising aspect of this magazine. The main activities are to support:

- ❖ Telephone-sales for new Ads, throughout the year when required;
- ❖ Sending out annual invoices / reminders / payment chase-ups in December through to March;
- ❖ Type-setting new Ad. artwork, mainly between January and April;
- ❖ Arranging annual renewals in between November and February;
- ❖ Annually auditing the magazine section in February for March.

This is a very rewarding role for the Parish and most work is achieved between November and April, with a little throughout the year. Full training is given.

## **Cranbourne and Winkfield Royal British Legion**

The Women's Section has arranged a fund raiser for the Legion.

This will be a table top sale on Saturday 10th May in the British Legion Hall, Hatchet Lane Cranbourne. For further details phone Wendy on 01344 890716.

Wendy Sivyer

## **Relay for Life Ascot**

Join us for Cancer Research UK Relay For Life Ascot July 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> for our 7<sup>th</sup> annual event. One community getting together for an amazing weekend raising funds and awareness for this wonderful cause! United we are stronger than cancer. See <http://www.relayforlifeascot.co.uk>.  
Rose Dalton

## *News from around the Parish*

### **St Mary's Tower Bell Ringers**

*This is reprinted from the St Mary's Tower Bells Report for the APCM.*

Yet again a busy and enjoyable year with plenty of ringing and social events, which began with an enjoyable, and well attended, darts evening in March.

We rang for several weddings throughout the year, including some extra events due to the building work at Warfield Church. For most of these we were able to ring in-house, and thanks goes to everyone who

turns out for these and for other special services throughout the year. The ringers at Winkfield are amazing! Thank you all.

In May Jill Glennerster hosted another enjoyable curry evening, and this year the hand-bells got out of the boxes! Later in the month we gathered again to celebrate Tony's big birthday.

Many thanks to Janet for hosting the summer barbeque in August, and despite the chilly weather, a most enjoyable time was had by all. It was so sad that Graham could not be with us and he subsequently died the following week. He is very much missed and all our sympathies are with Janet.

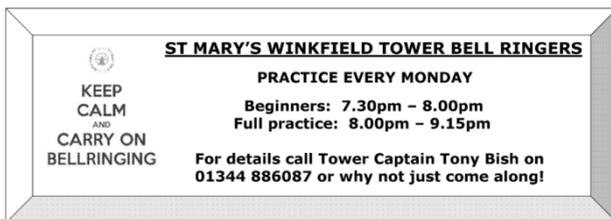
In September Trevor organised a fascinating day around Guildford, beginning with a ring at Holy Trinity, a guided tour and delicious lunch at Wonersh. The afternoon bells were super rings at Wonersh and Bramley. Thank you very much, Trevor.

On October 12th we hosted the final of the Lorna Newton striking competition, won by Bray. Winkfield managed to get through the first round against Old Windsor, but were knocked out against Old Amersham in the 2nd round. We had a 180th birthday lunch in the White Hart, after Bell Sunday on 13th October, for Jill, July and Tony.

On a fine November evening we enjoyed a barbecued sausage around the bonfire, and set the sky alight with fireworks!

Many thanks to Sue for organising the Christmas dinner at The Duke of Edinburgh. This was a very jolly occasion and was well supported by everyone. We rang in 2014 in our usual style with Sharon striking the midnight chimes with accuracy and control.

We have two lovely new ropes on the 4 and 6 and have ordered 4 more to make up the complete set.



**ST MARY'S WINKFIELD TOWER BELL RINGERS**

**PRACTICE EVERY MONDAY**

**Beginners: 7.30pm - 8.00pm**  
**Full practice: 8.00pm - 9.15pm**

**For details call Tower Captain Tony Bish on 01344 886087 or why not just come along!**

Many thanks to Trevor for writing the quiz on 14th February, which was a great success. Thank you also to more than 20 teams who supported the event, and who helped to raise in excess of £450.

We welcome Lyn to the band and it is lovely to have Sylvia back among us.

Tony Bish - Tower Captain

# SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

## Snow Policy – put to bed until winter!

### St Mary's – April services

Apr	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
13	Palm Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
17	Holy Thursday	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
18	Good Friday	2pm	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
20	Easter Day	9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
26		1pm	Wedding	Clergy
27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

### Easter Memorial Lilies

If you would like to purchase any Lilies to be displayed in St Mary's Church over Easter in memory of loved ones and relatives, please contact Doreen Potter on 886324.

Lilies cost £2.00 each, and payment should be made direct to Doreen.

### St Martin's, Chavey Down – April services

Apr	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
13	Palm Sunday	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
14	Holy Monday	9:15am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

Apr	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
15	Holy Tuesday	9:15am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
16	Holy Wednesday	9:15am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
17	Holy Thursday	6pm	Holy Communion	Clergy
20	Easter Day	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
27	2nd Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
		11:30am	Baptism	Clergy

### St Peter's Cranbourne – April services

Apr	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	All Together Service	Lay minister
11		1pm	Wedding	Clergy
13	Palm Sunday	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Lay minister
		1:30pm	Baptism	Lay minister
		2:15pm	Baptism	Lay minister
18	Good Friday	10am	Stations of the Cross	Lay minister
19	Messy Easter	2pm	Family Praise/ Messy Church	Lay minister
20	Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

**Note on Service Leaders:** Where 'clergy' is shown – this will usually be the Vicar. Where 'lay minister' is shown, this includes: Stuart Ager, David Blundell, Paula Darrall, Mary Knight, Jacki Thomas, and Mike Thomas.

## Winkfield Row Methodist Church - April

**How to find the Winkfield Row Methodist Church:**

We are located in Winkfield Row opposite Lambrook School: Winkfield Row, Bracknell RG42 6NE.

Telephone: 01344 411417

Morning worship 10:30am (unless stated). **All are welcome!**

6<sup>th</sup> April: Holy Communion Rev'd Jackie Case

13<sup>th</sup> April: Palm Sunday: Doreen Murgatroyd

20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day: Peter Whalley

27<sup>th</sup> April: Dalwyn Attwell



The Maundy service on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm will be a United Service for Winkfield Row, Crowthorne and Bracknell Methodist Churches and will be held at Bracknell Methodist Church, led by Revd Jackie Case

A Good Friday service will be held at Winkfield Row Methodist Church at 10am led by Revd Jackie Case

## Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

### St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
4 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Lent arrangement (Memorial table only)
18 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter)	Mrs Cullen and Mrs Cardwell
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Wedding (Florist arranging)

### St Martin's

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Fanning /Mrs Logan	Mrs Jenkins

## What's on in April

Day	Apr	Event	Time/place
Tue	1	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's
Wed	2	Zumba gold class at	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall

Day	Apr	Event	Time/place
Thu	3	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall
Sat	5	Baptism Preparation session	9:30am at St Mary's church
		Memory Garden clear up	St Martin's church
		NO Film Club today	Next film 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2014
Sun	6	APCM Cranbourne	11am at St Peter's church
Thu	10	Wedding rehearsal	6-7pm at St Peter's church
		Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall
Sat	12	WEA Day School (page WEA adult learning – Day	9:30am to 3:30pm at Slough Central Library
Wed	16	Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall
Thu	17	Vicar's Tea Party	2-3pm at St Peters Church
		Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall
Fri	18	GOOD FRIDAY	See above for services
Sun	20	EASTER SUNDAY	See above for services
Wed	23	St George's Day	
Thu	24	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church hall
Fri	25	Wedding rehearsal	6-7pm at St Mary's Church
Sun	27	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Mon	28	Chavey Down WI meeting	7:45pm at St. Martins Church Hall

NB. All content in this list may be subject to change without notice.

# News from around the Parish (continued)

## **Hand-bell Ringers**

We have practising our "four in hand" technique this month and we are making steady progress!

I attended the Hand Bell Ringers of Great Britain AGM combined with the St. David's Day Rally, which was enormous fun, with plenty of good Welsh tunes rung, and an enormous amount of cake consumed!! Bell ringers seem to be expert cake makers as well. *Ed. Why's that? Best theory will be published!*

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the South East Region Bell Orchestra (two of us are in this prestigious group) is presenting the annual concert at the Harlequin Theatre in Redhill, which includes many bell ringers from around the region, plus percussion instruments and drums.

It is always a good event and tickets cost just £10.00 - please see the notice in church and do come along!

As always we would love to have you join us on a Wednesday evening in St Mary's Church from 7:30-9pm.

Jill Glennerster 884071

## **St Mary's Women's Guild**

Patricia Powell gave a fascinating and informative talk about her memories of growing up in the middle of London in the 1940's. There were some wonderful stories including a spot in the organ loft in Westminster Abbey. The questions asked at the end of Patricia's talk encouraged others to add one or two of their own special memories.

The Mothering Sunday posies will be arranged on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March for distribution on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. As usual, after the Mothering Sunday service, sherry will be served, and simnel cake, baked by one of our members, will be provided.

Please also see page 6 for the Guild Plant Sale in aid of Organ Restoration, and page 9 for Easter Memorial Lilies.

The next meeting of the Guild is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2:30pm. This will be the AGM.

New members are always welcome.

Lesley Philpot

## **St. Mary's Choir**

The year has been an interesting one for the choir. We have been ably augmented on many occasions by our "Friends", who come and join us whenever they can; and, with the expert assistance of Chris Cromar, who acted as Choir Director until 31/12/13, our singing has certainly improved and our repertoire expanded. Music at services for the first and second Sundays in the month remained largely unchanged, but for third and fourth Sundays, it has been possible to add a short anthem and/or an introit. This policy is continuing at present.

After very many years of loyal service, both as organist and rehearsing the choir, Josh Tuffley decided it was time to retire. We are deeply grateful for all he has done and send him our sincere thanks for his help and devotion to music at St. Mary's. Anthony Hodson, Jonathan Holl and Maurice Rogers continue as our organists and lead us at choir practice, and we thank them for the time they give and all the work they do. For the future, we hope it may be possible to appoint a new Choir Director to work with us and further develop our abilities.

The choir has taken part in a number of special occasions in the course of the year. We sang two pieces at the Evensong, commemorating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth and paid tribute to Winkfield's two recipients of Maundy Money, Mary Knight and Ruth Timbrell. We joined other local church choirs for a Deanery Communion Service at All Souls, South Ascot on Ascension Day and, later in the year, for an Evensong at All Saints, Binfield. With the help of some additional singers and under Chris Cromar's direction, we gave a performance of Faure's Requiem on the evening of Remembrance Sunday. The choir made a substantial contribution to the concert "St Mary's: Music for Christmas" in December and greatly enjoyed the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – a beautiful service.

Besides these special events, we have served and supported the St. Mary's congregation each Sunday throughout the year, as we will continue to do. Of course, as a lot of choirs would probably say, a few more members would always be very welcome!

Marian Stevens 882918

## **Chavey Down Association: Priory Road Cemetery**

What a difference a Community workday can make! A team comprising our two Borough Councillors, Parish Council members, people from North Ascot and Committee members of the Chavey Down Association

and some members worked for 2 days clearing rubbish, cleaning graves, and generally tidying. It was worth a trip just to see the show of crocus in the Cemetery – a joy to behold. A big thank you to them all. It was hoped a few more people from Chavey Down would have gone but perhaps they will be able to help on the next clear up day.

A poem read at a recent funeral I attended contained two lines which I feel are very relevant.

The poem is: 'He is gone':

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

Ruth Timbrell.

## Spotlights Musical Theatre Group

Can you sing? Can you act or would you like to act? Have you got hidden talents? Well come and find out!

We are looking for people who like to have a lot of fun, and want to give their vocal chords a good work out. Make friends, have fun and enjoy yourself on a Monday evening. 8-10pm at Cheapside Village Hall SL5 7QH.

Ring Sheila Knight 01784 483203  
[www.spotlightsmtg.co.uk](http://www.spotlightsmtg.co.uk)



## Thoughts of all sorts

### All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were these: between midnight and noon on 1<sup>st</sup> April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

### **'Easter' by George Herbert (1593-1633)**

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him may'st rise;  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more, Just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part  
With all thy art.

The cross taught all wood to resound his name  
Who bore the same.

His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key  
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song  
Pleasant and long:

Or since all music is but three parts vied,  
And multiplied;

O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

### **Easter faith**

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you

convince people who have already experienced God, that he does not exist?

## **Easter Prayer by Daphne Kitching**

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for his life of obedience and servant-hood, for his choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for his death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of his Spirit to those who put their trust in him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth – and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!

Amen.

## **The Wind In The Willows by Kenneth Graham**

*Many of us will remember their pleasure when they first read 'The Wind in the Willows', and the first two paragraphs are so memorably evocative of spring that we print them here.*

The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of whitewash; till he had dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said, "Bother!" and "O blow!" and also "Hang spring-cleaning!" and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. Something up above was calling him imperiously, and he made for the steep little tunnel which answered in his case to the gravelled carriage-drive owned by animals whose residences are nearer to the sun and air. So he scraped and scratched and scabbled and scrooged, and then he scrooged again and scabbled and scratched and scraped, working busily with his little paws and

muttering to himself, "Up we go! Up we go!" till at last, pop! his snout came out into the sunlight and he found himself rolling in the warm grass of a great meadow.

"This is fine!" he said to himself. "This is better than whitewashing!" The sunshine struck hot on his fur, soft breezes caressed his heated brow, and after the seclusion of the cellarage he had lived in so long the carol of happy birds fell on his dulled hearing almost like a shout. Jumping off all his four legs at once, in the joy of living and the delight of spring without its cleaning, he pursued his way across the meadow till he reached the hedge on the further side.

...

If you do not have the book, the full text can be read on the Web at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/27805/27805-h/27805-h.htm>. Also note the WEA course notified on page 6.

## **General Synod's concern over climate change**

General Synod has re-affirmed the Church of England's commitment to play a leading role in the effort to prevent dangerous climate change.

In February it voted in favour of a motion, brought by the Diocese of Southwark, which re-affirms Synod's desire that the Church's National Investing Bodies ensure that their investment policies are 'aligned with the theological, moral and social priorities' of the Church on climate change. The investing bodies adopted an ethical investment policy on climate change in 2008 but such is the concern of EIAG (Ethical Investment Advisory Group) about trends in greenhouse gas emissions that the policy is already under review.

The motion does not prescribe how the Church of England should align its investment practice with the Church's stance on climate change nor does it back the calls of some US environmentalists for complete disinvestment from fossil fuel companies. However, the motion does call for the merits of the exclusion of some companies from investment to be considered as one of the ethical investment tools available to the EIAG.

The National Investing Bodies will publish a new policy on climate change in 2015, once the EIAG had completed its review. As a result of the motion, the Church will also be reviewing organisational arrangements for co-ordinating and developing the Church's strategic and local response to climate change.

## The Woodley Festival

The last issue brought notice of the Woodley Festival, and we were able to attend some of it on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

First, we heard some of the school choirs at Emmbrook School. As always, it is a huge pleasure to see so many children really enjoying performance, singing their hearts out, as they tackle beautiful songs, often with rhythms that challenge, eyes fixed on their director.

Then, at the main Festival area, at the Oakwood Centre, the main activity on both days was young people singing, or on instruments, performing by themselves or in groups. One was a delightful duo of a 5-year old cellist boy and a 7-year old violinist (his big brother), who played rather well together, by heart.

In the Open Composition class St Mary's Choir member John Kimbell sang Anthony Hodson's setting of two Gerard Manley Hopkins poems ('Spring' and 'Fall').



On the Sunday, there were some fine performances by young people, including some from local (independent) schools. (More state-school participation needed!! The talent is there.) Among these was Helen Fraser, our young bassoonist in the 2013 Christmas Concert at St Mary's, with fine performances. A star turn was Emily, aged 9, who not only won the Grade 8 class on the bassoon, but later performed Rimsky Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumblebee', flawlessly and at break-neck speed. Truly a talent to keep an eye on!

## A Day for Atheists?

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "Christians have Christmas and Easter; and Jews have Passover and Yom Kippur; Muslims have Ramadan. EVERY religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognized holidays. It's an unfair discrimination, and all just because we say there is no God."

"Nonsense!" his friend replied, "You've had a special day in your honour for years. We call it April the first."

# Children's Corner



## DAISIES

There is an old saying 'when you can stand on seven daisies at once then spring has come'. I like daisies with their bright yellow middles and tiny petals. If you look closely, you'll see that not all the daisies in any lawn will be white; some of them are edged with pink. When I was little I asked my mum why and she told me this story to explain why.

On that first Easter morning, when Jesus walked in the garden and was seen by Mary and the other women who thought he was a gardener, his bare feet touched just some of the daisies in the grass. And because he still had the wounds in his feet his blood touched the daisies and marked their petals pink.

I love this story and still to this day I feel sorry for the daisies that Jesus

didn't touch - because when Jesus touches our lives all things change and spring comes into our hearts forever.



## BIBLE 'D's

Can you find all the answers to this Bible quiz? All the words begin with the letter D. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. A tribe of Israel.
2. He spent the night with some lions.
3. Where Saul was going when he met Jesus on the road.
4. Followers of Jesus.
5. These made Joseph unpopular with his brothers.
6. A famous king of Israel who played the harp.

## How do dinosaurs pass exams?

With extinction.

## What is the main ingredient of dog biscuits?

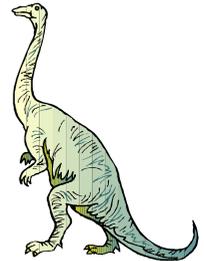
Collie flour.

## My little brother's name is Dad.

Why is that?

## They named him after my father.

Answers: 1.Dan 2.Daniel  
3.Damascus 4.disciples 5.dreams  
6.David.



## Spring – by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) wrote many poems that are striking both in their originality of rhythm (he hated the ti-tum ti-tum ... meter of so many contemporary poems) and also in their use of unusual words and of common words in unusual ways. He was also deeply interested in the relationship between God and nature, and his poems are full of religious observations and parallels. Here is his beautiful sonnet on spring-time:

NOTHING is so beautiful as spring -

    When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and  
lovely and lush;

    Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and  
thrush

Through the echoing timber does so rinse and  
wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him  
sing;

The glassy peartree leaves and blooms,  
they brush

    The descending blue; that blue is all in a  
rush

With richness; the racing lambs too have fair  
their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

    A strain of the earth's sweet being in the  
beginning

In Eden garden. Have, get, before it cloy,

    Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with  
sinning,

Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,

    Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy  
the winning.

**SPRING**

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“Love of music and God”? 24

[We are looking for a second Volunteer to support the Advertising aspect of this magazine. See the March magazine for further information, or contact Tony Antoniou (see *Who's Who* at the front of the Magazine for contact details).]

### “Love of music and God”?

I was recently reprimanded for writing these words in this order: were not my priorities wrong? Of course they were, if the order signified priority. But the issue set me thinking deeper.

What *is* the relationship between God and musicians, particularly the most famous composers? Many of the great composers of wonderful Church music have *not* been great churchmen. Vaughan Williams, although devoted to church music and a great influence on it, certainly fell into this category; Mozart was more the professional musician, performer and composer, even though he wrote some wonderful pieces of religious music notably his Requiem

(unfinished, for an anonymous client). But who would doubt its Christian spirituality?

Brahms' own Requiem draws its words from quotations from the Old and New testaments, and wonderful words they are. But there is no mention of Jesus. There is deep spirituality in these words of comfort in the face of death, and we may hope that God approves all the same.

If you want to find a truly religious composer, one need look no further than Bach, for whom church life was the mainspring of his composing life. His two best-known Passions – the St Matthew Passion and the earlier St John Passion – are true witnesses to the strength of Bach's relationship with God. But did he compose for 'the love of music and God' or for 'the love of God and music'? I wouldn't be absolutely sure which way round even Bach would put it, if he was being truly honest with himself as he was composing. Did he recognise the difference?

Cavalier Jacob Astley is recorded as having used the Soldiers' Prayer at the Battle of Edgehill, in the English Civil War:

'O Lord! Thou knowest how busy I must be this day: if I forget thee, do not thou forget me'.

and the demands of music on the mind can easily find a parallel with those of battle, particularly in performance. Surely, even the most religious of performers in music, in tackling a difficult piece – perhaps a complex Bach fugue – must focus on the music – and leave God out of conscious mind for the moment, although prayer may be helpful when anticipating tricky passages.

The act of composition of great music must have similar focus, particularly in the mind of a fluent writer like Mozart or Handel (who, it is said, wrote *The Messiah* in just six weeks). In setting religious texts, awareness of the meanings and of the religious ideas is surely crucial. But, in the mind of the composer, I wonder which is uppermost? The musical expression of the religious idea or God himself?

It is difficult to say, even from personal experience. 'Love of music and God' vs 'Love of God and music'? What in the final analysis is the difference, if music is truly God's gift to man, as many musicians believe!  
Anthony Hodson

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to thy God to order and provide;  
in every change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly  
Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing  
shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
know  
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt  
below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends  
depart,  
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
then shalt thou better know his love, his  
heart,  
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy  
fears.

Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay,  
from his own fullness, all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief and fear are  
gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears  
are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at