

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Waiting for your birthday

Waiting for your birthday is a bittersweet sensation for most of life. As a child, the year seemed to creep by at a glacial rate, and the last few days were pure agony; but, as an adult, with the years zipping by at a gallop, birthdays arrive with unseemly haste, leaving us all older, rounder and crinklier.

I suspect it is only the Nonagenarians and the Centenarians who have a triumphant approach to birthdays: another one ticked off is a poke in the eye for Father Time.

The bible is remarkably coy about birthdays. Perhaps this is because only rich people could afford birthdays, and certainly only the rich could afford a notable feast. How different from today when the words 'birthday' and 'party' fit together so nicely!

The four mentions of a birthday in the New International Version of the Bible are: when Pharaoh celebrates in Genesis in the stories about Joseph; Job's sons' birthdays are mentioned in the first chapter of that book; and, in the gospels of Matthew and Mark, on Herod's birthday, the daughter of Herodias asked for the head of John the Baptist on a plate – which must go down in history as the biggest party-poopers ever.

One celebration that is mentioned in great detail in the New Testament is, of course, the Feast of Pentecost, often called the church's birthday and, wow, what a party this turned out to be! The biblical narrative is found in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. Present at the time were about one hundred and twenty followers of Christ, including his closest group of disciples, his mother Mary and various other women disciples.

They had been told to 'stay in the city until they had been clothed with power from on high' (Luke 24: 49), and so they were 'all together in one place' (Acts 2:1), probably sharing food, goods, breaking bread and praying, when, suddenly, another guest arrived at the party. Like 'tongues as of fire', the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, alighted upon them to give the promised power and, from that moment onwards, the fledgling church and the disciples were never the same again.

They went from a being a group of dispirited followers to a vibrant movement with anointed leaders who ministered with fresh authority and confidence. From that moment the church was born!

As with many people, the church has had good years, good choices and great times; but, as with everyone, there have also been terrible mistakes and people who have been hurt along the way. Perfection has never been possible, but honesty, humility and seeking forgiveness are as much a gift of the Holy Spirit as the ability to tell the world of the risen Christ. The Holy Spirit gave us all we need to live the life of Christian service: we just have to receive this gift and use it as Jesus has taught us – to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Pentecost this year isn't until June 8th – we'll have to wait a little longer for the party, but we will have services of celebration in all three church buildings. You are most welcome to join us.

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

'And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.' From this idea all creatures – including all of us – were born. It is a wonderful insight, revealed so clearly at Pentecost. In these days when atheism sometimes seems to be having the intellectual upper hand, who can resist the idea that there truly is an essence of life itself, giving meaning, free will, the power to react and cause action – and to love? The tangibility of the concept is a clear third of the way to our Trinity!

The biblical term for spirit is the Greek *pneuma* ('*pneuma*', as in '*pneumatic*') literally meaning 'breath' – that which breathes life into the animal world (and by extension into creatures that do not breathe). 'Spirit' comes from the Latin '*spiritus*', which has breathing-related derivatives '*inspire*', and (eventually) '*ex[s]pire*'. We still read (but don't always say) 'I believe in the Holy Ghost'. In fact, *pneuma* (without the adjective 'Holy') can also mean 'ghost'. In St Luke's account of the events after the empty tomb, the 11 and others hear the account of the two who met Jesus on the way to Emmaus. They then find Jesus to be among them, but think he is just a ghost – *pneuma*. Jesus corrects them. 'No, I am the Risen Christ, and no ghost' he tells them, and proves it.

At Pentecost, the power of the *pneuma agia* (Holy Spirit) really overflowed, giving power to speak many languages. A wonderful source of inspiration (yes, '*spiritus*' again) for us all, Greek-speakers or no.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the following children, baptised into God's church recently:

9th March 2014

Antonia Bracegirdle

Freddie Morris

Jonny Morris

16th March 2014

Theo Williams

Taylor Glazier

23rd March 2014

Teddy J Newman

Funerals

A Funeral Service for the late Mr. Alan Clark was held at St Mary's church on 27th March 2014

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Bits and Pieces

Church Office opening hours (Friday closed):

Mondays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Thursdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Fridays: closed

Wednesdays: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Contact info

Church Office

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

Phone: 01344 882933

Website: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

email: 1admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

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 the website above.

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

Collation dates for the Parish Magazine

The next few dates for the collation are:

23rd May 2014 | 27th June 2014 | 5th September 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 10th of each month preceding publication, except for the September edition, which is extended to 23/9/14.

Friends of St Mary's

We are thinking of developing a Friends of St Mary's scheme to support the glorious heritage and activities of our beautiful parish church. This kind of scheme has been set up in a number of parishes, and if you want more information about what is entailed, you can look at:

<http://www.pariahresources.org.uk/friends-schemes/>

We hope that many people within and outside of the parish, including those who just enjoy what the church represents in the community, would be prepared to support the scheme. Watch this space!!

Rev'd Catherine Blundell,
Vicar of the Winkfield and Cranbourne Churches

Chavey Down WI

Our monthly meeting will take place on Monday 19th May in St Martins Church Hall at 7:45pm.

We will be discussing the 2014 resolutions, after which we will have a hands-on craft evening done by our own members.

As always we will be having our usual cake and produce stall at the May Day Fair, so please do come along and support us there.

If you are thinking of joining us, this year's new programmes will be there for you to view.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

Chavey Down Association dates

Reminder: the next Memory garden clear- up days are June 7th and August 9th.

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

26th June: Annual Senior Citizens summer outing (**NOT** 28th June as previously published). Coach leaves Scott's Mews Priory Road 9am and returns at approximately 8pm. Destination: Eastbourne. To book seats, or for more information, please ring Tina Chapman on 883815.

Prices are still the same as last year;

C.D.A. Senior members: Free

Non members: £14.00

Bingo members: £7.00

Jonathan Holl Recital

Jonathan Holl, resident of Winkfield and a distinguished organ recitalist, will be giving a recital at St Peter's Church in aid of the Royal College of Organists, at 7:30pm on Saturday 28th June – definitely a date for your diaries!

Jonathan is one of the regular organist/choir-directors of St Mary's church, and his wife Madeline is very often to be seen (and heard) singing with the St Mary's Choir.

He will also be giving a short recital at Reading Minster on Friday 16th May, from 12:15 to 12:45pm. The organ there is a 'Father Willis', dating back to 1862, and comes from the same distinguished 'stable' as the more famous and recently restored instrument in Reading Town Hall. Unfortunately, the Minster organ now needs quite urgent restoration, and an Organ Restoration Fund has been set up to gather funds.

A message from Pam and Graham Firth

We should like to say thank you for all the good wishes and kind remarks we have received since retiring from our editorial duties on the Winkfield Parish News; and especially for the lovely orchid and very acceptable bottle of wine which arrived recently, courtesy of the Guild and the Parish. We now enjoy reading the magazine under its new editorship without any of the accompanying stress, and send our good wishes and gratitude in turn to the Hodson editorial team. By way of a busman's holiday, Graham now edits the quarterly 'Branch Lines', the magazine of the Exeter University Club – if any Exeter alumni are interested in a sample copy, please let me know!

Pam and Graham Firth

Winkfield Row Methodist Church Celebrates 160 Years Of Christian Worship.

This summer, the congregation of Winkfield Row Methodist Church will celebrate the church's 160th Anniversary. The chapel opened in 1854 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel, as part of a circuit (group of churches) that stretched through the Thames Valley Area as far as Heathrow. Many of the sister churches from back in the 19th Century have long since closed; however worship continues every Sunday at Winkfield Row. In the 20th Century, the Primitive Methodists joined with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Bible Christians to form the modern day Methodist Church. Today Winkfield Row is part of the family of churches that make up the Berkshire Surrey Borders circuit.

The present day congregation offers a warm welcome to all who wish to join us for traditional Methodist worship every Sunday at 10:30am.

We will be celebrating our 160th Anniversary on Sunday June 22nd with services at 10:30am and 5pm, led by a former minister, Revd. Brian Coates. Before the evening service, you are invited to a strawberry tea at 3:30pm, and we will be sharing memories of the chapel in bygone times.

If you have any memories of Winkfield Row Methodist Church down the years – for example weddings, Christenings or other celebrations – we would love to hear from you so that we can share these as part of our celebrations.

Further details of the anniversary and worship of Winkfield Row Methodist Church can be obtained from the current minister Revd. Jackie Case [revjackie@casehome.plus.com] or the Church Steward, Mr. Dalwyn Attwell (Dalwyn.attwell@gmail.com).

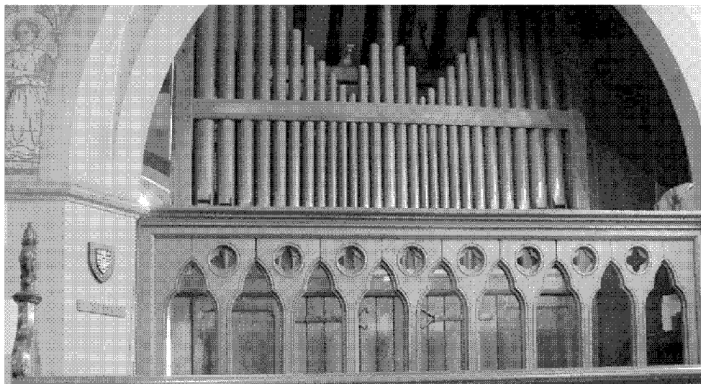
Cranbourne and Winkfield Royal British Legion

The Women's Section has just 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 Sivyer on 890716.



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...'"

ST.MARY'S WOMEN'S GUILD PLANT SALE



**in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund
TO BE HELD AT
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WINKFIELD
ON SATURDAY 17TH MAY
FROM 10:30am to 4pm
REFRESHMENTS / RAFFLE / VASE STALL
SUPPORT YOUR 700 YEAR OLD CHURCH!**

If you can donate any plants please contact Doreen Potter, tel: 886324 to arrange collection.

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.

Relay for Life Ascot

Registration is in full swing for this year's Relay For Life Ascot, which takes place at The Silver Ring, Ascot Race Course, from 12 noon on Saturday July 19th until Sunday July 20th.

Teams of between 8 and 15 people take turns to walk in relay for 24 hours to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. This event is open to everyone regardless of age or level of fitness. People describe taking part as a life changing experience. Anyone who has had or is living with cancer is very welcome to join us for the Opening Lap and survivors' buffet celebration.

If you cannot make a team, then please visit us on the Saturday to enjoy the entertainment, visit the stalls and gain cancer health awareness. To remember a loved one, you can dedicate and donate a Candle of Hope that we will light around the track, in a moving ceremony at 10pm on the Saturday, which you are invited to attend.

For more details or to make a donation to Cancer Research UK, contact organiser Rose Dalton 01344883564 rosedalton@btinternet.com. Register a team online via Website: www.relayforlifeascot.co.uk

Ascot United Festival of Football

May 2nd – 5th. For more information visit: www.ascotunited.net.

News from around the Parish

Handbell Ringers

We continue to practice in church each Wednesday (7:30pm-9pm) which is even more pleasant as the evenings are becoming lighter and warmer.

We have had our AGM and have planned our usual interesting and varied programme of social events for the coming year - why not join us as a bell ringer and then at our social events???

Following last month's challenge from the editor as to why we bell ringers make such excellent cakes, I offer the following: we are organised, can follow instructions and (most importantly) enjoy entertaining. Or could it be that good cake makers make good bell ringers?? So all you cake makers out there, come along and give it a go!!! *We love it! Don't miss the opportunity!! Eds.*

Jill Glennerster 884071

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

St Mary's – May services

May	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
4	3 rd Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
7	Confirmation Service	7:30pm	Holy Communion	Bishop
11	4 th Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
18	5 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Family Praise	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
25	6 th Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
29	Ascension	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy

St Martin's, Chavey Down – May services

May	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
4	3 rd Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
10	Holy Matrimony	1pm	Wedding	Clergy
11	4 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Holy Communion including baptism	Clergy
18	5 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
25	6 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11:30am	Baptism	Clergy
		12:15pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1pm	Baptism	Clergy
29	Ascension	8pm	Holy Communion	Clergy

St Peter's Cranbourne – May services

May	Day	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
4	3 rd Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	All Together Service	Lay minister
11	4 th Sunday of Easter	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
		2:15pm	Baptism	Clergy
16	Holy Matrimony	1:30pm	Wedding	Clergy
18	5 th Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
25	6 th Sunday of Easter	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy

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 - May

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!**

4th May: Holy Communion Rev'd Jackie Case

11th May: Tony King

18th May – Kim Tame

25th May – Maggy Garton



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
2 nd May	Miss Brown and Mrs Cameron
9 th and 16 th May	Mrs Hourihan and Mrs Tennant
23 rd and 30 th May	Mrs Potter and Mrs Haines

St Martin's

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
4 th May	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
11 th May	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
18 th May	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
25 th May	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane

What's on in May

Regular events

Day	Event
Mondays not May 5 th	Ascot Bridge Club – Chavey Down, Ascot. For more information please call David Calcutt on 886412, or visit the web site www.ascotbridge.org.uk
	Ballet With Victoria Lyons at St Peters Hall. For more information call 638538.
	Ascot Yoga 7:45-9pm at Carnation hall. Visit www.ascotzumba.co.uk for more info or contact Flo Young on 07711077038 e/m Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk
Mondays not May 5 th / 12 th	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Debra on 07748 391776 or email john@jive-cats.co.uk
Tuesdays	Short Mat Bowls at Carnation Hall at 7pm. For more information please ring 882916 or 884553.
Wednesdays	Zumba gold class at St Peter's church hall 7pm to 8pm
	The NOMADS Table Tennis Club at Carnation Hall, For more information contact Mike on 773939.
	Pilates classes at Carnation Hall Contact Rebecca on 0774 860 3145, e-mail pilatesascot@btinternet.com or visit www.pilatesascot.co.uk .
Thursdays not May 29 th	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required) 2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Thursdays	The Carnation Badminton Club plays on Thursdays at Carnation Hall, 8-10pm, at Carnation Hall. New members welcome.

Day	Event
Thursdays	Ballroom and Latin American dance classes, at the British Legion Hall in Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne, Pay as you go. To find out more, call 621353 or e-mail dancejanet@hotmail.com

Other events

Day	May	Event	Time/place
Sat	3	Baptism Preparation session	9:30am at St Mary's church
		Film Club – 'The Rescuers Down Under'	2pm at St Peter's church
Mon	5	Winkfield Row May Day Fair	12noon–4pm. Carnation Hall
Tue	6	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's Church
Thu	8	Winkfield Standing Committee	8pm at St Martin's Church Hall
Sat	10	Royal British Legion - Spring Table Top Sale	1pm-4pm at Legion Hall, Cranbourne, SL4 2EE
Tue	13	Winkfield PCC	8pm at St Mary's Church
Fri	16	Chavey Down Association Annual General Meeting	7pm for 7:30pm, location tba.
		Ministry Team Meetings	2pm at the Church Office
Sat	17	Women's Guild Plant Sale	10:30am to 4pm at St Mary's church
Mon	19	Chavey Down WI	7:45pm in St Martin's Church Hall
Thu	22	Vicar's Tea Party	2pm – 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Sat	24	Come & Sing See page 17 for details	1:15pm for participants 7pm for performance at St Mary's church.

NB. All content in these lists may be subject to change without notice.

What do you think of this new layout? Eds.



News from around the Parish (continued)

St Mary's Women's Guild

The AGM took place at the April meeting. Mrs Whittington and Mrs Cullen were re-elected as Vice Presidents, Miss Jean Brown was re-elected as Minute Secretary and Mrs Philpot was re-elected as President. Mrs Trainor was elected as Treasurer. Mrs Shepherd, who had decided not to stand for re-election, was thanked for all she had done as Treasurer to the Guild.

The posies for Mothering Sunday were beautifully arranged by several Guild members, under the supervision of Mrs Potter and Lady Bowden. Lady Bowden, who has recently moved her home, was thanked for all her work for the Guild, and she was presented with a gift and card at the end of the Mothering Sunday service.

Mrs Potter discussed the arrangements for the Easter flowers. Final arrangements for the Plant Sale would be discussed at the May meeting.

Speakers for the next three months were confirmed:

- 6 May Margaret Blackburn - The Red Cross
- 3 June Margaret-Anne Hodson - Riding for the Disabled Association
- 1 July Father Paul McLaren-Cook - Ascot Priory (at the Priory)

All meetings begin at 2:30pm and new members are always welcome.
Lesley Philpot

Winkfield Football Club 1894-2014

Winkfield Football Club was first formed 120 years ago this year. To celebrate this remarkable event, we are holding a reunion on 27th September 2014, at the Winkfield Club in Winkfield Row.

If you played for any of the following teams in the past:

Winkfield F.C.

Winkfield Youth F.C.

White Horse(Winkfield) F.C.

Winkfield and Manor F.C.

Winkfield Sport F.C.

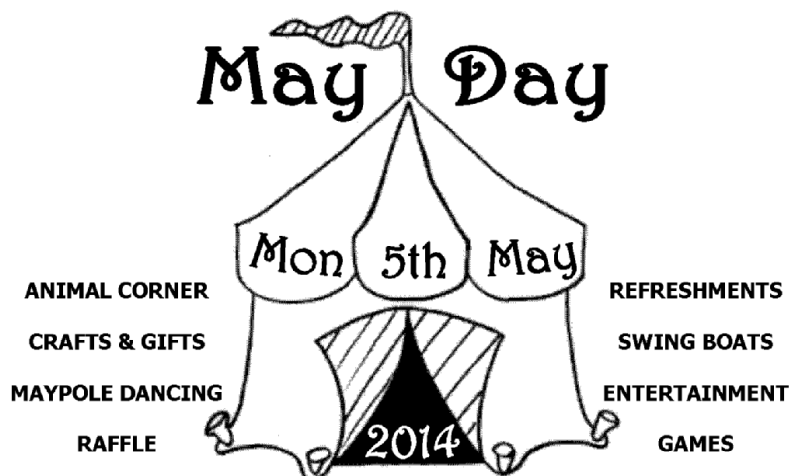
Winkfield Cavaliers F.C.

Winkfield Saracens F.C.

please get in touch with Doug for further details.

Also if anyone has any memorabilia, photos, awards, etc. relating to Winkfield F.C., I would like to use them in a display. I would also like a pair of 1950s type football boots (the ones with hammer-in studs): if

you have a pair in your loft or shed, would you be willing to sell or lend them to me, please? Please contact Doug Chapman on 883815



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

12.00 midday – 4.00pm

**Carnation Hall
Chavey Down Road**

SUPPORTING A LOCAL CHARITY

The Winkfield Row May Day Fair is a non-profit making event.

All surplus proceeds this year will be donated to Zakks First Steps to help pay for a life changing operation and physiotherapy for Zakk from Ascot, who has severe cerebral palsy. The operation will relieve him of his daily pain and give him increased mobility, hopefully allowing him to walk unaided with a frame, within a year.

WE NEED MORE HELPERS!

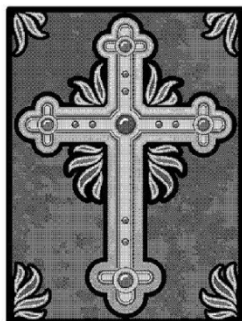
We need a scout or guide group to help on the petcorner collecting the donations and also helper on the day to sell raffle tickets and programmes. Please call Wendy French on 01344 883528 or email: wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org



Flower Festival

May 24th, 25th 26th 2014

A Celebration of English Saints



Opening times:

Saturday 24th May 10.30am to 7.30pm

Sunday 25th May 12.30pm to 6.00pm

Monday 26th May 10.30am to 4.30pm

The festival begins a summer of events to celebrate our 150th anniversary



Spotlights Proudly
Musical Theatre Group Presents

Music & Lyrics by

Cole Porter

Book by

Bella & Samuel Spewack

Kiss Me Kate

The Rose Theatre

St Mary's School Ascot

17th to 19th July 2014 at 7.30pm

19th July 2014 at 2.30pm

Booking Office 01344 297347

Or on line at

www.spotlightsmtg.co.uk

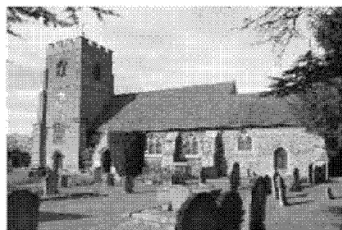


NODA Affiliated

By arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York

Come and Sing

Hear my Prayer



Saturday 24 May 2014

**St Mary's Church, Church Road
Winkfield SL4 4SQ**

Conductor : Christopher Cromar

A highly-experienced
organist and choral director

Organist: Maurice Rogers

Registration : 1315 hrs.

Rehearsal : 1330 – 1730 hrs.

Followed by tea in Popels Hall, next
door

Performance : 1900 hrs.

Admission: £10 for singers £5 for audience. Refreshments included
(Proceeds to St Mary's Choir fund) Free to those of school age

Music to include:

Mendelssohn - Hear my Prayer

SS Wesley - Blessed be the God and Father

Stanford - Glorious and Powerful God

Wood - Expectans Expectavi

John Rutter - This is the day (composed for the Royal Wedding 2011)

The music can be downloaded legally and free of charge from the Choral Public Domain Library (www.cpdlib.org), apart from the Rutter; however, copies will be available on the day.

Please apply to: marymusic@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk or tel: 427561

ST. MARY'S CHOIR

April has been a busy time for the choir and has of course included Good Friday and Easter Sunday, which give special opportunities for choral singing. Under the capable direction of Maurice Rogers and supported by his wife Marilyn and Madeline Holl amongst others, we sang the Introit "He is Risen" by Cecil Cope and the Anthem "Most Glorious Lord of Life" by W. H. Harris on Easter Sunday morning. As part of our Good Friday devotional service, Marilyn sang a beautiful version of "Pie Jesu" by Fauré.

Earlier in the month on April 6th, our Introit was "The Call", a charming and moving piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams, followed by the Anthem "Bread of the World" arranged by Alan Bullard. All these items were new to us, but choir members have enjoyed learning them and we understand they have been much appreciated by the congregation.

At the end of the month on April 27th (after the May Magazine has gone to press), we shall be singing a setting of George Herbert's poem "Easter" by our own very talented Anthony Hodson – a real treat for us all.

Finally – a date for your diaries – on Saturday May 24th, our former choir master Chris Cromar will be leading a "Come and Sing" at St. Mary's Church, entitled "Hear my Prayer". Full details of this are on page 16 above, and we do hope it will be well supported by singers and congregation. A good occasion to hear some splendid choral music.

Choir practice continues each Thursday evening at 7:30pm at St. Mary's Church and we warm up at 10:20am before the 11am Sunday service. Come and join us, and let us make more music to the Glory of God!

Marian Stevens 882918

Thoughts of all sorts

Activities

Spring has sprung, and with it news of all sorts of activities, now that people are feeling happier and more cheerful after the long wet winter.

We have received one full-page ad after another, and it is wonderful to see so much going on! We have tried to fit everything in, in our first experience with summer input into the magazine, but we have had to resort to some 'data compression' – without, we hope, serious loss of

information (our biggest hope that only authors of the material will notice!).

There is so much going on – have a wonderful time becoming involved with the varied and exciting activities around our parish!

Creative use of our Parish Mag

Talking of which, our Parish Mag has the job of telling people what has gone on in the parish, what will go on, and how to make the best of it all. Our ads at the beginning and end form part of this endeavour.

It is always sad to see piles of un-distributed Parish Magazines at the end of the month. So how about this as a thought?

Anybody living in our area can benefit from our mag, and, although we do express our faith in various ways in the mag, it isn't as if we are trying to ram anything down people's throats. Why not demonstrate our pride in our parish, and in the many things that go on in it, by giving a copy to neighbours who might not otherwise have it?

That will be to the benefit of everybody.

So take home extra magazines, and give them away! Easy, isn't it??

Bible Society helps protestors in Ukraine

Hundreds of protestors in the Ukrainian capital Kiev have received food, drink, prayer support and copies of the Bible from local Bible Society staff during the recent anti-government protests there.

The General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society, Oleksandr Babiychuk, said that people had responded "enthusiastically" to the Bible during the last few months. "The horrible events have forced people to turn to God," he said. 'We have been through some very difficult times, but God's Word has shone brightly.'

Bible Society workers and local church leaders had joined together to provide food, run a prayer tent and lead daily prayers. "During these difficult times, the public and protestors have been especially open to prayer and the Scriptures," said Mr. Babiychuk. "The tough situation has provided the Bible Society with a great opportunity."

He added that Bible Society was keen to help support people in the coming months as the country's situation remains unstable. "Many people have suffered, and many have relatives and friends who have been affected by the violence. Many people will need rehabilitation. That's where we come in. Bible Society is working on youth editions of

the Bible and large print editions for older people. We are committed to standing with these people to support them."

Theology Apology by Nigel Beeton

The author of this poem observes that: "The more I study "Theology" the more I become convinced that the word is something of an oxymoron – the knowledge of God? It is an attempt to know the unknowable, and to describe the indescribable." Hence this poem:

O who can know you truly
Almighty reigning Lord?
No human words can fully
Describe the living Word!
The study of Theology
Through lecture, or through
tome
Is merely an apology –
Your mysteries unknown!

Creator God, whose actions
Made all the stars in space;
Whose tiniest transactions
Hold galaxies in place!
Your life cannot be measured
In centuries or years
Your love cannot be treasured
By gold, or deed, or tears.

And yet, O God most Holy
You bid us seek Your face
But not through books, but
solely
Through Your amazing grace!
Our wisdom could not save us,
Our souls to sin were lost,
But Jesus' love forgave us –
His blood has paid the cost.

No study can avail us
If we don't know your Son.
But Christ will never fail us,
With Him the race is won.
No words of man can seal us
Within your arms of love,
But Jesus will reveal us
Within Your home above!

By Nigel Beeton

With our Christian pilgrimage in mind ...

- ❖ We do evil in the name of some overriding good – usually, paradoxically, the conquest of evil. - Nel Noddings
- ❖ Goodness is, so to speak, itself; badness is only spoiled goodness. And there must be something good first before it can be spoiled. C S Lewis
- ❖ Anxiety is an attempt to carry the burden of the future by oneself; prayer is leaving it safely in the hands of God.
- ❖ Comfortable truth isn't.
- ❖ Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how.

Children's Corner



JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13th May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me,

and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!

NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.



What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?



Inspector Norse.



What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

Answers: 1. Norse 2. North 3. Northumberland, Norfolk and Northamptonshire 4. Norway 5. Norman 6. Norwich 7. normal.

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