

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Do you understand?

George, who runs my hairdressers, is Greek (and female!) and, while Sophie my stylist was doing battle with my thin mousey locks, George was showing another Greek woman how to do a complicated bit of admin. As Sophie coloured, cut and dried, the conversation between the Greek women got more animated and more rapid as the explanations seem to get harder and harder but, every so often, George would stop and say to the other girl, this time in English, "Do you understand?"

'Do you understand', this was the only part of the conversation I did comprehend, the rest was, literally, Greek to me!

I never found out what they were talking about but the incident made me think about how often the church must sound completely incomprehensible both by words and actions. I mean, in church, a goblet is called a 'chalice', a plate a 'paten' and a small round container used to carry the consecrated wafers to the sick and housebound, is called a pyx? Splendid word pyx, especially if you are playing Scrabble and you put the 'x' on a triple letter score.

All this can give the church not an air of mystery, but of exclusiveness, which feels far, far away from the person of Jesus Christ, who pushed aside haughtiness, pride and spiritual elitism and welcomed the ordinary, the young and those who simply didn't understand.

I do say a humble 'sorry' to those of you who have been turned off, turned away or excluded from church and I hope you will give us another chance. After all, none of us know it all; we are all on a journey of understanding the height, depth, and breadth of the love of God.

This journey of understanding, the Christian faith, is best done as a group. Why not come and join our choir to be a part of the worship? Or, if you want to know more about the faith, on November 8th and 15th we are organising two Saturdays to explore the foundations of our Christian faith: what we believe and why we believe it. Paul writes to the Corinthian church, "*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 3:11) and this will be the central building block of our time together. The Saturdays will aim to cover:

- The Bible – a high-level overview of the Bible and its reliability;

- The problem of sin;
- Jesus – why did He need to come? His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension;
- Salvation – what do repentance, faith, redemption, justification, sanctification and glorification mean for us? Why are they so important to understand?
- Heaven and Hell – what will they be like and who will be there?
- Living the Christian life;
- The Holy Spirit – being empowered and filled with the Spirit.

If you would like to attend these two sessions, which will be held at St Peters church, please advise David Blundell via e-mail at dmblundell@btinternet.com.

In the meantime if we sound incomprehensible don't be afraid to ask but you might find we haven't a clue what is going on either.

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

Of course the vicar is right: if two parties use words or idioms at each other that they do not know, or cannot mutually understand, the chances are not only that good communication will not take place, but also that grave and even disastrous misunderstandings may arise.

If people do not understand what we say, it is all too often our own fault, and we should not assume that someone who doesn't understand us is 'stupid'. It is our duty to communicate important things in such a way that they can be understood.

In Latin Club at Whitegrove School recently, I was teaching four young girls new to the Club. I was trying to explain how Latin nouns have different endings, depending on the gender of the object described. 'Now do you know what 'gender' means?' I asked. None did. So I had to explain: "You are female – your gender is 'feminine'; I am male, so my gender is 'masculine'". Perhaps the girls will now begin to understand those perplexing endings? For them, this is the start of a journey.

This tale points to a corollary: we must not stop at what we know; we must learn! We must embrace the vocabulary of each important venture that we undertake. The Christian religion is full of deep and exciting questions, supported by words that should be grasped as fully

as possible. Even a study of (Ancient) Greek (the language in which the New Testament was written) can help our understanding

All the same, St Paul reminds us that our study, learning, faith and understanding must be supported by the most important item: Love!

From the Registers

Baptisms

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

10th August Elissa Milner

Marriages

Congratulations to the following couples, married recently:

23rd August	Daniel Hathaway & Jennifer Walker
24th August	Stuart Bennett & Hannah Greatorex

Bits and Pieces

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: admin@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 dates for the collation to the end of the year are:

Oct 24 (November edition)

Nov 28 (December/January edition)

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.

Binfield Warfield Winkfield Arts Week **Sunday 26th October to Sunday 2nd November**

All of the events in the table below will take place at St Peters Church, Hatchet Lane Cranbourne SL4 2ED. See www.arts-week.org for full information on all 41 events in the Arts Week and to book tickets.

5:30pm Sunday 26th Oct All ages	Organ Recital by Eton College students. For the fourth successful year an outstanding and exceptional organ recital by the young and very accomplished Eton College music students. The St Peter's Church organ - rebuilt in 2008 by Peter Collins is probably the finest example of its type in Europe.
7:30pm Monday 27th Oct Adults	Quintessential Meats - the quality local butcher from Fernygrove Farm, Hawthorn Hill will give an illustrated talk and tastings of "Our great British game", not about cricket! but pheasant, rabbit, boar etc. James & Charlotte Quinn; Fernygrove Farm Hawthorn Hill; Warfield RG42 6HN for locally sourced meats and provisions plus a café with a fantastic view across Winkfield Plain. 01344 893457 info@quintessentialmeats.co.uk www.quintessentialmeats.co.uk
7:30pm Tuesday 28th Oct Adults	The Nabobs of Berkshire illustrated talk by Clive Williams: Founded in 1600 the Honourable East India Company played an important part in British life until its dissolution after the Indian Mutiny. Most of the merchants and soldiers who served 'John Company' met early graves but a few prospered and returned home very wealthy men. Berkshire, known as 'the English Hindoostan' in the C18th, attracted more of these

	wealthy 'Nabobs' as they were known, than anywhere else in the British Isles and Bracknell Forest Borough attracted more Nabobs than anywhere else in Berkshire. Clive Williams spent 10 years researching their history and has now written the book.
7:30pm Wed 29th Oct Adults	Make a unique hanging Christmas foliage decoration with Sue Brown. Two times Arts & Craft Exhibition prize winner Sue Brown guides you through designing and producing a wonderful spherical foliage decoration to take home and hang at your door/gate this festive season. All materials provided
3:30-4:30pm Thursday 30th Oct Adults	Djembe family drumming workshop with Justine Hart. There's a drum for every one; large and small. Let it flow and enjoy this thrilling drumming experience. Exhilarating stuff! Justine Hart has run West African drumming workshops, classes & performances in the South East for 15 yrs. www.hartbeats.co.uk
7:30pm Thursday 30th Oct All ages	The Incognitos. Eton College senior music students return for a third year. Talented Eton College students perform popular and traditional vocal pieces a capella (un-accompanied). Some of the very best a capella singing you will ever hear; it is a real treat not to be missed. A wow event.
7:30pm Friday 31st Oct Adults	WWI and those who served and died from our local area. In this centennial year of the outbreak of World War I Andrew Radgick gives an inspirational talk based on his own three year project researching the men of Bracknell Forest Borough who fell in WWI. Now published in three volumes Andrew has researched the lives and deaths of the 400+ local men listed on the memorials found throughout the Borough. Books can be purchased on the night £20 each or at any time via www.thebracknellforestssociety.org.uk/www1
7:30pm Saturday 1st Nov Adults	Popular light opera. For a second year this local and successful light opera group returns to entertain and enthrall the audience in the glorious venue of St Peter's Church Cranbourne. Full details of their light opera programme and singers will be published on www.arts-week.org when available.



Cranbourne Amateur Dramatic Society

Will be presenting 3 short plays to commemorate

World War I

After the Flags and Bands

BY ALLAN WILLIAMS

The Christmas Truce

BY KAREN SHEPARD

Lions and Donkeys

BY STEVE HAMPER

Thursday 30th October-Saturday 1st November 2014

Performance starts: 7:30pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne, Berks SL4 2EG

Tickets from Viv Lewis: 01344 886456

www.cadsact.org.uk

Cranbourne Amateur Dramatic Society

**Will be presenting 3 short plays to
commemorate World War I**

After The Flags and Bands

A play about the women left at home.

The Christmas Truce

A true story of peace read in letters
in the midst of World War One.

Lions and Donkeys

A funny, poignant play about friendship,
humanity and survival in a British dugout.

30th October-1st November 2014

Performance starts: 7:30pm

**St Peter's Church Hall
Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne SL4 2EG**

Tickets from Viv Lewis on 01344 886456

For more info about CADS and more details about this production, please visit our website:

www.cadsact.org.uk

Learn to sing!!

Two free sessions will be available at Alma Road Social Club, 73a Alma Road, Windsor. SL4 3HD Windsor on Wednesdays October 1st and 8th (see under Other Events on page 11). They are given by the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS – see www.singbarbershop.com) with the Windsor Royal Harmonics – see www.windsoracappella.org.uk. These are open evenings for men (only) wishing to find out more about singing. (Ed Beer says “I am still learning!”) (Never too old to sing and to learn! Eds.)

People who want to participate need to register their interest via the website learntosinguk.com (selecting Windsor as their venue – the website provides details of the event nationally) or contact Windsor Royal Harmonics directly to reserve their place.

The contact there is Richard Gabriel email: richard.gabriel@live.co.uk tel: 07947 210883) Further information from Ed Beer 01344 882528 - best be quick!!

On Saturday 29th November, Windsor Royal Harmonics are performing at Windsor Parish Church, alongside Ringmasters (a Swedish and world

championship quartet – see <http://www.ringmasters.se>), Signature (a top performing ladies chorus – see <http://signaturesingers.com>) and Portobello Road (the current BABS silver medallists – see <http://portobelloroad.webs.com>). It sounds like a remarkable occasion.

Chavey Down Women's Institute

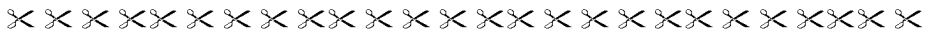
Our monthly meeting will take place on Monday 20th at 7:45pm in St Martins Church hall as usual. This is an open meeting, so all visitors and friends are most welcome to attend,

Known to many of us, David Fletcher will be returning from the Antarctic as our speaker. His slides and talk are always a rare treat so do come along. We look forward to seeing you there.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

St. Mary's – Music for Christmas, 6th December 2014

This will be a magnificent musical celebration to start the festive season, with a number of exceptionally talented young performers taking part, as well as a junior choir, your own St. Mary's Choir and Friends, the Cameo Singers, instrumental items and carols for you all to sing. Do reserve your tickets early (still only £10 for an adult) and come along and enjoy a great evening of musical entertainment. You may use this cut out form to apply.



St Mary's: Music for Christmas - December 6th 2014

Name:

Address:

.....Tel.....

Number of Tickets - (@£10)..... (@£5).....

Remittance (please make cheques payable to **Winkfield PCC** and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the reply. £.....)

Send your application to:

Marian Stevens, 56 Locks Ride, Ascot, SL5 8QX Tel: 882918

St Mary's Church Winkfield
proudly presents

St Mary's: Music for Christmas

Saturday 6th December 2014
at 7:30pm

The Cameo Singers

A wind quintet by the Woodley Concert Band

A Children's Choir

Full choir with St Mary's Singers and Friends

Featuring highly talented young soloists

**Mulled wine and mince pies will be served
in the interval**

Tickets only £10 (£5 under 13s)

**For tickets or enquiries, please phone Marian Stevens at
01344 882918 or email: Anthony.locksride@btinternet**

All proceeds to Organ and Choir funds

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

St Mary's – October services

Oct	Day	Time	Form of service	by
5	16 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy communion	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
12	17 th Sunday after Trinity	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Family Matins	Lay
18	Holy Matrimony	2pm	Wedding	Clergy
19	18 th Sun aft'r Trinity Bell Sunday	9:30am	Family Praise	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
26	Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay

St Martin's, Chavey Down – October services

Oct	Day	Time	Form of service	by
5	16 th Sun aft'r Trinity Harvest	9:30am	Family Matins Harvest & Brunch	Lay
12	17 th Sun aft'r Trinity	9:30am	Holy communion	Clergy
19	Bell Sunday	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay
26	Last Sun aft'r Trinity – Bible Sunday	9:30am	Holy communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy

St Peter's Cranbourne – October services

Oct	Day	Time	Form of service	by
5	16 th Sunday after Trinity - Harvest	8am	Holy communion	Clergy
		11am	SPAS/All Together	Lay
12	17 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy communion including Baptism	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
		2:15pm	Baptism	Clergy
19	18 th Sun aft'r Trinity Bell Sunday	8am	Holy communion	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay
26	Last Sun aft'r Trinity – Bible Sunday	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 - October

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!**

5th Oct – Holy Communion – Revd Jackie Case

12th Oct. – Revd Roy Smith

19th Oct. – Harvest Festival – Revd Keith Lowder

26th Oct. – Maggy Garton



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas - October

St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
10 th and 17 th Oct.	Pam Brown
24 th and 31 st Oct.	tba

St Martin's

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
5 th Oct	Harvest – all flower arrangers	
12 th Oct.	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
19 st Oct	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
26 th Oct	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane

What's on in October 2014

Regular events

Day	Event
Mondays not including Bank Holidays	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.

Day	Event
Mondays not including Bank Holidays (cont.)	Ascot Yoga 7:45-9pm at Carnation hall. Visit www.ascotzumba.co.uk for more info or contact Flo Young on 0771 1077038 email Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk
	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Debra on 07748 391776 or email john@jive-cats.co.uk
Tuesdays	St Mary's Women's Guild at St Martin's Church Hall. Meetings begin at 2:30pm. New members are always welcome.
	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 5 th Thursday of the month)	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required) 2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
	Singing Practice 7:15–8:30pm at St Peter's Church, every Thursday of the month (but not 5 th Thursday of the month)
Thursdays	St Mary's Choir Practice: 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, every Thursday of the month unless otherwise specified in the Winkfield parishes weekly notice sheet.
	The Carnation Badminton Club plays on Thursdays at Carnation Hall, 8–10pm, at Carnation Hall. New members welcome.
	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	Oct	Event	Time/place
Wed	1	Learn to Sing For joining details, see page 6.	7:30-10pm, Alma Road Social Club, 73a Alma Road, Windsor. SL4 3HD.

Day	Oct	Event	Time/place
Thu	2	World Ship Society – Douglas Cromby will give an illustrated talk on Greek Ferries during the early to mid 1990s.	7:45 for 8pm Carnation Hall. All welcome
Fri	3	Baptism preparation session	9:30am at St Mary's Church, Winkfield
Tue	7	St Mary's Women's Guild Speaker: Mary Knight	2:30pm St Martin's Hall
Wed	8	Learn to Sing For joining details, see page 6.	7:30-10pm, Alma Road Social Club, 73a Alma Road, Windsor. SL4 3HD.
Fri	10	Ascot Fashion Weekend Please see http://www.ukgrandsales.co.uk for details	
Sat	11	Ascot Fashion Weekend Please see http://www.ukgrandsales.co.uk for details	
Mon	13	Whist	7:30pm, White Hart
Tue	14	Ranger Walk/Winkfield Circuit (Moderate) Please see www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/walking for further details.	Meet: St Mary's Church, Winkfield. Map Ref: 904 725.
Wed	15	Ascot Neighbourhood Watch	Quarterly Open Meeting at the WI Hall, Broomhall Lane, Sunningdale.
Sat	18	Holy Matrimony – Procter & Fidler	2pm at St Mary's Church, Winkfield
Sun	19	Ascot farmers Market	9:30am - 1pm., Car Park 3 at the Racecourse, SL5 7JF, upper Ascot High Street; see www.tvfm.org.uk
Sun to Sat	26/10 to 1/11	Binfield, Warfield & Winkfield Arts Week a week of FREE arts events	Please see page 4 and website for further details: http://www.arts-week.org
Thur to Sat	30/10 to 1/11	Cranbourne Amateur Dramatic Society: three first World War plays	St Peter's Church Hall Please see page 6

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

More Events, Notices and Dates

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.



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!

Royal British Legion Women's Section, Cranbourne and Winkfield Branch

The Women's Section is holding a Christmas Table Top Sale on Saturday 22nd November from 10am until 1pm, in the Legion Hall Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne. Tables are for hire at £5 each.

Please come and support your local Branch - all proceeds from the entrance fee, hire of tables and proceeds from the kitchen go to the Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund.

For further information please contact Wendy Sivyer on 890716.

News from around the Parish

St. Mary's Choir

Harvest Festival has been the choir's main preoccupation in September and this was celebrated at St. Mary's on Sunday 14th, in a church full of beautiful arrangements of autumnal flowers and produce. The Women's Guild organised (with many members bringing their own personal culinary contributions) a superb and well-attended lunch in the church; this was followed by a very special Harvest Evensong at 3:30pm. (Also see page 18.)

Under the expert direction of Chris Cromar, and with the strong support of Maurice Rogers (our regular organist), the 17-strong choir sang in excellent form, presenting an introit, four hymns, a psalm, and Brewer's lyrical if little-heard settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The anthem was Stanford's Jubilate in C – a rousing and joyful work of praise to the Lord, ideally suited to the occasion. Among the hymns for the service, of course we had to include those two wonderful harvest favourites "Come ye thankful people come" and "We plough the fields and scatter".

Members of the congregation showed enjoyment on their faces as the choir sang, and many kind words were spoken afterwards. Many thanks, not only to Chris Cromar for the many touches of finesse that he brought to our singing, but also to Maurice and the fine support by "Friends of the Choir", who brought good voices, experience and expertise as well as volume.

We would like to say sincere thanks to the Women's Guild and to everyone who helped with the organisation and execution (including portering of chairs and tables to and from Popels Hall and the essential kitchen- work), and who took an active part in the service.

Choir practice continues at 7:30pm each Thursday with a warm up at 10:20am before the Sunday service and, if you cannot commit to every Sunday, come and join us once or twice a month.

Marian Stevens 882918 Email: anthony.locksride@btinternet.com

St Mary's Women's Guild

The September meeting dealt, mainly, with the arrangements for the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 14 September. Once again, Angela Michie

had very kindly agreed to prepare the main course. Members, as usual, would provide salads and apple pies.

At the meeting it was confirmed that 50 tickets had been distributed. Evensong would follow the Harvest Lunch.

It was noted that the additional chairs in the Churchyard had been cleaned and were waiting further treatment. It was also reported that the new gardener had started to clear the ground at the back of the Church.

Members were anxious to know the Vicar's views regarding a new crib and nativity figurines. Mrs Powell very kindly offered to assist, and Mrs Philpot was to discuss with the Vicar.

Once again the flower arrangements for recent weddings, arranged by Doreen Potter, have been much admired.

Speakers for remainder of the year and beginning of 2015 will be.

Oct. 2014 Mary Knight: Church Music Festivals – holiday 2014

Nov. 2014 Ruth Timbrell: WWI

Dec. 2014 Carols with Geoffrey Knight, followed by tea and Joan Doughty's Christmas cake

February Jean Brown – Stewarding at St. George's Chapel

The next meeting of the Guild is Tuesday 7 October at 2:30pm in St Martin's Hall. New members are always welcome.

Lesley Philpot

Relay for Life Ascot

We have just closed the books on the 2014 event, and all participants celebrated another successful year with a party at Ascot Race Course this week. We are delighted to announce record fundraising of £114,003.44 plus £10,000 gift aid, which will make a grand total of £124,000 for Cancer Research UK.

This brings the total amount raised since we started in 2008 to more than a fantastic £640,000.

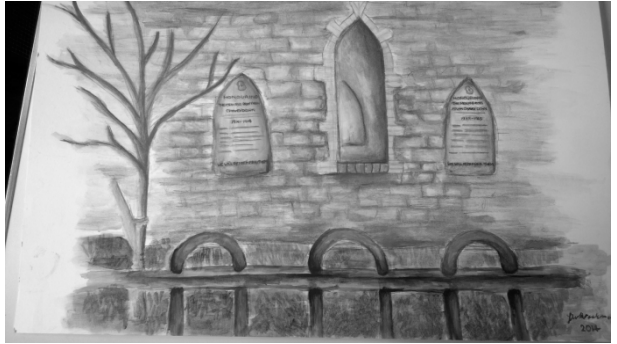
This is a local event, organised solely by local volunteers, and we are always looking for others to join us. If you are interested in being involved with this amazing event for 2015 – which will take place over the weekend of July 18th and 19th – please email:

rosedalton@btinternet.com or visit www.relayforlifeascot.co.uk

War Memorial Chavey Down

At the time of preparation of this report, we still do not have permission from the Diocese to go ahead. This now means that the stonemason cannot complete the memorials and have them fitted and in place this November. Also we are trying to trace any living relatives of those who died WW1. We do not want to clash with planned ceremonies in November, as those we would like to be present at our service will be already committed.

It is important that after 100 years that we give Chavey Down and Winkfield a Service in which we can remember and honour with respect those men and boys who gave their lives for us. It has therefore been decided that the unveiling and dedication will take place in 2015 when perhaps more people will be available.



Artist's impression by Flo Brockman, aged 12

A lot of interest has been aroused by this project and we are getting offers of help which are extremely welcome.

Ruth Timbrell.

Thoughts of all sorts

A year in the life of a new widow

Sue Morris sent us this moving and courageous article.

At the end of June 2013, my husband Douglas was diagnosed with advanced cancer. Seven weeks later he died. The funeral service was held at St Mary's Winkfield and given by the Vicar, who in the short space of eighteen months, married my daughter, christened my grandson and buried my husband.

That May we had celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with a family day. We all dressed in ruby, red including the four grandsons – the youngest at 8 days old in a dark red baby-gro. It was a very happy day, and we laughed and reminisced about how we had met in the

70's when I bought a car from him – a Camay pink Morgan. It was love at first sight – the car and the man!

We had so many plans in our late sixties, and so much to look forward to; but all that came to an abrupt end last August. My future had changed forever.

At first there was the shock, the disbelief that he had gone. The physical pain of grief hurt right down to my fingertips. And I cried and cried for him. That initial emotional distress does diminish, albeit slowly.

We were all dreading Christmas, but we made the best of it. The family was very supportive, and we celebrated and made him a part of it all in our hearts. There is no alternative. In January I had to have knee replacement surgery - not much fun to go through alone. On the positive side, since I was housebound, it gave me a chance to sort through endless paperwork, and time to understand his way of managing his affairs. He certainly did it his way!

Unaware that he only had weeks left he had had no time to get his house in order.

There were some schoolboy errors that I have subsequently warned my friends about. All the utility bills were in his name and we had no joint bank account. I don't need to spell out the frustration I endured at every session of call-centre mayhem – with musical interlude. There is no button to press for 'deceased husband'. Enjoy the following extract from a letter that came addressed to my husband from the telephone provider to his office.

'Dear Sir', it said; 'Please find enclosed herewith your Death Certificate'. It ended 'If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us ...' If only!

Finally having endured months of debating the merits of "Data Protection" and everything being directed to my late husband as if I just didn't exist, the accounts were transferred into my name. I was now in charge and I had conquered that mountain. Other 'Labours of Hercules' followed. My boiler packed up in the cold of winter. My sitting room ceiling fell in; I bumped my car, and it was broken into whilst in London. The one person I needed to empathize was no longer there.

I am very lucky to have a close family, some wonderful friends, two very faithful dogs and a belief in the After-life. These things coupled with a glass of wine (just the one) have helped me to battle the last year.

Last week was the first anniversary of his death. It has been a long journey through the rain but I can at last see some sunshine and, though the feeling of loss continues unabated, the tears are less frequent and I feel more in control of my future.

Sue Morris

The Finch Family in Winkfield

Mr Arthur Finch of South Australia is trying to find his ancestors who lived in Winkfield and the surrounding area. Are there any from the Finch family who still live locally and may be related to:

William Finch (died 1801)

John Finch (died 1808)

Harriet Finch (died 1804)

Sarah Finch (1810)

John Finch (died 1807)

All of whom are buried in St Mary's graveyard.

If you think you are related to the above please contact Arthur Finch direct on: agfinch@westnet.com.au

Choral Evensong 14th September

Maurice Rogers writes to St Mary's Choir members

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for last Sunday's Choral Evensong. You all contributed so much to make the event a memorable and spiritual experience offering our best in divine worship.

It was a joy to have such strong tenor and bass parts in contrast to the normal situation where choirs are usually top heavy. As individuals you will know the joy of giving your best and therefore I will not single out particular choristers, but nevertheless, I must direct my thanks to a few particular participants:

To Mary for the quiet dignity of the service. To Chris Cromar who gave so much, even to suggesting the setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and for bringing us all together in a very professional Saturday rehearsal that we will all remember. To Lesley for her organisation of the event.

Please take away a feeling of satisfaction for a good job well done and I would be delighted if it is possible to have another choral Evensong in the near future.

Maurice Rogers, St Mary's organist and choir director
18/09/14

On the perils of being a school governor

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was interested to hear that from this academic year, your vicar has asked you to take his place as a school governor. A whole new world of exciting meetings is about to open up to you. Naturally, you will have been told that the governors only meet three times a year. You will probably not have been told that you will also be expected to be on at least two sub-committees, where you will be immediately asked to become secretary, as a way of getting to know the job. Add on training days, parents' evenings, sports days, school socials, end of term services, charity events and accompanying classes on days out and you will begin to realise that your vicar's suggestion was not as innocent as you may have thought.

Remember, too, that all meetings require you sit on chairs designed for 5 year-olds. You will then spend countless hours going through a 40 item agenda, trying to look dignified with your knees somewhere round your ears while drawing up school plans as if they were the Normandy landing. Be prepared to receive paperwork measured by the hundredweight; entire rainforests have been obliterated by your education authority sending what they seem to think is vital information; it does, however, make good cat litter.

Most meetings will be so full of acronyms that for the first few years you will have the feeling that conversation is taking place in a language that may bear a passing resemblance to English, but isn't. There is little point in trying to learn what they all mean because before too long, they will all be replaced by another set anyway, which will be equally incomprehensible.

Your computer abilities will be expected to be far beyond what anyone over the age of 30 could ever be expected to achieve; if you sink without trace, ask a seven year-old, who will soon put you right.

You will also be encouraged to attend training days; I strongly suggest you select all-day events, as at least you will get a lunch out of it. You needn't bother to arrive on time, since the first hour will be spent with everyone introducing themselves and you can leave early, as the final hour will go on filling in evaluation forms.

Just keep reminding yourself that your term of office is a mere five years; you may even get remission for good behaviour.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Children's Corner



31st OCTOBER – ALL HALLOW'S EVE

Many customs are linked with this day – most of them because this was the 'day before'. To the Celts it was the day before winter and the New Year officially began. In later years it became the day before, or eve of, the Christian festival of All Hallows, or All Saints' Day.

The Eve of All Hallows (Hallow's Eve gradually became the word 'Halloween') was the day for driving out evil – which makes it seem very strange now that some people 'celebrate' Halloween by dressing up as witches and monsters and having special parties.

Wouldn't it be better for us as Christians to celebrate by dressing up as angels and saints rather than as ghosts and devils?



BEFORE & AFTER

The answer to these questions are either 'before's' or 'after's'...

1. What comes before thunder?
2. What comes after red on traffic lights?
3. What comes after Advent?
4. What comes before green in the colours of the rainbow?
5. What comes after dusk?
6. What comes after revision?
7. What comes before a surname?
8. What book comes before the Book of Ruth in the Bible?
9. What comes after Lent?
10. According to the proverb, what comes before a fall?



Why did the angel lose her job?

She had harp failure.

How do angels greet each other?

They say 'Halo'.



*Answers: 1. lightning 2.amber
3.Christmas 4.yellow 5.night 6.
exams 7.fore or Christian names 8.
Judges 9.Easter 10.pride*

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