

# A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

## Giving up nothing for Lent

So, what have you given up for Lent this year? If you have given up something, splendid, keep going but if you have given up nothing, keep reading. You see, it is easy to think that Lent is all about 'being good' and giving up chocolate, alcohol, or TV will somehow make us better. Well let's just pause for a moment and think.

Is giving up chocolate really the same as fasting, like Jesus did in the wilderness and is denying yourself your favourite soap opera or computer game really going to draw you closer to God, like Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness?

I like what Julie Clawson said on her blog, 'In our religious traditions rituals and legalism are far easier to promote, understand, and implement than spirituality and faith.

We can grasp rules. It is far easier to tell kids to obey rules than to explain why they should desire to act rightly. They then end up following the rules simply because the rules exist. When it comes to Lent we often do the same – denying ourselves something for the sake of denial.

We give up chocolate or Facebook thinking the act of denial is the purpose of Lent. And we end up missing the point'. As Julie goes on to say, the point of Lent is not the act of denial, it is the act of transformation. That is what Jesus did in the desert when he prayed and fasted, and defeated the tempter.

He didn't do it for denial's sake, but for the transformation that comes from keeping body, soul and will within the love of God. So if you have given up something this Lent, again, well done but I also pray that you are prepared to open your lives, your bibles and your hearts, and that you pray to be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ who overcame the desert, the cross and the tomb.

Catherine Blundell

## A note from the Editors

Of course the Vicar is right that there are better ways to become better people than giving up something that you really like (and, yes, chocolate in particular comes to mind). All the same, fasting and abstinence are so common as religious practices that they are worth at least a little examination.

In the Catholic Church, it is a matter of doctrine and canon law that their members particularly observe avoidance of eating meat every Friday (except special days) and in Lent, as a penitential practice<sup>1</sup> (and, heaven knows, we too need to be penitent). And, of course, Judaism and Islam practice fasting and abstinence strictly and with far more bodily effect than giving up ones favourite food.

Why do it? The penitential aspect mentioned in the Catholic context is just one view. In Judaism, the reasons are harder to pin down, because they seem to come from several different directions<sup>2</sup>. In Islam, the Qur'an requires it. We found a text on an Islamic web, 'for kids', that is quite illuminating<sup>3</sup>, and insightful into the many values of their heavyweight view of fasting and abstinence. Tucked in there is a passage with which one might sympathise:

*... our lack of knowledge of the real objectives of fasts often tends to produce an adverse effect in us, [just as] the best of medicines could have ill effects if not taken in accordance with the physician's ... . [So fasting] tends to make many of us irritable and quick tempered [although it was] meant to mellow us into exhibiting the finer traits of human character ... .*

There are no less than 18 reasons given for fasting, and they intelligibly relate to our common Abrahamic origins. Number 4 is:

*Fasting makes us deeply conscious of the pangs of hunger and discomfort suffered by the less fortunate among our brethren.*

Number 17 is:

*Fasting creates spiritual reformation in man ...*

That brings us right back to the Vicar's question: is one the better for fasting? For giving up things in Lent? Are there better ways to transform oneself?

We can't help feeling that Lent in particular should be taken as an opportunity to enhance our personal Christian lives in some way: it is a special time, a limited period that is more accessible than 'never again', and with a spiritual reward at the end.

One way to do this is to combine devotion and Christian development with pleasure is to go to a concert in Lent at which is performed some of the great works of religious music.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, <https://www.ewtn.com/faith/lent/fast.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Viz. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/fasting.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.al-islam.org/gallery/kids/Books/lessons/13.htm>

Our choice in Bach's 'St John Passion', which is being performed by the Wooburn Singers at 7:45pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints Church, High Wycombe<sup>4</sup>. Other devotional works for Lent in the area are:

- Mendelssohn 'Elijah' (Bracknell Choral Society<sup>5</sup>, 7:30pm Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Great Hall, Reading University).
- Rossini's Petite Messe Solonelle (Wokingham Choral Society<sup>6</sup>, 7:30pm 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Great Hall, Reading University).

The Great Hall is a good place for a concert, with its own parking.

## *From the Registers*

### **Funerals and Memorial Services**

A Funeral Service for the late Mrs Molly Dean was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

### **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

## *Bits and Pieces*

### **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

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

email: [admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](mailto: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. You may view event details on the website given 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

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wooburnsingers.org.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bracknellchoral.org.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk/>

# Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

The deadline for articles etc. for the next edition is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The collation date is 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Easter at St Mary's Winkfield – *Easter memorial lilies***

If you would like to buy white lilies in memory of a loved one, please ring Mrs Doreen Potter, tel.no: (01344) 885324. They will be arranged in the church for Easter by members of St Mary's Women's' Guild,

They cost £2.00 each

Easter this year is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.



## **LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE MAY DAY FAIR**

The Winkfield Row May Day Fair, planned for 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015, will not take place unless new volunteer effort can be found to help with the planning management and management of the event. And it will be difficult or impossible to re-start it in future years if it stops!

The Fair is a popular event that supports many local charities. The Maypole Dancing, provided by pupils at Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School is a special feature that everybody will remember, particularly those who have danced the maypole in past years.

Please urgently contact Wendy French to find out what you can do to help. Wendy's telephone number is 01344 883528, and her email address is [wendy@frenchfamily.me](mailto:wendy@frenchfamily.me).

## **Women's World Day of Prayer Service on 6th March**

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated at a service in Bracknell Methodist Church, Shepherds Lane, Bracknell RG42 2DD, on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to this service.

Mary Knight 883047 or email [gandmknight@talktalk.net](mailto:gandmknight@talktalk.net)

## **Maidens Green Society AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> March**

The Maidens Green Society is holding their AGM on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Stirrups Hotel, Maidens Green, 7 for 7:30pm. If you are a local Maidens Greener and would like to join our society, whereby you are kept up to date via our network, do please pop along and meet your neighbours. Refreshments served.

Contact Richard Bell at [richard@quickservers.co.uk](mailto:richard@quickservers.co.uk)

**Cats Protection  
Bracknell and Wokingham  
Districts Branch**



# **Spring Fair 2015**

**Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Venue: Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Rd,  
Winkfield, Berkshire, RG42 7PA**

**Entrance**

**Fee: £1.00 admission per person  
or a donation of cat food**

**Cats Protection goods, Cat collectables, Toys, Books,  
Bric-a-Brac, Raffle, Tombola, Jewellery, Membership  
stand, delicious cakes and food, free parking.**

**Come and see some of the lovely cats that we have  
looking for new homes!**

**Cats Protection Bracknell & Wokingham Districts,  
PO Box 4054, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 9DE**

**Telephone: 0845 371 4212 (Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm only), [www.cats.org.uk/bracknell](http://www.cats.org.uk/bracknell)  
Registered Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)**

## Chavey Down Women's Institute

Our March meeting is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be our annual meeting, at which new officers for the forthcoming year will be elected. New members on the committee are always most welcome.

Once a year we have a Fair-Trade stall – and it will be at this meeting as that is as close as we can get it to Fair Trade Fortnight.

We are a friendly institute, always looking for new members and new ideas, so please do consider coming to join us. As well as our monthly meetings, we have coffee/tea get togethers, theatre trips, garden visits and many other outings.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

## Ed Beer's Legacy

### A Spring Harvest Adventure - 6-10 April 2015

This is a message from Sally Beer, wife of Ed Beer who, died suddenly at the age of 70 at the beginning of November 2014.



Ed had lived at Chavey Down for over 35 years and was a unique, exasperating and lovable man. He had a charismatic

character, a warped sense of humour and was larger than life. Always ready for the next adventure! Even if you couldn't see him you would invariably hear him! He loved chaos – and if he could he would always try to push the limits and test the boundaries no matter what – building, Indian cooking, barbecues, Saints and Sausages, pop music, choir, golf, sport, electrics, plumbing, driving his van! He had a natural capacity to 'argue the toss' loved any animated discussion, and was extremely competitive.

He had an empathy for the outsider, the new comer. He was a natural communicator, whatever the age, sex or background and he thrived on being a trouble shooter, challenged or being needed. He loved being involved in community events with all age groups, had an enduring passion for music of any kind. He played, or as he admitted himself, attempted to play several instruments and what he lacked in expertise he made up with sheer enthusiasm.

He was a member of St. Martin's choir and could be often heard leading the rest of the congregation astray by singing the wrong words to the music as a result of forgetting his glasses! He had a strong faith grounded in coming to know his God personally at a church choir in his youth, and later

attending a very large active and vibrant youth group connected to his local church, which at that stage ran a wonderful Covenanter group that led to Christian events – sports, music, holidays etc. all over England. He would freely admit that becoming a Christian and knowing God personally changed the whole course of his life. He never classed himself as a 'saint,' had a dark side, and often struggled with himself, and personal issues. He was a unique personality, never taking himself too seriously, willing to learn, interested in others, and didn't care at all about what he wore unless (of course) it was connected with sport! He understood that his God was always there willing to love and forgive unconditionally, and he was enthusiastic about encouraging others to explore what God could offer to them.

Now, bearing all this in mind, and remembering the many donations that we have received I should like to use part of this legacy to help anyone at all interested to attend Spring Harvest in Skegness this Easter. Ed, I am sure, would approve of such a use in an active and ongoing activity to learn and explore the Christian faith.

**Spring Harvest** is for all ages and denominations, male and female, married, single, single parents, divorced, widowed, youngsters, university students, young families. Crèches operate for little ones from 3 months, there are lots of children's activities and clubs, and, for the teenagers, activities into the wee small hours too! The young and more senior – and those who are the less mobile – are all catered for, and there is so much more.

For more info go to their website: <http://www.springharvest.org>. We are thinking of Skegness, and the dates would be in the Easter Holidays. 6-10 April 2015, based at the Butlin's Holiday Centre Skegness. You can choose to do your own catering, make up a group, or go 'gold standard' and have catering included. I can't emphasise it more strongly - it really does provide an opportunity for everyone and for all ages, a really safe fun environment, catering or self-catering. Transport can be arranged from Chavey Down for those who can't face the drive. Ed's legacy – Help with the finances – just do think about it.

I am embarking on a new chapter in my life (not by choice) and would like some fellow explorers to 'taste and see'. So ... if you are not doing anything after Easter 6-10<sup>th</sup> April 2015 ... contact me if you are at all interested, and I can introduce you to some real life survivors of 'Spring Harvest' and indeed what happened next.

Call Sally Beer 01344 882528

# News from around the Parish

## St Mary's Women's Guild

The first meeting of the New Year took place in February, and a warm welcome was extended to Margaret-Anne Hodson. Mrs Doughty was thanked, once again, for organising the Christmas tree decorating. Mrs Potter and the flower arrangers were thanked for the excellent Christmas flower arrangements in the Church. All members agreed that the new style crib arranged under the altar by Erica Davies, an ex Bell ringer, was most attractive and had been much admired. Mrs Trainor reported that at long last, the new arrangements with the bank were completed.

Miss Jean Brown, who is a Steward at St George's, Windsor Castle, then gave a fascinating talk about the history of both the Chapel and the Order of the Garter, the most senior and oldest British Order of Chivalry, which founded by Edward III in 1348.

The building of the Chapel was begun by Edward IV in 1475, and finished just over 50 years later by Henry VIII. Jean described a typical duty day and shared some interesting and amusing stories, concluding with the Guild of Stewards' Prayer. She then took questions from members at the end of her presentation.

### Future speakers

- March 3 - The Revd. Jennifer Jones - My life as an ordained priest
- April 7 - Oriol Lady Bowden - The Sailor's Church

Mrs Mary Knight closed the meeting with a short talk and prayer to celebrate Candlemas a day that traditionally ends Christmas season and that marks the Presentation of Christ in the Temple 40 days after his birth at Christmas.

### Lesley Philpot

#### Popel's Cottages Almshouse Vacancy

A first floor flat at Popel's Cottages, Church Road (next to Popel's Hall) has become available following redecorating and refurbishment, including a new carpet and a walk-in-shower.

The flats are managed by the Winkfield Parochial Charities to provide accommodation for women in the Parish whose personal circumstances mean they would benefit from the assistance of our charity.\*

If you know someone in Winkfield who would be interested in the property, please contact Michael Zerilli (Chairman of Trustees) by phone on 07543 627 637, or by email at [winkfieldparochialcharities@outlook.com](mailto:winkfieldparochialcharities@outlook.com), for more information.

*\*The trustees are mindful of Equality legislation; however, the stated purpose of the charities is that the accommodation is to be provided for women of the Parish.*

# SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

**NOTE.** Holy Communion, Holy Matrimony and Baptisms services are taken by Clergy (normally the Vicar). Other services may be taken by Lay or Clergy. Lay ministers include: Stuart Ager, David Blundell, Paula Darrall, Mary Knight, Jacki Thomas, and Mike Thomas.

Service information given below is correct at time of going to print – **but please check the website for up-to-date information!**

## St Mary's – March services

Mar	Day	Time	Service
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Messy Church
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Family Matins
15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Matins
29	Palm Sunday	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Morning Prayer
		11am	Matins

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

Mar	Day	Time	Service
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family Service
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion
15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Morning Prayer
22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion
29	Palm Sunday	9:30am	Morning Prayer
30	Holy Monday	9:15am	Morning Prayer
31	Holy Tuesday	9:15am	Morning Prayer

## St Peter's, Cranbourne – March services

Mar	Day	Time	Service
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	SPAS/All Together Service
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion
15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	Morning Prayer
22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion
29	Palm Sunday	11am	Morning Prayer

## Winkfield Row Methodist Church - March

### 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!**

### March services

1<sup>st</sup> Mar – Holy Communion: Revd Jackie Case  
8<sup>th</sup> Mar – Tony King  
15<sup>th</sup> Mar – Maggie Garton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mar – David Morgan  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar – Dalwyn Attwel



## Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

### St Mary's – March 2015

Dates	Flowers
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jane Cullen and Penny Cardwell
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Haines and Doreen Potter
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mary Haines and Doreen Potter
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jean Brown and Alex Jolly

### St Martin's – March 2015

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mrs Zerilli/Mrs Randall	Mrs Luff
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Mrs Zerilli/Mrs Randall	Mrs Luff
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane

We hope that all arrangers and cleaners have by now collected their lists from the back of St. Martins. If you do not have your yearly schedule please contact Ruth on 01344 882068.

## What's on in March 2015

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

### 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 <a href="http://www.ascotbridge.org.uk">www.ascotbridge.org.uk</a>
	Pilates with Amanda Mann at St Martin's Church from 9:30am - 10:30am & 10:45am - 11:45am. Visit the website: <a href="http://www.amandamann.uk.com">www.amandamann.uk.com</a> or email < <a href="mailto:info@amandamann.uk.com">info@amandamann.uk.com</a> > or call Amanda on 07767 816499
	Ballet With Victoria Lyons at St Peters Hall. For more information call 638538.
	Ascot Yoga 7:45-9pm at Carnation hall. Visit <a href="http://www.ascotzumba.co.uk">www.ascotzumba.co.uk</a> for more info or contact Flo Young on 07711077038 email <a href="mailto:Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk">Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk</a>
Mondays not including Bank Holidays	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Debra on 07748 391776 or email <a href="mailto:john@jive-cats.co.uk">john@jive-cats.co.uk</a>
Tuesdays	Short Mat Bowls at Carnation Hall at 7pm. For more information please ring 882916 or 884553.
Wednesdays	EXtend – fun, fitness & movement classes for the over 60s. 10:30am-11:30am at St Martin's Church Hall, SL5 8RR. Please contact Elizabeth Wright AISTID tel No: 01344 883078 or email: <a href="mailto:lizziewright25@hotmail.com">lizziewright25@hotmail.com</a>
	Zumba gold class at St Peter's church hall 7pm to 8pm

<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>
Wednesdays (continued)	Pilates classes at Carnation Hall: Contact Rebecca on 0774 860 3145, email: pilatesascot@btinternet.com or visit www.pilatesascot.co.uk.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month	Ascot Horticultural Society meets at 7:45pm in King Edward's Hall, North Ascot (unless otherwise stated). All welcome. Admission: members £1.00 and visitors £2.50. Details on www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk or call Peter Cleare on 01344 622086.
Thursdays	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required) 2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
	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

<b>Day</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time/place</b>
Tue	3	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's Hall
Thu	5	Vicar's Tea Party	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne
		World Ship Society – Roy Metcalf will give a talk on Shipbuilding, based on his work as a Marine Architect. Carnation Hall 7:45 for 8pm. All welcome.	
Fri	6	Women's World Day of Prayer Service	7:30pm in Bracknell Methodist church
		Maidens Green Society AGM	7:30pm, Stirrups Hotel
Sat	7	Baptism preparation	9:30am at St Mary's Church
		Marriage preparation	1pm at St Mary's Church
Wed	11	Ascot Horticultural Society: Paul Patton on "Composts, growing media, mulches and plant nutrition".	7:45pm King Edward's Hall, North Ascot Admission - members £1 and visitors £2.50 www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Day	Mar	Event	Time/place
Sat	14	Cats Protection – Spring Fair. Entrance Fee: £1.00 admission per person or a donation of cat food. All very welcome!	1pm to 4pm. Carnation Hall,
Sun	15	Mothering Sunday	
		Ascot Farmers Market Visit <a href="http://www.tvfm.org.uk">www.tvfm.org.uk</a> for details	9:30am-1pm in Car Park 3, Ascot High Street
Sat	21	LVS Ascot – Music Festival	
Sun	22	Contact LVS Music Department tel no: 01344 882770 or email < <a href="mailto:james.bryant@lvs.ascot.sch.uk">james.bryant@lvs.ascot.sch.uk</a> >	

## More news from around the Parish

### Ascot Horticultural Society

After an extremely full and active year – and no less than 130 years after its creation as an association for gardeners and horticulturalists in the area – Ascot Horticultural Society has entered 2015 optimistically and in good form.

Karen Bridgman, a locally-based historic planting adviser, launched the new programme in January with a fascinating presentation on the origins and often curious legends around some favourite and well known annual flowers.

In early February the traditional annual quiz with our ‘sister’ society at Sunningdale saw Ascot retain the uniquely shaped, yet much prized Alastair Fosdyke Trophy, by the narrowest of margins. Meanwhile, in a presentation entitled “Living with Nature”, Andrea Berardi, an expert in environmental information systems, is, shortly (as I write) due to outline some basic principles of nature conservation, and update us on current campaigns to safeguard the wonderfully diverse native wildlife with which we share this green and pleasant corner of Berkshire.

11th March we really get ‘Down to Earth’ when Paul Patton, horticultural consultant, writer, broadcaster and regular visitor to the Society, returns to delve into such vital matters as “Composts, growing media, mulches and plant nutrition”.

On 8th April – trusting that, by this time, Winter will have released its grip and gardens will once again be blooming – the Spring Show will be staged in King Edward’s Hall -an invariably vibrant display of colour.

On 13th May – and looking forward to Summer – we welcome Derek Dexter to the Society. He will be sharing with us his longstanding passion for and knowledge of fuchsias, whilst hopefully imparting some tips, and maybe a few secrets, for success with “Growing and showing”.

On Sunday 7th June, our Summer season should eventually get underway with a group visit to the Royal Horticultural Society’s beautiful and inspirational Garden at Wisley, Surrey.

Regular society meetings take place each month on the second Wednesday in King Edward’s Hall, North Ascot (unless stated) starting at 7:45pm. All are most welcome. Admission - members £1.00 and visitors £2.50 Full details can be found on the web-site [www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk) or call Peter Cleare on 622086.

## **St. Mary’s choir**

The highlight of February’s choir activities was undoubtedly the choral evensong on February 3rd, celebrating the anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1952. This was a great chance for the choir and friends (and friends of friends, about 20 altogether!) to show their vocal talents.

The moving Service started with ‘Dear Lord and Father of Mankind’ in Hubert Parry’s original choral setting. We sang Herbert Brewer’s lively settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and later, as an anthem, John Ireland’s beautiful Te Deum. Besides these, we much enjoyed ourselves singing “Jerusalem”, “I vow to thee my country” and “The day thou gavest, Lord is ended,” – and a stirring “God Save the Queen” at the end – all very suitable for a patriotic occasion. It was especially good to hear the men’s tenor and bass voices swelling beneath the ladies’ notes, and helping to fill the church with glorious sound.

Our thanks go to Chris Cromar, who conducted, to Maurice Rogers, our organist (who gave such a rousing performance of “Crown Imperial” as we recessed), to all the many friends and helpers who contributed, and to Mary Knight, who led the service, with a most appropriate address.

Passiontide and Easter are not far away and we will soon be preparing to celebrate these festivals in music. We meet for choir practice on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm and we warm up at 10:15am for a 10:20am start before the 11am Sunday Service.

If there are any of you who would like to join us, either regularly or as one of our occasional “friends”, do come along. We will be very pleased to see you and make you welcome. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us – reading music helps, but isn’t necessary.

Marian Stevens 882918

## Young star clarinettist wins scholarship

Those who attended the Christmas Concert on 6<sup>th</sup> December will certainly remember Daniel Kim (13) and his truly masterful clarinet performance. We recently learned that Danny has been awarded a Music Scholarship to Eton College – a much coveted award made by a school whose very high standards of music and musicianship are ever rising.

We wish him well as he starts his time at Eton later this year.

## St Martins War Memorial

After a lengthy process, we have now obtained a Certificate from the Diocese which – wait for it! – has to be sent to London for the issue of the Faculty to give us final permission to proceed. As this form is very lengthy, about nine pages of questions, it will take about another week to complete. Then at last it will be on its way - and hopefully the Faculty will be issued.

Churchill's words ' Never in the field of human conflict etc.' springs to mind – this has been a lengthy, frustrating and time consuming exercise; and if it had not been for the unstinting help of Adrian Hoare and Richard Hyslop, I think it would have taken many more months. I am very grateful to them for their help and support.

Ruth Timbrell

  
**KEEP CALM  
AND  
CARRY ON  
BELLRINGING**

**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!**

## 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.

## *Thoughts of all sorts*

### **Palm Sunday** by Daphne Kitching

(Jn 12:12-16, Zech9:9,Mt 2:11)

Palms and praises  
pointing to victory  
as the King rides on,  
the promised King,  
gentle and riding on a donkey.  
Promised of old -  
and given that gift of gold, early on.  
Half-recognised in his kingdom - signs and words,  
kindling hope,  
leading to hosannas,  
to palms and praises.

And then the turning,  
as this King shows a different sovereignty.  
The cries of “Crucify”,  
the cruel crowning  
as thorns pierce head and hearts.

A misunderstanding.  
A misreading of the signs, so clear.  
A failure to trust the King,  
who was and is and always will be Truth.

Father, forgive us,  
We know not what we are doing,  
Still.

### **Drama in York Minster 26<sup>th</sup> January**

In last month’s Parish Magazine, we reported that the Rt Revd Libby Lane became the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the Church of England on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The magazine went to print on 25<sup>th</sup> January. In mid-morning, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015, we were reviewing our text – too late to change it now – and realised

that we had reported as fact an event that hadn't yet taken place. So we switched on [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk), and as if by magic, found ourselves totally engaged with the wonderful and moving ceremony that was taking place at that very moment.

York Minster, the cathedral of York is a beautiful and impressive setting for such a historic event. Its building commenced in 1220, and continued for nearly 200 years; and the English Gothic 'perpendicular' style gives it a wonderful sense of space and light.

Here, Archbishop Sentamu conducted a solemn, moving ceremony, inviting Libby Lane to endorse her commitment to the service of God as a bishop, before a full congregation, which included a larger number of bishops in any one place than we can remember.

There was music with a choir of adults and children (girls only!) – lots of it; there was a most moving address by the Archdeacon of York, The Ven. Sarah Bullock, an old friend of Libby Lane. There were legalities, and letters patent from Her Majesty, authorising the ordination of a female Bishop.

And there was drama. Towards the end of the service, just as the great bell of the Minster clock-tower was striking twelve, Archbishop Sentamu rose and called out to the standing congregation: "Is it your will that she should be ordained?" Everybody shouted yes – except a single figure, who approached the dais, saying "No! It is not in the Bible. With all respect Archbishop, I ask to speak on this absolute impediment" Almost at once, the Archbishop detailed the legalities that negated any such purported impediment. The figure quietly walked away, and the service continued without a stop. A second call gave no further opposition.

Of course the ordination of a female bishop has its opponents: our thought at that moment was that what had happened here was a graceful way of acknowledging a sincere opposition, while firmly negating it by invoking the whole majesty of the legal machinery available to the Church of England. Was the incident staged? We will probably never know.

What is important was that we witnessed the historic ordination as a bishop of a woman of great spirituality and presence, with the support of so many people, including the huge majority of supporters not physically present at the ceremony. What a privilege we enjoyed that day, as viewers of a remarkable occasion!

We offer Bishop Libby our love and prayers for a very successful career as a bishop of the Church of England.

You can see a large part of the service on the BBC website:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-30974547>

## Wickedness and the Parish Mag

In the February Parish Mag, the Editors published a 'leading article' that raised the issues of free speech in the context of (A) Magna Carta and (B) the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo offices. The article raised several issues: the reality of free speech today, when to be sensitive and when not to be, and (most important) how to detect when it is self rather than God that is present in our actions.

In the original form in which we sent it for comment, the article was more pointed. We agreed to 'water it down' because we felt that everybody knew what we were talking about, even if it was delicately put.

This leaves some important questions, including, particularly, these:

- Are we justified in identifying terrible things that we hear about as wicked, or evil, or are we so bound by shame at our own weakness and wickedness that we feel that we cannot do so?
- Are we to be morally constrained by the thought that we should not offend the sensitivities of people in sympathy with the perpetrators of terrible actions, in case they come and harm us?

In every Prayer Book Communion service, we pray that those in authority should fairly 'minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice'. Is the articulation of what is wicked to be reserved for politicians and judges? Are they not people like us, and just as sinful and ashamed?

Some people regard the world and its people as having no right ever to offend them. However, we can regard the feeling of being offended as just a human reaction against someone else's point of view. Does not being offended, therefore, represent a stimulus to try to understand where people are coming from, rather than a provocation to angry, and even violent reaction? Only then can we morally react – on the basis of understanding, facts and logic. So is it not **good** for us sometimes to be offended?

By the same token, being over-sensitive to the possibility of offending people, can create a major sin of omission. We are reminded of this by recent stories of child-abuse by criminal elements within an ethnic community. Action was withheld by the police and the council because they did not want to offend that ethnic community.

We think that such oversensitivity was in fact an insult to that community's good sense and moral standing.

What do you think?? Write and tell us!

## On the perils of parking near church

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your sermons alone often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practicing Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St. James the Least was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Matins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but when the present Earl of Stowe started to get his staff to lay waterproof sheeting along the paths so he could avoid getting mud on his shoes, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it. And it would have made a charming garden feature; I could even picture it with garden gnomes on its roof.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your three hour Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

# Children's Corner



## St Angela

It is not that long ago that most girls never had the chance to be educated. But one determined woman started the process, and her name was Angela Merici. She was born in Italy on 24 March 1474. Both her parents died when she was only 10, and then when Angela was 13 her elder sister died too, which led her to dedicate her life to God. When she was only 22 she started a school for young girls in her home town and this was so successful that she was invited to start schools in other places. Her faith led her to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to Rome.

It was when she was in Rome in 1524 that she suddenly lost her sight. Pope Clement VII asked her to stay in Rome to take charge of an order of nursing nuns but she refused and went home to Brescia. When she was almost 60 she started the Order of St Ursula, which is still involved in teaching today. Even though she was blind, St Angela Merici had a vision of what was possible with God's help.

## School Subjects

This timetable has the lessons scrambled up – can you unravel the school subjects? Answers below.

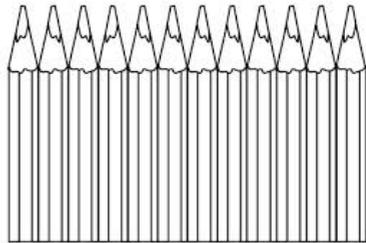
Period 1	CATESTHAMIM
Period 2	ROYTHIS
Period 3	GHELSIN
Period 4	CHNFER
LUNCH	
Period 5	RAT
Period 6	MYITCHERS
Period 7	MESAG

**What did I get for my history test?**

Well, first the good news – you spelled your name correctly.

**Teacher:** You missed school yesterday, didn't you?

**Pupil:** Not really.



**What do elves learn in school?**

The elf-abet.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

**Answers:** 1.Mathematics 2.History 3.English  
4.French 5.Art 6.Chemistry 7.Games

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