

# A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

## **Making All Things New**

Oh how I love this time of year; you all know that by now. But as the sun lifts itself from the horizon, the days bring light and some warmth the whole of creation seems to be trembling with new life ready to break forth from the cold soggy earth.

England in the spring – simply fabulous. It is time to think about a new outfit, watch for new flowers and get the old mower out to cut the new grass.

Jesus spoke of the ‘new’ on many different occasions. He spoke of new wine and old wineskins (Matthew 9:17), he spoke of new treasure (Matthew 13:52), he lifted the cup and proclaimed the new covenant (Luke 22:20) and in Revelation 21 are the words, ‘I am making everything new’. Our Lord was into the idea of new, a fresh start, a changed life and renewed hope but he did it in a very interesting way – he brought some of the old with him.

When he stepped from the tomb that first Easter morning he was still Jesus, still the man the women and the disciples knew and recognised. He certainly wasn’t changed beyond recognition and this ability to hold the best of the old and bring in the new is something he did throughout his earthly ministry.

When he spoke of a new commandment he didn’t throw the old ones away, we still need to put God first and live lives that honour his kingdom, but he built on the old commandments reminding us that after God we put other people even before ourselves.

When he spoke of his Kingdom it is still built on the rule and reign of the God of justice and peace but it is now open to all who would turn to him and whisper ‘my Lord and my God’.

When he offers new life, the past isn’t forgotten but it is forgiven, lives are renewed not discarded and our natures – our gifts, our personalities, our very selves – are taken and shaped into something glorious. Yes, even to you he is saying, ‘behold I make all things new’.

## **A note from the Editors**

At this time of the year, we are barely recovering from the downside of winter. Aches and pains plague our limbs; we snuffle and we snort, and new symptoms appear of age catching up on us. Old friends have gone to a better place. The national and the local news make us grumpy.

And, even apart from the news and the personal impact of time passing, things new are not altogether pleasing. A certain local bank has abandoned cashiers in favour of wonderful new automatic machines that have no social skills whatever. New Town Council policies for the local market people in Bracknell have reduced their clientele. ‘What is the world coming to?’ we ask – as everybody in every generation has asked before us.

This is where the Vicar’s message kicks in. New life, regeneration, the magic of nature in spring, the rebirth of our Christian faith in the Easter message. All of these are positive and important things that we and our souls need to embrace and enjoy and share. And there are so many other new things that can please so much, in the affairs of families and friends, children and grandchildren; in exciting new technology that will heal or restore ability, or help reduce loneliness for the elderly; in music and the arts. And we can approve new enterprises by good, capable and motivated people, particularly in churches, schools and charities, as they seek to bring about a better world – perhaps in a small way, but potentially on a wide scale.

So put the tiresome and painful things in life to one side, as far as possible, and focus on the new and the positive, on the message of Spring and on the life-transforming Good News of Easter.

There are many things going on in the Parish to help you take full advantage of the Easter message. Particularly note the Good Friday special services at St Mary’s and St Peter’s, just part of the range of Easter services at St Mary’s, St Martin’s, St Peter’s and the Winkfield Row Methodist Church. Also at St Peter’s on ‘Holy Saturday’ 4<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a special showing of ‘The Film – The Way’ – see details on page 6.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

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

1st March	Macey Hanks	8th March	Phoebe Buckland
	Eleanor Huxtable		Joshua Cecilio-Scott
	Scarlett Huxtable		
	Jacob Sandy		

### Funerals and Memorial Services

A Funeral Service for the late Mrs Marjorie Smalley was held at St Mary’s Church, Winkfield, on the 5th March.

**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

## Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

The deadline for articles etc. for the May edition is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The collation date is 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## **THE MAY DAY FAIR WILL TAKE PLACE ON 4<sup>th</sup> MAY!!**

Wendy French now has support, and plans are under way as usual. A big thank you to all who came to the aid of a great local occasion!

See the flyer on page 5. And please support the occasion in any way that you can – this year and in forthcoming years!!

## World Ship Society

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the World Ship Society's AGM will be followed by William Mayes' illustrated talk on 'the larger ships travelled on, visited and seen during 2014'.

This will take place in Carnation Hall at 7:45pm for 8pm. All are welcome.

Continuing the nautical note, the Winkfield Women's Guild speaker this month will be Oriol Lady Bowden, who will talk about 'The Sailor's Church' – see page 7 for the Women's Guild report.

## St Mary's New Junior Choir

Rehearsals for a new Junior Choir at St Mary's Church started on 26<sup>th</sup> February in preparation for the 11am Mothering Sunday service on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

At this service, the children sang the Introit 'Morning has broken' with the adult choir, and later performed 'Say I love you' on their own before distributing the posies.

This choir will continue to sing at selected 11am services through the year, and it needs new members. Rehearsals are for thirty minutes on Thursdays at 7pm, under the direction of Marilyn Rogers, with Maurice Rogers accompanying.

Those interested should be in touch with Lesley Philpot (427561). This Junior Choir will have close links with the established Junior Choir that performs in the St Mary's Christmas Concert (which will take place this year on 5/12/15).

## Chavey Down Association Outing to Portsmouth

This years Chavey Down Association outing is to Portsmouth; it will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June, leaving Scots Mews at 9am; there will also be a pick up at Locks Ride at 9:10am approx.

Fares this year will be Free for paid-up C.D.A. members, £7.00 for paid-up Bingo members, and £14.00 for non-members. Please ring Tina Chapman on 883815 to book seats, or for more information.

*Note from the Eds: We paid a visit to Portsmouth last year, and it is a city full of history and interest, particularly in view of its naval past – and present – of which so much is shown in the magnificent Naval Dockyards (viz. the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, and so much more). The D-Day Museum is also a great place to visit, with the magnificent 'Overlord Tapestry' on full view.*

### **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.*

# May Day

ANIMAL CORNER  
CRAFTS & GIFTS  
MAYPOLE DANCING



REFRESHMENTS  
SWING BOATS  
BIRDS OF PREY

**Winkfield Row May Day Fair**  
**Bank Holiday Monday**  
**12.00 midday – 4.00pm**  
Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road

**We are always looking for new stallholders so if you have a small business, want to make some money from a hobby or are raising funds for a specific cause please get in touch!**

**WE STILL NEED HELPERS ON THE DAY**  
**TO SET UP AND CLEAR AWAY**  
**& SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AND PROGRAMMES**  
**Please offer an hour or two of your time to help!**

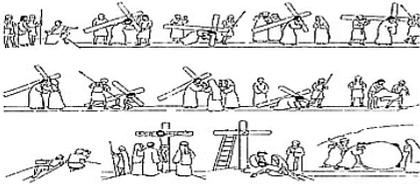
Call Wendy French on 01344 883528  
or email: [wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org](mailto:wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org)

## **SUPPORTING A LOCAL CHARITY/PROJECT**

The Winkfield Row May Day Fair is a non-profit making event and all surplus proceeds will be donated to a local charity/project. This year some of our proceeds will go towards the War Memorial in Chavey Down and the remainder to other local projects.

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2015**  
**at 10.00am**

St Peter's Church (SL4 2EG)  
Stations of the Cross for Families  
All are welcome!



**BECAUSE Life is too  
big to walk alone!**



**Holy Saturday**  
**7.00pm – 9.00pm at**  
**St Peter's, Church (SL4 2EG)**

Please come and see:

**The Film – The Way**

Entrance charge – NONE, FREE!

Book your seats now - via the church office.

Email ID: <[winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](http://winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)> or telephone 01344 882933

# News from around the Parish

## St Mary's Women's Guild

Doreen Potter advised members of the arrangements for the Posy making on Saturday 14 March. She also took names of those Guild members wishing to purchase an Easter lily.

Unfortunately the Rev. Jennifer Jones was not well enough to attend the meeting in March and so Mary Knight very kindly agreed to talk to members and her topic was Mothering Sunday.

Mary explained that Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent and, although it's often called Mothers' Day, it has no connection with the American festival of that name.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year - the main church or cathedral of the area - and most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions. It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church, or to give to their mothers as a small gift.

Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers. Sometimes a Simnel cake is made which should be plain on the outside with 11 marzipan balls as decoration representing the twelve apostles, minus Judas.

Mary took questions at the end of her talk. It was an excellent presentation and the Guild is very grateful to her.

Future speakers are:

- April 7 – Oriol Lady Bowden – The Sailor's Church;
- May 5 – Ann Whittington – Training and work as a Physiotherapist;
- June 2 – John Kimbell – Magna Carta.

The Guild meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm in St Martin's Church Hall. All are welcome.

Lesley Philpot

## St Mary's Choir – Annual Report

*The article below is taken from the report to the APCM meeting on 25/3/15*

Throughout the past year, the core members of St Mary's Choir have been faithful in giving weekly choral support and leadership for its congregation. We are fortunate in having the assistance of the "Friends of the Choir", about eight individuals, all dedicated singers, who join us on an occasional basis to help enhance our performance and broaden our repertoire.

Our regular choirmaster and organist is Maurice Rogers, with Anthony Hodson playing once a month. Two young organists, Stephen Hickling and William Taylor have also been helping this year and it is a great pleasure to have them with us.

Besides the usual Sunday commitment, the choir is needed for weddings, funerals and other special services which arise during the year. Passiontide and Easter, Whitsun, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas are regulars in the calendar.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> last year we were delighted to sing at the Confirmation Service, in the presence of the Right Reverend Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading. We sang the anthem 'Come Down, O Love Divine' by W.H. Harris, an appropriate choice for Confirmation and the season of Easter.

On Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> the choir was privileged to be able to lead the congregation in a service commemorating the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. This was a thoughtful and beautiful occasion, with readings chosen to consider many aspects of war and with excerpts from eight well-known and well-loved hymns. The First World War was again the focus of our thoughts on Remembrance Sunday in November.

The choir and friends were on exceptional form on the Sunday before Christmas for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and we once again made a major vocal contribution to a very successful "St. Mary's: Music for Christmas" on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 saw a special Choral Evensong celebrating the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1952. We were glad to welcome back Chris Cromar, our former choirmaster, as guest conductor for this service, and, with about twenty singers altogether, we filled the church with glorious sound.

The choir has been complimented many times in the past year by a very appreciative congregation and we aim to maintain and improve our standard through the coming year. We meet for Choir practice on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and also meet at 10:15am on Sundays for a warm-up at 10:20am before the 11am service.

Marian Stevens

# 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 – April services

Apr	Day	Time	Service
2	Maundy Thursday	11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
3	Good Friday	2pm	Hour at the Cross
5	Easter Day	6:15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Messy Easter
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Family Matins
19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
26	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Matins

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

Apr	Day	Time	Service
1	Holy Wednesday	9:15am	Morning Prayer
5	Easter Day	9:30am	Holy Communion
12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Holy Communion
19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Morning Prayer
26	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:30am	Holy Communion

## St Peter's, Cranbourne – April services

Apr	Day	Time	Service
2	Maundy Thursday	3:30pm	Said Holy Communion
3	Good Friday	10am	Stations of the Cross

Apr	Day	Time	Service
5	Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	All Together Holy Communion
12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	Morning Prayer
26	4th Sunday of Easter	11am	Holy Communion

## Winkfield Row Methodist Church - April

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

We are located in Winkfield Row opposite Lambrook School: Winkfield Row, Bracknell RG42 6NE.  
Telephone: 01344 411417



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

### April services

5th Easter Day: Jonny Cunningham & Maggy Garton

12<sup>th</sup>: Holy Communion: Revd Jackie Case

19<sup>th</sup>: Kim Tame

26<sup>th</sup>: Doreen Murgatroyd



## Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

### St Mary's – April 2015

Dates	Flowers
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Jean Brown and Alex Jolly and all available church flower arrangers
10 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Doreen Potter and Mary Haines
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Jane Hodgson and Anna Clayton

### St Martin's – April 2015

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	EASTER DAY: ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS	Mrs Dickinson
12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor
26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor

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 April 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 9:30-10:30am & 10:45-11:45am. 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. Contact 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. 10:30-11:30am at St Martin's Church Hall, SL5 8RR. Please contact Elizabeth Wright AISTID tel: 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

Day	Event
Wednesdays (cont.)	Pilates classes at Carnation Hall: Contact Rebecca on 0774 860 3145, email: pilatesascot@btinternet.com or visit www.pilatesascot.co.uk.
2nd 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. 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	Apr	Event	Time/place
Wed	1	Holy Wednesday: 9:15am Morning Prayer at St Martins	
Thu	2	Maundy Thursday: 11am Holy Communion at St Mary's 3:30pm Said Holy Communion at St Peter's	
		Vicar's Tea Party	2-3:30pm at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne
		World Ship Society – the AGM will be followed by William Mayes' illustrated talk on the larger ships travelled on, visited and seen during 2014. Carnation Hall 7.45 for 8pm. All welcome.	
Fri	3	Good Friday: 10am Stations of the Cross at St Peter's 2pm Hour at the Cross at St Mary's	
Sat	4	Holy Saturday	7pm showing of 'The Film, - the Way at St Peter's
Sun	5	Easter Day	See full list of services above

Day	Apr	Event	Time/place
Tue	7	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's Hall.
Wed	8	Ascot Horticultural Society: Spring Show	7:50pm King Edward's Hall, North Ascot Admission - members £1 and visitors £2.50 <a href="http://www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk">www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk</a>
Fri	10	Deadline for May Parish Mag	
Fri	10	Collation of May Parish Mag	

## *More news from around the Parish*

### **Relay for Life Ascot**

We are proud of our success in 2014 in raising in excess of £114,000 for Cancer Research UK. Registration for our 2015 event is now open, and already 27 teams have registered for this year's Relay for Life Ascot, which takes place at The Silver Ring, Ascot Race Course from 12 noon on Saturday July 18th until Sunday July 19th.

Teams of between 8 and 15 people take turns to walk in relay for 24 hours to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. The weekend is a celebration of the year round fundraising.

This event, organised by volunteers from Chavey Down, 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 the Survivors' Buffet celebration.

To remember a loved one you can dedicate and donate a Candle of Hope; this we will light around the track in a moving ceremony at 10pm on Saturday, to which you are invited to attend.

For more details or to make a donation to Cancer Research UK contact organiser, Rose Dalton (contact details below). Register a team online via Website: [www.relayforlifescot.co.uk](http://www.relayforlifescot.co.uk).

This year we are also looking for knitters in an attempt to gather enough purple or mauve knitted scarves, any style, to reach around the race track at Ascot. The scarves will then be sold to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

The response to the knitting initiative has been overwhelming and people are producing purple scarves throughout the county and further. We do

however need **over 1000** to make the mile, so would welcome more scarf knitters. Please contact Rose if you would like to help.

Rose Dalton 01344 883564, email: rosedalton@btinternet.com

## St Martins War Memorial

At last we have received the Faculty we require to enable the stone mason to commence chipping. When we have a timescale from him, we shall then be able to arrange the Dedication and Service. This will be well advertised in the Parish.

We had all the funds in hand for the original estimate, but now the Diocese wants the memorials hand carved, so we have to raise another £1800. We are planning 3 fund raising events this Spring, which we hope you will support – it would indeed be wonderful if the memorials could be paid for by Public Subscription.

Thank you all for your patience and support, and for the donations already received.

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!**

## St Mary's Bell Ringers

We have had a busy time ringing this month, and we also held our AGM, where we decided on our social activities for the year.

Our quiz night was its usual success, thanks to Trevor! Many thanks to all of you who supported this event.

We are looking forward to visiting Whitechapel bell foundry in a couple of week's time followed by ringing the Jubilee Bells at St. James Garlickhythe.

The hand bell ringers are looking forward to ringing at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service – we have an interesting piece to ring so do come along and see if you recognise it!

On May 30th we invite you to "Give it a Go". Come along to St. Mary's between 2 and 4pm and have a go at bell ringing. Come alone, bring a friend or relative and try your hand – at hand-bells or tower-bells!! There will be refreshments on offer as well!

Jill Glennerster 01344 884071

PS. As I was locking up my bike outside church a young man asked me what I was doing. 'Making sure my bicycle was kept safe I replied. "Are you going in for Holy communication" he asked.

*Of course bell-ringing is Holy communication, as George Herbert (1593-1633) wrote in his poem 'Prayer' (p18): 'Church-bells beyond the stars heard'. Eds*

## **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*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April: Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet**

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (See John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or commandment). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

## **The St John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach**

JS Bach wrote no operas – which was unusual for important Baroque composers, for whom the world of opera could lead to fame and fortune. He did, however, leave us two Passions, the huge St Matthew Passion and the smaller St John Passion, both of which are dramatic, and capture the wide range of emotions inherent in the portrayal of the trial and crucifixion of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.

The shorter St John Passion – still two hours long – was beautifully sung at All Saints Church, High Wycombe on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The chorus was the celebrated Wooburn Singers chamber choir; there were excellent professional soloists and a Baroque orchestra,

The music starts fairly quietly with throbbing and disturbed chromatic strings, through which the plaintive baroque oboes wind, giving way to the long heart-felt opening Chorus<sup>1</sup>:

*'Show us, through your Passion,  
That You, the true Son of God,  
Through all time,  
Even in the greatest humiliation  
Have become transfigured!'*

The Evangelist, finely sung by tenor Nick Pritchard then takes us over the brook Cedron to the garden where the story begins, with the capture of Jesus. Other soloists take on individual's roles, now and throughout the Passion, the role of Jesus being sung with great dignity and clarity by baritone Colin Campbell.

At the end of this first scene, the Chorus sings the beautiful and well-known 'Passion Chorale', the first of a series of chorales that close sections of the drama with a calm devotional reflection on what has happened.

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<sup>1</sup> The performance was given in German, but a good translation was supplied in the programme.

Here one might note all the roles that are played by the Chorus. Perhaps most importantly, they play us: the sad, thoughtful and penitent onlookers at the scenes of the awful happenings. But they also play the armed servants of the High Priest, sent to capture Jesus; the onlookers who believe Peter to be a follower of Jesus, the mob turned by the High Priests against Jesus, calling for His crucifixion, the group of High Priests themselves - and the soldiers who matter-of-factly divide up amongst themselves the clothing of our Lord as He is stripped for crucifixion - deciding to draw lots for His seamless robe. So the singers have a challenge to express a wide range of moods, and to communicate them to us, and they did so well, with facial expressions as well as voices, sometimes calm, sometimes very energetic, negotiating some very demanding passages.

Amid the action, there are some wonderful arias, several with very distinctive solo instrumentation (such as the unusual two oboi di caccia); and the soloists were excellent, including bass Alex Ashworth (including the role of Pilate), soprano Louise Wayman and alto William Purefoy.

And so the story continues to the crucifixion itself, touching on Pilate's defiance over his sign 'What I have written I have written', and, very movingly, we ponder on Jesus' call from the cross to his mother and to 'the disciple':

*'Woman, behold, this is your son!'*  
*'Behold this is your mother!'*

The Chorus comments in the chorale that follows: 'He took good care of everything in the last hour, still thinking of his mother'.

Following the recounting of Jesus' death, the Passion ends with recitatives by the Evangelist that tell of the piercing of Jesus' side, of the request by Joseph of Arimathia to take away Jesus body, and of his burial in a new tomb in a garden near Golgotha. Arias and choruses comment on the significance of these things.

There is a final moving chorus:

*'Rest well, you blessed limbs*  
*Rest well and bring me also to peace.'*

and the work ends with a chorale that requests, at the Last Day, that we too may see Jesus, Son of God.

The Wooburn singers and their soloists and instrumentalists, under their new Music Director Tom Hammond-Davies gave us a moving and inspirational evening. The church, High Wycombe's parish church, is a good venue with excellent acoustics: a large church with a wide aisle that

can easily accommodate chorus and orchestra, but not so big that clarity is lost in a work as intimate as the St John Passion.

You can hear a good rendition on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKRvnS2HFF4>

This performance by English Baroque soloists & the Monteverdi Choir under John Elliott Gardiner, took place at a Prom in the Albert Hall, and is a fine but larger scale and rather less intimate performance than that of the Wooburn Singers on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## ‘Prayer’ by George Herbert (1593–1633)

Prayer, the Church's banquet, Angels' age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;

*Plumb-lead*

Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tower,  
Reversèd thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six-days' world transposing in an hour,  
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear:

*Siege-engine*

Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,  
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,  
Heaven in ordinary, man well dressed,

*In ordinary life*

The milky way, the bird of Paradise,  
Church bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices; something understood.

*George Herbert, was a scholar, wit, Anglican priest, and accomplished poet, categorised by Samuel Johnson as a ‘metaphysical poet’ for the unusual metaphors that he used (John Donne was of this group). Some of Herbert’s poems became popular hymns (for example. ‘King of Glory, King of peace’).*

*This poem, ‘Prayer’, is full of thought-provoking metaphors. Dwell on them!!*

## On why you should never encourage your congregation

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course “Taking Responsibility for your Church” among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help

mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who was eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied hand-shakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been

booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to “beautify” the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



# Children's Corner



## JESUS IS ALIVE!

Early on the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they reached the tomb it was open, the big stone that had sealed the entrance was rolled away - and it was empty! They thought that someone had stolen Jesus' body but an angel told Mary what had really happened, that Jesus was alive!

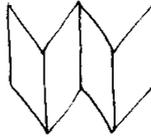
The disciples were all together when Mary arrived back with her news and told them what had happened, but they wouldn't believe her. They were confused and afraid. Sometimes we say 'I can't believe it' if someone tells us really good news. We say 'I'll believe it when I see it with my own eyes' and that is what the disciples said. And when they saw the risen Jesus they believed. Read about what happened that first Easter Day in the four Gospels. And what is the next thing that you do when you hear good news? You want to share it with someone else.

Share the Good News with someone this Easter!

## SPREAD THE NEWS

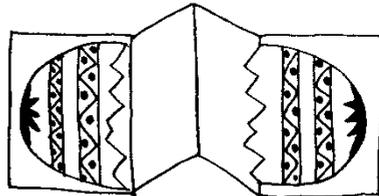
One way you can pass the good news on is to send Easter cards. You could make some of these easy Easter egg cards (the egg is a symbol of new life so that's why we have eggs at Easter). You will need

- a strip of thin card about 10cm by 30cm
- another piece of coloured card for the egg about 9cm by 12cm
- felt tip pens
- a ruler, scissors and a glue stick.



Fold the long strip of card in half and then each half back on itself to make a W shape.

Draw an egg shape on the coloured card and cut round it. Cut the egg in half with a jagged edge and stick it onto the folded card as shown.



Decorate it and write your message inside - you could even draw a fluffy yellow chick inside the egg.

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**What is smooth, oval and very rich?**

An eggstravaganza.

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