

An Advent Message from the Area Dean

As the year draws to a close we start to think about endings, quite naturally. And, if endings, then also beginnings.

Beginnings and endings, the fragility and the wonder of life – it's all here in the newspapers and on the telly. And sadly there is just as much news about people's dying as there is about new life.

It's here also in our own experience and personal circumstances.

At this time of year as Christmas approaches, we call to mind especially those we have loved and see no longer; those who have been a special part of our lives; those whose presence in the world has informed, enriched and perhaps even inspired us.

I have two simple observations about the beginnings and endings of life and they are these:

a. You never know what's ahead.

You never know what will become of a baby – what will happen when he or she grows up, what will be the ups and downs, the ins and outs of a future yet to unfold.

b. You never know what's behind.

You can never tell necessarily from a conversation with an older person nearing the end of their life what their experience has been and what adventures they have had when they were younger. Sometimes there are some real surprises!

Life, whether it is three score years and ten, longer or shorter, is an amazing gift. I can still remember the feeling of the warmth of the breath of my baby daughter on my cheek in the delivery room. She is now turned 24 this past summer and married.

For those we love but see no longer, there much to be thankful for. For ourselves as we remember them, and maybe light a candle or say a prayer in their memory, there is much to be thankful for – God's presence and power and his promise and hope for each new day.

Beginnings and endings are, if you like, the bookends. The story of a life well lived is found in the title page and the chapters that follow. For each and for all we are grateful.

In the quiet moments of the Advent season, in our own breathing in and out, we have time to reflect and to give thanks also for the one whose coming into the world we celebrate.

May God bless you and your family richly this Christmas, wherever they may be.

Rev'd David Uffindell, Area Dean

A note from the Editors

Yet again we are writing in sadness just a few days after the horrific killings that took place in Paris on 13/11/15 – claimed by so-called Islamic State (ISIL) as their doing, although few people (including the vast majority of the Islamic communities in our country) would regard this savagery as having anything to do with Islam. Our deepest sympathy goes to France and particularly to those who lost loved ones and to those whose life has been wrecked by criminal events that fly counter to all sense of humanity.

Please read the insightful summary of the sermon that Rev'd Huw Mordecai's preached two days later on 15/11/2015 (see page 18).

We would also refer you to the Pope's address on 'Rejection Culture' and 'Deviant Religion' that was reported on page 16 of the magazine for February this year. In this important address, the Pope condemned a culture in which anything that doesn't fit with people's beliefs or circumstances is simply rejected – too often with violence – but this is also a warning to each of us in person.

He began by noting that, in our story as Christians, the rejection culture starts with Mary and Joseph in the inn at Bethlehem, and this seems to resonate with the moment at which we are writing.

The February 2015 issue (if the printed version is unavailable) can still be found on the temporary Parish Mag website on this web-page:

<http://www.xdotd.com/parishmag/1502%20Parish%20Mag.pdf>.

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

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

11 th October 2015	Ethan Jacquemin
	Oliver Marshalsea
	William King-Harris

Funerals

A Funeral service for the late Mr John Adamson was held at Easthampstead Park crematorium on Friday 23rd October.

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

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. 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 will be at St. Peter's – but check during the Vacancy!

Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

The deadline for articles etc. for the next edition is 10th January 2015.

St Mary's: Music and Merriment: 5th Dec. at 7:30pm

Rehearsals are now well under way for our Christmas Concert, aptly called Music and Merriment, for it represents all that is joyous at Christmas time.

At the core is that remarkable youth choir, the Bulmershe Ensemble, who, under their inspirational director, Sarah Lant, have been winning national prizes for their enthusiastic and polished singing. Sarah has also helped train our own Junior Concert Choir, who play a large part in our concert.

We present three remarkable young musicians – Nikolai Lester on Jazz piano, Katie Mazur, a talented violinist, and Phoebe Parker, whose singing is guaranteed to put you in the right mood.

Our St Mary's handbell ringers add their own flavour to the mix, as do our readers with readings to charm and amuse. And we have not forgotten to include some very favourite carols for you all to sing.

The new Charity **Friends of St Mary's Winkfield** (Reg. 1162342) are managing this concert as their first big project – but the cause that is supported is just the same as in past years – St Mary's organ and musical life. Do consider joining the Friends in their work to support our beautiful

church, by supporting projects that preserve its fabric and its musical life out into the future. An annual subscription is only £20 – and helps!!

But first, please buy your tickets for the Concert. Friends staying with you? Bring them along for a really happy evening!!

**St Mary's Church Winkfield
Church Road SL4 4SF**

Music & Merriment

**Saturday 5th December 2015
at 7:30pm**

Tickets only £10 (£5 under 13s)

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

The Woodley Concert Band, who are providing the wind quintet for our concert, have their own big concert 'Let it Snow' at 2:30pm and at 7:30pm on Sunday 13th December – visit their website under 'Concerts': <http://www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk/> for another exciting evening!

Advent services of Compline

During Advent, there will be Services of Compline, with a Reflection, to help us prepare for Christmas:

- Tuesday 1st December St Mary's Church 7:30pm
- Wednesday 9th December St Martin's Church 7:30pm
- Wednesday 16th December St Peter's Church 7:30pm

**Faith
Hope
Love**

Everyone is welcome. Please come – even if it means visiting a different church! Any questions – please contact Rev'd Huw Mordecai, via the church office Tel 883854.

Ballads, Baubles, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine all in the Spotlights - Thursday 10th and 11th December

The Ascot Life Centre on New Road will host The Spotlights Musical Theatre Group's (SMTG) Christmas concert "Ballads and Baubles" and the programme for the evening has just been announced.

"Our programme is always centred around well loved carols plus seasonal songs", says Serena Kay, the group's music director, "and this year is no exception. We have festive songs from such musicals as 'A Christmas

Carol', 'It's A Wonderful Life', 'Meet Me in St. Louis' and 'The Sound Of Music', all woven together with readings from stories by Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott, and one time local boy, Bill Bryson. Plus a Christmas ghost story", says Serena, "to chill our audience to the bone". Serena, an opera singer with international experience, will sing "I'm Walking in the Air" from "The Snowman" by Raymond Briggs. The SMTG will serve hot mince pies and mulled wine at the show's interval

Ballads and Baubles is the group's final fund raising event for Stepping Stones a charity based in Bracknell for Down's Syndrome children. SMTG members will choose another local charity to support for at least a year, maybe two, at their AGM in February. "We have supported local charities for each of the 25 years that we have existed", says Serena. "It's very important to us".

Ballads and Baubles will be performed at the Ascot Life Centre on New Road in North Ascot on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December at 730pm. Tickets are £10 each (mince pies and mulled wine included) and are now available from the box office on 01344 874177 or you can email spsjb@aol.com You can also book online at www.spotlightsmtg.co.uk

The Snowman - singhealthychoirs Christmas Concert 2015

This year singhealthychoirs featuring Thames Valley Community Choir (TVCC) and Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO), as well as the singhealthychoirs from Wokingham and Bracknell, are performing a special Christmas Concert 'Snowman – A Concert for Christmas' at The Great Hall Reading University on Sunday 20th December. This will feature not only the choirs and orchestra, but also the children from The Coombes School in Arborfield, all of whom will be bringing a truly seasonal mixture of wonderful carols and Christmas songs.

Songs by John Rutter, Bob Chilcott, Benjamin Britten, Michael Smith and others will be featured in the concert, as well as the opportunity for the audience to join in some seasonal favourites. As well as accompanying the choir, the BYSO will be playing the complete work 'The Snowman' by British composer Howard Blake, and the Coombes Choir will sing 'Walking in the Air'.

We are very lucky to have TV and radio personality Paul Ross as host and he is very much looking forward to presenting the event having taken a great interest in all that singhealthychoirs do.

This year's concert is in aid of The Berkshire Young Musicians Trust. This charity operates as Berkshire Maestros and is committed to bringing the best in music education to young people across the county. The standard is

high, the motivation equally so and the enthusiasm of all the players is infectious.

In 2016 the orchestra and the Berkshire Youth Choir are travelling to China on a music tour; ambassadors of the best of British youth music. Your support for this concert will help the Maestros to develop the talents of the musicians of the future. Their aim is to bring music education to all children, regardless of family income, status or circumstance. They have no sponsorship so with all proceeds from this concert going to the Trust you will be playing a part in helping them to continue this very important work.

We hope many of you will take this opportunity to start Christmas week with a rousing concert and join us at either 3pm or 7pm on 20th December. Tickets are available now, please visit www.singhealthy.co.uk priced at £15 for Adults and £10 for under-16s and students for the 3pm matinee, and £15 per ticket for the evening performance. There is a 10% booking fee. Thank you for your support

Dorian Edwards. Musical Director, singhealthychoirs

News from around the Parish

Chavey Down Women's Institute

Our Christmas party is to take place on Monday 14th December. This event is always most enjoyable, with visitors from other institutes. Our theme this year is 1960s and '70s, with music by the Swinging Sixties. Our first meeting of 2016 will be on Monday 18th January, when our speaker will be Janet Brewer from the Battersea Dogs and Cats Charity Home. So if you are interested then do come along and join us, where a warm welcome awaits you.

In the meantime, on behalf of the committee and all the members of Chavey Down WI, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and every good wish for 2016.

Janey Bethune-Williams 01344 883854

St. Mary's Choir

Our Remembrance Service on Sunday November 8th this year was a simple and moving occasion, well supported by local civic leaders and parishioners. Our senior and junior choirs led the congregation in singing three well-loved hymns, and Rev'd Huw Mordecai's thoughtful sermon (page 18) reminded us very clearly of all the sacrifices made by those in the armed forces and civilians in so many conflicts over the years. He also urged us to remember the great loss to families and local communities at

home when men and women were killed or maimed. Junior members of St. Mary's, including those in the choir gave readings, chosen by Reverend Huw, which again reminded us of the tragedy of conflict, and our need to promote peace.

By the time you read this we shall be in the season of Advent, looking towards that wonderful, though so often over-commercialised, festival of Christmas. Our choirs will be taking part in all the usual Christmas celebrations at St Mary's, including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. You will find details of these and other services on the 'Services for December' page of this magazine. Do come along and join us, in choir or in congregation, to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour and the real festive season.

As usual, our choir practice is every Thursday evening at 7:30pm and we warm up at 10:20am before the 11am Sunday service. Looking forward to seeing you and making you welcome!

Marian Stevens 882918

St Mary's Women's Guild

Members met on November 3rd. Lady Bowden was welcomed as a visitor to the meeting. Arrangements for decorating the Christmas tree were discussed, and members once again agreed to provide refreshments for the Christmas Concert. The next meeting of the Guild is on Tuesday 1st December. During that meeting Mary Knight will lead a short Advent carol service.

The speakers for the November meeting were two Guild members, Jean and Pam Brown who gave a fascinating account of their many 'cruise' holidays. The ladies explained why their cruise holidays are so important to them, and traced a love of life at sea back to family holidays experienced when they were children. Individually, they described their early experiences of cruise ships. Pam, aged 17, went on a School trip aboard SS Uganda, and this gave her a great love of travel and exploring new destinations – indeed, it was an historian's dream come true. While in her 20's Jean holidayed with a friend on board the P & O ship, Oriana. Crossing a turbulent Bay of Biscay, she discovered that, like her sister, she too was a reasonably good sailor.

Pam and Jean started cruising together in 2003, and have made a total of 16 voyages. They have travelled extensively in Europe – North to Iceland and the Norwegian Fjords, South to both West and Eastern Mediterranean countries, Madeira and the Canary Islands. They have twice sampled the riches of the Baltic, staying overnight in St Petersburg. They had a big adventure in 2012 when they crossed the Atlantic on QM2, and sailed up

the Eastern Seaboard, from New York right up to Quebec in Canada. Closer to home, they have also sailed around Britain.

They described life on board P& O and Cunard liners, outlining the various activities shown in the daily programme. When choosing cruises, however, the destinations are paramount, and they are particularly attracted to ports where there are interesting cathedrals, churches, palaces and places of interest. They explained that they feel blessed to have been able to visit so many different countries and to get a small taste of very diverse cultures. They highlighted special memories and particular anniversaries, and showed some of the souvenirs that they have purchased, which spark precious recollections. They concluded by saying that Pam has a love of photography, and they invited members to browse through a box of photographs, illustrating the variety of wonderful places they have visited.

It was an extremely enjoyable afternoon.

Mary Knight closed the meeting with a prayer.

Lesley Philpot

St Mary's Junior Choir

Bella McBride, a member of the Junior choir, was Crucifer for the first time on Sunday 18th October. Her brother George is now a seasoned Crucifer.

The Junior Choir joined with the adult choir for the Service of Remembrance. They also, along with Duncan French, read the following War poems.

- ❖ 'Comrades' by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson (1915)
- ❖ 'The Casualties were small' by May Hill (1941)
- ❖ 'Rocca San Giovanni' by George Fraser Gallie (1943)
- ❖ 'A Soldier's Winter' by Chris, a soldier serving in Afghanistan (2009)
- ❖ 'Taking a stand' by John Bailey a soldier serving in Iraq (2011)

The Junior Choir is now rehearsing with Marilyn Rogers for Bell Sunday (29th November), the Crib service (13th December), Nine Lessons and Carols (20th December) and the alternative carol service (27th December).

Rehearsals continue at 7pm on Thursdays in St Mary's Church before the adult choir rehearsals at 7:30pm.

All members of the Junior Choir are singing in the Junior Concert Choir at St Mary's Music and Merriment Concert on 5th December.

Lesley Philpot

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

St Mary's – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service	By
6	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
13	3rd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion BCP	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise – A Service of Light	Lay
		11am	Crib service	Lay
20	4th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	5 Lessons and Carols	Lay
		11am	9 Lessons and Carols	Clergy & Lay
24	Christmas Eve	2pm	Carols & Candlelight ‡	Clergy & Lay
		3:30pm	Carols & Candlelight ‡□	Clergy & Lay
		11:30pm	Holy Communion	Clergy
25	Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Matins, followed by said Holy Communion at 11:45am	Clergy
27	1st Sunday of Christmas	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	NO FAMILY PRAISE TODAY	
		11am	Alternative Carols	Clergy

‡ Carols and Candlelight' services are entry by ticket only from www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk.

□ Collection to be shared between the Church and the Children's Society.

St Mary's – January 2016 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service	By
3	Epiphany	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
10	Baptism of Christ	8am	Holy Communion BCP	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Family Matins	Lay
17	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Holy Communion BCP	Clergy

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service	By
24	3rd Sunday of Epiphany - Week of prayer for Christian Unity	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay
31	Candlemas	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay

St Martin's, Chavey Down – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service	By
6	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family/All age * □	Lay
12	Saturday	9:30am	Chavey Down Village Carol Service	Lay
13	3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
20	4th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	9 Lessons and Carols	Lay
24	Christmas Eve	6pm	Holy Communion	Clergy
25	Christmas Day	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
27	1 st Sunday of Christmas	There is no service at St Martin's. (See 8am and 11am services at St Mary's. All welcome.)		

*Please bring a new toy for a child or toiletries for an adult and Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank.

□ Collection to be shared between the Church and the Children's Society

St Martin's, Chavey Down – January 2016 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service	By
3	Epiphany	9:30am	Family/All age	Lay
10	Baptism of Christ	9:30am	Holy Communion including baptism	Clergy
17	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay
24	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
31	Candlemas	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay

St Peter's, Cranbourne – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service	By
6	2nd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	Family/All Age ✱	Lay
13	3rd Sunday of Advent	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
20	4th Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	9 Lessons and Carols	Lay
23	Wednesday	1pm	Holy Matrimony	Clergy
24	Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols & Candlelight ‡	Lay
		8pm	Communion by Candlelight	Clergy
25	Christmas Day	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		10am	SPAS All Together	Lay
		10:45am	Holy Communion by extension	Lay
27	1st Sunday of Christmas	There is no 11am service at St Peter's. See St Mary's services		

✱ Please bring a new toy for a child or toiletries for an adult and Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank.

‡ 'Carols & Candlelight' services are entry by ticket only from www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk.

St Peter's, Cranbourne – January 2016 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service	By
3	Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion BCP	Clergy
		11am	SPAS Family/All Age	Lay
10	Baptism of Christ	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
17	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion BCP	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay
24	3rd Sunday of	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
31	Candlemas	11am	Morning Prayer	Lay

Note on Service Leaders: Where 'clergy' is shown – this will be a visiting clergy. Where 'lay' is shown, this includes: Stuart Ager, Paula Darrall, Mary Knight, Jacki Thomas, and Mike Thomas.

Winkfield Row Methodist Church - December

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!**

December services:

6th Dec – Irene Robinson

13th Dec – Dalwyn Attwell

20th Dec at 3pm – Carol Service (no Morning service that day)

21st Dec – Kim Tame

25th Dec Christmas Morning at 9:30am: Revd Jackie Case

27th Dec – No Service

January services:

3rd Jan – Covenant & Holy Communion: Revd Jackie Case

10th Jan – Maggy Garton

17th Jan – Diana Middleditch

24th Jan – United Service at St Martin's: Maggy Garton

31st Jan – Kim Tame



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's – December 2015 and January 2016

Dates	Flowers
4 th and 11 th Dec	Penny Cardwell – Advent – Memorial Table
18 th Dec	Esther Bond – Advent – Memorial Table
Dec 21 st to 23 rd	Esther Bond and Doreen Potter and church flower arrangers
1 st and 8 th Jan 2016	Jean Brown and Alex Jolly
15 th and 22 nd Jan	Doreen Potter
29 th Jan and 5 th Feb	Jane Hodgson and Anna Clayton

St Martin's – December 2015 and January 2016

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
6 th Dec.	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
13 th Dec	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor
20 th Dec	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor
25 th Dec	ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS	
27 th Dec	Mrs Fanning /Mrs Logan	Mrs Jenkins
3 rd Jan 2016	Mrs Fanning /Mrs Logan	Mrs Jenkins
10 th Jan	Mrs Atkinson	Mrs Dickinson
17 th Jan	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
24 th Jan	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos
31 st Jan	Mrs Zerilli/Mrs Randall	Mrs Luff

What's on in December and January 2015

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
	Pilates with Amanda Mann at St Martin's Church from 9:30-10:30am & 10:45-11:45am. Visit the website: www.amandamann.uk.com or email info@amandamann.uk.com 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 www.ascotzumba.co.uk for more info or contact Flo Young on 07711077038 email Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk
Mondays not including Bank Holidays	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Contact Debra on 07748 391776 or email john@jive-cats.co.uk
Tuesdays	Short Mat Bowls at Carnation Hall at 7pm. For more information please ring 882137 and 301158 (NEW NOs!!)
2 nd Tuesday of the month	St Mary's Women's Guild meeting at St Martin's Church Hall at 2:30pm.
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: lizziewright25@hotmail.com
	Zumba gold class at St Peter's church hall 7-8pm
	Pilates classes at Carnation Hall: Contact Rebecca on 0774 860 3145, email: pilatesascot@btinternet.com or visit www.pilatesascot.co.uk .
2 nd 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.

Day	Event
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
1 st Friday of the month	Pebbles at 10:30am - a new praise time for pre-schoolers and their parents/carers, with stories, songs and prayers at St Peter's Church, Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne SL4 2EG. Please contact Paula Liverseidge 07584 375386 or email paula_liverseidge@hotmail.com

Other events

Day	Dec	Event	Time/place
Tue	1	Compline service: Faith	St Mary's Church 7.30pm
Thur	3	Ascot Christmas Fair 9.30am – 5.30pm - Enquiries Contact: Noelle Walsh or Mary Hillman on 01367 860017 or email enquiry@ukgrandsales.co.uk . To book tickets tickets £5 online - £7 by phone ON 01367 860017; £9 on door.	
Fri	4		
Thu	5	An Evening of Music & Merriment at St Mary's Church 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Tickets only £10.00 (£5.00 under 13s). For tickets or enquiries, please phone Marian Stevens on 01344 882918 or email anthony.locksride@btinternet.com .	
Sat	5	Ascot Christmas Fair 9.30am – 5.30pm - Enquiries Contact: Noelle Walsh or Mary Hillman on 01367 860017 or email enquiry@ukgrandsales.co.uk . To book tickets tickets £5 online - £7 by phone ON 01367 860017; £9 on door.	
Sun	6		
Wed	9	Compline service: Hope	St Martin's Church 7.30pm
Mon	14	Chavey Down Women's Institute Christmas Party	7:30pm,, St Martin's Church Hall (see page 6)
Wed	16	Compline service: Love	St Peter's Church 7.30pm
Fri	18	Christmas Racing Weekend at Ascot Racecourse. Check out the website https://www.ascot.co.uk/2015christmasmeeting/christmas-racing-weekend-saturday for further details	
Sat	19		

Day	Jan 2016	Event	Time/place
Mon	18	Chavey Down Women's Institute. Speaker Janet Brewer from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.	7:30pm, St Martin's Church Hall (see page 6)

More news from around the parish

St Marys Bell Ringers

Goodness, the month just flies by!

The hand bell ringers are busy practicing for the November 29th church service which is our annual Bell Sunday service - hopefully you will all have enjoyed it by the time you read this. We are also busy preparing our piece for the Music and Merriment concert at St Mary's (see page 3) which we know you will enjoy - it is a little different to our normal contribution. We are also practicing hard for the annual Guildford Cathedral service.

The tower bell ringers ring regularly and enjoyed the challenge of ringing with the bells half muffled before the Remembrance Day service. The muffles make it very obvious if you do not strike accurately - there is nowhere to hide, so even more pressure than normal to make a good sound before the service.

We are all grateful to Sue and Tony Bish for organising their annual "bangers and bangers" evening for bonfire night and including all the ringers and their families. Considering the torrential rain for most of the day it was both astonishing and impressive that the fire both lit and burned so beautifully. The BBQ was the usual success, with more "bangers" than ever

Jill Glennerster

The 2015 Windsor Great Park Cross Country Horseride

What another spectacular occasion! It does Windsor Lions proud once again The Windsor Great Park Cross Country Horseride on 12th/13th September, now in its 39th year of running, was once again a huge success, raising over £20,000 for Windsor Lions charities and other good causes, and bringing a huge amount of fun for hundreds of riders who had travelled from all over Southern England, and even West Wales, to take part.

The Windsor Great Park Cross Country Horseride was first conceived by Lion **Peter Vaughan** over 40 years ago as an annual charity event, and even the most optimistic of Windsor Lions member could not have foreseen the stupendous success the event has been, raising over £2m for charity and

literally entertaining tens of thousands of horses and their riders over the decades. The event then, as now, takes a huge amount of effort to stage involving all members of Windsor Lions, and colleagues from neighbouring Lions Clubs, as well as friends and families – marshalling, car parking, communications, fence building, staking the course, manning the Secretary’s Tent are just some of the tasks that have to be carried out in the run up to the event and on the weekend itself. The planning, marketing, and, of course, the all-important rider entry management starts months earlier which means the ‘Horseride’ is almost a year-long exercise for Windsor Lions.

The 9 mile course through lovely parkland consists of 3 courses running side by side: Advanced, Novice and Non-Jumping – something for every rider. The Jumpers can face up to 30 fences of varying heights, but may opt to avoid some altogether if they wish. It is not a race, so riders can take as much time as they like. The all-important funds are raised through entry fees and sponsorship, which is not obligatory but highly encouraged, with various trophies presented after the event to those who have done really well.

The Windsor Great Park Cross Country Horseride is recognized as one of the best organized events of its kind in the country, and this year was certainly no exception. The feedback from the all-important riders has been fantastic, so complimentary of the marshalls and other officials for their efficiency and for the friendliness of everyone involved. Lion Mark Fraser who now manages the event for Windsor Lions concludes: “It is such a pleasure and such great fun to be involved with this unique event which generates so much money and gives so much pleasure to so many people.”



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Ascot Horticultural Society

Looking back, from a horticultural perspective, 2015 can best be described as a year of mixed fortunes. Across the Country, record yields of apples and pears have been reported, and conditions were also evidently near optimum for many soft fruits. On the other hand, in my experience, the relatively cool damp spell in high Summer, coupled with a general lack of sunlight, delayed tomato ripening, and has certainly not favoured the more exotic crops such as sweetcorn, aubergines and sweet peppers.

However, come early-November, night-time temperatures in this area had barely dropped below freezing. Autumn leaf colours were some of the most spectacular for many years and garden annuals were still flowering profusely. It seemed heartbreaking to dig them out and prepare the borders for next Spring.

Our Summer and Autumn Shows have remained popular with both exhibitors and visitors. Notwithstanding the season's challenges there was an abundance of fruit, flowers and vegetables and the usual tempting displays of cakes, biscuits, savouries and preserves. Sadly, the floral art section, once a stunning centre-piece, has somewhat diminished in recent years, and its revival is a major objective for the society. It is also crucial that we encourage more children and young people to participate.

After a busy year, it is now time to enjoy the seasonal festivities. The **Christmas Show & Social Evening** will take place on **Wednesday 9th December**, followed, on **Sunday 13th December**, by a **Christmas Lunch** for members and friends at Mill Ride Golf Club.

13th January. The first meeting of the New Year will take us far beyond the midwinter gloom to the tropical rain forests of "**Costa Rica – a world of nature**". As the title implies, this tiny Central American country is home to an estimated 13% of global wildlife species. It is also an important producer of many of the crops (eg. coffee, cocoa, sugar, bananas & pineapples) that we take for granted these days.

10th February. It will be our turn to be host to friends from Sunningdale & District Gardening Association for the **Annual Quiz**, as we compete to retain the coveted Alastair Fosdyke Trophy.

9th March. As thoughts turn towards the coming growing season, we welcome Graham Talbot, an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable horticulturalist and show judge and a regular visitor to the society. Mindful of current trends, his subject this time will be '**Vegetables for the small garden**'.

13th April. Hopefully, by then, we will be able to celebrate the passing of Winter with a glorious **Spring Show** in King Edward's Hall.

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 Alternatively call Peter Cleare on 01344 622086.

Thoughts of all sorts

Stranger Danger?

Distilled from a sermon preached by Huw Mordecai on 15th November

All of us, I am sure, were shocked by the events of Friday night, [13/11/15] in Paris. The death toll has continued to rise, and now stands at more than 120 [130 on 20/11/15]; many are saying it is France's worst day since the end of WW2. It has been heartening to see the wave of support around the world, with so many famous buildings lit in the colours of Tricolour. And yet there have been other reactions; people saying this atrocity proves that all Muslims are dangerous and should be rounded up. While I utterly repudiate such views, I can understand the anger and fear that has caused them.

How should the world react to such events? At times like this I am very glad I am not a world leader; they need our prayers, for there is no obvious solution. There are many calls for military action, yet we cannot be sure that this would solve anything. A major factor in the rise of ISIL seems to be the invasion of Iraq, a decade ago; an invasion supported by Britain. Would another intervention create more problems in ten years' time?

In today's Gospel Reading (Matthew 9.18 ff) Jesus heals a woman who has had a flow of blood for twelve years. She was too embarrassed to approach him directly; her ailment meant that she'd have been considered ritually unclean. Unable to take part in worship at the synagogue or temple, barred from social gatherings, this woman was an outcast. And so, when Jesus stopped and made her confess publicly what she had done, I imagine she was mortified. Why did he act like this? It seems likely to me that, as she had been excluded for twelve years, Jesus knew that a public declaration of healing was needed to bring her back into the life of the community.

Welcoming the outcast was a major part of Jesus' ministry, and something we are all called to. The shy newcomer who is too nervous to speak up, the awkward person who doesn't quite fit in with a group, these are the people we should reach out to and welcome in. And yet I wonder if we are called to take this principle even further. The people who commit these atrocities are also outcasts – they are definitely not part of mainstream Islam, as many, many statements by orthodox Muslims show. Is there some way that

they can be welcomed, brought back into world society, to the awareness of our common humanity that nations increasingly share?

We need to have our eyes open for the outcast, and we need to be long-sighted. In the days before the attacks in Paris there were similar atrocities in Baghdad and Beirut, yet there was no world support for those places. Is it enough if we only feel sorry for people who are like us? The example of Jesus compels us to reach out to all.

A is for Alleluia!

Some scholars believe that the word 'Alleluia' comes to us from the Greek word meaning 'Praise to God', though perhaps there is a better case for believing it is derived from the older Hebrew word 'Halleluyah' meaning Praise (ye) the Lord'. Within the Jewish liturgy the term 'Hallel' is used to designate Psalms 113-115, which are psalms expressing thanksgiving and joy for divine redemption.

There is a story told among Jews that, while preparing himself and the synagogue for service one day, the rabbi heard someone sobbing, and, having searched the building and found no one, he asked, "Is that you crying, my Lord?"

"Yes, my son," came the answer. "But why are you crying, my Lord?" asked the rabbi, and God answered 'I am crying for my lost children of Egypt who were drowned when the waters of the Red Sea closed over them."

In one rabbinic tradition, although a full Hallel is recited on the first day of the Passover (when it is known as the Egyptian Hallel commemorating the Exodus), it is not recited on the last six days of the Passover because joy is mitigated by the calamity that befell the Egyptians.

That story and that tradition remind us that all people are God's people, whatever their creed or colour.

Mendicant



Children's Corner

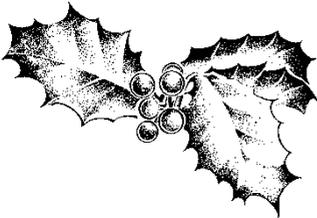


HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus – the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



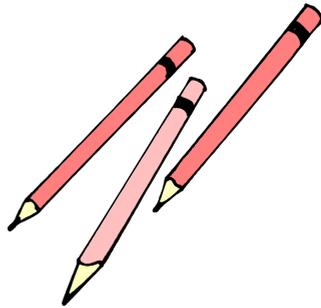
Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

What do elves sing to Santa?

Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!



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