



WINKFIELD PARISH NEWS

February 2018

Wanted!! A nice picture of St Martins to go here

A message from Huw

A Lenten Paradox

In the next few weeks there is a curious clash of dates. February 14th is, of course, Valentine's Day when sales of pink cards, red roses, and all colours of chocolate will sky rocket. This year it is also Ash Wednesday, which has much more sombre associations. Self-indulgence and self-discipline both on the same day? Maybe I'm cynical, but I can guess which one will get most publicity, and have most followers.

And yet there's a curious suitability in this overlap. Why does anyone ever give anything up? The slimmer gives up certain foods, or drink, because they want to feel better about their bodies. The athlete sticks to a rigid diet and training schedule in the hope of winning an event. But a parent may deprive themselves of all sorts of things they enjoy in order to save money to spend on their children. A lover may forgo a luxury in order to treat their beloved.

It is a little like that with Christians and Lent. No, we're not exactly giving God a treat, but our motive for imposing some small discipline on ourselves is Love. We want to grow in our love for God, and freely giving something up is one way that helps many of us. In fact, the classic pattern is to give something up, and take something on, and these two can easily overlap. If we give up sweets, crisps, alcohol, or anything else we might want to give the money we've saved to a charity. All through the Bible we get the message that our love for God is meant to be more than a warm inner feeling that makes us feel good. True love for God is shown in the way we treat others, especially those most in need.

There is a curious addition to all of this. Maybe I'm weaker willed than the rest of you, but I rarely get all the way through Lent without wobbling, and slipping back into whatever it is I'd given up.

Two things follow from this. The first is my having to resist the temptation to say, "That's it – I might as well give the whole thing up now". We all know how fatal that is with any training or diet. The second is that I get drawn back to the love of God for me – that love that is greater than any failing or weakness on my part. Just as our little Lenten sacrifices help train us for greater sacrifices that may lie ahead, so our awareness of God's forgiveness for our little lapses helps us to believe that God does still love us when we make a mess of something really important. And it is that love which keep us safe, in this world and the next.

A note from the Editors

We like the idea of taking something on new in Lent, as a balance to something given up. You may even consider doing in Lent something new but useful – without giving anything up!

There are so many things that we can do, to improve ourselves, or to help others, including actively helping the work of our Benefice, if you are not doing so already. Who knows – you may find it so satisfying that you will want to continue doing it, long after Lent has been transformed by Easter! Most people have talents that lie dormant and could be woken up to benefit others.

If nothing obvious comes to mind, consider discussing with people who are active volunteers in the Benefice (e.g. those on the 'Who's Who in the Parish' page – you can find this on the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield website. Go to www.fosmw.com and press the blue [Parish Mag] button at the top).

Giving money to good causes is important, as only in this way can you achieve good that you cannot bring about yourself – but personal voluntary action for a good cause is just as good as the equivalent money – perhaps even better.

Now here's a thought, open to all ages! – write an article for the parish mag that will amuse, interest and even inspire your fellow parishioners; then email it to the sympathetic editors at info@fosmw.com. (With a photo perhaps?)

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – November and December 2017

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

Annabel Chestnutt	5th November 2017
Ophelia Gibbs	5th November 2017
Oliver Lord	26th November 2017
Scarlett Procter	3rd December 2017
Toby Hardy	3rd December 2017

Funerals etc. – November and December 2017

A funeral service for the late Mr G Richardson was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Monday 13 November 2017.

An interment of ashes was held at St Peter's church for the late Mr Derek Thompson on Wednesday 15 November 2017.

A funeral service for the late Mrs Gillian Smith was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 23 November 2017.

An interment of ashes was held at St Mary's church for the late Mrs Karen Ignotus on Friday 17 November 2017.

A funeral service for the late Lady Dorothy Thompson was held at St Mary's church on Wednesday 13 December 2017, and an interment of ashes was held, also at St Mary's church, on Tuesday 19 December 2017.

A funeral service for the late Mr Arthur J Parsons was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Tuesday 19 December 2017.

A funeral and burial service for the late Miss Susan Bailey was held at St Peter's church on Thursday 21 December 2017.

Requiescant in pace

Thank you

From Marian Hopkins

Marian Hopkins would like to thank all her friends for the many Christmas cards and gifts she received. She hopes that she's thanked everyone personally, and apologises if she's missed anyone out.

Bits and Pieces

Office opening hours

Now Monday-Friday 9:30am – 12noon.

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.

Prayers are held every week at 9:15am on:

❖ Monday at St Peter's

❖ Tuesday at St Martin's

❖ Wednesday at St Mary's

❖ Thursday at St Martin's

For further details please contact the church office. All are welcome to attend.

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield contact info

The Friends of St Mary's Winkfield website is www.fosmw.com – see this for Friends' activities and events. Or contact the Friends at info@fosmw.com .

Parish Mag and Who's Who in the Parish on-line

The editorial part of the Winkfield Parish News for present and past years (back to 2014), and 'Who's Who in the Parish' can be accessed online at www.fosmw.com – bring this up and click on the blue [Parish Mag] button. Web editions are in colour and may have additional material.

Online Parish Mag cover photographs

Each month the online version of the parish mag will have a colour photo of St Mary's church, and also one of St Martin's. Please send us your photos to consider for use for this purpose, e.g. by email to info@fosmw.com. These must not be photos from the Web, as they usually have copyright restrictions.

Events, Notices and Dates for your Diaries

The deadline for articles etc. for the March Parish Mag is **9 February** (not 10 February). This is because of the early collation day of 23 February.

The 3rd page of our magazine is the parish Who's Who. Please report any changes or corrections needed, as soon as possible, to info@fosmw.com

Lenten Services

Every week during Lent there will be a simple morning service on Wednesdays at 10am, to which everyone is welcome. Our theme this year is Prayer, and the pattern will be:

Prayer as Listening	21st February	St Mary's
Prayer as Asking	28th February	St Martin's
Prayer as Conversation	7th March	St Peter's
Prayer as Worship	14th March	St Mary's
Prayer as Action	21st March	St Martin's

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will start early in March, in preparation for a service on Sunday 6th May at St Michael's Sunninghill at 7pm. No one is ever too old to be confirmed, but children should be in Y6 or above at school. If anyone is interested please let Huw know – classes will be arranged at a time convenient for those who sign up. Email beneficeminister@gmail.com .

Chavey Down Women's Institute

Our meeting this month takes place on Monday 19 February in St Martins Church Hall at 7:45pm.

Our speaker this month will be Mr Mark Taylor who will give a demonstration of painting a picture, after which everyone who wishes will be able to have a go.

If you are interested then do come along where a warm welcome awaits you.

Janey Bethune-Williams 01344 883854

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield AGM

The Friends' AGM will take place on 23 February at 8 pm in Popels Hall; plans for the future will be presented and discussed. See also page 13.

Lesley Philpot Chairman

The Maidens Green Society AGM

The Maidens Green Society are holding their AGM on Thursday 15 March at Stirrups Country House Hotel, Maidens Green, Bracknell Road. 7 for 7:30pm, refreshments served. Do come along and catch up on local issues, and have your say: new residents are very welcome.

Richard Bell

Ascot Horticultural Society

February may be the last month of the "meteorological winter" but the cold wet weather does not necessarily show much sign of relenting. Nevertheless, in order to be able to 'hit the ground running' when the growing season eventually gets underway it's a good time for planning and preparation. Seeds can be ordered, seed potatoes purchased and laid out to 'chit', new plants identified to try, tools cleaned and sharpened ... The list goes on.

The new programme for the Horticultural Society is, to some extent, complementary. For example :-

- on Wednesday 14th March the focus will be squarely on seeds, the guest speaker being:
Paulo Arrigo of Seeds of Italy Ltd. – UK distributors for Franchi Seeds. With a lively talk entitled "Italy from Seed to Plate" he will be considering the history and development of vegetables from Roman times through to the present day. We can expect the meeting to take on a distinctly Mediterranean 'flavour'.

- Paul Patton, a professional horticulturalist, writer and broadcaster will be making a welcome return to the society on Wednesday 9 May. This time he will be offering advice and tips on how to grow and enjoy all types of “Wonderful Healthy Herbs” in the garden, containers and kitchen - herbs for teas and other drinks, herbs to attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators, herbs in history and much more.

This month it will be our turn to host the Annual Quiz – our yearly ‘battle of wits’ with Sunningdale and District Gardening Association. Last year Ascot won by a small margin. Will Sunningdale dominate this time or can we retain the title for another year and with it the prestigious and uniquely shaped Alistair Fosdyke Trophy? We will find out on Wednesday 14th February.

Another traditional event for the Society is the Spring Show in King Edward’s Hall on the evening of Wednesday 11 April, which is invariably a highly colourful occasion.

Full details can be found on the web-site

www.ascothorticulturalsociety.org.uk Alternatively call Peter Cleare on 01344 622086.

Peter Cleare,

News from around the Parish

St Mary's Choirs (adult and junior)

The Junior choir sang ‘The Shepherds’ Song’ at the Family Matins Service in December. They were joined for this number by several of the Christmas Junior Concert Choir singers who were taking part in the Nativity play on that day. The Nativity Play performance was very well performed, and delightful in spite of (or perhaps because of?) the things that do not quite go to plan!

The music programme for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols was well chosen, and beautifully performed, with sensitive accompaniment. A service highly complimented by many in the congregation.

The Alternative Carol Service organised by Mary Knight was another service that was much admired and enjoyed.

With many thanks to all choristers and organists for all their hard work at this busy time and also during the rest of the year.

Lesley Philpot Email: Lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com Tel: 01344 427561

Please come and sing with us...



Faure's Requiem

Two devotional performances for Passiontide

Sunday 18 March 2018

Sunday 25 March 2018

6.30pm (rehearsals at 4.30pm, juniors 4.00pm)

All Saints Church
Ascot

St. Peter's Church
Cranbourne

Combined church choirs from Ascot, Winkfield & Cranbourne

Mervyn Williams(organ) Paul Jackson(music director)

**Suggested donation £10 per adult singer - retiring collection
for congregation - all proceeds to church's charities**

- ❖ Local church choirs and friends invite you to perform this choral favourite with us.
- ❖ Junior singers especially wanted to sing sections of the work including 'Pie Jesu'. Rehearsals for juniors with Marilyn Rogers also available Thursdays at St. Mary's Church, Winkfield 6.30-7.30pm from Thursday 22 February 2018.
- ❖ Music will be provided.
- ❖ Adult and Junior singers - to join in and for more information please contact:

Marilyn Rogers

01344 777125

marilyn.rogers@btinternet.com

Paul Jackson

01344 893685

pauljacksonbbcc@aol.com

Cranbourne Amateur
Dramatic Society

present

CADS

MEN AT ARMS

by Terry Pratchett®

adapted by Stephen Briggs

15, 16, 17 February 2018

TICKETS £9

7:45pm, Saturday Matinee 2:30pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Hatchet Lane,
Cranbourne SL4 2EG

Box Office 01344 886456

www.cadsact.org.uk

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SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE

St Mary's – February services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	2 nd Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		12:45pm	Holy Baptisms
11	Sunday next before Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Messy Church
		11am	Family Matins
14	Ash Wednesday	11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
18	1 st Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family Praise Communion
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
25	2 nd Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Morning Prayer

St Martin's, Chavey Down – February services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	2 nd Sunday before Lent	9:30am	All Age
11	Sunday next before Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion
18	1 st Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Morning Prayer
21	Wednesday	10am	Lauds
25	2 nd Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion

St Peter's, Cranbourne – February services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	2 nd Sunday before Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	SPATS – All Together
11	Sunday next before Lent	11am	Holy Communion
		12:45pm	Holy Baptisms
14	Wednesday Ash Wednesday	7:30pm	Holy Communion

Date	Day	Time	Service
18	1 st Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	Morning Prayer
25	2 nd Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion
28	Wednesday	10am	Lauds

Winkfield Row Methodist Church – February

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!**

February 2018 services

Sunday 4 February 10:30am: Revd Jackie Case – Holy communion

Sunday 18 February 10:30am: Mrs Sylvia Boys



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's – February 2018

Dates	Flowers
2 and 9 February	Arabella Cameron and Doreen Potter
16 and 23 February	Jane Hodgson and Anna Clayton

St Martin's – February 2018

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
4 February	Mrs Zerilli / Mrs Randall	Mrs Luff
11 February	Mrs Zerilli / Mrs Randall	Mrs Paramor
18 February	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Paramor
25 February	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane

More flower arrangers needed for St Martin's

St Martin's church still requires two more flower arrangers. Please help if you can. Training and assistance will be given if needed. It would be such a help when arrangers have illness to cope with to have two more on the rota. Please contact Ruth Timbrell on 882068.

What's on in February 2018

Special events

Day	Feb	Event	Time/place
Sat	3	Baptism Preparation	9:30am at St Mary's
		Marriage Preparation	12:30pm at St Mary's
Sat	10	St Mary's Bell Ringers Quiz, 7pm. St Martins Hall at Tickets are just £8 pp to include a ploughman supper (BYOB). Please also bring £1 coins as we are having a roll the pound to be nearest to a bottle of single malt whisky. All profit to the church electric fund so please come and join us – tickets from any bell ringer or call Tony Bish on: 01344 886087.	
Thu	15	Men at Arms (CADS) 7:45pm St Peter's Church Hall (page 8)	
Fri	16	Men at Arms (CADS) 7:45pm St Peter's Church Hall (page 8)	
Sat	17	Men at Arms (CADS) 2:30 matinée and 7:45pm St Peter's Church Hall (page 8)	
Mon	19	Chavey Down WI meeting, 7:45pm, St Martins Church Hall (p5)	
Wed	21	Prayer as Listening	10am, St Mary's church (page 4)
Fri	23	Friends of St Mary's AGM	8pm in Pope's Hall (see page 5)
Wed	28	Prayer as Asking	10am, St Martin's church (p4)

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

For your diaries:

- Prayer as Conversation: 10am, 7 March at St Peter's (page 4)
- Prayer as Worship 10am, 14 March at St Mary's (page 4)
- Ascot Hort. Soc. 8pm, 14 March at King Edwards Hall (page 5)
- Maidens Green Society AGM 7pm 15 March at Stirrups (page 5)
- Prayer as Action 10am, 21 March at St Martin's (page 4)

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

Day	Event
Mondays not including Bank Holidays (cont.)	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.AscotFitness.co.uk for more info or contact Flo Young on 07711 077038 email Flo@AscotFitness.co.uk
	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Contact Debra on 07748 391776 or email john@jive-cats.co.uk
2nd Monday of the month	Whist Drive at 7:30pm in the White Hart, Church Road, SL4 4SE
Tuesdays	Short Mat Bowls at Carnation Hall at 7pm. For more information please ring 882137 and 301158
	Cranbourne and Winkfield Community Orchestra – Rehearsal - At St Peters at 7:30 – 9 pm. Whether you are just starting out on a new musical adventure, a lapsed player or a proficient musician you can join us. School age, working, retired, all are welcome. If you are interested phone or email me. Carl Lister - 0793 263 2114 - carlister@btinternet.com
1st Tuesday of the month	St Mary's Women's Guild meeting at 2:30pm, now always at St Mary's church.
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
	Chavey Down Association Bingo Club at St Martin's Hall (fortnightly) at 8pm contact Monica or David on 884348.
	The NOMADS Table Tennis Club at Carnation Hall, For more information contact Mike on 773939.

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 .
	Soft Furnishing/Dressmaking Courses on Wednesdays. Day and evening courses. Places available. Please contact Sally Beer on tel no: 01344 882528 for further details, the venue schedule and timings.
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	CHAT & CRAFT – now including Chess, Scrabble and Bridge. Between 2 and 4pm at St Peters Church. Entry £1. Open to all. Finish that project, enjoy a good game, or just come for a cuppa and chat. For more information please contact Jane Lister on 0798 408 7820
	The Carnation Badminton Club plays on Thursdays at Carnation Hall, 8-10pm. New members welcome.
	CLUBBERCISE Dance Fitness class at Carnation Hall 7-8pm, For more info, please see www.AscotFitness.co.uk or contact Flo Young on 07711077038 or Flo@AscotFitness.co.uk
	Yoga at St Peter's Church from 9:30-10:45 am. Contact Lucy on 07769 252250, or email lucyvicjackson@gmail.com

More news from around the parish

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

The Music and Merriment concert in St Mary's on 2 December was a great success, with many talented youngsters performing, Thank you to all who supported this very popular annual event. (And make a New Year's Resolution to attend it in December 2018!) A full report is on page 15.

The faculty for the organ restoration has now reached the second stage and the Public Notice regarding this project is on display at St Mary's Church.

Fund raising is still continuing with donations and pipe sponsorship (which at the time of writing has reached 86% if its target – thanks to some wonderful

generosity. There are still a few pipes available to sponsor so if you haven't selected any so far there is still time. Visit www.fosmw.com and see.

Application forms for membership of the Friends of St Mary's, formed to ensure St Mary's church is able to remain open as a major asset to our community, are in the church. Do please consider becoming a member.

The Friends' AGM will take place on 23 February at 8 pm in Popels Hall; plans for the future will be presented and discussed.

Lesley Philpot Chairman

St Mary's Women's Guild – Meeting of 5 December

The Guild thanked members for arranging the decorations on the Christmas tree and for providing the mince pies for the very successful Music and Merriment Christmas concert held on 2 December.

Mrs Potter told guild members of the theme the flower arrangers would be adhering to for the Christmas floral decorations.

There was no speaker at this meeting but Mrs Doughty read a short story to members before Mrs Knight led the Advent service. The Rev. Huw Mordecai gave the blessing and closed the meeting.

As usual at the Christmas meeting Mrs Doughty very kindly provided her delicious Christmas cake for refreshments.

The next meeting of the Guild is on Tuesday 6 February and the speaker will be Colin Yates.

Lesley Philpot, Chairman

Bell Ringers Report January 2018

It seems ages ago now, but Christmas time was really busy for the ringers! We rang our hand bells at St. Marys school fair as well as The White Hart on Christmas Eve. Following the Carols and Light service we went over to the pub and rang a selection of Christmas Carols, managing to raise a good sum to put in to the organ fund as well as having fun and entertaining people. This is the second year that we have done this – thanks to everyone who contributed to our bucket collection.

The Music and Merriment concert in St Mary's was the usual success and we were delighted to be a part of it.

As December had a 5th Sunday we rang during the morning service; we chose the "Coventry Carol" which is a beautiful piece. For those who are not aware whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month we ring our hand bells as part of

the service. Although we are happy to ring for a small number of people it would be lovely if more were present in the congregation. Do please make a note in your diaries and join us for the next one on 29 April.

The annual bells Christmas dinner was held at the Cricketers this time where we enjoyed a delicious meal and great company – thanks to Sue for organising this event.

The tower bells rang in the New Year, as always – it is a very special way to see out the old year (with half muffles on the bells), then start the new year with the bells ringing normally again. We hope the neighbours enjoyed it too!

The hand bell ringers have just organised and hosted their first rally, at Charters School, when a large number of other groups joined us for a day of ringing. We had a lovely time, as did others who attended (we received a lot of thank you emails!!). We also ran an excellent raffle during the day which raised more money for the organ fund.

Don't forget to come to our annual quiz night on 10 February. Proceeds will be donated to the Church Electric Fund. It is always a fun evening, so do not miss the opportunity to join in – and support a great cause!!

Happy New Year from all the bell ringers!

Why not make 2018 the year you give ringing a try – you will be warmly welcomed in the tower or at hand bells!

Jill Glennerster 01344-884071

The Music and Merriment concert

The Music and Merriment concert took place on 2 December 2017 in St Mary's church, Winkfield. Patricia Powell sent in this report of the concert. This report is also posted on the www.fosmw.com website, with a colour photo.

Audience members poured in for this now traditional evening. The little angels on the Christmas tree, generously donated by Oaktree Nursery, clutched their instruments excitedly. The Reverend Huw Mordecai was on the starting tracks as Compère.

Planning for the event had started in February, with huge amounts of detail to be attended to over the Autumn! It all paid off, thanks to the hard work of the experienced Concert Committee under Anthony Hodson, performers (including supportive parents of young singers and performers), accompanists and helpers in the many facets of putting on a concert. The impressively varied programme included instrumental and choral pieces, readings and carols, not forgetting the mulled wine and mince pies from the Women's Guild.

The concert started with the church in darkness, as the Junior Concert Choir processed, glow-sticks in hand, singing 'Once in Royal David's City'. The atmosphere was set.

Everything was a highlight! The children's clear voices; the Concert Benefice Choir of singers from our three churches; the versatile 5Ts Brass Quintet (2 trumpets, 2 trombones, 1 tuba); Sixth Former harpist Laura Burrows; Jill Glennerster's ace St Mary's team of handbell ringers; the piano trio of Sixth-Formers Charlotte Meeson (violinist) and Asuka Ikenobo (cellist) with their teacher, award-winning pianist Su Mei Kong; the recently-launched Cranbourne & Winkfield Benefice Orchestra ably doing their part; Paul Jackson accompanying the children; organist Jonathan Holl (whose wife Madeline had also helped with training the Junior Concert Choir) ably supporting the adult choir and audience carols.

Readings by Sue Bish, Marian Stevens and John and Caroline Kimbell laced the music. The latter two did the very funny J J Norwich 'letters' in which Caroline was the increasingly irritated recipient of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' gifts, overrun by birds and people.

The star turn, though, was outstanding eight-year-old violinist Sarah Aizawa, playing Accolay's Violin Concerto in A Minor, perfectly accompanied on the piano by Su Mei. She received a standing ovation for her technical mastery and musicality way beyond her years! Sarah began leaning the violin at four, has won awards and dreams of becoming a violinist.

As in past years the audience was really warm and appreciative, and it was a thoroughly lovely evening. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Patricia Powell

The Junior Concert Choir

The 14-strong Junior Concert Choir gave a major contribution to the concert.

The choir was made up of children from eight different local schools. They meet as a choir at the beginning of November, and train hard to achieve performance standard. Quite a few of the children have sung in previous Music and Merriment concerts, and are familiar with the process. Two of the children were singing in their fifth year with the Choir

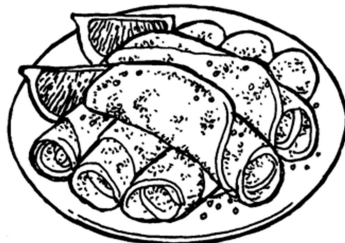
This year, they started the concert with the processional, carrying their glow-sticks, and later gave short recital of three Christmas songs, one of which, 'The Shepherds' Song' (written specially for the children by choir-master Anthony to words by poet Marion Caragounis) was being performed for the very first time.



The children helped lead the audience carols, with their own verse in 'O come all ye Faithful'. They also joined the adults to sing the Christmas anthem 'We light a candle to your name'.

The photograph was taken after the concert, and the children all look pleased at what they have achieved, and so they should!

Each year we lose children as they get older, and we must recruit new children for the exciting experience that they will take part in. If you have children who can take part (normally between Year 4 and Year 7), do watch out for the concert's recruitment drive that will take place in the autumn! No prior experience of singing in a choir is required.





RACE NIGHT FUND RAISER

*Come along and enjoy a great night of fun and excitement at the races with Douglas Buchanan and his team. All Monies raised to support **Bracknell and Wokingham Districts** branch of Cats Protection. Race bets from 50p per race.*

**Saturday
24th February 2018
Carnation Hall
Chavey Down Road
Winkfield
RG42 7PA**

The White flag is raised at 7.00pm

Tickets in advance £10 inc buffet - BYOB

*To purchase tickets please contact Janey Bethune Williams or Nikki Butcher Tel. **0345 371 4212** or email info@Bracknell.cats.org.uk*

Registered Charity 203644 (England and Wales) & SC037711 (Scotland)

Thoughts of all sorts

Curiosity

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. 'After all,' she declared, 'Where would we be today if no one had ever been curious?'

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room: "In the garden of Eden?"

A Life Observed

This thoughtful poem has been sent in by Marion Caragounis, who wrote the lyrics to the children's Christmas song 'The Shepherds' Song' that was sung by the Junior Concert Choir at the Music and Merriment concert on 2/12/17.

A Life Observed

*Lord, you have searched me and you
know me. Ps. 139*

When I was just a cluster
Of cells too small to see,
Did you create uniqueness
And make a plan for me?

And do you watch my struggles,
Observe each rise and fall,
Is it your hand that holds me
And brings me through it all?

Have I a single secret
A deed, a word, a thought,
That can be undetected,
Unknown, unseen, unsought?

Such knowledge overwhelms me,
There's nothing I can say
But 'Search me, know me, test me,
And lead me in your way.'

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Children's Corner



CANDLEMAS

Bet you thought that Christmas ended ages ago – well Candlemas on 2nd February marks the real end of the season of Christmas and the beginning of preparation for the next festival, Easter.

It was the traditional time for a good clean up. All Christmas decorations had to be taken down by this day. Can you imagine how scruffy and dusty they would have been by now? Churches had to be cleaned, too.

Candlemas celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple 40 days after He was born. It is called Candlemas because candles are lit to remind us that when Jesus was presented Simeon, an old servant in the Temple, said that Jesus was the Light that God had sent to the Gentiles (Gentiles are all the people who are not Jews). Read about this in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.



LIGHT & BRIGHT

There are lots of words to do with light and lights in the Bible. Can you find the answers to this Bible Light quiz?

1. What did the woman light when she lost a silver coin? (Luke, chapter 15)
2. What God created on the first day? (Genesis, chapter 1)
3. What light did the wise men follow? (Matthew, chapter 2)
4. According to St Luke, what is the lamp of the body? (Luke, chapter 11)
5. What Moses found in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)

What the soldiers carried to search for Jesus in the garden? (John, chapter 18)

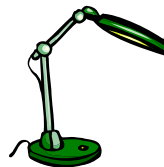
Answers at the bottom of this page.



What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark?

Floodlights.

What did the little lightbulb say to its mother?



I wuv you watts and watts.



Answers: 1.lamp 2.light 3.a star 4.eye
5.burning bush 6.torches & lanterns

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