



WINKFIELD PARISH NEWS

October 2021

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Winkfield Parish News – October 2021

A message from the Interim Minister

Despise not the day of small beginnings!

No one despises a seedling as it bursts into life. We look at it and we visualise the tree that it will become later. A great oak tree starts off small, but becomes great tree over time.

This is a picture of how everything begins small, but grows into giant maturity. Even humans start off with the microscopic blastula in the womb.

In Zechariah's prophecy where this phrase comes from, we find Zerubbabel a leader of Royal ancestry involved in the rebuilding the temple and the walls of Jerusalem out of the incinerated ruins of Jerusalem. Seeing more ruin than temple, people wept. Hence the encouragement not to despise small beginnings. Out of this seed temple, God was going to bring about something far much bigger.

Some of us may feel discouraged at the state of our Parish. We remember the days when we were flourishing, singing from the same hymn sheet, with families and children ever present and volunteers active in our services. Our churches were places of welcome, joy and hospitality. There was no threat of being shut down.

Despite our efforts there is an apparently depleted ministerial team and pandemic battered finances. Let me emphasize that it is appearances that the Pandemic makes look worse than the reality. There are nascent beginnings. and my encouragement to all is not to fear, not to give up and not to despise these days of small beginnings.

It's easy to despise little beginnings. They often come with hard work, little help and usually meet tall resistance and modest encouragement. Small beginnings typically see limited budgets and abundant setbacks. Even so, let us trust God with all we have in terms of our gifts and talents and our treasures. See what He will do with undivided hearts and a united Parish. Allow God to stretch us and build our character through His growing and pruning processes. If we remain grafted in Him, there

will be a day in which we will look back gratefully for what He is doing in and among us now.

We always need to remember that God will be with us in the nascent things, in the same way that he was with Zerubbabel. We remain confident that God always completes what He starts.

Do not despise the day of small beginnings because the journey to the promise is just as important. Everything may not begin how we'd hoped, but it always finishes how it's supposed to.

Patrick Mukholi. Interim Minister, Trinity 18, 2021

In memoriam

We are sad to report that Joy Randall died recently after a short illness. It was always a pleasure to have chat with Joy after Sunday Service. She was a very generous supporter of St Mary's church, and was a member of the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield since the beginning of 2017.

Notices

From the Parish Registers – August 2021

Baptisms

No baptisms in August.

Funerals etc.

A committal service at the graveside was held at St Peter's church for the late Mrs Lillian Kasaska on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

Weddings & blessings

No weddings in August.

Ranelagh School Application Surgeries FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 INTAKE

Four Ranelagh School Verification Surgeries for September 2022 intake are to be held at the Church Office, by appointment only, from 10am to 12noon on the following further dates:

1. Wednesday 29 September 2021, 10am – 12noon
2. Wednesday 6 October 2021, 10am – 12noon
3. Saturday 9 October 2021, 10am – 12noon

4. Wednesday 13 October 2021, 10am – 12noon

Please email Lesley Philpot at lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com (she is handling the Ranelagh Surgeries) to make an appointment or to obtain further information.

St Martin's Chavey Down Charity Lottery

A message from the PCC of St Martin's Chavey Down

Dear Friend of St Martin's,

Our Church, Hall and Car Park are valuable assets for the whole community, entirely funded by the donations of the St Martin's congregation and the fees from hiring out the hall: we do not receive funding from central government or the Church of England. With the hall being closed due to Covid restrictions for most of the past 18 months we have received little income.

To help secure the future of these facilities and to help with maintenance and running costs, we are launching the St Martin's Chavey Down - Charity Lottery and would like to invite you to join. This is an open invitation to all where for an annual payment of £12 you will be allocated your own unique lottery number which will be entered into a quarterly draw for one of 3 cash prizes. You can buy several of these.

The prize fund will be 25% of the total payments received. As a minimum, we are looking for 100 entries so for the equivalent of £3 per draw; the quarterly prizes will be:

- 1st Prize = £50
- 2nd Prize = £20
- 3rd Prize = £5

The remainder of the donations will be used to cover maintenance and running costs of the facilities.

The draw will take place on the 1st Sunday of each quarter (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct). Only allocated numbers will be included in the lottery so the prizes will be won each time with no rollover. The winning numbers will be displayed on the church parish website:

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk>

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St Martin's Chavey Down Charity Lottery

APPLICATION FORM

Complete the form below and return it by email to admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk or post through the letter box at No 61 Church Road.

You will be notified of your number(s) when payment has been received.

Name (Applicants must be over 16)	
Address (Including post code)	
Phone number	
Email address	
Quantity of numbers required at £12 per year:	
Total payment	
Signed:	
Method of Payment: (please tick one method)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bank transfer:	Account name: PCC of Winkfield Sort Code: 30-91-11 Account no: 00227186 Please include surname and initial as payment reference
Cheques payable to:	"PCC of Winkfield"
PayPal:	admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk
Credit/Debit Card:	Please email colinyates@hotmail.com
* By signing/returning this form you are declaring that you have received and accept the rules of St Martins Charity Lottery Club (see overleaf)	
<i>Office use only (R):</i>	<i>Date payment received:</i> <i>Number(s) Allocated:</i>

CUT OUT OR PRINT THIS AND THE FOLLOWING PAGE

St Martin's Chavey Down Charity Lottery – Club Rules

1. The object of the Club is to raise funds for St Martins Church, Hall and Car Park.
2. The Lottery will be run under the supervision of the Winkfield, Cranbourne & Chavey Down PCC who will also administer the Club.
3. The Lottery is open to all Residents of Chavey Down and the surrounding area, their family and friends,
4. Members must be 16 or over.
5. Members must fill in an application form (attached).
6. Entry will be by subscription of £12 per year per number, paid in advance. Payment details are given on the entry form.
7. Members may have more than one number.
8. New members can join at any time, numbers will be allocated when payment is received and will be entered into the next draw with the prize fund increasing proportionally.
9. If there are less than 100 entries or the number of entries falls below 100 then the Lottery will be wound up and outstanding entry fees returned.
10. The draw will be quarterly on the 1st Sunday of January, April, July and October.
11. Winners will be contacted personally, and names will be posted in the Church Porch with winning numbers displayed on the church web site each month after the draw.
12. The regular Quarterly prize fund will be 25% of the Annual Income— there will be three prizes: -
 - 1st prize = 67% of quarterly prize fund (£50* if 100 members)
 - 2nd prize = 26% of quarterly prize fund (£20* if 100 members)
 - 3rd prize = 7% of quarterly prize fund (£5* if 100 members)*Rounded to the nearest whole pound.
13. An offline electronic register will be kept recording the name and address of each member, the number(s) allocated to them, and the subscriptions received from them. All personal data held will be kept in accordance with our data protection privacy notice – visit www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk
14. Unless otherwise advised, a member will be deemed to have left the Lottery if his or her subscription renewal remains unpaid for a period of one month.
15. If a winner cannot be contacted, the winnings will be placed into the Winkfield PCC funds after 6 months.

Please inform us of any changes to your details by using the email form on the *Contact Us* page of our website:

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk>

Thank You.

St Martin's Chavey Down Charity Lottery (continued)

Numbers and names will be displayed in the entrance porch at St Martin's Church, and winners will be contacted using the contact details provided with their entry fee.

Subject to sufficient entries, the first draw will be made on 3rd October 2021.

To join the lottery, please cut out or copy the form on the preceding page, and pay the corresponding annual payment of £12 for each number that you 'buy'.

Please help to support your local community: the more people who buy a subscription – the higher the prize money!

For further information please contact via email:
admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

This lottery is operated by THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WINKFIELD, CRANBOURNE AND CHAVEY DOWN. Charity number: 1165536 and will follow the rules for a "small society lottery" as defined by the charity commission.

Vacancy as Clerk to the Trustees of the Winkfield Parochial Charity

A vacancy is arising for a clerk to the Trustees of the Winkfield Parochial Charity.

Our Charity owns 11 properties in Winkfield near to St Mary's church including 8 Almshouses, Popels Hall and 2 cottages.

The role of clerk includes liaising with our residents and tenants to ensure any property related issues are rectified quickly, and ensure our regular maintenance contracts are carried out effectively. The clerk will report to the Trustees and take minutes of our meetings which occur 3 to 4 times a year. In addition, the clerk is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the charity, which are audited by a local accountant, and jointly making payments on the charity's behalf with a Trustee.

The role is flexible – mainly working from home, but will require visits to the charity's premises. It is rewarding as it enables the individual to help out a local charity - our residents – in addition to the solving of

property related issues. A monthly honorary payment is available to the individual.

For more details, please contact Richard Wyatt on 07522 306988 or email winkfieldparochialcharities@outlook.com

Safeguarding

The Parish safeguarding page is:

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/safeguarding.htm>

You can find Church of England information at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/>

The Safe Spaces page is:

<https://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/>

Local events

Binfield Warfield Winkfield

ARTS WEEK

Sun 24th - Sun 31st October 2021

Local arts, crafts and music workshops & events for all
www.arts-week.org

2021 Arts Week – Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield

Arts Week 2021 is in the Autumn school half-term holidays - Sunday 24th October 2021 to Sunday 31st October 2021. It happens in venues throughout the three parishes of Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield. Arts Week promotes and encourages active participation in and support for a very wide range of music, arts and craft activities available in our local area. Wherever possible the events encourage the use of up-cycled and recycled materials or make better use of existing resources. There will be handouts or links to websites so that you can follow up activities.

Arts Week is fully funded and run by the three Northern Bracknell Parish Councils of Binfield, Warfield & Winkfield. There will be over 40 music, arts and crafts events for locals of all ages. All children's events are 100% free. You can build a bird house, a bird feeder, a bug hotel, paint a wacky head mask, make Lego animation films, play the ukulele and much more. **For the many events at St Peter's church, Cranbourne, see below.**

The full comprehensive programme will be available here soon and online ticket booking start Sunday 10th October at 12noon.

J Greenyer, 01344 882 702/07768 513 436; events@arts-week.org

Arts Week events at St Peter's church 24–31 Oct 2021

Event	Day	Time	Audience
Westminster Chamber Orchestra, showcasing award winning young musicians	Sunday 24th	17.30-19.15	Family
Gabriel Chanan's illustrated and entertaining talk/discussion on Renaissance Art	Monday 25th	19.00-20.30	Adult/Teen
Pipe Organ Workshop for children, discover the inside workings and tune making of the organ installed at St Peter's Church with Philip Wharton	Tuesday 26th	15.00-16.30	7+
Recorder Workshop with Andrea Stephens & Alan Hamilton of The Galliard Band	Wednesday 27th	14.00-16.00	Adult/Teen
The Galliard Band, a lively and entertaining concert, showcasing musicians from today's Recorder Workshop	Wednesday 27th	19.00-20.30	Family

Event	Day	Time	Audience
Recital by Maria Kesselmann, a local and internationally famous soprano	Friday 29th	19.00-20.30	Family
Ukulele & Song Workshop with Mother of Order	Saturday 30th	15.00-16.30	Adult/Teen
Folk Concert by Mother of Order, showcasing ukulele players from this afternoon's workshop	Saturday 30th	19.00-20.30	Family
Eton College Students - The Incognitos a Capella, organ recital and chamber music	Sunday 31st	17.30-19.00	Family
Westminster Chamber Orchestra, showcasing award winning young musicians	Sunday 24th	17.30-19.15	Family

Music and Merriment Christmas concert

Plans are taking shape for the popular Music and Merriment Christmas concert that will take place on 4 December in Sta Mary's, our beautiful parish church.

We will soon be looking for keen children to form the Junior Choir, in general from Years 3 to 7 – and we hope that some of those who sang with us in 2019 and earlier will rejoin to form the core.

No prior experience of singing as a choir is needed at all – the children will be taken through what is needed of them. They and their parents will be astonished at the quality of performance that they will achieve, while the children will find that performing in front of a supportive audience is a very confidence-building experience!

We have happy memories of excited children and proud parents, and we look forward to putting on a great concert in December, after a delay of two years.

The Friends of St Mary's Winkfield present a new

Music & Merriment Christmas Concert

7:30pm Saturday

4th December 2021

St Mary's Church

Church Road,
Winkfield SL4 4SF

Carols, talented young musicians,
children's and adult choirs, brass quintet,
handbells,
mulled wine and mince-pies

Tickets £13 (£6 for under 13s)
01344 882918 or at St Mary's services
or available online from the Friends website:
www.fosmw.com



Proceeds to support St Mary's church

ST MARY'S BELLRINGERS

QUIZ

IN AID OF St MARY'S CHURCH

7.00pm

ST MARTIN'S HALL

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2021

£10 per ticket
4 persons per team

INCLUDING PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
(B·Y·O·B)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
01344 886087 OR ANY BELL RINGER

Raffle – Prizes to be drawn on the night

Services in the Parish – October 2021

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

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH – OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Date	Day	Time	Service
3	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity HARVEST	9:30am	All Together Service
10	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Morning Prayer (CW)
17	The Twentieth h Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Holy Communion (CW)
24	The Last Sunday after Trinity – BIBLE SUNDAY	9:30am 13:00pm	Holy Communion (CW) No Baptism service today
31	ALL SAINTS – The Fourth Sunday before Advent	9:30am	Morning Prayer

ST MARY'S CHURCH – OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

3	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion (BCP)
		11:45am	No Baptism service today
9	Saturday – HARVEST – Evensong	6pm	Evensong
10	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity - HARVEST	10am	Family Matins

Date	Day	Time	Service
17	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24	The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
31	ALL SAINTS – The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Morning Prayer

ST PETER'S CHURCH – OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

3	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity HARVEST	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	SPATS – All Together
10	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
		12:45pm	No Baptism service today
17	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	11am	Morning Prayer (CW)
24	The Last Sunday after Trinity – BIBLE SUNDAY	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
31	ALL SAINTS – The Fourth Sunday before Advent	11am	Morning Prayer

Zoom Services on Sundays

All Zoom services on Sundays are suspended

Around the Parish

Report from the bell ringers – September 2021

At last we are back to ringing all six tower bells for Sunday services – we hope the congregation enjoy hearing the bells again as much as we enjoy ringing them!

And we are back to regular Monday practice sessions which we have all been looking forward to for so long.

We hope to be able to offer training sessions to new members soon – please speak to Tony if you would like to give it a go and join us.

We are now able to visit other towers again, and I went to Hambleden to ring for a wedding there as they were short of local ringers: always a problem in August.

Three of us were lucky enough to be asked to ring at the Curfew Tower in Windsor Castle for the birthday of Princess Anne – it is always a pleasure and privilege to ring there.

5th Sunday was a really nice service when we rang 'O Sole Mio' (better known as the ice cream song and currently back on our television screens!) on our hand bells – a lovely summery piece, although the weather was a little chilly.

We are looking forward to Bell Sunday at the weekend – we hope to show as many people as possible the tower bells and maybe even have a go!!

Remember we have booked St Martin's Hall on 13 November 2021 for our very popular quiz night. Do make a note in your diaries – book your space with any of the bell ringers!

New this year is the Christmas Tree Festival – very exciting! You will be able to book a space in church to place a decorated tree (be as imaginative as you wish) ; we are working with Oaktree Nursery to have potted trees available to purchase so that you can enjoy your tree at home after the event. More details to follow! Meanwhile speak to Lesley or Jill to book a space – this could be as a group or individually.

We are delighted to have been asked to ring our bells at the Music and Merriment evening in church on 4 December – always such a great event!: we are practicing hard on some lovely pieces of music.

Take care and keep well,

Jill Glennerster 01344-884071

St Mary's Choir

The choir continues to rehearse and sing at all services. What a joy that on September 5, Climate Sunday, and Patrick's first Sunday since returning from holiday, the congregation was also allowed to sing! For this special service, the hymns, 'O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder' and 'All creatures of our God and King', were chosen by Patrick. The choral interlude was Lord bring one day to Pass.

St Mary's Women's Guild

Our September meeting was held at the home of Carole Luck. The weather was glorious, and we were able to sit outside in her very attractive garden. Revd Patrick and Helen came to the meeting – an added bonus.

There were several items for discussion. First, thanks were given to all who had worked so hard to make the Splendid September Fayre so successful. Patricia Powell reported that the St Mary's booklet that she has been working on would be available in draft form for those who had offered to lead one of the 'Guided Tours' on the Heritage Open Day on 18 September. All were pleased to know that Moira Gaw had again agreed to provide the food for the Harvest Supper on October 9.

After all meeting topics were completed, there was a delicious afternoon tea. Our sincere thanks to Carole.

The Splendid September Fayre

The Splendid September Fayre that took place on 4 September as a fund-raiser for St Mary's church and the parish, was a very successful event. We did have some doubts as to whether it might take place as the first date set suggested was September 2020; Covid forced a move to November 2020, then to March 2021 and finally to September 2021.

The amount raised was just over £1,800 – the final amount will be announced, when all monies promised have been received.

Many thanks to all the stallholders and helpers and musicians who made the day work. FOSMW volunteers were very much in there to support the Fayre!

FOSMW

Information regarding the next FOSMW project, "The Electrics", will be available very soon. Our thanks again to Anthony for keeping the website up to date and relevant.

The FOSMW website reported on the Covid situation for nearly a year and a half, starting in March 2020, for the benefit of local people. As the restrictions eased, and the impact of the pandemic became more predictable, the almost daily posting of articles came to an end in early September, although the webpage is accessible, and occasional diagrams bear witness the close eye on local statistics that is still maintained. There is an article in Thoughts of All Sorts that seeks to summarise where we seem to be in terms of the pandemic, based on information that has systematically been collected by the FOSMW website as well as from current news.

Family Matins, Family Praise and Crafty Church.

These services continue to flourish with more children taking part in the readings, piano, violin and occasionally guitar playing. Many of the children took part in the Flower arranging competition and the Painting/Drawing competition at the Fayre. Over 30 drawings were on display. A truly magnificent effort. A big thank to you all.

Lesley Philpot 01344 427561

Thoughts of all sorts

The pandemic and us

This is a time when restrictions are gradually easing, and life is beginning to look more normal. The roads have cars busily driving about, and for many people, something like normal life has returned.

At the same time, the Covid virus is still 'out there' in the form of the highly contagious Delta strain, and new cases are occurring all the time. Many people will know of friends or associates or of children at our

schools who have contracted the virus recently. So where are we with it?

We have been studying the virus and its impact on Bracknell and surrounding areas since March 2020. The history is not important, as it has taken twists and turns as the pandemic has taken hold and changed, so here is a summary of where we are.

As of now, the Bracknell area of about 120,000 people is contracting 40-50 new cases a day. The surrounding area has much the same incidence. This level of new cases is fairly constant. The Reading Festival at the beginning of September was expected to create a 'blip' in the form of temporarily rising new cases, and it did, but the general trend to stability quickly returned – and the trend is continuing down

That is the general position – we co-exist, with increasing normality, with a disease that will continue to be present for some time.

We can do this because the disease in our area is reasonably well contained. The primary and most important factor is the high level of vaccination, which to a large degree reduces the infectiousness of Covid, and, even more importantly, controls the severity of the illness when contracted. By far the greatest percentages of Covid hospitalization and deaths are of people who have not been vaccinated.

The treatment of the disease in hospital is also greatly improved as a result of the 18 months of experience; so death rates are far fewer and the control of severe symptoms is more successful

The fact of the matter that we should not forget is that Covid-19 is a horrible disease, that can kill by slow suffocation, and, for all too many survivors, it causes 'Long Covid' that can affect many parts of the body for months or even years. Just now, vaccination and effective treatments reduce the incidence of such disasters.

We all must, as parts of our communities maintain our joint defences by:

- Being vaccinated if possible, and having boosters as available;
- Being prudent in taking precautions such as wearing masks and social distancing, particularly in circumstances where the disease may be present and easily passed on;
- Keeping down exposure to such circumstances (e.g. travelling).

Precautions create a statistical defence, not a certain defence, that we must balance with engaging with a full life. The more people who use such practical precautions, the less the disease can spread, and the fewer people will catch the disease. Taking precautions is not a 100% defence against an individual catching the disease, but it is a defence that is 100% certain to benefit the community in which we live.

Covid has evolved, and it may evolve again, so we all must be ready to embrace stronger precautions if it strikes in a new virulent form. We must do this on behalf of our communities as well as behalf of ourselves as individuals, particularly if a new and even more severe Covid strikes.

Meanwhile celebrate and enjoy your life, while staying alert!

An interesting life Part 8 – Wartime London

My father, having resigned in India as Reforms Commissioner to the Viceroy of India, was quickly appointed to a senior Civil Service post in the wartime Ministry of Production, eventually becoming head of its Non-Munitions Division. This was concerned with supplying everything except food and munitions (which were handled in different ministries), ironically not being concerned at all with the production process!

We left Bombay for Liverpool in convoy in October 1943 and were lucky to make the voyage safely, with only one scare with a German submarine, off the northwest coast of Africa.

We reached the Mersey on a cold December day of 1942, docking in Liverpool, and eventually arriving with our belongings in London. Of course, we had no place of our own to live, so we stayed with my godfather Ivison Macadam, who had a small house in West London. At that time, he had a daughter and a son (now one of my oldest close friends). His wife Caroline was from Portland, Oregon, USA, and in 1940 they had sent the children to live in safety with their grandparents in Portland, not returning until 1944. So there was room for us with him.

Ivison (who first entered this narrative in Episode 4) was an Edinburgh-born engineer by profession, practical and efficient. After making a name for himself as a soldier and organiser, he became Director-General of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in 1929. Like my father Harry (12 years his junior), with whom he often worked, he became well connected in government. He was widely regarded by ministers as

a safe pair of hands to manage complex and delicate issues (e.g. with regard to the safety of the Royal Family in wartime Britain), and was knighted in 1955.

We ourselves moved to our own flat in Ennismore Gardens after a few months.

London was a frequent target of German bomber attacks. Although it was the east end of London that was hit far the worst, particularly the London Docks and the City of London, many bombs landed on West London. Lionel Hitchens, husband of my godmother Hermione, was killed by such a bombing attack in 1940.

Air raids were dramatic occasions - first the howl of the air-raid sirens, then the distant roar of the approaching bombers, and of the fighters sent to intercept them. Then explosions. Search lights would scour the sky for individual bombers, and when one was spotted, the anti-aircraft guns (the nearest to us were in Hyde Park) would open fire. Barrage balloons were up permanently; they were used to deter bombers (whose wings, if they flew underneath the balloons could be ripped off by the cables tethering the balloons to the ground).

When the sirens were sounded, night or day, everybody who could do so would go to the nearest air-raid shelter - some specially constructed, some just basements; and, of course, Underground Railway stations were used as shelters. Meanwhile, the emergency services went to work, and armies of Air Raid Wardens joined them to help people to safety, rescuing trapped people, and helping put out fires and make collapsed buildings safer. When raids occurred, my father and Ivison (and most of the able-bodied non-combatants, mostly men) set out (voluntarily) on this dangerous and often grisly task.

Eventually, the sirens signalled the 'All clear', and everybody returned, hoping that their house or office had been spared.

My own family - mother and father and Nick and myself - spent many hours in the air-raid shelter, but, fortunately, we were never directly bombed. I do not remember being very frightened, and the main influence that stayed with me for many years was a fascination for aeroplanes, so much in evidence at that time in the war-torn skies above London.

Margaret-Anne – born in 1941 and my wife-to-be in 1961 – was not so lucky in 1943. She lived with her family (mother and father and two girls) In Surrey. Our families did not know each other then, but (as it happened) shared friends. One evening, she with her family were staying in London with her grandmother, who had a flat on the Old



Brompton Road. They were in the block of flats when it was struck by an incendiary bomb. The building was set on fire, but they fortunately survived and were able to evacuate the building without being hurt, except for some cuts from flying glass. A traumatic experience for a 2½-year-old, and still remembered.

Our own flat in Ennismore Gardens was about a mile from Chesham Place.

Property costs were low then, and the flat was huge by 2021 standards, but it was not well furnished - my parent's

furniture from when they lived in London before the war had been put in store, and the storage building was bombed, so they lost it all. I still remember bare wooden-floored and spartan rooms: furniture and carpets were not high on the wartime production priority list.

Among the artifacts lost was a pre-war portrait of my beautiful mother with Nick as an infant. The artist, a close friend of my parents, painted a replica after the war (see above), based on a photograph, and it hangs above the stairs in our house in Bracknell.

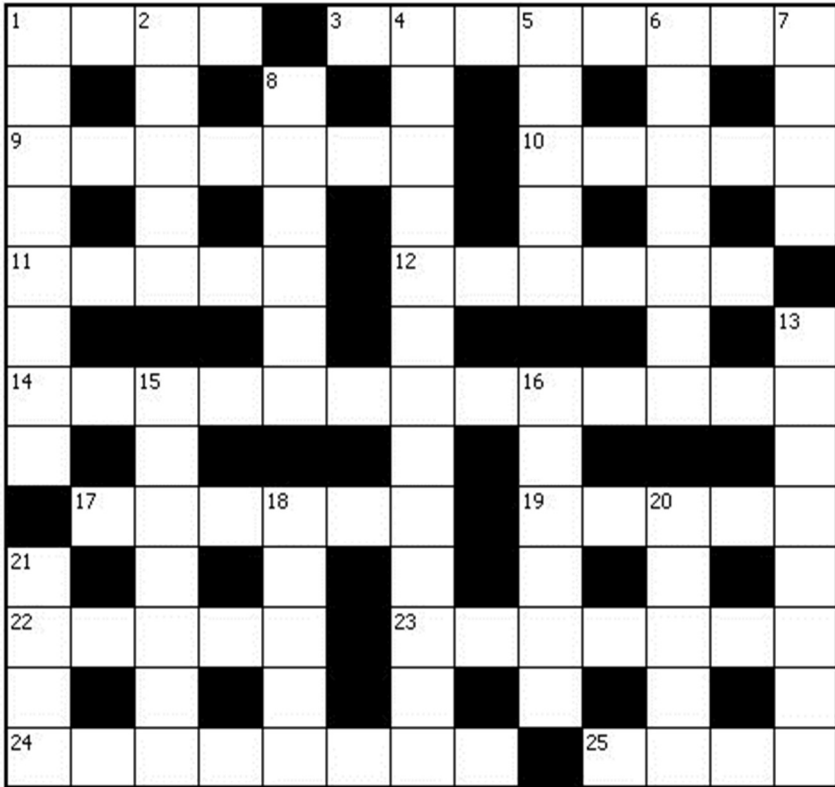
We stayed in Ennismore Gardens for the remainder of the war. Nick went in 1947 to West Downs, a boarding prep school that had been evacuated to Blair Castle in the Cairngorms in Scotland, and I followed him in April 1945, just a week, as it turned out, before Germany surrendered and the war in Europe ended.

The next episode will be devoted to personal and family experiences during the war period.

Anthony Hodson

Full story so far: see www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 "Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?" (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)

- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

ACROSS 1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton DOWN 1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

Children's Corner

The gardener and the Vine

