



WINKFIELD PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2021

CONTENTS

A message from Patrick	2
Notices	3
Local events	4
Around the Parish	7
Services in the Parish	8
Thoughts of all sorts	13
Puzzles	22
Children's Corner	24

20-Nov-21

Winkfield Parish News – December 2021

A message from our Interim Minister

A Christ-filled Advent and Christmas

May I extend to you my prayerful wishes for a Christ filled Advent and Christmas. May this be time of excitement, yet serenity, and a time of anticipation, as well as a time of reconciliation!

Advent, like Lent, is an opportunity to slow down amid a fast-moving world. I pray that, like Anna and Simeon, we would make time to reflect on our personal faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Hopefully, we grasp that elusive truth that all that we ever hope for has been fulfilled in the Christ Child. We look forward to his imminent coming in power and glory at the end of time to establish fullness of justice and life to the whole world

In the midst of all our current global and local challenges, Christians always are the channels of this love. With the angels, we sing: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!” We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our knowing and following the Child.

Like the shepherds and the magi, we rush to see this long-promised Child, born as one of us in the poorest of places. We adore Him, not in the stable, but in our prepared hearts. We ‘receive our King’ and sing about ‘the glories of His righteousness’. The ‘wonders of His love’ fill our hearts with blessings, joy, and worship. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead (we) see, (and) hail the incarnate Deity! Join(ing) the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host (we) proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem: Glory to the newborn King!”.

Advent and Christmas are an opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits. Let us renew our relationship with Jesus and with one another, together, growing in strength and celebrating God’s presence in our Parish.

Let us look ahead, noticing all that God is doing and the people that He has brought around us. In meditation, study, and prayer we look forward to seeing what He will do with our lives, with our families, with our Parish and with our world. Wherever Jesus is welcomed, He brings changes, if we make room for Him in our hearts and in our churches.

Yet there were those who resisted the Christ Child, and cared not for His kingly and redeemer attributes. Many today do not take this child seriously; indeed, to some, this is just a fable told to children, much like Santa Claus. Let us not allow the killer Herod-spirit find foothold in our hearts or in our Parish.

Revd Patrick Mukholi

Notices

From the Parish Registers – October 2021

Baptisms

None were recorded in October.

Funerals etc.

An Interment of ashes was held for the late Mrs Josie Walsh was held at St Peter's on 28th October 2021.

A funeral service for Mrs Dorothy Beal was held at St Mary's on Friday 8 October 2021.

A Memorial Service for Mrs Daphne Hutson was held at St Mary's on 30 October 2021

Weddings & Blessings

None were recorded in October.

Memorial Services

Raymond Grace

There was a very full church for the Memorial service of Raymond Grace on Wednesday 3 November. The Rev. Patrick Mukholi led the service, and the prayers were read by John Kimbell. The children of Raymond delivered the readings and the choir's anthem was Crimond. Our thoughts are with Rosalind.

Monica and Brian Cooley

A Memorial service for both Monica and Brian Cooley took place on Friday 5 November. The Tower Bell Ringers rang before the service to honour both Monica and Brian who had been such loyal and longstanding members of St Mary's Church. Monica and Brian were

parents to six children and the whole family was represented. The service was conducted by the Rev. Patrick Mukholi who also read the tribute 'Remembering Monica'. Other readings were taken by the family. The choir's anthem was 'God be in my Head'. The service was followed by the interment of ashes in the churchyard.

Daphne Hutson

The Bellringers – see page 10 – write:

A memorial service took place for Daphne Hutson that was well attended by her family and many friends

Although we all thought we knew Daphne well there was so much that we did not know – she led a very full life!

She was a staunch member of the tower ringing team and helped many of us as we started out in our ringing life – many of us will be forever grateful for her help and kindness.

Her daughter Lindsay also rang with us for many years before moving to America, and occasionally visits us now that she is back in the UK.

The tower ringers rang before the service in her honour and enjoyed chatting to her friends after the service.

We have just completed a quarter peal which we dedicated to her memory.

Other notices and local events

Music and Merriment Christmas Concert 4 December

This popular community concert will take place at St Mary's Church, Winkfield at 7:30 pm on Saturday 4 December. It is a major fund-raiser for the parish. See previous parish magazines for details, or go to <https://fosmw.com> for details or to buy tickets online.

Chavey Down Women's Institute

We have resumed our monthly meetings in person and the next meeting open to visitors will be on Monday 17 January 2022 at St Martin's Church Hall with doors opening at 7:30pm. Please look at our website (details below) for the latest information and programme update.

As well as our monthly meetings we also have coffee/tea get-togethers, walks, garden visits and many other outings. We also have a book club which currently meets once a month via zoom. New members are always welcome and much more information is available on our website.

Contact the WI either via the website: <https://chaveydownwi.com> or emailing Alison Bird, President, (alisonbird@gmail.com)

St Martin's Chavey Down Charity Lottery

You may well win a prize on this local lottery to help support St Mary's church. Details and entry forms can be found in the October Parish magazine, still available on www.fosmw.com/parishmag. Or press the purple [St Martins Charity Lottery] button on the same page, or on the Friends home-page www.fosmw.com

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 next 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 to ensure that 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 on behalf of our residents, in addition to solving 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

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

10AM - 4PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH,
CHURCH ROAD, WINKFIELD,
SL4 4SF

STALLS, REFRESHMENTS,
ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas Tree Festival – opens 18 December

This is the first time we have held a **Christmas Tree Festival**, and it is in memory of Doreen Potter, leader of the Flower Arranging team at St Mary's for many years.

Doreen always wanted a Christmas Tree Festival, and for several years at our Women's Guild meetings in March we always agreed, but at the November meetings we always realised we hadn't actually done anything about it.

This year we, the Guild, were determined we would arrange one. At the moment 15 trees have been sponsored. Set up day is Friday 17 December. Sponsors will either decorate the trees in the church or bring them already decorated. There will be several stalls, entertainment and refreshments.

The Festival will remain open all week. Please come and support it!

Safeguarding

The Parish safeguarding details are:

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

Tel: 01344 882933.

From a Safeguarding perspective, as we enter into the festive season and as the nights draw in, please put extra thought to those likely to be more vulnerable this winter. A friendly voice or face can hold the power to lift the spirit of someone feeling isolated.

Around the Parish

Berkshire Chamber Orchestra Concert

This very talented group made their second visit to St Mary's with a concert that took place on 6 November. They played Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 8 in C minor op 110 and Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B Minor Op 115.

The Shostakovich quartet was written in Dresden in 3 days (12-14 July 1960) just before he reluctantly joined the Communist Party. The music, 5 movements played without pause, reflects the huge emotional torment that Shostakovich was feeling. An excellent performance.

The Brahms Clarinet Quintet was composed after Brahms had officially retired in 1890. However, after hearing the clarinettist Richard Muhlfeld the following year, he was so inspired by his playing that he decided to return to work. This resulted in two wonderful sonatas, the Clarinet Trio and the piece played so beautifully this evening.

We look forward to the next visit of the Berkshire Chamber Orchestra.

Around the Parish continues on page 10

Services in the Parish – December 2021

See on page 10 for keys such as ☩ used in the service tables below.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Date	Day	Time	Service
5	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family/All Together GIFT service ☩
12	3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Morning Prayer (CW)
19	4th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Lessons & Carols Service
24	Christmas Eve	6pm	Family Communion – All Together
25	Christmas Day	9:30am	Family Communion – All Together
26	1st Sunday of Christmas	9:30am	No 9:30am service in church today. Please join the 8am Holy Communion (BCP) service in St Mary's instead.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Date	Day	Time	Service
5	The 2nd Sunday in Advent	10am	Family Communion (BCP)
12	The 3rd Sunday in Advent	10am	Family Matins Nativity & Crib 
19	The 4th Sunday in Advent	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Said Holy Communion (BCP)
		4pm	9 Lessons & Carols

Date	Day	Time	Service
24	Christmas Eve	2pm	Carols & Candlelight ☐
		3:15pm	Carols & Candlelight ☐
		4:30pm	Carols & Candlelight ☐
		11:30pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
25	Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Matins ††
26	1st Sunday after Christmas	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am & 11am	No 9:30am or 11am services in church today. Please join the 8am Holy Communion (BCP) service in St Mary's instead.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Date	Day	Time	Service
5	2nd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	SPATS- All Age GIFT service ⚬
12	3rd Sunday of Advent	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
19	4th Sunday of Advent	11am	6 Lessons & Carols
24	Christmas Eve	8pm	Communion by Candlelight
25	Christmas Day	10am	SPATS - All Age
		10:45am	Said Holy Communion
26	1st Sunday of Christmas	11am	No 11am service in church today. Please join the 8am Holy Communion (BCP) service in St Mary's instead.

See overleaf for keys.

Keys

🔑 – the collection is to be shared between the Church and the Children's Society.

⌘ – please bring a new toy for a child or toiletries for an adult and Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank.



Nativity Play



– followed by Communion by Extension at 10.45am.



– followed by Said Communion at 11.45am.

☐ – entry by reserved ticket entry only. Maximum group booking x 10. The bookings office opens from 12 noon on Wednesday 17th November (early bookings will not be accepted) please contact Mrs Lesley Philpot, Church warden - Email ID: lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com. Telephone her at 01344 427561 to reserve your seats.

Around the Parish – continued

Bellringers Parish Mag Report November 2021

The bell ringers have again been busy!

As a change from the usual a group of us joined the work party to assist with tidying up the graveyard – grass was strimmed, nettles and brambles uprooted, weeds were pulled and roots set ablaze.

Although the day started with pouring rain it cleared up in time for us crack on!

Many of us enjoyed the annual “bangers and bangers” event at chez Bish – as always well organised with a great BBQ and loads of fireworks. Many thanks to Sue and Tony.

Our tower hosted the branch young ringers monthly meeting – it was lovely to see young ringers enjoying the bell ringing so much.

Any youngster – age 10+ years, who would like to have a go, please contact Tony (we have one young ringer already so you would not be alone!!).

The bell ringers quiz was, as usual, an enormous success!!

We are grateful to everyone who supported us by attending - we raised c £500 for the church and had enormous fun at the same time.

As well as the general knowledge, music and picture rounds (organised by Ally and family) there was a 'roll the pound' to get closest to the bottle of whisky (kindly donated by Vic).

Also, of course, a delicious ploughmans' supper.

Our thanks to everyone involved in making this popular event so successful.

New this year is the Christmas Tree Festival – very exciting!

The church will be open on Friday 17th December to decorate your tree and the festival will continue up till Christmas. For more details contact Jill or Lesley. *(See also page 6.)*

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

The hand bell ringers are busy practising for this and several other festive events.

We would love to recruit more hand bell ringers in order to increase our repertoire – the only skill you need is the ability to count to four!!

Take care and keep well,

Jill Glennerster

St Mary's Choir

The choir has continued to sing at all Sunday services. They also sang at a funeral service and three Memorial Services during October and November. Several of our extra singers joined us for these services. The service of 9 lessons and carols will take place on December 19 at 4.0pm It was good to welcome organist George Nicholls once again.

Women's Guild

At the November meeting it was agreed that Audrey de Verinne would lay the wreath on behalf of the Guild at the Remembrance Day service. Details of the Flower Arranging evening on November 20 were discussed.

The church would be available from 6pm for all those assisting Naomi Khoo to set up, and also to prepare the refreshments. Members were also asked to provide mince pies for the Music and Merriment evening on 4 December.

The Christmas Tree Festival in memory of Doreen Potter, opening on December 18, was also discussed and members were advised that to date 15 trees had been sponsored. The Rev. Patrick Mukholi ended the meeting with prayer.

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

Rehearsals and arrangements for the Music and Merriment concert are going well and the rehearsals of the Junior Choir on November evenings are going well.

Many tickets have been sold online, and the process seems to be working well. Access <https://fosmw.com> and press the orange [Music and Merriment button] or the button for [TICKET SALES ONLINE]. This arrangement will be used for other Friends-related ticket sales.

Information on the Electrics Project will be available in the New Year.



*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

Family Matins, Family Praise and Crafty Church

The Crafty Church theme in October was the Good Shepherd and the children were asked to 'make a lamb' during the activity. Once again the ingenuity of both those preparing the activity and those participating is amazing.

The activity for the November Crafty Church will be making decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival. There was no Family Matins service in November because the Remembrance service took place on that date. Two of the children laid a wreath on behalf of these 3 services.

Thoughts of all sorts

Christmas Rush by Megan Carter

That time again, my trolley's full
Buying all the Christmas fare,
A turkey crown, a rib of beef,
Crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes,
Paper for wrapping and cards to send,
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates
The list goes on, there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause
And think about that special Day,
When shepherds watched and angels sang
As a Baby lay in a bed of hay.

An interesting life Part 10A: Education 1942-45

Anthony Hodson continues his memoirs with his war-time schooling in wartime London. His later experiences at school in Blair Castle form Part 10B, which follows John Kimbell's piece 'Thanksgiving Field' and starts on page 18.

1942 to 1945 were active war years, and London was a target right to the end. Even in residential west London, there was widespread bomb damage. As you look west down the Cromwell Road towards the Natural History Museum, the area between you and South Kensington underground station was flattened. A large watertank labelled EWS

(Emergency Water Supply) in big letters was now established at the join of Cromwell Road and the Old Brompton Road.

Life had to continue, and, for growing children, that required education. My first real education was at a school in Queen's Gate, London, near the museums, and walking distance from our flat in Ennismore Gardens. Every day we walked by the flattened buildings and that EWS tank.

The school was run by a Mr Durnsford, and was co-educational – I remember at least one girl – the one who became dramatically ill one day. I know that there were other boys, but I have little memory of them except for participating with them at the outdoor games for which we were taken to a London park. There must have been fewer than 30 or 40 children in total at the school.

Of the classes I can remember nothing, but they included reading, writing and arithmetic. The last subject tackled critical matters like '4 farthings = 1 penny; 12 pennies = 1 shilling; 5 shillings = 1 crown; 4 crowns = £1'. More challenging was '12 inches = 1 foot, 3 feet = 1 yard, 22 yards = 1 chain; 10 chains = 1 furlong, 8 furlongs = 1 mile' and both created arithmetic complexities that put some people off mathematics for life. I enjoyed the challenge.

Poor writing tuition left me with such an untidy spidery 'hand' that, 15 years later, when I was still at university, and just engaged to Margaret-Anne, she requested an improvement. Love gave me the incentive to learn a good italic script that I still use.

One memory of Mr Durnsford's school was after-lunch rests: each child had a rug and was compelled to rest for an hour (perhaps less) after lunch, and I found this very boring. Much later I realised that it was the teachers who needed the rest.

In 1944, at the time when my younger brother Daniel was on the way, my mother was not at all well, so we went as a family to live for some months in the Kent village of Groombridge. Daniel was in due course born in a Tunbridge Wells hospital. During this period, I went to the village primary school, which was a memorable experience. It had two classes that taught by the (only) schoolteacher; Miss Bird. I was in the junior class, and I remember spelling tests, sitting on the floor in my group, next to the senior group, and, as a personal challenge, answering

both groups' questions (spelling words like 'parachute' and 'camouflage').

At playtime, I and the other boys formed one group and the girls another group. On one occasion the girls reported with anxiety that the boys had found a 'cog-wheel'. So Miss Bird investigated what could have been a piece from an downed fighter-plane – Kent skies being a frequent wartime battle-field. The girls (and probably the boys too) had no idea what a 'cog-wheel' was – it turned out to be just a wheel from an old perambulator.

Meanwhile, my brother Nick had gone to the well-reputed boarding preparatory school, West Downs. This was at the recommendation of my godmother Hermione Hichens (see Episode 2), whose two older sons, Mark and John, had been pupils. The school was based in Winchester, but, when the war came, its redoubtable headmaster Kenneth Tindall transplanted it to Scotland (the Winchester buildings now becoming military quarters). After a false start at Stranraer, the school took up residence in Blair Castle, outside Blair Atholl in the Cairngorms, a truly beautiful and remarkable place. Nick loved it, and so did I after I joined him there in April 1945, despite the miles from home.

Episode 10B, concluding Anthony's wartime education starting in Blair Castle can be found on page 18.

Thanksgiving Field

This article is reprinted by kind permission of John Kimbell and comprises the 'Remembrance Address' that he gave as Minister at the Civic Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church on 14/11/21.

Last year, at this Civic Service of Remembrance on Zoom, I spoke about the Nazi bombing of Coventry – which resulted in its Cathedral's mission of building peace, co-ordinated now by the international Community of the Cross of Nails.

Today, I shall focus on a similar but contrasting episode in history: this time, the Allies' bombing of Schweinfurt – which has also led to reconciliation, and literally had an impact much closer to home, here in Winkfield.

Mission 1-1-5 of the US 8th Air Force was a historic moment in the liberation of Europe. "The Mighty Eighth" had planes based at airfields

in East Anglia, and the strategy was precision daylight targeting of key industrial areas by large formations of bombers.

As a centre of ball-bearing production, Schweinfurt was seen as a top priority for ending the war early. The first of 17 raids came in August 1943 but by October its air and anti-aircraft defences had been strengthened significantly.

The briefing for 14th October showed that the planes would have to fly a round trip of nearly 900 miles. They had fighter escort as far as Aachen, and then had to endure what is generally acknowledged as one of the fiercest airborne battles of the Second World War.

Over 600 Luftwaffe fighters and 1000s of anti-aircraft guns attacked the formation on the way there and back. 60 bombers were shot down, 121 had battle damage and 17 were written off on return. 600 air crew were lost and that horrific day has gone down in war history as “Black Thursday”.

One of the bombers returning from the Second Schweinfurt Raid on Thursday 14th October 1943 was a B17 ‘Flying Fortress’ based at RAF Podington in Northamptonshire. It had a crew of 10 airmen, with an average age of around 22.

It hadn’t managed to drop its bombs. They’d hung up, were carried back, and pushed out over the Channel as the plane limped homewards towards the Midlands, flying on a wing and a prayer.

The bomber only reached Berkshire, though, where it tried to land at RAF Winkfield – the same small airfield where (earlier that year) James Herriot had learned to fly, as we heard in our first reading.

Local children saw it come in, before hearing a thud and bang. Skimming a country house on its final approach, the bomber had crash landed, come to a halt, and burned up. The children hoped that all of the crew were safe.

Miraculously, they were, having survived a perilous end to a grim day. Most of them eventually went back to long, happy family lives in the USA. The burnt wreckage was cleared straight away, and the damage to the airfield was repaired.

In time, little folk memory remained of the events, which were almost forgotten, buried by history – until, that is, just over 70 years later. On Sunday 20th October 2013, Hugh Gibbons, a member of the Berkshire Metal Detectorists Club, made a remarkable find – four brass gun cartridges in a field at Tally Ho Farm, Crouch Lane.

Hugh's research unearthed details of the incident, and contact was eventually made with people involved or their families, in America, Germany, and the UK. What followed is a story of reconciliation and peace: turning swords into plough shares, as the Prophet Micah foretold in our Bible Reading.

The gun cartridges had been made at the vast Twin Cities Ammunition Plant in Minnesota, USA. In 2013, the site began to be cleansed and regenerated to return to local community use – a major example of good citizenship to give thanks for.

The Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association put a plaque in the community, jointly paid for by Germans and Americans – a thankful model of co-operation and the restoration of peace by all concerned.

In England, the US 92nd Bomb Group Association repaired the Church and helped the local Primary School at Podington whilst, here in Berkshire, a time capsule was buried in a meadow at Tally Ho Farm to thank everyone involved for the spirit of international understanding that they had shown.

The farm's owners Jeff and Julia Thomas, with Chris and Verity Adkins, generously provided land for a Thanksgiving Field and Viewing Area. This remarkable joint initiative between the family and Hugh has now created an After-War Memorial dedicated to grateful remembrance of all kinds.

The capsule included an original cartridge case, a bullet from the factory where they were made, rivets from the bomber's Boeing production line, a Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association pin, ball bearings manufactured in the bombed city, a British threepenny bit from 1943, and many other items.

They were all put inside a biodegradable urn, kindly sent by Pastor Dieter Schorn of the Lutheran churches in Schweinfurt – who was present in the city on Thursday 14th October 1943.

To bury the urn, soil from the crash site was mixed with earth collected from RAF Podington, Central Park in New York, St Josef's Church in Schweinfurt (destroyed in the bombing), and the American-German Memorial Garden in the city centre.

This was a fine sign of reconciliation by members of the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association in the USA, and also by former Flakhelfers, who had manned the anti-aircraft guns in Germany.

The Memorial there says: "Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship, and in the hope of lasting peace among all people." It is a vision from the past, witnessed in the present, to inspire us all into the future.

John Kimbell writes: 'Full information about this story is available on the following website: www.thanksgivingfield.org '

An interesting life Part 10B: Education - Blair Castle

Travel to Blair Atholl in 1945 for my first term at West Downs school in Blair Castle took a 15-hour overnight train journey from Euston station. There were many West Downs boys from London and the south, and we travelled together as a supervised group known as the 'London



Mush', and, of course, big brother Nick was there for guidance and support. My 8th birthday was five days afterwards, and the 2nd World War in Europe ended a few days later on the 8th of May.

I still remember the huge bonfire that we had to celebrate that occasion, with a turnip-headed Hitler effigy at the top.

West Downs was in many ways a traditional preparatory-school, educating boys(only) for moving on to good public schools, and had a good record for academic scholarships to these schools.

This led to a focus on Latin (and later Ancient Greek), with French as the sole modern language. Science was not taught at all during my 5 years at West Downs, with the exception of 'nature studies' – indoors and outdoors, led by Miss Campbell, a young girl that I liked. I remember, as a result, nurturing caterpillars that developed into pupae and, that then, to my fascination, suddenly produced butterflies. My oldest friend, Gillespie Robertson, remembers his big brother writing home to say that "Hodson Minor has a caterpillar".

As another unusual activity, boys were taught double-entry book-keeping so that they could control the pennies in their pocket-money – and I never forgot this discipline, although Mr Legard, who taught the method, thoroughly disapproved of my awful handwriting, and the ink-blotches that too often accompanied it. He also taught Latin, and I was rather frightened of him, particularly when I forgot the dative and ablative of 3rd declension Latin nouns. He was quite old – probably in his seventies then, but was a sweet old boy, looking back over the years.

Mr Legard's age and Miss Campbell's youth were indicative of a real problem in education in finding good teachers in wartime. West Downs later acquired some excellent teachers., and some not so good.

In those days, all our writing was done with a nib-pen and inkpot. Controlling the ink on the nib – not too much and not too little – was a skill painfully learned. Later most boys graduated to fountain-pens with their own supply of ink. Writing with a fountain pen is still a pleasure, particularly with my current italic handwriting.

Three interesting features of West Downs were the Boy Scouts, music teaching and drama. Scouting gave key outdoor skills and values and the whole school was divided into Patrols with bird names – I was a

'Curlew' – in the Curlew patrol, of which I eventually became Patrol Leader.

In music, all boys (however musically talented or not) formed the school choir, and we learned Sol-Fa (doh-ray-me etc.) as a matter of principle. Many boys learned the piano, and I was one of them. I must have been an apt pupil, as I was put down in my very first term of piano tuition to accompany Nick singing in the big annual Peacock Cup summer competition.

Our piece was the beautiful Shenandoah sea-shanty. However, Nick and I drifted seriously out-of-synch during the performance, and, after this experience, I took a huge (and quite undeserved) dislike to Shenandoah. The book containing that song and many others is still in the family somewhere. The Shenandoah accompaniment is quite challenging – perhaps a bit beyond me (or was it Nick's singing that was uncertain? I do not remember him singing after that experience).

Miss Plaisted, the piano teacher for my whole West Downs career, was old and arthritic, poor soul; she was competent but not inspiring. I remember only one pupil for another instrument, Andrew (youngest son of my godmother Hermione Hichens); he learned the violin. Piano practice was compulsory at planned times, and that was OK for me, and I made progress. Nobody ever took any external music exams (like ABRSM), and this was a sorry omission, in retrospect. ABRSM had established today's Grades 1 to 8 before the war.

Drama was a core school interest, and the big school hall (the Duke of Athol's feasting hall when we were in Blair Castle) was termed 'Shakespeare' to celebrate the influence of 'The Bard' on the school. When the school moved back to its Winchester home in Spring 1946, full-scale Shakespeare plays resumed, taking place annually each summer on the beautiful outdoor stage on the school's woodland estate, Melbury. I enjoyed acting in these plays, although brother Nick was the prize-winning actor of the two of us, particularly in his performance of Petruchio ('The Taming of the Shrew' – this will bring a smile to the face of those who knew Nick).

Parents' visits for boarding-school children were always a treasure, and when the school was at Blair Atholl, it was a once-a-year occasion over

the Summer Half Term. I remember a visit that we made when Nick was at West Downs, and I wasn't. We enjoyed family walks in the wild Scottish countryside and its rushing rivers. Blair Atholl as a village was on the river Garry, and a few miles down-river was Killiekrankie. scene of a dramatic battle in 1689, during the Jacobite Rebellion, but in present times the location of the Killiekrankie Hotel in which our parents stayed.

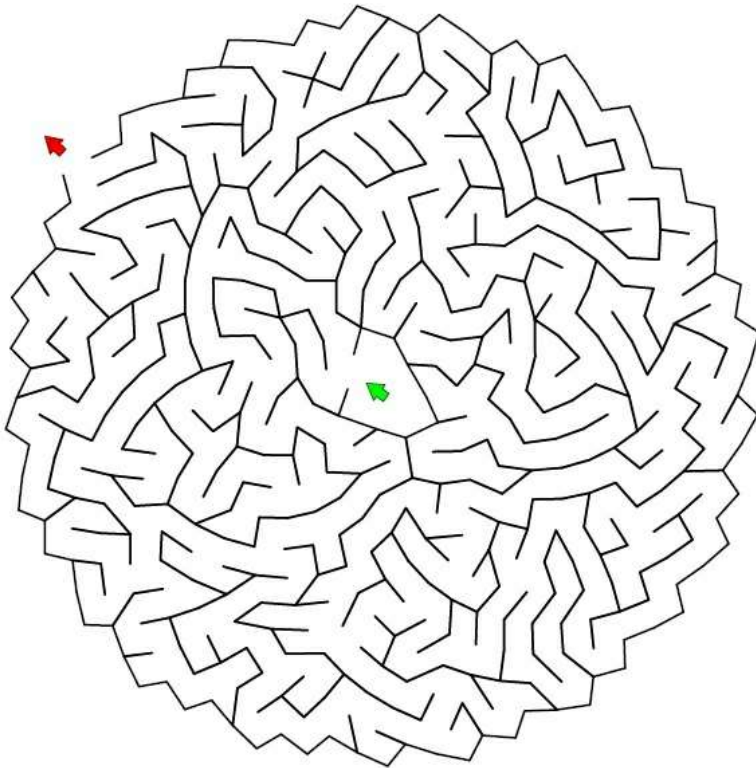
A few years ago, Anthony wrote a short story for a privately published collection of stories on 'Pennies' and it is a memory from Killiekrankie – (See his website at: <https://xdotd.com/literary/The%20penny.pdf>)

Episode 11 will start at West Downs school in Winchester in 1946

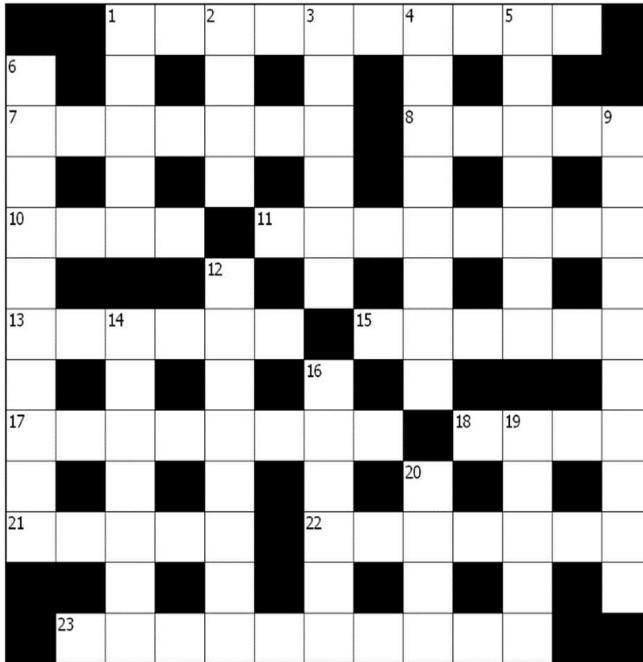
Puzzles

Maze

Find your way from the green arrow at the centre to the red exit arrow!



Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14ñ15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith ___ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)

22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)

23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

1 '___ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)

2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ___ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)

3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)

4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)

5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)

6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)

9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)

12 One who accepts government by God (8)

14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)

16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)

19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ___ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Rarniah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddledbags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Children's Corner

A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!