

Winkfield Parish News



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<https://fosmw.com/parishmag/booklet-printing.pdf>

Winkfield Parish News – July 2023

The ‘other Mary’ and the paradoxes of Jesus

Canon Paul Hardingham looks at the important lessons that we can learn from the role of St Mary Magdalene in Christ's life and legacy. St Mary Magdalene's life is celebrated on 22 July.

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar. What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

St Swithun's day 15 July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. It was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

From the Parish Registers for May 2023

Baptisms

Jay Williamson was baptised on Sunday 7th May 2023 at St Mary's Church.

Miles Dolby was baptised on Sunday 7th May 2023 at St Mary's Church d

Reports for Baptisms and Confirmation at St Mary's Church on 4 June 2023 will be included in the August Parish Register reports

Funerals etc.

The late Sheila Ely was interred in St Mary's Memorial Garden on Wednesday 17th May 2023

Notices

Church Office

Office hours are: Monday-Friday 9:30am – 12noon. The Church Office is open for visitors on Tuesdays & Fridays. Contact info: Church Office: c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5 8RR Phone: 01344 882933 or email admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

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

If you are arranging an event, please contact Stephanie in the Church Office at the email address above, so that it can be noted in the Church diary and recorded on the website.

Don't forget to use our fundraising links:

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

Safeguarding in the Parish

The Parish safeguarding details are at:

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

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life. Please be alert to the fact that Safeguarding concerns arise in many different guises. So we should always have faith to question, especially when something does not feel right.

Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Camille Jeffs, via the Church Office on: 01344 882933, or email safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk (please begin message with 'SAFEGUARDING').

Local reports and events

Ascot Horticultural Society

The Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month in King Edwards Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot, SL5 8PD. 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Members £1 and visitors £2.50. The yearly membership is £12.

There is a mini show each month: flowering pot plant, dish of fruit, vase of flowers, vegetables, foliage pot plant. The winner in each class is chosen by popular vote.

The Speaker for July is Joyce White who will talk on 'Bracknell from the 1900's'.

A note for your diary: our annual Summer/Autumn show will take place on Wednesday 12th September, set up from 7.45pm. Details from Wendy Sivyver – email wendysivyver@aol.com or phone 01344 890716.

2023 Bracknell Together Walk on Sunday 9 July

An opportunity to get some gentle summer exercise around South Hill Park (and into Swinley Forest on our longer walks), to generate funds for your Winkfield Parish projects, and maybe also win a cash prize.

Details: <https://bracknelltogetherwalk.org/about-the-walk/>

St Mary's wonderful acoustics!

Two recent concerts are reviewed below, celebrating the excellent acoustics of St Mary's Church. Be ready for another great Music and Merriment concert on 2 December – an evening for everybody.

Chamber Music Festival concert: St Mary's 10 June 2023

St Mary's Church enjoyed an excellent concert of chamber music on the evening of 10 June, enhancing the church's reputation as a music venue a few weeks after the Holloway College's Founder's Choir concert on 20 May, reviewed in the next article.

The concert was presented by the Berkshire Chamber Music Festival, under the enthusiastic leadership of Poppy Beddoe, who was also the highly accomplished soloist for Weber's virtuosic Clarinet Quintet.

The Festival music was centred around the talents of a String Quartet of established professionals, with Antonia Kesel and Aliayta Foon-Dancoes on violins, Abbey Bowen on the viola and Tim Lowe on the cello. The string quartet has been a favoured genre since Haydn's time, and demands great precision, particularly with intonation and nuances of tempo. The clarity of the music, with just four instruments, requires meticulous listening and teamwork. Our quartet for the evening provided all those qualities, with really enjoyable performances.

The opening work was Haydn's Eb major quintet, termed 'The Joke'. It's a tuneful piece, with movements using structures that are both traditional and innovative, with classical clarity of form. The 'joke' is held back until the last moments of the last movement, when the players seem to be rehearsing a short passage, and then stopping. Something odd is going on. Then they play a delicate opening phrase from the start of the

movement – and just as one is expecting more, they stop: that's the end of the piece. Haydn was notorious – and celebrated – for the surprises he pulled on his audience.

The joke performance was enhanced by work from the Festival in workshops with primary schools, including Winkfield St Mary's CoE Primary School. Tim Hignam, 'outreach' expert, worked with children to create new tunes and rhythm, based on those from the Haydn Quartet; He sang the jazzy and lively songs from the piano, with Poppy Beddoe's clarinet on the vocal line – much enjoyed by all – including by children in the audience who had been part of their school's workshop session. Tim and Poppy performed these songs between the movements of the Haydn quartet.

A colourful quartet followed by American composer Florence Price (born in 1887). The composer presents variations on a number of spirituals and well-known folk tunes like 'Drink to me only', bringing in a wealth of tonalities over a familiar lyrical subject. Not a well known piece, but a very good one, of high technical quality, and accessible for a general audience.

The concert ended with Weber's Clarinet Quintet, written in 1815 for the German virtuoso clarinettist Heinrich Bärman. Poppy's technique was well able to cope with the fast runs and arpeggios, from the very top of the instrumental range to the bottom, and with dynamics from fff to barely audible. A masterful performance of a very accessible piece of great virtuosity. It must have been an incredible challenge for performers using the relatively primitive clarinets of the early 19th century! Thank you, Poppy, for this, and for organising such an enjoyable concert.

Anthony Hodson

Founder's Choir Concert: St Mary's 20 May 2023

On Saturday 20 May, St Mary's Church was treated to a wonderful concert from the Founder's Choir of Royal Holloway, University of London, conducted by Zachary Smith. This recital on the theme of 'Sleep' was book-ended by the full ensemble with Eric Whitacre's A Seal Lullaby and Arthur Sullivan's A Long Day Closes, thus transporting us on a journey through life from the slumber of a new-born infant to our last sleep as mortal beings.

The interval was framed by two works with particular resonance at St Mary's. The first half closed with Edvard Grieg's 'Ave maris stella', which portrays our Patron Saint as the Star of the Sea, guiding us across the

waters of existence, and the second half opened with the Compline Hymn 'Te lucis ante terminum', composed by Henry Balfour Gardiner, whose great-nephew was a school-friend of this Parish Magazine's Editor, Anthony Hodson!

Interspersed amongst these and further choral treasures were some solo gems from across Europe. The vocal items included Gabriel Fauré's *Après un Rêve*, Franz Schubert's *Der Jüngling an der Quelle* and Ivor Gurney's *Sleep*, all showcasing high-quality singing, whilst Henry Smith (our personal Organ Scholar!) gave accomplished performances of Franz Liszt's *Fantasia on BACH* and Louis Vierne's *Berceuse*, as well as accompanying the other pieces.

This superb evening of music-making was greatly enjoyed by a most appreciative audience and we wish the excellent Founder's Choir every success on its forthcoming summer tour to Berlin.

John Kimbell

St Mary's Choir

The choir, with many of our extra singers, performed at the Family Matins service for the Coronation celebrations on 14 May, although this is a service that usually does not have a choir. Henry Smith was the excellent organist.

Our extra singers also performed with the regular choristers at the Choral Matins service on 28 May, Whit Sunday, and they sang 'Spirit of God, unseen as the wind', to the tune of the Skye Boat Song for the choir solo item. Henry Smith was once again the organist.

St Mary's Women Guild

The Guild meeting in May was the first to take place on a new Tuesday of the month.

The Guild will now meet on the second Tuesdays rather than the first Tuesdays of the month. The activity in May was cleaning the brass!! This was the first time that we have worked in this way for many years, and we felt that it was a successful activity.

Patricia Powell, who had been asked to think about the Guild's future outings, provided several suggestions and asked for members' thoughts. She took note of members' ideas and will report as soon as possible.

Two special services in St Mary's on 4 June 2023

Family communion and baptisms

The day began with a service of Family Communion led by Rev Patrick Mukholi. After the service, there were three baptisms from one family: mother, father and son. This family was to be confirmed at the Confirmation service later in the day.

Confirmation service

At 5pm, the Tower bells began welcoming all to the Confirmation service which would begin at 6 pm, with a choir rehearsal at 5.15pm.

Ten members of our own Parish, two members of the Parish of Binfield, accompanied by their Priest Rev Sam Mortimer, and one pupil from St George's School, accompanied by Rev Sam Watts, were to be confirmed. Three members of the group were also to be baptised. Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading officiated with Rev Patrick Mukholi acting as Bishop's Chaplain.

The extended choir, led by Crucifer Sharon, processed from the vestry to the choir stalls singing the first hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty'. The choir later sang the song they had performed on Whit Sunday – 'Spirit of God, unseen as the wind' followed by Psalm 8 (chant: F A Gore Ouseley). At this point the Bishop and all candidates moved to the font for the Baptism.

The second congregational hymn was 'Come down, O Love divine'. The Bishop led the confirmation candidates back to the Chancel steps where all were then confirmed. The full congregation sang the offertory hymn, 'Take my life and let it be', while the collection was taken.

After all were baptised and confirmed, everybody in the church was invited to take communion. The communion service followed; the choir took communion first followed by the newly confirmed members and then the congregation. The choir sang 'Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire' – Attwood – as congregants took their communion.

The Hand bell ringers rang Amazing Grace, and the final hymn 'O Jesus I have promised' was sung as the candidates processed out of the church.

It was a very moving service. The organist, Luke Saint, our first Holloway College organist, accompanied the excellent choir superbly and his voluntaries before and after the service were well chosen.

The day ended with refreshments, organised and served by Jonathan Hemsley, in the church grounds on a beautiful sunny Sunday. Our group of those confirmed will continue to meet every last Friday of the month.

Bellringers report for June 2023

Another busy month for all the bell ringers!!

Following all the excitement of the Coronation we had the 'Monarchs of St Mary's' service on 14 May, which was also special, with the children depicting the monarchs beautifully. The hand bell ringers performed 'Fanfare for a Special Day' which was specifically arranged for the Coronation and is a really lovely piece.

After the service everyone enjoyed the Coronation Fayre's many stalls in the churchyard and we were blessed by wonderful sunny weather!

The bell ringers organised teddies off the tower' which proved very popular, as the competitors' bears wafted down under their parachutes.

Tony constructed a special winch to get the teddies up to the top of the tower and it was exciting to watch the teddies hauled up in a basket and then float down on the various types of parachute, all of which worked beautifully. We only lost one over the neighbour's fence and one into the tree; both of which, you will be pleased to hear, were successfully rescued.

We also ran the 'balls in the bell' stall which was equally popular - it was much harder than it looked to make the balls stay in the bell!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and made the event so successful in its fund-raising for the Parish.

We had our latest bells social event in May - the annual 'bells and curry' night. Lots of ringing and lots of curry - thanks to everyone who contributed with dishes and sides. As always, the variety and quality of the food was exceptional, and it was a most pleasant evening.

Last Sunday 4 June, the bell ringers were invited to be a part of the confirmation service. The tower bells rang beforehand to welcome everyone to the church, and the hand bells rang a lovely version of 'Amazing Grace'. It was a super service with a large number of people being baptised and confirmed. We were pleased to be a small part of it.

On the 30 July the ringers will be involved in another special service - do come along and listen and (maybe???) have a go!! Take care!!

Jill Glennerster 07821131303

Services in the Parish – July 2023

NB. All content in these lists may be subject to change.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	4th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Praise
		4pm	Family Craft Café Service
9	5th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Praise
16	6th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Communion
23	7th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Communion
30	8th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Spirit Meditation Sunday

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	4th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion
9	5th Sunday after Trinity	8am	Said Holy Communion
		10am	Family Matins
16	6th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
23	7th Sunday after Trinity	8am	Said Holy Communion
		9.30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer
30	8th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Crafty Choral Matins

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	4th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Family Praise
9	5th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion
16	6th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Morning Prayer

Date	Day	Time	Service
23	7th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion
30	8th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Spirit Meditation Sunday

Thoughts of all sorts

The Heart of the Mattock

My 50-year-old all-steel Wilkinson mattock with a crescent tool-end had remained unused for years and years. In my sort of garden, at the times that I might have used it, the ground has been too hard, and the physical power to use it has dwindled with age.

Weeds ... – they tried hard to take over my garden during the long winter of 2023. A recent partial solution for me was one of those aluminium tools commonly available at garden centres, with a special end to allow you to rotate and dig in, and that has been very useful. Unfortunately, this tool just bent when prising out difficult weeds.

With some guilt, my thoughts went to my beautiful mattock.



To the left is the tool blade as it was before treatment.

With a grinding wheel, I cut off the crescent ends, leaving a blade about 6cm (2½ inches) wide. I then ground the blade to useful sharpness.

To the right is the tool blade as it is now.



The result is brilliant – literally my favourite tool. Those deep weeds can be prised out with little difficulty – even unwanted horse-radish. I can sit on my low stool, and can do a shallow hoe-job on the weeds that have taken over a previously clear area after a long winter, and this is fast and efficient. I can use it as a mini-spade to dig up hard ground, ready for mixing with compost. It has become my favourite single tool.

Elderly Gardener



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A scientist reflects: Suffering and the image of God

This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

During the cost-of-living crisis, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions, from relief, happiness, and hope, to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as 'very good', but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of creation.

From a scientist's perspective, it seems that the potential for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God's very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn't broken down, and evil hadn't been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: "I will give you a new heart and put a new

spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, ‘really desperate’, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

Pied beauty

A poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1899), celebrating the beauty of diversity and contrasts in nature – and in the affairs of mankind.

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple all on trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches’ wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change
Praise him.

Episode 29 – The Suez War

Continuing Anthony Hodson’s ‘An interesting life’. In the last episode, Anthony’s ship HMS Diana was holed up in Aden, near the mouth of the Red Sea, waiting developments after Col Nasser, President of Egypt, had nationalised the Suez Canal – a move viewed by France and the UK as endangering the shorter sea-route from Europe to India and the Far-East.

After a short holiday for the ship’s company away from Aden in Mombasa, Kenya, HMS Diana’s return to Aden was made in considerable haste, as military action in the Suez Canal area became imminent.

After a two-day stay in Aden on return from Mombasa, Kenya, HMS Diana set sail for the port of Massawa, which is in Eritrea, and about half-way up the Red Sea. However, while in transit, on 4/11/1956 or thereabouts, hostilities began and Diana was summoned to the very north of the Red Sea, at the mouth of the Gulf of Suez, to join HMS Newfoundland, which had been assigned the job of escorting British-flag shipping as they hastily

left the Gulf of Suez for the safer expanse of the Red Sea, out of the range of Egyptian air-strikes.

For the next four nights, HMS Diana made sorties up the Gulf of Suez, in company with HMS Newfoundland except on the last night. We were at Action Stations for the whole of this four-day period – we never got into our hammocks once – and were only able to catch hour-long naps when we had an officer's permission. Two other frigates were with us.

My Action Station was in the 'Ops Room', which was the place from which all military operations were directed. My job there, with others in the ops room team, was to watch the radar screens carefully, identify radar echoes that looked suspicious, and to notate in pencil what we saw on big mechanical tables that adjusted themselves to keep the moving ship's position clearly projected as a marker on the table. I was concerned only with surface vessels; there was another team that did similar recording of aircraft movement.

We were aware that there was Egyptian naval presence in the Gulf of Suez, including fast motor torpedo boats, and we knew that that we were in constant danger of attack by enemy warships. So we were all nagged by fear during each of these nightly sorties. Ordinary sailors like myself only had a very filtered idea of what was going on outside the ship. Fortunately, there are other more-informed sources of information.

On that very first night, just after midnight, we were advised by the Captain that an Egyptian warship was approaching us, and before very long our guns were firing. When the shooting stopped, we understood that the warship had been sunk, and that we must stay to pick up survivors from the ship. So we were stationary in the water for about 90 minutes, and during this time I and the team were scanning for attacks from the gunboats that might suddenly appear to attack us. We picked up about 50 survivors before we returned, as dawn approached, to the open waters of the Red Sea.

The Navy News of January 2013¹ published an eyewitness account from a member of Newfoundland's ships company, who was aimer of one of Newfoundland's secondary armament guns. Here is a shortened account.

As HMS Newfoundland was shepherding shipping, lookouts noticed that a ship had placed itself at the tail of the convoy, and Newfoundland went to

¹ Google 'navy-news-january-2013-issue-702.pdf' and the story is on page 29.

investigate, with guns trained on the 'mystery contact'. Searchlights revealed a frigate, later identified as Domiat', with upper-deck loaded with mines. A signal was made to Domiat: 'Stop engine and surrender'. Domiat did not stop, but opened fire as, immediately, did Newfoundland. Newfoundland took some damage, and a member of the ships company was killed.

Domiat then turned as if to ram, and Diana as well as Newfoundland opened fire. Domiat was soon brought to a halt and sank in a few minutes, after which Diana picked up survivors, many of whom were severely injured, and some died after we had picked them up. The dead later were solemnly buried at sea in the timeless respectful ceremony of sailors.

The following night, HMS Newfoundland was attacked by a group of fast motor torpedo boats that were detected at a range of 23 miles; she turned to head south for the open Red Sea, and engaged the MTBs with all guns firing, and eventually the group of MTBs gave up.



That whole experience was a very sobering one for us. We were well aware of the conflict between war actions and respect for human life, and having sailors from Domiat on our ship, and knowing that the ship's medical team were still busy

doing their best with the many injured created very mixed emotions. Ironically, Domiat had been HMS Nith, a River-class frigate, but had been sold to Egypt in 1948.

We spent three more nights helping convoy ships in the Gulf of Suez, all without incident for us, although HMS Newfoundland did have the major encounter noted above. The nights were followed by days at the north end of the Red Sea, and at the end of the fourth night, the war ended.

Our first task was to take the Egyptian sailors to a neutral port, and this was the port of Djibouti, then in French Somaliland; and we reached there in a few days, before proceeding back to Aden to recuperate. By that time loss of sleep was really taking its toll – but we just had to cope with that, knowing that lack of sleep is a common-enough state at sea, but particularly in wartime, when ultimate awareness is needed.

This return marked the beginning of a new phase in my naval experience. It was quite difficult to be selected for officer training at the beginning of National Service, and I failed that test, probably for good reason, as I was probably 'young for my age'. However, there was a second chance at the half-way point of National Service, and this point (with all the events of 1956) was past. An initial selection took place at the 'Fleet' level, where possible officer-material was assessed by senior officers on one's ship. It is not a big community, and I had made a mark (including a black one described in the May 2023 magazine in Episode 27) for being bright and equable (despite that incident).

Looking back, I can spot two situations in which I might have been in special scrutiny. Sailors were very often assigned special day tasks. One of these for me was to be the naval equivalent of an orderly to an officer, in my case Sublieutenant Ian Thirwell, who was a pleasant and able young man, a career officer, only a few years older than me. Dialogue between officers and ratings was, of course, necessarily formal, so it was a very general relationship.

The other was to be assigned to help with the Officers Mess steward duties, and particularly to do the washing up after lunch – a skill that has served me well in later life. I think it was a bit of a joke putting an Old Etonian into that position, but I did my duty with pleasure, although I would have enjoyed the officers' meal menus and wine (which was not at that time a tipple on the list for most people).

Three of us were selected to go back to the UK for officer training – myself, Bruce Mandell-Lynn and Mark Hendy, both of whom I knew quite well as the only ex-public-school National Servicemen on HMS Diana. (In those days private education was a near-necessity for selection as an officer.)

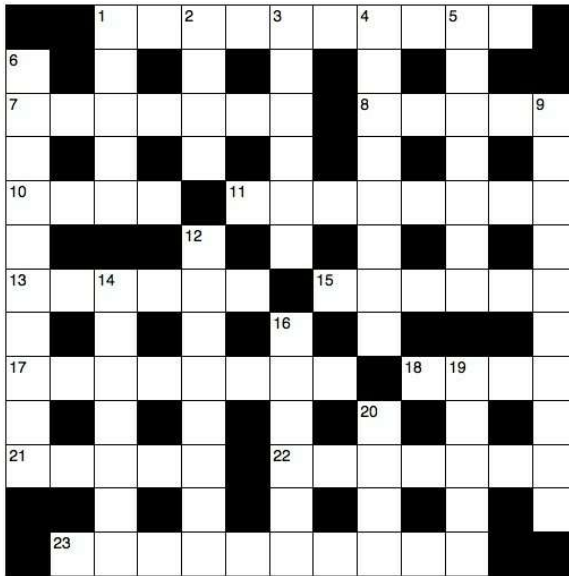
After a week or so in Aden, after our return from the Gulf of Suez area, the three of us set off for the day-long flight, including stopping places (including Benghazi, Libya), in slow noisy propeller-driven aircraft – the days of civilian jet-travel had not yet arrived. We arrived at Northolt early in the morning, and then had to travel by train to Portsmouth where we would stay for a few days to take a final officer-fitness test.

We all passed, and after Christmas leave, we were sent to HMS Raleigh, a barracks in Cornwall, just across the Tamar River from Devonport and Plymouth., for four months of training – hard work, but enjoyable.

All episodes at <https://fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf>

Puzzles

Crossword Puzzle



Clues

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)

23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical, 7, Opinion, 8, Laing, 10, Olga, 11, Gallilean, 13, Sardis, 15, Severe, 17, Adultery, 18, Flea, 21, Swazi, 22, Acetate, 23, Revelation.
DOWN: 1, Sling, 2, Brim, 3, Annual, 4, Ill-timed, 5, Abilene, 6, Colossians, 9, Gennesaret, 12, Diatribe, 14, Roulade, 16, Errata, 19, Leam, 20, Levi.



Children's Corner

The tale of
the
Tower
Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

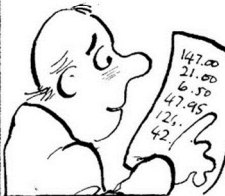


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



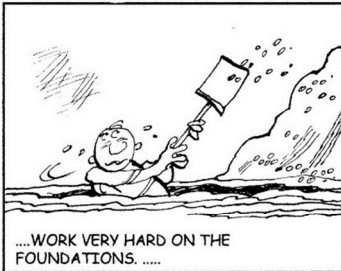
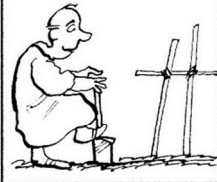
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER...

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



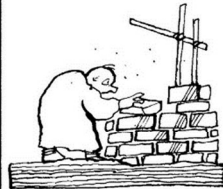
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

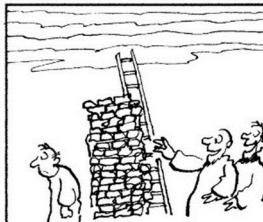


...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



**BRACKNELL TOGETHER WALK
SUNDAY 9 July 2023**

SOUTH HILL PARK, BRACKNELL, RG12 7PA

Raise money for **YOUR** charity – every penny **YOU** raise goes to the charity of **YOUR** choice

The Rotary Club of Easthampstead invites you to take part in the
Bracknell Together Walk 2023

A fun walk of 5, 7.5 or 10 kms in and around the beautiful grounds of South Hill Park and Swinley Forest - you choose the distance that's right for you.
A family event suitable for all ages & abilities (with wheelchair friendly paths)

Save time on the day, **register NOW** online at
www.bracknelltogetherwalk.org

Entry is **FREE** for all accompanied children under 14

You can boost your charity fundraising with £1,000 cash prizes from Rotary

We thank Duncan Yeardeley Estate Agents, Peas and Carrots Ltd and the Village Hotel Bracknell for their support'

Start anytime between
9 am & 12 noon



Welcome pack & finishing certificate

Finish your walk
anytime **up to 2 pm**



for every participant

Hot & cold food & drinks served all day